



THIS WEEK

SPORTS

Waitsburg School Board Rescinds Athletic Combine

STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION FROM SOME IN DAYTON COMMUNITY SPURRED DECISION

By Dena Martin | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG – Following an hour of emotional discussion during their Feb. 14 meeting, the Waitsburg school board “reluctantly” agreed to rescind the full middle and high school combine and activities agreement with the Dayton School District. The combine had been approved by both Dayton and Waitsburg school boards in a joint Jan. 29 meeting.

Waitsburg pointed to a volatile combine advisory meeting, held on Feb. 12 and attended by multiple Dayton community members, as the deciding factor in their decision to step away from the combine.

“It’s been gut-wrenching. It shouldn’t feel this hard,” said board

chair Ross Hamann as he described the negotiation process to date.

Dayton and Waitsburg currently combine for high school football, cross-country, wrestling, baseball, cheerleading, and middle school football, softball and baseball. Success with these programs led the districts to consider a full combine of both middle and high school sports, in order to field teams and keep athletic programs safe and viable as both districts struggle with dwindling participation.

An advisory committee made up of coaches, administration and parents from each district has met over the last year to hammer out combine logistics. Negotiations were progressing well until recently, when some Dayton community members began expressing concerns and stalling the process.

“We added multiple additional opportunities to answer questions, comments and concerns, to get this thing started again, but the advisory couldn’t seem to get over this hump,” Hamann said. “After input sessions from the different communities, we decided to

COMBINE - PAGE 4



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Waitsburg’s Coe Richards took home two golds and a silver at the Mt. Spokane races Feb. 4.

(See Page 6)

DAYTON



CANNABIS

Columbia County’s only recreational marijuana retailer is now open, just west of Dayton.

(See Page 7)

WAITSBURG



RUNNING

Waitsburg High grad Jess Winnett took first place in a double marathon in Georgetown, Tex. last month.

(See Page 7)

COLUMBIA PULP TAKES SHAPE



Photo by Ken Graham

Construction is well under way at the new Columbia Pulp straw pulp facility on Highway 261, west of Starbuck and east of Lyon’s Ferry. The new plant is scheduled to be operational in October.

Port Building Faces Hurdles

BLUE MOUNTAIN STATION BLDG. 2 HELD UP OVER COST OF POWER CONNECTION

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

Dayton— Allen Litzenberger, of Tucan Development, LLC, was invited to last week’s meeting of the Port of Columbia Commissioners to discuss his company’s progress on constructing Building No. 2 at the Blue Mountain Station.

Port officials impressed upon Litzenberger, the importance of completing the project, to their satisfaction.

“We don’t have the power to build it out,” Litzenberger explained to Port officials. Litzenberg was referring to electrical power.

He said his company would “never have taken it on”, if he had known he had to pay the costs associated with providing electricity to the building, which requires installation of an electrical transformer, and vault, costing around \$24,000.

“We build buildings on developed property,” he told the commissioners.

Litzenberger said because the Port is the developer, it is the Port’s responsibility to make the power available. Port officials disagreed, stating that according to the lease agreement, Litzenberger is the responsible party.

Port Manager Jennie Dickinson remind-

ed Litzenberger that in August of 2017 the Port paid \$4,000 to have the electrical vault placed, as a measure of good faith.

The commissioners asked Litzenberger about progress he is making on marketing the building, and he said there is one potential tenant.

“We can bring you the leads, but we can’t close the deal for you,” Dickinson reminded him.

Port Commission Chairman Earle Marvin said, “We need to live within the four corners of the lease document that has been signed. It’s what the lease says, so please move forward.”

Commissioner Marvin asked Litzenberger to provide Port officials with a timeline,

and “get the electricity into the building, as soon as possible.” Marvin called the lack of progress on the building, “an embarrassment”.

Litzenberger signed a lease agreement for the land in November of 2016.

“He had already brought some supplies to the site, and he started pouring concrete footing after that,” said Dickinson. “Then we had our really hard winter, and nothing happened until the spring. He got the frame and metal siding on, roof on, and doors on the front, and then he just seemed to stop.

The 6,000 sq. ft. building has four 1,500 sq. ft. spaces for lease, but Dickinson said potential tenants are discouraged by its unfinished condition.



Photo by Ken Graham

Building 2 at Blue Mountain Station.

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TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

OBITUARY

KEN BEASLEY

MAY 26, 1944 - FEB. 9, 2018

In Loving Memory

Ken Beasley, who was a loving husband, father, brother, friend, mentor, teacher, and principal, passed away on February 9th, 2018. He was 73. Ken was born May 26, 1944, in Richmond, CA, to Wilbur Beasley and Mary Ghigonetto Beasley. Ken spent the first part of his life in the bay area of California, and when he was 14, moved with his family to their place on the South Fork of the Clearwater River in Idaho. Ken loved the country life, which included a pet pig and elk, cows, sledding, swimming, and floating the river. After graduating from high school in 1962, Ken went to Lewis and Clark State College. Four years later, he graduated with a teaching degree and began his first job in Waitsburg School District as a science teacher. His former students quote that he taught with passion and humor, that he was strict but fair, and that he challenged everyone to be their best. While in Waitsburg, Ken embraced the cowboy life of raising quarter horses and team roping. He enjoyed spending time with his closest teacher friends and their spouses. In 1983, he met Pam Nolan who began teaching junior high classes and high school Spanish in Waitsburg, and the two became best of friends. After a few months, Ken and Pam began dating. They were married August 8th, 1987, while both were at WSU, Pullman, pursuing Masters Degrees. In 1988 they moved back to Waitsburg. Ken and Pam adored each other, taking adventurous trips, camping, laughing, wine tasting, and renovating their home. Ken and Pam's first son, Zachariah, was born in 1990, and their

second, Austin, in 1993. Ken felt his greatest joy in life was being a husband and dad. He had the 'Beasley Performing Arts Music Hall' built for their band practices and followed all of their church, music, academic and sports activities. Ken was a softie for his sons, which included giving them money they were challenged to keep secret from Mom. In 2003, Ken stepped into the role of high school principal. He worked tirelessly to mentor, lead, and support his colleagues; he was an innovator and problem-solver. His ultimate goal was to ensure a successful experience for each and every Waitsburg High School student.

After retiring as principal, Mr. Beasley spent a few years working part-time as Waitsburg School District's I.T. Support, along with aiding numerous community members. Ken was generous beyond measure, kind, loyal, and strong. He had a stern exterior but was truly gentle, with a huge heart. Ken Beasley was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Joyce, all from Grangeville, Idaho. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Pam, in Waitsburg, sons Zach and Austin, adopted daughter, Grace, three grandchildren, beloved siblings, relatives and dear friends that will miss him greatly. Memorial gifts will fund the newly created Ken Beasley Science and Technology for Kids Foundation.

Memorial services were held Monday in the Waitsburg High School Gymnasium. Friends and family may send condolences or sign the online guest book at www.mountainview-colonialdewitt.com

Americanisms



“My God! how little do my country men know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy.”
—Thomas Jefferson

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BIRTHDAYS

February 22: Cheri Maxwell, Gerald Morgan, Charles Morgan, Tristien Cook, Alexandra Bloor, Betty Crabtree, Nicole Eastwood.

February 23: John A. Reese, Jay Thomas, Jane Conover Waldher, Jason Cook, Becky Harshman, Margaret Gibson, Heidi Sickles and Brandon Cole.

February 24: Susan Segraves, Jason Wheeler, Helen Porter, Eric Nunn, Wanda Gales, Dane Henze, Misty Reid, Andy Maib, Martha Kenney, David Danforth, and David Baker.

February 25: Diane Dill, LeAnne Piersol, Lana Herrera.

February 26: Jayton “JJ” Gleason, Dena Wood, Alisha Marshall, Dorothy Hall, Wayne Emerson, Walter White, Emilie Baker, Jeff Jameson, Sally Harmon and John Garrett.

February 27: Rylan Lybecker, Jerry Baker, Larry Land, Bill Broadhead, Jane Schulke, Katy Pearson Zemke.

February 28: Jill McConnell, Brock Winegar, Cindy Hiatt, Sharon McDaniel, Jean Coe, Tressa Johnson, Merry Nelson, David Marr, Todd Dimak and Jeremy Nichols.

March 1: Bill Zuger and grandson Jacob Dunn, Norma Chapman, Joan Bottles and Bill Keith.

MIKE FARRIENS: THIS WEEK AT THE LIBERTY THEATER

Darkest Hour

Some characters, no matter how eccentric or brazen or otherwise unattractive, appear on the world stage at just the right time to accomplish what needs to be done. This seems to be true in the arts, the sciences and in the political arena. Winston Churchill, most would agree, is one of these. This is the story behind *Darkest Hour*, a new film by director Joe Wright. Churchill has just been elected prime minister and Adolph Hitler has already invaded Poland. The war has started, but neither America nor England are in it yet. Churchill has very little time to decide whether to negotiate a “peace” with Hitler (on Hitler's terms) or go to war with Germany. Either choice is costly.

Gary Oldman is not the first actor to play the role of Churchill. But he put on a lot of makeup for it and spent an entire year preparing for it. His wife is said to have gone to bed with Winston Churchill and awakened with Gary Oldman. Like our last film, *The Post*, this movie



is released for a time such as this, when many are asking “What does true leadership look like? What does it mean to hold fast for what one believes when it is not popular?” Churchill was controversial within his own government in his own country, and he remains so today. Yet, he made a decision that altered the course of history for the good. Come join us for yet another historical drama and an impressive performance by Gary Oldman.

At the Liberty Theater, our mission is to help enrich and strengthen community life through the preservation and promotion of

the performing arts and cultural events. Performing arts are more than entertainment: they are one way we develop and grow healthier and stronger as a community. We are grateful for the support and partnership of the community in our programs!

Darkest Hour plays at the Liberty Theater February 23-27. For more information on our film schedule and ticket sales on upcoming live shows, visit www.libertytheater.org, call 509-382-1380 or send email to info@libertytheater.org.



Breakfast listed first. Fruits & vegetables, non-fat chocolate milk and 1% white milk are offered with every meal.

23: French Toast; Cheese OR Peperoni Pizza, Carrots, Pineapple

26: Muffin & Yogurt; Turkey Sub, Chips, 3-bean salad

27: Biscuit & Gravy; Fish Sticks Fries

28: Long John; Cooks Choice

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



344 E. Main St., Dayton, WA
Darkest Hour
Fri., Feb. 23 - 7:30
Sat., Feb. 24 - 3 & 7:30
Sun., Feb. 25 - 3 & 6:30
Tues., Feb. 27 - 6:30

Coming Soon
Paddington 2
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337-6589

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Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.

Bible Study
Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
337-6235

Rev. Jimmie Daves

Waitsburg Christian Church

604 Main St
Worship 10:00 a.m.

Each Sunday
337-8898

Rev. Matthew Wyatt

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Worship 11 a.m.
www.newriverfellowship.org

520-5676

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GUEST COLUMN

Cities Balancing Budgets with Fees

By Don C. Brunell

Have you carefully checked your utility bills lately? Most people don't unless they are monsters like the ones for garbage in Scranton, PA, and Los Angeles.

In Vancouver, WA, our garbage and recycling bill now has an added 3.6 percent refuse tax. It costs us \$1.29 more every two months.

However, according to the Wall Street Journal, in Scranton, residents started receiving a \$300 annual trash collection fee which is a 68 percent increase since 2014. In LA, an assisted-living operator's bill was less than \$500 a month but jumped to whopping \$1,500.

Mayors and city councils find it is difficult to raise property, sales, income/gross receipts (B&O) and other business taxes. Unlike federal elected leaders, they must balance expenditures with revenue collections. Most can incur debt by selling bonds only for roads, bridges and buildings, but must repay them within a time limit.

WSJ reporters Heather Gillers and Sarah Chaney correctly identified the problem. "Cash-strapped American cities are increasingly asking their residents to pay higher amounts for mundane services as they struggle to pay for mounting pension obligations, cover costs of infrastructure and replace revenue depleted by the last recession. Bills are rising for everything from parking tickets and 911 calls to sewer service and trash pickup."

A year ago, Vancouver city leaders approved a police-funding package to raise \$12.5 million a year by 2020 to hire 61 police officers and supporting staff. To pay for it, they added surcharges on multi-family housing; retail, commercial and industrial property; business licenses; and, utility taxes. A citizen's advisory committee was engaged help to determine the financing.

Then there is the skyrocketing price of homelessness.

Last November, the Puget Sound Business Journal said the Seattle area now spends more than \$1.06 billion per year on the homeless crisis.

To estimate its economic impact, the PSBJ staff spent six months examining costs to nonprofits: city and county budgets; police and emergency calls to encampments and resource cen-

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

The Times

A PROUD TRADITION

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

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

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

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LETTER

PROPERTY TAXES REALLY HIGH

Dear Editor,

I received my property tax bill last week.

It was really high.

But then again, I knew it would be, because the Washington State Legislature in 2017 imposed new taxes upon the citizenry in order to "fully fund our

schools." Just how much that translated into as additional taxes, I did not know for sure until the tax statement arrived in the mail, three days after the election date for the Dayton Schools \$800,000 Capital Levy.

Carolyn Henderson
Dayton

Letters Welcome

The Times invites readers to share their thoughts on our Opinion Page. Letters to the Editor can be emailed to us at 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 should 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.

BRUNELL - CONTINUED

ter; housing; and, hospitals and drug treatment.

Thankfully, some Seattle's wealthy investors are now involved with funds to address the city's affordable housing project.

In LA, Eric Feingold, who owns five assisted living facilities that cater to low-income senior citizens, says he can't pass along the costs to residents because many live on a fixed income of \$32 per day. The high garbage rates have forced him and others to admit fewer poor people and even evict current low-income renters who often become homeless.

Further complicating the problem, WSJ reported fees are expected to go even higher because of recent changes at the state and federal level. New tax legislation caps the amount of local property and income taxes which can be deducted from federal taxes.

At the state level, Washington is considering additional taxes such as those on capital gains and carbon emissions. They add to the drain on people's already strained bank accounts.

While there is no one solution, there are some things public officials can do.

First, consider the cumulative impact of taxes and fees. While they impact the same bank account of business and families, elected officials tend to view only their own. They need to look at the total impact of all local, state and federal taxes and fees.

Second, elected officials need to involve the folks who are impacted. Often those affected are the ones who can be the most innovative problem solvers.

Finally, elected officials need to slow down and make sure they consider the consequences of their actions. What good does a hasty decision do for Scranton and LA if they double or triple garbage and recycling rates and, as a result of their actions, they add to the homeless population?

Don C. Brunell is a business analyst, writer and columnist. He recently retired as president of the Association of Washington Business, the state's oldest and largest business organization, and now lives in Vancouver. He can be contacted at theBrunells@msn.com.

COMBINE - FROM PAGE 1

get this out in the open and get it voted on to get things moving again. Which we did, on the 29th. We anticipated that we got our direction again, and it was clear, and we headed out to do the work.

"The advisory committee met Monday to do the work and it was not a good night," Hamann continued. "Following what we thought were definitive decisions, the tone is growing more and more negative. I heard comments and accusations directed toward Dayton board members and their administrators that are not healthy. It's very anti-productive. On behalf of the Dayton community, this is not good for them."

Hamann said that he heard comments about how detrimental the combine would be to Dayton students and that Dayton basketball coaches had resigned.

"For the first time, I have some really deep concerns," Hamann added. "Maybe this is the wrong time for Dayton. But the really big question that I can't get out of my mind is that we are beginning to put our students into this growing negative environment, which would not be good for them. I'm at true odds about whether this will be good for us. I haven't had a lot of sleep in the last few nights."

Waitsburg high school athletic director, Stephanie Wooderchak, said the last productive advisory meeting was Nov. 13. Since then, all they have done is receive public input. She said that six coaches need to be hired for fall and 11 for winter, which would be "almost physically impossible," at this point. She echoed Hamann's concerns about the Feb. 12 advisory meeting.

"Monday was particularly difficult. A lot of negative remarks. I saw good people angry with each other and saying things to each other that were hateful and negative. They're all good people, but they turned on each other and it was very unpleasant to be there," Wooderchak said.

She said she received a lengthy letter from a Dayton community member, complete with charts, detailing how the combine would be detrimental to Dayton. She also said that at least twice during Monday's meeting she heard the suggestion that all indoor sports take place in Dayton, which went against what had already been agreed upon.

She said the meeting "completely derailed" multiple times over "minute issues."

"I don't think we can move forward with the combine at this time. I don't think it's healthy for either community," she said, suggesting that the district continue to support the currently combined programs.

The deadline for placement on the 1B league schedule has passed but Wooderchak was optimistic that they could still fit Waitsburg in if they moved quickly.

"This is going to break the hearts of our children. It makes me want to cry," said board member Christy House.

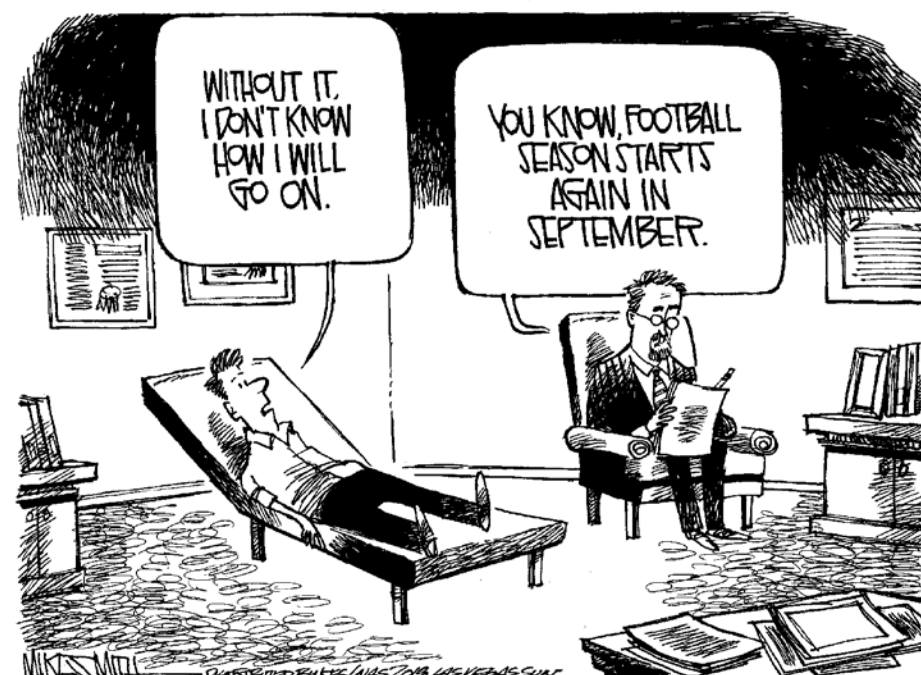
"I get upset with the squeaky wheel getting the grease. You've got a core of folks out there disrupting what is good for 90% of the people," said board member Randy Pearson. "It seems to me like a lot more people are going to be disappointed than the ones that are mad about it, but they're not the vocal ones."

"This board is still really, truly in favor of a combine. We would do this only as a way to not have hard feelings or negative relationships developing," said board member Marilyn Johnson.

Board members struggled with the decision but ultimately agreed that Dayton does not appear ready for a combine, advisory committee productivity is nonexistent and Waitsburg does not want to place its students into a potentially unwelcoming environment.

The board voted unanimously to rescind the full combine advisory agreement and return to the previously existing agreements, so long as Dayton is agreeable.

"I think this might be a really good opportunity for Waitsburg to focus inward on our athletes, our community and our parents and look at what is creating the lack of participation and how we can provide support to increase that," Wooderchak said.



TOUCHET VALLEY NEWS

Waitsburg School Board Update

February 14, 2018

Student Presentation: 4-H robotics Venus Flytrap team members Josh Reser and Phinneas Kerr presented their prize-winning robot and project.

Secondary Principal's Report (Stephanie Wooderchak):

-MAP winter testing is completed at Preston Hall and High School. Mrs. Leid started working with sophomores on Smarter Balance Test preparation and Preston Hall is working on SBAC test preparation.

-Building collaborations focused on next year's class schedule. Staff is looking at splitting larger classes and working on a modified block schedule at the high school. There are hopes of adding new electives such as career exploration (with possible job shadowing) and robotics.

-Held the first semester perfect-attendance pizza party with Preston Hall and the high school and held prize drawings.

-Preston Hall and high school students have planned ski days as enrichment days on Feb. 23 and March 1, respectively.

-FFA week is Feb. 20-24 with the Harvest Ball on Feb. 24.

-Waitsburg will host the Regional Knowledge Ball on Feb. 21

-Every 15 Minutes program is scheduled for April 19-20

-Prom is April 28

Athletic Director's Report (Stephanie Wooderchak):

-Spring sports practices begin Feb. 26.

-Six athletes have signed up for track, 12 for softball and 6 for baseball.

-Following discussion, the board moved to reduce track coaching staff from three to two, due to the low turnout. Ann and Lanny Adams have seniority and will be retained while Nick Carpenter will be let go for the season.

Maintenance/Transportation/Facilities:

-Dr. Jon Mishra said that permits for the capital improvement projects are ready to be issued. Bids have been out for about 10 days and seven general contractors have picked up plans or expressed interest in the project. The designer suggested extending the bid opening date from March 1 to March 6 due to a conflict of interest with one contractor. The project timeline is posted on the District website.

Elementary Principal's Report (Jon Mishra):

-Kids have been skiing at Bluewood.

-Carnegie Picture Lab visited on Feb. 9

-Hoops & Jump for Heart is Feb. 16

-The Journey's curriculum trainer visited Jan. 24 and 25

-Coaches Sarah Reser, Lynn Seamons and Kathy Hayden have been working with elementary students as part of the Priority Schools program.

-Professional Learning Communities work is continuing throughout the District.

Superintendent Report (Jon Mishra):

-The board adopted a staff developed district vision statement:

Challenge – Engage – Empower

The Power of Learning

-Work on a mission statement will follow.

-The replacement EPO levy looks to be passing

easily and completion of bond projects is on track.

-A survey will be provided to board members to aid with mission statement development.

-March 30, an early release day, is listed on the District calendar as an inservice. It is not an inservice day.

-Mishra gave tribute to Mr. Ken Beasley who passed away earlier this month.

Public Comment:

-Dayton parent Jesse Mings expressed support of the proposed Dayton-Waitsburg athletic/activities combine and apologized for the behavior of some Dayton community members at the Feb. 12 advisory meeting.

Old Business:

-Enrollment Updates: Enrollment dropped from 294-286.

-Combine Update: Following extensive discussion, the board unanimously approved rescinding the agreement to engage in a full middle and high school activities and athletic combine with Dayton. See story on Page 1.

-Unanimously approved a Board/Superintendent Working Agreement

-Unanimously approved the Superintendent Evaluation Format

-EPO Levy Update: Replacement levy is passing at 62.5% and will be certified on Feb. 23.

-Real Property Consideration: Mishra discussed the three properties to be considered for surplus, sale, lease or rental. A short plat will be completed on the District House to separate it from the playground. Stephanie Wooderchak asked when the board would be responding to questions she had submitted and was told a discussion would take place during executive session. Ross Hamann said he had been receiving public feedback from community members concerned about the sale of the District House and requested that the community be allowed to have input. The board discussed how to best inform the public and garner public opinion. Dr. Mishra will develop a survey.

-Unanimously approved Tim Sullivan as Certified General Real Estate Appraiser to appraise the District House.

-Unanimously approved naming the new field house the Kenneth W. Zuger Fieldhouse.

New Business:

-Unanimously approved renewal of the superintendent contract.

-Unanimously agreed to move regular board meetings to the third Thursday of each month. The move was made from the second Wednesday of the month in order to allow time to prepare the Budget Status after receiving information from the state.

-Unanimously approved increasing certificated substitute pay from \$110/day and \$55/half-day to the regional average of \$130/day and \$65/half-day.

-Reviewed the school telecommunication (cell phone) policy. Staff will gather information and feedback for further discussion and review.

-Personnel: Approved the hire of Karen Elder as third grade temporary paraprofessional.

Approved hire of Nicholas Swisher as temporary Social Studies and Language Arts teacher in Preston Hall. Accepted resignation of Joe Rhymes as middle school head baseball coach.

NEWS BRIEFS

PRESCOTT LIBRARY BOOK CLUB, WITH LOCAL AUTHOR

PRESCOTT - With the remodel of the Prescott Library, the Walla Walla Rural Library District has announced the return of a classic Library Program, the Book Club.

Participants may sign up by checking out a copy of Local Author Martin McCaw's book, *The Low Road*. Then a book discussion will be held on March 22 from 5-6 p.m., featuring a visit from the author.

DAYTON LIONS CRAB DINNER

DAYTON - The public is invited to a crab dinner and dance fund raiser for the Dayton Lions Club on Saturday, March 10 from 5 to 9 p.m., at the Columbia County Fairgrounds.

Listen and dance to Texas Country and Classic Rock provided by Daniel Faller, from 5 until 6:50. Then enjoy Acoustic Blues, Jazz, Classic Rock and Country by Big FONT, from 7:10 to 9.

Tickets are \$30 per person, and include over ¼ lb of fresh Dungeness crab and bay shrimp, coleslaw, baked beans, pasta salad, garlic bread, coffee, iced tea and dessert. Beer, wine and soda will be available for purchase, as well. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7:30.

Proceeds will be used to provide the needy in the community with vision and hearing assistance, and for other community services, including services for youth.

Tickets are limited and must be purchased before March 3 at Dingles of Dayton, or from Dayton Lions Members.

For more information contact Glen Mendel at (509) 382-2350.

CLARKSTON/LEWISTON YWCA "SOUP-PORT" FUNDRAISER

LEWISTON - The YWCA of Clarkston/Lewiston, which serves Columbia County for victims of domestic-related crimes and incidents, will be holding its annual SOUPport fundraiser on Feb. 23, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

At this annual event, the public is invited to come to the YWCA center, or order delivery, for a soup lunch served in a one-of-a-kind soup bowl (hand painted by local artists and volunteers). Tickets are \$25. The YWCA is located at 300 Main St. in Lewiston

Funds raised from this event cover finances for shelters and programs not covered by grants.

Last year the event served more 1,000 people. Local law enforcement and firefighters donate the soup and have a soup cook-off. Participants vote by placing coins in the handy cans by each soup kettle.

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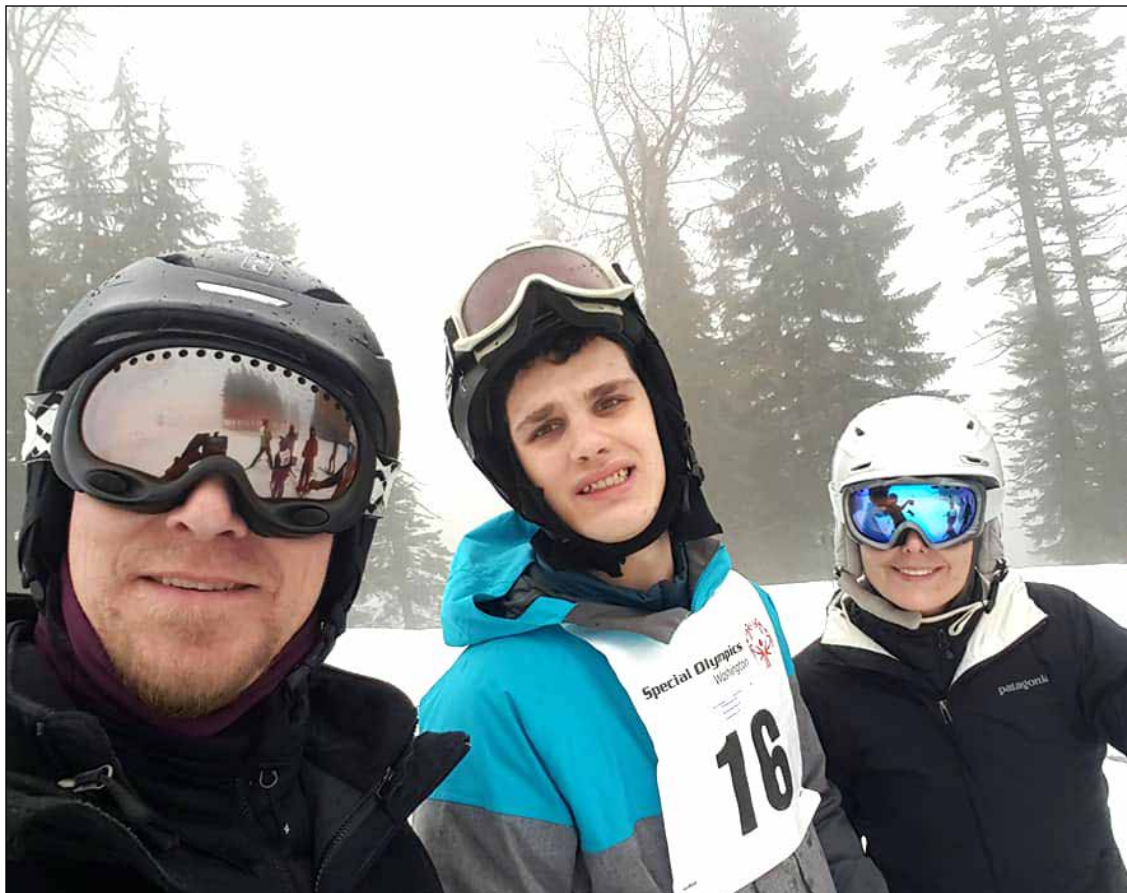
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SPORTS / OUTDOORS

COE RICHARDS TAKES TWO GOLDS AND A SILVER



Courtesy Photos

Coe Richards, of Waitsburg, took home two gold medals and one silver medal at the Eastern Region Invitational at Mt. Spokane on Sun., Feb. 4 and will attend the Special Olympic Winter Games (state competition) which will be held at Mission Ridge in Wenatchee in March. The twenty-one-year-old competed in the Novice 16-21 age group where he earned a gold medal in the Alpine Downhill, a silver in the Alpine Giant Slalom and a gold in the Alpine Slalom. Coe began skiing with the local Special Olympics team in 2008 and first made it to the state competition in 2010. He has medaled there each year since.

Andrea Fulbright of Dayton also earned a gold medal in the novice division. Rachel Gradwohl of Waitsburg competed in the intermediate division where she took a gold in the slalom. Craig Lockard (Dayton), Shawn Ahmann (Waitsburg), and Catherine Shepherd (Waitsburg) competed in the advanced division where Lockard earned a silver medal in downhill snowboarding and Shepherd took home two gold medals.

Fishing Limits Expanded in Area Rivers

THE TIMES

DAYTON – The Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is enacting rule changes for the Tucannon River steelhead and other gamefish fisheries, along with steelhead fishery changes on some Snake River tributaries.

For the Tucannon River, downstream of the Tucannon Hatchery Bridge, the WDFW is extending the

fishery for gamefish, including steelhead, through April 15. The daily limit on hatchery steelhead is increasing from two to three fish. Mandatory hatchery steelhead retention is required. Barbless hooks are required while fishing for steelhead and gamefish. Other species must be released.

The Tucannon River from the Tucannon Hatchery Bridge upstream is closed to fishing from Feb 1 through April 15, 2018.

The WDFW is rescinding emergency rule changes

on the Touchet and Walla Walla rivers that limited steelhead retention to two hatchery fish. Beginning Feb. 1, the daily limit for hatchery steelhead in those rivers has increased to three fish for the following locations: The Touchet River from the confluence of the North and South Fork Touchet Rivers and all tributaries; The Walla Walla River from the mouth to the Oregon State line.

For more information contact Jeremy Trump, District 3 Fish Biologist, by phone at: (509) 382-1005.




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DAYTON

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365 Recreational Cannabis Opens

COLUMBIA COUNTY'S ONLY MARIJUANA RETAILER SITS JUST WEST OF THE DAYTON CITY LIMITS

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON-- "It was pretty busy," said Jordan Raftus about the Feb. 10 opening of 365 Recreational Cannabis, which is located at 36711 Hwy 12 in Dayton.

Raftus who is the store manager said sales were brisk, especially for "buds", which are the flowering parts of the cannabis plant.

Inside the store, buds with exotic names like Blackberry Kush, White Widow, and Seattle Sour Bread are displayed alongside marijuana infused edibles, drinks, and topical lotions, as well as vapes and other paraphernalia.

Be advised, this is not your grandmother's "pot."

"No, it definitely has changed since the 1960s and 1970s. It is more controlled and more potent, with higher THC content," said Raftus. "We like to have a variety of products to suit everyone's need, whether recreational or medical users."

Raftus explained that the difference between recreational marijuana and medicinal marijuana depends on the ratio of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), to cannabidiol (CBD).

THC is the compound in marijuana that is responsible for the feeling of "being stoned".

CBD won't get a person "high," and is touted for its medicinal and therapeutic effects, he said. There are topical lotions in the store designed for people with chronic pain, and other ailments.

Sean Tam, the owner of 365 Recreational Cannabis, has another retail marijuana store in Shoreline, Wash. Raftus was a "budtender," or customer service representative, at that store. He said they originally catered to a medical "audience," but switched to recreational sales in June 2015.

Every product sold in the store is grown in Washington State by licensed growers, and products are lab tested before it can be sold. Some are pesticide-free.

Prices for the products are "all over the board, depending on the quality." For instance, joints can cost anywhere from \$6 up to \$15.

Raftus said security at the store is tight. "We have cameras placed so there are no blind spots, outside or in, 24/7. We have a security door, and panic buttons are conveniently located around the building."

All people coming into the store will need to have their ID checked, he added. Minors are not allowed on the premises, and the state will conduct "stings," to see if they are gaining access to the store, he said.



Photo by Michele Smith

365 Recreational Cannabis store on Highway 12 just west of Dayton

"We will have vertical scanners to make sure they are of age," he promised.

Raftus spoke about a strong desire to be a part of the community. He said he would like people to meet with him during store hours, which are from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily. "Some people are hesitant," he said.

"We have a strict show. We're not breaking any laws," Raftus said. He said about 50% of the money from each sale is going back into state and local coffers.

"We pay a 37% excise tax to the state every month. There is also an 8.1% retail sales tax in Columbia County," he said.

Revenue from the excise taxes is shared with cities, towns and counties throughout the state on a per capita basis, according to a Municipal Research Services Center report.

The report says the state was on target to collect just over \$300 million in marijuana excise taxes in 2017. Cities and counties in Washington were to receive a shared distribution amount of around \$6 million last year. There will be a shared distribution of \$6 million for each fiscal year in the 2018-19 biennium, as well.

The MRSC report also says if general fund revenues exceed state forecasts, local governments may receive an additional \$18 million in the 2017-19 biennium. In fiscal year 2020 the shared distributions will again be \$6 million, the report reads.

The MRSC Shared Revenue Estimator shows Columbia County receiving \$1,632 in shared marijuana tax revenue in 2018. Since the city of Dayton has banned marijuana businesses, the city will receive no shared marijuana tax revenue.

Jess Winnett Places First in Double Marathon

2002 WHS GRAD (AND FORMER TIMES INTERN) LOVES THE CHALLENGE OF ULTRA-DISTANCE RUNNING

By Dena Martin | THE TIMES

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. – When it comes to running, Jess (Jessie) Winnett thinks longer is better. Why run a marathon, when you can run a double marathon?

Jess, daughter of Andy and Denise Winnett, ran the Goodwater Trail Race – opting for the double-marathon event – in Georgetown, Tex. on Jan. 27. She finished in 11 hours, 14 minutes and 33 seconds, to take first place among the four women double-marathon runners. She placed second overall among the 14 men and women who opted to run the double.

Winnett said she has run another 50-miler and several 50k distance races.

"I don't usually win races – this one just happened to be a small race," she said, humbly.

The 33-year-old, who graduated from Waitsburg High School in 2002, said she entered the sport reluctantly.

"I started running in college because I had a roommate who made me run with her. I hated it! So boring. So hard. Really, running was stupid," Jess said.

But a few years out of college, she made some good friends who ran and changed her perspective.

"Running became fun because we chatted a lot and then had an excuse to go eat brunch. Now, running is time I have to think, or sometimes not think. And when I can run trails, it's time to spend in nature and see lots of beautiful things I wouldn't get to see otherwise. Now running is just part of my routine.



Courtesy photo

Jess Winnett competes in the Franklin Mountain State Park Race in Texas.

A day isn't complete without a run in there somewhere," she said.

Jess said the best part of the sport is all the amazing people she has met.

"I know people all over the country because of running. The other best part is that it's the single best way to get to know an area. You get to really see things when you're not driving 80 mph (Texas!). Sunrises, sunsets, really high peaks you can see miles and miles from, and even touristy areas, like the Riverwalk, are better seen on a run," she said.

"And anyone can be a runner. You don't have to join a club or go to a game or even buy much equipment (although a good pair of shoes is imperative), you just have to get out the door and put one foot in front of the other," she added.

Jess said she is drawn to ultra-distance running because of the challenge it adds to her life.

"It's a challenge to train, to find the time to run 70+ miles a week, to find the motivation to run at 5 a.m., and to ask your body to do anything for that long. I am not fast and I'm not the most talented athlete out there, but ultra distances require you to have mental grit, and to problem-solve to get through it," she said.

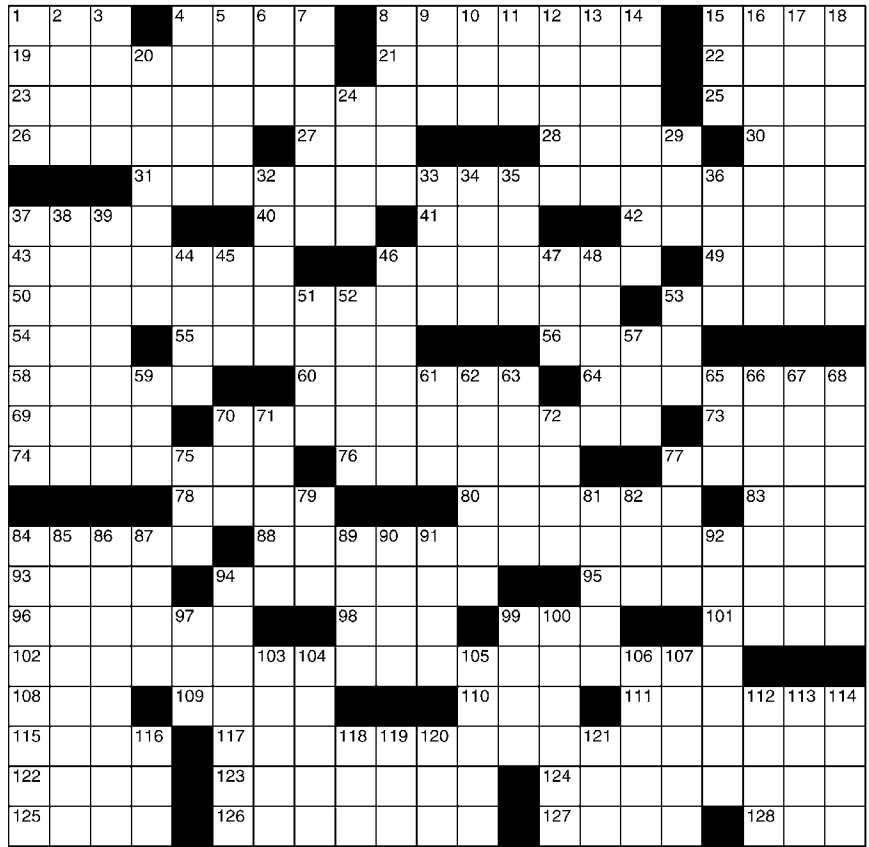
"Plus, there's all the food you get to eat when you're done (and during)! There's nothing like the feeling you get after you've finished running longer than you ever thought you could," she added.

Fittingly, when not running, Jess, who lives in San Antonio, Tex. and works as a buyer for a running store. "Even though I have a journalism degree, thanks to my short stint at The Times," said Jess, who interned at The Times while in high school.

PUZZLES / RECIPE

Super Crossword SECRET SCOUTING MISSIONS

- ACROSS**
- 1 — -Mart (retail giant)
 - 4 Hushed "Hey!"
 - 8 Part of PETA
 - 15 Some snakes
 - 19 Extra refrigerator convenience
 - 21 Pre-euro Greek coin
 - 22 Scrutinize, with "over"
 - 23 Extremely bad weather, e.g.
 - 25 Deep purple
 - 26 Skating great Yamaguchi
 - 27 Canton-born architect I.M.
 - 28 Big cracker brand
 - 30 Drink name suffix
 - 31 Offering at a memorial service
 - 37 Org. for Michelle Wie
 - 40 '60s psychedelic
 - 41 Nero's 1,006
 - 42 Apply an oily liquid to
 - 43 Folding art
 - 46 It glances off the bat and counts as a strike
 - 49 A while ago
 - 50 Prevention of a blaze from spreading
 - 53 Madden
 - 54 "Dracula" director
 - 55 "— doin'!" ("Forget it!")
 - 56 Melt
 - 58 Dunne of movies
 - 60 Slow, tempo-wise
 - 64 Not less than
 - 69 To be, at the Louvre
 - 70 Longtime tech ad slogan (and a hint to this puzzle's theme)
 - 73 Essence
 - 74 Actress Dawson
 - 76 Hip-hop record label
 - 77 "— suggest that ...?"
 - 78 About
 - 80 African land
 - 83 Some vinyl records
 - 84 Philately item
 - 88 Clash between social groups
 - 93 Beseech
 - 94 Husky-toned
 - 95 Ominous
 - 96 "All of Me" director Carl
 - 98 Little hotel
 - 99 Notable time stretch
 - 101 One writing briefs: Abbr.
 - 102 Efforts to protect ecosystems, say
 - 108 Simile middle
 - 109 — avis
 - 110 Existential declaration
 - 111 How very close games are won
 - 115 Mixed breed
 - 117 Calamitous effects
 - 122 Love god
 - 123 Deep green
 - 124 Repeal
 - 125 Desiccated
 - 126 Late-night flights
 - 127 Draws on
 - 128 Here-there linkup
- DOWN**
- 1 Laundry detergent brand
 - 2 Aspire PC maker
 - 3 — Strauss jeans
 - 4 Trilogy start
 - 5 Yarn bundle
 - 6 Minute div.
 - 7 Recurring themes
 - 8 Murphy of "48 Hrs."
 - 9 Prefix with glyceride
 - 10 Toque, e.g.
 - 11 Here, in Arles
 - 12 C minor, say
 - 13 Prenatal test, briefly
 - 14 Track racer's windup
 - 15 iPhone extra
 - 16 Comforting in sorrow
 - 17 Discretion
 - 18 College term
 - 20 Text or email
 - 24 Dweeby sort
 - 29 Buddhism school
 - 32 Film director Eastwood
 - 33 "Hurry up!"
 - 34 Half of a zygote
 - 35 Cairo's river
 - 36 When morning ends
 - 37 More exalted
 - 38 In advance of
 - 39 Bridge parts
 - 44 Skin ailment
 - 45 Dairy sound
 - 46 Conclusion
 - 47 Blowup stuff
 - 48 "— to Be You"
 - 51 "Imagine —!"
 - 52 Helped
 - 53 Saddlery tool
 - 57 Supped
 - 59 School lobby gp.
 - 61 Many a PC image file
 - 62 Bite, break or bruise
 - 63 "August: — County"
 - 65 Mileage rating gp.
 - 66 Send in via helicopter, maybe
 - 67 Diamond-shaping method
 - 68 Abounding in prickly plants
 - 70 Grafton's "— for Innocent"
 - 71 Saw edge
 - 72 Apple desktop music
 - 75 Hip-hop
 - 77 Stupid
 - 79 "— Day Will Come"
 - 81 Jack Sprat's dietary rule
 - 82 Genetic cell stuff
 - 84 Family appellations
 - 85 Value highly
 - 86 Rabble-rouser
 - 87 Diner list
 - 89 Beef cut
 - 90 Sunbathes
 - 91 — Reader
 - 92 Tilting
 - 94 One walking
 - 97 Flub up
 - 99 Gabor and Mendes
 - 100 French composer Jean-Philippe —
 - 103 Felon's deed
 - 104 Competed in a regatta
 - 105 Fruit coats
 - 106 "— hope so!"
 - 107 Butter substitutes
 - 112 Thom — star Jared
 - 113 "Mr. Nobody"
 - 114 River of Flanders
 - 116 Mao — -tung
 - 118 In advance of
 - 119 Low coral reef
 - 120 Bullring shout
 - 121 Victims of NFL sacks



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

ALABAMA POPE'S OSTRICH
 LABELER AKIITA ONEONTA
 ODOBRANT LAMAR MEEKEST
 HAVEDAINTYPIPLAYPENS
 AREA DRELL AAR MAP
 VAINITY DELAVIA PAPPENS
 MODIFIED SAILOR PRAIS
 AXE LEADITOVANIE BEATIT
 NIPPEDIAVIANALYST
 IDTAG ORFEO MIA EMS
 LEHNER RIVIP PUSLIM
 ASSHOUT HAISE GLADE
 HAYSINVENTEDPAYPAL
 MACAW AICAT NATION SIT
 AMAZES RARE CODGERS
 DENYSAPPY EVILATHAN
 ENS MAR LION AONE
 HAPPYVALENTINESDAY
 BEGUILLE ASCIICOWHIDE
 ASUNDER TIARA KNEELER
 GEFYPER SALTANWARDERS

Weekly SUDOKU
 Answer

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

Go Figure! answers

4	-	1	x	5	15
x	+		-		
8	+	3	x	2	22
-	x		x		
9	-	5	x	6	24
23	20				18

TEENY MCMUNN: MY RECIPE BOX

Black Beans & Rice

This week it was a toss-up between brownies made with avocados and sweet potatoes, and this one. So the brownies will be next week.



If you have a large family, this recipe is for you. If you are going to a large gathering, this recipe is for you. If you have a small family and like to freeze leftovers, this recipe is for you. Or you could cut it in half, as it says it makes 16 servings. We made the full recipe and it does make a lot.

Beans and rice make a complete protein meal. I googled it to make sure I was correct, and yes they do: "Black beans and rice deliver complete protein, fiber and nutrients."

I also found that the combination lessens my craving for sugar, perhaps because it has a lot of protein.

INGREDIENTS:

- ¼ c. olive oil
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 2 green bell peppers, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 4 bay leaves
- 1 Tbsp ground cumin
- 2 c. long-grain white rice
- 4 ea (14 oz) cans black beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 ea (14 oz) cans diced tomatoes with green chilies, drained
- 2 c. water
- ¼ c. apple cider vinegar
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

Heat a large pot over medium-high heat and add the oil. Stir in the onions, peppers, garlic, bay leaves and cumin. Stir and cook for 8 minutes. Stir in the rice, black beans, tomatoes, water, vinegar and salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, cover and reduce heat to low. Cook for about 40 minutes or until the rice is tender. Serve hot.

MY NOTES:

We didn't add the bell peppers. Joe can't eat them, and for me, they tend to flavor the whole dish. He used the canned tomatoes without the chilies and didn't drain them so adjust the water accordingly. We added chicken on the side and sausage another night or a salad would make a nice compliment. Enjoy!

THANK YOU FOR READING *The Times*

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER:

MORE OR LESS WORDS

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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.

	÷		+		10
+		+		+	
x			x		28
x		x		+	
	÷		+		11
18		15			24

1 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9

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THE LAST PAGE

BIRDDOGS COMPLETE FIRST AAU SEASON



Courtesy photo

The DW Birddogs, the combined Dayton-Waitsburg 7th-grade AAU basketball team, played eight tournament games during the just-completed season.

"I can say they showed tremendous improvement as the season progressed," Coach Bill Ayotte said of his players. "The boys all competed hard with a great attitude."

This photo of the team was taken following their participation in the Walla Walla YMCA tourney.

"We are looking forward to participating in a summer basketball camp and being ready to go next basketball season," Ayotte said.

Bottom row, left to right: Jasper Morrow, Quinn Benavides, Yukon Mings, Middle row: Coach Bill Ayotte, Braden Mings, Zach Wood, Jesse Mings Jr., Coach Jesse Mings. Back row: Levi Boudrieau, Ryland Kiltz, Benny Bryan. Not pictured, Coach Josh Wood, Jayce Gleason and Daylan Marlow.

Moments in Time

The History Channel

* On March 6, 1776, Major William Malcolm is ordered to dismantle the Sandy Hook lighthouse in New Jersey to prevent it from helping the British to reach New York City. The British were able to put the lighthouse back into service, but the Patriots brought out cannons to blow away the British equipment.

* On March 9, 1781, the Siege of Pensacola begins as Spanish naval force of more than 40 ships and 3,500 men land at Santa Rosa Island in Florida. The flotilla survived a hurricane before beginning two months of constant artillery and cannon bombardment of British forts.

* On March 11, 1818, "Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus," by 21-year-old Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, is published. In Shelley's tale, a scientist animates a creature constructed from dismembered corpses.

* On March 10, 1927, engineer Robert Kearns is born. Kearns patented a design for a type of windshield wiper and later won multi-million dollar judgments against Chrysler and Ford for using his concept without permission.

* On March 7, 1950, one week after British physicist Klaus Fuchs was sentenced

to 14 years in prison for his role in passing information on the atomic bomb to the Russians, the Soviet Union issues a statement denying any knowledge of him or his activities. Fuchs' arrest and conviction uncovered a network of spies.

* On March 5, 1963, the Hula-Hoop, a hip-swiveling toy that became a huge fad across America, is patented by Arthur "Spud" Melin. The hoop was dubbed "Hula" after the hip-yrating Hawaiian dance of the same name.

* On March 8, 1993, the Music Television Network airs the first episode of the animated series "Beavis and Butthead," which would become MTV's highest-rated series to that point. Creator Mike Judge later created the Emmy-winning animated series "King of the Hill."

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 **PACIFIC POWER**



Public Meeting

Columbia County Public Transportation will be holding a public meeting in conjunction with the Palouse Transportation Planning Organization to help develop a coordinated Public Transit Transportation Plan. The plan will assist in selecting alternatives to improve specialized transportation services in our region, particularly for senior adults, people with disabilities, and individuals with low income.

Your participation is needed at this meeting to help develop a plan for Columbia County. Federal and State requirements for funds for rural public transportation and specialized transportation projects and services will be derived from a locally-developed plan that identifies needs and prioritizes projects for funding.

One of the ways Columbia County Public Transportation receives operating funds from the federal and state governments is through this process. Your participation at our public meeting is encouraged. With your participation we will keep our Public Transportation funded.

When: Friday, Feb. 23, 2018, 4-6 p.m.

**Where: Delany Room,
Dayton Memorial Library
111 S. 3rd Street
Dayton, WA**

**For further information please contact
Columbia County Public Transportation:**

509-382-1647