



Times File Photo

The exteriors of the buildings at the Columbia Pulp straw pulp plant, near Lyons Ferry, were mostly completed in photo, taken last fall.

Columbia Pulp Plant to be Operational by March

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—Tony Waldo, Operation Manager for Columbia Pulp, spoke about the Lyons Ferry Straw Pulp Mill at the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update meeting, on Dec. 19.

Waldo said that construction of the facility has been a little behind schedule, but it will be operational late in the first quarter of 2019.

"All the buildings and equipment have been set," said Waldo. "Right now they're working on piping and wiring, and instrumentation."

Waldo said 60-100 skilled people will be working at the site on any given day, and hiring is on-going.

The milling process, which was developed by scientists William McKean and Mark Lewis, cooks straw to make wet lap pulp. The end product contains 50% fiber and 50% liquid. Both products can be marketed, Waldo said. He said the fibrous pulp

can be used to make products such as egg cartons, beverage containers, paper cups and paper plates.

Waldo said trials are currently underway to use the liquid, or biopolymers, for livestock feed, dust control for roads and mines, and for deicing on winter roads.

The company recently conducted their first customer trial, which was to make three-ply paper out of the wet lap.

Waldo said the Columbia Pulp Pilot Plant in Pomeroy, which is a scaled down version of the larger mill at Lyons Ferry, is being used as an employee training facility. It can produce 10 tons of wet lap pulp, each day, he said. By contrast, the larger facility will produce 410 short air-dried tons of wet lap pulp every day.

The customer base that is being created at the pilot plant will ready the larger facility when it comes on line, said Waldo.

New Owner, Editor Take Over at The Times

LANE GWINN BECAME THE NINTH PUBLISHER OF THE TIMES ON JAN. 1

THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—Times owner and publisher Ken Graham has sold the newspaper to Waitsburg resident Lane Gwinn. The sale was effective Jan. 1.

Gwinn is also owner of the 10 Ton Press art studio on Waitsburg's Main Street, as well as the building that houses the studio and 10 Ton Coffee.

"I know Lane is committed to maintaining strong news coverage in Waitsburg and throughout the Touchet Valley," Graham said. "I'm confident The Times will be in good hands for years to come."

Gwinn becomes the ninth publisher of The Times since its founding in 1878, and the first woman as sole owner and publisher.

In her first major move as publisher, Gwinn has hired former Times reporter and editor Dena Martin as managing editor. Martin began in that position Jan. 1. After nearly five years at The Times, she left in early 2018 to work for the Columbia County Planning and Building office.

"I'm very thankful that Dena accepted this position," said Gwinn. "I'm really looking forward to working with her."

This edition of The Times, which went to press Dec. 31, is the final one for Graham's tenure. Gwinn and Martin will publish their first edition on Jan. 10.

Graham purchased The Times in January 2014 from Imbert Matthee. Graham had worked as the newspaper's editor for a year prior to his purchase. From 2007 to 2012, Graham was owner and publisher of a monthly newspaper covering the Touchet Valley, called Blue Mountain News.

Gwinn said she didn't plan any immediate changes to the paper. "I'll be working with the staff to continue the legacy of The Times," she said.



Lane Gwinn



Dena Martin



Ken Graham

THANK YOU FOR
READING
The Times

Status of Community Projects Discussed at Annual CEDS Meeting

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—At the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update meeting on Dec. 19, community leaders discussed some of the projects in the Dayton area in the works, and progress that is expected in the next year.

Dayton Development Task Force and Dayton Chamber of Commerce

Dayton Chamber of Commerce Director Melissa Bryan said the Main Street Approach framework used by the Dayton Development Task Force is working, as people can see in improvements to the building facades, the refreshed Broughton Land Company mural, and flower baskets in the summer.

The B&O tax credit incentive program is one way to support local business. In 2018, Dayton received \$85,000 from B&O tax credit contributions through the Main Street Program, said Bryan.

Bryan said shopping locally is another way to support local business. "We can take small, incremental steps," she said.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Update
John Wells, from Anderson/Perry & Associates, gave an update on the progress of Dayton's new wastewater treatment plant. A Dept. of Ecology mandate is requiring the city to stop discharging treated wastewater into the Touchet River.

Wells said the city has received funding for engineering and land

acquisition, and talks are underway with local landowners to locate and purchase 250 acres of "somewhat flat" farmland to be used for the plant, storage ponds and for irrigation, with buffers to support future growth.

The ideal site will be within five or six miles from the city's central corridor, said Wells.

The \$8 million to \$10 million facility should be operational in 2021. It will be paid for through low interest loans, grants and by ratepayers, said Wells.

School Facilities Plan/Bond/Levies
Dayton School Superintendent Doug Johnson said the district's facilities are in need of significant repair, and the District isn't getting much help from the state.

"The state formulas are antiquated," he said.
Johnson said the state's formula takes into consideration the numbers of "unhoused" students when determining monetary support. So districts in the rapidly-growing Tri Cities area can build one new school every year.

During the last 12 years, the Dayton School District has seen the numbers of students decline from around 650, to between 375 and 425 students.

Johnson said he is grateful to voters for approving the last two out of three capital project levies.

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TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

PIONEER PORTRAITS

Ten Years Ago-January 8, 2009

This week two important local charities working to serve those in greatest need are getting a little help from American West Bank. Bank branches in Waitsburg and Dayton presented the Waitsburg Food Bank with a \$500 donation last Monday, January 5, and will present a \$500 donation to Project Timothy in Dayton later this week. Accepting the donations were Waitsburg Food Bank representatives Betty Branson, Anita Baker, and Dona Jean Smith.

Photo caption: Racing at Schweitzer recently were these members of the Bluewood Alpine Race Team: Reid Reininger, Halle White, Hayden White, Amy Farley, Gracie Sitton-Struthers, Jared Farley, Emily Koehler, Sam Ogden, Max Vandersloot, Drew Farley, Sienna Sitton-Struthers, Luke Freedle.

Twenty-Five Years Ago-December 31-1993

Essay by Michael Kiefel: A New Year approaches. And though time and the numbers we use to measure change seem flat, our memories and our hopes swell to a lively fullness in the timeless spaces of the mind. January takes its name from the Roman god Janus who has two faces-one looking forward: the other, backward. Henry Ford once said, "History is a pile of ashes," and at another time, "History is more or less bunk." But what Ford neglected to say was that sometimes in the smoldering heap can be found yet-glowing coals to light new fires. We can be rejuvenated from yesterday's best moments as powerfully as we can from contemplating tomorrow's most enticing prospects.

Dayton's police department is moving into the city library basement on South 3rd Street as soon as the building can be renovated, probably before May, the Dayton City Council has decided. Groom said to limit the expense of the move; the chief and the men plan to do much of the necessary renovation of the library basement themselves. He said walls will have to be moved and a wheelchair ramp put in for the handicapped access.

Fifty Years Ago-January 2, 1969

A snow storm which dumped nearly 10 inches of the unusual white stuff everywhere in the area was the news story of the week. Accompanied by temperatures in the area which fell to 24 below zero, the snow which began Friday night fell most of the weekend, turning a dry, powdery top layer by Monday. The low temperatures stalled many people who were unable to start cars and trucks. Your editor, along with many other citizens of Waitsburg, does not especially mind the snow arriving all at once-we just don't want to let it depart in the same period of time. We don't want an instant replay of the 1964 flood.

Photo caption: The Neighbor Four were on hand at the community Christmas program for the shot by Times Photographer Charles Baker. Members of the locally-known and nationally renowned quartet are Lee Mantz, Jr, Jack McCaw, Bob Patton and Bob Sickles.

Photo caption: Jack Roberts of Waitsburg and Dave Shreck (40) of Dayton seem to be getting ready for a footrace down the floor. Standing over the pair, giving his benediction is George Bodman (31) for the Cards, Randy Halsey (51) and Dan Henze (45) view the action from the side of the key.

Seventy-Five Years Ago-Jan 7, 1944

The high school "W" Club initiated new members Tuesday night. The initiates included Melvin Dunn, Dale Ford, Bob Jacobson, Dave Jensen, Carroll Smith, Bob Wardip, Gene Wardrip, and Bob Wilson.

Jack Atkinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Atkinson has recently been chosen one of the five of his battalion to command one of the new Liberty ships.

Joe Mitchell left Tuesday for Spokane where he will receive medical treatment. He has been confined to his home for the past two weeks with the flu. The barber shop has been closed for two weeks.

One Hundred Years Ago-Jan 10, 1919

Waitsburg and vicinity have been asked to raise \$1000 for the Armenian Relief, und.

T. T. Groom received a letter from his nephew, Earnest Daniel, who is in France. He stated that he had been shot through the right hand but is getting along nicely.

Attorney S. H. Cutting of Wilbur, Wash has purchased the excellent law library and office fixtures of the late Milton Pickett and has located in this city for the practice of his profession.

Geo M. Lloyd of the Central Market and A. J. Woodworth of the Evergreen Confectionery, received several cars of ice this week from Powder River. The ice this year is unusually thick and as clear as crystal.

One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago

Jan 12, 1894

Sam Wood has traded his Main Street property in this city for a ranch.

G. W. Loundagin is at Weston and Milton this week, looking after his strawberry patch.

The whole town and surrounding country was alive with sleighs, sleighbells, and sleighers on Sunday night. The jingling and the merry voices filled the air with lovely music.

Wheat, oats, barley, hogs or poultry, wood or money taken in exchange at City Pharmacy.

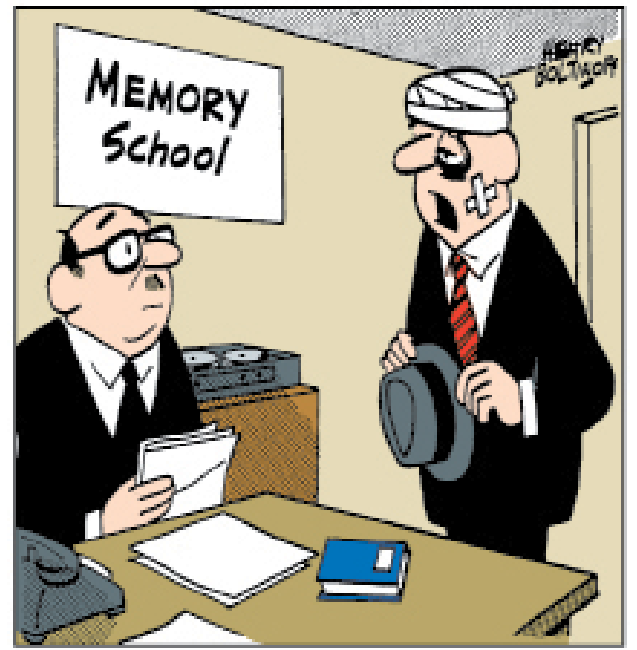
There was a collision in Harrie and Eastman's livery stable a few days ago. The collision was by E. G. Eastman's foot, and an ugly horse's foot, as a result of which E. G. Carried his foot in a sling for a day or two. The horse was not injured.

GRIN & BEAR IT



"We don't get time-outs, Figby!"

LAFF - A - DAY



"I just want to be able to remember my wedding anniversary."

WEEKLY CALENDAR

January

3

Dayton Senior Round Table
Senior Center (403 E. Patit St.)
12 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call 382-2836 to RSVP by the day prior.

Waitsburg Resource Center
106 Preston Avenue (side of Banner Bank)
2-4 p.m.

Family Storytime and Dinner (First Thursday)
Dayton Memorial Library
6 p.m.

Waitsburg Parks & Rec Board Meeting (First Thursday)
Waitsburg HS Band Room
6:30 p.m.

4

Prescott Story Time
Prescott Library
11 a.m.

BINGO (every Friday)
Eagles-222 E. Main, Dayton
Doors open 4 pm, Bingo 6pm

5

Tech Time with Keegan
Dayton Memorial Library
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Waitsburg Resource Center
106 Preston Avenue (side of Banner Bank)
2-4 p.m.

7

Columbia County Commissioners Meeting (First Monday)
Commissioners' Chambers
311 E. Main St., Dayton
9 a.m.

Waitsburg Story Time
Weller Public Library
10:30 a.m.

Celebrate Recovery, Dayton
Catalyst Church (311 S. 4th)
Dinner 6 p.m.; Meeting 7 p.m.

Waitsburg American Legion
(First Monday)
Waitsburg Town Hall
6 p.m.

8

Waitsburg Senior Round Table
Waitsburg Presbyterian Church
11:30 a.m.

Join local seniors every Tuesday for lunch. \$4 suggested donation for those over 60. \$7 charge for guests under 60. Meals on Wheels are available. Call 337-8541 for more info.

Dayton Senior Round Table
Senior Center (403 E. Patit St.)
12 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call 382-2836 to RSVP by the day prior.

Weller Public Library Board of Directors (First Tuesday)
7 p.m.

9

Toddler Story Time
Dayton Memorial Library
10 a.m.

Memory Café (Second Wednesday)
Noble Hunt, Dayton
10 a.m. - noon

Celebrate Recovery, Waitsburg
Waitsburg Christian Church
6:30 p.m.

Dayton City Council (Second Wednesday)
Dayton City Hall
7 p.m.

10

Dayton Senior Round Table
Senior Center (403 E. Patit St.)
12 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call 382-2836 to RSVP by the day prior.

Waitsburg Resource Center
106 Preston Avenue (side of Banner Bank)
2-4 p.m.

Waitsburg Town Hall Board (Second Thursday)
Town Hall
7 p.m.

Prescott Parks & Rec Board Meeting (Second Thursday)
District Office (101 S. D St., Ste. A)
7 p.m.

TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

WALLA WALLA COUNTY COMMISSIONER JIM DUNCAN DIES

WALLA WALLA—Walla Walla County Commissioner Jim Duncan died suddenly on Dec. 27. He was 49. Reports say cause of death was cardiac arrest.

Duncan was first elected to the board of commissioners in November 2014. He ran unopposed for re-election last November and was due to be sworn in for his second term this week.

Prior to his 2014 election, Duncan had served as emergency management director for Walla County for three years. He previously worked as emergency management coordinator in Benton County for seven years. A native of Louisiana, Duncan was a U.S. Air Force veteran and had served at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane.

Duncan is survived by his wife, Esther, and four children.

WAITSBURG WOMAN ARRESTED IN STABBING DEATH

WALLA WALLA—A Waitsburg resident, Leslie Moreno, 25, was arrested Friday on suspicion of second degree murder. The arrest came after the stabbing death of Marcus Alessio, also 25, who lived at the same Waitsburg address as Moreno.

The Walla Walla Co. Sheriff's Office reported that a 911 caller reported she was transporting Alessio from Waitsburg to Walla Walla. Her vehicle was met by emergency personnel just east of Walla Walla.

Alessio was transported on to Providence St. Mary Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. Moreno has been booked into the Walla Walla County Jail.

The Sheriff's Office had released no further information at press time.

CEDS MEETING - FROM PAGE 1

Because of that support, work has been done to fix the asphalt on the elementary playground and at the bus loading zone. The aging and failing heating and communication systems have been addressed, and the flat part of the high school roof has been fixed.

Students in the elementary school are safer now because local dollars have made it possible to renovate the main office entryway so there is now only one single point of entry into the building.

Plans are in the works to repair the sloped portion of the high school roof, replace the roofs on the shop and bus garage, replace exterior doors, add security cameras, and install an irrigation system for the grounds and athletic fields.

"When we improve facilities, we improve things for kids," said Johnson.

Affordable/Senior/Assisted Living Housing
The Port's Economic Development Coordinator, Kathryn Witherington, spoke about affordable housing and assisted living for seniors.

Witherington said 27% of homeowners in Columbia County are experiencing insecure housing, and 64% of renters are in insecure housing situations, as defined by spending 30% or more of disposable income on housing and utilities.

She said there are currently 34 homes listed for sale in Columbia County, but only eight are deemed affordable.

There are creative ways to address the current lack of incentive on the part of developers to build new houses, and Witherington said the Port is looking into that.

She said assisted living options for seniors are being explored by officials with the Columbia County Hospital District.

Economic Indicators
Witherington said top employers in the county are Columbia County Health System, with 183 employees; Bluewood Ski Area, with total seasonal and non-seasonal employees numbering 164; the Dayton School District with 106 employees; and Columbia County with 90 employees.

Top property tax payers in the county are the wind power industries, Broughton Land Company and Northwest Grain Growers.

"The wind industries are the biggest piece of the pie," said Witherington.

ington. They employ 40 people in the county and are keeping tax rates from going up, she said. The property tax rate fell \$2.17 per \$1,000 in the first phase of wind farm construction, she said.

The unemployment rate in Columbia County has fallen from a historic high of 12-16% to 4.5% in October 2018, which is the lowest it has been in many years, said Witherington.

Witherington said these are all very good indicators, but the lack of adequate housing and services may be responsible for the numbers of people who work in the county, but don't live here.

The median hourly wage in the county is \$19.89. Utility workers and construction workers are receiving the highest wages, but health care workers don't fare as well, she said.

29% of workers are age 55 and older, which indicates the need for younger people to attain skills and move into the job market as older workers retire, Witherington added.

Top three projects for 2019
Thirty-six stakeholders attended the Dec. 19 meeting, and 30 of them cast votes for next year's top three priorities.

The top vote getters were housing/assisted living/workforce/condos, wastewater treatment plant, and school facilities improvements.

School facilities improvements tied with pool/community center/fitness center, at number three on the list of priorities.

"We take it very seriously at the Port and try to work on what people voted for," said Port Manager Jennie Dickinson. Having a priority list is important when going after grants for funding, she said.

Americanisms



"The person who knows how to laugh at himself will never cease to be amused."

— Shirely MacLaine

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BIRTHDAYS

January 3: Mary Olona, Guy Antonius.

January 4: Meagan Zajac, Loegan Harshman, Andrea Payne, Ben Kiefel, Carol Clarke.

January 5: Fred Rankin, Barb Colby, Willard Cameron, Terry John, Aaron Jones and Ted Seaton.

January 6: Kurtis Reser, Maddie Callahan.

January 7: Cecil Webber, Erma Gilbertson, Patrick Donnelly, Jim Hofer, Alice Webber and Kristyn Scott.

January 8: Steven Price, Esther Presler and Todd Larsen.

January 9: Jennifer Nichols, Angela Crawford, Tim Estes, Nicholas Carpenter, Gail Thames, Gerri Glover, Trevor McGee and Jarod Gagnon.

THANK YOU FOR READING

The Times

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St. Mark Catholic Church
405 W. Fifth, Waitsburg
Mass Sunday 5 p.m.
382-2311
Fr. Steve Werner
Waitsburg Presbyterian Church
504 Main
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
337-6589
Rev. Bret Moser
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.
Each Sunday
337-8898
Rev. Matthew Wyatt

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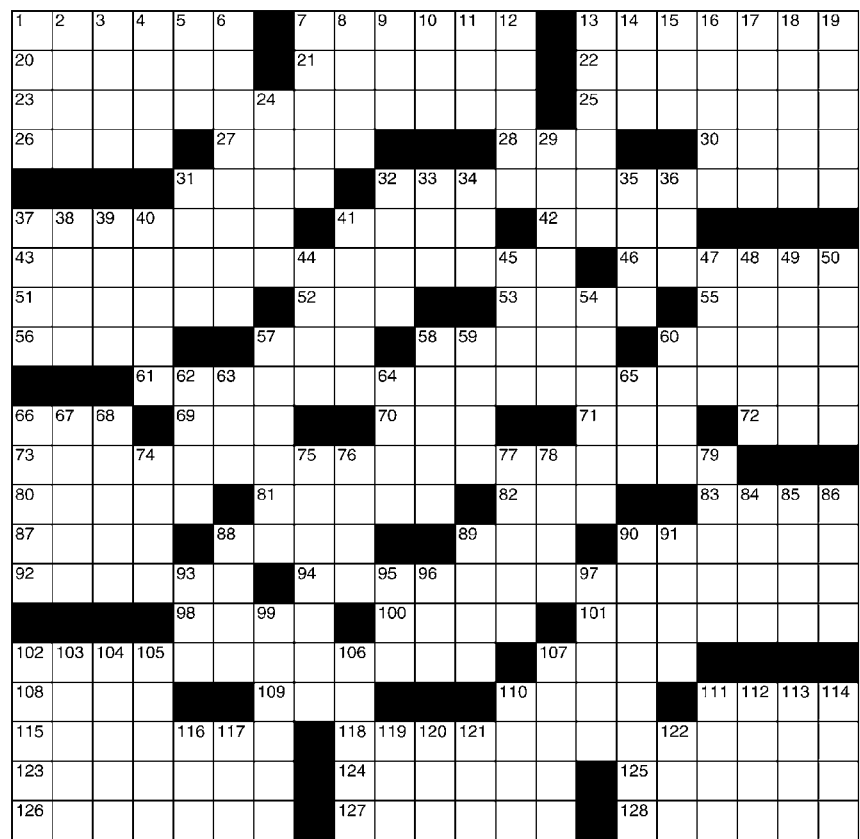
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- ACROSS**
- 1 He drew "Li'l Abner"
 - 7 Stands up to
 - 13 Disdainful lip-curler
 - 20 Roving vacuum cleaner
 - 21 Delphi diviner
 - 22 Lilted song syllables
 - 23 Big mollusk of Antarctic seas
 - 25 Birds such as emus
 - 26 Box gently
 - 27 Golf stroke
 - 28 Ending for enzymes
 - 30 Cue or clue
 - 31 From quite a distance
 - 32 Big tree of California
 - 37 Per routine
 - 41 Super-slow
 - 42 Red-haired biblical twin
 - 43 Big dissimilarity
 - 46 Rarely
 - 51 "Bam!" chef Lagasse
 - 52 Cholera
 - 53 Nashville's Grand Ole —
 - 55 Gutter place
 - 56 Work over
 - 57 Big fuss
 - 58 Trump's wife after Ivana
 - 60 One laying down asphalt
 - 61 Big project
 - 66 "I've got it!"
 - 69 Motor oil brand
 - 70 Actress Meyers
 - 71 W-2 org.
 - 72 Boise-to-Las Vegas dir.
 - 73 Big military counterstrike
 - 80 Author Loos
 - 81 Revolt
 - 82 Cloud setting
 - 83 Jazzy singer — James
 - 87 Coke, e.g.
 - 88 Deviate
 - 89 Boxing legend
 - 90 Knocks off
 - 92 — Nevadas
 - 94 Big job
 - 98 "Nay" caller
 - 100 Slaughter of baseball
 - 101 Categorizes Lilly
 - 102 Big pickup in an exhibition
 - 107 Pot builder
 - 108 See 86-Down
 - 109 Yank's home
 - 110 Nativity scene trio
 - 111 Gulf country
 - 115 Facial looks
 - 118 Big home loan
 - 123 Hillary's peak
 - 124 Kindle
 - 125 More greasy
 - 126 Snuggles
 - 127 Robbing jobs
 - 128 Requisite
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Pop-up paths
 - 2 Lariat end
 - 3 Coke, e.g.
 - 4 Love, in Peru
 - 5 "NewsHour" network
 - 6 Two-choice grading system
 - 7 Melancholy
 - 8 Once, in the past
 - 9 E-help sheet
 - 10 Hosp. section
 - 11 Drug mogul Lilly
 - 12 Biggish car
 - 13 PTSD part in them
 - 14 Big D.C. lobby
 - 15 Dig into
 - 16 Former state secretary
 - 17 Secant, e.g.
 - 18 1985 Kate Nelligan drama
 - 19 Worshiper of Jah, in brief
 - 24 "Two and — Men"
 - 29 Church part
 - 31 Q7 carmaker
 - 32 "Friday the 13th" staple
 - 33 Eisenhower, informally
 - 34 Objectivist Rand
 - 35 Unhurried
 - 36 "— Sera, Sera"
 - 37 State firmly
 - 38 Unaltered
 - 39 Well-trodden
 - 40 Thurmond of politics
 - 41 Ross of politics
 - 44 Classic canine name
 - 45 Power strip attachment
 - 47 Plumbing problem
 - 48 Bette of film
 - 49 Cakes bake in them
 - 50 Form a union
 - 54 Infrequently seen thing
 - 57 Coulomb per second
 - 58 Big wall painting
 - 59 Deep blue dye
 - 60 El —, Texas
 - 62 Big continent
 - 63 "Scream" network
 - 64 Totally dislike
 - 65 Prefix with oxide
 - 66 Heap up
 - 67 Capital northeast of Vientiane
 - 68 Parenthetical remark
 - 74 Symbol on many flags
 - 75 Gives off again
 - 76 River in Spain
 - 77 Rizzoli's TV partner
 - 78 Similar (to)
 - 79 "Nifty!"
 - 84 Russian ruler of yore
 - 85 PSAT part
 - 86 With 108-Across, demands
 - 88 Fan blade
 - 89 Hectically
 - 90 Skillet alloy
 - 91 Apart from that
 - 93 Squealer
 - 95 Opposite of old, in Ulm
 - 96 Pop's bro
 - 97 Dance that "takes two"
 - 99 Believes (in)
 - 102 Master
 - 103 Antipasto bit
 - 104 Snouts, e.g.
 - 105 Opening
 - 106 Kingly Indian
 - 107 Willie of "Charles in Charge"
 - 110 Over half
 - 111 Stare at rudely
 - 112 — of honor
 - 113 "A Death in the Family" writer
 - 114 Uncool type
 - 116 Salon stuff
 - 117 Suffix of dialects
 - 119 Ending with script
 - 120 Me, to Fifi
 - 121 Greyhound fleet unit
 - 122 Game draw



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TEENY MCMUNN: MY RECIPE BOX

Spinach and Apple Salad

By the time the paper comes out, we will have started our new year. Do you do a traditional New Year's Day food, like black eyed peas for good luck? Do you make a list of resolutions to follow? Start a new diet?



There is a reason why magazines and newspapers advertise exercise equipment, gym memberships, energy drinks, etc. in January. I was going thru the Costco Connection, a Costco monthly magazine, and yes, all of the above was in there. I saw this healthy salad in the magazine and thought it was a good way to start the year. I like salads anyway. However, as I am typing this recipe, I am munching on Chex Mix.

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 c. baby spinach
- 1 apple, thinly sliced
- 1/2 c. thinly sliced white onion
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1/2 tsp coarsely ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 c. finely diced raw bacon
- 2 tsp minced fresh garlic

DIRECTIONS:

Place spinach, apple and onion in a large, heatproof bowl and refrigerate until ready to dress the salad. In a small bowl, whisk together the lemon juice, mustard, sugar, pepper, salt and olive oil. Set vinaigrette aside.

In a small nonstick pan, cook the bacon over medium-high heat until almost crisp. About two to three minutes. Add the garlic and stir for about 30 seconds, making sure not to brown the garlic. Remove the pan from heat. Stir in vinaigrette and pour over reserved spinach mixture. Toss until salad is well coated with dressing. Makes six servings.

MY NOTES:

This seems easy enough, and vinaigrette can be prepared ahead, bacon done at the last. Like most salads, it is easy to add or subtract to your taste. A cooked seasoned chicken breast would be a nice addition.

ENJOY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! Now to finish all those Christmas goodies before I de-sugar. I can't let them go to waste.

GRAHAM - FROM PAGE 4

pulp facility near Lyons Ferry. The 100-plus job facility was originally slated to begin operations in late 2015. Two years turned into more than five years, but the plant is almost completed, and is scheduled to begin operations in March.

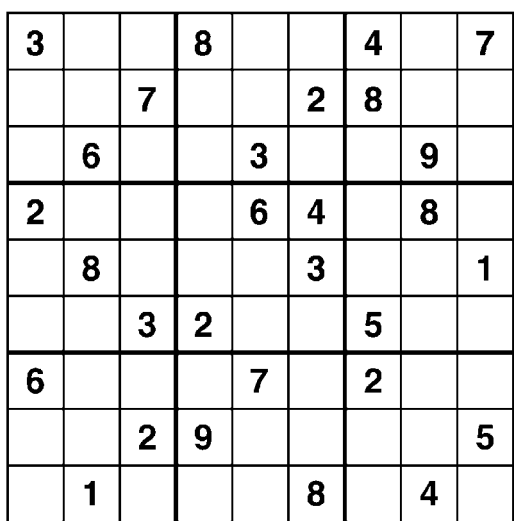
With all of these developments, the economic health of the Touchet Valley

economy looks to be strong for a long time to come.

It's been a great privilege and pleasure for me to be able to help report on these and many other stories over the last 12 years. I look forward to reading about many more positive developments around here, as Lane, Dena, Teeny and Michele continue to report on our corner of the world and make The Times an even better newspaper.

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.

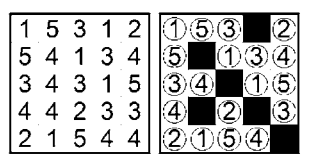
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

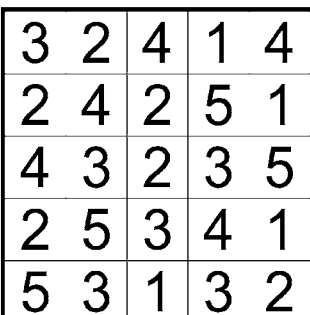
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Conceptis Hitori

Each puzzle consists of a square grid with numbers appearing in all squares. The object is to shade squares so:



- No number appears in a row or column more than once.
- Shaded (black) squares do not touch each other vertically or horizontally.
- When completed, all un-shaded (white) squares create a single continuous area.

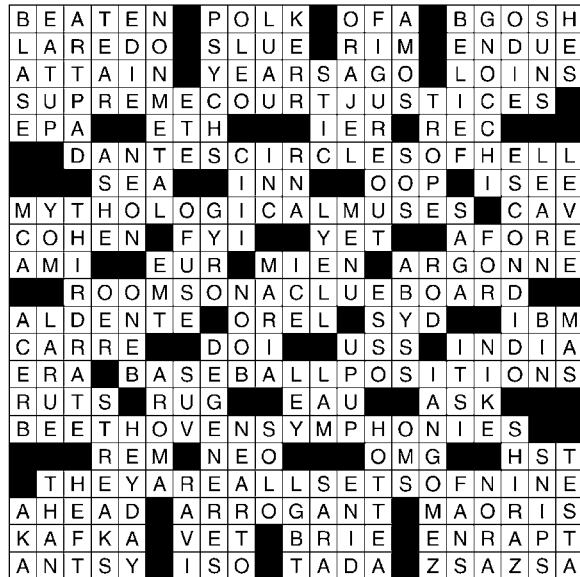


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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

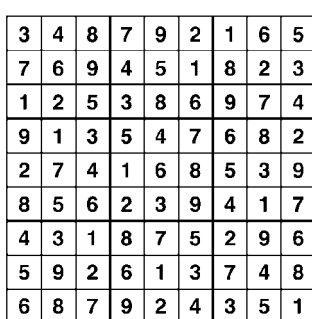
Super Crossword

Answers



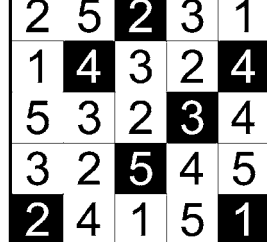
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer



Hitori

answer



THANK YOU FOR READING **The Times**