



Dayton-Waitsburg Combine committee discusses future of the program

Public surveys, meetings with community members reveal stronger support than expected.

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The Dayton-Waitsburg Athletic Combine Advisory Committee met December 11, at the Preston Hall Middle School in Waitsburg. The Board reviewed the results of the recent community-wide survey, discussed the data, and made a recommendation to both the Waitsburg and Dayton School Boards based on the information received and the feedback given by athletes, parents and coaches. Roughly 20 parents/coaches were in attendance, and roughly 20 student athletes were at the meeting.

Advisory board members present were Charlie Barron, Steve Martin, Johnny Watts, Doug Johnson, Katie Leid, Paula Moisieo, Kristina Brown, Mark Pickel, Stephanie Wooderchak, and Jason Mings.

The Dayton Waitsburg Athletic Combine is close to the end of the original two-year commitment. The WIAA classification deadline is January 26, 2020, and whether the combine continues or not will affect the school classification, as well as coaching staff, schedules, transportation, uniforms, and other items.

On November 20, a survey asking for feedback about the combine was released to the students and community members of both Dayton and Waitsburg. The survey asked for feedback on problems experienced, whether the combine had been a positive experience, and provided community members with a comment section. The results of the survey surprised the advisory board members in a very good way.

Overall, the results of the survey were positive. 66.8 percent of survey participants said yes to continuing the DW Athletic Combine. Looking at the combined

COMBINE - PAGE 9

Prevention is the goal for the Coalition for Youth and Families Coalition serves to increase awareness and educate

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—Chelsey Eaton, Columbia County's Public Health Wellness Initiative/Coalition Coordinator, is leading the charge to help the members of the Coalition for Youth and Families to craft and implement a strategic plan to educate the community on prevention awareness, and raise awareness about mental health issues that contribute to substance use.

How are Dayton youth doing in regard to substance use, as compared to students state-wide?

In October 2018 Dayton students in Grades 6 - 11 took the Healthy Youth Survey, which they do every two years.

Data from the survey was compiled, researched, and analyzed statewide, and the results were then presented back to the community.

The results of the Healthy Youth Survey show Dayton students are reporting higher indications of poor mental health than the state average.

Of the 10th graders taking the survey, 55 percent said they have felt sad or hopeless for at least two weeks, compared to 40 percent of youth, statewide. 27 percent considered suicide in the past year, and 27 percent attempted suicide. 36 percent said they have been bullied at school, within a 30-day time frame, as compared to 10 percent statewide.

Forty-one percent of sophomores report not feeling safe at school.

On the plus side, only 14 percent of high school students consumed alcohol within a 30-day time period, which represents a drop in alcohol consumption from the 2016 survey results.

Students report lower use than the state average for marijuana consumption. Students in grades eight through twelve are reporting use at 8.25 percent in a 30-day time frame. The state average is around 13 percent.

Prescription opioid use "to get high" for students in grades 8-12 is low at only 1 percent, compared to the state average of 13 percent.

Overall, students are reporting 0 percent use of opioid prescription drugs not prescribed to them. (The Coalition and the health department have campaigned for protective measures such as lockboxes.)

COALITION - PAGE 4

Waitsburg Preschoolers share their gift-giving wishes



This Christmas I want to give Kaylen a Paw Patrol look out. Avery Spring



This Christmas I want to give Tristan an Optimus Prime. Aiden Donovan



This Christmas I want to give Mommy a big robot. Wyatt Johnston



This Christmas I want to give Reid a robot. Branson Chapman



This Christmas I want to give Nick Lego Mine-craft. Charlie Reger



This Christmas I want to give Katherine a clock. Victoria Roberts



This Christmas I want to give my Mom a magnifying glass. Cooper Smith



This Christmas I want to give Mom a Grinch. Cannon Abel



This Christmas I want to give my brother a toy moving dinosaur. Jackson Stueckle



This Christmas I want to give Amelia a unicorn. Ione Harer



This Christmas I want to give Isaac a dinosaur. Marshall Martinez



This Christmas I want to give Grandpa food for the trailer. Amelia Nesje



This Christmas I want to give Miles a green toy. Cash Grende



This Christmas I want to give Mommy a unicorn surprise. Vaida Langford



This Christmas I want to give Addy a new umbrella. Colton Chabre



This Christmas I want to give Carter a new race car. Bridger Abel



This Christmas I want to give Grandma a unicorn. Aalaura Rooper



See Special Kids' Writing Section Beginning on Page 11

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## New business in the heart of Waitsburg

Andrea Villa, Licensed Massage Therapist

### THE TIMES

With a lovely new earth-toned paint job, and a new set of fixtures, Andrea Villa has opened up her massage therapy business this month in the heart of Waitsburg at 131 Main Street. A native of Walla Walla, Villa received her training at Victoria's Academy of Cosmetology in Pasco, WA and is a



Licensed Massage Therapist.

Villa offers a wide range of massage modalities including deep-tissue massage, pregnancy massage and myofascial release. Her Waitsburg hours are from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday - by appointment only. She also offers treatment in Walla Walla

at the American Chiropractic Clinic, located at 1618 E. Issacs Street.

Returning customers can book directly through her online portal at [www.messagebook.com/biz/AndreaVillaLMT](http://www.messagebook.com/biz/AndreaVillaLMT), however, new clients must schedule directly with her by calling (509) 676-9049. She offers sessions of 30, 60, and 90 minutes with prices for each at \$55, \$85 and \$115. She hopes to avoid last-minute cancellations by having clients pre-pay, which can be done via the website.

Just right for the holidays, she also offers gift certificates online through her business page on Facebook - Andrea Villa, LMT.

Villa says that "Everybody holds life differently, which means every BODY has a unique approach to it." She is passionate about helping her community live healthier by offering massage services to help people live a happy, pain free, and stress-free life.



Courtesy photo

Andrea Villa's massage studio.

## PIONEER PORTRAITS

Ten Years Ago  
December 24, 2009

Shannon Elliott had the gift of making others feel special. She was a young woman who always had a smile on her face and plenty of time for people. "She always made you feel like you'd just made her day when she saw you," said retired third-grade teacher Sandy McCaw. McCaw is among the many in Waitsburg who are mourning Elliott's death last Friday in a collision along U. S. Highway 12 at Airport Road. She was 23 years old.

Photo caption: Waitsburg Troop Leader Dena Wood, right, guides Troop 336 Club Scouts in art appreciation during a recent den meeting.

With enough interest from parents and teenagers, it would be possible to support potential city initiatives such as improvements to the BMX track or the creation of a skate park.

Twenty-Five Years Ago  
December 15, 1994

Hometown Christmas draws a crowd. As the more than 200 people packed into Ye Towne Hall watched, prizes were awarded to almost 60 people on Sunday Dec. 11 at the annual Hometown Christmas drawing in Waitsburg.

Need help finding that unusual gift? Can't find a partridge in a pear tree, two turtle doves, three French hens, four calling birds, six geese a-laying or seven swans a-swimming for that special person on your Christmas gift list? How about a silver pheasant? Or, button quail or peach-face lovebird? These birds along with parakeets, mallard and buff ducks are available for purchase from the Pioneer Park Aviary.

Fifty Years Ago  
December 18, 1969

New members of the Waitsburg School Board who were elected in November and officially installed at the November meeting are: Mrs. Roy (Pat) Leid, left and Mrs. H. V. (Kay) Zuger, right. This candid was taken at the December 10 session.

Preson Hall will be open for public participation for basketball on Dec. 26, 27, and 28 and Jan. 2, 3, and 4 between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m.

Photo caption: It is customary for the play cast to present the director with a gift of appreciation for his efforts, and Jeannie Pearson confers this honor on Wayne Henderson while the balance of the group take a curtain call after last Thursday's play.

Seventy-Five Years Ago  
December 22, 1944

Harry Sprague, Johnny Hixon, Bessie Henley, Rena Hanson and Thelma Webber were bruised and shaken up when their car overturned in a ditch Friday evening when the group was on their way to attend a basketball game in Walla Walla.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Broom are the parents of a daughter, Joy Linda, born Thursday, Dec. 14 in Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane.

Santa Claus, in the person of Herman Gohlman, made his appearance at Commercial Club Tuesday evening following a sumptuous dinner. After checking some of the boys regarding their behavior during the year, he passed out presents to the group.

One Hundred Years Ago  
December 26, 1919

The junior class of Waitsburg High School drove out to the new farmhouse of Dick Roberts for an old-fashioned bobsled ride. Those present were Frederica Kershaw, Celestia Loundagin, Irma Winslow, Leah Sayers, Mary Woods, Winnifred Burch, Maude Jackson, Betty McCoy, Vivian Michelson, Margarite Southard, Lydia Beckley, Harold Roberts, host; Carl Casey, Orville Wiseman, Jay Wright, Smith Phillips, Dillard Howell, Marvin Hales, Hesper Archer, Cecil Danielson and Jay Benn.

Born at St. Mary Hospital Saturday, Dec. 20 to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Small, a son.

The following young people who have been attending Pullman College this year are home for the Christmas vacation: Misses Julia Ramseur, Naomi Danielson, Roberta Houtchens, Harriet Stewart, Messrs. Verl and Donald Keiser, Aaron Jessup, Victor Herrington and Averill Monett.

One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago  
December 21, 1894

People are beginning to get out their sleighs and put them in trim, which in the absence of the geese going south, is the only evidence we have that winter is upon us.

The Spring Valley Literary Society discussed the question, "Should the State furnish textbooks," at its meeting Saturday evening in the Henderson School house. Senator David Miller and Rep. J. W. Morgan of Waitsburg took an active part in the debate.

James Chenoweth has embarked as a cigar drummer, and we are pleased to note, is meeting with success as a solicitor.

If you want a turkey, goose, duck or chicken, alive or dressed, call on S. S. Wills.

### Touchet Valley Weather

Dec. 18, 2019

#### Waitsburg's Seven Day Forecast

Day	Forecast	High	Low
Wednesday	Cloudy Areas of Fog	39	31
Thursday	Scattered Rain	44	36
Friday	Scattered Rain	50	40
Saturday	Isolated Rain	48	36
Sunday	Isolated Rain	43	31
Monday	Chance Showers	41	29
Tuesday	Sunny	37	25

#### Weather Trivia

Do lightning strike survivors have difficulty with short-term memory?

Answers: Yes.

#### Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation	Departure from normal	Average temperature	Average normal temperature	Departure from normal
Tuesday	35	32	39/29	0.00"	0.41"	-0.12"	35.6°	33.3°	+2.3°
Wednesday	39	32	39/29	0.17"					
Thursday	52	34	38/28	0.23"					
Friday	49	35	38/28	0.00"					
Saturday	43	31	38/28	Trace					
Sunday	36	28	38/28	0.01"					
Monday	32	20	38/28	0.00"					

Data as reported from Walla Walla

#### Weather History

Dec. 18, 1984 - A storm over Southern California left up to 16 inches of snow in the mountains and upper deserts, with 13 inches reported at Lancaster. Edwards Air Force Base was closed and Interstate 5 was closed from Castaic to the Tehachapis Mountains.

#### Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	4:08 p.m.	11:44 p.m.	12:14 p.m.
Thursday	7:31 a.m.	4:09 p.m.	Prev Day	12:40 p.m.
Friday	7:31 a.m.	4:09 p.m.	12:59 a.m.	1:06 p.m.
Saturday	7:32 a.m.	4:10 p.m.	2:14 a.m.	1:32 p.m.
Sunday	7:32 a.m.	4:10 p.m.	3:28 a.m.	2:00 p.m.
Monday	7:33 a.m.	4:11 p.m.	4:43 a.m.	2:33 p.m.
Tuesday	7:33 a.m.	4:11 p.m.	5:55 a.m.	3:11 p.m.

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# TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

## Events Calendar

**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 19**

**Waitsburg Chamber of Commerce/Commercial Club Meeting**

Waitsburg Town Hall  
121 Main St, Waitsburg, WA  
12 - 1 p.m.

**Museum After Hours: Climate Change 102**

Dr. Kirsten Nicolaysen discusses the exciting changes in public perspective regarding the climate crisis.  
Fort Walla Walla Museum  
755 NE Myra Rd  
Walla Walla, WA  
4 - 5 p.m.

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 21**

**Prescott Lions Breakfast**

All you can eat eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, juice, coffee.

Prescott Lions Club  
124 & "D" St  
Prescott, WA  
\$10  
8 - 11 a.m.

**Stocking Stuffer Saturday**

Waitsburg Main Street businesses, and pop up vendors at Town Hall provide last-minute shopping opportunities.  
Waitsburg Town Hall  
121 Main Street, & businesses  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Family Caroling**

Waitsburg Christian Church  
604 Main Street  
Waitsburg, WA  
5 - 7 p.m.



**Kid's Ornament Class**

Waitsburg Town Hall  
121 Main Street  
Waitsburg, WA  
Contact Debra at hippyheartfarm@gmail.com  
\$10 per person  
2 - 3 p.m.

**Book Chat**

Dayton Memorial Library  
111 S. 3rd Street  
Dayton, WA  
6 - 8 p.m.

**'Tis the Season**

An evening of holiday music featuring Mark Brown and G Louis Hemenway, with friends Clipper Anderson, Clark Bondy, Debra Arlyn, Dave Glenn, Nate Miller and more.  
Gesa Power House Theatre  
111 N. 6th Ave.  
Walla Walla, WA  
\$30  
7 - 9 p.m.

**Ugly Sweater Christmas Party**

Wear your ugliest sweaters, there will be a contest! Winner gets a \$25 gift card. We will have drink specials, Jell-O shots and beer pong.  
Whiskey Canyon Sports Bar & Grill  
701 Preston Ave  
Waitsburg, WA  
9 p.m. - 12 a.m.



**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 22**

**Christmas Pillow Box Stocking Stuffer Workshop**

Need a cute stocking stuffer? Come make one at Crafter's Corner.  
Contact Debra at hippyheartfarm@gmail.com  
Waitsburg Town Hall  
121 Main St  
Waitsburg, WA  
2 - 3 p.m.

**Sing Spiration - Community Christmas Concert**

Traditional carols, refreshments afterwards.  
Waitsburg Presbyterian Church  
504 Main St.  
Waitsburg, WA  
7 - 8 p.m.

**MONDAY  
DECEMBER 23**

**Christmas Dinner**

Waitsburg Christian Church  
604 Main Street  
Waitsburg, WA  
Buffet style holiday served by the church's men's ministry. Please email waitsburgchurch@outlook.com with any questions.  
5 - 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 24**

**Candlelight Service**

Waitsburg Christian Church  
604 Main Street  
Waitsburg, WA  
7 p.m.

*Christmas Eve*



**WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 25**

*Christmas Day*



## DAYTON SENIOR ROUND TABLE LUNCH MENU

Dayton Senior Center  
403 E. Patit St.  
12 p.m.

**Thurs., Dec. 19**

**Salisbury Steak  
Mashed potatoes  
Capri Veggies  
Salad**

**Tues., Dec. 24**

**Country fried steak  
Au gratin potatoes  
Green Beans  
Broccoli salad  
Angel food cake**

## WAITSBURG SENIOR LUNCH MENU

Waitsburg Senior Center  
504 Main Street

**Tues., Dec. 24**

**Closed for  
Christmas Eve**

**Don't see your event listed?  
Send us current press releases and we will be glad to list  
you in the Events Calendar for the week of your event!**

**Email information to Editor@Waitsburgtimes.com**

## Meetings & Gatherings

**Alcoholics Anonymous - Dayton:**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 p.m., Dayton First Congregational Church-UCC dining room, 214 S. 3rd St.

**Alcoholics Anonymous - Waitsburg:**

Saturday, Monday and Friday, 8 p.m., Presbyterian Church basement, 504 Main St.

**American Legion Post #35:**

First Monday, 6 p.m., Waitsburg Town Hall, 121 Main Street.

**American Legion Post #42:**

Second and fourth Wednesdays, 7 p.m., American Legion Building, 211 E. Clay St., Dayton.

**Bingo:**

Every Friday, doors open at 4 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m. Dayton Eagles, 222 E. Main

**Blue Mountain Heritage Society:**

Second Thursday, 9 a.m. Delany Building, 111 S. 3rd St., Dayton.

**Blue Mountain Station:**

Tues - Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., 700 Artisan Way, Dayton.

**Book Chat:**

Third Saturday, 6ish-8ish, Delany Room, 111 S. 3rd St., Dayton.

**Celebrate Recovery-Dayton:**

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Catalyst Church, 311 S. 4th, Dayton.

**Celebrate Recovery-Waitsburg:**

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., Waitsburg Christian Church, 604 Main St.

**Columbia County Commissioners:**

First and third Mondays, 9 a.m., Commissioner's Chambers, 311 E. Main, Dayton. (Work sessions are the first and third Wednesday of each month.)

**Columbia County Commissioners:**

Third Mondays, 6-7 p.m. public listening sessions. Commissioner's Chambers, 311 E. Main, Dayton.

**Columbia County Health System:**

Fourth Wednesday, 1:30 p.m., Dayton General Hospital board room, 1012 S. 3rd St., Dayton. (May and Sept. meetings will be held at Waitsburg Town Hall.)

**Columbia County Planning Commission:**

Second Monday, 5:30 p.m., 114 S. 2nd St., Dayton.

**Columbia-Walla Walla No. 2 Fire Commissioners' Meeting:**

7:30 p.m., Waitsburg Fire Department, 234 Main Street.

**Columbia County Rural Library Board:**

Third Monday, 7 p.m., Delany Building, 111 S. 3rd St., Dayton.

**Dayton City Council:**

Second Wednesday, 7 p.m., Dayton City Hall, 111 S. 1st St.

**Dayton Friends of the Fairgrounds:**

Second and fourth Thursdays, 7 p.m., American Legion Building, 211 E. Clay St., Dayton.

**Dayton Friends of the Library:**

Second Friday, 10 a.m. Dayton Memorial Library, 111 S. 3rd St.

**Dayton Kiwanis:**

Second and fourth Thursdays, Noon, Delany Building, 111 S. 3rd St.

**Dayton Parent-Teacher School Association:**

Second Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Dayton Elementary Multipurpose Room, 614 S. 3rd St.

**Dayton Planning Commission:**

Third Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Dayton City Hall, 111 S. 1st St.

**Dayton Senior Round Table:**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 p.m., Dayton Senior Center, 403 E. Patit St.

**Dayton School Board:**

Third Wednesday, 6 p.m., School Administration Building, 609 S. 2nd St.

**Discovery Kids:**

Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Dayton Memorial Library, 111 S. 3rd St.

**Friends of the Dayton Community Center:**

Last Tuesday, 5:30, Delany Building, 111 S. 3rd St., Dayton.

**Friends of the Dayton Dog Park:**

First Monday, 6 p.m., Chief Springs, 148 E. Main, Dayton.

**Prescott City Council:**

Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Prescott City Hall, 108 S. "D" St.

**Port of Columbia meetings**

second Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

**Prescott School Board:**

Fourth Thursday, 6 p.m., District Boardroom, 207 S. "A" St.

**Soup for the Soul:**

Last Friday, 5:30 p.m., Dayton First Christian Church, 410 S. 3rd St., Dayton.

**TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly):**

8:30 a.m., United Methodist Church, 110 S. 3rd St., Dayton.

**Waitsburg Christian Church Youth Group:**

First and third Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Waitsburg Christian Church, 604 Main Street.

**Waitsburg City Council:**

Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Don Thomas Building, Fairgrounds. Waitsburg Commercial Club: Fourth Thursday, Noon, Waitsburg Town Hall, 121 Main St.

**Waitsburg Commercial Club:**

Last Thursday, Town Hall, Noon RSVP for lunch waitsburgcc@icloud.com or (509)316-1488

**Waitsburg Parks & Rec. District Board:**

First and Third Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., WHS band room, 421 Coppee Ave.

**Waitsburg Resource Center:**

Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., 106 Preston Ave. (side of Banner Bank).

**Waitsburg School Board:**

Third Thursday, 6 p.m., Preston Hall Board Room, 605 Main.

**Waitsburg Story Time:**

Mondays, 10:30 a.m., Weller Public Library, 212 Main St.

**Waitsburg Senior Round Table:**

Tuesday, 11:30 a.m., Waitsburg Presbyterian Church, 504 Main St.

**Weller Public Library Board Meeting:**

First Tuesday, 7 p.m. Weller Public Library, 212 Main St., Waitsburg.



Fruits & vegetables, nonfat chocolate and 1% white milk are offered with every meal.

**Thurs. Dec. 19:** B: Breakfast pizza. L: Ham & potato casserole, garlic bread, broccoli, pears

**Fri. Dec. 20:** B: French toast. L: Chicken nuggets, fries, sugar snap peas, cookie applesauce

**Mon. Dec. 23:** No School, happy holidays!

**Tue. Dec. 24:** No School, happy holidays!

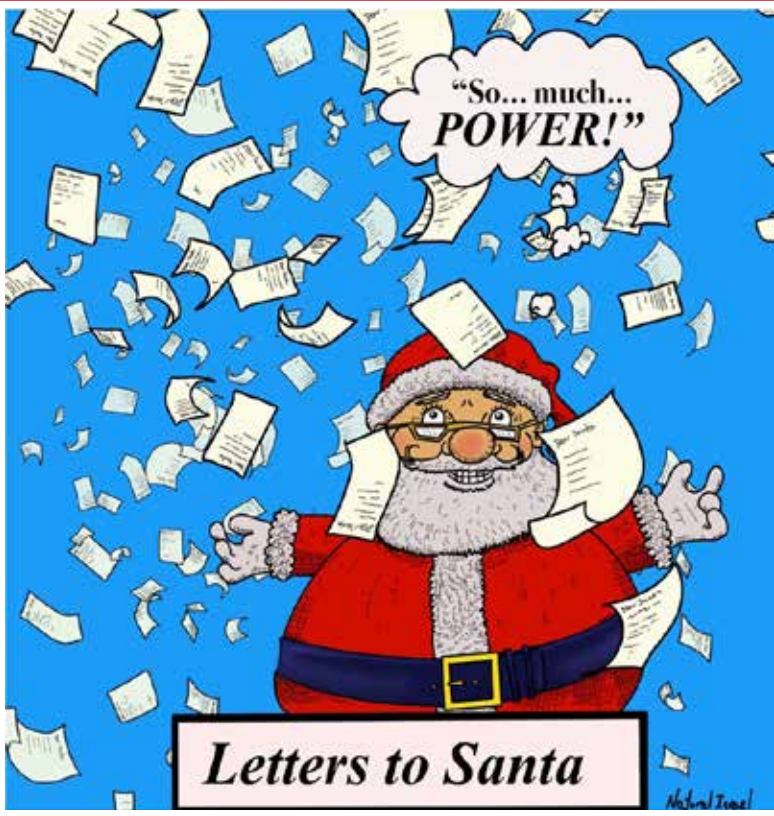
**Wed. Dec. 25:** No School, happy holidays!

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**LIBERTY THEATER**  
344 E Main St., Dayton, WA  
**Disney FROZEN II**  
Fri., Dec. 20 7:30  
Sat., Dec. 21 3 & 6:30  
Sun., Dec. 22 3 & 6:30  
Closed Christmas Eve  
(509)382-1380 or libertytheater.org

*Church Directory*  
**Waitsburg Presbyterian Church**  
504 Main  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m.  
337-6589  
Pastor Stan Hughes  
**Waitsburg Chapel**  
320 W. 2nd  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6 p.m.  
Bible Study  
Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.  
337-6235  
Rev. Jimmie Daves  
**Waitsburg Christian Church**  
604 Main St  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Each Sunday  
337-8898  
Rev. Matthew Wyatt

# COMMENTARY & NEWS



## COALITION - FROM PAGE 1

30-day tobacco use is 6 percent, one point higher than the state average, 30-day tobacco use among 6th and 8th graders is zero percent. The survey indicates smoking is occurring after the 10th Grade.

The state average for vaping among 9th through 12th graders is 25.4 percent. 10th graders at Dayton High School reported an average of 45 percent use in the past 30 days. Vaping is the most commonly used delivery system for nicotine and THC, according to school administrators.

Of the students who consumed alcohol within the last 30-day period, 10th graders reported obtaining alcohol from a friend. Students in grades 8 or 12, got it from home, with permission.

Sixty-five percent of students in grades 8-12 said they viewed alcohol as easy to obtain.

Anecdotally, families commonly drink together when gathering for outdoor activities in the mountains.

Missing from the 2018 Healthy Youth Survey is an assessment from the LGBTQ student community. There is data indicating this population has a higher rate of mental health problems and substance misuse. A recommendation has been made to include this population in future Healthy Use Surveys.

From this data the Coalition has been able to identify many factors that create risk for youth, including; friends who use, availability of drugs and alcohol, the low perception of harm, favorable parental attitudes about substance use, and experiencing poor mental health, which contributes to substance use.

Eaton said protective factors are fairly strong in the community with regard to: community engagement with students, the school/community connection, bullying prevention, overall school experience satisfaction, and student perception that there are adults they can turn to for support.

The Coalition is also finishing a Community Sur-

vey, which will help them understand the greater community perceptions with regard to substance use issues.

Eaton said so far there are 140 respondents to that survey, 75 percent of them women.

"We want to continue to champion the message to all adults in our community that parents are the number one influence on their teens' decisions on alcohol and other drug use," Eaton said.

Substance abuse prevention leadership in Dayton has gone through a variety of changes in the past few years, one of which took place when Peggy Guterrez retired as the Drug Free Grant Coordinator for the Coalition, in March of 2017.

At that time, the Coalition made the decision not to reapply for an additional five years of that grant because of lack of technical assistance and the extra requirements of the grant.

The Coalition continued with help from the county's Wellness and Prevention Initiative funds, in partnership with Blue Mountain Counseling.

When Jennifer Price resigned as the Coalition Coordinator last spring, the county decided to direct the funds from the County Prevention and Wellness Initiative to the health department.

Eaton said the health department and the county signed a contract in November, and she has been working as quickly as she can to help the Coalition members craft an updated strategic plan for submission to the state Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Board, in Olympia.

The importance of the strategic plan is to make sure what happens in the Coalition matches what is happening in the community, she said.

Eaton said she wants to make sure people have a buy-in and invites membership in the Coalition.

CFYF meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Delany Building at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Chelsey Eaton, Program Coordinator/CPWI Coalition Coordinator by phone at: 382-2181

## THEATER MANAGER APPRECIATES COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Touchet Valley Arts Council and the Liberty Theater concluded its last performance of *Mary Poppins* on December 7. It was our 19<sup>th</sup> fall musical production, and one of our most successful. When I say "our" I'm referring not only to the TVAC Board or even the Productions group who produced the show. I'm referring also to everyone from the stage crew to the audiences which made it happen. In fact, audiences are a key component to live theater. They are not passive viewers; they are active characters. Each audience brings a unique persona and energy to a show, making that show unique among others. Live theater is a dialogue between those who perform and those who receive the performance.

So I am in no way exaggerating when I say it takes an entire community to create community theater. Any professional actor, dancer or singer will tell you that local community art is the root of any career in the Performing Arts. It starts at church, in the primary dance class, in band at school, a music club or the local theater.

It is almost impossible to know how many hours are logged by every person involved in a fall musical – or any stage production. This year there were nearly 80 persons playing a role in *Mary Poppins*, even if you never saw them on stage. Each one sacrificed something in order to make the show come alive. This year dancers spent at least five months rehearsing for the show; and some principal actors started working on it earlier than that. None of them were paid in money; they were all "volunteers." They were paid in friendship, shared struggle and the natural reward of accomplishing something incredible. They were paid in the joy of making others laugh and bringing happiness to those who needed a bit of happy. They were paid in the realization that they could do something they weren't sure they could do. They were paid by the bond they strengthened as families. They were paid in the knowledge that some little boy or girl was inspired, and some adults were brought to tears of joy by what they saw and heard.

Putting on a live stage production is hard work. It is demanding. It isn't for everyone. But it is – and has been – the right thing for many, many people. They have contributed as actors, set painters, directors, set builders, stage crews, patrons, donors, dancers, treasurers, costumers, choreographers, singers, T-shirt coordinators, lighting technicians, sound technicians, vocal coaches, musicians, librarians, assistant directors, photographers, floor sweepers, parent coordinators...the list goes on and on.

What I'm trying to say is, Thank You for *Mary Poppins*. Thank you for keeping the light of Arts and Culture alive. In one way or another it brings us life. That's why we keep doing it.

Mike Ferrians  
Manager, Liberty Theater

## SAFE WEB ACT PASSES IN HOUSE

### THE TIMES

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Monday, Dec. 16, Eastern Washington Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05), Republican Leader on the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, passed the US SAFE WEB Extension Act (H.R. 4779) in the House to protect Americans from fraud, spam, and deception online.

"Today, bad actors from around the world target and exploit Americans online. In order to keep people safe from criminals who wish to do them harm, we must have the tools we need to take action against foreign cyber threats," said McMorris Rodgers. "That's

what this legislation provides. It enables the Federal Trade Commission to step in, address international threats online, and protect Americans' sensitive or financial information. This bill is also essential to protecting cross-border data flows with foreign nations, which is critical to American technological innovation and maintaining our competitive advantage against authoritarian countries like China."

The Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006 (U.S. SAFE WEB Act) gives the FTC critical powers to enhance cross-border cooperation on consumer protection investigations and fraud actions, as well as to support cross-border data transfer mechanisms like the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield.

## Reader's Forum

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

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

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

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

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## WWCSO

### December 1

Dispatched to Farmland Rd. in reference to a stolen vehicle, Walla Walla County, WA.

### December 8

Trespassing - deputies investigated a report of suspicious circumstances, on Reser Rd./Foster Rd., Walla Walla County, WA.

### December 9

Adult female reported the theft of go-cart from her backyard, on Erdman Lane in Burbank, WA.

### December 10

Hit & Run report taken in the 1600 block of Reser Road in Walla Walla, WA.

Theft of Christmas decorations, on the 600 block of Lake Road, Burbank, WA.

Theft was reported from a mailbox on the 100 block of Partridge Lane, Walla Walla County, WA.

### December 12

A man was arrested for DUI in Walla Walla on 9th Ave./Malcolm Street in Walla Walla, WA

### December 13

Deputies assisted in a death investigation on Farmland Road in Walla Walla County, WA.

# TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

## NEWS BRIEFS

### NEW PROGRAM, DIABETES UNDONE, OFFERED AT DAYTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

*Learn to optimize your lifestyle strategies to reclaim your health*

Currently, 26 million Americans have diabetes and 79 million have prediabetes. Both of these conditions significantly increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and other complications. The prevailing medical paradigm teaches that diabetes is a chronic, incurable disease, and diabetics surrender to the idea that they will struggle with the disease for the rest of their lives.

Judith Holmes, a licensed clinical social worker and Dietitian/Nutritionist Jeanne Hall, will be presenting an eight-week program at Dayton Community Hospital on Sundays, January 5 through February 23. The program, Diabetes Undone, is a research-tested intervention in reversing type 2 diabetes and other lifestyle diseases.

The program is designed to empower participants to optimize their nutrition, exercise, and other powerful lifestyle strategies, all of which enable them to reclaim their health. The same strategies that are taught to fight diabetes also combat heart disease, obesity, cancer, autoimmune disease, and many other lifestyle-related health conditions.

The Diabetes Undone curriculum includes a cookbook, workbook, and informational videos and can be taken in a group setting or on an individual level



from home. Participants will learn how to form new habits and make better choices based on increased knowledge, skills, and encouragement.

Diabetes Undone was developed by Dr. Wes Youngberg, DrPH, a clinical nutritionist and lifestyle medicine specialist (dryoungberg.com) for use in community education. Youngberg, DrPH, has been working with diabetics for the past twenty-five years. He has found that, by addressing the cause of illness rather than just treating the symptoms, type 2 diabetics can experience dramatic health improvements, avoid complications, and possibly even reverse the condition.

The classes will take place at the Dayton General Hospital, Cafeteria Conference Room on Sundays, January 5 through February 23 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch is included in each session. The cost is \$99. For more information, contact: Jeanne Hall, MS, Dietitian/Nutritionist at (509) 386-6760, or Judith Homburg, LICSW, at (509) 386-4668.

### KIDS ANSWER QUESTIONS

This month the Dayton Memorial Library has been home to the Santa Mail Express – our direct line to Santa Claus! All kids who sent The Big Guy a letter will receive a special one back to open on Christmas Morning. Here are some great answers to the questions we asked them (any spelling/grammar errors are original to the letters):

Here is one extra NICE thing I did this year... I let my brother choose the show for 3 whole days!  
*Farrah H.*

Clen the litter box.  
*Bertha F.*

My favorite part of Christmas is...

Getting candy canes.  
*Nina J.*

One gift I'm wishing for is...

To get a bambo plant.  
*Bryson M.*

## CLASSIFIEDS HELP WANTED

### Deputy City Clerk

The City of Waitsburg, and equal opportunity employer, is currently taking applications for a full-time Deputy City Clerk employee.

### Nature of Work

Under guidance from the City Clerk, this position performs a variety of administrative work in support of City Clerk and public works operations, functions and programs. Will be required to fill in for the City Clerk during absences. Responsible for utility billing, pool management, website updates and other duties as assigned.

### Qualifications

Minimum of 18 years of age with a valid state issued driver's license. High school diploma or equivalent. A 2-year degree from an accredited community college or university. Position closes at 4pm on Friday December 20th, 2019. Depending on availability, anticipated starting date is Monday December 23rd, but will be interrupted by upcoming Christmas and New Year's Holidays and associated City Hall Closures. Applications are available M-F, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Waitsburg City Hall, 147 Main Street, Waitsburg, WA as well as on the City of Waitsburg website, www.cityofwaitsburg.com, along with a full job description.



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### WWCC QUEST PROGRAM ANNOUNCES NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*Adventures in Learning for Ages 50+*

WALLA WALLA—The Walla Walla Community College Quest program announces the launch of a scholarship fund for their Quest Education program for learners aged 50+. This fund will provide opportunities for community members to participate in Quest lifelong learning courses without financial constraints.

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Quest offers a variety of classes in a stress-free learning environment, in a friendly, sociable setting free of tests, grades, and credits. Activities and classes range from the academic to the artistic; including Tai Chi, genealogy, photography, story writing and more. Classes differ in length from one day to 10 weeks. Costs vary by class.

If money would otherwise be a barrier to you taking classes through Quest, please consider applying for scholarship funds. The Quest Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for Winter 2020. The application form is available through the Quest website: <https://www.wwcc.edu/quest>. Upon request, printed versions of this form can be picked up at the Continuing Education office.

## BIRTHDAYS

**December 19:** Lexus Ann Benson, Jack Maxwell, Shirley Cummings.

**December 20:** Kellie Rarick, Margaret Naumann, Melanie Land, Jeff Gusse, Nathaniel Abel, Bitsey Harshman, Christy House, James Richard.

**December 21:** Jamie Kibler, Katy Hofer, Loren Davis, Jenny Devine, James Adkins.

**December 22:** Micah Winnett, Kara Largent, Callie Dueñas, Forrest Mock, Gordon Bateman, Suzanne DeCoria, Marell Patricia Hubbard.

**December 23:** Tyler Hofer, Joyce Beckley, Claire Raven, Alta Daniel, Larry Bickelhaupt, Lorene Brown, Kim Douglas, Richard Bessey, Karen Lambert, Chelsea Gore.

**December 24:** Shirley Kitterman, Carolyn O'Brien, Shane Hilton, Mary Conner, Barbara Wagener, Tracey Harper, Karen Stroobants.

**December 25:** Solon Pietila, Donna Manley, Les Richardson, Sonia Borrowdale, Annette Becker, Carol Hevel, Dalton Carlisle, and Neil Maxwell.

**December 26:** Sandra Farley, Sydney Claire Brookshire, Jennifer Nielsen, Margie Douglas.



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# SPORTS

## Boys celebrate the team's first win as a combined Dayton-Waitsburg basketball program

By Dave Schreindl | THE TIMES

As the clock wound down in the tight contest between neighboring schools Prescott and Dayton-Waitsburg, the intensity from inside the Dayton gymnasium increased until it overflowed, following a narrow D-W win of 54-49 in the non-league contest.

To set the scene, the Dayton-Waitsburg boys basketball team had not won a game in 23 tries, had come off three tough losses featuring poor shooting, and the Prescott Tigers came to the contest after convincing victories over Bickleton and Moses Lake Christian.

"This win means a lot, it was our first in three years," Sophomore Guard Dylan Bledsoe said smiling courtside following the historic victory.

Two more factors fueled the home crowd anxiety, including a poor first half by the home team, and a dominating performance by the visitors. The second factor saw a reversal of fortunes as D-W built an 11-point lead just prior to the end of the third quarter.

After two missed free throws, Senior forward Tayven Seney redeemed himself with a shot under the basket with 39 seconds left. After a wild series of missed shots by Prescott, D-W gained and kept the lead for good, at 52-48.

Prescott had an opportunity to tie and even take the lead, but instead the ball refused to go through the net three straight times. Still, the Tigers would not give up as Dayton-Waitsburg missed four straight free throws including two straight one-and-ones. In the end, another D-W player, Junior Colton VanBlaricom

redeemed himself for the earlier missed free throws and made two free throws with 1.8 seconds left.

With the sound of the swishing net on the final free throw, pandemonium followed as the student section stormed the court to celebrate the team's first win as a combined Dayton-Waitsburg basketball program.

It truly was a tale of two halves. Prescott jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead before Mason Finney put Day-



Eric Umphrey

#10 Mason Finney shoots a free throw.

ton-Waitsburg on the board three and a half minutes into the first quarter. A 3-point shot by 6'3" senior forward Miguel Ayala at the end of the first half put the Tigers up 24-17.

Bledsoe took the challenge to heart as he hit the half's first shots, both 3-pointers, starting Dayton-Waitsburg's 14-0 run following the intermission.

D-W Head Coach Roy Ramirez said regarding the big win. "At half-time we just challenged them to come out with a lot of energy and a lot of passion, and

they did. They came out and shot the ball well and we moved the ball to where the open guy was, and they did a good job," D-W Head Coach Roy Ramirez said regarding the big win.

Prescott Head Coach Allyn Griffin also testified to the importance of a solid start to the second half. "We always like to play the first four minutes well, and win the first four minutes, which we didn't do," he said.

Prescott big man Ayala also felt his team did well and learned from the experience. "I thought the game went good, we were winning in the first half," he said. "There were just communication issues through defensive transitions, which we need to work on," he added.

Prescott returned to the court Friday at home against Garfield-Palouse in their first league contest. Dayton-Waitsburg faced Finley at home in a non-league matchup.

Dayton-Waitsburg 54, Prescott 49  
 PRESCOTT (49) – Cardenas 17, Ayala 15, Garcia 8, Velasco 4, Hernandez 3. Totals 18 10-15 49.

DAYTON-WAITSBURG (54) – Finney 20, Bledsoe 17, VanBlaricom 9, Seney 6, White 2. Totals 22 4-13 54.

P 16 8 9 16 -- 49

DW 8 9 25 12 -- 54

3-point goals – P 2 (Cardenas 2), DW 6 (Bledsoe 3, Finney 2, VanBlaricom). Total fouls – P 14, DW 19.

Fouled out – P (Cardenas), DW (Finney). Technical fouls – P (Cardenas). Rebounds – P 21 (Ayala 8), DW 20 (VanBlaricom 7). Turnovers – P 23, DW 22. Assists – P 8 (Cardenas 4), DW 14 (VanBlaricom 5).

## Prescott Girls JV defeat Riverside Christian 31-28

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES



Eric Umphrey

#21 Vianey Granados passes to #12 Jamileth Saldana.

in the quarter. At one point during a timeout I could hear head coach Tiffany Hedman tell her team they were good shooters and to not to pass up open shots.

Late in the fourth quarter Prescott fell behind 28-26. With 1:41 left in the game, Jena Rowlette scored—giving her 19 points and tying the game at 28-28. Then two clutch free throws by #21 Vianey Granados, with 51 seconds left, gave Prescott the lead back at 30-28. She would go to the line a few seconds later to make another free throw and seal the win at 31-28.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Prescott	12	4	10	5	31
RCHS	8	2	14	4	28

### PRESCOTT SCORING

Jamileth Saldana 2, Vianey Granados 3, Angeles Ayala 6, Hedra Morales 1, Jena Rowlette 19

YAKIMA—The Prescott girls basketball team traveled to Riverside Christian on December 14th to play in their second game of the season. They won their first game in overtime at Dayton, against the D-W JV girls team. This game got off to a similar start. The first quarter belonged to Prescott and #32 Jean Rowlette, who poured in 10 points on shots in the lane. #12 Jamileth Saldana added an outside shot of her own to give the first quarter to Prescott 12-8.

The second quarter had a lot of missed shots and very little offense. Fortunately, the Tigers defense only allowed two points in the quarter. Jamileth Saldana had a nice blocked shot of an attempted jump shot by Riverside Christian. Two free throws, one by #24 Hedra Morales, and one by Jena Rowlette, plus a shot from #31 Angeles Ayala, would take the team into halftime up by a score of 16-10.

Riverside Christian would start their comeback in the third quarter. Prescott's defense was still active but RCHS did a better job of scoring under the basket

## Prescott Boys lose to Garfield-Palouse 46-32

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES

PRESCOTT—Prescott boys basketball played Garfield-Palouse on Friday December 13th for their first conference game of the year. #23 Miguel Ayala would open the scoring for Prescott with a bucket in the lane. Prescott took an early 6-3 lead in the first quarter, before losing the lead by giving up open three pointers to Garfield-Palouse. Those open shots allowed GP to go on a run and end the 1st quarter up 14-11.

Late in the second quarter, #12 Jonathan Cardenas tied the game at 25-25 with 1:21 left with an NBA distance three pointer. Both teams had chances to take the lead. Prescott's #25 Andrew Patzkowski broke out in front of the defense on a breakaway but couldn't quite come up with the ball and the half ended in a tie at 25-25.

The third quarter was a frustrating one for Prescott, as no shots were dropping for them. In addition, turnovers due to traveling calls and passes that found their way out of bounds hurt them. This allowed GP to build an eight-point lead on free throws and inside shots in the lane.

In the fourth quarter Prescott was out rebounded amid continued shooting struggles. The highlight of the quarter was #3 Victor Garcia's free throw to complete the three-point play after being fouled. Prescott would lose the game 46-32.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
GP	14	11	10	11	46
Prescott	11	14	2	5	32

# DAYTON

# WAITSBURG




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## Prescott Boys fall to Riverside Christian 58-53

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES

YAKIMA—Prescott boys basketball travelled to Yakima to play Riverside Christian on Saturday, December 14th in a non-conference game. This was a game of scoring streaks for both teams. #12 Jonathan Cardenas opened the game with a three pointer. #11 Antonio Hernandez split the defense and scored up the middle. #1 Omar Velazco drove the lane and scored on a layup to make it 7-3. Moments later in what looked like an instant replay, Omar added another to make it 9-3. Riverside then went on a 9-0 run to take the lead 12-9 at the end of the 1st quarter.

#23 Miguel Ayala scored Prescott's first two points on free throws to make it 17-11 Riverside Christian. Open shots allowed by Prescott's defense were once again the culprit, and RC took the lead by double digits. Later, #5 Mauricio Osorio put in a nice reverse layup to end the half 35-23 RC.

No one is sure what Prescott coach Allyn Griffin said to the boys at halftime, but the team that came out after halftime looked nothing like the team that played in the 2nd quarter. The intensity of the defense and a very actively moving team on offense kept chipping away at the lead and managed to tie the game with about a minute left in the 3rd quarter. Had more time been left in the quarter, Prescott would likely have taken the lead.

In the 4th quarter RC would take the lead again only to see Prescott tie the game at 53-53. Unfortunately, those would be the last points they would score as RC would prevail 58-53.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Prescott	9	14	20	10	53
RCHS	12	23	8	15	58

## Inside the matchup: Seattle Seahawks vs. Arizona Cardinals

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES

Before getting to the matchup with Arizona let's take a look at the playoff picture. With the Rams loss this past week, the Seattle Seahawks and the San Francisco 49ers are both in the playoffs. However, the seeding is very much up in the air. I'll stick with just the possibilities between the 49ers and the Seahawks for the division title. Both teams have 11-3 records with two games left to play. They play each other in Seattle the last game of the regular season. Should the Seahawks win their remaining two games they will win the division. If the 49ers win both games, they win the division. If the Seahawks lose this week to the Cardinals but beat the 49ers next week, the Seahawks win the division by the 1<sup>st</sup> tiebreaker which is head to head record. Now for the crazy but possible scenario. If the Seahawks win this week and the 49ers lose this week, then the Seahawks lose to the 49ers at home the following week, both teams will have 12-4 records. Then it gets complicated. Since the first four tiebreakers do not produce a winner, we have to go all the way to the 5<sup>th</sup> tiebreaker which is strength of victory. This is determined by adding up the combined records of all the teams a team has defeated that year and calculating the winning percentage. Currently Seattle has the advantage 72-81-1 (.471) to the 49ers 67-84-2 (.444). However, if the scenario described plays out, then the 49ers will have the edge. Seattle would then need to hope that the combined number of wins between Minnesota, Philadelphia and Atlanta (22-20) is greater than the combined wins of Green Bay, Washington and New Orleans (25-17) at the end of the season. As you can see, the teams Seattle need to win are behind by three wins with six games left to play. If this also ends in a tie, then Seattle will win the division by virtue of their better strength of schedule.



Okay onto the matchup: Arizona rookie quarterback Tyler Murray is the most sacked quarterback in the NFL. He has 17 touchdowns to go along with 10 interceptions on the year. Tyler is the team's leading rusher which could explain some of the sacks but it's also an indictment on the Cardinals

running game this year. With this in mind, you have to give Seattle the edge at both the quarterback and running back positions.

At 36 years old #11 Larry Fitzgerald is still Arizona's best wide receiver. He's putting up good numbers this season on what is already a Hall of Fame career. Fitzgerald is second all-time behind only Jerry Rice in receptions; 1,370 and receiving yards, 16,990. #13 Christian Kirk is Arizona's other main receiving option. For Seattle, Tyler Lockett looked great last week amassing 120 yards and a touchdown. Lockett's health issues seem to be behind him which couldn't come at a better time since it was announced Monday that Josh Gordon has been indefinitely suspended for violating the league's substance abuse policy. Fortunately, Seattle's depth at this position gives them the edge.

Seattle also has the edge on defense. Arizona's defense gives up the most total yards of any team in the league and they also give up the 3<sup>rd</sup> most points in the league. You don't want to look past any team with the playoffs this close but this should be an easy win for Seattle.

Three keys to the game for Seattle:

- Pressure and sack Tyler Murray
- Exploit Arizona's weak defense
- Expect to see some starters pulled early

## Dayton-Waitsburg holds fall sports awards banquet

*Coaches praise players dedication and skill improvement*

By Dave Schreindl | THE TIMES

Dayton-Waitsburg's fall athletic teams banquet theme seemed to be the future is bright at its Monday night at the Dayton Elementary multipurpose room.

The only thing that could have gotten the message across better would have been to be playing Timbuk 3's song "The Future is so bright, I gotta wear shades," in the background during the ceremony.

"The future is bright," Head Football Coach Troy Larsen explained. "These kids don't play just one spot and they each got better week by week."

Larsen stated that is one of the things other coaches around the league noticed about Dayton-Waitsburg. At the conference meeting they asked him how his team was able to improve so much in just one year.

"I told them that our kids work hard, they learn and the compete," he said. "Our team competed, and we had a lot of fun."

Dayton-Waitsburg Head Volleyball Coach Tara Brenner happily explained her teams catch phrase for the year, Yamming it. She said they would say that to each other, and the effect was effective in boosting the bonding process and helped the team have fun.

"Our team goal was to have fun," she said. "Our catch phrase was 'Yammed it,' meaning you killed it."

The team also had a team motto Brenner said, "Teamwork makes dreams work."

"I'm proud of each one of our girls for their hard work," Brenner concluded before handing out the individual awards.

She began by honoring each of the seniors: Kailyn Lewis, Elise Steinhoff, Kirsten Miller, Anna Miller, Amy Farley, and Trinity Abel. She asked each of the



Dave Schreindl

From left: Monte Pettichord (Offensive Player of the Year), Seamus House (Defensive Player of the Year, and co-winner of Valley Football Player of the Year), Benny Bryant (Scout Player of the Year), Tayven Seney (Valley Football Player of the Year, Colton VanBlaircom (Special Team Player of the Year, along with Sean Evans, not pictured).

seniors to state what they learned most and got from the season.

"Memories were what I got the most from," Abel said. "I enjoyed working with the others on the team and I want to thank the parents and coaches."

Farley and junior Sadie Seney were given the team captain awards. Seney and Farley helped lead the team that was the best blocking group in the league. Seney finished with 52 blocks and Farley had 39.

Seney's efforts saw her presented with the Most Improved award. McKenna Cully earned the Coaches Award and Miller was given the Most Valuable Player plaque.

Dayton-Waitsburg football team nabbed two Eastern Washington Athletic Conference all-conference

selections. Larsen pointed out his team could only earn two second-team honorees based on its finish in the league, which was last. Seamus House earned second-team All-Conference honors for his play at the middle linebacker position. He led the team in tackles. Tayven Seney earned his selection to the All-Conference roster for his offensive line position.

The football team also handed out six yearly awards to eight players based on voting by their peers. The Valley Football Player-of-the-Year award came down to a tie, so the award was given to the two team captains, House and Seney.

"This award goes to the player who best represents our entire program," Larsen said. "They are a leader not just on offense or defense."

House also earned the Defensive Player of the Year and Seney took the Lineman of the Year. Other honorees included Monte Pettichord, freshman quarterback, for Offensive Player of the Year; freshman Benny Bryant, Scout Player of the Year; and two players were named Special Team Players of the Year, juniors Colton VanBlaircom and Sean Evans.

Fall Cheer Coach Vickie Hamann handed out the accolades for the fall squad. Seniors Kylee Laughlin, Marissa Mings, Kenzie Dobbs, Jurnee Griffen, Lillian Patterson, and Hannah Tiner were showcased first. They were followed by the rest of the team, Jordyn Helm, Alicia Apodaca, Jessie Atteberry, Julia Brooks, and Dia Adkins.

Special awards voted on by squad members were also given. Laughlin earned the Most Valuable award, Patterson's was the Most Inspirational and Helm was given the Most Improved honor.

Larsen wrapped up the event by thanking the parents.

"Without the parents we are nowhere," he said. "Most of these kids play three sports, and not one of them missed a game this year for academic reasons."

## Winter Sports Schedules

### DW Girls & Boys Basketball

**Friday, December 20**  
Liberty Christian @ Dayton  
JV Girls/JV Boys 3/4:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 6/7:30

**Saturday, December 21**  
Kittitas @ Dayton  
JV Girls/JV Boys 2/3:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 5/6:30

**Friday, December 27**  
Mac-High Tournament  
JV Girls/JV Boys 12/1:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 3/4:30

**Saturday, December 28**  
Mac-High Tournament  
TBD/TBD

**Saturday, January 4**  
DeSales @ Waitsburg  
JV Girls/JV Boys 2/3:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 5/6:30

**Tuesday January 7**  
WWVA @ WWVA  
JV Boys 3/4:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 6/7:30

**Saturday, January 11**  
White Swan @ Waitsburg  
JV Girls/JV Boys 2/3:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 5/6:30

**Tuesday, January 14**  
Columbia Burbank @ Columbia Burbank  
JV Girls/JV Boys 4:30/4:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 6/7:30

**Thursday, January 16**  
WWVA @ Waitsburg  
JV Girls/JV Boys 3/4:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 6/7:30

**Saturday, January 18**  
Mabton @ Mabton  
JV Girls/JV Boys 4:30/4:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 6/7:30

**Tuesday, January 21**  
Pomeroy @ Pomeroy  
JV Girls/JV Boys 3/4  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 5:30/7:00

**Wednesday, January 22**  
Touchet @ Touchet  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 6/7:30

**Friday, January 24**  
Liberty Christian @ Liberty Christian  
JV Girls/JV Boys 3/4:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 6/7:30

**Friday, January 31**  
Columbia Burbank @ Waitsburg  
JV Girls/JV Boys 3/4:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 6/7:30

**Saturday, February 1**  
Tri-Cities Prep @ Tri-Cities Prep  
JV Girls/JV Boys 2/3:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 5/6:30

**Tuesday, February 4**  
DeSales @ DeSales  
JV Girls/JV Boys 3/4:30  
Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys 6/7:30

### Prescott Girls & Boys Basketball

**Friday, December 20**  
Touchet @ Touchet JV Girls 6

**Saturday, December 21**  
WWVA @ Prescott JV Girls /V Boys 6/7:30

**Saturday, January 4**  
Oakesdale @ Prescott JV Girls/ JV Boys 3:30/5 V Boys 5:30

**Tuesday, January 7**  
Wilson Creek @ Lacrosse JV Girls/V Boys 5/6:30

**Friday, January 10**  
Pomeroy @ Prescott JV Girls 4/ JV Boys 4/5 V Boys at 6

**Saturday, January 11**  
SJEL @ St John JV Girls/ V Boys 4/5:30

**Friday, January 17**  
Colton @ Prescott JV Boys/V Boys 6:30/7:30

**Saturday, January 18**  
GP @ GP Palouse JV Boys/V Boys 4/5pm

**Friday, January 24**  
Touchet @ Prescott JV Girls 6/ V Boys 6/7:30

**Saturday, January 25**  
Oakesdale @ Oakesdale JV Girls /JV Boys 3:30/5 V Boys 5:30

**Friday, January 31**  
Pomeroy @ Pomeroy JV Girls/ JV Boys 4/5 V boys at 6

**Saturday, February 1**  
SJEL @ Prescott JV Girls/V Boys 4/5:30 & Senior Night

**Wednesday, February 5**  
Springdale @ Lacrosse JV Girls/V Boys 5/6:30

**Saturday, February 8**  
Colton @ Colton JV Boys/V Boys 4/5:30

## The Club offers a safe, comfortable environment for youth in the afterschool hours

*Emphasis is on prosocial behavior*

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—Jim Pearson manages the afterschool program in Dayton called the Club.

When Jim Pearson first started working at the Club in September 2018, the goal for the afterschool program was to provide students with high value educational activities.

It soon became apparent that socio-emotional learning was going to take precedence, Pearson said.

He said some of the students are dealing with trauma, on a daily basis, which interferes with school attendance and performance.

Staff at the Club are from diverse backgrounds and they are trained to “sit shoulder to shoulder” with the students and be sensitive, supportive, and to model positive behavior for them.

“We want to help kids understand they are in charge of their own lives. This will be a long-term process,” he said. “The hardest part is taking one step forward and one step back. But there are observable improvements.”

This year there are 110 paid memberships.

On Oct. 1, the Club received a \$10,000 award from the Discuren Charitable Foundation for the purpose of increasing participation at the Club.

Pearson said attendance has increased by 15 percent over last year, with the addition of Teen Night.

Conversations took place this fall between Chelsey Eaton, the Coordinator for the Coalition for Youth and Families, the high school administrators, and the ASB Leadership Council, about how to organize Teen Night and to address prosocial behavior.

The overarching goal for Teen Night is to allow teens to have a safe place where adult staff can listen and offer guidance, Pearson said.

Pearson said the ASB Leadership Council has stepped up and is now completely in charge of planning and scheduling for Teen Night.

Twenty-eight youth attended the first Teen Night, which was held on Nov. 4. That night was devoted to karaoke, and featured disc jockey David Long from Waitsburg. Karaoke Night was followed two weeks later with an open house to “just hang out”, and the students played ping pong, foosball, and pool, and ate pizza.

“They seemed content,” Pearson said.

The students will be slurping root beer floats and painting at a “Paint and Slurp” activity, overseen by the owner of Brushes and Brix in Walla Walla on Wed. Dec. 18 from 7-9 p.m.

Pearson said he overstaffed the first Teen Night because he didn’t know what to expect in the way of behavior, but he said he is impressed with the teens’ behavior, overall.

“The kids have done an incredible job of managing themselves. Our role has been to monitor and observe and see what the next steps are,” he said.

There are currently thirty-eight high school students registered for Teen Night. Pearson said he would like to have more students from Waitsburg participate.

“This is an opportunity for Waitsburg High School students to have the same opportunity,” he said.

The public health department is paying for the first thirty memberships for Teen Night, and the Club’s residual funding is paying for memberships for the rest for this school year.

The Club is also offering a new program, for students in grades K-3, at the first of the year called Opening Books, Opening Doors, aimed at increasing literacy.

Pearson said research has shown that children in the third grade who don’t read at the 3rd grade level have a diminished chance of succeeding as adults.

“This is a good way to promote success after school,” he said.

He will need volunteers for the Opening Books, Opening Doors program, so that each child can be paired with an adult. The goal is to not only increase literacy but to establish positive child and adult relationships.

Funding for Opening Books, Opening Doors is through the Innovia Foundation of Spokane, which is the Club’s largest monetary contributor.

The Club has undergone other fundamental shifts in its organizational practices in the year since Pearson has been the director.

This includes a revamping of food services, turning away from the U.S.D.A model, because of food waste and lost revenue.

Youth are now getting substantial and healthy snacks through funding from the Blue Mountain Action Council. They can choose items such as yogurt, fruit, and whole grain foods, and decide how much they want.

Of course, on Teen Night, the most desirable food is pizza and soda, and they are getting that, Pearson said.

For information about membership, or to volunteer in the Opening Books, Opening Doors program, contact Jim Pearson by phone at: (509) 730-5360.

## It’s finally here!

*The new apple, the Cosmic Crisp, is available at the Waitsburg Grocery*

By Tracy Thompson | THE TIMES

Believe the hype, folks, the Cosmic Crisp, the new apple developed at Washington State University, is now available at the Waitsburg Grocery, and definitely meets the taste and texture expectations.

Breeding for the apple began at WSU’s Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center in Wenatchee, WA in 1997. Bred as a cross between the Honeycrisp and Enterprise apple, it is intended to have the texture and juiciness of the Honeycrisp, and the late-ripening behavior and long storage of the Enterprise; it more than delivers on



Tracy Thompson

Waitsburg Grocery store was one of the first locations in the country to offer the new apple variety.

both counts.

Taste-testers at the *Times* expansive new office remarked, “It’s supercharged!” and “boy, they nailed it!”

Dark red in color, the apple has light lenticels (basically, bright yellow spots, related to a knot in tree bark) which reminded focus groups of a galaxy against a night sky which led to its name. It is the first widely-grown apple variety developed in Washington. And, for at least ten years, it is only available to be grown by Washington State apple growers.

Growers pay a royalty for each tree purchased and for each box of apples sold. Interest was so high the seedlings initially had to be distributed to apple farmers in a lottery held in 2014—WSU had planned to provide 300,000 saplings but were met with requests for 4 million.

The *New York Times* described the apple as “dramatically dark, richly flavored and explosively crisp and juicy”, making it “the most promising and important apple of the future.” Food Republic called it “firmer than the Honeycrisp, but not too firm. And it is high in both sugar and acidity, making it far superior to the Red Delicious, Gala and Fuji varieties as well.”

Taste testers at the *Times* said “It’s not like your typical store-bought apple, it’s above and beyond,” and, “Very full-flavored, and very yummy.”

Another taster said, “The only way you could improve upon it is to genetically modify it so that the skin tastes like caramel.”

For sale at \$2.95 a pound at the Waitsburg Grocery, run, don’t walk to pick up a few to ‘wow’ your family.

Or, as another *Times* taster said, “Shut up and take my money!”

## A familiar friend and new voice

*Gift shop Etc. reopens and Divine Sign Productions to open soon in Plaza Theater building*

By Tracy Thompson | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—There is action happening at 208 Main street in The Plaza Theater building with Marilyn Johnson re-opening her gift shop Etc., while her daughter Serena Travis is remodeling the space to the right as a voiceover studio.

Currently, Etc. offers stocking stuffer type items, such as Christmas decorations, candles and knickknacks, with a hope to include more craft items in the near future. The shop will be open Thursdays through Sundays. Customers are also advised to check in on their Facebook page to see current openings. Johnson has also added some gently used clothing and shoes to her inventory.

Travis and her husband Drake Travis moved to Waitsburg just before Thanksgiving this year; they previously lived in North Carolina, and also spent a couple of years in Hollywood, CA.

Her business name, “Divine Sign Productions” reflects her Christian faith, and she says she is most well known for her Bible narration podcast “The Seven Streams,” noting that it has received over 100,000 downloads.

She offers coaching services to people who want to record their own work and has the technical expertise and the soundproofed recording booth in which to engineer and produce the recordings.



Tracy Thompson

Serena Travis’ new recording studio is open for business.

Travis mentioned that Emmy-nominated voiceover artist Melissa Disney is one of her mentors and that they have worked together in workshop settings to educate others in the art of voice recording.

She plans to market her business online and through word of mouth and would like to encourage anyone who has an interest in recording their own work to contact her through her website, serenatravis.com.



# NEWS & LEGALS

## COMBINE - FROM PAGE 1

data, only 37.4 percent of survey participants said that they wanted to continue the Combine on a sport by sport basis, and only 23 percent of survey takers thought that the Combine should be a high school only program, making it clear that the majority of parents and students wanted the Combine to continue, and to start at the middle school level.

In regards to frustrations with the Combine, the data gathered from the survey responses showed that the biggest challenge was transportation, with 32.7 percent of the combined data selecting this option. The next challenge, which garnered 25.8 percent of the combined responses was 'none,' meaning that the survey takers felt there either weren't challenges, or that the challenges weren't big enough to impact the answer. There were no issues that had overwhelmingly strong responses; all of the answers were fairly close to each other.

Most of the students responded that the Combine was a positive experience for them. 38.6 percent of D-W athletes said that the Combine encouraged them to participate in sports, and 46.3 percent said that the Combine was a positive experience. 22.1 percent of students said that the Combine was not a positive experience, but 31.6 percent answered 'not applicable' when asked if it was a positive experience. The survey was open to students, not just athletes. 64.6 percent of students who took the survey said that they would participate in the Dayton Waitsburg Combine in the future.

The committee acknowledged that there are some areas that will need improvement, and that if the Combine were to move forward, they would need to address the issues that are in their control. A combined student and coaches handbook was one of the items brought up that would need to be created. Dayton and Waitsburg schools have slightly different GPA systems, and the committee acknowledged that common eligibility rules would need to be established. The other issue of concern was a shared mascot, name, and colors. Deciding on the mascot and colors would allow uniform purchases, as well as spirit building moving forward.

The survey evidence was pretty clear that most of the students and parents wanted the D-W Combine to continue. Once the board members had discussed the findings, they opened up the meeting for public comment. Each speaker was allowed two minutes to comment.

Roy Ramirez, the High School head boys basketball coach, encouraged the board to make a decision sooner, rather than later, so that the schools can have

everything ready for WIAA classification, and so that coaches can begin planning as needed.

Jim Elgin pointed out that athletes need a break as much as they need playing time. Keeping the D-W Combine provides a turnout of enough athletes that allows the team to cycle through players, so that athletes aren't "running themselves to death." It comes down to a matter of safety.

Mason Finney, a student athlete, said that he has been playing football with Waitsburg since his middle school years, and he can't imagine splitting up and having to play against his teammates his senior year. He said that as important as winning is in sports, the brotherhood and friendship developed over the years is just as important.



Beka Compton

The Dayton-Waitsburg Athletic Combine advisory board reviews the results of the public survey last week. The meeting was well attended by coaches, athletes, and parents.

"I can't speak for anyone else, but right away I was pro-combine. The teams needed more kids to play, and the more kids meant more competitive practices. The harder the practices there are, the better person and player you become." Mason spoke briefly about having low numbers his sophomore year, and how rough it was on him to be playing both JV and Varsity games.

Dave Finney spoke following Mason, and brought up a statistic that Mason had pointed out: Mason's high school basketball record was 0-63, a number that was raked up after having to play both varsity and JV games.

"How do you keep going after losing 63 times in a row? It's obviously not all about winning," Finney pointed out.

"I think that is a true testament to the students," Charlie Barron pointed out. "It would be pretty easy to say 'to heck with this' after you've lost time after time. They go back out there and try with all their hearts." He pointed out that those friendships and teams are best built when they start at the middle school level. He also mentioned that it would be unfair to let them build up a team in football, and then tear them apart and pit them against each other in basketball.

Sam Korslund brought up the very successful Prosser high school football team. The Prosser program starts young; Korslund said that the little guys' football program is learning the high school program, so they have many years to develop. He encouraged the board to not let perfect be the enemy of good, and to consider keeping the program at the middle school level. He said that in 50 years, if the combine is still together, the board will still have to tweak things to better the program.

Adam Puckett, a student athlete, said that sports programs and the D-W Combine have helped him grow as a leader, and a player. When he first started playing, he wasn't getting much playing time, but he has had to work hard and now plays all four quarters of a football game.

Christy House mentioned that the student comments expressing concern may have come from female athletes. There hasn't been much experience with the female athletes and a combine situation, even looking back at the Waitsburg-Prescott Combine. She noted that they were all valid concerns, and said she saw many of the same comments and concerns when the boys combine was beginning.

Wendy Richards, the MS Volleyball coach, reported that this past season had some amazing growth. She lost three great athletes to other programs, and as a result, they had very competitive practices. She said that the athletes were working harder at practice to earn playing time, and the personal and team growth was highlighted at the games.

Fred White, a parent, asked the board if they were going to make an all-or-nothing recommendation, meaning that if one school approached the other and said 'we want to pull the middle school program,' would there be room to continue the high school program or would the entire combine be done? Charlie Barron pointed out that the survey data indicated an all-or-nothing combine. It was also recommended to remove a deadline, and keep an indefinite combine.

At the end of the public comment session, the board took a moment to consider the survey data as a whole, as well as the feedback received at the meeting. The board felt it was appropriate to keep the combine going on an all or nothing basis, and to remove the 4-year classification deadline. The board voted to make the recommendation to both of the school boards. The Waitsburg School Board met on December 11, following the Combine meeting. The Dayton School Board meets December 18, and a final decision will be made following that meeting. Survey results are available to the public on both the Waitsburg and Dayton school websites.

## LEGAL NOTICES

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

In the Matter of the Estate of

ROBERT W. SMITH, Deceased.  
NO. 19 4 00224 36  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
RCW 11.40.030

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. 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 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of Filing Notice to Creditors with Clerk of the Court:

December 16, 2019  
Date of First Publication: December 19, 2019  
Personal Representative: Donald Orin Schmidt  
Attorney for the Personal Representative: Michael V. Hubbard, WSBA #8823  
Address for Mailing or Service: Hubbard Law Office, P.C. PO Box 67 Waitsburg, WA 99361 509) 337-6643  
The Times  
December 19, 26, Jan 2 12-19-d

### ORDINANCE SUMMARY

Pursuant to RCW

35A.12.160, the Council of the City of Prescott hereby approves for publication the following Ordinance Summary:

1. The name of the City is the City of Prescott, Washington.

2. The Ordinance summarized is Ordinance No. 2019-06, adopted by the Council of the City of Prescott on December 9, 2019.

3. The Ordinance establishes the City's 2020 budget.

4. The Ordinance is summarized as follows:

a. The Ordinance is divided into four (4) sections.

b. Section 1 adopts the 2020 Budget for the City of Prescott with total expenditures of \$237,247 broken down by fund as follows: Current Expense Fund--\$154,126.00; City Street Fund--\$16,521.00; and Water Fund--\$66,600.00.

c. Section 2 states that a copy of the detailed budget and Budget Ordinance will be forwarded to the Division of Municipal Corporations of the State of Washington.

d. Section 3 states that if any part of the Budget or Ordinance is adjudged to be invalid, such adjudication will not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or other parts of the Ordinance.

Section 4 states that the Ordinance is necessary and shall take effect immediately upon its passage and posting.

A copy of the entire Ordinance will be mailed upon request or may be examined at City Hall.

This Ordinance was APPROVED by the Council of the City of Prescott on the 9th day of December, 2019.

Steven derligner  
/s/ Steve Heimbigner  
Mayor

The Times  
December 19 12-19-c

### Notice of public meetings 2020

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

The Times  
December 19, 26 12-19-a

### SMALL WORKS ROSTER

In accordance with RCW 39.04.155, by order of the Board of Commissioners Columbia-Walla Walla Fire District #2, PO Box 925, Waitsburg, WA 99361, the fire district is establishing their 2020 Small Works Roster of qualified contractors wishing to be considered for performing work on Public Works Projects. Interested contractors may email the District at clerkfire2@hotmail.com or mail their Statement of Qualifications to the above address.

The Times  
December 19, 26 12-19-b



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

Send notices to: legals@waitsburgtimes.com

## WAITSBURG GROCERY

Our Christmas and New Year's holiday hours:

Christmas Eve open 6am - 4pm  
Christmas Day open 7am - 1pm  
New Year's Eve open 6am - 7pm  
New Year's Day open 6am - 4pm



### WINTER CLEARANCE SALE!

Starts Thursday December 26th

SHOES & WOMENS CLOTHING We'll be closed Dec 23-25 to prepare for the sale.

SAVE UP TO

# 50% OFF

MENS & WOMENS SHOES!

WOMEN'S APPAREL

# 50-70% OFF

FALL/WINTER COLLECTIONS!

HUGE SELECTION OF THE FINEST COMFORT BRANDS AND TOP RATED PERFORMANCE FOOTWEAR...

**We Care About Your Comfort** 613 N. Main Street • Milton-Freewater  
541-938-5162 • saagershoeshop.com • Open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm • Sun Noon-4pm

## Lift ticket 3-pak special

Stocking stuffer sale

SALE PRICING THROUGH 12/24

**\$120** adult 3-pak

**\$103** student / college (with ID) / senior (65-69) 3-pak

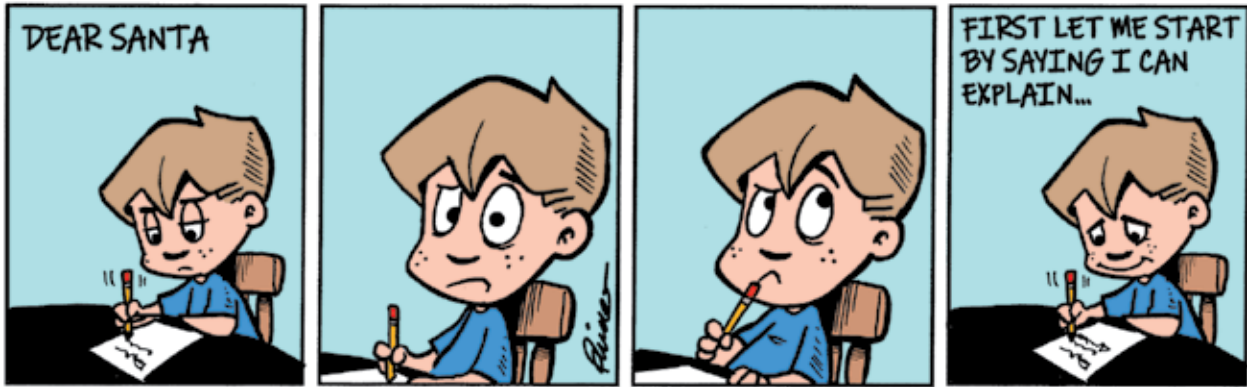
Each lift ticket good for a day of lift service at Bluewood any day we're open during the 2019-20 season only. Save up to \$30 per 3-pak compared with individual ticket pricing. Limit of three 3-paks per purchaser. Price includes tax.

Order at [bluewood.com/ticket-specials](http://bluewood.com/ticket-specials)

bluewood

# FUN & GAMES

## Amber Waves



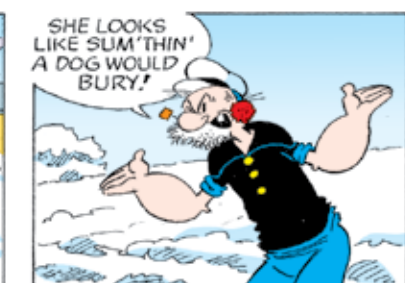
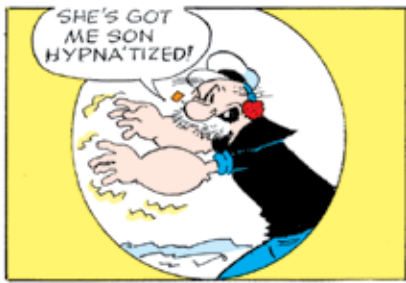
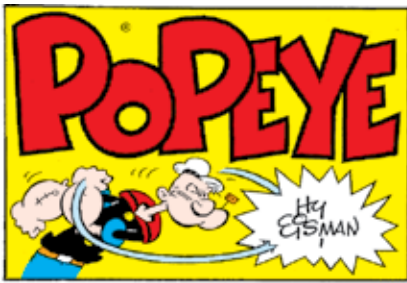
by Dave T. Phipps

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## LAFF - A - DAY



"Do you mind? I just had to sit down for a minute or two."



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



## Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

### RIDDLE SEARCH - DECEMBER 25TH

Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: What is a wolf's favorite Christmas carol?

ANGEL	P	D	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	E
CANDLE	A	N	U	F	F	C	P	T	O	E
CANDY CANE	G	S	L	L	I	A	R	Y	T	N
CHIMNEY	E	N	E	Y	R	A	K	A	C	A
CIDER	A	O	T	A	E	H	E	L	O	C
DISPLAY	N	W	D	H	P	N	H	P	C	Y
FIREPLACE	T	E	O	W	L	T	M	S	O	D
FUN	L	E	G	N	A	O	L	I	A	N
HEARTH	R	E	D	I	C	Y	G	D	H	A
HOLIDAY	S	T	R	E	E	L	D	N	A	C
HOT COCOA										
LOG										
NOEL										
PAGEANT										
PARADE										
SNOW										
TOY										
TREE										
YULE										

Riddle answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                        |           |                   |           |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. Energetic           | ___ I ___ | Attractive        | ___ O ___ |
| 2. Shoulder wrap       | ___ O ___ | Fix one's hair    | ___ Y ___ |
| 3. Easily chewed       | T ___     | Bumper            | F ___     |
| 4. Review the ledger   | ___ T ___ | Of the ear        | ___ O ___ |
| 5. Kick out of school  | ___ P ___ | Do extremely well | ___ C ___ |
| 6. Wobble like gelatin | ___ G ___ | Advertiser's tune | ___ N ___ |
| 7. "Law and ___"       | ___ R ___ | More peculiar     | ___ D ___ |
| 8. Paper border        | ___ G ___ | Lee or Gaye       | ___ V ___ |
| 9. Rocket ship sendoff | ___ L ___ | Animal            | ___ E ___ |
| 10. Relinquish a right | ___ V ___ | Restaurant server | ___ T ___ |

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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Plant on mantel is missing. 2. Man has black 5 shirt zipper is gone. 6. Earmuff has added band.

## PUZZLE CARD



Here's a neat stunt. Challenge a friend to take a playing card and place it flat against the wall so that it stays there without falling to the ground. Nothing such as glue or tape can be used to make it stick.

Secret: To make it stick, stand in front of the wall, scuff your feet several times on the carpet, and then slap the card against the wall. Static electricity will cause the card to adhere to the wall.

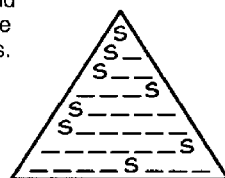
### A PUZZLE FOR THE BIRDS

"Tweet, tweet, tweet, tweet equals tweet-tweet." This clever bird challenges you to make four 3's equal to 33!

ANSWER:  $3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 = 3 \times 11 = 33$

THE "S" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the S's. Here are some hints from the top down:

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Symbol for sulfur.        | 2. Compass direction.    |
| 3. Group of games in tennis. | 4. Part of foot.         |
| 5. To tend a fire.           | 6. A bulb holder.        |
| 7. Kangaroos have them.      | 8. Close marching order. |

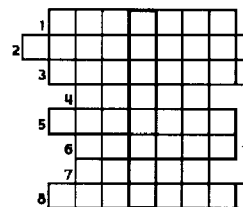


Answers: The words are: S, SE, set, toes, stoke, socket, pockets, lockstep.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

### CHRISTMAS DAY FUN



Here's a "word" present for you. There's room in the grid on the left for eight words about the holiday season. Here are some hints to light the way:

- Great for tandem snow fun.
- This dessert is made with many ingredients.
- The joyful sound of Christmas.
- Enjoyed in front of the fire.
- Mom and Dad need plenty of help with this two-day activity.
- A type of toy airplane made of balsa wood.
- Found hanging on the Christmas tree.
- This is the season for joy and \_\_\_\_\_.

There's a dark frame around one column of the grid. If you have correctly solved the puzzle, it spells out the name of an important Christmas item

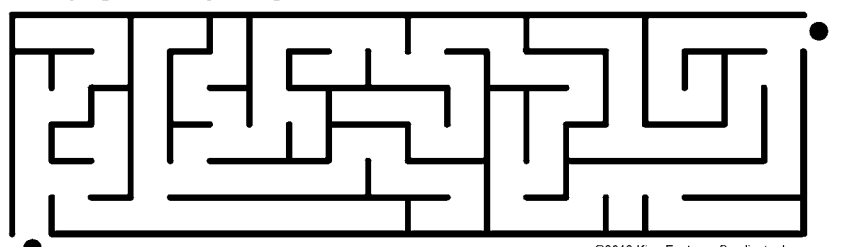
The dark framed column spells "Stocking".  
Answers: 1. Bobsled. 2. Fruitcake. 3. Caroling. 4. Cocoa. 5. Cooking. 6. Glider. 7. Candy. 8. Laughter.



Kids' Maze Solution

- ANSWERS
- Lively, Lovely
  - Stole, Style
  - Tender, Fender
  - Margin, Marvin
  - Blast, Beast
  - Audio
  - Excel
  - Walter, Waiter

## Kids' Maze



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Deck the Halls!  
Riddle Answer:  
S T R E E L D N A C  
E R R I  
G L I  
E W  
N O  
C O  
C  
A  
C  
A  
N  
D  
L  
E  
C  
A  
N  
E  
C  
H  
I  
M  
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E  
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D  
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F  
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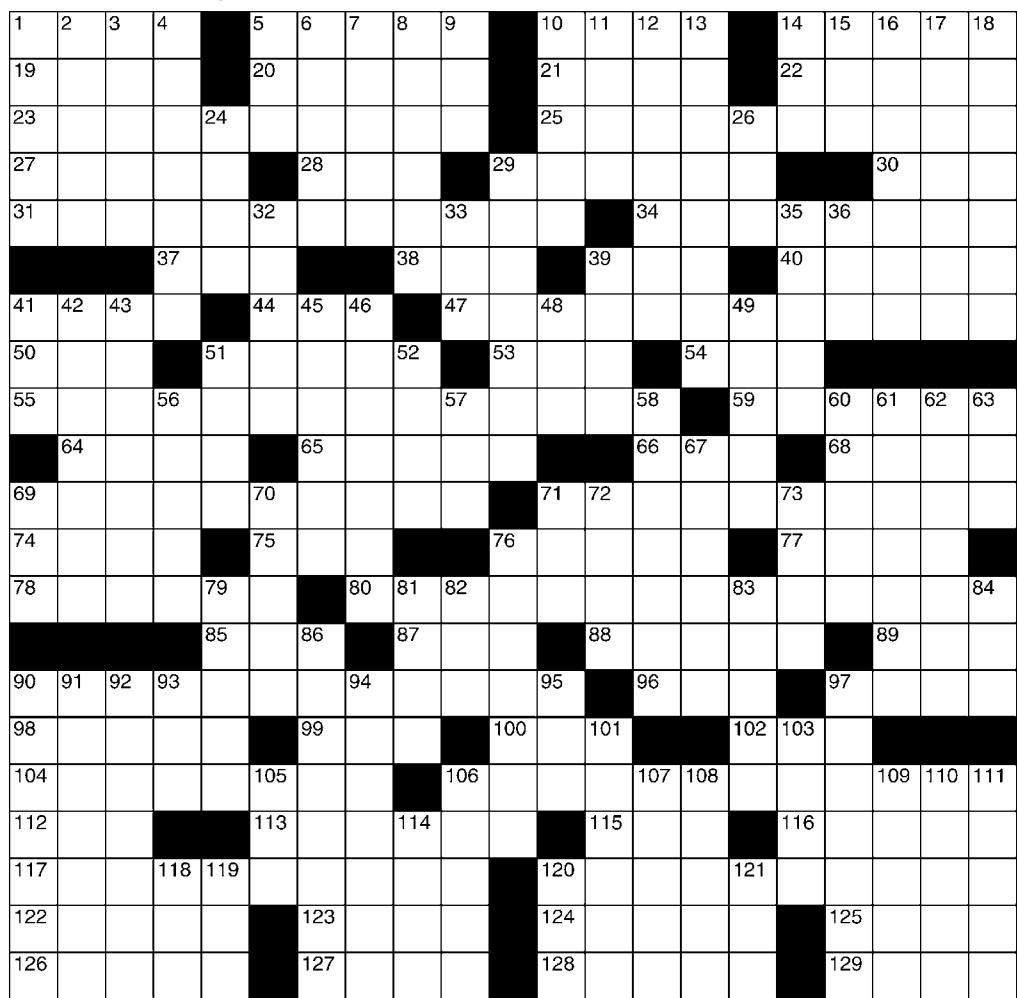
ANSWER  
Puzzles4Kids

# FUN & GAMES

## Super Crossword

MIX OF FISH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Creole cooking pod
  - 5 Early Andeans
  - 10 Concert stage items
  - 14 Disgrace
  - 19 Cover thickly
  - 20 Declines
  - 21 Wrongful act, legally
  - 22 Of the ear
  - 23 Grabs hold of a fish?
  - 25 Give a fish medication?
  - 27 Choose (to)
  - 28 Baseball stat
  - 29 Like spoiled cooking oil
  - 30 Clamor
  - 31 Fish smeared with black gunk?
  - 34 Cheeky
  - 37 Have bills
  - 38 Mineo of "Giant"
  - 39 Suffix for an enzyme
  - 40 Not as cruel
  - 41 Turn liquid
  - 44 Old horse
  - 47 Fish drifting about aimlessly?
  - 50 Actor Stiller
  - 51 Baseball stat
  - 53 Hoppy quaff
  - 54 Wash, bigwig
  - 55 Fish covered with more grit?
  - 59 Modifies
  - 64 Conceal
  - 65 Fake ID
  - 66 1,051, in old Rome
  - 68 Larch, e.g.
  - 69 Makes a fish more sothearted?
  - 71 Honey-colored fish?
  - 74 Score — with (impress)
  - 75 It's south of Can.
  - 76 Eye parts with irises
  - 77 Splits
  - 78 Triplets of adjacent nucleotides
  - 80 Cures a fish by salting and drying?
  - 85 Western treaty inits.
  - 87 Hide — hair
  - 88 Actress Davis of "The Matrix Reloaded"
  - 89 Ending for Bronx
  - 90 Fish that's a sainted guardian?
  - 96 O'er there
  - 97 For fear that
  - 98 Runner Bolt
  - 99 "Botch- —" (Rosemary Clooney hit)
  - 100 It precedes Sept.
  - 102 Barely obtain, with "out"
  - 104 Gratify, as a base instinct
  - 106 Accept a Facebook request from a fish?
  - 112 Boat in Genesis
  - 113 Twilled fabrics
  - 115 Old's opposite, in German
  - 116 Yellow tropical fruit
  - 117 Teach a fish privately?
  - 120 Catches a fish in a net?
  - 122 Flee to get hitched
  - 123 Lance cpl.'s org.
  - 124 Free-for-all
  - 125 Fair shelter
  - 126 Philly's train system
  - 127 Light meal
  - 128 French river to the Rhone
  - 129 Singer Anita or Aubrey
  - 41 Samantha Bee's station
  - 42 Expulsion
  - 43 Earthworm, e.g.
  - 45 2009 "Star Trek" director J.J.
  - 46 Seepage of methane, e.g.
  - 48 Heavyweight great
  - 49 Put on TV again
  - 51 Suffers
  - 52 Dog part
  - 56 "I'll second that"
  - 57 Informer
  - 58 Envoy's building
  - 60 Just clear of the bottom, as an anchor
  - 61 Boarding school student, informally
  - 62 Some china ensembles
  - 63 Divinity sch.
  - 67 Not as much as
  - 69 Bud Sarandon
  - 70 Actress
  - 71 Rd.'s cousin
  - 72 No more than
  - 73 Cheese type
  - 76 Hubbubs
  - 79 Not a soul
  - 81 As to
  - 82 Old man
  - 83 Baseball Hall of Famer Ralph
  - 84 On Soc. Sec., often
  - 86 Operated on smaller than a national level
  - 90 Transforms, as larvae
  - 91 In general
  - 92 Sleeveless casual shirt
  - 93 Free (of)
  - 94 Lovingly, in music
  - 95 Rapa —
  - 97 Ushered in
  - 101 Music styles
  - 103 53-Across containers
  - 105 Q-U queue
  - 106 Sell for
  - 107 Writer Zora — Hurston
  - 108 Super- —
  - 109 Got along
  - 110 A Trump ex
  - 111 Spruced up
  - 114 They support teeth roots
  - 118 Choose (to)
  - 119 Stephen of "Utopia"
  - 120 Texter's "Didn't need to hear that!"
  - 121 Notice



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## TEENY MCMUNN: MY RECIPE BOX

# Persimmon Pudding & Chocolate Covered Pretzels with Heath Toffee Bits

I'm going to squeeze two in because many will look at the name, persimmon pudding, and think, "not interested!" but perhaps the pretzels will interest you—like Bill P.



My friend, Martha, shared some of the persimmon pudding with me. It is not a pudding, like we think of, but a moist bread. I would not have tried it, either baking or tasting, had not I been gifted some. I had no idea what a persimmon was, except perhaps a crayon color. I found them at Andy's. Martha said they had to get squishy ripe before using and I can see why. If eaten too early, they have a lot of tannins that will be bitter and make your mouth dry. Very interesting! They are sweet and my first thought was peachy.

This recipe has no eggs or oils and is quick to put together.

### Persimmon Pudding

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 c. super ripe persimmon pulp \*\*
- 1 c sugar
- 1 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 c. soft raisins
- 1/2 c. walnuts
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 2-tsp soda dissolved in 1/2 cup sweet milk
- 1 tsp vanilla

Mix all the ingredients, adding the milk with soda and vanilla last. Put into a loaf pan. Cover with foil. Bake for one hour (check at 50 min) at 350 degrees. Uncover and cool

#### MY NOTES:

\*\*\* Only after I put it into the oven, did I bother to look up how to open a persimmon. I just took the top off and squished it all into a cup. Instructions says after you take the top off, slice lengthwise, remove pulp and seeds, then scoop out the fruit. Whoops. We found one seed so far, watching for the other one!!

I like this bread. It comes out very dark. I have no idea why and the foil steams the pudding/bread. If you want to try something different, try this.

### Chocolate Covered Pretzels

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pkg pretzel rods (I used about 2/3)
- 1 pkg chocolate melting bar —(I used half)
- 1 pkg Heath toffee bits —(I used about 2/3.)

Melt chocolate in a double boiler, spoon over pretzel rods, leaving about 2 inches for holding, sprinkle the toffee bits over, let set. The end result: a sweet, salty taste.

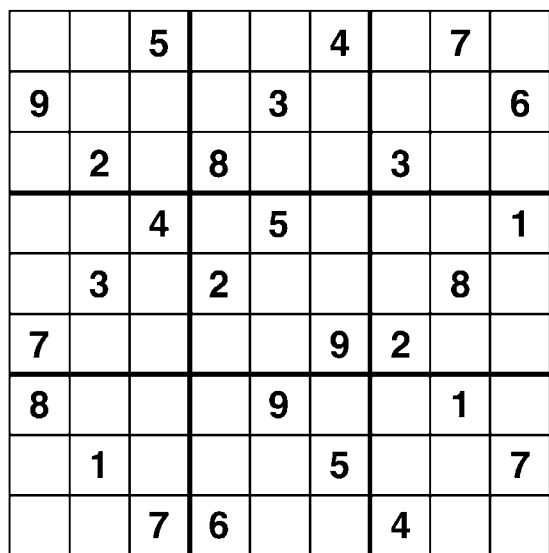
#### MY NOTES:

By experience, tap off excess chocolate, put the toffee bits in a glass and shake them onto the pretzel—with pan under it. Then put onto a cookie sheet covered with parchment paper. My first batch looked pretty gnarly. It helps to chop the bigger pieces as they cling better.



## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

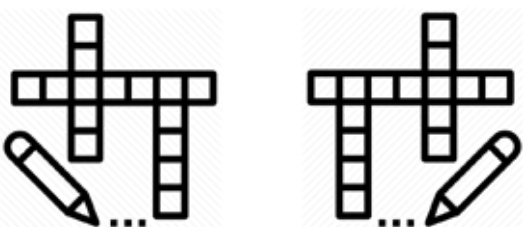


Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

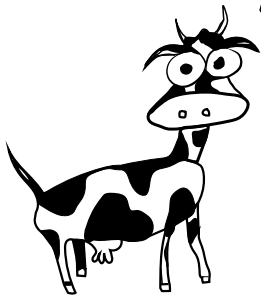
### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

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

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cactus patch



where udders fear to tread

© 2017 Rod Johnson

## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: \*\*  
 \* Moderate \*\* Difficult  
 \*\*\* GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		15
+		x	-		
	÷		+		4
÷		+		÷	
	x		-		19
4		15		1	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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## LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

### Super Crossword

#### Answers

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

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### Go Figure!

answers

1	x	8	+	7	15
+		-		x	
9	÷	3	+	6	9
x		x		÷	
2	+	5	x	2	14
20		25		21	

## My First Year in Waitsburg

*Or what the heck was I thinking?*

By Vicki Sternfeld-Rossi | THE TIMES



About 3 years ago, I announced to my friends that I was planning my farewell to Los Angeles to move to Waitsburg. Obviously, the first question was, “where?” I explained, it’s a bedroom community of Walla Walla, and of course, who hasn’t heard of Walla Walla? Evidently my friends hadn’t. Their faces had that look of “what the heck are you thinking?” followed by a blank stare, and then, they regrouped and asked, “Aren’t you going to miss the sun? Doesn’t it rain all the time there?” Hey guys, Seattle isn’t the only city in Washington!

I explained haughtily, as though I was relocating to Paris, France, “it’s wine country!” I gave them the Chamber of Commerce lowdown; Waitsburg may be small, but it is mighty! Near enough to Walla Walla to enjoy wine tastings, Macy’s, tennis, and a wonderful Symphony Orchestra. And, you can drive 20 miles in 20 minutes, or less. NO TRAFFIC!!

Although I’ve owned this house over 15 years, my official relocation journey began in June of 2018, when a friend of mine and I took a vacation that started in Willamette Valley, followed by a drive to Walla Walla for the Merlot festival. We stopped drinking long enough to check out my house here, and meet with a contractor to discuss updates, changes and renovations I wanted to make before I moved in. He gave me a “ballpark” number to consider for the work, and I was elated. I’m not sure what he was smoking, but then he disappeared, and his numbers turned out to be laughable.

I thought I was sunk. But I bravely returned in November to meet with other contractors. Feeling a little deflated, I waited for contractor meetings in Ten Ton Coffee shop, and it was there all good things began. I met Lane, Joe & Gail, Karen, Bill Rodgers, Luke & John, Richard, all had ideas, contractor contacts, renovation stories, successes, nightmares, and valuable advice. My anxiety faded into optimism. My mood swings during the remodeling are like the renovations themselves, mercurial. Renovating an old house is not something I ever want to do again.

Decking, landscaping, attic, kitchen, and getting the toilet back to level are high priorities, but I do have heat!

However, as wonderful as Waitsburg is, I must admit, there have been some adjustments. This time of year, I frequently feel like I’ve been caught in the movie *Brigadoon* when driving on the 12. Dixie, Walla Walla and Waitsburg appear through the fog in a blink. I cross my fingers that I don’t hit a rooster in Dixie, or a deer anywhere it wants to plant itself on the road. I’m usually a polite driver, I yield



Courtesy photo  
Before the cottage received its face-lift.



Courtesy photo

Caption: Vicki Rossi-Sternfeld’s house received new paint, roofing & siding this September.

to pedestrians, but granting right of way to 40 turkeys crossing in front of me at 7th & Arnold, is getting old.

I miss sushi! I’ve tried some places here, but sorry, It’s just better in Los Angeles. I miss Chinese food and the variety of ethnic restaurants. I miss my tennis friends and all the tennis I played in LA.

But I don’t feel sorry for myself; those are minor losses compared to what I have gained. Driving through the wheat fields is awesome, the colors change daily, and they give a new meaning to earth tones. I’m enjoying the wonderful wine, and the most friendly, open, generous, unpretentious friends I could ever imagine, even if they’re not tennis players.

My only quandary is still: “How is it possible I pay more for Washington apples in Washington than I ever paid for the same Washington apples in California?” Bottom line, what the heck I was thinking, obviously it’s “fabulous!!” I’m so glad I’m here. Thank you all for making this a great year.

## Waitsburg School Board update

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

The Waitsburg School Board met December 11, at the Preston Hall Middle School. The meeting was moved to 7:30 pm to accommodate the DW Athletic Combine meeting earlier that night. The Board swore in new members, selected chair and vice-chair positions, and reviewed the recommendation made by the Athletic Combine Committee.

Board members present were Ross Hamann, Christy House, Lisa Morrow, Randy Hinchliffe, and Pam Chapman. Stephanie Wooderchak, Mark Pickel, Linda Henze, and Becky Dunn were present, as well.

Before the business portion of the meeting, Board Chair Ross Hamann took a moment and recognized outgoing board member Randy Hinchliffe for his years of service. Board Member Jason Kaehler was recognized, as well, but was not in attendance. Hinchliffe’s seat was filled by Pam Chapman. The outgoing members received a plaque, and the board shared cake with everyone at the meeting. Newly elected board members were sworn in. The new members were Lisa Morrow, Christy House, and Pam Chapman.

### ASB Report

Stephanie Wooderchak, secondary principal, reported on behalf of the ASB. The Exchange Club of Walla Walla recognized Amy Farley and Kailyn Lewis as the Youth of the Month for December. Farley and Lewis both read essays they had written about community, and submitted the essays to have their names entered into a scholarship pool. They will know more about the scholarship in the late spring.

Wooderchak gave a quick reminder regarding HB1599, Pathways to Graduation. This bill allows senior students more opportunities to fulfill graduation requirements. The bill will apply to the Class of 2020 and beyond.

There are six ways that HB1599 allows students to graduate. One graduation route is to pass the SBAC (Smarter Balance) test in ELA and math. Under HB1599, students are not required to take the SBAC, though it will be strongly encouraged. Under HB1599, students may complete 2 or more CTE credits. There are no set courses, however, the school districts must complete and submit a form provided by OSPI, explaining why the selected courses were approved. Taking and passing the ASVAB with a score of 31 or higher is a new graduation requirement. Juniors take the ASVAB test each year.

The last three pathways under HB1599, are passing the ACT or SAT test with a minimum pass score. Students may take a dual-credit class in both ELA and math, and earn a C+ or better. Running Start classes are accepted. The final pathway is completing a tran-

sition course through the Bridge to College Program, which is not currently offered in Waitsburg.

Spirit building activities are going well. December 6 was the Breakfast with Santa event. The multipurpose room was decorated and included a train car from the Polar Express. Santa was available to take pictures and a mailbox destined for the North Pole was nearby. The middle school dance was December 13. Thank you to Ms. Ball for all her work helping the kids organize the dance. On December 18th, the LEO’s Club will be collecting food with the Lion’s Club. Middle and high school students have special winter break activities on December 20.

### Athletic Director’s Report

There was no report from the Athletic Director. Sup. Pickel noted that the Combine Advisory Board had just finished a meeting and recommended that the Combine continue indefinitely, based on the survey data and public comment. He noted that Stephanie Wooderchak and Katie Leid both did a nice job keeping the public comments on track and allowed everyone the chance to speak.

There was no report from Facilities and Maintenance.

### Elementary Principal’s Report

Superintendent Pickel noted that he, along with two board members and a staff member, attended the WSDA Conference the weekend before Thanksgiving. They had some very good sessions, and they plan on holding work sessions in the upcoming month to share what they learned. He briefly went over the Polar Bear Breakfast with Santa on December 6. Susan and Erin in the food services did a large amount of work to put the event on. They had lots of help from the middle and high school students. Superintendent Pickel estimated that they had hundreds of people come to visit.

The curriculum associates hosted a professional development for the iReady program used for reading and math diagnostics benchmarks. The associates helped staff deeper understand the diagnostics that were provided. The last diagnostic was in October, and another diagnostic will take place in January. The students all seem to be positive about the testing.

The first Wednesday of the month is the building directive day. This month, the staff saw a presentation by staff members who attended the six trait writing training over the summer. They would like to use the next in service day to host a training.

The Winter Program is December 19 at 6:30 pm. Pre K-5th grade classes will be a part of the show. Superintendent Pickel said that he has been listening to the practices and it sounds like it will be a fun show.

As a reminder, the Waitsburg School District of-

ices will be closed Dec. 23- Jan. 3, 2020. School will resume Jan. 6.

### Superintendent’s Report

The Coffee with the Superintendent is the first Friday of each month from 8:30-9:30. Roughly eight parents/community parents were in attendance. School delay/closure systems were discussed.

Superintendent Pickel has been in contact with ESD 123 in regards to the upcoming enrichment levy. He has been working with Molly Curtis, the Director of Communications, to get information gathered and shared.

December 9, WSD hosted Rep. Skylar Rude. He spent the day visiting with staff members and classrooms, spoke during Mr. Elder’s CWP class, and visited Mrs. Groom’s Leadership class. Waitsburg is the 6th school district that Rep. Rude has visited so far. Rep. Rude’s office reached out to the district and set up a time for him to visit.

There was no public comment at the December meeting. Board Member Christy House asked about Mr. Kiefel’s new curriculum, and Mrs. Wooderchak reported that the curriculum is going well.

### Old Business

The Board reviewed the second reading of five policies.

### New Business

Board member Jason Kaehler submitted his resignation. The board voted to accept the resignation. There is a process that the school district must follow to open up the board position, and they are taking the correct steps to fill the vacancy.

The board voted to move forward with the recommendation provided by the D-W Athletic Combine. Board member House asked that an ‘all or nothing’ be added to the approval, to include the middle school. The Dayton School Board does not meet until Dec. 18th.

There were four resignations received from coaches. Kayla Lewis resigned from the assistant winter cheer coach position. Nick Carpenter moved out of the area and the school has requested an email resignation. Danielle Carpenter has moved out of the area and the school has requested an email resignation from her, as well. Nick Swisher has resigned from the head middle school baseball coach. Those openings will be posted as soon as possible.

The board took a roll call vote to approve Resolution 121119A for the enrichment levy.

The board approved the second reading of five new policies. They began the first reading of a new set of five policies.

The board closed the meeting to the public in an executive session.

# HOLIDAY EDITION

The Times presents our 2019 Christmas Special Edition, a longstanding Times tradition. As we do each year, we present the poems, stories and letters to Santa from students at Waitsburg Elementary School. A hearty thanks goes out to the Waitsburg staff and students for their help in making this issue possible.

This special edition would also not be possible without the support of the many local businesses whose advertising helps make these pages possible. Please consider these companies, large and small, and remember to patronize them in 2020.

The staff at The Times invites you now to share the joy of this holiday season as seen through the eyes of local children, in their own words. We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas.

~ Lane, Teeny, Michèle, Tracy, Brianna, Beka & Eric



This Christmas I want to give Mom slippers.

**Elise Pearson**



This Christmas I want to give Sissy a LOL Surprise.

**Olivia Long**



This Christmas I want to give Kaitlynn a PJ Mask toy.

**Reagan Miller**



This Christmas I want to give my Dad a monster truck.

**Isaac Knudson**

## Kindergarten - Jamie Trump - Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Serinity and I am 5 years old. I live in Waitsburg. What is your favorite thing to do in the summer? One thing that I would be really excited for is a kitty cat for Christmas named Boy. One gift I would like to give is a snowy night to my sister because I want her to play in it.

Love, Serinity Johnson



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Oaklee and I am 5 years old. I live in Waitsburg, WA. How are the elves? This year, I have been mostly good. One thing that I would be really excited for is going to my grandma and grandpa's house because I love them so much and I miss them. One gift I would like to give is little lego Mickey Mouse lego toy because I have another Mickey Mouse.

Love, Oaklee Adams



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Rylee and I am 6 years old. I live between Dayton and Waitsburg. What do the elves do? This year, I have been really good! One thing that I would be really excited for is a JoJo Siwa doll that is as tall as me because it sounds cool! One gift I would give my mom is my help because I like to help!

Love, Rylee Cole



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Adeline and I am 5 years old. I live in Waitsburg, WA. What is your favorite thing to do in the winter? This year, I have been really naughty. One thing that I would be really excited for is a unicorn - I want a REAL unicorn! One gift I would like to give is a unicorn stuffy to my friend Adalynn Grace because I love Adalynn Grace - I just love her.

Love, Adeline Brock



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Adalynn Grace and I am 5 years old. I live in Waitsburg. How are the elves? This year, I have been kinda good/kinda naughty. One thing that I would be really excited for is a toy kitchen and toy keys that you can actually turn. One gift I would like to give is

an Elsa House that you can actually go in to my friend Adeline because she is my Fr-Ei-nd...and I love her!

Love, Adalynn-Grace Canites



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Emma and I am 5 years old. I live in Waitsburg, WA. How are the reindeer doing? This year, I have been Very VERY good. One thing that I would be really excited for is that my mom comes back from her training because I miss her. One gift I would like to give is new crayons to my mom because she draws sometimes.

Love, Emma Barnhart



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Malcolm and I am 5 years old. I live in Waitsburg. How are the reindeer and elves? Do you give the reindeer treats? This year, I have been really good. One thing that I would be really excited for is to see Rudolph because I've never seen him. One gift I would like to give to Ryden is a moving toy T-Rex because they are cool!

Love, Malcolm Ledford

Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Avah and I am 5 years old. I live in Prescott, WA.



How are the reindeer. This year, I have been good. One thing that I would be really excited for is a unicorn with a baby in it and LOL's because they are fun to play with. One gift I would like to give is a Valentine's present because I love my family.

Love, Avah Cooper



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Forrest and I am 5 years old. I live in Prescott. How do you make your money? I think you work for chocolate. This year, I have been nice. One thing that I would be really excited for is a real phone because I don't have one and I want to call my GiGi and Tucker and Sawyer. One gift I would like to give is a Green Power Ranger and I would give it to little Jason because he will like it.

Love, Forrest Cooper



Dear Santa,

Hello, my name is Alaric and I am 5 years old. I live in Waitsburg. Do you like to throw snowballs at snowmen? This year, I have been really good. One thing that I would be really excited for is a Golden Power Ranger and a Golden Ninja because they are awesome! One book I would like to read is Little House in the Big Woods because it is my favorite!

Love, Alaric Oliveros



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Tyr and I am 6 years old. I live in Waitsburg. How are the reindeer and elves? This year, I have been mostly good. One thing that I would be really excited for is you, Santa because I love you! One gift I would like to give is a Jack-In-A-Box to my mom because I want to surprise her.

Love, Tyr Elmore



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Hudson and I am 5 years old. I live in Waitsburg. Can I have a reindeer? This year, I have been really good. One thing that I would be really excited for is a toy snow bike because I have wanted one in real life, so now I'm just asking for a toy. One gift I would like to give is a toy to you to give to someone else so you don't run out.

Love, Hudson Lynch



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Khloe and I am 6 years old. I live in Waitsburg. What do you feed the reindeer? This year, I have been really good! One thing that I would be really excited for is a scooter because my sister had one and she said I couldn't play on it. One gift I would like to give is cookies and milk to you because I love you.

Love, Khloe Pennington



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Kaitlynn and I am 5 years old. I live in Waitsburg. What do the reindeer do? This year, I have been good. One thing that I would be really excited for is a JoJo Siwa doll as big as me because I really want it and it talks. One gift I would like to give is a snow globe of my parents dancing to my parents because it may look cute to them and they might like it. I want one too!

Love, Kaitlynn Miller



# HOLIDAY EDITION

## First Grade - Stephanie Hinchliffe - Cinquain poems



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Ryden and I am 6 years old. I live in Waitsburg. Does Mrs. Clause make you hot cocoa? This year, I have been REALLY GOOD!!! One thing that I would be really excited for is a deinosuchus remote control robot that goes under water and wags his bottom and roars because I like it. One book I would like to read is "Rudolph" because I like that story.

Love, *Ryden Huxoll*



Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Ethan and I am 5 years old. I live in Waitsburg. How is Rudolph and what does he eat? This year, I have been really good. One thing that I would be really excited for is a skateboard and a new bike and a real mini dog. One gift I would like to give is a special bell to Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer because he might like it.

Love, *Ethan Mahre*



### Presents

Colorful Big  
Wrapping ripping play-  
ing  
Christmas presents are fun!

Gifts  
By: Jax Smith



### Hot cocoa

Sweet warm  
Steaming boiling drink-  
ing  
I like hot cocoa!  
Chocolate

By: Angel Basulto



### Christmas light

Bright colorful  
Shiny hanging lighting  
Christmas lights are awe-  
some!

Decorations  
By: Cole Goff



### Snow

Cold wet  
Snowmobiling shoveling  
sledding  
Having fun in snow.

Moisture  
By: Ethan Watson



### Elf

Red happy  
Running hiding tricking  
He is so nice!

Helper  
By: TJ Hollingsworth



### Winter

Snowy icy  
Playing shoveling cook-  
ing  
I like eating snow.

Snow  
By: Katherine Roberts



### Cookies

Yummy soft  
Pouring mixing baking  
Dessert

By: Jayson Barnhart



### Snowflakes

Big white  
Falling rolling shining  
Snowflakes are very cold

Snow  
By: Bentley Hill



### Snowmen

Nice gentle  
Rolling stacking decorat-  
ing  
I can build snowmen!

Snow  
By: Wyatt Parrish



### Snow

Cold heavy  
Decorating sledding  
sparkling  
Wintertime is the best!

Snowflakes  
By: Rylan Struckmeier



### Winter

Snowy cold  
Sledding playing shovel-  
ing

I love the wintertime!  
Christmas  
By: Alexander Weis



### Winter

Cold white  
Snowing shivering shov-  
eling  
It snows in winter.

Season  
By: Jr. Sacha



### Stockings

Colorful beautiful  
Hanging stuffing waiting  
Christmas stockings are fun!

Presents  
By: Ava McCaw



### Elf

Tricky fast  
Hiding flying spying  
He talks to Santa  
Helper

By: Reid Mohney



**Snow**  
Fluffy white  
Floating landing melting  
Snow is super great!  
Storm

By: Gannon Grende



### Candy cane

Red white  
Licking smelling eating  
Eating candy is fun!  
Stripes

By: Cora Harer



### Christmas

Bright fun  
Baking wrapping singing  
I love Santa Claus!  
Holiday

By: Jaylynn Gleason



### December

Cold colorful  
Decorating baking play-  
ing  
I find my elf!

Holley  
By: Andie Rae Alsup



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Amy, Joni, & Fallon

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**Tallman's**

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# HOLIDAY EDITION



**Winter**  
Snowy cold  
Falling blowing freezing  
I love the wintertime!  
Season  
By: Jace Grende



**Reindeer**  
Brown magical  
Helping flying delivering  
I leave them carrots.  
Animal  
By: Haven Henry



**Winter**  
Cold snowy  
Playing sledding snow-  
mobiling  
I love snow time!  
Season  
By: Nick Reger



**Winter**  
Snowy white  
Playing sledding building  
It is so fun!  
Snowman  
By: Kacen Hubbard



**December**  
Snowy cold  
Decorating sledding bak-  
ing  
Fun times in winter!  
Christmas  
By: Isabell Vance



**Christmas**  
Bright colorful  
Eating baking decorating  
I love candy canes!  
Santa  
By: Emerson Kiefel



**Winter**  
White chilly  
Sledding baking snow-  
mobiling  
I love Christmas time!  
Season  
By: Isaiah Rice

## How to Diamante

Waitsburg Elementary School's second grade teacher Wenda Parr tasked her students with writing a diamante poem.

A diamante poem creates the shape of a diamond. The poem can be used in two ways, either comparing and contrasting two different subjects, or naming synonyms at the beginning of the poem and then antonyms for the second half for a subject.

## Second Grade - Wendy Parr - Diamante poems



**Winter**  
Snowing North Pole  
Beach Pool  
Hot Sunny Camp  
Warm Dry  
Summer  
By Arrow Groom



**Winter**  
Slippery Shiny  
Snowing Slipping Hailing  
Family Colds Pool Sun  
Camping Fishing Jump-  
ing  
Sunny Dry  
Summer  
By Laila Long



**Winter**  
Snowy Icy  
Freezing Slipping Snow-  
ing  
St. Nick Colds Heat  
Vacation  
Camping Playing Trav-  
eling  
Sunny Hot  
Summer  
By Ollivyr Dahlby



**Winter**  
Frosty Shiny  
Slipping Crunching  
Skating  
St. Nick Cold Sled Icicles  
Freezing Snowing Glis-  
tening  
Frozen Peaceful  
Christmas  
By Lilli Carpenter



**Winter**  
Icy White  
Sledding Skating Snow-  
ing  
Snowball Family Sled Ice  
Snowboarding Freezing  
Shopping  
Snowy Frozen  
Christmas  
By Madyson Potter



**Winter**  
White Frozen  
Freezing Blowing Snow-  
ing  
Presents Santa Cold  
Family  
Crunching Shopping  
Glistening  
Frosty Slippery  
Season  
By Maeci Strickland



**Winter**  
Snowy Cold  
Skiing Frosting Sledding  
Cold Icicles Sled Fun  
Sliding Snowing Eating  
Slippery Frozen  
Christmas  
By Brailyn Stearns



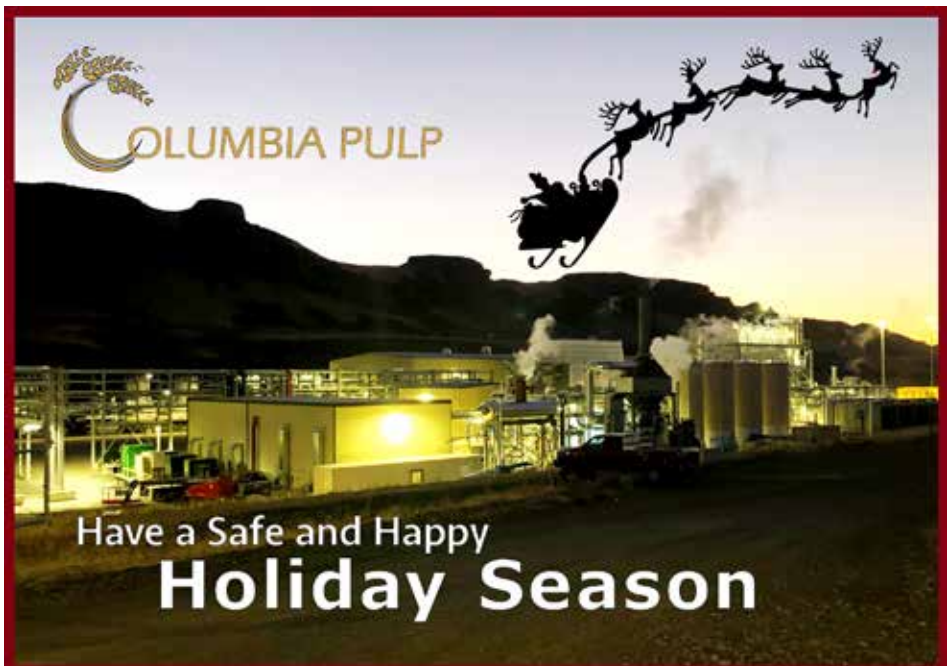
**Winter**  
Snowy Icy  
Blowing Snowing Eating  
Colds Icicles Heat Pool  
Camping Picnicking  
Beaching  
Sunshine Play  
Summer  
By Braxton Bly



**Winter**  
Frozen White  
Shopping Sleeping  
Crunching  
Santa Ice St. Nick Hail  
Shining Slipping Skiing  
Peaceful Frosty  
December  
By Yvetta Johnson



**Winter**  
Frozen Shiny  
Freezing Slipping  
Crunching  
Icicles Snowball Hot  
Vacation  
Playing Swimming  
Shouting  
Sunny colorful  
Summer  
By Kaitlyn Paul



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# HOLIDAY EDITION

## Second Grade - Wendy Parr - Diamante poems



Winter  
Slippery Icy  
Slipping Skiing Blowing  
Santa Sled Snow Blizzard  
Snowing Skating Skiing  
White Peaceful  
Season  
By Carson Scott



Winter  
Frozen White  
Freezing Snowing Slip-  
ping  
Colds Family Pool Sun  
Playing Fishing Traveling  
Sunny Beautiful  
Summer  
By Audrey Kiefel

Winter  
Icy Frosty  
Ice skating Skiing Snow-  
ing  
Christmas Lights Pool  
Hot  
Fishing Swimming  
Blooming  
Sunny Pretty  
Summer  
By Autumn Shelton



Winter  
Ice Frost  
Sledding Falling Skating  
Cold Snow Hot Sunny  
Swimming Boating  
Traveling  
Picnic River  
Summer  
By Nolan Smith

Winter  
Icy Peaceful  
Snowboarding Skiing  
Snowing  
Presents Colds Santa  
Reindeer  
Eating Crunching Blow-  
ing  
Crunchy Frozen  
Christmas  
By Ashlyn Brooks



Winter  
Icy White  
Walking Running Sleep-  
ing  
Cold Snow Christmas St.  
Nick  
Blowing Baking Playing  
Frosty Frozen  
By Damian Brown



Winter  
Shiny Snowy  
Snowing Skating Playing  
Ice Family Pool Sun  
Camping Raining Fish-  
ing  
Warm Dry  
Summer  
Emily Knudsen

Winter  
Frosty Peaceful  
Freezing Playing Hiber-  
nating  
Snowballs Ice cicles  
Snowman Hot cocoa  
Blowing Hailing Skating  
Frozen Beautiful  
Season  
By Holley Jensen



Winter  
Frosty Peaceful  
Sliding Sparkling Hiber-  
nating  
Sled Snow Vacation  
Blizzard  
Skiing Blowing Snowing  
Frost Cold  
Season  
By Sidian Stegall



**Merry Christmas**

The main thing here  
is not to panic...  
Santa's sleigh  
is in good hands!

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# HOLIDAY EDITION

## Third Grade - Tabitha Jadin - Christmas Riddles



I am so hidden but I can be ridden. I pull a sleigh on Christmas day. What am I?  
By Gus Johnson



You can hold me. I might have a special surprise. I am there on Christmas. I am wrapped up. I can be different colors. What am I?  
By Carsyn Pennington



I am brown and have frosting. I live in a cookie house. What am I?  
By David Barnhart



I am a mean one and I am green. I am one that doesn't like Christmas. Who am I?  
By Harleigh Webber



We have antlers and hooves. We fly Santa's sleigh and also eat the carrots you leave out. What are we?  
By Liam Kiefel



I have antlers and I do something for Santa. What am I?  
By Rowdy Cole



I am on a Christmas tree. I am shiny. What am I?  
By Alex Watson



I'm under the tree. You open me. What can I be?  
By Felicity Joy Nechodom



I can be colorful. I hang on a Christmas tree where I can be seen. I am hung around Christmas time. What am I?  
By Kyra Karl



I could be made in many ways, but I always have a carrot for a nose, rocks for eyes, buttons, and a happy or sad smile. What am I?  
By Olivia Kiefel



I can help Saint Nick around the town and I have a bright nose. I can fly. Who am I?  
By Sasha Mercado



I am a decoration. You kiss under me. I am green with red. I also hang from up high. What am I?  
By Carter Barron



I am white. I am cold. I have a carrot for my nose. I also have a scarf. What can I be?  
By Gage Myneer



I have 3 snowballs, 3 buttons, sticks on my shoulders, and a carrot on my face. What am I?  
By Jesse Rice



I sit on a shelf and have a red nose. What am I?  
By Peyton Kaehler



I am green and I have brown on me. I have lights and ornaments. What am I?  
By Stella Pearson

I am fast, and black. I have yellow letters. I go over the frozen ocean to take kids to the North Pole for Santa to pick a kid for the first gift of Christmas. Do you know what I am?  
By Braden Johnston



I ride a sleigh and I go through time. I deliver presents. Who am I?  
By Cody Coulston

Whatever is beautiful,  
Whatever is meaningful,  
May it be yours now  
and in the coming year.  
**Merry Christmas**  
from  
*Ed, Pat, CJ,  
Suzannah, and Carolyn*

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**As the Yuletide bells resound,**  
joy and laughter all around,  
filling every heart and home  
with merriment and cheer,  
what better time for us to say...

**'Thanks to you in every way,  
may this Christmas holiday  
be the start of a great  
New Year'**

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# HOLIDAY EDITION

## Fourth Grade - Deanna Coulston - Christmas Stories



### Christmas Miracle

This is a story about a little girl named Ellie who wanted to meet Santa. Her friend had a plan to catch the big man in red." So this is the plan," Ellie said. "Jane, this is what you're going to do. You're going to get tickets." "Where am I going to get the money for that?" Jane asked. "Here, \$100 dollars each for us okay."

To be continued...  
By Sawyer Harshman



One day on my birthday, I was turning 9. I got an elf on a shelf. I put it on my bookshelf and a couple of months later my elf on the shelf was gone. I was a little creeped out but I decided that it was just my mom. But then on Christmas Eve I found my elf on top of THE CHRISTMAS TREE!!!!!! "It has a note," I said. My mom helped me get it down. The note said, "So I won the first round, now time for the 2 round." My mom gasped and then I said, "ROUND 2??" Me and my mom looked at each other and...SCREAMED! We were terrified and we couldn't sleep. In the morning we were so tired, but we were happy because it was CHRISTMAS!!!!!! So I opened all my gifts. But there was only 1 more left. The wrapping paper was black with a red bow. I opened it and it was my..... ELF ON THE SHELF!!!!!! Me and my mom burnt it and we never saw it again.

By Aralynn Marick

### The Christmas Portal

One winter day an old man who did not believe in Christmas tripped on a piece of wood. It was not a regular piece of wood - it was a portal. It was the Christmas portal! As the days went by he kept tripping on it.

The night before Christmas Eve he opened it. As he went on he saw how Christmas brings kids joy. From then on he got his grandkids Christmas presents and donated presents. Then the night before Christmas, he saw Santa and Santa told him...Santa will forgive him for some things but not all...the very next day he went through and he begged Santa to give him another chance ... That is Santa did.

By Cheri Mathews



One Christmas day I got a huge present and I opened it. A teddy bear came out. It was so fluffy. I fell in love with it almost immediately. That night I slept with her and I named her Lucky. I fell asleep a second after. The next day I deemed Lucky my favorite toy! But after I deemed Lucky my favorite toy she came alive! But then I woke up.

THE END  
By Olivia Duncan

### The Seven Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me a partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me three diamonds and two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me four Ferraris, three diamonds, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree. On the 5th day of Christmas my true love gave to me five golden rings four Ferraris, three diamonds, and two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree. On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me 6 mansions, five golden rings, 4 Ferraris, 3 diamonds, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 7th day of Christmas my true love gave to me 7 Rolls Royces, 6 mansions, five golden rings, 4 Ferraris, 3 diamonds, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

By Alan Gomez



Winter is a great season to play. You can have a great time in the snow. You can sled down a huge snow hill or have an awesome snowball fight. On Christmas you get to find your stocking and have a lot of fun unwrapping your Christmas presents along with making a huge mess in your living room. You get so much awesome new toys you can play with them all in only 1 day. That is what makes Christmas the best time of the year.

By Dustin Rice

### One Winter Morning



One winter morning, the sun was rising over the snow. Suddenly I woke up because I had had a nightmare. I got on my clothes and went outside to play. I made two adorable snowmen. Or should I say snowpets - a kitten and a puppy. They were so cute and my mom came out and yelled, "Hot chocolate is ready!" I ran into the

house and my mom put a warm blanket over me as I sipped my hot chocolate. I was with my siblings Natalie, Graycen, and Grant. Natalie told some jokes and we all laughed. Natalie is really good at jokes and puns. After that my dad came and gave us all a big hug.

By Ellie Teal

*May your days be filled with joyful song, good cheer, and laughter.*

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# HOLIDAY EDITION

## Fourth Grade - Deanna Coulston - Christmas Stories

One day a girl named Madison was writing a letter to Santa. What she wanted was a chameleon, an RC car and for her family to be happy. On Christmas Eve, she put her letter on the table and that night Santa got her all the things she wanted. He got her the chameleon and the RC car. That morning she got a lot and even a ticket to her favorite singer - a v.i.p. Pass to a Marshmello concert! She loved her gift. She played with Handsome the chameleon. He changed color to blend in with the leaves. Handsome loved Madison! Her mom, Megan, loved Handsome and her dad loved him too! Her sisters, Maeci and Mackenzie, were jealous. Handsome loved everyone. He was so cute.

By Madison Strickland



### The Night Before Christmas!!!



So in the morning I got up and we had winter break it was so fun. When it was time to go to bed I woke up in the middle of the night and I heard thumping downstairs. When I went down there, there were presents and I saw some dust. It was weird, really weird. I saw Santa in boots and he was really chubby! I finally got a hoverboard, a TV and an Xbox. It is very nice, but I also got tons and tons of candy. Back to Santa... When I saw him I said "AHHH-HH! Who are you?" He said, "I am Santa Claus, don't you remember me? I'm the one who gives you presents." "NO I don't," I said. "Ho, ho, ho, little kid you're crazy!" Santa said. "NO, you're the crazy one breaking into my house," I said "Shhh! You're going to wake up your parents!!!" Santa said.

By James Smith

One sunny morning in the winter, a girl was playing outside in the snow and making a bunch of snowmen in the big yard. They all had hats, scarves, gloves, and smiles. The girl's name was Chloe. She lived in a mansion; a big mansion. But she did go to a normal school though. She was not the popular kid, though she didn't care that she was rich and lived in a big mansion. People always said that she was so cool and blah, blah, blah. She just said she didn't care about if she was popular or not. She just said that she was like every other kid there. But they just kept on saying that she was LIKE THE COOLEST KID IN SCHOOL, LOL. She got so tired of it that she told her mom that she wanted to go to a different school because of everything that had happened at school. Her mom said, "FINE." And she got to go to a different school where nobody knew she was rich. She was happy, happy, happy. So happy that she screamed in delight. Then she had a little less homework to do. Then came CHRISTMAS. She was writing her list to Santa and this is what it said:

Dear Santa,

What I want for Christmas is a new phone case, boots, a hair kit, an Apple watch, a computer, a journal, and a baby hatchimal.

These are only some of the things she wanted for Christmas. She was a really good kid.

By Makaelyn Mikesell



One snowy rainy day, Kelven put on his poncho to play soccer. He tripped over a stump. He tumbled and tumbled and then he became a Snowman. He got knocked out for a couple seconds because it was so cold outside. The next day he woke up and he was surprised that he had stick hands now. The next day kids found him and started playing with

him. "Have another one," the oldest boy said. He hit off a chunk of Kelven. In Kelven's mind he has saying, oh my gosh! In February, the snow and Kelven started to melt to water in the soil. The next day he became grass. Green, smells good when cut. Awwwwww, puppies play and, OH NO! We have a puppy and she poops everywhere. Here she comes Bailey, Baaaily, wait I'm grass, I forgot that. Owwww that hurt! Bailey, stop laying on me. (Next December) Why am I not a snowman?

By Bryer Paul



This is my Christmas story. Okay, so when I was five years old I was waiting all night when I heard something downstairs. I went downstairs to check what it was and there he was, right in front of me! His name is Santa Claus. He was leaving me presents. I said, "Hello." And then he said, "Ho ho ho." Then again he said, "Ho ho ho, Merry Christmas."

I ran upstairs to tell my mom what I had just seen. And I ran downstairs with my mom. And I said, "Merry Christmas!" I saw him disappear up the chimney. My mom said, "Santa!" "I know I just saw." I said. "Go back to bed," she said to me. I ran upstairs and again I heard something downstairs. When I went downstairs again I saw Santa. He was fatter than an elephant! My mom tells me not to call him that, but I still do because I'm 9, bro I'm just kidding, I'm 10.

By Terry Klein

One nice winter day this girl named Makaelyn got all ready to go play outside. 20 minutes later she came inside her nice cozy cabin and she grabbed a red pen and a blank piece of paper. In her nicest handwriting she wrote a letter to Santa. These are some things she put on her list: a big narwhal, a hair kit and new clothes. Also this thing she has been wanting for a long time a ps4 so this year she hopes she will get what she wants.

By Chloe McCaw



# HOLIDAY EDITION

## Fifth Grade - Angela Johnston - Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,  
I hope you will have a good Christmas. This year for Christmas I need a new pair of black Wrangler jeans cowboy cut please. Something I would like is a case of shotgun shells. Trap Loads so I can shoot clay pigeons. Something I would love is some Laura Ingalls books please. Then I would like a weed

eater for my dad. I think that he would really love it.

THANK YOU!!!!

Sincerely,  
Rollin Carpenter

Dear Santa,

My name is Makenzie Castillo and all I need for Christmas is some shoes maybe some Vans. All I want for Christmas is a 4 wheeler please. And next is what I want for someone else which is for all of my classmates to have an amazing Christmas. That is what I want, need and what I want for other people. The last thing is a book I really want it is called "The Enchanted Story Book."

Thank you Santa!  
Your friend,  
Makenzie Castillo



Dear Santa,  
There are not very many things I need for Christmas this year. The only two things I need are, church shoes and long dresses. This year the things I want is a scooter, a fingerling toy, some candy and a watch. For Christmas, the book I want to read is the new Diary of a Wimpy Kid and the new Dog Man too! The last thing I want is for my family's friends, the Hill family to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Your friend,  
Melissa Elder



Dear Santa,  
I am writing to you to ask for a great Christmas. There is not much I need but I have a couple of things I would like.

1. New shoes
2. Christmas dresses
3. New toys

What I want for Christmas is

1. Unicorn toys
2. Money
3. Electric scooter /or new bike

Books I want are

1. Fly Guy
2. Diary of a Wimpy Kid

And what I want to get my little brother is

1. Legos
  2. Hot wheels
- Sincerely,  
Alivia Herrera

Dear Santa

What I want for Christmas is a pocket watch. What I need for Christmas is a pack of light bulbs.

What I want to read for Christmas is the city of Ember: People of Sparks. That is what I want for Christmas.

Sincerely,  
Griffen Hinchliffe



Dear Santa,

My name is Jayton and I am writing to you for a good Christmas. One thing I am going to tell you what I need for Christmas. It's new snow boots. Also new shoes. What I want is a new snowboard. I also want a skate board. The books I want are more by Tommy Greenwald. Also football books. I want to

get my dad a fishing pole and a big giant hug! I want to get my mom a new bracelet and a giant hug too. But most off all I want my whole family to be safe.

Sincerely,  
Jayton Gleason



Dear Santa,

My name is Landen I don't need much for Christmas because my mom and dad get me a lot of stuff before Christmas. But what I really want from you is new shoes and a new game. I am thankful for you getting me stuff every Christmas and I hope I have a good Christmas and my family does too. Also I want to spend a lot

of time on Christmas to hang out with my friends and family. I hope you have a good Christmas giving gifts to kids.

Love,  
Landen Henry



Dear Santa,  
My name is Natalie Knudson and I am writing this because I want to ask you for something I need, want, to read, and something for someone else for Christmas.

Something I need for Christmas is fuzzy socks. They keep my feet really warm during the winter. I would really appreciate that.

One thing I really want for Christmas is Taylor Swift stuff, literally anything Taylor Swift.

Taylor Swift shirts, shoes, perfume, album, CDs . . . Anything Taylor Swift please.

Something I would like to read is Taylor Swift magazines, and "Whatever After" books.

I also love the COMEC Baby Sitter's Club books. Finally, something that would make my Christmas amazing is if my dad gets the entire holiday week off



Dear Santa,

I need a new pair of cowboy boots. If I got these I would be very happy and thankful. What I want for Christmas is new snowboard equipment. To read, I would like the new I Survived book. For someone else to get is for my friend to get a dirtbike for Christmas. These are the things i would like for Christmas.

Sincerely,  
Kaden Cole

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# HOLIDAY EDITION

## Fifth Grade - Angela Johnston - Letters to Santa

of work. I also wish everyone in the Mary Poppins play and helped with the church, backstage, and directors, to have an amazing Christmas.

Love,  
Natalie Knudson

Dear Santa,  
Hi my name is Isaac. I am going to tell you what I want for a good Christmas.

What I need for Christmas is my great uncle to come back from heaven.

What I want for Christmas is an RC car.

What I want for my mom is for her to get a new kitchen.

Sincerely,  
Isaac Mahre



Dear Santa,  
My name is Hannah Peralez and I am writing to you to ask for a good Christmas this year. I don't want or need much this year but I would like to at least tell you what I would like. One of the things I want are pants. Some other things are boots and air pods. I also would like to give stuff to people that don't get a Christmas.

Sincerely,  
Hannah Peralez

Dear Santa,  
Hi, my name is Mackenzie but you can call me Kenzie. Something I need is some more shirts. I would really like to have a four-wheeler or a side by side. I would appreciate a book about puppies or dogs. I wish for my mom and dad to have something special. I am sure money for food and water would be great!

Your friend,  
Mackenzie Strickland



Dear Santa,  
Christmas is coming up and you will be getting a lot of letters, so here is one of them. I don't really need anything because my parents are on top of what I need. What I want is a d-railer for my bike. One thing I want to read is the newest Diary of a Wimpy Kid book. One thing I want for someone else is homeless people to have money and a home.

Sincerely,  
Akayden Mikesell

Dear Santa,  
My name is Trace I will ask you a couple things for Christmas. I will tell you in my paragraphs something I need and what I want. The third is something I read and finally something I want to give to someone else.

This Christmas, I need my Grandpa to come back. He died last year, I was sad so I want him to come back.

What I want is for my Dad's back to not be broken anymore. Why I want that because so we could do more stuff like more hunting.

Third is what I want to read is a new Diary of a Wimpy Kid book. Also a Hardy Boys book.

Finally, I would like for my family to never get hurt. That would be the greatest gift of all.

Sincerely,  
Trace Nesje



Dear Santa,  
My name is Kiara Rice. I need paint brushes, so if I get paint, I can use it. I want paint, so I can paint my drawings of angels and dragons, and paint pictures for my family, and of them. I want to get my brother Isaiah a bike, he really wants one, and I want him to get one. I want to have a good Christmas. I love my family and want them to have a good Christmas. And I hope my friends do too, and my neighbors and their friends and family, and my teachers and their friends and family, and my principal and his friends and family, and the loose dog that might be stray that likes to visit us, the one that's white with patches of brown. I also want the Veterans and their friends and family, and... actually everybody, to have a wonderful Christmas. That's what I meant.

Sincerely,  
Kiara Rice



Dear Santa,  
My name is Brooklyn White and I am writing you to ask for an unforgettable Christmas. A way to make this happen is to get me something I need, something I want, something for someone else and something for me to read.

This Christmas, I need a new softball infielder's glove and a new softball aluminum bat. I am getting bigger so I need an upgrade.

I would very much like a Billie Eilish poster or a Billie Eilish hoodie. I would also like some Stranger Things stuff. I ask for this every year, but I would like another dog. Also a Polaroid camera and scrunchies. Perhaps more stickers for my water bottle.

Finally, I would like to have you make sure my folks have a great Christmas as well.

Sincerely,  
Brooklyn White



Dear Santa,

I hope you have a good Christmas with your elves. I wish for a scarlet Xbox please and new shoes and air pods. I appreciate everything my family and you do for me through the holidays and throughout the whole year.

Sincerely,  
Mason Rosenberg

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Wishing Everyone a Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

## Gardener's Grove: Poinsettias

*National Poinsettia Day was Dec 12*

By Brianna Wray | THE TIMES

No matter how soon retailers start pushing holiday deals, nothing says Christmastime quite like a poinsettia.

Wrapped in its foil, the poinsettia's deep green leaves are topped with a smattering of bright red foliage.

Poinsettias (Species: *Euphorbia pulcherrima*) are as deceptive as they are festive. While they appear to be flowers with blooms, they are actually plants with bracts—colorful leaves, which makes sense because blooms are too delicate for winter conditions. Even the bracts are prone to chills.

To ensure healthy poinsettias upon arrival, cover with a cloth for transportation. Temperature fluctuations more than ten degrees in either direction will stress them out. We can all agree that stressors are best avoided this time of year.

Initially cultivated by the Aztecs, poinsettias made their way to the US when diplomat Joel Roberts Poinsett sent samples back to his greenhouses in South Carolina in the 1820s.

Today there are hundreds of cultivated varieties.

Left to their own devices, poinsettias tend to look more weed-like than the full, gathered forms we're used to. The transition was made possible by the Ecke family, who until the 1980s held a near monopoly on the plants.

Albert Ecke, who emigrated to Los Angeles from Germany in 1900 opened a dairy and orchard and sold poinsettias alongside produce at roadside stands.

His son, Paul Ecke, developed the grafting technique that consistently produced a fuller, more compact plant. The Eckes' technique made it possible to get every seedling to branch.

Then his son, Paul Eck, Jr., whose business prowess was in promotion, set to work associating poinsettias with Christmas by sending free samples to television stations that used the plants in their set decor.

This very effective product placement campaign put the poinsettia on the map, so to speak.

The burgeoning air mail industry helped to ensure that more specimens would arrive alive.

Each year in the US, approximately 70 million poinsettias are sold in a period of six weeks, at a value of about \$250 million.

In the late 1980s, university researcher John Dole

discovered the Eckes' grafting technique and published it, allowing competitors to flourish. That, combined with the low cost labor found in developing countries, Paul Ecke III, new leader of the family business, decided to cease production in the US. Yet even as of 2008, they still served about 70 percent of the domestic market and about 50 percent worldwide.

Following a marketwide consolidation trend, the Ecke family sold the company in 2012. In an interview with *Patch*, Paul Ecke III stated that the business, family name, and all its employees both in America and Guatemala would be taken on by the new owners in a bittersweet farewell.



The poinsettias live on, both figuratively and literally. They are, after all, perennials that return year after year if treated right. Regular maintenance will keep the plant alive, but it is considered advanced level gardening to bring a poinsettia back into "bloom" in following years.

### Regular maintenance:

Display poinsettias in indirect light for about six hours per day.

Maintain room temperatures at 60 to 70 degrees during the day, and 55 degrees at night to simulate their ideal natural habitat.

Water when the soil is dry to the touch. If you're prone to overwatering, use a probe to determine root moisture levels. If you keep the plant in foil, puncture the bottom to allow drainage. Poinsettias are prone to root rot if left waterlogged.

Feed blooming poinsettias every two to three weeks with water-soluble plant food.

Coaxing a poinsettia to bloom again and again is exhausting. Each month the plant must be snipped or repotted, or moved to the dark, or moved to the light, watered or not watered—the process is a little *extra* to say the least.

### For rebloom:

January-April: continue routine maintenance, offering the poinsettia plenty of light and enough water to stay moist, but not soggy.

April: prune plant to 6-8 inches

May: repot with fresh soil

June: move the poinsettia outdoors where it can get 6-8 hours of direct sunlight, fertilizing weekly. If placed in a garden bed, the plant must be lifted and turned weekly to prevent root shock when returned to the indoors later.

Late July: Prune the top of the plant and 2-3 leaves on each stem to keep the poinsettia from growing too leggy.

September: bring the poinsettia indoors when overnight temperatures fall into the low 50s.

October 1-Thanksgiving: forcing the bracts to color requires a controlled environment. Keep in uninterrupted darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. and then return to bright sun for the rest of the day. There should be a 7-10 degree difference between the dark and light environments; optimally, 65-70 degrees at night, and 70-80 degrees during the day. Fertilize weekly.

Thanksgiving: as the color transformation begins, suspend the dark-light routine, keeping the plant in a sunny spot for 6-8 hours daily. Once full color is achieved, stop fertilizing and move the poinsettia to where it is best admired. Congratulations!

### Disease:

Poinsettias are susceptible to several diseases, mostly fungal, but also bacterial and parasitic. Conditions that promote poinsettia propagation also favor certain diseases. Fungal diseases affecting greenhouse poinsettia operations include Pythium root rot, Rhizoctonia root and stem rot, black root rot, scab, powdery mildew, and Botrytis blight. Bacterial diseases include bacterial soft rot and bacterial canker, while viral diseases are poinsettia mosaic virus. Most diseases stem from overwet roots, which is a problem easily avoided. Water with caution.

Reference: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poinsettia>



# HOLIDAY EDITION

## FIRST GRADERS VISIT THE WAITSBURG RESOURCE CENTER



Margie Benson

Waitsburg Elementary teacher Stephanie Hinchliffe's 1st grade class brought 176 non-perishable food items to the Waitsburg Resource Center this week. The class set a goal of collecting 100 items to donate to those in need. Way to go, class!

The students kept track of the items they collected on this chart, keeping their eyes on the goal, and ultimately exceeding it.



## Kid's Shopping Night was a success

*Each year, kids have the opportunity to spend their own money on Christmas gifts at the Auxiliary-sponsored Kid's Shopping Night in Waitsburg.*

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The annual Kid's Shopping Night was held December 11 at the Waitsburg Elementary multipurpose room. The shopping night is hosted by the American Auxiliary. Rose Englebright, who has been coordinating the shopping night for more than 15 years, was very pleased with the turnout and how the evening went.



Beka Compton

Kids enjoyed a great selection of toys, games, handmade jewelry and more at the annual Kids Shopping Night last Wednesday. The shopping night is hosted by the American Auxiliary.

"There were kids really shopping this year," Englebright said. "You could watch them look at one table, check the prices and talk to the vendor. They would go elsewhere, look for a few minutes, and then come back and buy the first item." The parent-free shopping night gives youngsters a chance to buy afford-

able Christmas gifts for family members with their own money, giving them the full shopping experience.

There were seven vendors to choose from this year, and the gifts ranged from kitchen gadgets to handmade jewelry. Games, toys, Christmas decorations, magnets, and other small items were available for purchase, as well.

The shoppers even have the opportunity to have their gifts wrapped, thanks to volunteers from the Waitsburg High School Leo's Club, the Waitsburg FFA, and Home Grown Go Wild 4-H members. The kids



Beka Compton

Jessica Lambert and Daniel Foley, members of the Home Grown Go Wild 4H Club, volunteered to help kids wrap their gifts last Wednesday. Members of the Waitsburg FFA and the Leo's club also volunteered to help out with the gift wrapping and shopping.

loved getting to help wrap up their purchases and put tags and bows on them, all excited to go home and sneak them under the tree.

Kids events are always appreciated in Waitsburg, and the shopping night is a unique part of Waitsburg's Christmas season. Any event that makes the smallest kids feel important, lets them have fun, and quietly teaches important life skills is one worth repeating year after year. After seeing all the neat things vendors were offering, I know there are going to be some pretty happy gift-recipients (and giddy kids) on Christmas morning!

## STATE PARKS OFFER TWO FREE DAYS IN JANUARY



Courtesy photo

See the stunning Vista House on a First Day Hike at Mount Spokane State Park.

*Visitors won't need a Discover Pass New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday holiday*

THE TIMES

OLYMPIA—The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will offer two free days in January, when visitors to state parks will not need a Discover Pass for day-use visits.

The first free day is Wednesday, Jan. 1, which gives visitors the opportunity to take part in a First Day Hike, a nationwide initiative that aims to get people outdoors on New Year's Day. This year, more than 40 hikes are planned at dozens of state parks all over Washington. More details are in a three-part series on the State Parks' blog, [www.adventureawaits.com](http://www.adventureawaits.com).

The second free day is Monday, Jan. 20, in honor of the holiday celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

The Discover Pass legislation provided that State Parks could designate up to 12 free days each year when the pass would not be required to visit state parks. The Discover Pass is still required to access lands managed by WDFW and DNR on these days.

Of note: The free days do not apply to Sno-Parks. During the winter season, December through March, visitors to Sno-Parks will need Sno-Park permits, which are available for purchase online or from vendors throughout the state. For more information about winter recreation permit requirements, visit: [parks.state.wa.us/winter](http://parks.state.wa.us/winter).

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# HOLIDAY EDITION

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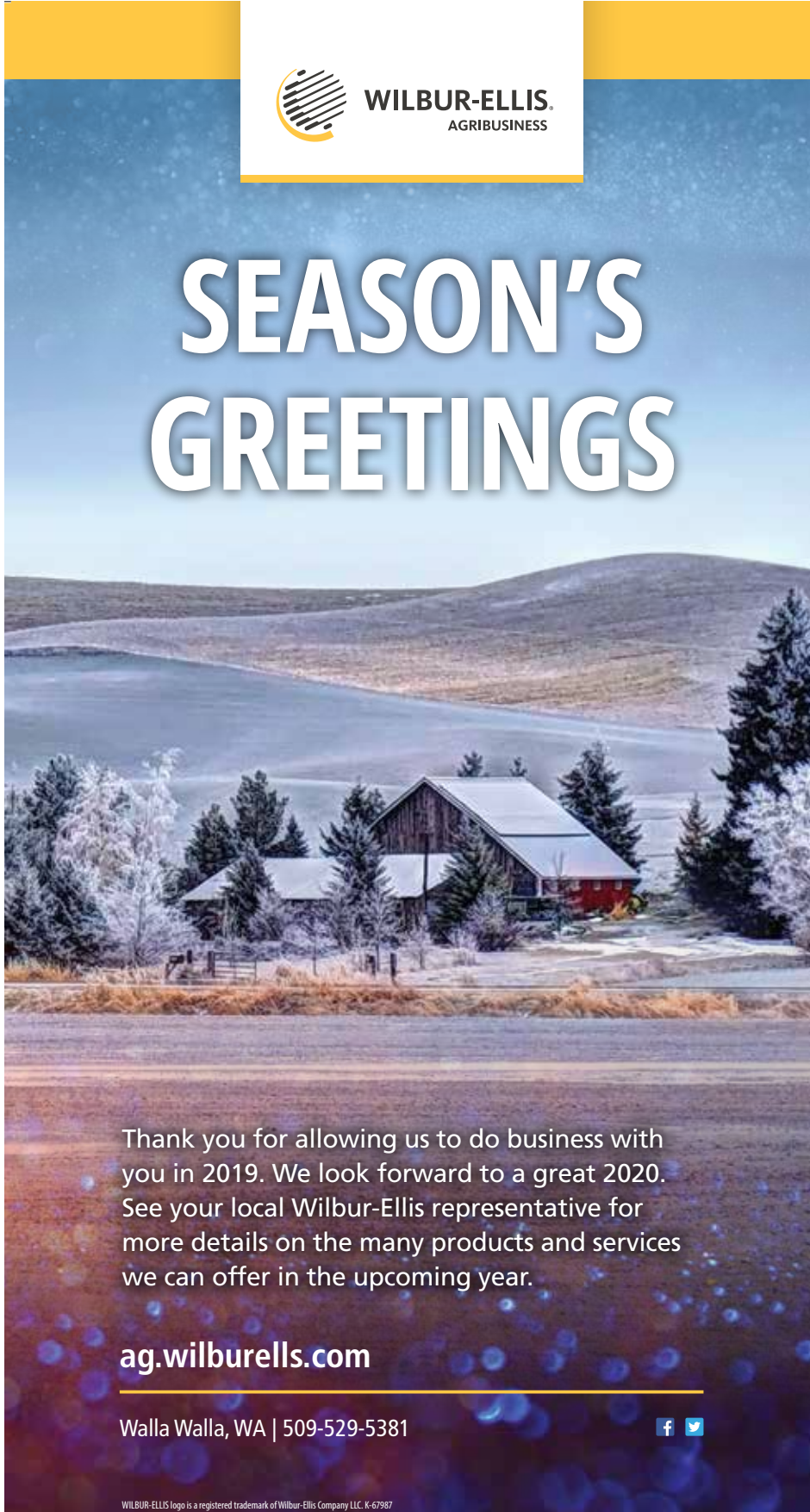
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