Inside:
- PSE rate hike, *Page 2*
- Trunk-or-Treat photos, *Page 3*

The Tenino Independent

October 28, 2026 • *Serving Tenino and South Thurston County Since 1922*
(USPS 616-400) Vol. 104, No. 43 TENINO, WASHINGTON • $1

Halloween traditions continue in Bucoda

By James Goldmeer
Independent/Sun News

For years, the small town of Bucoda officially renamed itself "Boo-Coda" every October,filling Main Street with casket races, Thriller flash mobs, hearse parades, and thousands of visitors.

This year, however, spiked insurance costs driven by large crowds forced the town to put its official month long festival on hold. But the community refused to let the Halloween spirit die.

On Saturday, Oct. 24, Joe's Place stepped up to keep the tradition alive by hosting a community Trunk-or-Treat on Main Street, followed by its annual 21-and-older costume party and Halloween celebration.

Krissy Butterworth, manager at Joe's Place for, said tavern owner Lily worked directly with Bucoda's mayor to ensure local families would still have a safe place to celebrate.



Photo by James Goldmeer/DeVaul Publishing

Krissy Butterworth and the Joe's Place team preserve a Boo-coda tradition.

"We knew Bucoda couldn't have the festivities because of insurance reasons, but Joe's Place loves Halloween," Butterworth said. "Everybody was asking, 'What are you going to do about Trunk-or-Treat?' We just decided to keep it going, but this time smaller, just contained to one side street and we got the good to go."

Butterworth said she was initially skeptical when organizing the event solely through

See **Halloween,** *page 3*



Photo by James Goldmeer/DeVaul Publishing

The Raise for Rowyn team opens the doors to their new location

Nonprofit cuts ribbon on new office space

By James Goldmeer
Independent/Sun News

A shift into a smaller, cozier downtown space is allowing Raise for Rowyn to put even more of its resources where they matter most: direct support for grieving families.

The regional nonprofit, dedicated to assisting families navigating the tragic loss of a child, officially marked its move to 273 Sussex Ave. W. in Tenino with a community ribbon-cutting ceremony co-hosted by the Tenino Area Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Leaving its former location down the road at 448 Sussex Ave. W., the organization is now settled alongside local mainstays like the Sandstone Cafe, the Quarry House and Cassie's Creations. While the new office offers a streamlined footprint, Executive Director Beth Naylor emphasized that downsizing logistically will translate into greater impact for the nonprofit's core mission.

"There was the season where Raise for Rowyn really needed that space in that other building, and now we're just kind of moving into a new season where we don't need as much space," Naylor told community members gathered for the opening. "Having a smaller space has really been good for us, but it's also saved us money on rent, which we can put towards our angel families, which is really the whole reason why we're doing what we're doing."

City and county leaders gathered at the ceremony to welcome the team into their new space and celebrate the nonprofit's 12-year legacy in Thurston County.

Tenino Mayor Pro Tem Linda Gotavac praised the nonprofit's ongoing service to people during their darkest moments. "The city of Tenino is very, very happy to welcome Raise for Rowyn in their new location here, to continue the wonderful work that they do for families during difficult times," Gotavac said.

Thurston County Commissioner Wayne Fournier also addressed the crowd, highlighting the deep local roots of the founding Johnson family and the organization's lasting impact.

"I'm here on behalf of the citizens of Thurston County to congratulate Raise for Rowyn and their whole team on another big move," Fournier said. "This is a very important legacy for all of us here in the city of Tenino, and we're very proud of everything they've done."

Officials presented the organization with a certificate of appreciation, recognizing its continued commitment to providing financial assistance, emotional support and a lasting sense of community to families facing child loss.

Since its founding, Raise for Rowyn has walked alongside nearly 1,000 families across the Pacific Northwest. Yet, daily operations, community outreach and event planning are powered by a tight-knit two-person staff: Naylor and administrative assistant Stella Terlaje.

"It's pretty much just us two running daily operations, event planning and everything behind the scenes," Terlaje said. "We do all the programs and everything in between that keeps the organization going."

Naylor took a moment during the ceremony to thank longtime landlord Chris Howett for his support in their previous location, noting that "all the pieces fell in line" for both parties to transition into new chapters smoothly.

Though raised in neighboring Rochester, Naylor shared her deep appreciation for the unique community spirit that defines Tenino.

"I'm from Rochester, so Tenino was always kind of like the rival," Naylor said. "I love this city... you can feel how supportive the city is of each other, the residents, and all the initiatives. So I'm very proud to be here."

A representative of the founding family added that local supporters have been "the backbone of our organization for 12 years," adding that saving money on overhead will ensure more funds reach families when they need it most.

Community members interested in services, volunteer opportunities, or dropping off donations can visit raiseforrowyn.org.

Tenino soccer honors program's 30 year history

By James Goldmeer
Independent/Sun News

Thirty years after a group of dedicated local families and small businesses came together to bring girls soccer to Tenino High School, the Lady Beavers are honoring their roots while setting their sights on school history.

The Tenino girls soccer program recently celebrated its 30th anniversary alongside Senior Night, bringing together original founders, former coaches, alumni and supporters to reflect on three decades of growth and community backing.

Tenino School District Superintendent Clint Endicott addressed the crowd during the anniversary festivities, expressing gratitude for the community members who laid the foundation for the program long before current players were born.

"Every successful program has a beginning, and our soccer program began with a group of families and community members that really decided that our kids deserved soccer," Endicott said.

Endicott acknowledged key community members, school board members and athletic director Nick Bamer, while highlighting original program sponsors that helped jumpstart Tenino soccer 30 years ago. About 25 alumni from the 30 years of play attended the celebration.

The milestone anniversary comes at a time of rising expectations for the Lady Beavers, who are two games away from qualifying for state playoffs.

Head coach Dave Fetbrandt, now in his fifth season leading both the boys and girls soccer programs at Tenino, brings nearly a decade of experience spanning elementary to collegiate levels. With last year's breakthrough run established, the team has shifted its goals toward capturing a league title and reaching the District Championship game.

"The girls are working their tails off and showing pride to represent the school and community," Fetbrandt said.

According to Bamer, the combination of veteran experience and new talent has created widespread enthusiasm across the athletic department and the broader Tenino community.

For The Tenino community, the focus remains on playing an engaging, possession-oriented style of soccer that keeps fans involved while honoring the tradition established 30 years ago.

"Tonight's seniors are only the newest chapter in a story that began over 30 years ago," Endicott said. "And thanks to the commitment of our families, coaches, boosters, alumni sponsors and community, that story is going to continue."

Photo by James Goldmeer/DeVaul Publishing

The Tenino soccer team celebrates their 2027 graduating players at their last home game.



Photo by James Goldmeer/DeVaul Publishing

Superintendent Clint Endicott recognizes founding players at the soccer program's 30th anniversary game.

Rochester football game moved following threat

A high school football game between Rochester and Centralia was canceled after authorities uncovered a credible threat of violence targeting a specific student at the game, officials said.

According to Thurston County Sheriff Derek Sanders, a Rochester High School student came forward earlier in the day with information regarding a threat involving a juvenile claiming gang affiliation.

Rochester School Resource Officer Mancuso investigated the threat and deemed it credible. As a result, both the Rochester and Centralia school districts opted to cancel Friday's game out of an abundance of caution.

"The safety of our students, staff, families, and community is always our highest priority," Rochester Superintendent Justin Black and Centralia Superintendent Lisa Grant said in a joint statement. "No athletic event is more important than the well-being of our students and communities."

District officials praised the student who came forward to report the concern, emphasizing the importance of speaking up to keep schools safe.

The individual who made the threats is currently entered as a runaway and has not yet been located,according to the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, which is continuing to investigate and search for the suspect.

The game was moved from Friday, Oct. 23 to Monday, Oct. 26.

County officials warn residents of scams

Thurston County officials are warning residents to be on alert for an intensified payment scam targeting customers who use county services.

Scammers posing as a county director have been contacting residents via email with fraudulent invoices demanding immediate wire transfer payments for building and development permits, according to officials.

While the county permitting office accepts standard electronic fund transfers, officials emphasized that the county never demands wire transfers for its services. Unlike standard electronic transfers, wire transfers typically require immediate, time-sensitive processing, carry higher fees, and cannot be recalled or canceled once sent.

County officials advise residents who receive payment requests by phone to hang up immediately without engaging. Anyone receiving a questionable permitting invoice by email should forward the message to permit@thurstoncountywa.gov or visit a county office in person to confirm its authenticity before sending any funds.

Prep Sports Calendar

Thursday, Oct. 29

Volleyball

- 5 p.m. Rochester @ Columbia

Soccer

- 6 p.m. Rochester @ Kalama

Friday, Oct. 30

Football

- 7 p.m. Tenino vs Montesano
- 7 p.m. Rochester @ Elma