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The Times

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SERVING WAITSBURG, DAYTON AND THE TOUCHET VALLEY

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ONE DOLLAR



Beka Compton

Waitsburg School District honored the Waitsburg High School Class of 2020 with a 'Be The Light' display at the school football field on Friday, April 10 at 8:20 p.m. for 20 minutes. The scoreboard display read 20:20 and students parked alongside the field while community members stopped their cars and honked in support.

Walla Walla County COVID-19 cases have doubled in the past week

Yakima, Franklin and Benton counties see higher numbers of confirmed positive test results

By Tracy Thompson | THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—Walla Walla County health officials confirmed on April 12 that the local case count for COVID-19 has more than doubled in the past week. Twelve additional residents have tested positive for COVID-19 since Friday, April 3rd. This brings Walla Walla Counties case count to 21.

Columbia County, as of April 12, still has one positive test-case for the coronavirus.

Six of the Walla Walla County cases are from the Burbank/Wallula area and are related to a workplace exposure (Tyson Fresh Meats, page 12).

Five of Walla Walla County cases are from College Place. These cases are related to out of county and household exposures. Two of these cases are recovered and the remaining are under home isolation All close contacts have been notified and are isolating appropriately.

The remaining ten cases reside in the City of Walla Walla. Three are linked to the workplace exposure in Burbank/Wallula and the other five are related to out of county and household exposures. One resident was admitted to the hospital and the rest remain under home isolation. All close contacts have been notified and are isolating appropriately. Eleven cases are male, nine are female. One case is under 20, seven are 20-39, seven are 40-59, five are 60-79 and none are over 80.

Upon being tested for COVID-19 patients are sent home to isolate until their test results come back unless they work for an essential business; then they can return to work if needed, and wear a mask. If test results come back negative, the patient is released from isolation and can return to work if necessary or 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy.'

However, if a case tests positive, they continue isolation for seven days from when their symptoms first appeared AND until they are without respiratory symptoms and are fever free for three days (72-hours). In addition, all close contacts of a case are notified and instructed to quarantine at home, or if they have symptoms, they are instructed to seek appropriate medication care and be tested.

COVID-19 - PAGE 3

Multi-county outbreak tied to Tyson Fresh Meats in Wallula, WA

30 cases total in Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties

See story on page 12.

Columbia County Commissioners rescind agreement with Rural Library District board of trustees

Heather Sterns and Joe Huether appointed to library board of trustees

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—The Columbia County Board of Commissioners (CCBC) has rescinded a nine-year-old agreement with the Columbia County Rural Library District Board of Trustees, regarding how appointments to the CCRLD board of trustees are made.

In the past, interviews have been conducted by the CCRLD board of trustees, and their recommendations have been brought before the CCBC for tacit approval.

Commissioner Ryan Rundell said he didn't believe the agreement was adequate in the first place.

He said it removed the commissioners of their obligation to provide checks and balances to the library board, by way of independently approving recommended applications, or by rejecting the library board's recommendation, and going in a different direction.

"It is the responsibility of the CCBC to appoint board members to various boards, and the agreement removed that responsibility," Rundell said. "Furthermore, as the library board is an unelected board, the agreement removed the ability of the voters to be represented in the choices of the library board members."

The CCBC strayed from their meeting agenda on April 6, to talk about the agreement with Garfield County Prosecuting Attorney Matt Newberg in an executive session.

Commissioner Chuck Amerein said Mr. Newberg advised them that the CCBC is responsible for appointing people to the board, rather than simply approving whomever the library board of trustees recommends.

By unanimous vote the commissioners agreed to rescind the agreement with the CCRLD Board of Trustees and negotiate a new agreement at a later date.

They also appointed former library employee Heather Stearns to a five-year term on the board, leaving open an additional position, for which the CCRLD trustees had recommended Joe Huether.

Commissioner Rundell read a letter, dated April 2, in which he talked about the "publicity and strife" created in the community because a group of citizens felt they had been locked out of the conversation, regarding library policies and practices.

He said for the CCBC to do nothing would endorse a long-standing rift in the community. He also said a dissenting voice on the library board would provide checks and balances.

"Nobody is required to be friends, but it is time to set aside personal slights, and be decent to one another, to work together to make the library acceptable, accountable, and transparent," he said. "One vote does not upend the vote of the board. It does give voice to those who claim to be voiceless."

Commissioner Rundell went on to say he thought Stearns would be a good candidate for the position since she doesn't necessarily echo the views of the other

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TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

PROVIDENCE OFFERING TELEHEALTH VISITS WITH PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS AND SPECIALISTS

WALLA WALLA—Providence Medical Group patients now can have their medical appointments with many providers via a smartphone, tablet or computer for the same price as a standard office visit co-pay. These appointments include primary care and some specialists.

Providence is offering the telehealth visits as an option to allow patients to remain safely in the comfort of their homes and still see their providers. When patients call for appointments, if their provider is participating, they will be given the choice of an in-person visit, telehealth visit or phone visit.

Once the telehealth appointment is confirmed, the patient receives a MyChart (the patient portal) message with instructions on how to join the video call. The patient is able to test the connection before the visit to ensure everything is working properly.

On the day of the appointment, the patient will receive a link shortly before the scheduled time and click on it to begin the visit. Just like during a traditional appointment, the provider will discuss the patient's health concerns, work on a care plan, and if needed order tests or provide a prescription order.

Providence has a dedicated, secure portal for patient visits. Enhanced security measures include encryption, meeting identification and visit "verification" to ensure the telehealth visit is private and secure. Providers are assigned unique passwords and waiting rooms. This ensures that only the provider and the patient are admitted to the visit.

To schedule an appointment, please contact your provider.

Providence St. Mary Medical Center, a 142-bed regional hospital located in Walla Walla, Wash., is among the largest employers in Walla Walla County. The Providence Medical Group is the largest group of primary care providers and specialists in the Walla Walla area.

DAYTON FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION HAS MOVED TO COLUMBIA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Columbia County Food Bank's distribution center moved from downtown Dayton to the Columbia County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, April 14. Distributions will be available every Tuesday from 2 - 4 p.m. with a drive by pick-up option.

Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) Food Bank Director Jeff Mathias said that the distribution at this site will continue at least through the end of April. Members of the Army National Guard were on hand on Tuesday, April 14, helping to direct traffic and to pass out food supplies. Columbia County Health employees provided free cookbooks as well.



Beka Compton

Public health educator Leslie Sweetwood hands out copies of *Good and Cheap*, a cookbook with affordable recipes, at the Mobile Food Bank. Lines of cars waited at the Columbia County Fairgrounds on Tuesday as members of the National Guard, Columbia County Public Health employees, and a handful of volunteers passed out food.

BACKYARD MARATHON CHALLENGE ISSUED BY MILLSTONE CAFE & BAKERY

Deb Callahan is excited about the opening of her new restaurant in downtown Waitsburg, the Millstone Cafe & Bakery, located at 206 Main Street. She is inviting all children in Waitsburg to... "get busy and make some money for our Resource Center," by running a 'backyard marathon.'

"Call all your family and friends to get sponsors for each lap you walk around your own yard. Example: grandma sponsors you for 10 cents per lap, you walk 20 laps, grandma will give you a \$2.00 donation. Between Wednesday April 15 and Tuesday April 22 walk laps around your back yard, and keep track of the number of laps you walk. Contact your sponsors to let them know how many laps you walk so they know how much they donated. Bring donations to Millstone Cafe & Bakery on Wednesday April, 23rd and receive a free ice cream." The challenge is on, children of Waitsburg!

AMERICAN LEGION POST #42 OF DAYTON CANCELS SPRING BINGO

DAYTON—American Legion and Auxiliary Post #42 of Dayton has canceled their annual Spring Bingo event which was to be held on April 23. Commander Amerien states that "when it can safely be determined that the threat of infection has been mitigated sufficiently, we will happily reconvene and host our event."

Amerien asks that those who have already responded with donations and pledges, to "let us know how you would like us to proceed with your gift, as we do intend to hold the Bingo at a later date."

CENTRAL WASHINGTON RESOURCES TO SUPPORT HIGH PRIORITY LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS IN COVID-19 FIGHT

CAMP MURRAY, WA—After consulting with local authorities, Gov. Jay Inslee and Vice Admiral (ret.) Raquel Bono, M.D, announced on April 11 a decision to utilize Central Washington medical resources to ensure our most vulnerable are protected.

The state has requested about 100 U.S. Health and Human Services (HSS) personnel and other resources recently deployed to the former Astria Regional Medical Center in Yakima now focus on long-term care facilities where COVID-19 is occurring in other parts of the state.

The number of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases more than doubled in the first eight days of April, according to the Washington Department of Social and Health Services.

The recently closed Astria facility, was identified as suitable for 250 low-acuity patients to relieve local hospitals, will be retained and can be quickly reopened in the event of a surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations. The hospital will take patients who don't have COVID-19 as part of the state's overall response, said Karina Shagren, a spokeswoman for the Washington Military Department, which has been involved with the planning and building of care facilities.

Inslee said the decision was a positive move in the fight against the coronavirus. "Thanks to the cooperation of communities and businesses across Washington, 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' is slowing the spread of the virus," he said. "But we can't let up now, and we need to continue to explore a range of options and assess the best use of our alternative care facilities to ensure they are always available where the need is greatest."

"When we first began aggressive hospital surge planning, we were concerned that Eastern Washington lacked the same capacity as Western Washington," said Bono, director, Washington State COVID-19 Health System Response Management. "However, Yakima and the surrounding area have done such a good job, building their capacity and creating their own relief system at the local 'Freedom Field,' that the state can now take more of a support role."

Touchet Valley Weather

April 15, 2020

Waitsburg's Seven Day Forecast

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Isolated Rain	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
High: 58 Low: 35	High: 64 Low: 40	High: 71 Low: 47	High: 70 Low: 48	High: 68 Low: 50	High: 69 Low: 47	High: 64 Low: 42

Weather Trivia

What do meteorologists consider to be a trace of precipitation?
ANSWER: A trace of precipitation is less than .01 inches.

Weather History

April 15, 1921 - Two-mile high Silver Lake, Colo. received 76 inches of snow in 24 hours, the heaviest 24-hour total of record for North America. The storm left a total of 87 inches in 27 and a half hours.

Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation
Tuesday	64	45	61/41	0.00"	0.00"
Wednesday	66	35	61/41	0.00"	0.42"
Thursday	70	39	61/41	0.00"	-0.42"
Friday	72	44	61/41	0.00"	49.9°
Saturday	60	33R	62/41	0.00"	51.3°
Sunday	55	27R	62/41	0.00"	-1.4°
Monday	56	32	62/42	0.00"	

Data as reported from Walla Walla

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Wednesday	6:05 a.m.	7:41 p.m.	3:15 a.m.	12:14 p.m.
Thursday	6:03 a.m.	7:42 p.m.	3:52 a.m.	1:18 p.m.
Friday	6:02 a.m.	7:43 p.m.	4:22 a.m.	2:22 p.m.
Saturday	6:00 a.m.	7:45 p.m.	4:47 a.m.	3:25 p.m.
Sunday	5:58 a.m.	7:46 p.m.	5:09 a.m.	4:27 p.m.
Monday	5:56 a.m.	7:47 p.m.	5:30 a.m.	5:29 p.m.
Tuesday	5:55 a.m.	7:49 p.m.	5:49 a.m.	6:30 p.m.

New 4/22, First 4/30, Full 5/7, Last 5/14

The Times

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The Times

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

BIRTHDAYS

April 16: Carol Anne Fortner, Lynne Jones Simpson, Dora Loveall, Sandy McCaw, Taryn Chromy, Christina Page, Naomi Kulp, Kelsey Alleman, Butch Peck and Kate Hockersmith.

April 17: Daniel Baker, Melissa Huwe, Martin Huffman, Joseph Wood, and Drew Herion.

April 18: Doris Saunders, Wayne Boyles, Margaret Baird, Tylor Abel, Dick Peterson, Jeff Presler, Emily Jansen, Russ Knopp and Josh Hunter.

April 19: Stephanie Hinchliffe, Ross Hamann, Bruce Abbey, Frank Brown, Jon Cano and Sabrina, Leslie Lambert, and Chandler Savage.

April 20: Chris Shaffer, Verla Bushnell, Doris Huffman, Scott Unholz, Mark Leroue, Elisha James, and Elizabeth Henderson, Kyle Martin.

April 21: Tracy Keve, Brooklyn Butler, Rebecca Dunn, Joyce Zingle, and Dean and Deanna Keiser.

TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

COVID-19 - FROM PAGE 1

The health department notes that “To date, all cases and contacts have been compliant with the isolation and quarantine orders. However, if someone is not, our local Health Officer has the authority to issue a court order for isolation and law enforcement may be involved. Thus, we encourage all cases and contacts to please continue to stay home and help keep our community safe.”

There is good news on the supply level of necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Emergency Management Director Liz Jessee noted that “PPE supply levels are improving. We received two pallets of PPE on Friday, April 10, and another this morning, April 11. These supplies are coming from the Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (WA State Department of Health and WA State Division of Emergency Management). We’ll be working to distribute supplies this afternoon and tomorrow morning to the healthcare community and EMS responders.”

Regionally, the numbers of confirmed cases are quite a bit higher. As of April 12, there were 261 confirmed cases in Benton County (Richland, Kennewick, Prosser and Benton City), with 29 deaths recorded as a result of COVID-19.

The neighboring counties of Franklin (Pasco, Connell, Kahlotus) have a COVID-19 case report of 129 as of April 12, with two reported deaths; while Yakima County recorded 573 cases with 23 deaths.

The Washington State Department of Health announced the first case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States in Washington State on January 21, 2020.

As of 11:59 p.m. on April 12, there are 10,538 cases of COVID-19 in Washington state. Total deaths in Washington state stand at 516, total tests as of April 11 was 87,856. The percent positive rate from that date is 8.5 percent.

Blue Mountain Counseling Center offers tips

Little things can make a big difference to emotional health

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—The staff at Blue Mountain Counseling of Columbia County have been discussing ways to maintain good emotional health during this time of required social distancing, because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Clinic Director Chrisann Christensen said she has some ideas to share. First of all, check in with friends and family routinely through phone calls, FaceTime, through text messages or by snail mail.

Limit media coverage. “Information can be good, but there is so much information being pushed out, right now,” she said.

“If you need information, look to reputable sources to get it,” she said. “Also be very cognizant of how much time your children are on social media. Check in with them. Look at their devices to see where they have been online.”

Social media does have some great sites for self-care. Christensen said she has the smartphone app Virtual Hope Box (VHP) with tools in four different areas; distract, inspire, relax and coping.”

There are also sites with coloring apps, word searches, and Pinterest for ideas and inspiration, she said.

Be mindful of your health. “Make sure to stay hydrated,” she said. “Eat as healthy as you can. With Dayton Mercantile offering to bag your groceries, and Columbia County Transportation offering to drop them off, access to food should be somewhat easier, if you are worried about shopping in person.”

Try to keep to some type of routine. “It can be easy to lose hours and days right now,” Christensen said. “Make sure your sleep-wake schedule is at, or near, your baseline.”

Physical activity is important. “Stretching, walking, yoga – whatever you have access to, do it,” she said. “Fresh air is amazing, and we are blessed to live in a community where maintaining social distance from others, while outside, is relatively easy.”

Relax by revisiting or creating new hobbies. “Dig out playing cards, puzzles, and board games. If you have children in the home, this is a wonderful time to interact with them while doing something fun together,” she said.

Smells and sounds are beneficial. “Music can transport the mind to places that are beautiful,” Christensen said. Candles, essential oils, and baking are just some of the smells that can help soothe the mind and body.

“While something like this is new to us, it will end,” Christensen said. “Remember to set short and long-term goals. Map out the garden you may want to plant. Think of the vacation you will take in the future. Continue to set goals and dreams.”

Even though the lobby at Blue Mountain Counseling is currently closed, staff can still be reached by phone, and they continue to reach out to their clients with packets of information, coping tools, and other ideas.

Information and positive thoughts are also being posted on the Blue Mountain Counseling Facebook page, Christensen said.

For more information call Blue Mountain Counseling of Columbia County by phone at: (509) 382-1164.

Dayton School District breakfast & lunch delivery times

Meals will be delivered by school bus to the following locations: (Times are approximate)

Bus #1
11:00 a.m. – Valley View Court
11:30 a.m. – Country Village
12:00 p.m. – Cameron Court

Bus #2
11:00 a.m. – 1st Street/Richmond Ave
11:20 a.m. – 4th Street/Dayton Ave
11:25 a.m. – Knoblock Apartments
12:00 p.m. – 4th Street (Adventist Church Parking Lot)

Meals will also be available for pickup at the Dayton Elementary Multipurpose Room at 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, please contact the administration office at (509) 382-2543 or Jana Eaton at (509) 520-7051. Arrangements can be made for rural deliveries.

WAITSBURG GARDEN CLUB ANNOUNCES BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT THIS SATURDAY

Waitsburg Garden Club President Susan Donegan sent an invitation to her members recently announcing that “It’s time for our annual beautification project for downtown Waitsburg – planting out the pots that line our Main Street.”

The plants have been selected and were ordered through Nancy’s Dream Garden Center. Karen Gregutt will set out the plants for each individual cement container early on Saturday morning (April 18th). Those who would like to help get the new plants into their new home, in a safe, social-distancing way, head to the Post Office at 9 a.m. with your hand spade and garden gloves (and mask, if you choose) and Gregutt will assign you your own pot to plant. Sadly, no pot-sharing this year with fellow gardeners.

After each pot is finished getting its plants, Donegan will come by with the Osmocote, to fertilize. Then Gregutt will follow with her cans of water to give each pot a thorough dousing. Team-work Coronavirus-style!



Kate Hockersmith

Garden Club president, Susan Donegan, climbed in the Main Street flower pot in front of the Waitsburg Grocery in 2017, to gain some leverage as Karen Gregutt looks on.

LIBRARY - FROM PAGE 1

trustees. “She has library experience and seems to be willing to listen before casting her vote. She appears to have genuine heart.”

Rundell said a compromise appointment would be a call to citizens and board members to be civil to each other, and close the divide in the community, which has lasted for over a year.

The CCRLD board of trustees had submitted two names for the CCBC to consider, Heather Stearns and Joe Huether.

Board Trustee Karin Spann, who was at the April 6 meeting, said, “I believe Joe Huether is an open minded individual. He is very good at listening to both sides of the issue. I hope you take a good look at him as the other choice, along with Heather,” she said.

On Monday, April 13, Huether was appointed to a five-year term to fill the other open position on the library board of trustees, by unanimous vote of the CCBC.

School meals to be delivered to Waitsburg children

THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The Waitsburg School District began serving sack breakfast and lunches following Governor Jay Inslee’s mandatory school closure in March. Originally the service had designated areas around Waitsburg for families to pick up meals, however, the district has decided to make changes to help further prevent the spread of the COVID-19 disease. Starting April 20, the school district will bring meals directly to the doorstep of each student’s home.

The meal pick-up has been well-attended by students. Food service supervisor Susan Wildey estimates that they have been serving nearly 260 meals a day with the pickup service, and hopes to continue the success with the new safer delivery method. Delivering meals straight to homes will discourage kids from gathering, ultimately helping flatten the COVID-19 data curve.

Parents will need to fill out a delivery sign up form, which can be found at the Waitsburg School District website, www.waitsburgsd.org. Meals are available for all Waitsburg children under 18.

Waitsburg Schools breakfast & lunch delivery times

WAITSBURG—Pick up times and locations for Waitsburg students are as follows:

202 Harmon St.	9 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
705 Maple St.	9:20 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.
Whiskey Canyon Parking Lot	9:40 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.
High School Parking Lot	10 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
900 Caroline St	10:20 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.
Preston Hall Parking Lot	10:40 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.
Catholic Church Parking Lot	11 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Waitsburg Grocery Parking Lot	11:20 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.

Meal deliveries will be available starting April 20. Visit www.waitsburgsd.org for sign up information.

Brought to you courtesy of
Lloyd’s Insurance, Inc. Walla Walla 525-4110

DAYTON SENIOR ROUND TABLE LUNCH MENU

Dayton Senior Center
403 E. Patit St.
12 p.m.
Drive up only

Thurs., Apr. 16

Baked fish
Rice pilaf
Salad & Roll
Sunset gelatin
Milk

Tues., Apr. 21

Salisbury steak
Mashed potatoes
& gravy
Capri veggies
Cookies & Milk

WAITSBURG SENIOR LUNCH MENU

Waitsburg Senior Center
504 Main Street

Tues., Apr. 21

Spaghetti & meat
sauce
Garlic bread
Salad bar
MOW: Caesar
salad



Wash your hands

Church Directory

Waitsburg Presbyterian Church

504 Main

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship 11 a.m.

337-6589

Pastor Stan Hughes

Waitsburg Chapel

320 W. 2nd

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11 a.m.

Evening Worship 6 p.m.

Bible Study

Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

337-6235

Rev. Jimmie Daves

Waitsburg Christian Church

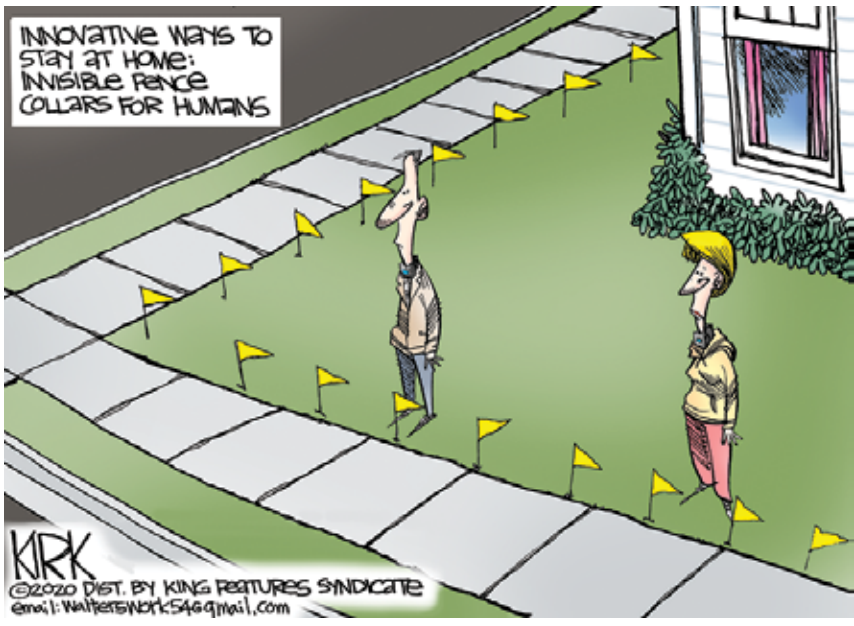
604 Main St

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Each Sunday

337-8898

Rev. Matthew Wyatt



FROM THE WAITSBURG RESOURCE CENTER

Dear Editor,
Once again, we at the Waitsburg Resource Center (the food bank) extend gratitude to the Waitsburg Community. Ten Ton Coffee gave out 85 free bag lunches and raised \$523 for the Waitsburg Resource Center.

At this time, our neighbors are in extra need. And we find that some of the supplies we usually receive from BMAC are not available, and as a result require extra purchases from our food bank account.

It is our hope, that we reach those neighbors in the Waitsburg/Prescott School boundaries who normally do not need the food bank, to please take advantage of this local resource during these challenging times.

Once again, thank you to Ten Ton Coffee and to all the others in the community who have been giving monies and food donations for the food bank, Waitsburg Resource Center.

And again, Waitsburg is truly "one of a kind."

Waitsburg Resource Center Board Members
Pam Conover
(509) 337-8876

DEANNA TIPTON SEEKS BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FOR HER MOTHER DORIS HUFFMAN, ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY



Courtesy photo

Doris Huffman

Dear Editor,
My mother, Doris Huffman, is going to be 90 years old on April 20th. Due to COVID-19 we can't have a party, but I was wondering if you could put an announcement in *The Times* and ask people to drive by her home at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 20th and honk their horns and wave, and shout Happy Birthday to her. She lives at 416 Orchard street. Signs on your vehicle would also be greatly appreciated. And you can go around the block and say it several times. Thank you!

You are so welcome, and happy birthday Doris!
Deanna Tipton

Information about economic impact payments

CARES Act to provide support of up to \$1,200

THE TIMES

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020. This over \$2 trillion economic relief package is intended to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

Information about the \$1,200 economic impact payments as part of the CARES Act, is detailed below. No action is needed by most Americans to receive a payment. However, the IRS recommends that everyone file their 2019 taxes to ensure accurate and timely payments are properly received.

United States Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin, stated on March 30, 2020 that the direct payments would be sent over the next three weeks. Below are answers from the IRS to frequently asked questions.

Who is eligible for the economic impact payment?

Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 above the \$75,000/\$150,000 thresholds. Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000 and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive \$500 for each qualifying child.

How will the IRS know where to send my payment?

The vast majority of people do not need to take any action. The IRS will calculate and automatically send the economic impact payment to those eligible.

For people who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed.



The IRS does not have my direct deposit information. What can I do?

In the coming weeks, Treasury plans to develop a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately as opposed to checks in the mail.

I am not typically required to file a tax return. Can I still receive my payment?

Yes. People who typically do not file a tax return will need to file a simple tax return to receive an economic impact payment. Low-income taxpayers, senior citizens, Social Security recipients, some veterans and individuals with disabilities who are otherwise not required to file a tax return will not owe tax.

How can I file the tax return needed to receive my economic impact payment?

IRS.gov/coronavirus will soon provide information instructing people in these groups on how to file a 2019 tax return with simple, but necessary, information including their filing status, number of dependents and direct deposit bank account information.

I have not filed my tax return for 2018 or 2019. Can I still receive an economic impact payment?

Yes. The IRS urges anyone with a tax filing obligation who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 to file as soon as they can to receive an economic impact payment. Taxpayers should include direct deposit banking information on the return.

I need to file a tax return. How long are the economic impact payments available?

For those concerned about visiting a tax professional or local community organization in person to get help with a tax return, these economic impact payments will be available throughout the rest of 2020.

Where can I get more information?

The IRS will post all key information on IRS.gov/coronavirus as soon as it becomes available.

The Times

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

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

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

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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. 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.

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TOUCHET VALLEY NEWS

Domestic violence can escalate in times of stress

The Walla Walla YWCA is at the ready

By Tracy Thompson | THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—In 2019, 326 women and 174 children spent a total of 8,268 nights of rest in Walla Walla YWCA Domestic Violence shelters. Additional support this organization provides individuals in Walla Walla and Columbia County include sexual assault counseling, legal assistance in completing protection orders and support for victims during legal proceedings.

With Governor Inslee's 'Stay Safe, Stay Home' declaration in place, area residents are finding themselves in their homes 24/7, and that has some serious implications for providers of domestic violence services, said Anne-Marie Zell Schwerin, YWCA Walla Walla Executive Director

"In the days following the closure of schools, someone came to the YWCA seeking help, reporting that the abuse has escalated, the stress level in her home was off the charts, and she was afraid for her safety. Unfortunately, with abusers spending more time at home, escapes like hers can be more difficult," Zell Schwerin noted.

Mary Byrd, Director of Client Services, is concerned that she isn't hearing more calls for help. With kids at home needing help with school, parents out of work except for some able to work from home, and even the most peaceful families feeling the effects of understocked grocery stores and the rapidly rising numbers of COVID-19 cases, she believes that just as many women as ever are needing shelter services during this time, if not more, but they may be unable to call with their partners al-



Left: Anne-Marie Zell Schwerin, YWCA Walla Walla Executive Director.



Right: Mary Byrd, YWCA Director of Client Services

ways at home.

Seattle shelters report a similar reduction in calls to advocates, in spite of the fact that domestic violence reports to police have increased. "After I saw an article about domestic violence in France increasing 30 percent during the coronavirus quarantine and women seeking help at pharmacies," said Byrd, "I began calling pharmacies to see if anyone was hearing from women in distress. I'm working on getting posters put up in pharmacies to let the community know that the shelter is open even though most businesses are closed."

Because the virus shutdown has added stress and financial strain, factors known to put survivors in increased danger, advocates are concerned about domestic violence escalating in our community.

"Abuse is about power and control," said Zell Schwerin.

"With survivors forced to stay in the home or in close contact with their partners, an abuser can use

anything, even a pandemic, as a way to exert control over their victim."

Zell Schwerin also wonders if "the overall fear of COVID and the uncertainties of an unknown place," are preventing those in crisis from reaching out.

Zell Schwerin assures the community that the YWCA continues to work with the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health and Providence St. Mary Population Health Department on best practices for shelters during the pandemic.

"We screen all staff and residents daily and take temperatures. We have restricted access to shared areas and households may reserve the TV room and roof deck in two-hour blocks," she said.

An emergency grant the County received from the State that focused on COVID prevention in the sheltered and unsheltered population has also helped.

The shelter has increased their sanitizing and has provided everyone with bleach and instructions for using it. The housekeeper's hours have doubled and "she is running ragged," Zell Schwerin reports.

St. Mary Medical Center is providing three meals a day so that there is little to no congregating in the kitchen. Since demand for the YWCA's childcare programs crashed when nonessential businesses closed, those programs have all closed.

In addition, many staff at the YWCA are working remotely, including communications, fundraising and finance. Byrd and a rotating advocate remain on duty and staff the front desk office phone at (509) 525-2570 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Crisis Line at (509) 529-9922, continues to be answered around the clock by trained advocates.

If you or anyone you know is in crisis, be sure to access the information in the accompanying box.

How the pandemic may affect intimate partner violence; and help in times of uncertainty

The National Domestic Violence Hotline's website provides a list of ways that the virus could uniquely affect intimate partner violence survivors:

Abusive partners may withhold necessary items, such as hand sanitizer or disinfectants.

Abusive partners may share misinformation about the pandemic to control or frighten survivors, or to prevent them from seeking appropriate medical attention if they have symptoms.

Abusive partners may withhold insurance cards, threaten to cancel insurance, or prevent survivors from seeking medical attention if they need it.

Travel restrictions may impact a survivor's escape or safety plan – it may not be safe for them to use public transportation or to fly.

An abusive partner may feel more justified and escalate their isolation tactics.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing violence or abuse, YWCA Walla Walla shares these suggestions for survivors that may make this uncertain time feel a little bit safer:

1. Create a safety plan.

"Every safety plan is unique because no two relationships are the same," said Byrd. Some people want to remain as safe as possible while staying in the relationship. Others want to plan an escape or need help planning how to stay safe after they leave. YWCA advocates can help create safety plans by phone, Byrd said, with anyone who is concerned about their own safety or the safety of someone else.

2. Take good care of yourself.

This is a time of uncertainty for everyone and experiencing abuse from a controlling partner will only make it harder. Don't neglect practices like your exercise

routine or healthy eating, that can help your mood and ability to cope. Take to heart the advice about regular hand washing, not touching your face, and steering clear of frequently touched surfaces. The last thing you need is a nasty illness.

3. Reach out for help.

While physical isolation is a good tactic for slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, isolation is also a tool that abusers often use to increase their power and control over a partner. As much as possible, maintain your ties with supportive friends and family members through phone calls, letters, and email.

In addition, consider reaching out to someone who is trained in safety planning and understands the dynamics of an abusive relationship. YWCA advocates can help you understand that no one deserves abuse and that financial troubles, health worries, and other stressors are no excuse for abuse. Calling is free and confidential, and calling to discuss your situation does not obligate you to any specific course of action.

"We are taking COVID-19 very seriously in the shelter," said Byrd, "and developing procedures to keep the shelter disinfected and virus-free. No virus, and no amount of stress and frustration, are excuses for violence or abuse."


Limited office hours: The YWCA office phone, (509) 525-2570, is answered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Only essential staff and residents are admitted to the YWCA office, and a health screening check is required.

24/7 Crisis Help: During the COVID-19 shutdown the Crisis Line, (509) 529-9922, continues to be answered around the clock by trained advocates. If you are concerned about a friend or family member, advocates can give you pointers about how to help from a distance. The YWCA shelter remains open.

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Columbia County Board of Commissioners concerned about budget

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—A revenue shortfall associated with the costs for mitigating damage to county infrastructure due to the recent flood, and from economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the Columbia County Board of Commissioners to take an early look at cutting department budgets.

County Treasurer Carla Rowe said she is anticipating a possible 15 to 20-percent loss of sales tax revenue which could impact distributions for May, June, July, and possibly August.

The revenue from sales taxes go into the County's Current Expense Budget and the commissioners use this money to fill gaps in budgets throughout each year.

Rowe said the good news is tax collections appear to be in line with last year's collections and that many people have paid the full amount, early on.

Forty percent of the property tax collected for the County is through individual property tax assessments. The other 60-percent income derives from industry, agriculture and mortgage companies, she said.

Those funds are designated for expenditures such as roads and schools, and can't be used to shore up the Current Expense Budget.

Public Works Director Charles Eaton said he is expecting a 30 to 40-percent loss of revenue for his department, due to lower gas tax collections. He said social distancing is working so well that King County is only collecting 60-percent of what is usually collected. Counties throughout the state get a share in King County's gas tax collection, he said.

County Auditor Anne Higgins is recommending that all department heads take an early look at their budgets and make cuts wherever possible.

Not much is known about possible federal financial help to the county for flood damage mitigation or reimbursement from the economic slowdown due to COVID-19.

On Monday, the County Commissioners began working with the department managers to identify where cuts can be made to their individual budgets.

Port of Columbia seeks commissioner

Fred Crowe has moved out of District 3

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—Fred Crowe, Port of Columbia Commissioner representing District 3, has resigned from the Port Commission effective Thursday, April 9.

"It has been a pleasure and honor to serve with the current and past staff and commissioners of the Port over several years," Crowe said in his resignation letter. "We together have accomplished many worthy projects in support of economic development in Columbia County."

"I am supportive of projects currently in development and am confident the Port will continue to serve area citizens thoughtfully and wisely," he said.

Port of Columbia Executive Director Jennie Dickinson said Crowe and his wife have moved out of District 3 and into a new residence in the City of Dayton.

Crowe has served a little over five years and he will be missed, she said.

Commission Chairman Earle Marvin said he hopes to find a community member to fill the position who is interested in the further development of the community and economy.

Port Commissioners Earle Marvin and Dan Aschenbrenner are allowed ninety days to fill the vacant position with a qualified candidate according to Washington State RCW 42.12.070. The person selected will serve the remainder of Crowe's term, which ends on Dec. 31, 2021, and can choose to run for a new six-year, non-partisan term in the November, 2021 general election.

In order to be selected, the candidate must be a registered voter living in District 3. Dickinson said a map of the commissioner districts is available at the Port's website at: www.portofcolumbia.org.

Visit www.portofcolumbia.org for more information about the Port and its properties, or call the Port at (509) 382-2577 to schedule an appointment with Dickinson for information about Port activities.

Interested parties should submit a letter of interest, a resume, and a short list of relevant experiences, to Jennie Dickinson, Port of Columbia, 1 Port Way, Dayton, WA, 99328, no later than Friday, May 1.

Columbia County Health System seeks financing options

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—Columbia County Health System officials have been concerned about the financial health of Dayton General Hospital, the Waitsburg Clinic, Columbia Family Clinic and the Booker Rest Home, because of the high costs associated with preparing for a possible surge in patient care due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their concerns were reported in *the Times* on Apr 2.

A special emergency meeting of the Health System Board of Directors took place on Wednesday, April 8. The purpose of the meeting was to approve a request from the health system administrators and finance team to allow them the flexibility to seek and secure

various financing options to provide the health system with financial stability.

Finance Manager Matt Minor said some money from the federal government's two trillion-dollar stimulus package will be granted to the Health System without expectation of repayment.

"At this point we can't count on getting enough from those programs to make us whole from this situation," he explained.

Minor said it is crucial to be able to move quickly to secure funding for some of the programs such as the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program. That program has a limited amount of funding, and applications are on a first come, first serve basis, he said.

CEO Shane McGuire said he is not allowed to in-

debt the Health System or the Public Hospital District without Board approval. His goal is to make sure there is some flexibility and latitude to pick and choose from various financing options. Those options could include some form of low interest rate loan, no interest rate loan, or grant.

The Board of Directors adopted a resolution allowing the administrators and finance team to pursue grants and loans, as they deem necessary. The specifics of every grant or loan pursued will be presented to the Board for their approval.

The aggregate loan balance is not to exceed five million dollars. This authority will automatically terminate on Oct. 9, 2020, unless terminated earlier or extended by a resolution of the Board.

LEGAL NOTICES

Superior Court of Washington, County of Columbia

In re: Petitioner: Terysa Lynn Marietta, aka Terysa Lynn Johnson aka Terysa Lynn Harvey aka Terysa Marietta Harvey No. 20-3-00002-2 Summons Served by Publication
And Respondent/s: Ronald Charles Johnson Summons Served by Publication
To: Ronald Charles Johnson - The other party has asked the court to end your marriage or domestic partnership. You must respond in writing if you want the court to consider your side.
Deadline! Your Response must be filed and served within 60 days of the date this Summons is published. If you do not file and serve your Response or a Notice of Appearance by the deadline:
No one has to notify you about other hearings in this case, and the court may approve the requests in the Petition without hearing your side (called a default judgment). Follow these steps:

1. Read the Petition and any other documents that were filed at court with this Summons. Those documents explain what the other party is asking for.
2. Fill out a Response on this form: FL Divorce 211, Response to Petition about a Marriage. You can get the Response form and other forms you need at: The Washington State Courts' website: www.courts.wa.gov/forms; The Administrative Office of the Courts - call: (360)705-5328; Washington LawHelp: www.washingtonlawhelp.org; or The Superior Court Clerk's office or county law library (for a fee).
3. Serve (give) a copy of your Response to the person who filed this Summons at the address below, and to any other parties. You may use certified mail with return receipt requested. For more information on how to serve, read Superior Court Civil Rule 5.

4. File your original Response with the court clerk at this address: Superior Court Clerk, Columbia County, 341 E. Main Street, #4, Dayton, WA 99328.

5. Lawyer not required: It is a good idea to talk to a lawyer, but you may file and serve your Response without one.

Date: 3-13-2020
/s/ Marinella & Boggs By: Kimberly R. Boggs, WSBA No. 24387, Attorney for Petitioner I agree to accept legal papers for this case at the above Lawyer's address: PO Box 7, Dayton, WA 99328 VE
This Summons is issued according to Rule 4.0 of the Superior Court Civil Rules of the State of Washington.
MARINELLA & BOGGS Attorneys at Law PO Box 7-338 E Main Dayton WA 99328 Telephone (509) 382-2541

The Times
March 26, April 2, 6, 16, 23, 30 2020
3-26-a

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
NO: 20-4-00070-36
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
RCW 11.40.030
In re the Estate of: ALFONSO R. HERNANDEZ,
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: April 9, 2020.
Maria Elvira Garcia
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
April 9, 16, 23 - 2020
4-9-a

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
Case No. 20-4-00067-36
In Re the Estate of JOYCE JEANETTE FOLTZ,
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed and has qualified 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. 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(3); 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 non-probate assets.

Date of filing copy of Notice to Creditors: 04/02/2020
Date of First Publication: 04/09/2020

/s/ CONRAD BLAINE FOLTZ, JR.

Personal Representative
R. Gary Ponti
Attorney at Law
(509) 525-5090
103 E. Poplar
Walla Walla, WA 99326
The Times
April 9, 16, 23 2020
4-9-c

ment-program.html. Project applications are due by 4 PM on May 26, 2020.
The Times
4-16-a
April 16, 2020

Public Notice Funding Availability - Call for Projects

The Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization/Sub-Regional Transportation Planning Organization (WVMPPO/SRTPO) issues a call for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternatives (TA) projects for jurisdictions and agencies located in Walla Walla County. Detailed information, project requirements, and application forms are available at <https://wvmpo.org/transportation-improve->



The deadline for legal publications is noon on Tuesday prior to publication.

Send notices to: legals@waitsburgtimes.com

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Rome wasn't built in a day

By Vicki Sternfeld-Rossi | THE TIMES

Last July 4th holiday was the first time Daniel visited Waitsburg since we originally bought the house around 15 years ago. But, like the movie *The Money Pit*, the work and financial outgo is still ongoing and outgoing.

During that first visit, even in the heat of the summer, he took it upon himself to build bookshelves for my 25 boxes of books. Floor to ceiling shelving against every wall in the upstairs bedroom and it is now our upstairs “library.” His vacation was spent at Home Depot, behind a saw, with a hammer hanging from belt and nails in every pocket. He was in heaven, I was not!

Now here permanently, I think he alone is keeping Home Depot from bankruptcy. That's us, getting those daily Home Depot deliveries.

He is Italian, so he should understand that Rome wasn't built in a day, although, I swear he is trying to build our home in a day. He has built bookshelves in the guest house, shelves in the pantry, built two additional sheds; one for kitchen “stuff” the other for random gardening tools, my snow tires (or regular tires), revamped the tool shed by adding shelves, walls, built two large planters, repaired hoses, doors and pantry lights, painted the deck, hung pictures and three television sets, but most importantly—he built a wine cellar. And he's only been here a month!

His current projects include building railing for the deck, fencing around the “trash can” area, tilling the yard, planting grass, fertilizing, building a gravel path in the backyard and the list goes on. I want a vacation! My Pandora playlist has been replaced with drills, nail guns and saws. Heavy percussion, but no melody.

In between all of the projects, he has cooked some amazing meals. Since sheltering at home, we have rearranged our eating routine. Our main meal isn't dinner,



Courtesy photo
Noise-cancelling headphones are available through many retailers and may be necessary for sheltering in place with a builder.

A good reminder that it's great to live in Waitsburg; to be part of a community made up of generous people whether friends or strangers, who truly care about each other and share their garden bounty.

Recently we were the lucky recipients of a huge bag of arugula from our neighbor (Deb). It was put to good use in three meals. Pan seared steak with an arugula salad, pizza with arugula and prosciutto the next day, and arugula salad with fennel and red onion yesterday with Daniel's homemade steamed dumplings.

I bought a picnic basket from Amazon. My plan: grab Daniel, wine, bread, cheese and my dog Mugsy, our masks and drive the Middle & Old Waitsburg loop. No hammers, sawdust, nails or drills! Rome wasn't built in a day, nor does our house have to be! Or maybe I'll grab that basket and go by myself, ah, the peace and quiet—complete with music with melodies.

The Cookie Chronicles

Chapter Three – Mr. B N'est Pas Une Boule!

By Paul Gregutt | THE TIMES

Mr. B is the name we gave to Cookie's ball in a failed effort to keep her from going ballistic every time we said the word ball. But more importantly, we've come to discover that the name represents something much more significant than any one particular object. In fact it's a transferable title, like Your Majesty. It is only given to one ball at a time, but once that ball has been lost or destroyed, the next one is now Mr. B, and Cookie seems not to mind. It's a bit like the green jacket they hand over at the Masters tournament. You don't get to keep it once a successor has been found.

My thinking on this subject has evolved over many years, but it coalesced a year or so ago on a visit to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). There, much to my delight, I was able to see one of my favorite paintings by the surrealist master René Magritte – a painting titled *The Treachery of Images*. It depicts a simple tobacco pipe, set against a plain straw-colored background. The words “Ceci n'est pas une pipe” (this is not a pipe) are written in a neat script across the bottom of the painting. And therein lies the power of the piece.

It looks like a pipe, but as the artist himself once said, it doesn't function as a pipe. It's simply a representation, not an actual pipe. The concept is disarmingly simple, yet created quite a few waves (and generated more than a few theses) delving into the relationship between a symbol and the reality behind it. And so, in a different but comparable way, Mr. B, who is an actual ball, functions as a symbol for much

more.

Cookie was not with us at LACMA but she is never far from my mind. And while I was chewing on the pipe/not pipe concept embodied by the art, the question flashed through my mind that if Mr. B is not merely a ball, then what is he? And what I came to conclude is that he is in fact is a multi-purpose, multi-talented communications device.

Dogs have very little to do all day other than to watch their people and learn their ways. A big part of that is developing an understanding of a complex vocabulary that is a mix of human words, human-generated sounds, and myriad unconscious gestures. As dog owners we rarely know the full range of these non-verbal communications. We teach our dogs a few commands and basic rules (DON'T EAT THAT!) and call it good.

But dogs also have a language of their own, and it is just as important for us to study them and learn their language as it is for them to learn ours.

Mr. B is used in any number of ways to convey whatever is on Cookie's mind. If we give any sign of preparing to go outside, Mr. B turns up directly behind wherever we happen to be putting on our coat and shoes. If someone known to Cookie approaches the house, she will immediately grab the ball as part of the official welcome committee. If I've been particularly generous with snacks at lunch, she brings over Mr. B as a sort of thank you card. When it's time for her 4 o'clock brush, he is discreetly placed next to her dinner dish, where the brush is kept, along with the jar of treats that follow. And once dinner is over and it's time for the evening's activities, nothing can proceed properly until Cookie drops Mr. B in front of the kitchen drawer where he is gently tucked away until the next morning.

Above and beyond all that, Mr. B's most important

role is as Cookie's security blanket. I've written briefly about Cookie's rough start in life, which included having a litter of puppies taken away from her before she was a year old. In a very real sense Mr. B is the puppy she never got to raise. He is almost always within her sight, a part of almost every moment of every day. Best friend, wing man, confidant—all of the above.

As much as Cookie has learned to understand our mysterious ways, we too have worked hard to interpret Mr. B's many functions and roles in her world. And she is never more joyful than when one of us says “Cookie—where's Mr. B? Go get him!” Because that means something really fun is about to happen.

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Karen Gregutt

Paul Gregutt poses with René Magritte's painting, *The Treachery of Images* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Our at-home law student is apprehensive about final exams

By Emma Philbrook | THE TIMES

I've been home for just over a month now—and I mean that quite literally. Our family picked a “designated extrovert” to do all the errands fairly early on, and those of you who know me know that my extrovert qualifications come up short. So with the exception of one trip to get coffee back when Ten Ton could still offer sit-down service, my house is the only building I've been in since I got back from Seattle.

I'm still adjusting—not so much to being stuck at home as to being home in the first place. About once a week I wake up confused as to which bedroom I'm in. And it has recently occurred to me that while I've been scrubbing down door-knobs and washing my hands to the point where they resemble sandpaper, I've been inadequately reacting to that other looming threat to my world as I know it: finals.

Law school finals are frightening even under the most ideal circumstances. Imagine, if you will, a four-hour test that constitutes your entire course grade. Now imagine that only a miniscule percentage of your class, heedless of their efforts or performance, can walk away with an A; in other words, imagine a curve that even the best efforts of an entire community can't flatten. Imagine being stuck in a room with your classmates—six feet apart, because even in the absence of social distancing you can't be close enough to peek—flipping frantically through your notes in an effort to make heads or tails of a three-page-long story problem. As you're doing so, your classmates are hammering effortlessly away at their keyboards as though they're in training to be court reporters, not lawyers. Oh, and that pre-test grande latte to keep your synapses firing? Probably should've gone for a small...

Imagine the same scenario at home. The good news is that nobody is peeking at your notes. The bad news? You've had three hours less sleep than your friends on the east coast—who, remember, are in direct competition for a finite number of good grades. The internet-connected testing software is at the mercy of your flaky home internet whether or not somebody else in the house is in a teleconference. The cats will want to be let in. The dog will want to be let out. In the weeks leading up to the test, all those helpful study aids in the law-school library were beyond your reach, but you're pretty sure at least some of your classmates have managed to get their hands on them. In fact, even though you'd trust your fellow law students with your life, you can't quite shake the terrifying image of somebody



Courtesy photo

Notre Dame's law library where Philbrook would be studying for finals.

calling up their hotshot lawyer uncle during the test and asking for help. Maybe more than one somebody. After all, who's going to know?

I take a little bit of comfort in the fact that potential employers will know exactly what I was going through—after all, the whole field of law has been impacted. The Supreme Court, for example, has decided to hear arguments via telephone. According to the press, this marks a huge change for the tradition-bound deliberative body. (One can only hope SCOTUS will find a way to maintain such time-honored conventions as Justice Ginsburg cutting speakers off before they can get more than a couple paragraphs' worth of argument out, Justice Kavanaugh getting interrupted by anybody and everybody, and Chief Justice Roberts telling dad jokes.)

In fact, many other law schools have decided not to assign grades at all this semester. Notre Dame isn't one of them, but I think I can work that to my advantage. (“Well, yes, potential employer, it's a B-, but how many applicants got a higher grade that semester?”)

NEWS & SPORTS



Beka Compton

Waitsburg and Dayton safely honor Class of 2020 amid pandemic

Banners, light shows and more on display for impacted senior students

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

There is not much one can control during a pandemic. Many people have lost something 'normal' during these times, but the Class of 2020 has lost the last few months of their senior year. Community members around the nation are banding together and thinking of creative ways to honor students in their final year of high school.

Social media has served as a great rallying platform for Class of 2020 parents from all over. A little over a week ago, a 'Be the Light' movement emerged on Facebook. Last Friday, Waitsburg School District joined the movement and lit up the football field at 8:20 pm for 20 minutes. In military time, it reads 20:20. Senior students parked alongside the field, while community members stopped their cars and honked in support.

In Waitsburg, senior class advisor Matthew Wyatt has been working with the community to raise money to purchase banners that will line Main Street. The money, nearly \$2,000, was raised within days of Wyatt posting his request on his

Facebook page. Wyatt has been working closely with Walla Walla's Integrity Design to create 14 double-sided banners (to feature one senior on each side), which include the student's senior photos. Wyatt is working on collecting all of the senior's photos and getting them to the printer.

If your Senior student has not emailed a photo in, please send them to matt@waitsburgchristianchurch.org.

In Dayton, parents and community members are lifting their senior students up, joining in the nationwide honors.

Bette Lou Crothers and Scott Kirk are leading the effort to line Dayton's Main Street with Class of 2020 banners. The goal is to produce 7-foot, double sided banners that will include photos of each senior at Dayton High School. Crothers hopes to have the banners up no later than May and will leave them up for the remainder of the summer. At the end of the summer, banners will be gifted to the students.

Scott Kirk Photography will take senior pictures, free of charge, for any seniors who have not had a chance to take their photos. Kirk is working on collecting all the necessary photos as well as getting release forms from the senior students' parents.

Crothers estimated that they still need to raise \$2,000 to pay for the banners. Donations for the Dayton Class of 2020 banners can be delivered to the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, or to Chamber Manager Molly Weatherill-Tate, who can take donations over the phone at (509) 382-4825.

Walla Walla High School seniors honored with yard signs

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—Walla Walla High School seniors found a surprise waiting for them on their front lawns last week. Bright blue signs were posted in the yards of every senior in the Class of 2020. The yard sign idea came from the school's Associated Student Body Leadership students, under the guidance of Adviser Arch McHie. The class leaders wanted to let seniors know they were appreciated and missed as schools will remain closed for the remainder of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 400 signs were purchased from a local Walla Walla business and distributed by the student leaders who were given a route and traveled alone in their cars to post the signs with no interactions from their classmates.

The feedback for the effort has been resoundingly positive. "We feel terrible for our seniors who are missing out on senior prom, traditional graduation ceremonies and so many other aspects of school life. This was a little boost to let them know we are thinking about them," said Principal Ron Higgins. Go Blue Devils!



Tracy Thompson photo

Bright blue signs popped up on Walla Walla High School seniors lawns on Thursday, April 9, a project of the school's Associated Student Body Leadership students.

DAYTON

WAITSBURG




2019-2020 Supporters
Please support these businesses who support our student athletes!

Alpine Industries, LTD	Dayton Mercantile - Subway
Ag Link	McDonald Zaring Insurance
Bluewood Ski Area	Columbia Pulp, LLC
Chief Spring's Pizzeria	Eric Umphrey
Elk Drug	State Farm Insurance
Randy & Becky Pearson	Talbott, Inc
Gravis Law, PLLC	Karl Law
Banner Bank	Ten Ton Press
Lloyd's Insurance	Archer Aviation
Dayton Veterinary Clinic	Mr. C's Smokin' Co.





visitglendale.com

Camelback Ranch in Glendale, Ariz. is the home of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago White Sox spring training teams and may be a site for the proposed Florida-Arizona plan to hold a major League Baseball season during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What is the Florida-Arizona plan, and how will it affect the Mariners?

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES

If we get professional baseball this summer, it is going to look very different from seasons past. A few things are known. There will be fewer games than the standard 162 game season. Doubleheaders will be scheduled into the plan instead of just being used as a way to make up rainouts. The designated hitter will likely be used by all teams and games will be played without fans.

As reported in *USA Today* on April 10, one of the plans being considered by Major League Baseball (according to a high-ranking official speaking on the condition of anonymity,) is something called the Florida-Arizona plan.

Under this plan, teams would play their games at spring training facilities in either Florida or Arizona. Players and staff might be sequestered in hotels.

Here is a look at what the new divisional matchups might look like in the Florida-Arizona plan:

Cactus League (games in Arizona)

Northwest – Kansas City Royals, Milwaukee Brewers, San Diego Padres, Seattle Mariners, Texas Rangers.

West – Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago Whites Sox, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians, Los Angeles Angels.

Northeast – Chicago Cubs, San Francisco Giants, Arizona Diamondbacks, Colorado Rockies, Oakland Athletics.

Grapefruit League (games in Florida)

North – New York Yankees, Philadelphia Phillies, Toronto Blue Jays, Detroit Tigers, Pittsburgh Pirates.

South – Boston Red Sox, Minnesota Twins, Atlanta Braves, Tampa Bay Rays, Baltimore Orioles.

East – Washington Nationals, Houston Astros, New York Mets, St. Louis Cardinals, Miami Marlins.

One thing that should jump out if you are a Mariners fan is that the Northwest division looks a lot easier than the American League West. Only the Brewers had a winning record last year. The combined winning percentage of the teams in the Northwest division last year was (.449). The combined winning percentage of teams in the Grapefruit League (.507) is better than the Cactus League (.493). The Mariners are still in the middle of a rebuild and you shouldn't expect them to make the playoffs this season but playing in this new league should mean they would be in contention longer into the season and the individual games should be more competitive.

The COVID-19 outbreak is going to make the Mariners rebuild more difficult. High school, college and minor league baseball won't be played this season, making player drafting even more difficult. Some of the players the Mariners have picked up on one-year contracts (Kendall Graveman, Taijuan Walker) were likely done so they could be traded to contending teams at the trade deadline in exchange for prospects to help the rebuild. It's possible that due to COVID-19, trades between leagues won't be allowed this season. That hurts the Mariners since most of the teams in the Cactus League are also rebuilding and not likely to trade prospects. Three teams in the Cactus League won ninety or more games last season, including the Los Angeles Dodgers (106), Oakland A's (97), and Cleveland Indians (93). Oakland is an unlikely trading partner since next year they should be back in the same division as the Mariners. Unless injuries strike the Dodgers, they have no incentive to trade from their farm system as their major league team is loaded with talent. That just leaves the Cleveland Indians which doesn't leave the Mariners with much negotiating power.

Of course, all of this depends on whether games can be played safely and if the players union agrees to the many conditions that need to be worked out including salaries, service time, and whether players are willing to be separated from their families for a stretch of four months.

Retail Therapy during 'Stay Home, Stay Safe'

No need to give up those special treats

THE TIMES

THE Q WOOD-FIRED GRILL

Do you know someone who could use a little help with a fast, nourishing meal? Chef Jeff from the Q Grill in Waitsburg is offering gourmet soups with free delivery. Hearty and simple. Order by Wednesdays at noon for Friday delivery. Make that FREE delivery.

Each week Chef Jeff prepares several soups, including a vegan option. Check out 'The Q Wood-fired Grill' on Facebook to get the week's selection and ordering information.

Here is an example from last week's menu:

- Sweet Potato w/ Dried Tart Cherries (Vegan)
- Roasted Chicken & Wild Rice
- Creamy Mushroom

A one-quart portion is available for just \$15.

Add-ons include:

- Fresh Salad w/ Apricot Dijonaise for \$4/each
- Fresh Focaccia bread for \$2/each

If you haven't had Chef Jeff's soups and salad dressing, you're in for a treat. He's truly the master. To order, call Sandy at (509) 520-4058 to arrange delivery. Delivery is available from Dayton to Milton-Freewater.

THE WEINHARD CAFÉ

Check out the Weinhard Café in Dayton for a limited lunch menu and 'take and bake' selections offered for take-out and limited delivery. No reason to give up food made with the freshest, local ingredients available. Order the meals to bake at home - they are made with in-house pasta, sauces, dressings and include desserts. Past 'take and bake' offerings have included Sweet and Sour Pork, Lasagna with a House Salad and Ciabatta Bread, and Pork Ribs with Mac & Cheese. Visit their website at <http://weinhardcafe.com/menu/> to see what they are serving this week.



The Original Burger, Weinhard Café

To place an order for a lunch order or a 'take and bake' meal, call (509) 3821681.

SHIKI HIBACHI SUSHI

This Walla Walla restaurant is open for to-go and delivery service only, good to know if you are craving some tasty sushi or yakisoba. This restaurant has taken great precautions to keep its staff and customers safe during the pandemic. The menu offers something for everyone, from noodle dishes, to teriyaki, fried tempura shrimp and vegetables, to sushi and sashimi. All are carefully prepared and packaged for you to take home and enjoy. Visit: www.shikihibachi-sushi.com/



Sushi plate, Shiki Hibachi Sushi

Local resources available

THE TIMES



Project Timothy (509) 382-2943: Financial assistance for rent, utilities, and food can be provided to those of you that have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 crisis. At our request, the Blue Mountain Community Foundation has awarded a special grant to Project Timothy just for this purpose—to serve the members of our community who don't usually ask for help. Project Timothy has "phone" hours Tuesday - Friday from noon to 2 p.m. You can call for assistance and then a volunteer will arrange to meet with you individually as needed at their office downtown. This is a no-judgement zone. Please ask for help if you need it. Business owners—please let any employees you laid off know about this assistance.

Feed a Friend, Text (206) 399-8233:

The Dayton Columbia County Fund is generously providing funds to local restaurants so they can provide meals for someone in need - whether it is a family that is truly hungry or just someone who had a bad day or is working in the COVID-19 emergency trenches. This effort helps our local businesses stay afloat and our community stay healthy and happy. Vicki Zoller is coordinating this service. If you know of someone who could use a meal or a pick-me-up, send her a text at the number above or email vzoller@outlook.com.

Columbia County Food Bank (Tuesdays from 2 - 4 p.m. now at the Columbia County Fairgrounds - drive by pick-up)

The Blue Mountain Action Council Food Bank serves a large region, including Columbia County, and additional resources are being moved throughout the region in order to serve the same population I mentioned above - those that don't usually need help. Don't be afraid to take advantage of this resource if you need it!

Domestic Violence Crisis Line (509) 529-9922 : Domestic violence can escalate in times of stress. Please call for help if you need it. Or visit: www.yw-caww.org/services/

Columbia County Public Health (509) 382-2181: The federal government has increased the availability of SNAP food assistance for anyone in need, and the State of Washington is allowing new sign-ups for the Washington Health Benefit Exchange if you need health insurance. You can sign up for these programs, plus others like the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC), through our local public health office. Call the number above for assistance.

Aging and Long Term Care (509) 382-4787: The local office can help connect seniors via telephone with the services they need. They will even help with online applications if the person in need doesn't have a computer. Watching out for our elders during this crisis is important, so please check on your neighbors and make sure they have this number if they need assistance. www.altc.washington.com



PIONEER PORTRAITS

Ten Years Ago
April 21, 2011

[Headline] Dayton Cut & Wrap expands business. Dayton business owners Jim and Connie Westergreen have big news for small ranchers in Columbia and Walla Walla counties. The couple will soon expand their meat processing operations to include a USDA-inspected butchering facility in Dayton and a second retail shop in Walla Walla.

Managing a small, nonprofit theater is not an everyday kind of job. One of Reid Helford's fondest, early memories when she first started as manager of the Liberty Theater in downtown Dayton more than three years ago was of building and wearing a foil-wrapped, cardboard robot costume for the theater's opening night of "Wall-E."

Twenty-Five Years Ago
April 13, 1995

Dayton Police Chief Larry Groom says a 24-year-old man who allegedly assaulted him last week was likely under the influence of "crank," a stimulant drug.

Amy Huwe, Haly Ingle and Connor Talbott have joined the Monday Baton and Color Guard Class at Ye Towne Hall.

[Photo caption] Matthew Leid, 3, of Waitsburg, rides on a pig at the Waitsburg Junior Livestock Show. Dan McKinley, of Waitsburg, looks on.

A museum in Moses Lake, which specializes in police memorabilia, has asked for a badge from the Waitsburg town marshal. Last week, Marshal Michele Long was given permission to buy a new badge so one could be given to the museum.

Fifty Years Ago
April 16, 1970

The census enumerator dropped into the Times office Monday morning and asked us to pass along the word...if she hasn't called on you yet, she will shortly. She has a week or ten days yet before completing the census in Waitsburg. So keep your census form handy. It will be picked up.

[Photo caption] It takes a lot of attention to get both sheep and cattle ready to show, and these young showmen were working over a lamb with some wire brushes. Preparation for the show ring on Friday found the interior of the livestock building to be a beehive of activity.

Miss Judy Jones returned to the east coast to spend some time with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Simpson

[Photo caption] For those readers who were ambitious enough to get up around 3:30 a.m., this is the sight you may have seen in the eastern sky. For those slugabeds who didn't get up early, this is a sight of Bennett's comet which has been making a nightly display in the heavens. The smaller streaks are stars elongated by movement of the earth during the time exposure.

Seventy-Five Years Ago
April 20, 1945

Tophand cowboys from all parts of the Pacific Northwest are expected in Walla Walla April 22 for a big rodeo to be held at the fairgrounds under the direction of Dewey Drumheller and Demase Bergevin, experienced tophands themselves.

City officials were appointed by the Council at the regular meeting Wednesday night, giving a \$10 straight through.

The annual May Day festivities this year will be held Friday, May 4 with Verla Jeremiah to be crowned queen of the May. Her attendants will be Rena Hansen, Ruth Phillips, Mary Linville, Janice Roberts, Betty Baim, Dorothy Murphy, Cherie Rivers and Jo Mays.

One Hundred Years Ago
April 23, 1920

The Waitsburg Farmers Union purchased 40,000 bu. of wheat in this city Tuesday, for the neat sum of \$100,000. The wheat was of the little club variety and the price per bushel of \$2.50 probably represents the highest price ever paid in this vicinity. Bulk of the grain was held by James Archer, John Danielson and T. V. McKinney.

Born Wednesday, April 21st to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Reigle, a daughter.

James Archer, of this city, this week purchased the Philix Davin ranch of 1120 acres, located on the Pataha, 10 mi this side of Pomeroy.

One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago
April 26, 1895

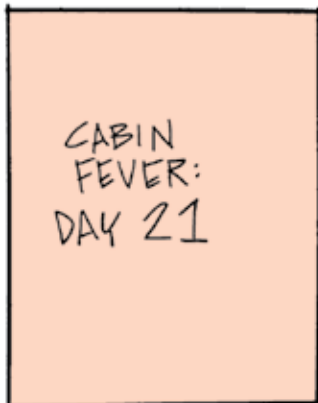
Emmett Henderson with his little gun, killed one dozen red squirrels in about 30 minutes time, Wednesday and he says it was not much of a day for squirrels either.

The W.C.T.U. meeting at the home of Mrs. W. G. Preston on Friday evening last was a decidedly pleasant occasion. Good attendance, good program, good supper.

L. T. Parker arrived home from Chicago on Monday evening. He reports trades of all kinds picking up in the Great City, and predicts that wheat will be worth 75 cents per bushel before next Christmas.

Lewis Cox in putting out a large prune orchard.

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

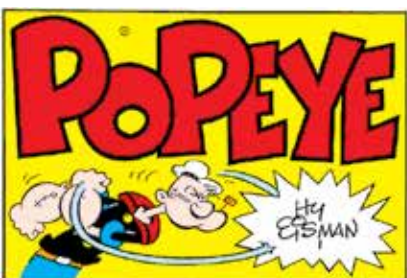


Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN AND BEAR IT

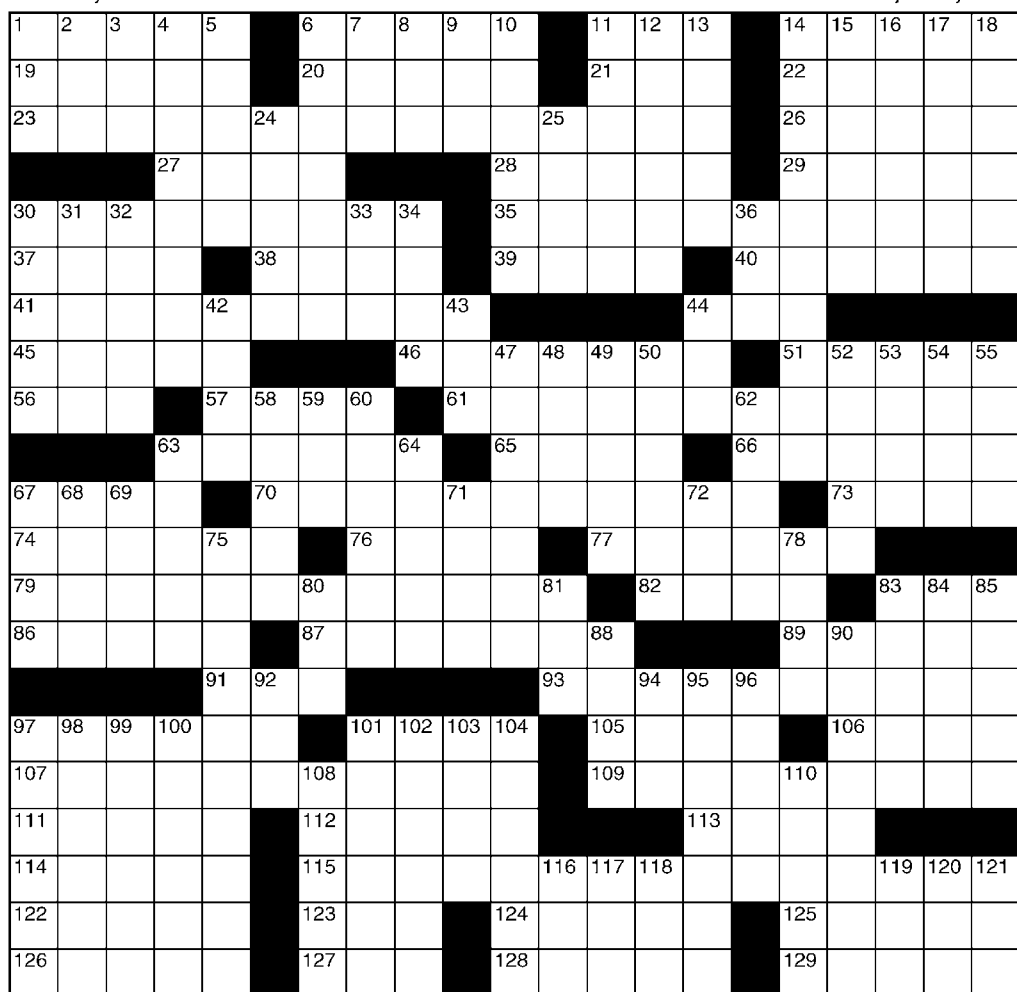


FUN & GAMES

Super Crossword

TAKING OUT THE MIDDLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Musical pace
 - 6 — you note
 - 11 Looker's leg
 - 14 LaBelle with a Grammy
 - 19 Oak seed
 - 20 Perfume queen
 - 21 Pal, to Gigi
 - 22 One of the Three Musketeers
 - 23 LOUIS
 - 26 Painter Dufy
 - 27 Co. heads
 - 28 Zero in (on)
 - 29 What a white flag signifies
 - 30 Speed
 - 35 LLOYD
 - 37 Make — out of (toughen up)
 - 38 Jogger's gait
 - 39 Pre- (bump, so to speak)
 - 40 Candle blowers' secrets
 - 41 CAROL
 - 44 Caesar of old comedy
 - 45 Severe
 - 46 Hides from view
 - 51 Swan's kin
 - 56 Copy a bunny
 - 57 "Nuts" director
 - 61 CHRISTIAN
 - 63 Pep rally cry
 - 65 Tarot card
 - 66 Singer
 - 67 Folk
 - 68 Singer
 - 70 JESSICA
 - 73 In the matter of
 - 74 Assembly with all members present
 - 76 Language of Bangkok
 - 77 Pastor's talk
 - 79 WASHINGTON
 - 82 Wren's home
 - 83 "Mike & Molly" ailer
 - 86 Adams of photography
 - 87 Small carpet
 - 89 "Ulysses" star
 - 91 Cumulative pay abbr.
 - 93 JEAN
 - 97 Cuba's Fidel
 - 101 Some jeans, familiarly
 - 105 "No, mein Herr"
 - 106 Peruvian of long ago
 - 107 CONAN
 - 109 Tropical grassy plains
 - 111 Kettle output
 - 112 Brand of fat replacer
 - 113 University in North Carolina
 - 114 1836 siege setting
 - 115 CARLOS
 - 122 Justice Ruth — Ginsburg
 - 123 Highway with a no.
 - 124 Leek relative
 - 125 With 59-Down, crude oil, in slang
 - 126 Deep pit
 - 127 Sun — -sen
 - 128 "— Hope" (old ABC soap)
 - 129 Build, as a building
 - 8 Lunched, e.g.
 - 9 It's east of Calif.
 - 10 Painter Georgia O'—
 - 11 It's removed for a fill-up
 - 12 Total number
 - 13 Capital of Belarus
 - 14 Pheasants' cousins
 - 15 1980s video game consoles
 - 16 Despite the fact that
 - 17 "Clever comeback!"
 - 18 Florida keys, e.g.
 - 24 The Lone Ranger's companion
 - 25 Par for the course
 - 30 Hindu prince
 - 31 Mobil rival
 - 32 Settle the tab
 - 33 Boozing sort
 - 34 Fr. ladies with haloes
 - 36 Early 20th-cen. conflict
 - 42 Architect Saarinen
 - 43 "Stop talking!"
 - 44 IRS ID
 - 47 More like a hoarse voice
 - 48 High on the draft list
 - 49 Online folks
 - 50 Grow dim
 - 52 Financial tipster
 - 53 Bears, in Buenos Aires
 - 54 Faxed, say
 - 55 Prefix with spore
 - 58 Response to "Who's there?"
 - 59 See 125-Across
 - 60 Dentists scrape it off
 - 62 Houses for students
 - 63 Music style
 - 64 Skier Phil
 - 67 Women's links org.
 - 68 Steinhauer who wrote the 2009 bestseller "The Tourist"
 - 69 Antique cars
 - 71 "— Nagila"
 - 72 Sooner than
 - 75 Nasty bits of dirt
 - 78 Nebraska Sioux
 - 80 Ill-bred guy
 - 81 Barbecue spice mix
 - 83 Beijing's land
 - 84 Judge's seat
 - 85 Epic tales
 - 88 Cotton deseeders
 - 90 Less chubby
 - 92 Ontario's capital, on scoreboards
 - 94 Grassland
 - 95 Resident maids
 - 96 Wholly
 - 97 Melon type
 - 98 Place to sculpt in school, say
 - 99 Dependable
 - 100 English river
 - 101 "Blaze" actress
 - 102 Tennis shoe hole
 - 103 Israel's flag carrier
 - 104 12th grader
 - 108 Bride's property
 - 110 Nick of "Cape Fear"
 - 116 — old way
 - 117 Actress Wasikowska
 - 118 Gained
 - 119 Firefighter's tool
 - 120 Freddie —
 - 121 Onetime jet-set jet



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

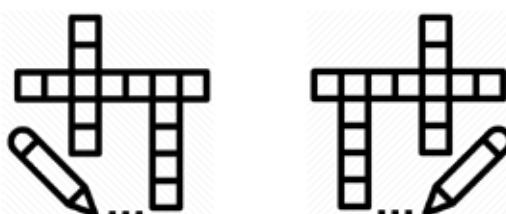
	7		5			2		
		2		6			4	
9					1			3
7					6	9		
		3	8				2	
	4			5				7
	6		7				1	
		8		1		3		
2					5			8

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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I'd make a veggie joke, but you wouldn't carrot all.



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Go Figure!
 answers

1	+	9	×	2	20
×		-		×	
8	-	6	×	4	8
+		×		+	
7	+	5	+	1	13
15		15		9	

TEENY MCMUNN: MY RECIPE BOX

Molasses Bread (Outback Knock-Off)

I thought with less events and gatherings for me to go to and/or volunteer, I'd get so much done around the house. Not so. I sigh and say "tomorrow." I find I can wear the same comfy clothes three days in a row, until Monday when I will once again have to put jeans on. I learned I can not black-mail, bribe, or sweet talk my hairdresser into breaking the rules—And so it goes!



Making bread, for me, helps the day go by. Since it's in steps, I can start it, and while letting it rise, go do my chores. Come back to it, punch it down, shape into loaves, go back to my chores until its ready to bake.

Once one has homemade bread, store bought bread doesn't seem to have a lot of flavor. The recipe Daniel shared last week, often called Artisan bread, is a good one to get comfortable using yeast if you haven't before. I believe we learned to cook with it in high school Home Economics. A few tips—most recipes say the temperature of the water should be 110 degrees. I find by the time you take the temperature, it's already starting to cool. I warm up the bowl with warm water, then pour it out. I turn on the warm water and run in on my wrist until very warm, but not so I pull it away. I have the yeast and about a teaspoon or so of sugar in the bowl, grab a whisk, and when I add the amount of warm water needed, I whisk rapidly to blend and activate the yeast. If it does not get foamy in 15 minutes, then toss it and try again. There is no sense in wasting flour and sugar, if the yeast isn't going to do its thing.

I had a yearning for molasses so Googled molasses bread and found this one. It's a keeper.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 ½ c. warm water (about 110 degrees)
- 1 ½ Tbsp instant yeast
- 1/3 c. + 1 Tbsp unsulphured molasses
- 2 Tbsp unsweetened natural cocoa powder
- 3 Tbsp oil**
- 1/3 c. honey
- 2 tsp salt
- 3 Tbsp vital wheat gluten *** (optional)
- 3 c. white whole wheat flour
- 3 to 4 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 to 3 Tbsp butter, melted
- Old fashioned oats for sprinkling

DIRECTIONS:

In the bowl of an electric stand mixer fitted with the dough hook (or by hand), combine the water, yeast, molasses, cocoa powder, oil, honey, salt, gluten (if using) and 2 cups of the whole wheat flour. Mix until combined. (My notes—I dissolved the yeast + a bit of sugar in the warm water, let it rise, then added the rest.) **Author notes she has used several different kinds of oil.

With the mixer running, slowly add the rest of the whole wheat flour. Start adding the white flour gradually until the dough pulls away from the sides of the bowl. Knead about 5-7 minutes (about 10-15 if you are kneading by hand (My notes—that seems like a long time.) The dough should be soft and slightly tacky, but shouldn't leave a lot of residue on your fingers if you grab a piece.

Turn the dough into a large, lightly greased bowl, cover with greased plastic wrap or a light towel, and let rise until doubled, about 1-2 hours.

Lightly punch down the dough and divide into three equal pieces. Form into tight oval loaves and place on parchment-lined or lightly greased baking sheets (My notes—you can make three loaves, but two fits better on the baking sheet.) Lightly cover with greased plastic wrap (or towel) and let rise again until doubled in size. If you would like, before baking, add a few deep slices across the top.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Bake for 25 minutes* (or 30 if you don't put the oats on). Remove from the oven and lightly brush with about a tablespoon of butter. Sprinkle with the oats and bake for another 5-7 minute (My notes—the oats will fall off when you slice the bread so it's a bit of a waste.)

AUTHOR'S NOTES: The vital wheat gluten is optional but I highly recommend it if you want a really soft, light, chewy loaf of bread. Another alternative is to use bread flour in place of the white flour (and omit the gluten)

MY NOTES: I used the bread flour as that is what I had along with unbleached white flour.

This makes a great, slightly sweet bread and delicious toast. I also added a cup of raisins.

ENJOY!

Melskitchencafe.com/sweet-molasses-bread

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS: Super Crossword

Answers

A	W	A	R	D	M	A	R	C	O	P	O	O	H	D	O	C	S		
S	E	N	O	R	C	R	E	A	M	S	A	U	C	E	I	N	O	N	
K	E	A	N	U	C	E	N	T	I	L	I	T	E	R	S	L	A	Y	
H	A	M	S	S	E	T	T	I	N	G	A	R	E	C	O	R	D		
U	T	E	B	A	D	E	T	O	N	B	L	A	S	E					
P	R	I	C	E	G	R	A	B	B	E	R	M	E	A	N	E	R		
S	A	M	B	A	C	R	I	E	S	U	T	E	R	I					
S	T	O	R	A	G	E	C	O	M	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T		
G	I	S	N	A	B	D	I	S	C	T	O	S							
A	N	T	O	N	I	N	G	R	E	E	N	E	K	E	T	O	N	E	
T	H	E	R	A	C	E	G	O	E	S	T	O	T	H	E	S	W	I	F
H	A	L	I	T	E	A	T	L	A	S	T	U	N	P	I	L	E	S	
E	L	L	A	N	T	I	A	G	A	E	E								
R	E	A	C	H	I	N	G	A	C	R	E	S	C	E	N	D	O		
L	O	R	D	S	B	I	T	O	F	E	A	S	Y	A					
D	A	M	A	G	E	V	I	N	E	G	A	R	C	R	U	E	T		
A	R	O	M	A	A	M	M	O	N	E	A	S	P	A					
S	T	R	O	N	G	R	E	A	C	T	I	O	N	T	Y	R	A		
H	E	A	R	A	N	N	M	A	R	G	R	E	T	I	O	N	I	A	
E	R	L	E	M	I	S	A	L	I	G	N	E	D	N	A	N	N	Y	
D	Y	E	D	Y	E	A	S	M	Y	E	R	S	G	R	A	C	E		

Positive COVID-19 cases at Tyson Fresh Meats in Wallula considered multi-county outbreak

Mitigation efforts underway

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—Walla Walla County health officials confirmed on Monday, April 13 that six positive cases of COVID-19 in Walla Walla County are linked to employment at Tyson Fresh Meats in Wallula. In addition, the Benton-Franklin Health District is reporting 28 lab-confirmed cases in Benton and Franklin Counties, with two additional probable cases, bringing the total number of cases to 30. This is considered a multi-county outbreak.

Tyson is taking the situation very seriously and conversations with local and corporate leadership began early last week.

“The Walla Walla County Department of Community Health’s Environmental Health team had a conference call with Tyson plant manager and corporate leadership about their plans to prevent further spread of COVID-19,” said Meghan DeBolt, Director of Community Health. “We were assured they were screening for fever, increasing physical distancing, spacing shift start times, and had increased their cleaning.”

Tyson Fresh Meats implemented several mitigation efforts over the past week to prevent further spread of COVID-19. These include:

- Symptom Screening and Case Monitoring
- Physical/Social Distancing
- Sanitizing/Cleaning

Tyson has also ordered and provided surgical masks for all employees; however, they are not required to wear them.

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health is working with the Benton-Franklin Health District and the Washington State Department of Health as well as managers at the plant on this matter. After conference calls with all partners and a site visit this afternoon, health officials feel Tyson is making a concerted effort to minimize transmission on site.

“We have two options – close the plant for 14 days and hope their employees stay under quarantine for those two weeks while at home, or work with them to be successful in prevention efforts,” said DeBolt. “We know isolation and quarantine is not a natural state and thus, it is likely, even if we close the plant, that transmission amongst workers will continue while at home. We cannot guarantee that everyone will stay home, stay healthy.”

Health officials will allow the plant to remain open, but additional measures will need to be put in place quickly.

“Since prevention efforts started only a week ago, we will not see their full effect for at least another week,” said DeBolt. “We know there will be more cases in the coming days that are associated with exposure at the plant; however, we anticipate a ‘flattening of the curve’ once the prevention efforts are in place later this week. If we do not see a reduction in transmission, we will reevaluate with partners at Benton-Franklin Health District and the Department of Health.”

We want to remind the community that public health and food safety experts do not have any evidence to suggest that COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), in-plant personnel who are ill with COVID-19 or any other illness are excluded from work activities that could create unsanitary conditions (coughing or sneezing on product).

Walla Walla Valley COVID-19 Response Fund announces first grants

Focus areas include hunger, homelessness, health and mental health

By Tracy Thompson | THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—An anonymous Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from twenty-three Blue Mountain region organizations have recently awarded grants of \$99,000 to Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC); \$14,460 to Providence St. Mary Foundation, and \$25,000 to Project Timothy (Dayton). In disbursing resources from the Walla Walla Valley COVID-19 Response Fund, the committee prioritized local needs including food insecurity and hunger, homelessness, health and mental health.

The BMAC food bank program, which includes Columbia and Garfield counties in its five-county service area, received funding to ensure there is enough food available through local food banks and take out meal programs in the Valley.

In addition to purchasing more food for distribution, the grant included support for logistics to get the food to the right places at the right time. The \$99,000 grant is intended to cover the months of April, May and June. “As we proceed into the ramifications of this pandemic, BMAC Food Bank will be supplying a higher portion of a family’s calories, this money will

help us purchase product that rounds out the family’s nutritional needs. We are also experiencing a shift to grab-n-go meals and this will help us provide the food and packaging for that new style of delivery,” said Jeff Mathias, director, BMAC Food Bank.

Providence St. Mary Foundation received \$14,460 for a portable ultrasound machine, an addition to their resources to diagnose and treat patients. This is less than half the cost of the machine which generous donors had challenged others to match. “We are grateful to Sharon and Larry Clinton, Mike Martin and others who were instrumental in starting our fundraising efforts for the ultrasound. And we are thankful to BMCF for urgently approving this generous grant for the remainder,” said Lindsey Oldridge, Chief Philanthropy Officer.

The Walla Walla Valley COVID-19 Response Fund has received \$10,000 from an anonymous foundation from Seattle and The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, WA recently made a \$75,000 grant to the Fund. An anonymous individual provided \$10,000. The Sherwood Trust of Walla Walla also generously donated \$10,000. When added to \$100,000 provided by Blue Mountain Community Foundation (BMCF), the Fund exceeded \$200,000 before this first round of grants.

The COVID-19 Response Fund has a 23-member advisory committee knowledgeable in health care, education, mental health, childcare, basic human needs like food and shelter, services for homeless

people, the arts, small business, recreation and other issues. BMCF asked the advisory committee to identify the top three needs at the outset of the ‘Stay Home, Stay Safe’ order of the Governor. These are 1) food/hunger, 2) shelter/homelessness and 3) healthcare and mental health care. At present the committee is considering the needs of mental health providers. BMCF then asked the Advisory Committee to identify the charities best able to address these top needs, and reached out to them.

According to Kari Isaacson, Executive Director of BMCF, “the Committee meets twice a week. Its recommendations for grants go to BMCF’s executive committee or Board, who then make the final decision. We are expediting these decisions to get resources where they are needed most.”

When asked how organizations can access this source of funding if needed, Isaacson responded, “at this point we (The Walla Walla Valley COVID-19 Relief Fund) do not have an application process as we are affected by the emergency too, and (are) working from home. I welcome emails or phone inquiries to learn more about the Fund both from potential grant recipients as well as donors. This is a community-wide emergency that requires a community-wide response. BMCF is not able at this time to consider requests from individuals or families.” Isaacson can be reached by telephone at (520) 404-5302.

Individuals willing to donate to the fund are urged to visit: www.bluemountainfoundation.org.

Waitsburg School District moving to a digital learning model for secondary students

Student leaders to meet to discuss plans for graduation this week

THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—Waitsburg School Superintendent Mark Pickel and Secondary principal Stephanie Wooderchak met with their staffs on Monday, April 13 to discuss plans for a continuous learning model now that the schools will remain closed through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Grade 6-12 students will be moving to a remote, or digital learning model on April 27. Teachers at those grade levels will be presenting instruction via such platforms as Google Classroom and email. Until that time, the teachers have been connecting with their students through paper packets and a system of returning work electronically due to concerns about the possibility of viral spread.

The district conducted a poll of families and discovered that 96 percent of households are connected to the internet. The district is working with NexGen Technologies out of Walla Walla, and various internet service providers, to provide internet access to those households who are currently without service.

Additionally, families without computer access will have the opportunity to check out Chromebook computers from the district on Monday, April 27 from 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. in the ‘Link,’ the area between the gym and the high school.

Pickel and Wooderchak will be meeting with the senior class officers on Wednesday, April 14 to discuss ideas for ways to conduct a graduation ceremony. Ideas have been coming in from parents and students who are sharing graduation plans from around the region.

“We want to try to do whatever we can to provide the best celebration of their accomplishments in these uncertain times,” said Pickel. More information about graduation and other plans to honor the Class of 2020 will be forthcoming.



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Look who turns 90!
on April 20, 2020



Happy Birthday
Doris Huffman