

People with disabilities compete in co-ed softball league

City of Walla Walla employees teamed up with The Walla Walla Valley Disability Network (WWVDN) to give people with disabilities a chance to compete on the diamond.

WWVDN put together the Dynamic Devils, a unified softball team combining 13 players with disabilities and 8 neurotypical players. Parking Enforcement Officer Amy Harris is Captain/Assistant Coach for the team.

The Dynamic Devils played each team in the co-ed league once during the season. Recreation Supervisor Angela Potts and Recreation Coordinator Jordan Schilling worked with Amy to make rule adjustments to accommodate the team and ensure fair competition.

The team, in all aspects, has been a hit. Amy said there were so many prospective players that they had to turn some away.

“There was literally no more room in the dugout,” she said.

In addition, many people have expressed a desire to get involved with



Dynamic Devils player Jacob Ruchert gives a big thumbs-up.

the team. After this season, Amy, Jordan and Angela will work to build on their success involving people with disabilities in competitive sports.

You can see a video of the team in action here: <http://bit.ly/DynamicDevils>



City will perform work to improve the health and the lighting of downtown trees

Walla Walla’s downtown trees will receive some much-needed care, and they will be also be showcased in a new way.

The 49 trees that line Main Street were planted in 1993. The City of Walla Walla will replace a few trees with higher proportions of dead wood. The wells where the trees are planted will be increased from

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4-feet wide and 8-feet deep to 5-feet wide and 8-feet deep, because trees are becoming root-bound. The decorative grates must be removed, because they act like ovens in the summer, heating the soil and inhibiting root growth. These measures will ensure the long-term health of Walla Walla's downtown trees, so they can be enjoyed for years to come.

The City of Walla Walla will also improve the lighting of the trees. Currently, many of the strings of lights wrapped around the trees do not work. The light strings will be removed, and spotlights will be installed under the tree. The under-tree lighting will showcase the trees year round and will be more resistant to damage.

The Downtown Walla Walla Foundation board of directors unanimously approved the move to the new lighting along with the removal of the metal grates.

The work on the trees will be completed by Thanksgiving.



LOOKOUT!

If you see vegetation that reduces sight distances for drivers, call the Street Division at 527-4363.



Department of Ecology Director Maia Bellon speaks at the Walla Walla Community College William A Grant Water and Environmental Center on May 17.

City earns aquifer storage recharge permit from Department of Ecology

The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) granted the City of Walla Walla a permit for its aquifer storage recharge (ASR) program.

DOE Director Maia Bellon, along with Council Members, City employees, and representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) attended a ceremony at the Walla Walla Community College William A. Grant Water and Environmental Center on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, marking the occasion.

ASR is the process of injecting water into an aquifer, where it is stored for use at a later time. In Walla Walla, groundwater is being used faster than it is being replenished. In addition, snowpack has diminished over the years, making the aquifer

an important source of water for the community. Walla Walla's ASR permit allows water to be pumped from Mill Creek during periods of high flow and injected into the aquifer to be recovered during dry periods for human consumption and for maintaining Mill Creek stream flows to support fish habitat.

Walla Walla Mayor Allen Pomraning said, "This project is an excellent example of the partnership between the Confederated Tribes, the Department of Ecology, and the City of Walla Walla, and we hope to make that partnership stronger in the years to come. Because we have succeeded in working together, we have ensured that our children and grandchildren can enjoy the creek, that our citizens will have a pure source of drinking water, and that our fish and other wildlife can thrive."

CTUIR Board of Trustees Secretary Dr. David Close said, "The foods have made an agreement to help our people. We have a responsibility to uphold our promise to those foods, so this is just one area we are dealing with – water."

There are three, interrelated, geological fault blocks beneath Walla Walla that compose an underground reservoir with 11,000 acre feet of storage capacity. One acre-foot equals about 326,000 gallons, or enough water to cover an acre of land (about the size of a football field) one foot deep. This means the faults beneath the city have a capacity of more than 3.5 billion gallons.