



The Times

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SERVING WAITSBURG, DAYTON AND THE TOUCHET VALLEY

Published Since 1878

ONE DOLLAR



Bill Rodgers

Frost on Walnut Trees, 2021. Bill Rodgers was out at one of his favorite spots last Sunday and took this stunning photo through freshly frosted trees looking north up Whiskey Creek Valley.

Kathryn Witherington: Walla Walla's 12th Man

Keeping businesses afloat through the slow season

By Brianna Wray | THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—It's just after 10 a.m. Monday morning, and Kathryn Witherington, Executive Director of the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation (DWWF), is already brimming with ideas.

When we met back in August 2019, Witherington worked for the Port of Columbia and kindly escorted me through all the businesses that seemed to be thriving at the Rock Hill Industrial Park. Since then, her talent for ideation has led her to Walla Walla County, where she is still finding personal ways to connect local businesses with the communities they serve.

The mission of the DWWF is to promote the history, culture, and commerce of Downtown Walla Walla and it's no secret that commerce has suffered this year. Some of the challenges presented have seemed insurmountable, yet Witherington is not one to give up.

Enter the Gift Local Gift Line, a complimentary service that provides personalized gift suggestions from items found locally from budgets \$0-10,000. Foundation staff even provide gift wrapping and delivery to further facilitate the process.

But how do the gift ideas come together? One at a time, personally. Like snowflakes, no two are alike. There is no prepared list for Witherington to work from. Rather she creates each gift idea based on her intimate knowledge of the businesses downtown. Through formal meetings with business owners when she began at the foundation, and perhaps most importantly, wandering around the area and getting to know its businesses in person, she is now able to build gift lists with a personal touch.

The idea is to aid shoppers with their hard-to-shop-for friends and family members and help local retailers learn what customers are looking for and how much they plan on spending. Witherington is a conduit of commerce and a database of shopping insight.

"It's largely kitchenware, food and drink gifts, lots of games, which isn't a surprise when we're all stuck at home. No one's buying clothes, and for the most part, their budgets are about \$40," Witherington shared.

This is useful knowledge for retailers who can tailor storefront displays and featured items to suit shoppers' needs.

Witherington said the gift line came together quickly since the phone line was the same one from the farmer's market.

Using some of the infrastructure in place from the farmer's market, the gift line was able to start up quickly. At the moment all the requests are handled by Witherington who says she will enlist the help of foundation staff members, Alex Heiser and Cindy Frost if it gets too busy.

"If for some reason it gets so busy that we need more than the three of us, then that means it was a huge success. It has been successful so far. And if it continues at its current rate of growth, I may need some help," said the director.

So far, Witherington's favorite gift list email was from a woman named Amanda. "She lives in Europe, but her parents are local, so she emailed me to ask, 'can you really make gift suggestions, and can you really gift wrap them and deliver them to my parents' house? This feels too good to be true.' She's someone who 100% would have just ordered from somewhere online to get something to her parents this year and hope that it got there. Instead, she got to support a local business, and we get to deliver Christmas presents. How great is that?"

Witherington's next big idea, Be the 12th Man Walla Walla, launches December 19 and runs through Superbowl Sunday, February 7th.



Times photo

Kathryn Witherington

City of Dayton adopts 2021 Budget

Budget includes water/sewer utility rate increases

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—The Dayton City Council adopted the 2021 City Budget at their meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 1, and Mayor Zac Weatherford presented the following:

Built into the Budget are proposed water and sewer utility rate increases for all service types.

The average residential customer will see an increase in their utility bill of \$10.65 each month.

Weatherford said the City Council delayed an increase in these rates in 2020 in exchange for deferring capital improvements for one year.

"Rate increases are never easy, but they are a necessity to keep up the needs of the systems," he said.

Early next year, Weatherford will present the city council with a discount and financial assistance policy to provide financial relief for low-income seniors.

Weatherford said the budget was adopted with the knowledge there will be amendments to it, early next year, to take into account increased costs for Law Enforcement, District Court, and Dispatch services the county provides to the city and to reflect additional changes.

In the fiscal year 2020, the sales and use tax revenues were split equally between the Current Expense Fund and the City Street and Road Fund.

Because of the increased costs for county-provided services, the Budget shows a 60% distribution to the Current Expense Fund, and a 40% distribution to the City Street and Road Fund.

The Budget is approximately 7.63% less than the 2020 estimated budget.

Total real and personal property tax revenues are around \$350,000 for 2021, representing a 0% increase over 2020 projections. The forecast is primarily tied to COVID-19 and tax collection policies established at the state level, which is expected to continue into 2021.

The city's estimated revenues include \$48,462 from Criminal Justice Sales Tax revenue, \$216,000 from B&O taxes, and \$3,500 from Leasehold Excise Taxes. Other state distributions are expected to generate an additional \$145,324 to support the Current Expense Budget and City Street and Road Fund.

Retail sales and use taxes are estimated at \$321,074, which is 1.9% higher than estimated revenues for the current years.

"The city will be monitoring all our revenue sources closely, and adjustments will be made as new information is provided throughout the year," Weatherford said.

There are no personnel changes in the budget. The budget reflects a 1.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for regular full-time employees, excluding union personnel.

The city is currently negotiating union contracts for 2021-22. The Budget reflects a 7% increase in union salaries and wages, which may need to be adjusted to reflect the results of the negotiations.

"I am confident that by working together with our community, council, and committed staff, we will capitalize on opportunities and mitigate challenges, positioning Dayton to effectively deal with the changes that come in the year and years ahead," Weatherford said.

Projects for 2021 are identified in the 2021 Budget and can be viewed on the city's website at <https://www.daytonwa.com/inside-city-hall/city-council/city-budget-2>.

The Dayton City Council also approved Ordinance No. 1971, adopting the 2021 Salary Schedule for non-contractual employees of the City of Dayton.

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TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

WAITSBURG STUDENTS SELECTED FOR WALLA WALLA EXCHANGE CLUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Courtesy photo

Teagen Larsen and Koby Harris

Waitsburg High School Seniors Teagen Larsen and Koby Harris were nominated by Waitsburg High School staff for the Walla Walla Exchange Club Scholarship program. On Monday, December 7, the high schoolers joined a Zoom conference call and read essays to all attendees. Both Larsen and Harris are now eligible to compete for the Youth of the Year award and a \$1,000 scholarship.

FOUR MURALS JOIN DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

WALLA WALLA—Four new 8-foot by 8-foot murals have been placed in front of the Land Title Plaza, 33 E. Main, Coffee Perk, 4 S. First Ave, the Macy's building on 58 E. Main St, and at TMACS, 80 N. Colville St.

The idea was a community-led initiative originating with business owner Staci Wanichack.

The murals will be displayed downtown at least through December.

ANNEXATION APPLICATION PERIOD BEGINS JAN. 1

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—With an annexation application period approaching, the city of Walla Walla's Development Services Department would like to remind residents of recent updates to the annexation process.

The annexation application periods are Jan. 1-31 and Sept. 1-30, as adopted by City Council in Ord. 2019-38. The annexation application fee is \$1,600. Applications are available on the department's website, <https://tinyurl.com/y6f2785d>.

Those who wish to annex into the city of Walla Walla must be contiguous with existing city limit boundaries and must be in the Urban Growth Area. Using the map, <https://tinyurl.com/yxg3zgel> city limits are shown in teal and the UGA boundary shown with the dotted gray lines.

A flowchart showing the steps involved in annexation proceedings is available here <https://tinyurl.com/y57rywgx>.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL BUDGET ADOPTIONS

THE TIMES

COLUMBIA COUNTY—A public hearing has been scheduled by the Columbia County Board of Commissioners to hear comments on the adoption of the 2021 budgets for the Columbia County flood control district. A copy of the proposed budgets will be placed on file with the county auditor, where it will be available for public inspection. Final approval of the budget is pending this hearing.

The meeting will be held on Monday, December 21, 2020, at 11:15 a.m. at the commissioners' office at 311 E. Main St., Dayton, WA.

TWO NEW COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

THE TIMES

DAYTON— On Tuesday of this week, Columbia County Public Health Administrator, Martha Lanman, confirmed two more deaths in men over the age of fifty. This brings the total to four, including a death reported earlier in November and one in July.

There were fifteen positive cases and one test awaiting results on Tuesday morning. Forty-seven people have recovered from COVID-19 since March.

Dayton School District Superintendent Guy Strot posted on the District website over the weekend that Dayton Schools would need to stay in remote learning for the week of Dec. 7 because of an uptick in COVID-19 cases in the county.

"We sincerely hope the cases go down and allow us to return to in-person learning for the following week," he said.

WALLA WALLA UNIFIED COMMAND ANNOUNCED FIVE NEW COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—Walla Walla County health officials were notified that two local men, one in his 50s and one in his 70s, as well as three local women in their 70s that had tested positive for COVID-19, have passed away.

"We offer our heartfelt condolence to friends and families during this difficult time," said Kara Breymer, DCH Preventative Services Division Manager.

Case overview as of 12/08/2020 @ 5 p.m.

New cases for the day: 41

Confirmed Cases: 2,497

Recovered: 2,154

Deaths: 27

Active: 355

Home Isolation: 341

Hospitalized: 14

Walla Walla: 1883

Waitsburg: 33

Prescott: 50

Dixie: 8

Burbank/Wallula: 146

College Place: 372

Touchet/Lowden: 43

Touchet Valley Weather

Dec. 9, 2020

Waitsburg's Seven Day Forecast

Day	Forecast	High	Low
Wednesday	Isolated Rain	43	29
Thursday	Cloudy	42	30
Friday	Mostly Cloudy	40	29
Saturday	Scattered Rain	41	32
Sunday	Scattered Rain	45	37
Monday	Scattered Rain	44	35
Tuesday	Mostly Cloudy	43	36

Weather Trivia

When is the Pacific typhoon season?

Answers: There is none. Typhoons can occur anytime during the year.

Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation	Departure from normal	Average temperature	Average normal temperature	Departure from normal
Tuesday	45	28	42/31	0.00"	0.00"	-0.63"	28.9°	35.4°	-6.5°
Wednesday	34	25	41/31	0.00"	0.00"	-0.63"	28.9°	35.4°	-6.5°
Thursday	30	24	41/30	0.00"	0.00"	-0.63"	28.9°	35.4°	-6.5°
Friday	27	21	40/30	0.00"	0.00"	-0.63"	28.9°	35.4°	-6.5°
Saturday	27	25	40/30	Trace	Trace	-0.63"	28.9°	35.4°	-6.5°
Sunday	35	25	40/30	0.00"	0.00"	-0.63"	28.9°	35.4°	-6.5°
Monday	31	27	40/29	0.00"	0.00"	-0.63"	28.9°	35.4°	-6.5°

Data as reported from Walla Walla

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Wednesday	7:24 a.m.	4:07 p.m.	12:56 a.m.	1:28 p.m.
Thursday	7:24 a.m.	4:07 p.m.	2:13 a.m.	1:52 p.m.
Friday	7:25 a.m.	4:07 p.m.	3:32 a.m.	2:18 p.m.
Saturday	7:26 a.m.	4:07 p.m.	4:54 a.m.	2:49 p.m.
Sunday	7:27 a.m.	4:07 p.m.	6:16 a.m.	3:27 p.m.
Monday	7:28 a.m.	4:07 p.m.	7:34 a.m.	4:15 p.m.
Tuesday	7:29 a.m.	4:08 p.m.	8:44 a.m.	5:13 p.m.

The Times

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The Times

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Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

JORDAN, STUBBLEFIELD TO SERVE AS WWFFD DIRECTORS

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—The Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days is pleased to announce that the Board of County Commissioners has appointed William (Bill) Jordan and Todd Stubblefield to the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days Board of Directors.

William Jordan began attending the Fair after moving to Walla Walla in 1969 for a teaching position. Raising his family in the area, the Fair has been an important end of summer ritual. Jordan has volunteered at the Fair in the Kiwanis Booth, with the Shuttle Cart and Education Building, and wherever else he was needed. In addition to his new position on the WWFFD board of directors, Jordan serves on the Christian Aid Center Board, Community Center for Youth Board, WWCC Foundation Board of Governors, University of Idaho College of Education Board, Washington School Employees Credit Union Advisory Board, Rocky Mountain Elk committee, and is active with the Sunrise Rotary, Walla Walla Kiwanis, Early Childhood Coalition, Community Network, and is a Farm Labor Camp Commissioner.

Todd Stubblefield lives and has raised his family in the Walla Walla area, attending and participating in the Fair for many years. The Stubblefield family had a particularly busy summer in 2017, when his daughter, Karissa, served as the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days Royalty Queen.

Stubblefield serves the Walla Walla community as the Training Captain for the City of Walla Walla Fire Department. He currently serves on the College Place School Board as President of the College Place Booster Club, Region 8 Training Board Director, Union President, and VP of the E Board. Stubblefield is also the College Place High School football and wrestling coach and takes a break for Ski Patrol.

Stubblefield will serve as an ex officio (non-voting) for the WWFFD Board of Directors.

The Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days Board of Directors looks forward to working with William Jordan and Todd Stubblefield.

Dayton School Board update

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

DAYTON—The Dayton School District Board of Directors met Wednesday, December 2, for a regularly scheduled board workshop session.

During the session, Superintendent Guy Strot gave a brief update on the Dayton-Waitsburg Athletic Combine mascot. After speaking with Superintendent Mark Pickel, Principal Kristina Brown, and Principal Stephanie Wooderchak, Superintendent Strot said that the schools would keep their individual mascots. Dayton School District will still be represented as the Dayton Bulldogs, and Waitsburg School District will keep their Cardinal mascot. The Combine mascot would be used for sporting events only. Updates will be provided after the school districts hold their monthly meetings.

Principal Kristina Brown reported that the ASB would be waiting until January to vote on the new mascot. A screen printer in Dayton and an artist in Waitsburg have been speaking with students to develop mockups of potential mascots and designs.

Dayton School District moved to a virtual learning model recently due to rising COVID-19 cases in Columbia County. Superintendent Strot said that a recent shipment of Chromebooks have arrived and have been distributed to students, as well as additional learning materials.

He also reported that younger grades, like kindergarten and first grade, are receiving learning videos and other alternative methods of instruction.

Principal Brown noted that they had lots of student engagement since the switch to virtual learning. She added that many of the teachers have been preparing for a switch to a virtual model for the last fourteen weeks and have already integrated Google Classroom into their plans. Both Brown and Strot reported that they have not received any feedback, negative or positive, from parents since the switch.

Superintendent Strot also gave a brief update on the COVID-19 pandemic situation. At the time of the meeting, there were no active cases associated with the school and a total of fourteen active cases in the county. It was decided that the board would go off Superintendent Strot's recommendation, with board member Fred White expressing that he was confident Strot would make an educated recommendation.

Board member Katie Leid asked about a rumor that a student's sibling had tested positive, but the student was still being sent to school instead of quarantining. Superintendent Strot acknowledged that he had heard the same rumor, but that was not the case within the Dayton School District, and school-associated cases were adhering to the recommended isolation and quarantine procedures.

On December 4th, the school district announced that they would remain in the virtual learning model until further notice. The full announcement can be read on the district's website, www.daytonsd.org. Parents with concerns or questions are encouraged to call or text Superintendent Strot at (509) 530-9373 or to email at guys@daytonsd.org.

Palouse RTPO seeks community input on Active Transportation Plan

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—Jennie Dickinson, the Executive Director for the Port of Columbia, is on the board for the Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO). She is asking the community to provide input to a Regionwide Active Transportation Plan being developed by the RTPO.

Dickinson said the RPTO is developing a website for the Regional Active Transportation Plan. The site will include maps of city sidewalks, showing gaps to fill to connect walking routes. There will also be maps with regional trail locations and a water trail map, featuring places for recreating on the water and how to get from one place to another.

"They need people to let them know where there may be gaps in their information," she said.

When Dickinson worked at the Dayton Chamber of Commerce 13 years ago, she said one of the most requested items was a recreation map.

"At that time, we had a rough map that we printed and handed out to tourists. But we never had a good, comprehensive trail map," she said.

Recreation is a significant driver of tourism revenue, and Dickinson said the need is great for Dayton.

Many trail and outdoor apps allow people to add trails and information to the databases. Popular apps, available for both iOS and Android, include the Hiking Project, the Powder Project, and the Trail Run Project. Dickinson attributes increased activity on Dayton's Rock Hill Trail to its placement on a trail app.

Outdoor recreation is one of the bright spots in this pandemic year.

While traditional tourism has all but come to a halt during the COVID-19 pandemic, activities like camping, hunting, boating, and skiing keep money flowing into the community, she said.

Shaun Darveshi, Palouse RTPO Director and Transportation Engineer, said almost everyone uses



active transportation at some point during a trip, whether walking to a bus stop, bicycling to work, or rolling home from school on a skateboard.

"The Regionwide Active Transportation Plan helps us learn from you, and others, to shape recommendations for policy decisions, investments, and improvements. The plan will consider where we are now, where we want to go, and how we are going to get there in coming years," Darveshi said.

People living in Columbia, Whitman, Garfield, and Asotin counties have until Jan. 15 to provide input to the Regionwide Active Transportation Plan on the survey link at <http://palousetrails.palousetrpo.org/survey.htm>

Community Calendar

Waitsburg Monthly Meetings

Waitsburg City Council:

Third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Call-in information available at www.cityofwaitsburg.com/government-1

Waitsburg School Board:

Third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. Zoom meeting information is available at <https://www.waitsburgsd.org/o/waitsburg-school-district/page/school-board--272>

Waitsburg Celebration Days:

Third Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

Walla Walla County Commissioners

Every Monday and Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. Call-in information is available at https://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/government/commissioners/2020_agendas.php

Dayton & Columbia County Meetings

Board of Columbia County Commissioners

First and second Monday of each month at 9 a.m.

Call-in information available at <https://www.columbiaco.com/114/County-Commissioners>

Dayton City Council

Second Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. Call-in information available at <https://www.daytonwa.com/54-inside-city-hall/city-council>

Dayton School Board

Third Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. Zoom call information can be found at <https://www.daytonsd.org/page/school-board>

Columbia County Public Hospital District Board of Commissioners

Fourth Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. Call (509) 382-2531 for information.

Coalition for Youth & Families

Fourth Wednesday monthly at 3 p.m. <https://coalitionforyouthandfamilies.org/get-involved>

Columbia County Rural Library District Special Meeting—Budget workshop

November 10 at 6 p.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85238363787>

DAYTON SENIOR ROUND TABLE LUNCH MENU

Dayton Senior Center
403 E. Patit St.
12 p.m.
Drive Up Only

Thursday, December 10

Pulled pork
Baked beans
Coleslaw
Brownie
Juice, Milk

Tuesday, December 15

Chicken alfredo
Diced carrots
Broccoli salad
Banana, Milk

WAITSBURG SENIOR CENTER

504 Main Street
11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 15

Turkey & gravy
Stuffing
Mashed potatoes
Green beans
Bread
Pumpkin bar

WAITSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Starting October 5, the Waitsburg School District will only be delivering meals on Monday and Wednesday. If your student is already signed up for the meal program, the schedule will automatically adjust. If you have not signed your child up and would like to participate, you will need to submit a signed consent form to your child's school. The consent form can be found on the school's website, www.waitsburgsd.org.

Thursday, December 10

B: Biscuit & gravy
L: Tater tot casserole
Roll
Cucumbers
Peaches

Friday, December 11

B: Breakfast tornado
L: Nachos
Bell peppers
Oranges

Monday, December 14

B: Breakfast sandwich
L: Uncrustable
Chips
Baby carrots
Applesauce

Tuesday, December 15

B: Holiday breakfast
L: Baked ham
Potatoes
Roll
Grapes
Chocolate pie



Church Directory

Waitsburg Presbyterian Church
504 Main
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
337-6589
Pastor Stan Hughes

Waitsburg Chapel
320 W. 2nd
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Bible Study
Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
337-6235
Rev. Jimmie Daves

Waitsburg Christian Church
604 Main St
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Each Sunday
337-8898
Rev. Matthew Wyatt



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NEWS & COMMENTARY



LETTERS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It seems common sense and decency have been upstaged by rule changes at the USPS. In our small town of 1,200 we do not have mail delivery to our homes as an option. The two choices are a mailbox at the end of the street, if living far enough away from the Post Office, or a Post Office Box.

With COVID-19 restricting so many folks to shopping from home due to store closures to in-person shopping we are having problems. Sellers want to know a street address, even though their shipper sometimes drops packages off at the local Post Office. At the Post Office a PO Box number is required. There have been more than a few instances of people not receiving their orders because of a requirement from DC to return items not properly addressed. This includes Christmas presents for their children!

Either sellers need to be required to accept BOTH street address and PO Box number OR the USPS needs to return to using common sense and notify those of us with only a PO Box that a package is at their facility. It has our name on it and street address even if missing a PO Box number because the shipper failed to include it. Often the shipper's software will not accept an order with a PO Box number, even if entered as a secondary address.

During these trying times, and especially during this holiday season, frustrations such as this should be added to the mix.

Sincerely,
Jim Davison
Waitsburg, WA

POSTMASTER OFFERS HELP MAIL AND PACKAGES TO GET TO PO BOX HOLDERS

Let me begin by saying I know this policy of returning items has caused a huge inconvenience for many Waitsburg Postal Customers, and I am sorry. Also, we at the Post Office appreciate the support many of you have extended. The Waitsburg community has been overwhelmingly kind while trying to deal with this problem. After talking with some of our valued customers, we have decided to suspend the practice of returning items through December so patrons will not have to worry about this through the holidays.



PLEASE INFORM SENDER
 OF YOUR COMPLETE AND CORRECT ADDRESS
 MAIL SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO YOUR POST OFFICE BOX
 MAIL SHOULD INCLUDE YOUR APARTMENT NUMBER
 NEW STREET ADDRESS AS REQUIRED BY 911 EMERGENCY SERVICE

Over the past two-plus years, we have been trying to resolve the issue that many of our PO Box customers have when trying to get mail delivered when vendors only take street addresses. We have used stickers asking customers to "Inform Sender that your mail should be addressed to your PO Box" as well as other methods. Many customers have no problems receiving their mail, while others continue to have issues.

The reason this is such a problem is that the process of correcting these addressing errors is time-consuming not just in Waitsburg but up the line in our distribution plants. Our automation does not recognize addresses that we do not deliver to, so all these items need to be hand sorted. Furthermore, without local knowledge, our employees will be required to

look up each item to match a name to a box number. We now have employees who know most of our customers and their box number, but that will change. Eventually, everyone who works here will move on, and if we don't fix these addressing problems, the new employees will be walking into a mess. This is an inefficiency we can control locally, and it is our responsibility to do so.

I have read many good suggestions on how to fix this on Facebook. The following paragraph comes from our customer service office in Seattle;

You might suggest that your mailers use both the street address and Post Office Box number when sending you mail. Mail formatted with dual addresses (both a street address and a Post Office Box number) is delivered to the address immediately above the city and state (or to the post office box if both the street address and post office box are on the same line).

For example:
1201 BROAD ST E
PO BOX 1001
FALLS CHURCH VA 22062-1001

Again, thank you for your continued support, and please call or stop in if you have any comments or suggestions.

Michael Reed
Postmaster

12TH MAN - FROM PAGE 1

"For many of our retailers, not just in Walla Walla but statewide, sales are down significantly. In our area, the trend, no matter what, is that January, February, and March are dead," Witherington said. "Typically, a business spends in March, April, and May building out of that dead period and then makes their profit over the summer. This year they lost the time to build out of the dead-period, so everyone is behind. In addition to wanting to spur on holiday shopping with the gift line," Witherington continued, "it was important to create something that could increase local spending throughout January. Local spending is the only thing that will help us right now," said Witherington noting that tourists are few and far between in January, in a pandemic.

In response to these hardships, the DWWF is launching a local spending campaign called 12th Man Walla Walla between December 19 and February 7. For every \$12 spent at a Walla Walla business, you get entered in a raffle to win all sorts of fun football-themed prizes. Witherington is planning weekly drawings of giveaways of football merchandise and experiences and other fun things to hopefully encourage people to spend \$12.

"I want people to realize that as little as \$12 can make a difference," Wither-



ington continued, "many of these businesses are 3-6 months from closing. It's really hard to say that, and it's really hard to write that in a way that doesn't feel hopeless. I like the football theme because, in an NFL football game, you have a 2-minute warning. Our team is down right now, and we can either throw in the towel and give up, or we have basically two minutes to come back and win this thing. This is our last stand; let's be strategic; let's support our team."

The DWWF will launch a call to action video this week.

Based on lessons learned from the previous lockdown, this initiative is something that can be in-store or online in case restrictions tighten further. Entries will be tracked through email; simply send an image of a receipt from a local business to kathryn@downtownwallawalla.com. Each \$12 spent is then entered into the weekly drawing as well as the grand prize to be drawn on February 7.

The Gift Local Gift Line is open seven days a week through December 24th from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call or text (509) 240-2898, and share information about who the gift is for. Missed calls, texts, and emails are returned as quickly as possible. Gift delivery is guaranteed within one day of purchase. Though their presence was not at first detected, surely some elves must work in that office.

The Times

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The Times was founded in 1878 by C.W. Wheeler and has been produced every week since then. It is one of the oldest newspapers in the state of Washington.

The Times publishes news and information about Walla Walla and Columbia counties and their communities. We have offices located in both Waitsburg and Dayton.

The newspaper welcomes news tips and information about community activities. An independent newspaper, The Times welcomes expressions of opinion and commentary in Letters to the Times column.

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Reader's Forum

The Times welcomes Letters to the Editor and invites readers to share their ideas, concerns and thoughts on matters of importance on our Opinion Page. Letters to the Editor can be emailed to editor@waitsburgtimes.com, or mailed to The Times at P.O. Box 97, Waitsburg, WA 99361. Letters can also be hand-delivered to our office or submitted to our waitsburgtimes.com. The deadline for letters is Tuesday at noon.

Letters may be no more than 400 words long. All letters must be signed by the writer(s) using their actual name, and complete contact information for each writer, including address and phone number must be included.

We reserve the right to decline to publish any letter that we deem inappropriate for our readership. Letters may be edited for libel and objectionable material.

The Times does not print form letters, libelous letters, business promotions or complaints, poetry, open letters, letters proselytizing or espousing or attacking religious views without reference to a current issue, letters that are in poor taste or that are not on a topic of public interest.

Due to volume during election season, The Times is unable to print all letters received. We strive to print as many as possible on a first come, first served basis. Letters that don't fit are moved to the following week.

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Hospital District board report for November

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—For the past few months, Columbia County Health System (CCHS) CEO Shane McGuire has been talking to the Hospital District Board of Commissioners about five small works roster¹ projects that could improve the hospital's ability to treat COVID-19 patients and help the Health System with its response to a potential surge of COVID-19 in the community.

Cost for the five projects is estimated at 1.1 million and are listed below in order of priority:

1. Upgrade the currently undersized hospital generator.
2. Upgrade the hospital's critical systems by expanding red emergency power outlets to Acute Care rooms.
3. Add medical air systems to improve breathing treatments for patients on ventilators and those in cardiopulmonary distress.
4. Upgrade the medical gas system, or oxygen plant, to aid patients in respiratory distress.
5. Replace the outdated suction compressor, which is connected to the 1964 era infrastructure, to better treat patients in respiratory distress.

In September, McGuire told the board the five projects seemed to "predominantly" meet the Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) guidelines for using CARES Act funds.

In October, the board permitted the Finance committee to manage and approve the projects, to be paid for out of CARES Act funds, not to exceed 1.5 million.

Hospital officials then backed off the projects because HHS's new guidance implied the funds could not be used for capital projects.

They turned to representatives in the offices of

Washington State legislator Senator Maria Cantwell, and U.S. Senator Patty Murray, and met in person with Fifth Congressional District Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers to discuss their concerns.

McGuire said HHS has since clarified its guidance, agreeing to allow the use of CARES Act funds for those capital projects, which meet COVID-19 criteria.

"Your legislators are working very hard for you, and they have been very accessible all hours of the day and night," McGuire told the board of commissioners at their meeting on Dec. 1.

John McLean, a Principal Architect of Blue Room Architecture, attended last week's board of commissioners' meeting. McLean is the design consultant on the five projects, the dental clinic project and the assisted living facility project.

McLean said the budgets and expenditures for the five projects are "looking good," and contractors are looking forward to having inside work during the winter months.

The board of commissioners approved the first of the five projects, allowing the purchase of a new generator.

The generator will cost around \$100,000. Construction costs and operation costs for the entire generator project is capped at \$350,000.

Dental clinic project

The board of commissioners accepted the apparent low bid from Nelson Construction, Walla Walla, to construct the Medicaid Dental Clinic at the Columbia Family Clinic. The bid was for \$415,951.

According to CCHS Finance Manager Matt Minor, the clinic is projected to bring in a modest income, and he said the Health District is in a good financial position to move forward with the project.

Assisted Living Facility project

John McLean said design documents are about

halfway complete for the Assisted Living Facility project. The developer, Ron Asmus, REA, has provided estimated costs for constructing three units to be located adjacent to the hospital on the north. Asmus is negotiating with the City of Dayton over development costs for water lines, sewer lines, power lifts, and other services, McLean said.

Administrator's report

According to Shane McGuire, hospital District finances are healthier now than during the first half of the year. Revenue was \$342,000 above budget at the end of October. This was due primarily to a large settlement from Molina Healthcare and increased revenues from hospital services.

Two additional nurse practitioners, and a locum tenens² Physician's Assistant-Certified (PA-C), are in the process of being hired for the clinics. The search is ongoing for another primary care physician, McGuire said.

McGuire said moving COVID-19 non-symptomatic testing onsite is being considered since the increase in tests at the hospital campus is placing a burden on health system personnel.

Six-hundred and forty-seven tests have been performed on campus since Nov. 1. McGuire will let the board know more at their Dec. 17 meeting.

¹ **Editor's notes:** Small works rosters (SWR) are lists of qualified contractors who can bid for an eligible project below \$350,000. Rosters are less restrictive and time-consuming than full formal competitive bids. RCW 39.04.155(2) establishes the requirements for roster contracts.

² The term locum tenens refers to a physician, nurse practitioner or PA who works temporary assignments, often involving travel.

Bluewood ski area opens Friday, December 11

THE TIMES

DAYTON—The 2020-21 season at Bluewood opens the weekend of Dec. 11-13 as the winter sports area welcomes skiers and snowboarders to the mountain. As of Monday, Dec. 7, there are 24 inches of snow at the base and 24 inches at the summit.

On Friday, opening day, the first chair will be at 9 a.m. Throughout the weekend, hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, with the Skyline Express, Triple Nickel, and Easy Rider conveyor lifts all scheduled to be spinning.

"We're super excited to welcome everyone back up on the mountain," says Kim Clark, General Manager. "Bluewood staff and others in the community have been hard at work throughout the summer and fall months to get things ready. This year, there will be restrictions due to the pandemic and we need to hold tight on those, but our goal is to have a safe, fun season on the slopes."

As the winter progresses, restrictions will likely need adjustments, but for opening weekend, Bluewood has several protocols in place and a few announcements, including:

- Face coverings must be worn unless actively skiing/riding or actively eating. Guests and staff are required to mask up in the parking lot and wear masks anywhere people gather. That includes the parking lot, base area, lodge and lift lines. Masking is required, and people who cannot abide by this policy will be asked to leave.
- If guests or staff are sick, if anyone in their family is sick, or if they suspect having been exposed to someone who is sick, they should stay home so they can come another day.
- Riders on the Skyline Express and Triple Nickel lifts are asked to self-group either with family members or those they traveled with to the mountain.
- Guests should use their vehicle as their base camp. They should plan on loading and unloading gear, storing personal items and eating, at or in the vehicle. Indoor seating won't be available in the lodge on opening weekend, and neither will storage spaces, such as lockers and cubbies. Grab-and-go food options will be offered to order and carry out.
- The coffee bar will be open and bottled (non-alcoholic) beverages will be available for purchase. The pub will be closed. Since the drinking fountain in the

lodge is shut off, guests may want to bring drinking water from home.

- At the base, a new yurt will be open for pre-purchased ticket pick-up. Starting Monday, December 7, guests are encouraged to order lift tickets online to help minimize lines on the mountain.
 - At the summit, the yurt with snacks and beverages will remain closed for the time being.
 - Guests and staff are encouraged to use hand sanitizing stations that have been prominently placed throughout the lodge.
 - Rigorous sanitation measures will be followed, including surfaces cleaned with disinfectants frequently throughout the day, and rental gear will be receiving extra sanitation. Every night, a fogger will be deployed with a sanitizing agent in every room of every building.
 - Unless otherwise noted, restrooms in the lodge will be open as usual, and there will be four Porta-Potty toilets at the top for the season.
 - The Hub, a new building in the upper end of the parking lot, is in the final stages of construction. Eventually, the Rentals and SnowSports departments will move to The Hub. However, through the opening weekend, rental gear and lessons will continue to be accessed in the lodge.
 - Limited lessons will be offered on opening weekend. Guests can check at the SnowSports desk or at bluewood.com.
- "We're asking everyone to stay flexible, be patient, be courteous and be kind as we chart a course through the upcoming months," Clark says. "It's taken a community effort to open this season, and it will take a community effort to stay open at Bluewood, where we get to exercise in the wide-open mountain air and snow." Operating schedule: Through the holidays, Bluewood will be open:
- December 11-13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - December 17-23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - December 24, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - December 26 - January 3, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Additional information about the operating schedule, COVID-19 protocols, and news updates can be found at bluewood.com.
- Snow phone: For recorded updates on conditions and other information, call (509) 240-8991. Information is typically updated by 6 a.m. and is available 24/7. Snow phone updates will begin before opening day.

WWCSO

November 30

Reporting party came to the Sheriff's Office to report a burglary that occurred over the Thanksgiving holiday in the 400 block of Preston Avenue. Waitsburg

Deputy dispatched to the 3000 block of Issacs Avenue regarding theft of automotive parts from company vehicle. Fence to property was also damaged. Walla Walla County

Males arrested for warrants and possession of stolen property. Burbank

A fire hydrant was struck by a semi-truck overnight. Burbank

An assault was alleged to have occurred within the county. Burbank

December 1

A man was arrested in possession of a stolen vehicle. Walla Walla County

December 2

Mail theft and theft 3rd. Walla Walla County

December 4

Christmas decorations stolen from yard. Walla Walla County

Trailers and ATV stolen off property. Walla Walla County

December 7

A package was stolen from a mailbox. Burbank

CLASSIFIEDS HELP WANTED

The Columbia County Rural Library District is seeking applicants to fill the open position of Library Director. For more a detailed job announcement, visit: www.daytonml.org. Interested persons should submit a resume and cover letter to Trustees@DaytonML.org no later than December 20th, 2020.

BIRTHDAYS

December 10: Grant Woodworth, Bess Ammerman, Ron Thompson, Diane Fry, Sara Lytle, Lydia Fancuillo.

December 11: Carl Baker, Robert Ezell, Tim Mayberry, Niko Matthee, Caleb Solis.

December 12: Ernest Brunson, John Archer, Allen Huwe, Chad Fry, Dawn Ronning, Patricia Thomas, Ben Antonius, BethAn Wood.

December 13: Patsy Weber, Marilyn Wilson, Elena Perry, Richard Done, Donald Thiery, Helen Duckworth.

December 14: Shirley Wilson, Joy Leisure, Susan Herion, Heather Harris, Jay Lewis, Sasha Sickles, Rick Turner, Imbert Matthee.

December 15: Agnes VonCadow, Jason Henderson, David Hevel Jr., Carl Smith Jr., Stacie Huwe, Rick Turner, Betty Young.

December 16: Katie Ford, Perry Dozier, Samantha Henze, Christopher Holmes, Lesli Crawford, Kenna Larson.



Lane Gwinn

Gingerbread men in Quarantine ornaments currently displayed on the Ten Ton Coffee sponsored tree in Waitsburg.

NEWS & LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR BENTON COUNTY

NO. 20-4-00464-03
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Matter of the Estate of:

DAVID G. DRIFTMEYER, Deceased.

The Administrator named below has been appointed as Administrator of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW § 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Administrator, or her attorney at the address stated below, a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced.

The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Administrator served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW § 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of Publication: November 26, 2020
Administrator: Terri Wilder Kion
Attorney for Administrator: Asa LaMusga
Address for Mailing or

Service:
Gravis Law, PLLC
503 Knight St. Ste A
Richland, WA 99352
Court of Probate
Proceedings
Benton County Superior Court
Case Number
20-4-00464-03
The Times
November 26, December 3, 10, 2020
11-26-a

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA

NO: 20-4-00227-36
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
RCW 11.40.030
In re the Estate of:
ARLENE M. DIRKS f/k/a
ARLENE M. HENDRICKSON,
Deceased.

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication

of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.
DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: December 3, 2020.

Wanda A. Singer
Personal Representative
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Jeremy Hyndman, WSBA #44320
Basalt Legal PLLC
6½ N. Second Avenue, Suite 200
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509-529-0630
The Times
December 3, 10, 17, 2020
12-3-a

Notice of public meetings 2021

Columbia Walla Walla Fire District #2 hereby gives notice that the Columbia Walla Walla Fire District #2 Board of Commissioners will meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Main Fire Station, located at 234 Main Street, Waitsburg, Washington, 99361. Without a formal agenda and/or a quorum, the fire commission may cancel any meeting until the following scheduled meeting. For more information, please call the Columbia Walla Walla Fire Station at (509) 337-8351.

The Times
December 10, 17, 2020
12-10-a

SMALL WORKS ROSTER

In accordance with RCW 39.04.155, by order of the Board of Commissioners Columbia-Walla Walla Fire District #2, PO Box 925, Waitsburg, WA 99361, the fire district is establishing their 2021 Small Works Roster of qualified contractors wishing to be considered for performing work on Public Works Projects. Interested contractors may email the District at chief@cwvwd2.org or mail their Statement of Qualifications to the above address.
the Times
December 10, 17, 2020
12-10-b

Call for Public Comments: Metropolitan and Regional Transportation - 2045 Plan

A draft of the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation - 2045 Plan is available for public review starting Thursday, December 10, 2020, through Sunday, January 10, 2021. The document can be accessed from the WVVMPPO/SRTPO website at <https://www.vvmpo.org/public-participation.html>. All comments are due to the WVVMPPO/SRTPO by 11:59 pm on January 10, 2021.

Convocatoria de comentarios públicos: el Plan de Transporte Metropolitano y Regional - 2045

Un borrador del Plan de Transporte Metropolitano y Regional del Valle de Walla Walla - 2045 está disponible para su revisión pública desde el jueves 10 de diciembre de 2020 hasta el domingo 10 de enero de 2021. El documento se puede acceder desde el sitio web de WVVMPPO/SRTPO en <https://www.vvmpo.org/public-participation.html>.

[org/public-participation.html](https://www.vvmpo.org/public-participation.html).
Todos los comentarios deben ser enviados a WVVMPPO/SRTPO antes de las 11:59 pm del 10 de enero de 2021.

The Times
December 10, 2020
12-10-c

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Budget Committee for the City of Prescott is working on a final budget for the fiscal year 2021, starting January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021.

By the order of the Council the second public hearing will be held on this matter on Monday, December 14, 2020 @ 7:30 pm via; Join Zoom Meeting: <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/83741488942>; call in number: + 12532158782 Meeting ID: 837 4148 8942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Prescott will be reviewing the final draft of Prescott's 6yr Street Plan at the next Council Meeting December 14, 2020 @ 7:30 pm which will be held via; Join Zoom Meeting: <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/83741488942>; call in number: + 12532158782 Meeting ID: 837 4148 8942 The Citizens of Prescott are welcome to attend and hear what has been proposed in our draft 6yr Street Plan.

Linda Vannoster, Clerk-Treasurer
City of Prescott
The Times
December 10, 2020
12-10-d

NOTICE OF FINAL BUDGET HEARING

The Council of the City of Waitsburg is working on a budget for fiscal year 2021 starting January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021.

The Council will hold a final hearing on this matter at the regularly scheduled teleconference Council meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., or soon thereafter and all interested citizens are invited to attend the hearing virtually by calling 701-802-5221, entering meeting access number 858-672, at which time the meeting will be open for public discussion on the proposed 2020 budget. Copies of the proposed budget are available at Waitsburg City Hall, 147 Main Street, Waitsburg, WA or on the City's website www.cityofwaitsburg.com on Friday December 11, 2020

Dated this 7th day of December, 2020
City of Waitsburg
By: Randy Hinchliffe, City Administrator
The Times
December 10, 2020
12-10-e



The deadline for legal publications is noon on Tuesday prior to publication. Send notices to: legals@waitsburgtimes.com

THANK YOU

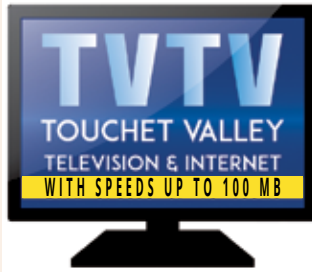
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Chats with Mike

Jon Rampey: Wand Maker

By Mike Ferrians | THE TIMES

2020 has taught us how to make lemonade out of lemons. Jon Rampey, a newcomer to Dayton, makes art using this philosophy of resourcefulness.

"Creating something is better than buying it," he said.

Like many of his generation, 27-year-old Rampey loves the Harry Potter universe and knows nearly everything about it. Years ago, he decided he must have his own sorcerer's wand like Professor Dumbledore's. Wands being a bit pricy, he decided to carve his own.

In 2009 he made his first full-sized wand from a stick using a carpenter's knife. Getting a taste for wand-making, he soon graduated from a carpenter's knife to a rotary Dremel tool.

"After I'd made some, a friend told me I needed to start selling them," he said, sheepishly. "But mainly, I do it because it's therapeutic. Doing this brings me some peacefulness. Also, I like the satisfaction of making it myself."

Locals are discovering his craft, but recently a man in Afghanistan, of all places, found Rampey on Facebook and ordered a Harry Potter wand.

"I'm not sure whether it was his English, which wasn't very good, or if he just wanted one real bad," he said of the stated request. "But I sold it to him for \$30, and he covered the shipping, which was more."

Rampey has been sculpting, carving, painting, and wood burning for most of his life. Art supplies and materials are not just his tools; they can also be an inspiration. First, pencils were used to draw with; then, he used pencils to make "pixie wands." This is just one example of how Rampey sees artistic possibilities in everyday objects.

He showed me two creative and whimsical pieces, a "dragon's egg" and a "dragon's heart." Both were created using thumbtacks, which I didn't recognize as such. The effect is pretty cool and made me laugh.

Most of his pieces are art objects, some are functional, and some magical. He makes yard art, toys, textured journal covers, walking canes, office decor. He re-designs pens and pencils for writing. And, of course, wands.



Jon Rampey



Photos by Mike Ferrians

Above are some of the uniquely shaped wands Rampey has created from donated rake and broom handles.

Left: a golden dragon's egg made from a common household item.



Rampey works with graphite, clay, foam, hot glue, and glow-in-the-dark paints. He uses tree limbs, cast-off table legs, and odd pieces of moulding as blanks for his projects.

"I put a note out, and people have started bringing me old rake or broom handles. Those are great to work with. I don't have to take the meat off. I just have a clear piece to start designing with."

Rampey is a true craftsman and can work with just about anything, it seems, even chopsticks.

Just a week before our chat, Rampey had acquired a four-foot bench top lathe. Having never worked with one before, he began watching videos and browsing websites to learn from others. He can now add the lathe to the variety of hand-



Courtesy photo

held knives and saws he already uses to cut into wood. The beautiful and inventive pieces he has produced after only one week of lathe work are impressive.

His wands are elegant woodcraft, and his 14-inch lightsabers are something I want to find in my Christmas stocking. The sabers glow in the dark, and their carved figured handles come in silver and gold finish.

Rampey's wand work is fast becoming noticed in Dayton through his Facebook page, "Rampey's Wands, Magic Crafts & Much More." He has participated in craft shows and bazaars and hosted several himself—including shows in the Tri-Cities and Spokane. He hopes to host a show in Dayton as soon as circumstances permit. Until then, he has items ready to order for Christmas and will take special orders on a first-come-first-served basis.

Now that's what I call a cottage industry.

The Cookie Chronicles Chapter 24—Zen & the art of dog-ness

Life Lessons from Cookie

By Paul Gregutt | THE TIMES

It has become exceptionally clear over the years that as much as we give of ourselves to Cookie in terms of time, love, and care, she will always out-give us. It's the nature of her dog-ness, the core of her being.



Courtesy photo

Is this dog-ma?

When a dog feels secure and locked into a regular, dependable, and quite pleasant routine, there is more opportunity to expand and grow past the basic animal concerns for food, shelter, and safety. A dog who spends her days without fear is a dog that will instinctively want more playtime. A dog who is rarely left alone will always want to hang with her humans. A dog who knows she is loved will give love back in every possible way.

But the life lessons that can be gleaned from a long-lasting, deep devotion between dog and human are even more varied and subtle.

Patience is something that comes naturally to dogs and something many of us struggle with. Our days are jammed with inputs. Our attention spans are brief, our distractions many. The demands of work, family, community, and friends, along with the day-to-day chores that sustain a hectic life, constantly press upon us. Our inner voices relentlessly demand that we do more, do it faster, do it better.

Meanwhile, the dog waits patiently for the next round of attention. Cookie knows that she'll get her back scratched and her belly rubbed in the morning while we sit and have coffee. Once we hit the computers, she settles in under a desk and simply waits for a break in the action. While patiently waiting, she is not berating herself for her lack of productivity. She embodies the Zen-like practice of doing nothing attentively.

It's a kind of meditation. No pressure, no stress, no timeline. And yet keenly aware.

Such attention to detail is another lesson we can learn from our dogs. Cookie is tuned in to seemingly trivial sights and sounds that she has connected to specific opportunities for food, play, and exercise. Early in the morning when she hears me open the kitchen drawer where Mr. B has spent the night, she'll come flying in from the next room, knowing that he's about to be sprung loose. When I pull out the trash bag—another audio cue—she quickly concludes that I'm heading outside and begs to join me. When the final bell rings, signaling the end of a session on my stationary bike, Cookie magically appears, ball in

mouth, ready for play or—even better—lunch!

Her powers of observation are astonishing, even at her somewhat advanced age. Her hearing seems to be able to determine whether a passing vehicle is known or unknown, worthy of a greeting or a warning bark. Her vision is equally acute. From her favorite spot atop the sofa, she can track a squirrel on a wire halfway down the block. And the abilities of her remarkable nose, explored in detail in chapters 10 and 11, seemingly allow her to detect a trespassing cat way out in the yard from inside our living room while lying on the floor by the fire.

The fact that we lack such fine-tuned senses is no excuse for failing to push our own abilities past any self-imposed limitations. Human attention is most often captured by images, with sounds playing a supporting role. But the full experience of any natural environment requires that equal attention be given to our other senses as well. Scents, flavors, and tactile input are equally valuable if you are attuned to it. You are missing much of the joy of a garden if you don't smell as well as admire the flowers if you don't listen to the birds, if you don't savor the tactile delights of the soil.

'Chop wood carry water' is a Zen koan (phrase) that communicates a mode of being by its very simplicity. The full koan is "Before enlightenment, chop wood, carry water. After enlightenment, chop wood, carry water." What's the point? You may wonder. The meaning, as I take it is that the activities remain the same; it's the attitude of the do-er that is transformed. Doing mundane things mindfully, with full attention, is the Zen path toward enlightenment.

Put another way, do what you are doing while you are doing it. Don't do what you're not doing while you're not doing it!

Dogs are the perfect embodiment of such Zen-like attention to the moment. Whatever activity they're engaged in, they will exhibit patience, attention, and keen observation. They will remain anchored in the moment. This is the art and the wisdom of dog-ness.

In the next (and final) chapter—the most important lesson of all.

NEWS & SPORTS

Inside the matchup Seahawks vs. Jets

NFL WEEK FOURTEEN GAMES AND PICKS

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES

After an upset loss to the New York Giants last week, the Seahawks have dropped down to the fifth seed in the playoffs. If the Seahawks end the season as the fifth overall seed, they would have to travel to New York for a rematch against the Giants in the first round of the playoffs. The December 27th game in Seattle against the Rams will likely determine the NFC West division winner this season.

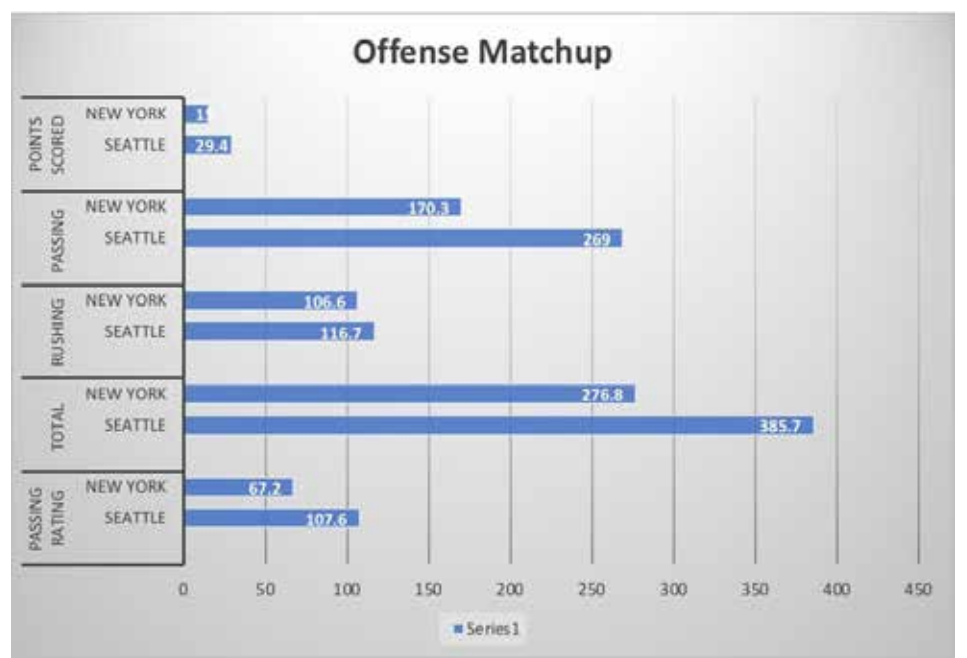
This week the Seahawks host the New York Jets. The Jets are now 0-12 on the year after a last-second loss last week against the Las Vegas Raiders. How do you go 0-12 to start a season? Well, several things have to go wrong. Splitting time between two quarterbacks is a good start. Sam Darnold and Joe Flacco have played at least five games each for the Jets and combined have more interceptions (12) than touchdowns (11). The Jets have also had two kickers, Sam Ficken and Sergio Castillo, both have had reliability problems. As a team on offense, they rank last in total yards per game, passing yards, and points. They have allowed almost 30 points per game on the defensive side, with only the Lions and the Cowboys giving up more points per game. The Jets punter Braden Mann has more total yards punting the ball than the Jets quarterbacks have throwing it. That's how you start a season 0-12.

Jamison Crowder is the Jets' top receiver this season. He leads the team in total receptions with 40 and yards with 503. Breshad Perriman is the number two option for New York. Both receivers have played in only eight of the teams' twelve games this season.

At running back for the Jets is Frank Gore. He has 523 yards so far for the Jets. If you're thinking, 'didn't the 49ers have a running back named Frank Gore back in the mid-2000s?' You are right; it's the same guy. Remarkably, Gore, now 37 years old, is in his sixteenth season as running back, having played 238 games. He is currently third on the all-time rushing list behind only Emmitt Smith and Walter Payton. Gore is only 130 yards away from reaching a total of 16,000 rushing yards for his career. He is not likely to get that this week against the Seahawks but should reach the milestone before the season's end.

Day	Time	Station	Away	Home	Pick
Thur	5:20PM	FOX/NFL	New England	Los Angeles Rams	Los Angeles Rams
Sun	10AM	CBS	Houston	Chicago	Chicago
	10AM	FOX	Dallas	Cincinnati	Dallas
	10AM	CBS	Kansas City	Miami	Kansas City
	10AM	FOX	Arizona	New York Giants	Arizona
	10AM	FOX	Minnesota	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay
	10AM	CBS	Denver	Carolina	Carolina
	10AM	CBS	Tennessee	Jacksonville	Tennessee
	1:05PM	CBS	Indianapolis	Las Vegas	Indianapolis
	1:05PM	CBS	New York Jets	Seattle	Seattle
	1:25PM	FOX	Green Bay	Detroit	Green Bay
	1:25PM	FOX	New Orleans	Philadelphia	New Orleans
	1:25PM	FOX	Atlanta	Los Angeles Chargers	Atlanta
	1:25PM	FOX	Washington	San Francisco	San Francisco
	5:20PM	NBC	Pittsburgh	Buffalo	Buffalo
Mon	5:15PM	ESPN	Baltimore	Cleveland	Cleveland

Here is the current injured list for the Seahawks. The players listed as out for this week are Brandon Shell OT, Travis Homer RB, Cedric Ogbuehi OT, Ryan Neal CB, and Jamarco Jones OT are listed as questionable after injuries sustained in the Giants game.



Extrication drill

Columbia Walla Walla Fire District 2 held a vehicle extrication class Saturday in Waitsburg involving ten volunteer staff. Vehicle extrication is the process of removing a vehicle from around a person who has been involved in a motor vehicle collision. Damaged cars were donated by Kyle's Custom Toys & Towing of Dayton for the class. District Chief Michael Moynihan said everyone did a good job using the lifesaving tools that are always with fire district trucks.



Photos by Terry Lawhead

Best Christmas tree(s) ever

By Lane Gwinn | THE TIMES

Growing up, my family loved to find ways to make our Christmas trees unique. Not always successfully or safely. In the sixties, my mother turned one tree into Pop Art bordering on Psychedelic Art. Brightly colored giant paper flowers in orange, pink, and lime green, love beads, and loads of lights covered the tree. It was so mod, reminding us of the 'Joke Wall' on T.V.'s Laugh-In (look it up). We were so excited to plug in the lights and enjoy its grooviness. It took less than four minutes for the tree to spontaneously combust. At least, that is how I remember it.

Another year, we victimized a tree through flocking. My eldest sister, Anne, discovered Sno Flok, a home-flocking product, and unleashed her inner snow goddess. We bought a sad grocery store tree on Christmas eve, and Anne flocked it as if it had been in an avalanche. It ended up looking less like a tree and more like an overweight yeti. Typically, we would throw all our ornaments, popcorn strands, garlands, tinsel, and lights onto our trees. Anne's minimalist vision limited us to blue and white lights with blue and silver Christmas ball ornaments. In the end, the tree was the perfect backdrop to what we referred to as Anne's 'Kim Novac' period.

The last story in this trilogy of trees is one from my son's childhood. We lived on Whidbey Island in a house surrounded by pine trees. Just before Christmas, there was a wind storm that

littered the property with branches of every size. So, instead of buying a tree that year, we constructed one. Using a large branch as the trunk, we drilled carefully angled and spaced holes for our new tree's limbs. The trick was to turn the branches upside down from how they grew, so when we placed them on the trunk, they had a whimsical bounce. Another advantage of making your tree is the ability to custom fit it to your space. By putting smaller branches in the back, the tree looks full but takes less room. We got many compliments on our unique tree. My son and I told anyone who asked that it was a Seussian Pine. After the good Dr., that is.



Lacking labels, but not laughter

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

Christmas has changed a lot since I was a kid. Our gatherings have gotten smaller, our menus have changed drastically, and our gifting has gotten more strategic. One thing, however, has remained constant: My mom has yet to find a way to label her magazine-worthy wrapped gifts so she can remember who gets what, and it has become one of the most looked-forward-to parts of the holiday.

It's not for a lack of trying: She's tried using color-coded wrapping paper, which works wonderfully if you stick with your plan 100 percent of the way. She's tried color-coded bows, which worked great until the cats got involved. She's tried using name tags, but, really... who has time to put a name on every gift when you can just give each bag a little shake if needed?



I have memories of opening up something like a sweater with my name written clear as day on the label, holding it up, and seeing that it was obviously too small.

"Yeah, that was supposed to be for Emily (my sister)," she always says, trying hard to contain her giggles. My dad chimes in with something along the lines of 'maybe we should label

them' (jokes on him, eh?), and I make half an effort to re-wrap the item with what's left of the gift wrap before handing it back to my sister. It's always fun, and my mom is a good sport about it.

Now, before the wrapping paper starts flying, we all joke around, making light-hearted bets about who will open someone else's gift first, with my mom giving her usual 'just let me inspect them first' spiel.

As I get older, I realize how much my mom and I are alike. Christmas has become a glaring example, as I, too, cannot label gifts for the life of me. Last year, I tried to blame the lack of name tags on a curious toddler, but I don't think I'll be able to use that excuse this year. It's a little easier to peek in gifts at my house, though, because I did not inherit my mother's gift wrapping talents, and I am a firm believer in gift bags and tissue paper.

Holiday memories

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

I am an eastern Oregon gal and my most precious holiday memories are the times spent at my grandparents' homes in the farming community of Keating, east of Baker City.

In the 1960s, we didn't have many real toys to play with. What was lacking in material wealth was made up for by using our imagination. Playing "store" with my brother, Jim, in my grandmother's country store on Hwy. 86, and looking for Easter eggs my uncle hid in a haystack on Easter Sunday, are two of my favorite memories.

It seems the elders in our large extended family were always planning fun things for us to do, and they came up with some great ideas around Christmas time, much of it outdoors.

Imagine a group of aunts, uncles, cousins, and people from neighboring farms, gathered around a bonfire on a cold winter night in December, and watching a few adventurous souls on skates, take flight across the frozen river, or sledding down Sparta Hill on a snowy New Year's Eve, with only the moonlight to light our way.

Those remain my fondest memories. I am smiling now as I remember what fun we had.

Tree of Memories

By Mike Ferrians | THE TIMES

Like many Christmas trees, ours is a time-measuring tree. We have so many ornaments now, there are too many for one tree to hold! We have a couple of small table trees that help out, but when you choose which ornaments will be hung, you're choosing which will not.

Some of our ornaments have been gifts from many friends over time. One is the cup of hot chocolate, knitted by our friend Joan Helm. Some we have given to ourselves during the years. We have one cut from wood that says, "Peace on Earth," which no one could convince me to part with, but which, if a child saw and loved it, I would give to her without a second thought. Melissa has crocheted more snowflakes and angels than I could count. Many have been gifts to others.

But most of the ornaments we have hung in recent years are 70 years old, maybe older. They belonged to Melissa's parents, or grandparents, or aunt. There are American and German-made glass ornaments in their original cardboard boxes, which, were we so inclined, could sell for \$60 each or more. We still have strings of bubble lights purchased when the Beatles were a new thing. There is the tiny snow-covered Christmas cabin which hung on Melissa's childhood trees. A set of white glass bells still in the original box as they came from Japan remains in perfect condition. These things contrast to the light strings we buy every year and which fail to work the next.

This year, decorating seems to be a form of therapy and of holding on to simple things certain and true.



Ringling in Christmas with a bang

By Brianna Wray | THE TIMES

My most memorable holiday happens to be a Christmas when I was just old enough to sleep on the top bunk. Being the youngest, I wasn't alive during the fabled Christmas when my older brothers peeked, found presents hidden, and my parents returned everything to the North Pole to prove a point!

I don't mean to imply that I was a good kid by any means, but the idea to go snooping for hidden presents would never even have occurred to me. Nonetheless, I was a party to the wisdom gained from that year. We took it very seriously. I never listened for reindeer (we didn't have a chimney), and I didn't look for Santa. As far as I was concerned, you could make up a whole year's worth of spotty behavior by being asleep on Christmas Eve and Christmas Eve. We celebrated both. On Christmas Eve-Eve, we open one stocking stuffer present each. On Christmas Eve, we would open one regular-sized gift. Then on Christmas morning, we had to wait until everyone was awake, had breakfast, and made it to the tree before any gifts could be opened. These were the rules. So, Christmas morning, I wake up too soon. Bummer! I tried everything to get back to sleep, but I couldn't.

Finally, I decide to swing my foot off the edge of the top bunk. That little bit of movement to help me get the jitters out, so I added another foot. Alternating feet was nice. Then I thought it would kill a few minutes if I swung my arm, too. I gripped the bed frame with the other hand.

Well, I'm not sure how long I had been asleep, but I definitely fell awake, right on my head. Gravity, my old foe! Was I dreaming about trapeze artists? Was I dreaming I had a tail to keep me steady? I don't know, but everyone heard the bang and asked me what was wrong. "Nothing," I said, rubbing my head. But didn't I hear the bang?

We opened presents before breakfast that year. A fact I attributed to a deal Santa must've made with Mama because he found no naughty kids stirring.



Waitsburg Festival of Trees

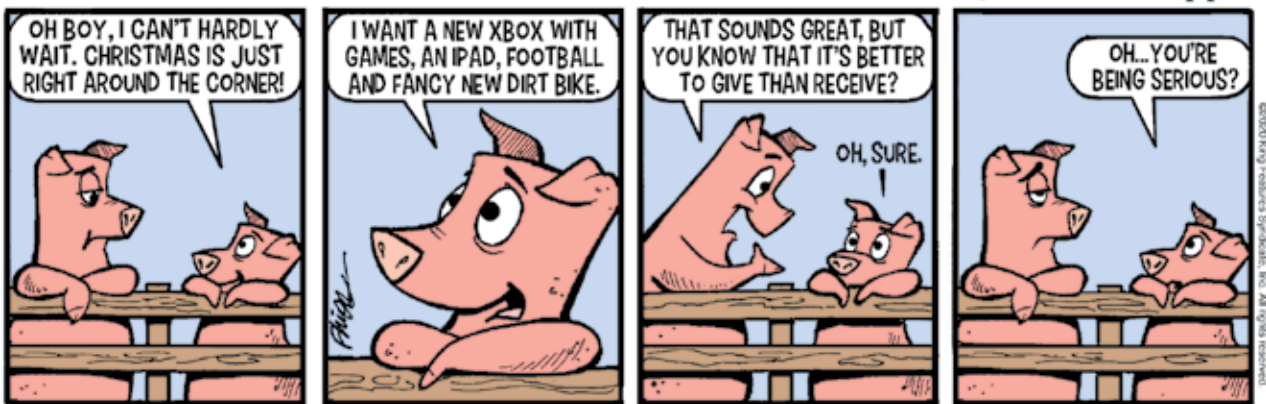


Lane Gwinn

A tradition since 2012, Waitsburg FFA's Festival of Trees kicked off its virtual voting on Tuesday, December 8. Nearly 20 local clubs, organizations and businesses have entered the competition this year, all vying for the People's Choice and Judge's Choice award. Take a stroll down Main Street and see the trees up close. Check out the photos and vote for your favorite at the Waitsburg FFA and Helping Hands of Waitsburg Facebook pages. Voting ends Monday, December 14.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



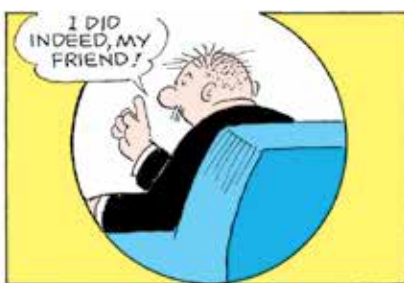
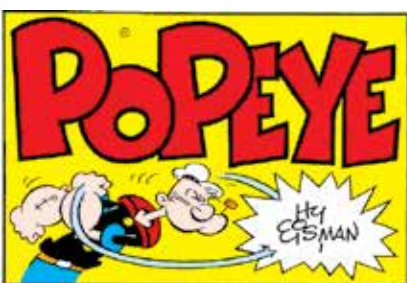
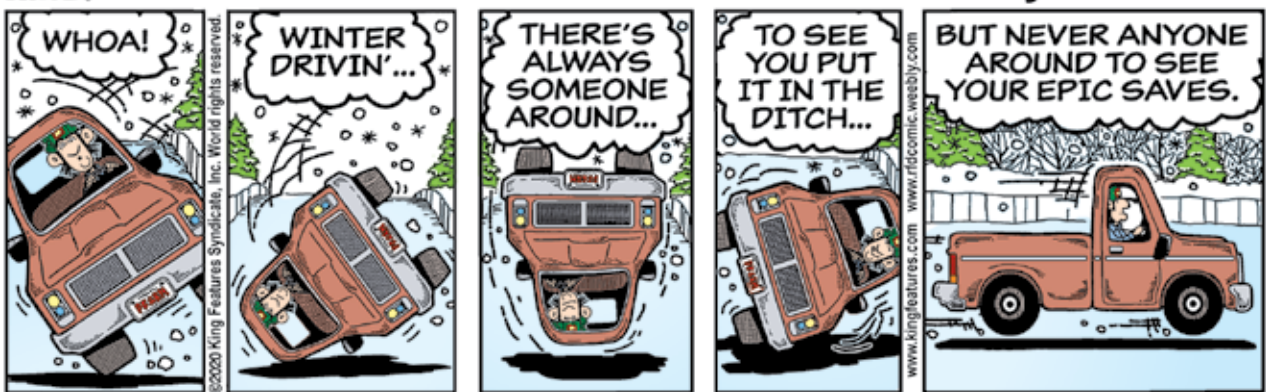
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Ten Years Ago

December 9, 2010

No one seems to know exactly how tall the Northwest Grain Growers elevator in Dixie is, but even those who work there say it's no higher than 130 feet. Inland Cellular is set to build a 180-foot cell phone tower at 9970 East Highway 12 near the elevator this spring and is seeking public comment on its proposal under the National Preservation Act of 1966.

Waitsburg first responders helped a middle-aged Walla Walla man into an ambulance after he crashed his car into the guideline of a utility pole near the Laht Neppur Brewery on Preston Avenue Monday morning.

A residential burglary occurred when a suspect entered a home on North E Street in Prescott by opening a sliding glass door and took three bottles of prescription medication off a kitchen counter.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

December 14, 1995

Waitsburg's Hometown Christmas fun included a new event, the Teeny Town ornament coloring contest. While icy roads caused the cancellation of the Lighted Parade Sunday, the rest of the festivities were enjoyed by hundreds of people.

There's a lot of holiday dining going on and just in time, Walla Walla General Hospital is offering body fat composition testing. The testing will be offered Wednesday, Dec. 20 from 8-9 a.m. in Walla Walla General Hospital's Conference Room C.

Clayton Beckman, 9, son of Bob and Leslie Beckman, Prescott, got a 4-point deer, his first in his first ever hunting season. He is the grandson of Walt and Darlene Norman of Prescott and is the great grandson of Louise Peck of Botteneau, N.D.

The Walla Walla Traffic Safety and DWI Task Force is encouraging motorists to turn on their headlights during the day on Friday, Dec. 15, as a symbolic remembrance of people who have been killed in alcohol-related crashes in Walla Walla County.

Fifty Years Ago

December 24, 1970

Larry Broom, chairman of the Boy Scout-Campfire fund drive announced at Commercial Club Tuesday that letters have been sent out to Waitsburg citizens to raise money for 1971. He appealed for support for this worthwhile endeavor which has been a Commercial Club project for many years and has successfully funded the two youth activities groups.

Bob DuPree, retired PP&L employee, has been appointed by Waitsburg City Council to serve as Police Judge. Bob replaces Carl Henze who has served for the past two years. Mayor Roy Leid expressed the appreciation of the City for the excellent work that Henze has done.

Those who enforce the law should set an example of obedience.

Spring fashion forecast: No change in hemlines. They will stay just where they are now, at the bottom of dresses.

Seventy-Five Years Ago

December 28, 1945

Prizes for exterior lighting during the holidays were awarded to Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Campbell, first; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Butler, second, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Conover, third.

The Touchet Valley Hardware, Homer Reed and Miles Brunton, observed their first anniversary this past week.

Colleen Collings and Helen Lloyd were named to present the W. S. C. Booster Day at the high school in Waitsburg.

Dorothy Brown has received her discharge from the WACs after serving nearly three years in Texas.

One Hundred Years Ago

January 7, 1920

The Ladies Progressive Club as has been its delightful custom for several years past, gave a New Year's reception Saturday evening. This "open house" was held at the Mr. and Mrs. Chas. E. Shaffer home on Fourth Street. About 150 guests were entertained during the evening.

Born at Pasco Monday, Dec. 8 to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hales, a son.

Victor Danielson entertained a number of his Waitsburg friends at a watch party Friday evening at his home in Dayton. Those present were Laretia Loundagin, Celestia Loundagin, Mabel Van Slyke, Frederica Kershaw, Charles Monnett, Giles Callahan, Jay Benn, Dwight Howell, and Victor Danielson.

One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago

January 3, 1896

Theo. T. Davis' horse tried to invent a new churn on Saturday by running away with a load of sweet milk, but the butter was not first class. No serious damage resulted.

Married at the home of the bride in Spring Valley Jan. 1 1896, at 1 o'clock by Barton Z. Riggs, Mr. Louie L. Kennedy and Miss Ruby M. Miller. About 150 of the 175 invited were present to witness the happy event.

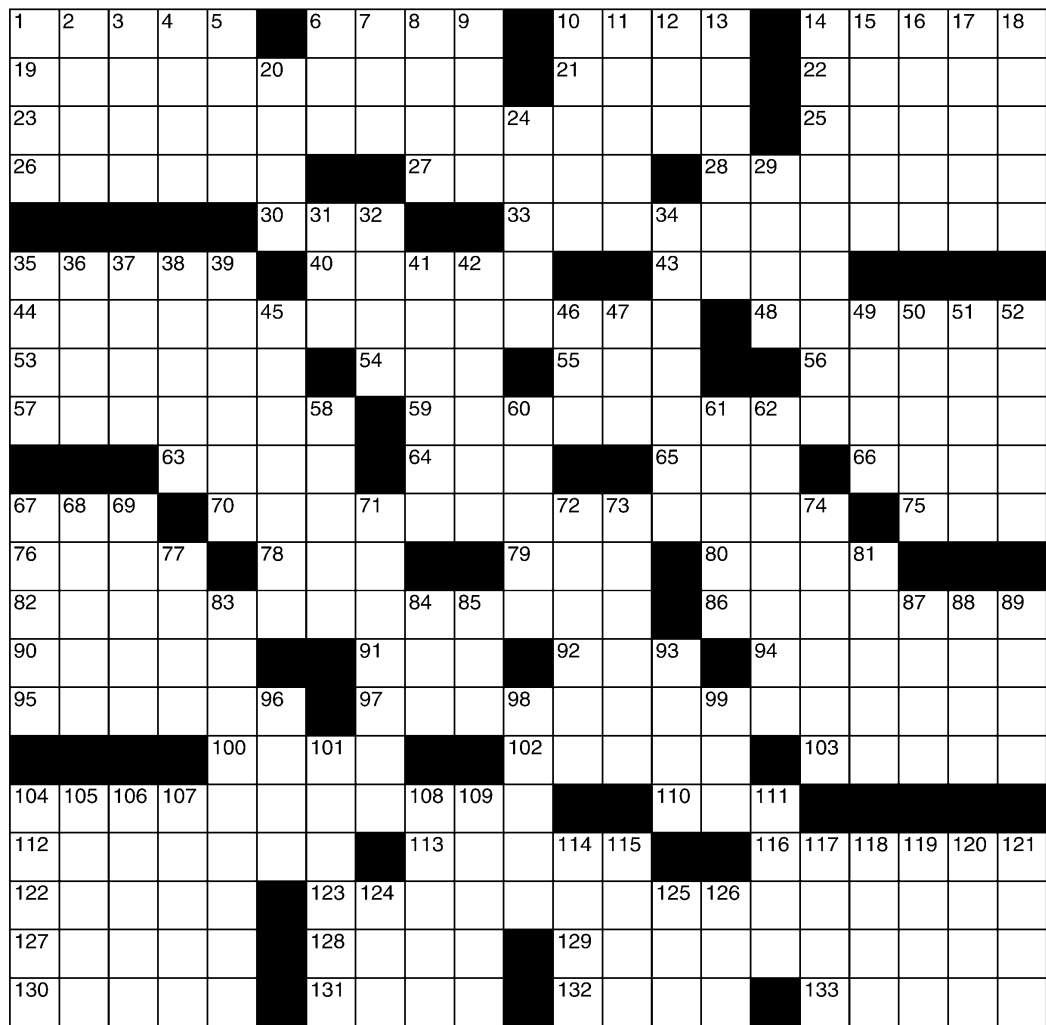
About twenty of Miss Sadie Moore's friends and admirers from this city marched in upon her in a body at her country home without their coming being heralded in any manner.

FUN & GAMES

Super Crossword

FILM CLASSES

- ACROSS**
- 1 Store away
 - 6 "Out of Africa" author
 - 10 TV "angel" player
 - 14 Bus costs
 - 19 Equestrian arena
 - 21 Puccini song
 - 22 Trump's first wife
 - 23 Case yet to be cracked
 - 25 Rocker Bonnie
 - 26 Honked
 - 27 Major port of Japan
 - 28 Ocean's main body
 - 30 — Jose
 - 33 Quality Inn alternative
 - 35 April 1 gag
 - 40 Supple
 - 43 Tons
 - 44 Flinch from fear
 - 48 Roving sorts
 - 53 Danish port city
 - 54 Hockey's Bobby
 - 55 Internet automaton
 - 56 Freshen
 - 57 Central California city
 - 59 What may develop between eHarmony members
 - 63 Ballet attire
 - 64 Minuscule
 - 65 In the dumps
 - 66 Reebok rival
 - 67 Gift label
 - 70 Carry out
 - 75 Psychic gift
 - 76 Other, to Gabriela
 - 78 Flimflam
 - 79 Top-secret
 - 80 Not colorful
 - 82 1980 Lennon-Ono album
 - 86 Second half of an LP
 - 90 "It's the end of —"
 - 91 Vetoes, e.g.
 - 92 Defunct
 - 94 Boxed stringed instrument
 - 95 Part of FDR
 - 97 Six Flags amusement park in New Jersey
 - 100 Capped body part
 - 102 "Morning Joe" aier
 - 103 Lessens
 - 104 Specialty of Sophocles
 - 110 Flub
 - 112 It's south of Rwanda
 - 113 Issues a ticket to, e.g.
 - 116 Minuscule
 - 122 Stan's old film partner
 - 123 Its first part is "Inferno"
 - 127 Has to have
 - 128 Wiggly fishes
 - 129 Lists one by one
 - 130 Slalom curves
 - 131 "Nuts!"
 - 132 Fish snarers
 - 133 Tasty tidbit
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Closed
 - 2 Ballplayer
 - 3 Lhasa —
 - 4 Glimpse
 - 5 Putting target
 - 6 State of rage
 - 7 Lawn base
 - 8 BBs, bullets, etc.
 - 9 Florida islets
 - 10 Hanukkah menu item
 - 11 Geometry calculations
 - 12 "Cut!" caller: Abbr.
 - 13 Diurnal hooting bird
 - 14 Raging blaze
 - 15 — -garde
 - 16 Give a boost
 - 17 Be admitted
 - 18 "The father of lies"
 - 20 Potential binge-watching buys
 - 24 Heavy sword
 - 29 Lowly laborer
 - 31 Ring legend Muhammad
 - 32 El — (Pacific current)
 - 34 Most sour
 - 35 Grad's gala
 - 36 Start all over on
 - 37 Got 100 on
 - 38 Three trios
 - 39 Toady (to)
 - 41 Like tossed dice
 - 42 Kind of wasp
 - 45 Part of BLT
 - 46 MLB stat
 - 47 Ending for bass or ball
 - 49 Unkind
 - 50 "Dumb Dog" musical
 - 51 52-card sets
 - 52 Win every game of
 - 58 Not just short on
 - 60 Helmsley of hotels
 - 61 Invasions
 - 62 Add scent to
 - 67 Salutation on a June greeting card
 - 68 Do penance
 - 69 Liquid oatmeal food
 - 71 While furious
 - 72 Valuable qualities
 - 73 Caribbean's — Islands
 - 74 Chuck Berry title girl
 - 77 "— -Ca-Dabra" (1974 hit)
 - 81 Popular fishbowl fish
 - 83 Gaunt quality
 - 84 Neither fish — fowl
 - 85 Chinese thinker Lao- —
 - 87 As a result
 - 88 Had life
 - 89 Tram's load
 - 93 "— delighted!"
 - 96 How much 1990s music was released
 - 98 Fine, rare violin
 - 99 TiVo predecessor
 - 101 Got ready for print
 - 104 Hearty steak
 - 105 Governs
 - 106 City on the Rhone
 - 107 Tour leader
 - 108 High-speed Amtrak train
 - 109 In the — of (amongst)
 - 111 Derby, e.g.
 - 114 Not odd
 - 115 Trig ratio
 - 117 Legal wrong
 - 118 Sharif of "Lawrence of Arabia"
 - 119 Allot
 - 120 Conception
 - 121 Certain sac
 - 124 That vessel
 - 125 Cashew, e.g.
 - 126 Ambulance gp.



TEENY MCMUNN: MY RECIPE BOX

Cranberry Orange Walnut Bread



Sigh! This is what I do instead of dusting. ☺ This caught my eye because I had plenty of cranberries from the sweet potato recipe, plenty of walnuts, and a half gallon of orange juice. The only thing I didn't have was fresh orange zest so I used dried orange zest. I wish I had gone to the store to get oranges, because in my opinion, fresh orange zest would have brought out the orange flavor more.

This recipe made 4 loaves. I made 3 in the aluminum loaf pans with lids, ready for gift giving, and one for us to try. It's a great quick bread; colorful, and not too sweet.

For the first time ever, I have a food processor. The recipe page suggested using it for chopping the walnuts and cranberries. I prefer to chop the walnuts myself, but when I tried chopping the cranberries, I could see that was going to be a pain. I thought, "In for a penny, in for a pound!" I'd give the new processor a chance. Holy moly. In less than 10 seconds, it had chopped them, but not ground them into mush. Perfect and ready to go.

(Side note) I started a post in Facebook about old sayings and we are up to about 550 responses!!!



- INGREDIENTS:**
- ¾ c. butter (room temp.)
 - 3 c. white sugar
 - 3 eggs, room temperature
 - 3 Tbsp orange zest
 - 6 c. all-purpose flour
 - 1 Tbsp salt
 - 4 ½ tsp baking powder
 - 1 ½ tsp baking soda
 - 2 ¼ c. orange juice
 - 3 c. whole cranberries
 - 1 ½ c. chopped walnuts

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease three 8 x 4 inch loaf pans. Line bottoms with parchment paper if desired.

Beat the butter and sugar with an electric mixer in a large bowl until light and fluffy. Add the room-temperature eggs one at a time, allowing each egg to blend into the butter mixture before adding the next. Stir in the orange zest.

In another bowl, sift together the flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda. Add to the egg mixture, alternating with orange juice.

Coarsely chop the cranberries.

Pour the flour mixture into the mixing bowl, alternately with the orange juice, mixing until just incorporated. Fold in the chopped cranberries and walnuts, mixing just enough to evenly combine. Divide the batter evenly among prepared pans.

Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Check for browning: cover the tops with aluminum foil to prevent them from becoming too dark. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center of the loaves comes out clean, about 30 minutes more. Cool on wire racks.

MY NOTES:

I put my timer on for 45 minutes and started checking. For me they didn't turn too dark on top, and I went for another 10 minutes, so closer to 55 minutes. Each pan and oven are different.

The recipe is a little loose about alternating the flour with the juice. I start with the juice, about a third of it, a third flour, and so on. It is a lot of batter so heads up. Start with a large bowl.

I used to do a lot of cookies and candy to make plates for gifting. It takes time but I would start in October and freeze a lot. It's been awhile since I have done that.

ENJOY! ☺

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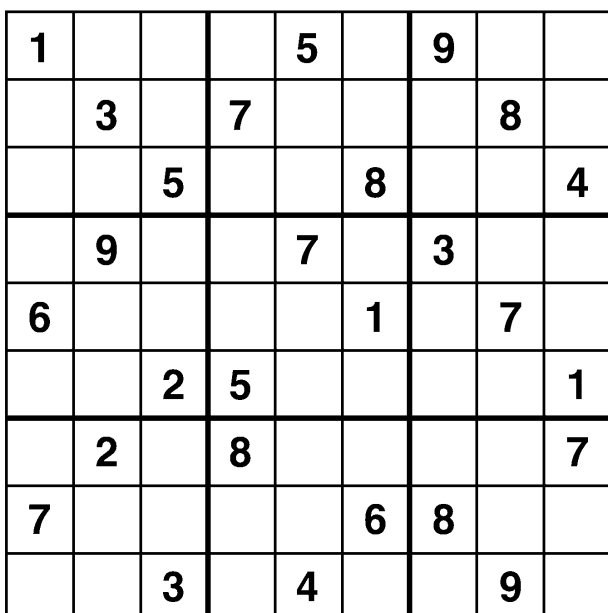
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

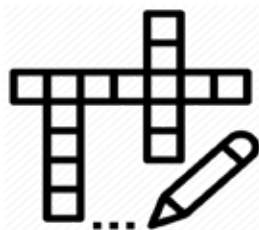


Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

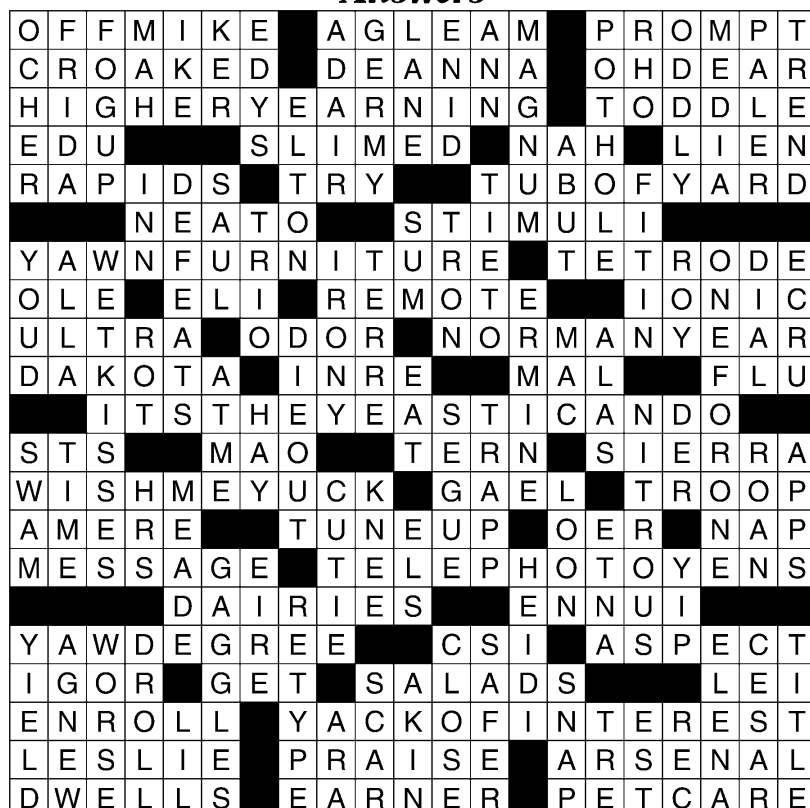
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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

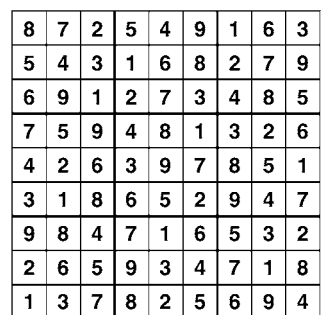
Super Crossword

Answers



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

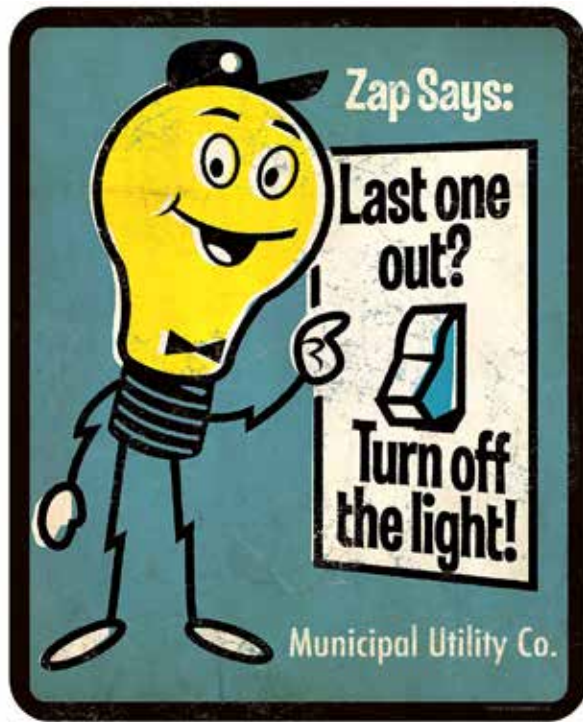


Habits—making & breaking

By Vicki Sternfeld-Rossi | THE TIMES

2020 is finally coming to an end, and we have endured. I know I hope for a great new year to enjoy with abandon. Maybe that's why I'm a bit more forward-looking than usual. Not that I am planning to make a list of New Year's resolutions. I know myself, the first time I break one, I will break them all. Maybe it's just semantics; but, no resolutions; instead, it's break bad habits and add good ones. First, I will pay my taxes on time this year and avoid the penalty I just paid for last year. Sometimes there are fruits of delay, but unfortunately, not with the IRS.

When I was young, I had a habit of leaving lights, radios, or TVs on when I wasn't using them. My father's, as probably every parent's, stock rant was, "turn things off when you're not using them. We don't own stock in the power company." My usual response, of course, was "oh, sorry," and I'd turn things off. One day, as my snarky personality was evolving, my response was, "maybe you should buy stock in the power company!" To which my father, who could easily out snark an 11-year-old, responded with something like, "good idea, you have an allowance. You buy it."



Considering I had no idea how to buy stock, or even who supplied our power, and I'd rather spend my money on the latest Motown record, I felt it best to quietly slink off and shut out the lights. And much to my father's credit, I eventually developed the habit of turning things off when not in use. Daniel has yet to develop that habit, and rather than nag him; maybe I will buy stock in Pacific Power. At least now, I do know who our power company is.

One of the first things you learn as a tennis player is: Don't swing at volleys! That is the shot that you

hit at the net. It comes fast, if you swing at the ball, it will fly by you, and you will miss it. However, my instinct always was to swing at that shot. After two black eyes, then stitches over my eyebrow, broken prescription sunglasses, and a tennis ball in the eye, I finally broke the habit of swinging at volleys. Some of us just have slower learning curves!

Mugsy, like all dogs, is a creature of habit. He runs out in the backyard every morning, does "his business," eats, goes back to bed to nap for an hour. After that, he won't do anything in the backyard except play. Right now, it is kind of funny to watch him try to pick up a frozen tennis ball and wonder why it won't bounce. Watching his frustration is cruelly entertaining, but considering he makes me walk him at night in 20-degree weather because his backyard "business" is reserved only for mornings, he deserves the laugh.

My clothes dryer has a habit of eating socks! I put in six pairs and get back five pairs and one random sock. I know it's futile to replace the dryer, so my new habit is to first take a sock count, then put them in a lingerie bag tied tightly, so they all remain together. One day, I know I will clean out the dryer and find hundreds of random socks.

New habit list for 2021: Wear a mask, no swinging at volleys, eat more vegetables, no procrastination, no insomnia spending, hope for a good healthy, party-driven 2021 with lots of friends, family, food, and wine! And work out with The Mirror (I'm on the three year, no interest plan so that I will have 36 monthly reminders of my ban on insomnia spending).

If you drink, don't drive.

Nancy McClenny-Walters, an advocate against impaired driving, asks drivers to make a plan to avoid driving impaired this holiday season

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—"Emily Anne McClenny had not set the world on fire with accomplishments at the young age of 7 1/2 years old, but she had worked her way into the hearts of many with her infectious smile," wrote Nancy McClenny-Walters on what should have been her daughter's 40th birthday. "While her life ended at 7 1/2, her story did not."

For the past 32 years, McClenny-Walters has put Christmas decorations up on her daughter's birthday, pausing for a moment from advocating against impaired driving and remembering her funny, loving little seven-year-old girl.

It was a hot July day in 1988 when the McClenny family, Frank, Nancy, ten-year-old Jennifer, seven-year-old Emily, and a young cousin drove home from a day in the Tri-Cities. Their station wagon was struck, head-on, by a drunk driver less than fifteen miles from home. Frank was trapped in the car and died at the scene of the accident of smoke inhalation. Emily and her cousin were unconscious and were pulled from the vehicle.



Emily Anne McClenny

For the past 32 years, McClenny-Walters has put Christmas decorations up on her daughter's birthday, pausing for a moment from advocating against impaired driving and remembering her funny, loving little seven-year-old girl.

"I remember thinking that Emily was just unconscious," McClenny-Walters said. "Like the rest of us, once we had some care from doctors and nurses, that she was going to be okay. That wasn't going to happen. She had very severe internal head injuries and passed away the next morning." Emily, born December 1, 1980, was the McClenny family's 'Christmas present,' after being born prematurely, weighing less than five pounds at birth. According to her mother, she was your typical little kid- fun, happy-go-lucky, loved school, loved her teachers and her friends, and was very social. "One of my favorite memories was seeing her come down the stairs in the morning, and she would come snuggle up with me, still sleepy. It makes me sad that we weren't able to see what she would have accomplished," McClenny-Walters said. "We don't get to see who she would have been."



Sharing Emily and Frank's story has been a part of the healing process for McClenny-Walters. It has been a way of keeping their memories alive and preventing them from becoming just another statistic.

"We had dreams of what we wanted to do after our retirement, but Frank wasn't able to go there," McClenny-Walters said, explaining that she and her late husband were high school sweethearts who married after college.

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"I know people who drive while impaired are not thinking of the other side of the story, 'what happens if I get in a collision?' They don't go out thinking, 'I'm going to go out and drive impaired and kill someone.' They just want to go have a good time, but they need to plan ahead," said McClenny-Walters.

Last year alone, there were 10,511 fatalities and more than 300,000 injuries resulting from drunk driving. In 2018, 285 deaths occurred during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. On New Year's Eve, chances of getting in a wreck with an impaired driver jump up 232 percent from other days.

This holiday season, drivers are being urged to make a plan before they drive. And to think about people like Emily Anne McClenny, and her father, Frank McClenny, and their family.

"Driving under the influence is something that we can stop," she said. "It is one of those things that are 100 percent preventable. I've never said, 'please don't drink.' I've always said, 'please don't drink and drive. I just want people to make a plan. Figure out how you're going to get home. We know that when you start drinking, your reasoning sometimes goes out the door. Figure out who you are

going to call or if you're going to stay the night. Are you going to have someone with you who is going to be the designated driver? It's really that simple."

Nancy McClenny-Walters has served as the Region 17 Target Zero Manager (TZM) for the Washington Traffic Safety Commission for the past twenty years. Through her work as a TZM, she has helped develop several area programs, including the Walla Walla DUI Victim Impact Panel, Topsy Taxi, Every 15 Minutes, Buckle Up Helper, Bikes on the Road, memorial signs programs, and a pedestrian flag program. She is also a nationally-certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) and was one of the statewide DUI memorial sign program's original co-sponsors.

Don't Drive Intoxicated! Tips from AAA

- Always plan ahead to designate a non-drinking driver before any party or celebration begins.
- Never get behind the wheel of a car when you've been drinking alcohol – even after just one drink.
- Never ride as a passenger in a car driven by someone who has been drinking alcohol – even after just one drink.
- Do not hesitate to take the keys from friends or family members who may be impaired.
- Put numbers for local cab/ride-sharing companies in your phone before heading out for the evening. Walla Walla County has Uber and Lyft rideshare services available.
- Be a responsible host in reminding guests to stay safe and always offer alcohol-free beverages.
- If you encounter an impaired driver on the road, keep a safe distance and ask a passenger to call 911 (or pull over to a safe location to make the call yourself).
- Remember: prescription, over-the-counter medications, and illegal drugs also can impair your ability to drive safely

Holiday Wellness Tips

by Teresa Rae

How to Survive the Holidays in 2020

1. Don't let anyone steal your joy

Not COVID19, not relatives, not illness, not work or family stress, not any circumstances. Your attitude creates your reality. Choose to be happy, to be thankful, and to value life!

2. Take care of your health

Self-care means listening to your inner needs and making choices to improve daily functions through healthy diet, water, exercise, positive communication and social support.

3. Plan Ahead

Much stress can be eliminated by making a plan. You cannot please everyone—but some compromise can be made for all to have a good time. Plan to bring joy to others!

4. Don't over commit, over spend, over eat, over drink

Know yourself and your limits. Set a realistic goal and stick to it. Make a plan, and let others know your intentions. Be strong, don't be persuaded to deviate from goals. Make wise choices!

5. Let go of unrealistic expectations

Enjoy what you have and be thankful for small blessings. Accept others as they are. Forgive and forget. Let yourself relax and trust other's good intentions. Let up on yourself and be happy!

6. Stay safe -- We're all in this together -- we will survive!

Minimize your exposure. Chose social events carefully. Keep your distance. Wear a mask. Getting sick is not worth the risk. Be joyful in spite of current challenges!

7. Celebrate life

No matter what your circumstances, you can be resourceful. Even the simplest meal can become festive if you choose to be happy. Your beliefs, your attitude, are your reality. Choose joy!

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