



The Times

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November 26, 2020
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SERVING WAITSBURG, DAYTON AND THE TOUCHET VALLEY

Published Since 1878

ONE DOLLAR



Beka Compton

From vibrant poinsettias to reclaimed furniture, Waitsburg businesses have everything you need to be the favorite Santa in your family. This holiday season, shop your local businesses, whether storefront or online, and share the uniqueness of where you call home with friends and family. Nancy's Dream Garden Center received their shipment of Christmas trees—be sure to ask about their holiday deals!

Waitsburg City Council November report

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The Waitsburg City Council met Wednesday, November 18, via conference call.

The council heard from City Administrator Randy Hinchliffe as he led a public hearing regarding property taxes. There is no recommendation to raise property taxes within the City of Waitsburg; however, due to the increase in the district's assessed value, partly based on nearly \$1 million in new construction, the levy per thousand will be raised from \$2.05 to \$2.07/.08. An in-depth view of the levy calculations can be found at www.cityofwaitsburg.org/government, in the November 18 meeting agenda. The council approved Resolution 2020-710 Property Taxes.

A brief hearing of the 2021 City Budget was held, and the council discussed the budget items. The City received a roughly \$220,000 assessed value increase. Residents should expect a \$5.00/month raise in the utility tax in 2021.

Hinchliffe shared that there have been limited infrastructure failures this year, but many components threaten to fail or cause issues. In meetings past, Hinchliffe discussed the limited 'emergency' funds and again asked that the council consider establishing a reserve fund to offset costs instead of relying on borrowed money.

"Normally, I would recommend a higher utility rate," Hinchliffe said. "But due to the unknowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, it doesn't make sense to impose higher rates on our utility users."

Budget priorities still focus on flood control and repair. There are areas along the Coppei River that sustained extreme bank erosion and vegetation encroachment on the dike. Hinchliffe reported several log jams located downstream that the City does not have access to or the authority to remove the debris.

Improvements are planned for Preston Park, anticipating a new pickleball or basketball court to use as another recreational operation within the City. Crews have been working on trimming trees, and Hinchliffe hopes that work will continue as several trees are still in need.

The City Council continued discussion on a plan to repair the building housing City Hall. Hinchliffe provided a brief update on the project's engineering and design portion, reporting the City received estimates totaling \$150,000 with additional bids still outstanding.

The City has a pending grant from Washington State for \$66,000 to cover one-third of the project's engineering and design costs. It is unclear if this funding will still be available should the State adjust its budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are currently efforts to lobby Washington State to keep capital budget projects in the State's budget.

Should the funding remain available, the City of Waitsburg will then have to decide how to fund the remaining two-thirds of the project's engineering costs. The evening's discussion focused solely on the engineering and design phase of

Columbia County Public Health reports rise in COVID-19 cases

Dayton schools return to distance learning

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—On Sunday, November 22, the Columbia County Public Health Department reported sixteen new positive cases of COVID-19; two cases are associated with Dayton schools.

Dayton schools were closed on Monday, and the Dayton School District board of directors met Monday evening to discuss next steps. It was decided to move to distance learning on Tuesday and re-evaluate the situation over the holiday weekend, as more data becomes available. On Monday, November 23, there were 26 tests pending results.

The Starbuck school remains open to in-person learning, and the District expects to return to in-person learning on November 30, having had no cases of COVID-19 in the community.

County Public Health Administrator Martha Lanman stressed the importance of complying with the new guidance issued from the governor's office, which began on November 16.

"We all don't like the new rules, but we want our kids to stay in school, and we want our healthcare workers to remain safe," she said.

Lanman said a worst-case scenario would exist if hospital facilities became over-crowded with COVID-19 patients, limiting the ability to treat emergency conditions, like heart attack and stroke. That would also put an end to most elective surgeries.

Eight of the sixteen positive cases reported on Sunday are people over the age of 60; four are between 30 and 60 years of age. Two are between the ages of 18 and 30.

Contact tracing is ongoing. The Health Department will notify anyone determined to have come into contact with people testing positive.

Lanman urges people to reach out to their primary care physicians for testing if they are feeling unwell.

Since March, 24 people in Columbia County have tested positive and have recovered from COVID-19. Four of them have been hospitalized, according to the state Department of Health dashboard. In July, a 60-year-old man from Columbia County died in a Spokane area hospital. A Dayton man over the age of fifty died in a hospital outside the county in early November.

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TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

WALLA WALLA FIRE DEPARTMENT TO DISPLAY WREATHS TO REMIND RESIDENTS ABOUT FIRE SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—It's that time of year when the temperature drops, the days get shorter, and there is a buzz in the air about the upcoming holiday season. For those preparing to celebrate the holidays, the Walla Walla Fire Department would like to remind you to take steps to help ensure the safety of your home and family.

As the winter months settle in, and particularly around the holiday season, the number of structure fires tends to increase. This upsurge, typically starting around Thanksgiving and stretching through the new year, is due to unintentional and mostly avoidable accidents.

This year, the WWFD would again like to involve the community in a risk-reduction program titled "Keep the Wreaths Red." The program is simple, yet it offers the public a visual reminder to think about fire safety during the holiday season.

Starting today, a wreath decorated with red lights will be mounted at each of Walla Walla fire stations, at the corner of 12th Avenue and Poplar Street, and at Wilbur Avenue and Tacoma Street. For every fire that happens from today through New Year's Day, WWFD will replace one of the red bulbs with a white one to signify a fire has occurred.

"As you drive down Poplar and Wilbur, we invite you to glance at the wreaths and be reminded that fire safety is everyone's job. We hope the community will help us keep the wreaths red by keeping safety at the forefront during this holiday season," WWFD Capt. John Knowles said. "Have a wonderful holiday season, stay safe, and check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors."

Fire statistics and safety tips

For many people, holiday fun begins in the kitchen. From testing family recipes to decorating cakes and cookies, everyone enjoys being part of the preparations. However, the National Fire Protection Associ-

ation reports many fires also start in the kitchen:

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day, the day before Thanksgiving, Easter, and Christmas Eve.

- Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires.

- In 2018, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,630 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving.

- Cooking caused almost half of all reported home fires and home fire injuries, and it is the second leading cause of home fire deaths in 2014-2018.

Keeping fire safety top of mind in the kitchen is important, especially when there's a lot of activity and people at home. Here are a few simple safety tips from the NFPA to remember as you warm up the oven to start that mouth-watering meal:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop.

- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.

- Keep children away from the stove.

- Make sure panhandles on the stovetop are out of the reach of children.

ZOOM MEETING EXTENSION

Spend Thanksgiving apart, together

By Brianna Wray | THE TIMES

WORLD WIDE WEB—Zoom announced it will lift its timed meeting limit on Thanksgiving so "your family gatherings don't get cut short." The video communications company announced in a tweet that the 40-minute time limit it usually has on its free meetings will be lifted globally on November 26 (Thanksgiving Day).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TEMPORARILY PAUSES REPORTING OF NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULTS

THE TIMES

OLYMPIA—The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) asks the state's laboratories that conduct the largest volume of tests to temporarily stop sending individual negative COVID-19 test results and instead send the department the aggregate number of negative test results per day. During this time, DOH dashboards will report positive cases each day, but not the total number of daily tests or percent positive.

The DOH disease reporting system can receive and process approximately 33,000 total test results per day but is currently receiving 30-50 thousand records per day, leading to a backlog. As of Saturday, 53,000 backlogged test results accumulated over the past two to three days. The backlog includes test results for COVID-19 and all other notifiable conditions such as tuberculosis.

Test result volumes are expected to continue increasing in the coming weeks as both disease and demand for testing increase. More testing sites and types of testing are also coming online across the state.

DOH has been working on expanding the system's capacity in anticipation of a surge; however, recent disease growth has outpaced efforts, and without this temporary action, DOH would fall further behind.

The backlog of results means that the number of new COVID-19 cases reported the last two days is an undercount and likely does not reflect disease trends. The temporary action will ensure that the DOH receives timely positive COVID-19 results.

It is important to note that in addition to case and testing data, DOH officials have, and regularly look at, data from many different data sources to help us understand the scope, breadth, and direction of the pandemic. These include test positivity data submitted directly to the federal government by laboratories, data on emergency department visits for COVID-19 symptoms, and data on new hospitalizations for COVID-19 and total COVID-19 bed occupancy reported daily by hospitals. These data sources continue to show the exponential growth of COVID-19 spread and COVID-19 patients in the hospital.

CITY OF WAITSBURG OFFERS LEAF DISPOSAL BIN FOR RESIDENTS

THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—Basin Disposal, Inc., will only offer leaf pickup in Dayton. The garbage disposal company previously shared with our paper that there would be free leaf pickup for customers in Waitsburg and Prescott as well as Dayton. However, that offer has since been retracted.

Basin Disposal customers in Waitsburg and Prescott may arrange to have leaves picked up by the company for an extra cost. Contact Basin Disposal, Inc at (509) 525-1711.

The City has made a leaf disposal bin available for residents at the Waitsburg City shop. Access the bin during City Hall business hours, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Leaves may be bagged or loose and must be placed in the bin; please do not leave bags outside the shop's gate.

For leaf disposal questions, contact City Hall at (509) 337-6371. City Hall is not open to the public; however, employees are in the office.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—The City of Walla Walla is accepting volunteer applications for the Arts Commission, Infrastructure Improvement Committee, and the Waste & Wastewater Advisory Committee.

The arts commissioner position is designated for an artist who must reside in the City of Walla Walla. The term begins January 1 and expires December 31, 2023.

The Infrastructure Improvement Committee has an opening for an engineer for a term expiring December 31, 2021.

The Transportation Benefit District Improvement Committee and the Waste & Wastewater Advisory Committee each have an opening for a term expiring June 30, 2023.

All applicants must reside in the city of Walla Walla.

Additional information and application forms are available at <https://wallawalla.gov/government/boards-commissions-committees>

Please call or email the City Clerk's office if you have any questions: (509) 527-4424, email khill@wallawalla.gov

The deadline for submitting applications is December 10, 2020, at 5 p.m.

Touchet Valley Weather
Nov. 25, 2020

Waitsburg's Seven Day Forecast

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Scattered Rain	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 46 Low: 33	High: 47 Low: 31	High: 49 Low: 30	High: 48 Low: 27	High: 44 Low: 29	High: 46 Low: 32	High: 43 Low: 27

Weather Trivia

What characteristic do thunderstorms possess to form a tornado?

?

Answer: Rotation.

Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation
Tuesday	68R	38	48/35	0.02"	0.16"
Wednesday	58	42	47/35	0.04"	0.66"
Thursday	50	37	47/34	Trace	-0.50"
Friday	50	31	46/34	0.00"	42.1°
Saturday	51	30	46/34	0.00"	40.2°
Sunday	32	27	45/34	Trace	+1.9°
Monday	44	31	45/33	0.10"	

Data as reported from Walla Walla

Weather History

Nov. 25, 1970 - The temperature at Tallahassee, Fla. dipped to 13 degrees, following a high of 40 degrees on the previous day. The mercury reached 67 degrees on Nov. 26, and highs were in the 70s the rest of the month.

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Full 11/30	7:08 a.m.	4:12 p.m.	2:29 p.m.	2:12 a.m.
Wednesday	7:09 a.m.	4:11 p.m.	2:48 p.m.	3:15 a.m.
Thursday	7:10 a.m.	4:10 p.m.	3:09 p.m.	4:17 a.m.
Friday	7:12 a.m.	4:10 p.m.	3:31 p.m.	5:21 a.m.
Saturday	7:13 a.m.	4:09 p.m.	3:58 p.m.	6:25 a.m.
Sunday	7:14 a.m.	4:09 p.m.	4:31 p.m.	7:29 a.m.
Monday	7:15 a.m.	4:09 p.m.	5:11 p.m.	8:32 a.m.
Tuesday				

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Area schools temporarily return to distance learning

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the area, schools are taking action to protect staff, students

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

Waitsburg, Dayton, and Prescott school districts are battling rising COVID-19 cases and have announced temporary closures or a switch back to virtual learning.

COVID-19 cases are rapidly rising in both Columbia and Walla Walla Counties. In Walla Walla County, there were 571 active cases as of Tuesday, November 24. In Columbia County, there are 20 active cases. Confirmed cases in Waitsburg are now up to 18.

Prescott School District

Prescott School District moved back to the HOPE 1.0 learning model last week after a staff member tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Superintendent Justin Bradford announced last Wednesday, telling students that they would resume the virtual model starting Thursday.

"The move to fully remote learning will be in effect from Thursday, November 19, 2020, through the end of winter break, January 5, 2021," Superintendent Bradford said in an announcement. "The Prescott School Board of Directors and Superintendent Justin Bradford will reassess school opening plans at the December 17, 2020 school board meeting. At that time, a decision will be made to return to a hybrid school model on January 6, 2021, or continue in remote learning. We are following all necessary protocols and next steps to keep students and staff safe and healthy."

Superintendent Bradford said the District is working closely with the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) to monitor and evaluate the situation.

To stay up to date with Prescott school information, visit www.prescott.k12.wa.us.

Waitsburg School District

Over the weekend, Waitsburg School District announced students would attend school from home on November 23 and 24. Students will not have school over Thanksgiving break November 26 and 27 but should plan on returning to school the following Monday, November 30. The District will contact families if the plan changes before Monday.

The school district is working closely with the Walla Walla County DCH to evaluate the safety of returning to in-person instruction and will update parents if the situation should change.

To stay up to date with Waitsburg school decisions, visit their website, www.waitsburgsd.org.

Dayton School District

On Sunday, the Dayton School District announced a temporary closure as cases rose significantly in Columbia County, including two cases associated with the school.

The District announced students would go to distance learning on Tuesday, November 24. A decision will be made on the type of instruction for Monday, November 30, and posted on the District's website.

Dayton School District announcements can be viewed on their website at www.daytonsd.org.

Prescott School District November update

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

PRESCOTT—The Prescott School District met Thursday, November 19, for a regular meeting. The meeting was held remotely, via Zoom call.

Business Manager Thomas Palumbo gave the Superintendent's report. Superintendent Bradford was out for a family-related reason.

Palumbo reported that the district is closely watching the COVID-19 situation in Walla Walla County.

Palumbo shared a list of staff resignations, adjustments. Some teachers requested a leave of absence, and the district currently has a paraprofessional position open.

Parent-teacher conferences went well, and the district is exploring options for the planned spring conferences. Palumbo noted that the fall conferences were very well-attended by families.

On Tuesday, the district announced that the students would move back to the HOPE 1.0 virtual learning model after COVID-19 cases began to impact the school.

"Prescott School District today is reporting that one of its employees has tested positive for COVID-19. For the safety of students and their families, teachers, staff, and community members, the ECEAP preschool facility, Elementary School, and Secondary School sites will transition to full virtual learning, effective immediately," said Bradford. The Superintendent's full message is posted on the district's website and is available in both English and Spanish on the district's website. The district hopes to return to in-person learning in January, following the holiday break.

The district is considering adding an ASB director in the future to oversee ASB spending and programs. Palumbo said that the idea is just that, at this time, and further exploration would take place after the COVID-19 pandemic is quieter.

A quick update on WIAA sports was given. The athletic association has pushed the fall sports (football, volleyball) back until March.

The board revisited the solar array project through Apollo Solutions Group. The project, which includes a nearly one-acre solar panel system that can power the entire school, was approved.

The board adjourned the meeting after expressing there was no more discussion to be had.



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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, November 26
Thanksgiving Day, no meals served

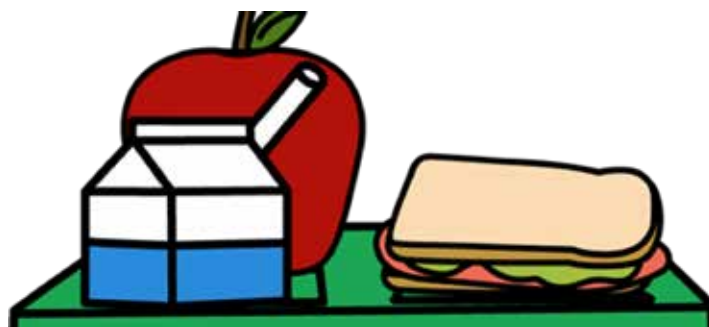
Tuesday, December 1
Broccoli lasagna
Mixed veggies
Garlic bread
Banana, Milk

WAITSBURG SENIOR CENTER
504 Main Street
11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 1
Lasagna
Italian mixed veggies
Coleslaw
Garlic bread
Fruit

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.



Church Directory

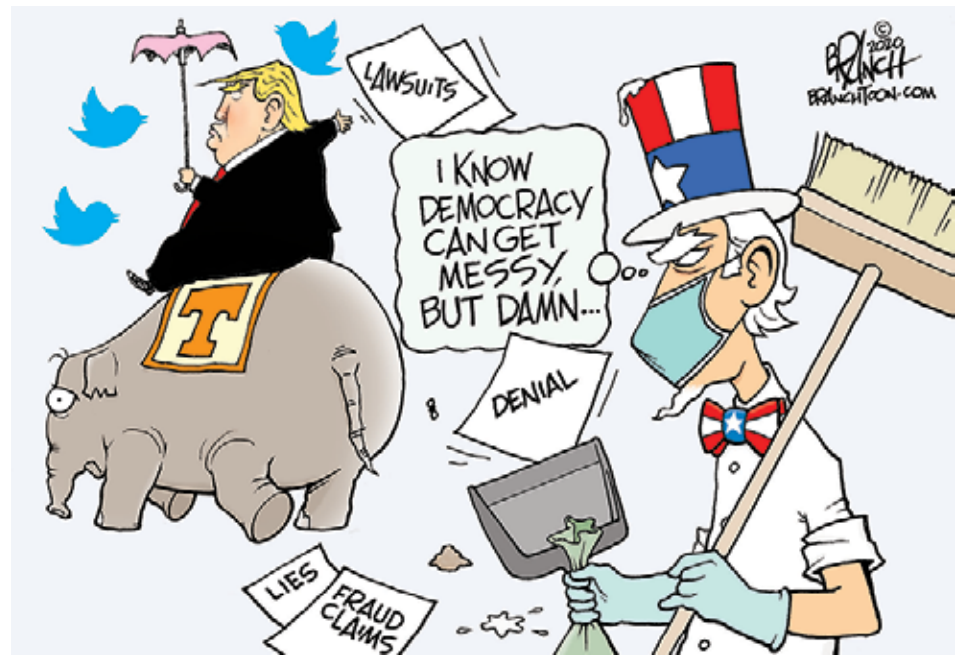
Waitsburg Presbyterian Church
504 Main
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
337-6589
Pastor Stan Hughes

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
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Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Each Sunday
337-8898
Rev. Matthew Wyatt

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NEWS & COMMENTARY



LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Let's support our local post offices

By Lane Gwinn | THE TIMES

Mail delivery is deemed an essential service by the government. Americans rely on the timely delivery of everything from prescription medications to Social Security checks. Many residents in our community must go to the post office to pick up or send mail and packag-



es. Residents who are older or have underlying conditions do not always have the option to avoid making a trip to the post office.

Our local postal workers work hard to ensure the facility, including the post office boxes, lobby, and areas outside the front and back doors, are safe for customers during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Postal workers are our neighbors and friends, and family.

They wear masks, work behind plastic shields, and use hand sanitizer and gloves throughout the day to protect their community, friends, and family. They do this with professionalism, good cheer, and humor.

The only thing they have asked from us is to help them protect every customer who comes to the office.

The windows at the Waitsburg post office is covered with signage that reminds customers to wear a mask when entering the post office.

Where our postal workers must wear masks all day, customers spend less than a few minutes at their post box, maybe up to 5 minutes if they need to go into the lobby to pick up or send a package. Those few minutes can make a difference in containing the spread of the virus in our town. Tuesday, November 24, our case count has risen to 18 cases and is expected to increase over the next week.

Please let us show all our local postal workers our gratitude and respect by wearing masks.

Dayton School board report for November

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—Mason Finney, a senior at Dayton High School and the ASB public relations manager, spoke at the Dayton School District board meeting last week. Finney said the middle school and high school students have voted for their choice of DW Athletic Combine mascot, and the ASB counted the ballots last week.

The ASB is organizing the process under the direction of HS/MS Principal Kristina Brown. The top two votes will be selected, with a final vote sometime in the New Year.

Finney also discussed Mental Health Week, which took place last week. Students received tips and tools for enhancing mental health during the first fifteen minutes of first period classes. On Friday, they practiced meditation.

Superintendent Guy Strot said the District is partnering with Blue Mountain Counseling of Dayton for counseling services. From Blue Mountain Counseling, Caitlin Patterson will be at the school Monday through Thursday, each week, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Her vision for supporting students is to provide a neutral environment to help them process and overcome difficulties through a "mindset reset." She will teach students coping skills and social and emotional learning.

Strot said recent guidance from WIAA is that Season 2 will be moved from December to February, with each season lasting seven weeks. Boys and girls basketball will start in Feb., and football and volleyball will begin in March. Track, softball, and golf will begin at the end of April.

A curriculum for sex education will be selected in the spring of 2021 by a committee made up of school staff and parents. It will be adopted by the board and taught beginning in the fall of 2021. Strot said parents have the option of opting out for their children.

Strot met with U.S. Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and others from the community, on Nov. 13. There is a military liaison in her office who can help the District start a Junior ROTC program, he said.

The alternative school for Dayton students is the Open Doors Program at Walla Walla Community College. Eight students are enrolled in the program.

The board considered and approved a 24-credit graduation requirement for Open Doors students. The Washington State minimum requirement for graduation is 24 credits.

MS/HS Principal Kristina Brown said there had been two fire drills, one earthquake drill, and one noncritical lockdown drill to date. Brown is getting door coverings for every campus door and working on clarifying procedures for all staff in a critical lockdown event.

Brown said middle school teacher Jeff McCann did a "really nice job" with his slide show presentation for Veteran's Day.

Guy Strot, who is also the elementary principal, said the teachers appreciated that they could pause the slide show for discussion.

Strot said he has been getting to know each of the elementary teachers and discussing goals with them.

Facilities Maintenance Manager John Delp reported on building infrastructure, which requires attention.

"Where do we start? Where is our focus?" he asked. The parking lot behind the gym and the high school is deteriorating, and windows throughout the campus have broken seals or wood rot. Windows need to be replaced at the administration building and the elementary school building.

The bleachers and track at the football field need attention, and there have been issues with irrigation water at the athletic complex.

There are some issues with the newest boiler in the elementary building, which have been or will be repaired. Overall, the new heating system is efficient, said Delp.

The company in charge of completing work on the awning over the elementary blacktop is working to correct issues, and all the damage will be fine after the "bugs" are worked out.

Food Services Director Jana Eaton said the Summer Food Program model for youth eighteen years or under, who live in the community, has been extended through the entire school year.

Food Service staff begin the day serving breakfast and lunch to the community. The students are eating breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria on trays.

"It is working well," said Eaton. Grab and Go bags are also being prepared for MS/HS students.

Eaton said the District received a grant to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to elementary students. She plans on providing take-home boxes once a week.

Eaton is applying for an equipment assistance grant in December. "We need a new kitchen stove. When it takes several hours to boil a pot of water, I think it's time for a new stove," she told the board of directors.

Last year, the District received a grant to purchase a new holding/proofing cabinet, an appliance used daily in the school kitchen.

Business Manager Paula Moisio said 98-percent of the District's portion of property taxes had been collected by the county.

At the end of the 2019-20 school year, there was a \$641,000 ending cash balance. The larger than budgeted ending balance was due to savings from reduced transportation, professional development, and athletic programs because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Most school districts across the state experienced larger than expected cash balances. Moisio said the District needs to be careful with expenses as she is concerned state legislators may think school districts are "flush" with cash and make cuts to school budgets.

The Times

A PROUD TRADITION

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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1-year subscription: \$40
2-year subscription: \$75
3-year subscription: \$105

Out of County

1-year subscription: \$45
2-year subscription: \$85
3-year subscription: \$120

Judilyn Marie Jones

Judilyn Marie Jones, age 76, of 818 S. 5th St, Dayton, WA died November 18, 2020. Judilyn joins her love, Eugene, who passed away in 2006. There will be no public service. Arrangements are being handled through Hubbard- Rogg Funeral Home in Dayton, WA

Judilyn was born November 14, 1944 in Dayton, WA to Ethel and George Bailey. Judilyn graduated from Dayton High School in 1962. She married Eugene Jones on July 1, 1963. Judilyn had worked at Green Giant and tended bar at 410, Dorseys and the Eagles. She retired and enjoyed her time with her grandchildren and was an avid genealogist for her family and friends.

She is survived by her brothers Rocky Bailey and Robin Bailey. Her children, Misty Jones, Michelle (Ray) McCleary, Jeremy (Desirae) Jones, all of Dayton. Her grandchildren: Carrie (Tim) Camarata, Kyle Savage, Jacob (Amanda) McCleary, Derek McCleary, Alexa and Jamison Jones, and her great grandchildren Chance Savage and Khloe Camarata.



Judilyn Marie Jones

Leonard Eugene Reser

Leonard Eugene Reser, longtime Newport, WA resident passed away October 25, 2020. Leonard was born September 30, 1941 to Gene and Fern Reser. He was raised in eastern Washington and graduated from Ritzville High School class of 1959. He was fascinated with science and was always reading and looking for new things to try. With a farming background, there weren't many things he couldn't fix or "MacGyver". Leonard lived a full life his way. He made a lot of friends and helped many people on his life journey. He leaves behind special friend and companion, Charlene Randolph, brothers Mark and Frank, sister Bonnie, Aunt Naomi Bruce, and numerous nephews, great nephews, nieces and grand nieces. Leonard will be sorely missed. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Sherman-Campbell Funeral & Cremation Services in Newport is in charge of arrangements. Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at shermancampbell.com.



Leonard Eugene Reser

WAITSBURG - FROM PAGE 1

the City Hall Project. According to Hinchliffe, the total cost of repairs to City Hall could be more than \$1-million.

The council reviewed the application for the third payment of the Taggart Road Extension/ Waterline project and approved the payment. There was a \$3,588.00 increase to the original contract to address striping removal.

The council approved the second payment of \$129,794.30 for the City's sidewalk improvement project. Hinchliffe said he expected the project, which includes work in multiple locations, to be finished by November 27.

A payment of \$44,861 was approved for a sewer siphon and tree removal bid awarded to Harry Johnson Plumbing and Excavation. A siphon was damaged by flood debris near the Preston Ave/Highway 12 bridge. The cost includes the removal of nine trees that had fallen into the river.

Work on the Millrace Grade Crossing project con-

tinues; however, construction has been pushed back until 2021. To complete the project's design, the City must get the necessary certifications and environmental determinations before securing the Department of Transportation (DOT) funding. These steps add \$30,000 in costs. Both Councilman Jim Romine and Mayor Marty Dunn expressed that the grade in question is dangerous, especially during harvest with increased large vehicle traffic. The City estimates the project's total cost at \$480,000, which is to be funded by grants if funds are available.

Waitsburg will be transitioning to a new business license system, as required by the State. This system will allow the State to administer the City's business licenses. This program creates a centralized platform for businesses to get all the necessary permits. The council approved the presented agreement.

City Council members discussed the COVID-19 situation in Waitsburg and Walla Walla County. Councilwoman Karen Gregutt extended a thank you to all City employees, businesses, and residents wearing masks and complying with social distancing recommendations.

Councilman Jim Romine said that half of the fire hydrants in town had been tested, and six hydrants need repairs. One hydrant needs to be replaced in its entirety, and a hydrant on W. 2nd is inoperable. Repairs ranged from total replacement to gasket repair. One hydrant needs to be turned around so that fire trucks can hook up to it if needed.

Romine also noted that he is waiting for crime-free housing information from the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office, and he will share that information when it is received.



Photo by Beka Compton
Crews from Harry Johnson Plumbing and Excavation used concrete barriers to divert water flow while repairing a damaged sewer siphon earlier this month. The siphon was damaged by heavy flood debris this February.

Booker Nursing Home back to Phase 1 protocols for COVID-19

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—An employee working in the Booker Rest Home tested positive for COVID-19 last week, which led to mandatory testing of all staff and all residents on Friday, November 20, and again the following Monday.

Columbia County Health System CEO Shane McGuire said the recent uptick of positive cases in the community would place an additional strain on the ability to protect nursing home residents and other vulnerable populations.

On Sunday, the Columbia County Public Health reported 16 positive cases throughout the community.

"The community may not realize it, but when our infection rate goes up, it significantly impacts the residents of Booker Rest Home and all the amazing folks who work there, with mandated testing and lockdown procedures for the residents."

Because of the recent uptick in community cases, Booker Rest Home employees will now undergo testing twice a week. Nursing home residents will no longer

receive the one visitor they were allowed under the safe opening plan.

McGuire said, "This directly impacts the residents' quality of life, especially over the Thanksgiving holiday."

Good Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) protocols, proper hand sanitizing, restricting visitation, frequent testing, and staff diligence have all contributed to keeping the nursing home safe.

"I want to say the staff of Booker Rest Home, the Health System, and Medical staff have done an amazing job of protecting our residents," he said.

McGuire said Chief of Staff Dr. Kyle Terry works closely with an infectious disease physician at the University of Washington, and CCHS is closely aligned with those practices. There are quarantine protocols in place.

If a CCHS employee tests positive, their co-workers and anyone they have been in contact with are placed on a testing protocol that screens for COVID-19 multiple times over 14 days. Employees that test positive are told to quarantine at home until after symptoms resolve.

So far, employees who have come in close contact with co-workers who had tested positive have been testing negative.

WWCSO

Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office Daily Pressboard

November 13
Violation of a no-contact order. Burbank

November 14
Residential burglary and theft. Waitsburg

November 15
Theft of identity papers. Prescott

November 18
Malicious mischief at the county jail. Walla Walla

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.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Waitsburg School District is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the **Lead Pre-School position** (8 hrs./day). The Lead provides children with a positive learning environment and varied experiences that help them develop in all areas in a manner appropriate to their age and stage of development. Must hold an AA degree or equivalent. Position is open until filled.

Waitsburg School District has immediate openings for substitute teachers, substitute classroom para-educators, substitute custodians, substitute school bus drivers and substitute food service assistants.

Application materials are available online @ www.waitsburgsd.org or by calling the District Office at (509) 337-6301. Please direct questions and inquiries to Mark Pickel, Superintendent. E-mail mpickel@waitsburgsd.org. Waitsburg School District is an E.O.E.

BIRTHDAYS

November 26: Devon Harshman, Donna Lee Harris, Donald Land, Greg Gabel.

November 27: Peggy Lightfoot, Nita Snider, Rose Worth, Rod Baker, Jaidyn Brown.

November 28: Norma Jean Green, Karen Hermanns, Shawn White, Michael Lafer, Cara Rea.

November 29: Lewis Neace, Sherrie Morris, Pat Huwe, Scott Lambert.

November 30: Betty Prock, Betty Hofer, David McKenzie, Cameron McConnell.

December 1: Debbie Hunter, Linda Rohde, Martin Sauer, Michelle Saranovich, Jean Hinchliffe.

December 2: James Liebermann.



87%

of Dayton Secondary School Students

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
No.: 20-4-00078-36
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(RCW 11.40.030)
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: ROBERT A. BAUMANN, 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 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 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: November 19, 2020
Personal Representative: Kip Baumann

Ann A. Parmley, WSBA #49063
Of Attorneys for Personal Representative
Address for Mailing or Service:
2225 Isaacs, Suite A, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Court of probate proceedings and cause number:
Walla Walla County Superior Court Cause No. 20-4-00078-36
The Times
November 19, 26, Dec 3, 2020
11-19-c

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
NO: 20-4-00217-36
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
RCW 11.40.030
In re the Estate of: SCOTT J. KNUTSON, 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 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: November 12, 2020.

Sierra Ann Knutson
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
November 12, 19, 26, 2020
11-12-c

Notice of Change of Meeting Date

Walla Walla Fire Protection District No. 3 will meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 8 a.m. to conduct district business. Until further notice the meeting place will be 778 Hoffman Rd, Prescott, WA. These meetings are open to the public. Contact wwfd3@pocketinet.com for COVID meeting alternatives
The Times
November 19, 26, 2020
11-19-b

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
NO: 20-4-00221-36
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
RCW 11.40.030
In re the Estate of: BILLY JACK GUINN, 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: November 19, 2020.

James W. Brower
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
November 19, 26, December 3, 2020
11-19-a

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA COUNTY OF WILLIAMS IN DISTRICT COURT NORTHWEST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
CIVIL NO. 53-2020-DM-00284

SUMMONS
Travis Joslin, Plaintiff,
vs.
Leslie Brown, Defendant.

THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

[&1] You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the complaint in this action, which is herewith served upon you, by serving upon the undersigned an answer or other proper response within twenty-one days after the service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of

service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

[&2] NOTICE OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING PROVISIONS

[&3] Pursuant to Rule 8.4 of the North Dakota Rules of Court, upon service of this summons, each party is bound by the following:
1. Except for temporary periods, neither party may remove any of their minor children from North Dakota without the written consent of the other party or order of the court.

IF A PARTY VIOLATES ANY OF THESE PROVISIONS, THAT PARTY MAY BE IN CONTEMPT OF COURT.

Dated this 7th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Alexander S. Kelsch
ALEXANDER S. KELSCH
State Bar ID No. 07231
KELSCH, RUFF, KRANDA, NAGLE & LUDWIG
Attorneys for the Plaintiff
103 Collins Avenue, P.O. Box 1266
Mandan, North Dakota 58554-7266
(701) 663-9818
alexk@kelschlaw.com
The Times
November 12, 19, 26, 2020
11-12-b

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, 200
11-26-a



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



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Friday, Nov. 27, 6 p.m.
Staging starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Dayton Sports Complex on South Cottonwood. Cars will wind through several neighborhoods with the best views on South 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Streets, North Front Street, East Dayton Avenue, Main Street, Wagon Road and West Cameron Street.
Route maps available at the Dayton Chamber, 166 E. Main St.

HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE
Support Small Businesses—Shop Local
Online Dayton Holiday Marketplace
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LETTERS TO SANTA
Drop off letters @ the Chamber, 166 E. Main St., Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Add a return address to get your personal letter back from Santa!

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Saturday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m.
Please follow social distancing guidelines for viewing.

Civil Deputy Tim Quigg celebrates 40 years in law enforcement

Four decades in law enforcement, Deputy Quigg has no plans to retire anytime soon

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES



DAYTON—Civil Deputy Tim Quigg has hit a major milestone at the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. On November 21, Quigg celebrated four decades of service, with no plans to retire anytime soon.

Quigg took his first steps towards a long law enforcement career in March of 1980. He attended Washington State University, where he majored in



Courtesy Photo

Civil Deputy Tim Quigg hit a coveted law enforcement milestone when he celebrated 40 years of service. Fondly known as 'The Fossil' within the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, Quigg has experience as both a dispatcher and an officer.

journalism and minored in English, with aspirations of becoming a teacher or a writer.

He was working as a clerk at Freddie's Food Mart in Dayton while putting out resumes for his desired field of work. A long-time family friend, Sergeant George Mitchell of the Dayton Police Department, let him know that the department was looking for reserve deputies and dispatchers. It sounded fun enough, so Deputy Quigg applied.

Entering into a Civil Service position, Quigg had to take a written test and go through oral interviews. He was selected as one of the top three candidates and was interviewed for a second time on November 21, 1980, by then-Sheriff Ed Britton and deputies Mark Laughery and Rod Flint. He was offered the job that same evening and has remained in Columbia County law enforcement since.

Deputy Quigg served as a clerk/dispatcher before becoming a Senior Communications Officer in the 9-1-1 center for 28 years (1981-2009). During that time, he also served as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff and had the rare opportunity to see the job from both sides of the field. He graduated with honors from the Washington State Reserve Officers Law Enforcement Academy in 1993, where he received his commission for state-wide arrest authority.

He was a state-certified law enforcement firearms instructor from 1998 until 2005. He served as an instructor to local law enforcement officers and an instructor in three regional Reserve Academies. Quigg currently serves as the Columbia County Sheriff's Department Armorer, ensuring that all department-issued sidearms are in good working order.

From 2010-2013, Quigg served as the Columbia County Communications Center Supervisor until transferring back to the Sheriff's Office as a Civil Deputy. He has held that position for roughly eight years.

Since 2008, Quigg has been the coordinator for the popular National Night Out, working with more than 35 organizations each year to create the event that nearly 1,000 people enjoy at Dayton City Park each August. He also acts as the coordinator for the coun-

ty's Citizen's Academy.

Over his years of service, Quigg has had the opportunity to serve under seven Columbia County Sheriff's; Ed Britton, Rod Flint, Jim LaTour, Mike Berglund, Walt Hessler, Rocky Miller, and currently Joe Helm. He also has worked with three Chiefs of Police, including Chet Powers, Bill Braun, and Larry Groom.

Quigg has received numerous awards from the Columbia County law enforcement agencies and others throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the Distinguished Service Medal from the National Association of Chiefs of Police, after being wounded in the line of duty.

Though Quigg has quite a bit on his plate, he always makes time to work with the area's youth, sharing his long-held love for hobby model rocketry by forming the Blue Mountain Rocketeers club in 1995 with then State Park Ranger Gary Lentz. Initially working with at-risk youth, the club has grown to more than 80 members from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and beyond.

The dream of becoming a writer never did fade for Quigg. From 2000-2007, Quigg was the Associate Editor for the Extreme Rocketry Magazine and wrote a book about model rocketry. Today, he has a column in Sport Rocketry Magazine. Quigg is the author of published compilations of original poetry.

"It's been a long, enjoyable road serving this community," Quigg said. "40 years ago, I took an oath to protect and to serve, an oath I take very seriously. I hope I have upheld this oath and the standards of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office during my career to the best of my ability. It's been a long and enjoyable time," Quigg said. "I have a great many stories! It has often been a strange and unusual journey, but one I wouldn't trade."

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office would like to say a big "Thank you!" to Quigg for his years of dedicated service to the citizens of Columbia County, and they look forward to his continued service with law enforcement.

It's Thanksgiving

We Gather Together—via Zoom

By Vicki Sternfeld-Rossi | THE TIMES



This year our family Thanksgiving will be a virtual party, sadly, but then it does save me driving two hours each way to my sister's house, just to sit in a corner and read or knit with a big glass of wine while she overcooks the turkey and focuses on her grandchildren. The guys sit glued to the TV, watching football, not moving or helping, because they can't take a chance they might miss a throw, sack, or touchdown.

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday; there are no mandatory gifts involved, and it's mostly about all my favorite foods; add in friends and select family members, it's perfection. Although football is also a big part of Thanksgiving, it's not for me. I am a single event football fan; the Superbowl. The half-time show and commercials are usually worth watching, and sometimes the game is too.

If I were to ask Dr. Freud for an opinion on my football aversion, I bet his psychoanalysis of why I'm not a fan would be because of some traumatic event(s) in my childhood. He would be close—starting with the frenzied Friday nights when we lived in Tucson.

I played flute in my High School band, my sister was a junior varsity cheerleader, and my brother was on his Junior High football team. My mother made sure all of our uniforms were washed, ironed, and ready to go every Friday. Then the logistics came into play. My sister had to be at the JV game at

one school. I had to be at another school for the varsity pre-game performance while wearing my heavy wool band uniform in 90-degree Tucson weather. My brother had to be at a third school for his football game. My parents fed us, then morphed into chauffeurs and cheerleaders running from school to school.

Luckily (for my parents), about three weeks into my brother's first football season, he suffered a broken finger and was summarily released from the team. I'm sure my parents expressed their sympathies to him while secretly doing their happy dance.

Eventually, I went off to college, Northern Arizona University, in Flagstaff, Arizona, with flute in hand but a little reluctant to join the marching band. I would rather have partied with friends at the game

instead of rehearsing, learning new music every week, and marching in freezing weather. Then I met the cute trumpet player, and I was hooked and joined the band.

Football meant: no partying with friends on Friday nights. I was either sweating in Tucson, or freezing in Flagstaff while wearing ugly uniforms, rehearsing, learning new music, and pretending to root for teams I didn't care about. Even the cute trumpet player wasn't worth the effort. He already had a girlfriend; I was toast.

I enjoy watching most sports, especially soccer, tennis, baseball, and basketball, but football is too slow. There is a 15-second play, then 20 minutes is spent discussing the said play, checking it from every angle, then we go to commercial. The players wear so much plastic padding that they look like weirdly shaped aliens running down the field. At least in other sports, you can ogle at muscles, cute outfits, and athleticism, even if you don't understand the game.

Last year was the best Thanksgiving I had in many years. It was a Waitsburg friends' potluck, with about 30 people. Daniel was here for a visit and cooked an amazing risotto. There was great wine and food, no stress, no traffic, and no drama. I hope next year Zoom will be a distant memory, and we can all gather together again, even if it means watching football.

Stay safe and happy Thanksgiving!

The Cookie Chronicles Chapter 23—Tricks and treats

Up and down, twirl and bow

By Paul Gregutt | THE TIMES

Not long after Cookie had settled in, and I'd become infatuated with the idea of dog ownership, Mrs. G presented me with a slim volume entitled "101 Dog Tricks: Step by Step Activities to Engage, Challenge, and Bond with Your Dog" by Kyra Sundance and Chalcy.

"Wow," I thought, "this is just what we need!" If the title hadn't already hooked me, the cover photo of a lovely chocolate brown Weimaraner with a newspaper in his mouth and a look that said, "Here's your paper – anything else I can bring you?" would have sealed the deal.

"Learn training secrets from a renowned trainer and the world's smartest dog" it said – no small claim, especially since I knew that I already owned the world's smartest dog. But leaving that aside, I was ready to jump in with teaching Cookie some tricks. Among the tricks promised were "Answer the Phone, Bring the Remote and (of course) Fetch the Paper."

Being new to all this, I decided to go with something more basic. How about Roll Over? That's a good, all-purpose starter trick, I thought. But it turned out to be a bit more difficult than it sounds. First off, in order to roll over, you have to be in a Down! Position. So, we actually had to start with that. Now Down! is not the toughest trick in the world, nor the most impressive. It's mostly a function of your dog learning that particular word without you having to press her backside into the floor.

Cookie picked up on Down! Pretty quickly, especially when there were treats as rewards. But we ran into problems with Roll Over. Once you have said the D-word and your obedient friend is on her stomach waiting for the treat, it becomes challenging to actually roll your dog over while repeating that command. A struggle ensues, with four paws flailing in four directions and possibly some unplanned howling as well.

We postponed that one and moved on to another sure-fire dog standard – Give Me Your Paw! For reasons unknown, Cookie almost instinctively seemed to understand that one, as well as the follow-up "Other Paw". In fact, she grabbed hold of that concept so quickly that any time we sat her down to run through trick training, that was the first thing that popped up. Didn't matter what I asked for, here came the



paw. She developed a rapid-fire bang bang paw paw approach, all but battering me with proffered paws before the words were out of my mouth.

So, we had to backtrack a bit by inserting a keyword – GENTLE! – into the command. Gentle turns out to be a very useful concept because it applies to such things as how the dog takes a snack. With consistent effort, Cookie learned to be gentle when a bit of food was offered, and over time the shotgun paw flinging slowed down enough to give the appearance, however fleeting, of being a response to an actual request.

Much of her trick training occurs right after Cookie's daily brush, part of a well-worn routine. Brush dog – do tricks – offer snacks – feed dinner – now it's playtime! And clearly, after the better part of a decade, progress has been made. For example, it eventually dawned on me that trying to learn Roll Over on a slick wooden floor was a big part of the problem. No traction. So, we moved that one to the living room rug and Cookie got a grip on it.

She also picked up on Jump! and Twirl! And Up! with relative ease. For Jump, I used a short stick, first on the floor, then raised slightly, more each week until a good jump height was found. Cookie is a natural-born twirler, and for some reason, has no trouble standing up on two legs. In fact, she can stand up on her two front legs as well as her two back legs, something we noticed while she was dispensing pee-mail on our neighborhood walks.

At this point, we've added Speak, Wait, and Sit Pretty to the repertoire. And my favorite – Trade. One day, while having lunch with Cookie, the thought crossed my mind that instead of just giving her snacks or running through the usual tricks, I'd challenge her with a new concept. So, I said, "Cookie, do you have anything to trade for a snack?" At which point, she ran off, grabbed Mr. B, and dropped him in front of me. Apart from the ease with which she quickly swapped her wingman for a bit of bacon, I was impressed. And Trade is not one of the 101 Step-by-Step Activities to Engage, Challenge, and Bond with Your Dog. That one is a Cookie original.

Because Cookie is, you see, the world's smartest dog.

NEWS & SPORTS

Inside the matchup Seahawks vs. Eagles

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES

The Seahawks win last week over the Cardinals and the Rams win over Tampa Bay gives both teams an identical 7-3 record with six games left to play. Seahawks fans may have been hoping for the Buccaneers to beat the Rams in the Monday Night Football game, but the result could ultimately help the Seahawks playoff seeding.

As I mentioned last week, Seattle's schedule is favorable for the next four games playing the Eagles, Giants, Jets, and Washington. After that, they have two remaining division games. One at home against the Rams could decide the division champion and another on the road against the 49ers.

The Rams schedule is more difficult with a game against the 49ers, whom they lost once to this season, then two games against Arizona, and a game in Seattle. It's not hard to envision a scenario where the Rams lose more games down the stretch than Seattle.

On to this week's matchup, the Philadelphia Eagles currently lead the NFC East with a 3-6-1 record. Their only win outside of their division came against the 49ers early in the season. Some commentators are calling for Eagles' quarterback Carson Wentz to be benched. That would leave the Eagles with rookie quarterback Jalen Hurts. Hurts has had limited action this year, completing two passes in as many attempts. He has also fumbled the ball three times in just twelve rushing attempts, although he recovered all three fumbles. I'd be surprised if he is this week's starting quarterback.

Wentz is having the worst year of his professional career in several categories. He has already had fourteen interceptions this year, which is twice his average over the last three seasons. His completion percentage is down to 58.4 percent, a career-low. On top of that, he has been sacked an average of four times per game, which is an unfortunate career high. However, Wentz is having a good year running the ball with five rushing touchdowns, averaging almost five yards per carry, both career highs.

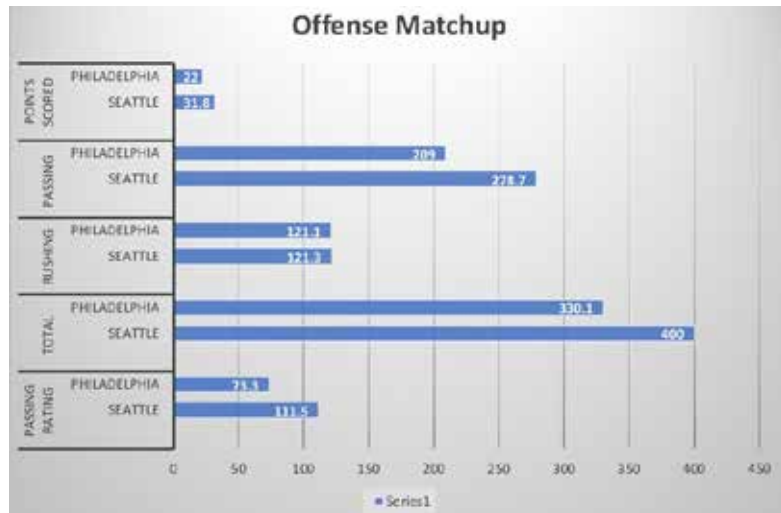
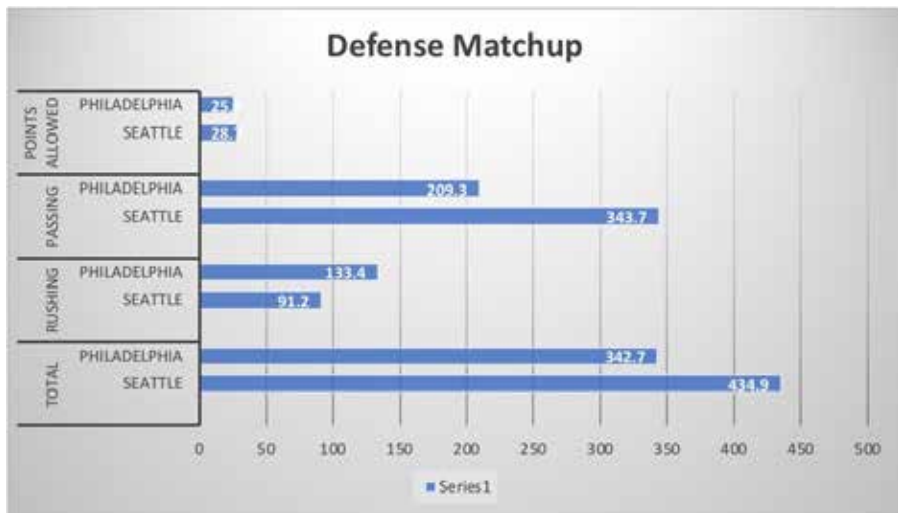
Miles Sanders is Philadelphia's featured running back this season, averaging 83.6 yards per game. Boston Scott and Carson Wentz account for most of the other carries. Sander's last touchdown was four weeks ago against the Pittsburgh Steel-

NFL WEEK TWELVE GAMES AND PICKS

Day	Time	Station	Away	Home	Pick
Thu	9:30AM	CBS	Houston	Detroit	Detroit
	1:30PM	FOX	Washington	Dallas	Dallas
	5:20PM	NBC	Baltimore	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
Sun	10AM	CBS	Las Vegas	Atlanta	Las Vegas
	10AM	CBS	Los Angeles Chargers	Buffalo	Buffalo
	10AM	FOX	New York Giants	Cincinnati	Cincinnati
	10AM	CBS	Tennessee	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
	10AM	FOX	Carolina	Minnesota	Minnesota
	10AM	FOX	Arizona	New England	Arizona
	10AM	CBS	Miami	New York Jets	Miami
	10AM	CBS	Cleveland	Jacksonville	Cleveland
	1:05PM	FOX	New Orleans	Denver	New Orleans
	1:05PM	FOX	San Francisco	Los Angeles Rams	Los Angeles Rams
Mon	1:25PM	CBS	Kansas City	Tampa Bay	Kansas City
	5:20PM	NBC	Chicago	Green Bay	Green Bay
	5:15PM	ESPN	Seattle	Philadelphia	Seattle

ers. Philadelphia's receiving core is a bit of a mess. Travis Fulgham is the team's leading receiver with 451 yards in seven games. Unfortunately, tight-end Zach Ertz has missed four games with an ankle injury and is a big reason the Eagles are struggling on offense.

The questionable list for this week's game is much shorter than last week's. The Seahawks listed as questionable this week are Jordan Simmons G, Shaquill Griffin CB, Ethan Pocic G, Travis Homer RB, Chris Carson RB, and Brandon Shell OT.



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LIFESTYLES



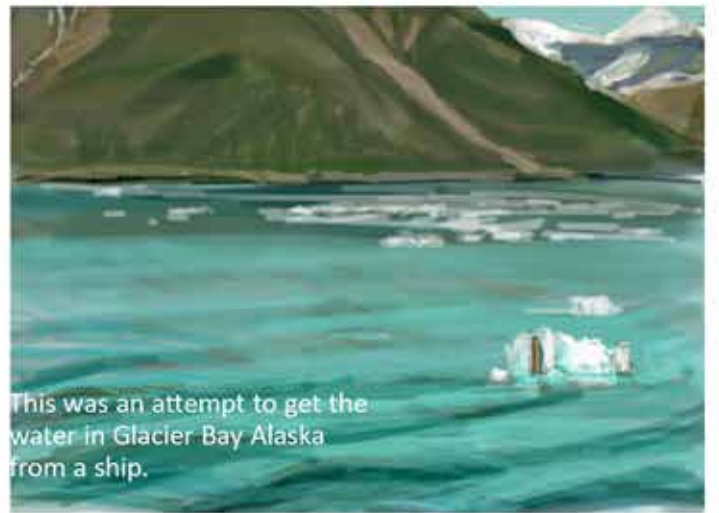
You have to be quick with animal models



Often, I just sit down and draw what is in front of me at the studio or in my home.



A drawing of someone sitting in a square in Amsterdam



This was an attempt to get the water in Glacier Bay Alaska from a ship.



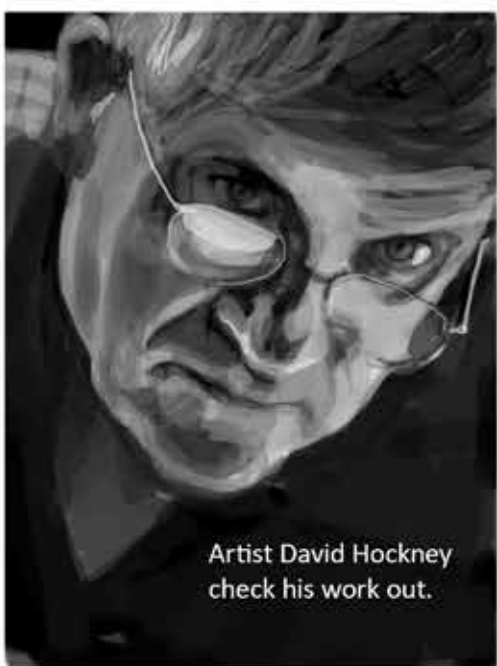
A vintage doll from Japan with human hair.



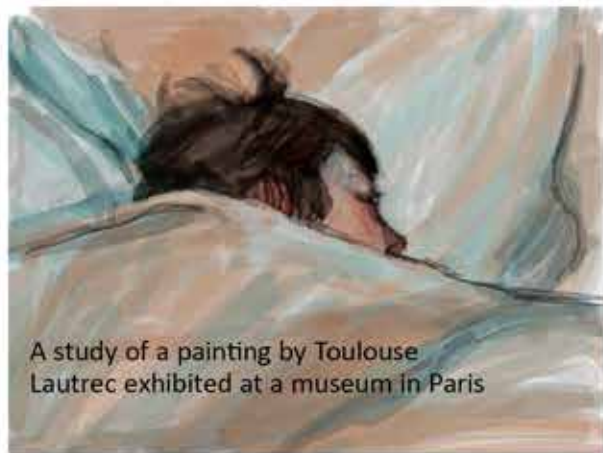
My dog Monkey is my muse.



Another study at a museum, this time The Fife Player by Manet



Artist David Hockney check his work out.



A study of a painting by Toulouse Lautrec exhibited at a museum in Paris



Drawing on my iPad

by Lane Gwinn | THE TIMES

I was one of those nerds who couldn't wait to get my hands on the first Apple iPad. I had been using my iPhone to draw, using an app called Brushes.

One of my art heroes, David Hockney, had been doing daily drawings using Brushes on his iPhone and sending them to friends. I was intrigued by his images, however, the phone was just too small for me. I embraced the iPad's larger format immediately.

I took it traveling and found I could have full color to work with. Because the app allows for layers and transparency, it works much like Photoshop, a program I was already familiar with.

I like how much it is similar to painting, allowing me to create complex colors through layering.

Soon, it became the only art supply I bring with me on trips. I can spend hours in a museum drawing from the masters or catching a quick gesture drawing at the museum cafe.

Many styluses are available, including the Apple Pencil, which recharges while it is attached magnetically to the iPad.

I encourage anyone who loves to draw to pick up an iPad and a stylus and start playing with the various drawing apps available. I use the Brushes and Procreate apps and found them fairly easy to learn (with a little patience). There are plenty of videos to show you how to get the most from these programs. In the end, there are endless ways to make art, and this is one worth trying.

Stream these

Truth Seekers, *The Aliens*, and a little *Jingle Jangle* for good measure

By Brianna Wray | THE TIMES

For longtime fans of Simon Pegg and Nick Frost, the Amazon original *Truth Seekers* (2020) is a welcome reunion with a whole new story. There's more than meets the eye with cable installer Gus Roberts (Frost); he's also a part-time paranormal investigator with a YouTube channel. Odd encounters grow more frequent until Roberts and his apprehensive partner, Elton John, begin to uncover a conspiracy that could bring about Armageddon for the entire human race. In the meantime, network signal strength is a priority. It's designated a horror-comedy series; however, it's more spooky than truly scary (very little violence, gore).



The Aliens (2016) is just what to put on when you're in the mood for a high-octane adventure. No shortage of violence there. It blends science fiction, drama, and

comedy effortlessly into a whole new genre: *Scifamedy*. There's a wonderfully dry wit to the dialogue. The story takes place in an imagined Britain where aliens have lived amongst humans for 40+ years. Though they appear similar to humans, the extraterrestrials are segregated by a wall which forms the slum city of Troy. Guarding the wall is Lewis, who takes his job quite seriously until his own alien heritage threatens everything. With setups, shoot outs, and alien drugs, this series has it all.



Is it too soon to discuss holiday movies? Once upon a time, I worked in a fast fashion retail store in downtown Seattle. Beginning November 1st, they would blast not just any Christmas music, but hyper electronic dance remixes of Mariah Carey's Christmas.

From this experience, I gained the ability to tune out the retail industry's earlier and earlier beckonings of the holiday shopping season. I smell no cinnamon brooms, I hear no sleigh bells, I play no reindeer games. I don't get the slightest inkling until Thanksgiving Day. That's when my family traditionally puts up the decorations, probably to keep us, kids, out of the kitchen. Moms are genius planners that way.

So, if you, like me, are finally ready to turn your attention to all the advent calendars, candy canes,



and cheer staring us down in grocery aisles for weeks, might I suggest navigating to Netflix's *Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey*. It is a musical. Okay, I admit, my interest in musicals began with *Grease*, peaked at *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and fizzled out at *Chicago*. Sure, I was there for *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* and *Hamilton: an American Musical*, but I was only going through the motions on these subjects of lucrative cannibalism and founding fathers, respectively. A holiday musical makes sense because we are two notes from singing carols anyway.

Jeronicus Jangle, an inventor and toymaker, once betrayed by his apprentice, finds new hope when confronted by his granddaughter, Journey.

Jingle Jangle also works because of the painstaking attention to detail in talent, set design, and especially in the costumery. The combination of animated, stop-motion style storybook sequences and live-action invents and then reinvents each character. Characters are portrayed by an all-star lineup of celebrities, including Phylicia Rashad, Forest Whitaker, Keegan-Michael Key, and Ricky Martin. The songs are meaningful, and the movie could warm any heart, even the scrooggiest scrooge.

Dayton Chamber makes Letters to Santa drop box available

THE TIMES

DAYTON—Santa's elves have been busy in Dayton! Though Santa will be more elusive than ever this year, he still needs letters to know what kiddos would like for Christmas.

A drop box for letters to Santa, has been set up in front of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, 166 Main. Letters may be dropped off during business hours: Monday- Friday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Be sure to include a return address for a response from the jolly old elf himself.



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

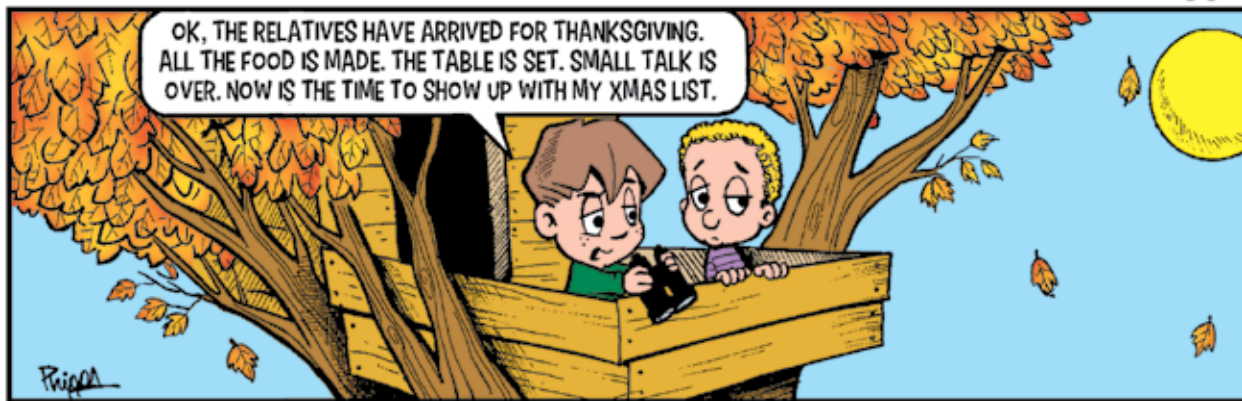


GRIN and BEAR IT



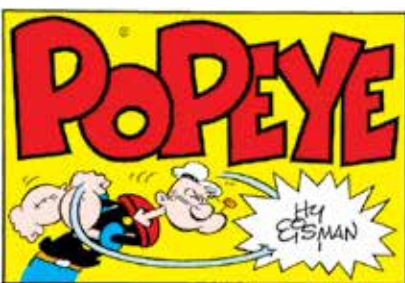
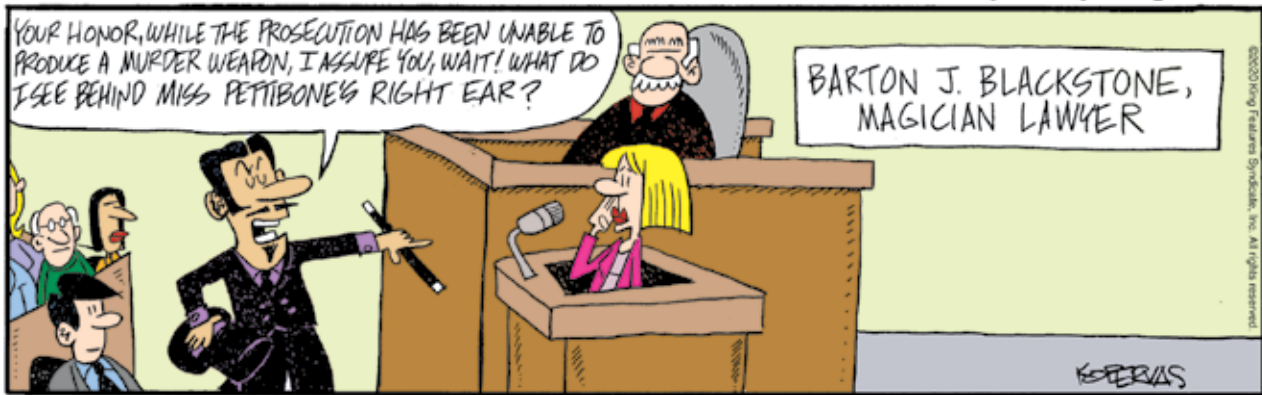
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



PIONEER PORTRAITS

Ten Years Ago

November 25, 2010

This week's early snow indicates the beginning of a cold season that could be a great year for Ski Bluewood, but disastrous for a Touchet Valley vulnerable to flooding from the Touchet and Coppei rivers.

Daniel Huwe has just about exhausted his options. The 31-year-old man was found guilty of second-degree murder and first-degree assault by jury trial in Dayton in 2007. He was sentenced to 468 months, or 39 years, in prison and has repeatedly appealed.

About 425 people attended the year's Turkey Bingo at the Dayton Elementary School on Saturday. This event, organized since 1986 by the Kiwanis Club of Dayton, raised close to \$3,500 to support the Dayton community. Ted Paterson, who chairs the Bingo committee, said the local Kiwanis Club raises \$12,000-\$14,000 through various events and projects throughout the year.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

November 30, 1995

First came computers, then online services, and now the Internet. Today's computer technology makes it possible for anyone to reach any place in the world. All you need is a computer and a modem and a telephone and you can send or receive information directly from almost any business, university or company in the world, 24 hours a day.

Waitsburg has won approval of a \$20,632 state grant to help pay for the Coppei Avenue sidewalk project.

Terry Jacoy, chairman of the school board in Waitsburg, has been elected to a two-year term on the resolutions committee of the Washington State School Directors' Association.

More than 200 people attended the 80th birthday celebration honoring the Brunson twins, Earle and Earnest, at Ye Towne Hall on Nov. 25. The twins grew up in Waitsburg, attending Coppei grade school and graduating from Waitsburg High School. Upon graduating, they moved from the area and raised families, each with four children, near La Grande, Ore.

Fifty Years Ago

December 10, 1970

Mike McCormack, congressman-elect from the fourth district, told the Dayton Chamber of Commerce and guests Monday that his hopes for a seat on the House Agriculture Committee will not materialize. Committee assignments are made by party leaders, and with Tom Foley, a Democrat, on the committee, McCormack will have to serve in another area.

The Blue Birds are going Christmas caroling with Campfire girls, on December 24th.

Frank Teal has been admitted to Walla Walla General Hospital this week. Richard Crawford has been released.

A note from Darrell Mocks, former Waitsburgites now making their home in El Cajon, Calif., informs us that they are enjoying themselves in the beautiful 70 degree temperature.

Human beings are different and no rule can be applied to them en masse.

Seventy-Five Years Ago

December 14, 1945

Because of the large percentage of flu cases among grade school children on Monday, the Central School was closed.

Mrs. Gail Talbott and Mrs. Jack Clodius entertained at a stork shower for Mrs. Jack Penner Thursday at the home of Mrs. Talbott.

The Pacific Power and Light Co. Lineman decorated the annual Christmas tree in Huntsville. This is the first year since the beginning of World War II that the hours of lighting the tree have been unrestricted.

One Hundred Years Ago

December 17, 1920

Mrs. Caroline Horner of Eureka, Montana is visiting her mother, Mrs. Carolyn Wright and sister, Mrs. G. G. Bickelhaupt and family. Mr. Horner is expected to join her here within a few days.

Mrs. Lois Lloyd entertained Friday with a twelve o'clock dinner in honor of her 79th birthday. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lloyd and family, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Lloyd and daughter Betty, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Aldrich, Mrs. Chas. Mellinger of Tacoma and Mrs. Gladden.

Miss Hazel McCown of Walla Walla has been visiting Waitsburg friends for the past few days.

One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago

December 20, 1895

The Ladies Aid Society of the M. E. Church will give a box supper at Armory Hall on Thursday evening Dec. 26, you buy a box for 25 cents; each box contains a lady and lunch for two.

Last Saturday night three masked men visited a store at Virtue mine near Baker City, Oregon and relieved the safe of its contents—\$4.00. Might as well rob the safe in *The Times'* office.

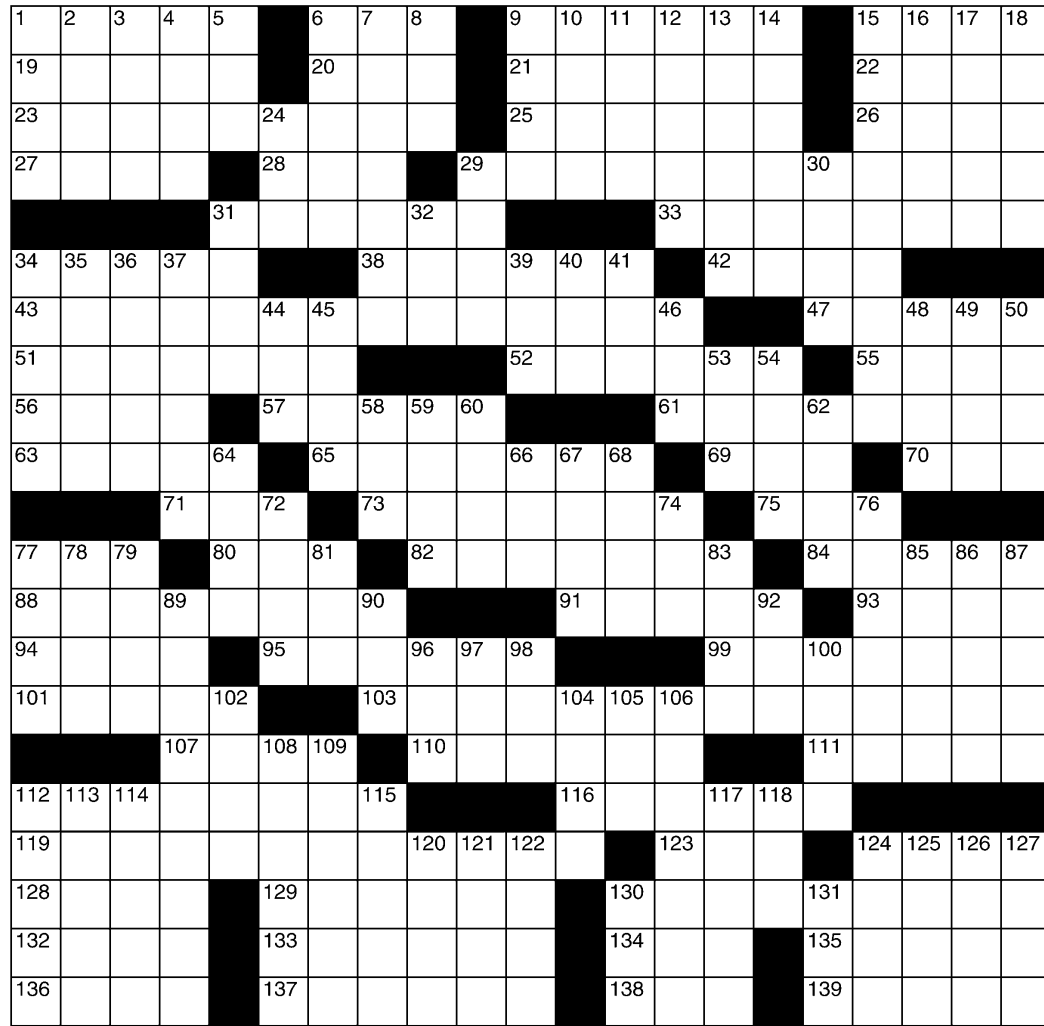
M.H. Keiser has purchased the Johns Samson property in the northwest part of the city, which will henceforth be a winter residence for himself and family. They have already taken possession of it.

FUN & GAMES

Super Crossword

DIRECTLY ON TOP

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Everwood" actor Wolf
 6 Pigs' home
 9 Dutch brew
 15 — of Mexico
 19 * Ship's load
 20 Lead-in to historic
 21 Durango dish
 22 Baseball's Hershey's
 23 * Subject to interpretation
 25 * Old Greek squares
 26 "Stretch" car
 27 Steak, e.g.
 28 Prefix with lethal
 29 * Second U.S. first lady
 31 At a distance
 33 Tattles
 34 * Chum
 38 Give slack to
 42 Son of Eliel Saarinen
 43 * Dr. Evil's cat in Austin Powers films
 47 1801-05 veep Burr
 51 Beatles song on "Let It Be"
 52 Observe
 55 Song for one
 56 Linguist Chomsky
 57 Political plot
 61 Knight's glove
- 63 "Serpico" actor M. — Walsh
 65 * Jumping up and down on a bouncy stick
 69 Comb buzzer
 70 Native suffix
 71 See 8-Down
 73 * Pairs of consecutive letters
 75 Spying setup
 77 Likely (to)
 80 Meadow
 82 Birds building homes
 84 Poster pins
 88 Buzzing home pest
 91 Large 1940s computer
 93 "Huh?"
 94 Female kin
 95 Artist's base
 99 * Suffer a lot
 101 Dog variety
 103 * She directed "The Hurt Locker"
 107 — Sea (salt lake in Asia)
 110 Coy
 111 Revisions
 112 * Too much self-esteem
 116 Beloved of Tristan
 119 * Bay off Nigeria and Togo's coast
- 123 — de plume
 124 Brit's "Bye!"
 128 Ye — Shoppe
 129 Rendezvous
 130 Really succeed (or what literally appears six times in this puzzle)
 132 Old Greek concert halls
 133 Shahs, e.g.
 134 Shoot (for)
 135 Sermon text
 136 Philosopher Immanuel
 137 Grand home
 138 Hosp. staff
 139 Sea vessels
- DOWN**
- 1 Union enemy
 2 Arrived
 3 "Eat — eaten" (survival adage)
 4 9-to-5er's cry of relief
 5 Dress (up)
 6 Flatware item
 7 Move as if on wheels
 8 With
 71-Across, boot camp affirmative
 9 Run up — (defer payment)
 10 Wise men
 11 Air pollution
 12 Reid and Lipinski
 13 "Seinfeld" gal
 14 Nielsen of "Mr. Magoo"
 15 Ghana's former name
 16 Dickens' — Heep
 17 "— tell ya!"
 18 Dental string
 24 It uses 108 cards
 29 In — (single-file)
 30 Gillette razor brand
 31 Toon bear
 32 Canon camera
 34 Compound with nitrogen
 35 '83 Keaton-Garr film
 36 Letter-shaped girder
 37 Easy putts, informally
 39 Weep loudly
 40 Sooner than, in poetry
 41 Ultimate degree
 44 Health supplement store, familiarly
 45 Jump
 46 Pig
 48 Part to play
 49 Bullring cries
 50 Observe
 53 R&D center
 54 Song for two
 58 Singer Dylan
 59 Opposed to, in dialect
 60 Theater box
 62 Orderly
 64 Floor piece
 66 Tax org.
 67 Election analyst Silver
 68 FBI guys
 72 Umpps' kin
 74 — Lanka
 76 Oklahoma tribe
 77 "Moby-Dick" captain
 78 Flow out
 79 Fix a flat?
 81 Height: Abbr.
 83 Former Swedish car
 85 Toddler, e.g.
 86 Buzzing musical toy
 87 Is in a huff
 89 Source of warmth on some trains and ships
 90 Belly laugh
 92 Special FX technology
 96 Poppa
 97 Native suffix
 98 Unit of resistance
 100 Mean beast
 102 "Doggone!"
 104 Totally spoil
 105 Century divs.
 106 Dark modern film genre
 108 Breakdown of social norms
 109 Long-term inmates
 112 Download on a Kindle
 113 Radner of comedy
 114 Nash of comedy
 115 "My heart skipped —"
 117 Weaving frames
 118 Driver's lic. issuer
 120 Sicilian volcano
 121 Night, in Nice
 122 — dixit (assertion with no proof)
 124 Song for three
 125 "Waterloo" quartet
 126 Lean
 127 Gets mature
 130 Rove (about)
 131 Flow out



TEENY MCMUNN: MY RECIPE BOX

Turkey Imperial

If this sounds familiar, it is. I used this recipe last year (and year before) about this time. It's worth repeating.

I used to make this after Thanksgiving when I had a family and trying to stretch all the leftovers I could. It's very good and would be handy if there is still "leftover" company.

Review received on Sausage Stuffed Acorn Squash-Zenoby sent a message saying she made the recipe but used what she had handy, changing the bread crumbs to rice, no celery and Parmesan, but added yellow raisins and sharp cheddar cheese. She said it was delicious.

Review received on Cranberry Orange Sauced Sweet Potatoes from last week: Wes gave me a high five and it said it was delicious and loved by both adults and kids. He used yams and Katie, his wife, said she doubled the sauce. Both great advice. I also made it. The sauce is super easy and can be used with a pork roast, or any meat—in my opinion.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pkg 8 oz thin spaghetti
- 4 TBSP flour (1/4c)
- 1/2 c. butter
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 4 c. cooked turkey (or chicken)
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 can, 5 oz slivered toasted almonds
- 1/8 tsp allspice
- 1 can 14 oz chicken broth
- 1 c. celery
- 1 c. chopped onion
- 2 c. milk
- 1 can mushrooms with liquid

DIRECTIONS:

Cook spaghetti, drain, and toss with 2 Tbsp butter until well coated, add turkey and almonds.

Sauté celery, onions in remaining butter until softened. Blend in flour, salt, pepper, and allspice. Slowly stir in chicken broth, milk, mushrooms, and liquid. Cook until thickened, pour over spaghetti. Pour into baking dish.

Mix: 1 c. grated cheddar cheese, 1/4 c. parmesan cheese and sprinkle on top. Cover, chill.

Bake at 350° for 1 hour.

MY NOTES: In the body of the original recipe it mentions pimentos so I guess it would add color if you like them. I remember adding water chestnuts for crunch. This recipe is fairly old. I don't know if one can get canned slivered almonds. If a recipe calls for toasted almonds, I usually take the time to do that because it does give them more flavor. I remember the allspice gives it a nice flavor and when I do it again, I think I will add a bit more.

ENJOY! ☺

What's the best thing to wear for Thanksgiving?

Your Har-VEST





Scotch heather

In the coldest winter months, the foliage of *calluna vulgaris* (known as scotch heather) changes its appearance from its paler summer colors of orange, gold, silver and green to more vivid shades of red, orange, purple or golden yellow. These brilliant colors look wonderful against the snow! This perennial ground cover plant grows well in cool, moist climates; it will not do well if the air and soil is very dry.

Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.gardenia.net, www.sunset.com

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Super Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

B	A	S	I	C	T	R	E	A	C	L	E	S	A	L	C	A	P	P		
A	C	E	L	A	S	E	A	T	R	A	D	E	L	E	A	N	E	R		
E	M	P	I	R	E	O	F	T	H	E	S	U	N	B	A	R	N	E	Y	
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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	8			2			1	9
2					3		7	
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	1				6		4	
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	6	5		3				9

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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Waitsburg School Board November update

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The Waitsburg School Board met Wednesday, November 18, for a regular board meeting. The board met via Zoom conference call.

During the meeting, secondary principal Stephanie Wooderchak reported that the secondary staff has been having conversations about moving back to online learning should the circumstance arise. She said if the school goes back to online learning, teachers would likely go with smaller ‘pod’ classes instead of having the entire class online at once. The pods were popular with students and staff.

Secondary students are being offered a “Destress Recreation,” taught by Ms. Pradere. The students are learning survival skills, like fishing and fire-making. Many of the projects can be found on the school district’s Facebook page.

Wednesday afternoon targeted assistance has been well-received by students. Wooderchak reported that they had accommodated all students who have asked for extra help with their coursework.

A new round of voting has begun for the Dayton-Waitsburg Athletic Combine mascot after students expressed that the February 15 election felt rushed and unfair.

Board members expressed concern about the small pod classes discussed during the secondary principal’s report. The board members expressed concern that teachers might not be able to finish the required curriculum with time constraints. They questioned how that would affect students’ future education.

“I think we are going to continue seeing the ram-

ifications of COVID-19 for years, starting with the kindergartners on up,” board member Christy House said. Wooderchak noted that these concerns are looming over Waitsburg School District and districts across the nation.

During the Elementary Principal’s report, Principal Mark Pickel shared that parent/teacher conferences were going well.

The district is getting ready to send out the December newsletter, and it will have all of the details for the winter spirit week. This year, there will be no holiday program, but each grade will share a performance with their families through ClassTag. These performances will not be shared on social media.

This month the staff participated in a virtual professional development class through Curriculum Associates, focusing on reading data to better understand where students are in their education.

Chromebooks that the school ordered earlier this year are finally stateside and headed to NexGen to have programs loaded on to them before distributing them to students. Pickel said he is very excited to get borrowed laptops back to neighboring districts.

Pickel reported that Marci Jo Lanning, the preschool teacher, will be leaving following Christmas Break to finish her teaching degree. A job listing for the vacant lead preschool teacher position has been posted, and Pickel hopes to interview and hire someone following the Thanksgiving Break.

Switching to the Superintendent’s report, Superintendent Pickel said that he had emailed a shortened version of Governor Inslee’s recent mandate, focusing on the K-12 exemption. He said that kids have been great about masking up and following distancing

guidelines.

Superintendent Pickel said that Educational Service District (ESD) 123 Loss Control visited in October for a safety visit. He said they allotted an hour and a half, anticipating getting through the high school facility and bus barn. They ended up spending an hour and a half going through the science lab at the high school and a bus. Improper signage was the biggest thing that was found, along with labeling cleaning solutions and spray bottles. The district is working with ESD 123 to correct all issues. The rest of the safety visit will be finished at a future date when coronavirus restrictions allow.

Special thanks were given to the Waitsburg School District custodial staff, with Pickel saying they are doing a wonderful job and ‘working their tails off.’

“They have been going as far as wiping all of the walls down,” Pickel said, reading from a long list of tasks the custodial staff performs daily. “They’ve been doing a really good job making sure that they are attending to our staff needs and our student needs.”

Following the holiday break, Waitsburg teachers and staff will be spending time switching over to a new student management system, Cumulative. Pickel said that there are many similarities to the current program, Skyward, but that Cumulative is more user-friendly.

The school board went over the first and second readings of school policies. Before adopting the agenda, Superintendent Pickel requested to add a first reading of social media-related policies.

The board entered into an executive session before adjourning the meeting.

Local COVID-19 cases still on the rise

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—Walla Walla County continues to experience rising COVID-19 cases. As of Tuesday, November 24, there were 571 active cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Sixty-seven new cases were announced on Tuesday, and new deaths were announced over the weekend, bringing the death total to 18. Fourteen COVID-19 cases are currently hospitalized.

The Washington State Penitentiary has 117 active cases from a recent breakout. One man, in his sixties, passed away after being transported to a medical facility for treatment. This is the third death reported by the Washington State Department of Corrections. Two deaths occurred earlier this year at the Coyote Ridge Correctional Facility in Connell, WA.

In Walla Walla County, the 20-39-year age range has the highest number of cases, with more than 800 individuals contracting the disease. 40-59 years have the second-highest infection count, with 616 infected individuals.

Due to an increased volume of COVID-19 lab testing results, there is a state-wide delay in data reporting, and the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health will update data categories as they get new information.

If you feel ill and believe you need a COVID-19 test, there are many testing sites throughout Walla Walla.

- Urgent Care COVID-19 Drive-Thru testing: Daily 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (509) 897-3000. No appointment is necessary. 1025 S. Second Ave, Walla Walla. Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Urgent Care Drive-Thru is currently testing: symptomatic patients, pre-procedure, pre-air travel, and asymptomatic exposure (an individual who has had unmasked contact with a COVID-19 positive person within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes. Please note: 5-7 days from exposure must have passed before asymptomatic testing will be allowed.)

- Providence Urgent Care: COVID-19 Testing available daily from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. with provider visit. No appointment is necessary. (509) 897-3000. 1025 S. Second Ave, Walla Walla. Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

- Family Medical Center: Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Please call in advance to schedule an appointment: (509)524-5340. 1120 West Rose Street, Walla Walla. Closed Thanksgiving. Open Friday 11/27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center: Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Walla Walla Clinic: Testing is available by scheduled appointment. Please call in advance: (509) 525-3720. Non-established patients will be directed to register via phone before arrival. Testing Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cold and Flu Clinic at 320 Willow Street, Walla Walla. Closed on Thanksgiving. Open Friday, 11/27.

- Rite-Aid: Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Must pre-schedule appointment online at riteaid.com.

- Providence St. Mary Medical Center ER: Daily, 24-hour emergency care. Please only go to the ER if you are having a medical emergency, such as difficulty breathing. 401 W. Poplar St., Walla Walla, (509) 676-3743

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health: as needed for outbreak/facility testing

As the holiday season approaches, both local and state government officials urge residents to stay home for Thanksgiving, reminding everyone that this change is only temporary.



ROAD MAP



TO COVID TESTING

Make your safety a priority

- 

1

ARE YOU SICK?

YES- I HAVE ONE OR MORE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19. FEVER, COUGH, HEADACHE, ETC... SEE STEP #2.

NO- I NEED A TEST FOR ANOTHER REASON. FAMILY, WORK, TRACING, ETC... SEE STEP #3
- 

2

I AM SICK- WHAT TO DO

IF YOU ARE SICK CALL YOUR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER, OR CALL DAYTON GENERAL HOSPITAL AT 509-382-3218.

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR TESTING APPOINTMENT AT DAYTON GENERAL HOSPITAL.
- 

3

NOT SICK- WHAT TO DO

IF YOU ARE NOT SICK BUT REQUIRE A COVID-19 TEST - CALL PUBLIC HEALTH AT 509-382-2181.

PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FOR SETTING UP YOUR TESTING APPOINTMENT.
- 

4

EXPOSURE - WHAT TO DO

BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19, BUT DO NOT FEEL SICK? PLEASE SELF-ISOLATE IMMEDIATELY AND CONTACT PUBLIC HEALTH FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
- 

5

RESULTS

EVERYONE WILL RECIEVE A CALL WITH THEIR TEST RESULTS ASAP. HOWEVER, YOU MUST SELF-ISOLATE UNTIL YOUR TEST RESULTS ARE KNOWN. THIS IS TO INSURE YOU'RE NOT EXPOSED AFTER TESTING AND/OR EXPOSE ANOTHER TO COVID-19
- 

6

IF POSITIVE

YOU MUST SELF-ISOLATE FOR 14 DAYS AFTER SYMPTOM ONSET AND 24+ HOURS AFTER ANY FEVER IS GONE. IN ADDITION TO THE ABSENCE OF ALL OTHER SYMPTOMS (WITHOUT THE USE OF FEVER REDUCING MEDICATIONS).

COLUMBIA COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEM