



The Times

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SERVING WAITSBURG, DAYTON AND THE TOUCHET VALLEY Published Since 1878 ONE DOLLAR



Beka Compton

The *Waitsburg Trilogy* was up to their eyes in snow this week, quite literally! More than one foot of snow fell in the area in less than a week. Rain and winter mix is in the upcoming forecast.

All regions in State are now in Phase 2 of reopening plan

Delay to South Central region was due to misreporting by an area hospital

THE TIMES

OLYMPIA—The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) announced that a hospital in the South-Central Region of the Healthy Washington Plan misreported data, which led to a determination that the region remain in Phase 1 of Governor Jay Inslee's Roadmap to Recovery phased reopening plan. When the region was the only one not move to Phase 2, it was brought to the attention of DOH that a hospital in the region appeared to be incorrectly reporting its hospital admission data.

After learning that the hospital, Providence St. Mary Medical Center, in Walla Walla, was reporting COVID-19 hospital admission data incorrectly, the Department of Health began working with the facility to correct the hospital's reporting mistake.

After receiving the facility's updated information, the South Central region's hospital admission metric was re-calculated and DOH concluded the region did meet the required criteria and advanced to Phase 2 effective February 14.

"On Friday, Feb. 12, Providence St. Mary Medical Center discovered an error in its reporting of COVID-19 positive patients admitted to the hospital, and immediately provided corrected data to the Washington Department of Health. The error was unintentional, and we acted as quickly as possible to provide corrected data to the state. We hope this corrected information will be helpful in assessing whether our communities are ready to move to Phase 2 of the Governor's reopening plan, and we appreciate our partnership with the state that has allowed us to correct this error," said Susan Blackburn, Chief Executive at Providence St. Mary Medical Center.

"When errors like this happen, our DOH team is committed to getting things corrected as quickly as possible. We are pleased that partners in the South Central region brought this issue to our attention and we were able to resolve the matter quickly," said Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health.

Earlier in the week, DOH determined that five regions could move to Phase 2 adding to the two regions that had already advanced. This brought the total to seven with only the South Central region still in Phase 1. The South Central Region includes Yakima, Kittitas, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla and Columbia counties.

Regions are required to meet criteria for three of the four metrics outlined in the Roadmap to Recovery plan in order to move into or remain in Phase 2. The four metrics include:

- Trend in 14-day rate of new COVID-19 cases per 100k population
- Trend in 14-day rate of new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100k population
- Average 7-day percent occupancy of ICU staffed beds
- 7-day percent positive of COVID-19 tests

DOH reassesses the metrics for all eight regions every two weeks and will announce any phase adjustments on Thursdays. The next announcement will be Thursday, February 25, 2021 for implementation and possible phase movement on March 1, 2021. Regions that fail to meet the metric criteria will be moved back to Phase 1.

Dayton City Council report for Feb.

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—City of Dayton Mayor Zac Weatherford provided an update about the Interlocal Agreement with the county for Law and Justice, Dispatch, and Municipal Court services at last week's city council meeting.

The Public Safety Committee has reviewed the contract and provided it to the city attorney for review. It has been sent back to the county with a few minor recommendations, he said.

Weatherford agreed with County Commissioner Ryan Rundell, who was at the meeting, about the need for caution in making any substantial changes to the contract.

Weatherford said the Blue Mountain Land Trust is working through conservation easements on a piece of property the City is looking into purchasing for the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

"The ball is still rolling," he said. "I know it has been a very slow process."

Another property, without conservation easements, is also being reviewed.

The City has put the North Front Street Bridge repair project out to bid a second time. The City's insurance company thought the only bid received from the first round was too high, at \$108,000, said Weatherford.

Weatherford met with officials from FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to do a site inspection for granular material in the Touchet River. The City wants sediment removed as soon as possible.

The City is working with Blue Mountain Action Council on a utility relief discount policy that will help low-income residents and those living on a fixed income with their utility payments, Weatherford said.

He said the Public Works Department has been working on general sewer maintenance and "gearing up" for a snow event. Four hundred sandbags have been filled for use in the event of a high-water event.

The City has received a letter from Anderson/Perry & Associates saying they have selected the City of Dayton, to co-sponsor a \$1,000 scholarship for a Dayton High School Senior graduating this year.

"This is really great news and even better for whatever hardworking senior will receive that this spring," he said.

Dayton City Planning Director Meagan Hayes said the Comprehensive Plan Update would be presented to the city council for adoption in April after it is passed by the state Dept. of Commerce.

She said the Affordable Housing Commission has met with the Washington State Dept. of Commerce to discuss multifamily housing tax exemptions, but no recommendations have been made.

A public hearing has been set for 10 a.m. on March 16 with a hearing examiner regarding a Conditional Use Permit for the Columbia County Health System Assisted Living Facility project and a variance for the South Seventh Street subdivision.

Hayes said the Real Estate Review Committee met to review remnant properties available for surplus. There may be interest in surplus land for affordable housing development or other uses in the long term.

Hayes also talked about returning to talks with the county about a 39-acre land swap.

In March 2019, the Dayton City Council approved a request to forward an ap-

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TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

STATE HITS ONE MILLION DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE

THE TIMES

OLYMPIA—The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) announced that on February 12, 2021, the state had administered more than one million COVID-19 vaccinations since receiving their first dose in mid-December 2020.

According to the DOH, the vaccination efforts have been made possible by the hard work of health-care providers, local and private sector partners, the Washington National Guard, DOH staff, and a long list of volunteers unique to each community. Many hours and lots of hard work have gone into vaccine distribution efforts.

“We are thrilled that 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given in Washington State. That means hundreds of thousands of people have gotten their COVID-19 vaccine,” says Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health. “But we have so much more work to do to get everyone, not just that first dose, but the second. And until we have millions of people vaccinated in the state, we all must continue to wear masks, wash our hands, and watch our social distancing.”

Recently, Washington State has shifted into high gear, vaccinating more than 30,000 people at the state-led mass vaccination sites that opened January 26 in Spokane, Ridgefield, Wenatchee, and Kennewick. These sites further expand upon the work done at local health departments, community health centers, hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, and more, getting shots in the arms of Washingtonians eligible for the vaccine. The DOH’s goal is to vaccinate 45,000 people per day. As the department continues to work towards its goal, the DOH expressed thanks to its partners for their hard work and the community for its continued patience.



COMMUNITY COUNCIL SEEKING TOPIC SUGGESTIONS FOR 2021-2022 STUDY

Public invited to share ideas for the next community study

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—Community Council seeks suggestions from any and all community members to help determine the topic for the upcoming 2021-2022 study. Past study topics included: affordable housing, education, economic growth, outdoor recreation, and food insecurity.

“Community Council facilitates these studies to better understand and address issues that affect our region’s quality of life, which encompasses Columbia and Walla Walla counties and the Milton-Freewater area. Past studies and subsequent advocacy for recommended change have shown how much we can do when we work together. There is tremendous capacity in the “Power of Us” – this energy is first developed through the study process and then harnessed and directed through the implementation effort. The only thing needed to get the “study” ball rolling again is the next topic.”

Do you have a community-wide concern, issue, or problem you’d like to present?

Does it affect the quality of life or the economic well-being of a large number of people?

Is it likely to attract broad participation from the community?

Can the topic be clearly defined and then studied?

Is it likely that the issue can be resolved by fact-based analysis?

Is it a new issue that has not been a subject in previous Community Council studies?

If you know of such a topic, then please share your idea with Community Council.

Once a topic has been selected, Community Council will convene a study committee (open to the public) to learn about the issue and develop recommendations for positive change. The study will last 26 weeks and culminate in the publication of a study

report that includes findings and recommendations. After that, Community Council will convene an Implementation Task Force (also open to the public) to advocate for implementing the study recommendations.

Visit Community Council’s website to submit a topic. Or send your ideas to us at PO Box 2936, Walla Walla, WA 99362. For consideration this year, please submit topics by March 5, 2021.

If you would like more information on the study process and are interested in discussing your idea before submitting it, please contact our Study Coordinator, Catherine Veninga, at Community Council or email her at cveninga@wwcommunitycouncil.org.

COLUMBIA PULP BRINGING LYONS FERRY PLANT ON LINE

THE TIMES

DAYTON—Columbia Pulp LLC announced on February 15, 2021, that they will be re-starting their Lyons Ferry Pulp Plant in Columbia County after shutting down due to COVID 19 concerns in April 2020.

During the prolonged shutdown, the company has worked on obtaining additional funding to perform modifications to the plant aimed at increasing production throughput. The company plans to re-commission the plant as well as implementing process improvements over the next 8-12 weeks.

“We’re excited in taking this next step for Columbia Pulp. The marketplace is looking for our innovative products and we’re better prepared than ever before to meet that challenge” says NW Straw Pulp CEO, John Begley.

It is expected the facility will restart saleable production in early May. Columbia Pulp Lyons Ferry Plant, when fully operational, will employ over 90 full time maintenance and production employees.

Columbia Pulp is North America’s first tree-free market pulp mill, using wheat farmers’ waste straw to create pulp for paper products as well as biopolymers for a variety of industrial uses.

APPLICANTS SOUGHT TO FILL VACANCIES ON BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—The Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners is seeking applicants to fill two vacancies on the Walla Walla County Board of Equalization (BOE). The BOE is made up of three members who meet in a public hearing setting to hear petitions relative to property values subsequent to appraisals of property value completed by the county. Board members must be residents of the county, and must attend a special Department of Revenue training seminar, typically held in June, regarding Board duties. Training-related travel expenses are reimbursed consistent with county travel policy. The BOE meets on an as-needed basis, generally four to six times per year, to consider petitions. Board members are paid a per diem, pursuant to statute, for each actual BOE meeting attended. Board of Equalization members operate independently from any county office or official, making fair and impartial decisions on appeals on property value. Members may not hold any elected office, nor be an employee of any elected official. Applications can be found on the county website, www.co.walla-walla.wa.us, or at the Walla Walla County Commissioners Office, 314 Main Street, Walla Walla (Room 203), or they can be obtained by calling the Commissioners Office at (509) 524-2505. Completed application packets must be returned to the Commissioners Office by noon, Friday, February 26, via mail, fax, or email (wwcocommissioners@co.walla-walla.wa.us). As part of the selection process, applicants may be interviewed.

Touchet Valley Weather Feb. 17, 2021

Waitsburg's Seven Day Forecast

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Partly Cloudy	Rain & Snow Possible	Rain Likely	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Rain	Scattered Rain	Cloudy
High: 37 Low: 20	High: 39 Low: 33	High: 43 Low: 32	High: 42 Low: 35	High: 48 Low: 42	High: 50 Low: 43	High: 49 Low: 44

Weather Trivia

Why can't a mercury thermometer go below minus 40 degrees?

Answers: Liquid mercury freezes at that point.

Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	
Tuesday	33	22	45/32	Trace	Precipitation 0.72"
Wednesday	34	20	45/32	0.00"	Normal precipitation 0.43"
Thursday	27	18	45/32	0.02"	Departure from normal +0.29"
Friday	19	14	45/32	0.06"	Average temperature 20.5°
Saturday	19	9	45/32	0.17"	Average normal temperature 38.6°
Sunday	19	11	46/32	0.16"	Departure from normal -18.1°
Monday	24	18	46/32	0.31"	

Data as reported from Walla Walla

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
First 2/19	6:52 a.m.	5:22 p.m.	9:39 a.m.	11:46 p.m.
Wednesday	6:50 a.m.	5:24 p.m.	10:01 a.m.	Next Day
Thursday	6:48 a.m.	5:25 p.m.	10:27 a.m.	12:49 a.m.
Friday	6:47 a.m.	5:27 p.m.	10:58 a.m.	1:53 a.m.
Saturday	6:45 a.m.	5:28 p.m.	11:36 a.m.	2:56 a.m.
Full 2/27	6:43 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	12:23 p.m.	3:55 a.m.
Sunday	6:41 a.m.	5:31 p.m.	1:21 p.m.	4:49 a.m.
Monday				
Tuesday				

The Times

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The Times

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



Beka Compton
Cutline: Goose the German Shorthair Pointer was “all ears” about the snow on Monday.

TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

LETTERS

February 10, 2021

Dear Editor,

Over the past 18 months, there have been several inaccurate headlines and stories printed in the Dayton Chronicle related to our work at the Port of Columbia. This misinformation has caused unnecessary concern among citizens and has inaccurately portrayed the intent of our work.

One example is the recent headline stating "Port Proposes Annexation." The Port did not propose annexation, and this fact could have been verified with a quick phone call or email to the Port office for confirmation. This headline caused over 35 residents to become concerned enough to write a petition to the City against an annexation that doesn't exist. Here are the facts:

- A broad discussion of the possibility of annexing the Blue Mountain Station property into the City of Dayton was held at a Port workshop. This was not a meeting in which decisions would be made. It was called as a workshop so we could have an open discussion about our comprehensive and strategic plan, and the potential for annexation was part of that discussion.

- The City did not propose annexation. The Port asked the City planner to attend the meeting and explain the process to us as we know little about this subject. This also could have been verified by reaching out to City Hall.

- Annexation was discussed because doing so would lower utility costs for the nine private businesses that operate at Blue Mountain Station and would allow signs to be located closer to the highway - which we hear regularly from the public would be a good thing. They currently pay county utility rates, and we currently cannot place any signs near the highway because of the scenic by-way designation based on its county location.

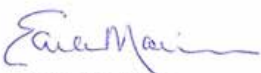
- Annexing residential or farm properties was not considered. Commercial properties were the focus of the discussion.

Similar inaccuracies have also been printed about the Touchet Valley Trail and Broadband projects, information that portrayed internal strife between Port staff and commissioners that doesn't exist, quotes out of context that made it look like our staff is trying to avoid holding a public trail meeting, and reference to the Port undertaking a fiber network plan for one individual private business. None of these three things are true, yet your readers now think they are.


The truth matters! As a Port Commission, we need to be able to have open, honest newspaper. Community and economic development work is difficult on a good day, and has been made even harder by the rampant spread of misinformation through social media.

For the good of the community, and to save our citizens from unnecessary stress, we respectfully request the verification of information by your newspaper prior to printing. It takes a little more work, but it is worth it.

Sincerely,


Earle Marvin
Commissioner Chair
District 2


Sean Milligan
Commission Secretary
District 3


Shawn Brown
Commissioner
District 1

DAYTON CITY COUNCIL- FROM PAGE 1

plication to the County Commissioners regarding amendments to the Dayton Urban Growth Area. The proposed amendment is to remove unusable land in northeastern and northwestern portions of the area for more suitable land in the southwestern and eastern areas. Five parcels would be affected by the removal, and five parcels would be affected by the addition, creating a near even swap, Hayes said at that time.

"We are moving forward with some abatement projects," Hayes said, thanking Sheriff Joe Helm for providing help to her as she works on the projects.

At last week's meeting, Helm said he would like to thank Hayes for bringing issues to his attention.

"She has been important in keeping the Sheriff's Office apprised," he said.

The Sheriff's Office has a new deputy, David Walling. Sheriff Helm said Walling is interested in working with youth and is under consideration for School Resource Officer at the Dayton schools. He will receive school resource training for this position.

Helm said the Columbia County Search and Rescue and Walla Walla County Search and Rescue programs are merging to become the Blue Mountain Search and Rescue.

At next month's city council meeting, candidates for the council position vacated by Matt Wiens last month, will be considered for appointment to the position.

The Dayton City Council appointed Garret Warren to a term ending 2/18/24, on the Affordable Housing Commission, Mike Smith to a term ending 2/28/24, on the Historic Preservation Commission, and Russell Levens to a term ending 3/1/25, on the Dayton Planning Commission.

The Dayton City Council also authorized the City to join with other Columbia County agencies requesting an amendment to Governor Jay Inslee's new regional reopening approach for COVID-19, to return phased openings to a county-by-county basis.

The following was also authorized:

Ordinance No. 1975; amending portions of Title 1 of the Dayton Municipal Code, revising eligibility to serve on the Affordable Housing Commission. This allows people living outside of Dayton to serve on the commission.

Resolution No. 1454; task order for engineering services related to the completion of the 2021 sanitary sewer television inspections, not to exceed \$50,000. This work will take place in March.

Resolution No. 1455; task order for engineering services with Anderson/Perry & Associates related to the Flood of 2020, repairs and rehabilitation projects not to exceed \$44,000.



Beka Compton

Doug Biolo, co-owner of Nancy's Dream Garden Center, hopped on his tractor and spent Monday afternoon moving snow so cars could park along Main Street.

Community Calendar

Waitsburg Monthly Meetings

Waitsburg City Council:

Third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.
Call-in information available at www.cityofwaitsburg.com/government-1

Waitsburg School Board:

Third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.
Zoom meeting information is available at <https://www.waitsburgsd.org/o/waitsburg-school-district/page/school-board--272>

Waitsburg Celebration Days:

February 22 at 7 p.m.
tinyurl.com/5e8fdhpg

Walla Walla County Commissioners

Every Monday and Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m.
Call-in information is available at https://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/government/commissioners/2020_agendas.php

Dayton & Columbia County Meetings

Board of Columbia County Commissioners

First and second Monday of each month at 9 a.m.
Call-in information available at <https://www.columbiaco.com/114/County-Commissioners>

Dayton City Council

Second Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m.
Call-in information available at <https://www.daytonwa.com/54-inside-city-hall/city-council>

Dayton School Board

Third Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m.
Zoom call information can be found at <https://www.daytonsd.org/page/school-board>

Columbia County Public Hospital District Board of Commissioners

Fourth Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. Call (509) 382-2531 for information.

Coalition for Youth & Families

Fourth Wednesday monthly at 3 p.m.
<https://coalitionforyouthandfamilies.org/get-involved>

Columbia County Rural Library District Special Meeting—Budget workshop

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85238363787>

DAYTON SENIOR ROUND TABLE LUNCH MENU

Dayton Senior Center
403 E. Patit St.
12 p.m.
Drive Up Only

Thursday, February 18

BBQ Chicken
Baked beans
Carrots, Coleslaw
Cornbread
Brownie
Juice, Milk

Tuesday, February 23

Sweet & sour chicken
Rice pilaf
Oriental veggies
Salad, Roll
Fruit cocktail

WAITSBURG SENIOR CENTER

504 Main Street
11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 23

Chicken & dumplings
Vegetables (chef's choice)
Coleslaw
Juice
Brownie



WAITSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Starting October 5, the Waitsburg School District will only be delivering meals on Monday and Wednesday. If your student is already signed up for the meal program, the schedule will automatically adjust. If you have not signed your child up and would like to participate, you will need to submit a signed consent form to your child's school. The consent form can be found on the school's website, www.waitsburgsd.org.

Thursday, February 18

B: Cook's choice
L: Cook's choice

Friday, February 19

B: Waffles
L: Pork chop
Mashed potatoes & gravy
Roll
Green beans Oranges

Monday, February 22

B: Scrambled eggs & sausage

L: Chicken Parmesan

Garlic bread
Brussels sprouts
Apples

Tuesday, February 23

Nachos w/ taco meat
Bell pepper strips
Oranges

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



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Winter conditions create flooding concerns

City officials shared that current conditions are similar to those in 1996, ask residents to be alert and prepared

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—Waitsburg officials met Tuesday in an emergency meeting to discuss flood preparedness measures, as winter weather conditions indicate that a high-water event could be likely.

City Councilmember Jim Romine said that the Flood and Emergency Preparedness Committee met and reviewed data and weather from the 1996 flood, finding enough weather condition similarities to be concerned about flooding over the next week. In 1996, the Coppei River experienced extreme flooding after heavy snowfall followed by rising temperatures and rain, and the small river is once again the main point of concern.

Since February 18, the area has received between 12" and 18" of snow, with forecasts calling for rain and winter mixes and rising temperatures for the upcoming week.

"There is a whole lot of snow here, and it's very wet snow," Romine said. "There is ice in the Coppei, and when the water begins to rise and break that up, it starts damming areas up and causes issues."

In previous interviews with The Times, City Administrator Randy Hinchliffe voiced similar flooding concerns as Romine, sharing that the Coppei's riverbed was full of snags and debris. An aging levee near the fairgrounds is also of continuing concern, the city

has repair work planned throughout 2021 to address the issues.

Unlike last year's flood, the main concern is the Coppei River. However, there are also areas along the Touchet River, in Huntsville and in Waitsburg along Preston Avenue, that are vulnerable and of concern, said Romine.

Waitsburg residents are being encouraged to be on alert and begin flood-event preparations as a safety precaution. Romine reminds residents to have several days of bottled water and extra food in the home. If you live in a home that has flooded in years past, Romine suggested getting personal belongings out of basements and above floor-level.

The committee is working with the City of Waitsburg to decide the best way to warn residents in a timely manner. Romine was unsure if the committee would be able to use the warning siren historically sounded from City Hall or the siren atop the library. He did anticipate that a warning would be provided in some way. Residents are being asked to monitor the Waitsburg Emergency Updates Facebook page, as well as the City of Waitsburg's website, www.cityofwaitsburg.com, for updates.

Pastor Matthew Wyatt said that the Waitsburg Christian Church is preparing to act as the Incident Command Center for the area and as a shelter for displaced families, should flooding occur. This effort would be similar to what took place during the February 2020 flood.

Wyatt shared that they have maintained the records of resources used during and after last year's event. With the experience from the last flood, Wyatt says he and his team of volunteers are prepared to utilize resources in a more streamlined-fashion, should they be needed. Shelter and meals will be available

and the plan the church is developing will work within COVID-19 protocols. The church doors will be open immediately should there be a high-water event.

"We will have all of the accommodations that we had last year, the difference being that we will be working within COVID-19 protocols," Wyatt said. "We have enough space in the church that families can stay, but we won't have separate households in the same area. Meals will also be served according to current regulations."

At this time, it is unknown what donations will be needed. Wyatt said that food and other donation requests will be posted daily on his personal Facebook page, as well as the Waitsburg Christian Church page. In the event of an emergency, Wyatt can be reached at (916) 622-9932.



Lane Gwinn

Work being done to shore up the Touchet River east of the Preston Street bridge.

WWCSO

February 8

Unknown subject cut the chain link fence on the east side of the property. The suspect(s) then cut out three catalytic converters on three separate trucks, one of which was a diesel- very costly to replace. Walla Walla County

Unknown subject entered the New York Store and tried on boots, insoles, a new coat, new gloves, and a new oilskin hat. He then ran out the front door and drove away. Suspect left behind his old boots and coat, which contained a large crystal methamphetamine rock in one pocket. Walla Walla

amine rock in one pocket. Walla Walla

February 9

An attempted vehicle prowling was reported in the county. Walla Walla County

February 12

A passerby called in a possible collision in the 800 block of 5 Mile Road. Subject was contacted first by medics and cleared. During investigation, probable cause was developed to arrest for suspicion of DUI.

CCSO

February 10

Unwanted person at Dayton Mercantile, Subway Found property 400 block Main Street 9-1-1 call, Cottonwood Street

February 11

Assist at St. Vincent DePaul Society, Main 9-1-1 call from Bluewood Warrant Confirmation, Main Street

February 12

Wanted Person, Warrant Service at Classy Chassy, Main Street Citizen Contact at courthouse, Main Street

Attempted burglary, Dayton Mercantile, Main Street

February 13

Traffic call at Leiwis and Clark Trail State Park, Highway 12 Traffic call at Blue Willow RV Park, Willow Street Theft reported at Bluewood

February 14

Malicious mischief reported at Shangri La RV Park, Rose Gulch Welfare check at Blue Home, Patit Creek ARC, Main Street

9-1-1 call, 2nd Street

February 15

Traffic call at Best Western Hotel 9-1-1 call from Bluewood

Animal call, Long Elevator

Citizen Contact at Columbia County Senior Center

BIRTHDAYS

February 18: Cole Lindsey, Greg Schuler, Lauri McKinley, Michael and Philo Murphy, Nancy Powers, Ann Ahler and Charles Mead V.



February 19: Carrie Abel, Margaret Osterero, Rick Harper, and Mark Johnson.A

February 20: Harvey Danielson, Jace Grende and Colter Mohny.

February 21: Myles Grende, Dick Brunton, Ted Hopwood, Rich Pierson, Travis Wood, Joshua Wood, Chris Huwe and Molly and Mandy Hays.

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.



King Henry enjoying a nice nap after devouring the news in The Times. Pretty good for a 6 month old!

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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Annual subscription rates: Walla Walla and Columbia counties - \$40; Out of County - \$45. We gladly accept major credit cards

Reader's Forum

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

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

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

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

Due to volume during election season, The Times is unable to print all letters received. We strive to print as many as possible on a first come, first served basis. Letters that don't fit are moved to the following week.

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

Judy Harper

July 30, 1940 — February 6, 2021

Judy Harper of Waitburg passed away at Providence St. Mary's Medical Center. Friends and family may sign her online guestbook at www.mountainview-colonialdewitt.com



Helen Jeanine Perry

June 27, 1937 — February 2, 2021

Helen Jeanine Perry was born June 27, 1937, in LaGrande, Oregon. She was one of 5 children. Helen was an adventurous young woman traveling to Seattle, working for the phone company, flying in airplanes, and eventually marrying Raymond Perry. During their 30-year marriage, Helen raised her three sons Douglas, Donald, and Dean in Waitburg, Washington. The boys kept her busy with never a dull moment.



She loved to fish, was a great cook, and enjoyed spending time in the family garden. After her children left home and Helen turned 50, she returned to college and remarkably became a registered nurse. She spent many years caring for her patients in Washington and Montana before settling in Pomeroy, Washington, for a peaceful retirement. She loved reading, putting together puzzles, and her cats.

Helen attended church at Pomeroy Christian, and she treasured the time she got to spend with her sons and grandson. Helen fought a brave battle with Cancer and even beat the odds by beating Covid! She was preceded in death by her son Douglas and her sister LouAnne. She is survived by her sons Donald Perry and Dean (& Cheri) Perry, her only grandchild Tyler Perry, her siblings David (& Lita), Mary & Susie. Helen was loved and her family is comforted to know they will see her again in heaven. In lieu of flowers, please send your comments to the family via mail: Dean Perry PO BOX 821082 Vancouver WA 98682

County still working to repair damages from the February 2020 flood

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—The Feb. 2020 flood that caused \$7.2 million in damages at more than 120 locations has added extra work, time, and stress for County Engineer Charles Eaton and staff in the public works department.

While much has been accomplished to repair flood-related damage over the past year, there are still roads, bridges, and levees in need of repair.

Eaton said Wolf Fork Road, Robinson Fork Road, Tucannon Road, and South Patit Road's upper reach, where the road washed out, are still in need of repair.

"After that, a bunch of bridges are left," he said, ticking off Bosley, Montgomery, Miller, Smith, Trump/North Touchet, and Vollmer in the Huntsville area. Repairs have begun on the Baileysburg Bridge but have not been completed.

"We have to build a bridge at Coates Creek at the north end of Wolf Fork Road where a culvert washed out. Because of the Endangered Species Act, we can't just replace the culvert," he said.

That comes with a price tag of half a million dollars, he said.

The flood shifted and moved large amounts of granular debris in the Touchet River, and in some places, there are deposits of between five and seven feet, he said.

The county has applied for emergency permits for the removal of the deposits from under the Hwy. 12 bridge and the railroad bridge on the west end of town.

"You can't even stand up under the rail structure anymore, so much rock has been deposited underneath that," he said.

The county needs a Joint Aquatic Resources permit authorized by multiple agencies, a time-consuming process to remove the deposits.

Eaton said the permitting process for removing woody debris from the Tucannon River has also been delayed.

The county initially submitted one permit for work on both the Tucannon River and Patit Creek. However, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has requested the county resubmit a separate permit application for the Tucannon River repairs because the work to be done is on private property.

"It will be in the summer before we get there," he said.

Eaton said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently repairing the Camp Wooten levee. Repairs to the Starbuck levee were finished by the Corps three weeks ago.

The Star levee, which protects the old grange hall and school on South Touchet

Road, and the Dayton Extension levee next to the city's wastewater treatment plant, await repair.

A levee failure at Huntsville caused substantial damage to the road, Eaton said. That levee was sponsored initially by the Coppei Flood District and was part of Walla Walla County's jurisdiction. It is now considered "orphaned." The Corps has not inspected it because there isn't technically a sponsor for it. Jurisdictional issues will have to be sorted before work can begin, he said.

There is a mountain of paperwork to submit to the Army Corps, the Federal Highway Administration and FEMA, in order to get work done, and to be reimbursed for costs, said Eaton.

The county has not received any reimbursement from FEMA.

"We have been working on the first set of projects for three months, and we still don't have all the paperwork together to get it submitted. That's for the first half a million in reimbursement," he said.

Eaton said there had been progress. So far, 2.5 million in damages has been addressed.



Michele Smith

The 2020 flooding event deposited copious amounts of granular debris under the Main Street Bridge and the railroad bridge on the Touchet River. County Engineer Charles Eaton said it will be mid-summer before work can begin on removal.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Waitsburg School District has immediate openings for **substitute classroom para-educators**. Other substitute position openings are substitute building secretary, substitute teachers, substitute custodians, substitute school bus drivers and substitute food service assistants.

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

Position is open until filled.

Waitsburg School District is an E.O.E.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Waitsburg School District is accepting applications for an immediate opening for a **Special Education Para Educator** (7 hrs./day). Must hold an AA degree or equivalent.

Waitsburg School District has the following openings for the 2021-2022 school year:

Certificated K-12 Music Teacher
Certificated Elementary Teacher – Grade 5

Applicants must possess and maintain required teaching certificate with appropriate endorsements.

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

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

Position is open until filled.

Waitsburg School District is an E.O.E.

TOUCHET VALLEY GOLF COURSE
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Touchet Valley Golf and Recreation is looking for a Concessionaire interested in operating their OWN restaurant at the Touchet Valley Golf Course in Dayton.
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NEWS & LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA NO. 20-2-00564-36 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION RCW 4.28.110 TOMKINS-FLOWERS LLC, Plaintiff, vs. RONALD MEI, Defendant.

The State of Washington to Ronald Mei:

You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty (60) days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty (60) days after January 21, 2021, and defend the above-entitled action in the above-entitled Court, and answer the complaint of the Plaintiff, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for the Plaintiff, at his office below stated; and in case of your failure to do so, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demands of the complaint in this action, which has been filed with the Clerk of said Court.

The object of this action is to obtain contribution damages or restitution damages to compensate the Plaintiff for funds that the Plaintiff advanced to repair a broken sewer line shared by the Plaintiff and the Defendant.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2021.
BASALT LEGAL PLLC
By: Jeremy Hyndman,
WSBA #44320
6½ N. Second, Suite 200
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509-529-0630
The Times
January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021
1-21-c

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF INTEREST

TO SERVE IN THE CAPACITY OF CITY COUNCILMEMBER FOR CITY OF DAYTON
The City of Dayton is seeking to fill the vacant position of City Councilmember for the City of Dayton. The City is a non-charter code city with a strong Mayor-Council form of government as prescribed by Chapter 35A RCW. The City Councilmember position is open to a registered voter at the time of declaration

of candidacy and has been a resident of within the boundaries of the city of Dayton for a period of at least one (1) year. Interested parties shall submit a letter of interest no later than February 24, 2021. Interviews for the position shall be conducted at a regular meeting of the City Council and are anticipated for Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Based on current COVID-19 meeting restrictions as of the date of this notice's issuance, interviews are scheduled to be held via ZOOM. For additional information or questions contact the City of Dayton, 111 S. 1st Street, Dayton, WA 99328, (509) 382-2361 or via email at info@daytonwa.com.

The Times
February 4, 11, 18, 2021
2-4-c

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FOR FORMAL BID

Columbia Conservation District
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The Columbia Conservation District is seeking formal bids for project materials. Material Bid requests includes rootwad trees, log tree poles, log pile posts and slash materials. This is for Salmonid Habitat Restoration Projects located on the Tucannon River, in Columbia County, SE Washington.

Bids are due Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at the District office by 3:30 PM.

For additional project information and bid packets email Aneasha Dieu, District Manager at ad-ccd@daytonwa.net or pick up in person during office hours 8am-4pm Monday-Friday. Call (509) 382-4273 to schedule an appointment.

The Times
February 11, 18, 2021
2-11-b

Port of Columbia Landscaping & Weed/Pest Control

Request for Proposals
The Port of Columbia is seeking Requests for Proposals (RFP) for professional services from qualified firms for the purpose of landscaping, irrigation maintenance & weed/pest control services at the Rockhill Industrial Park, Blue Mountain Station and other Port owned properties in Dayton, WA. It is the Port's

intent to use the information to enter into contract(s) for services for 2021. Information submitted should include a list of qualifications, proof of WA State licensing, proof of insurance, hourly labor rate, and materials mark-up. The Port of Columbia encourages women and minority-owned businesses to apply. A scope of work and proposal form can be found on the Port's website at www.portofcolumbia.org under the Doing Work for the Port tab. **Proposals must be received by 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 5th, 2021.** Proposals may be dropped off at the Port office at 1 Port Way during regular business hours or e-mailed to auditor@portofcolumbia.org

The Times
February 11, 18, 2021
2-11-c

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY UNION GAP, WASHINGTON NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO CHANGE THE PURPOSE OF USE, POINTS OF WITHDRAWAL, AND PLACE OF USE AS AUTHORIZED UNDER STATE TRUST WATER RIGHTS.

TAKE NOTICE:

That on December 24, 2020, Granite Farms (Granite), LLC, of Burbank, WA, applied to change the purpose of use, point(s) of withdrawal, and a portion of the place of use as authorized under water right numbers G3-21909C(A)@7, G4-31432(B), S4-022119CL(A)@2. Applications have been assigned change numbers G3-21909C(A)@8, CG4-31432(B), S4-022119CL(A)@5, and CS4-022119CL(B).

That on January 28, 2021, Granite Farms (Granite), LLC, of Burbank, WA, applied to change the purpose of use, point(s) of withdrawal, and a portion of the place of use as authorized under water right CS4-022119CL(B). Application has been assigned change number CS4-022119CL(B)@2.

That CG3-21909C(A)@7 is a Trust Water Right with an October 9, 1973 priority date, for instream flows of 431.7 gpm, 487.5 acre-feet/year. Applicant is seeking to change 418 gpm, 472 acre-feet/year to irrigation of 245 acres April 1 to October 15.

That G4-31432(B) is a Trust Water Right with a September 1, 1992 priority date, for instream flows of 65 gpm, 60 acre-feet/year. Applicant is seeking to change 60 gpm, 53 acre-feet/year to irrigation of 28 acres April 1 to October 31.

That S4-022119CL(A)@2 is a Trust Water Right with a March 1, 1896 priority date, for instream flows of 3,579.6 gpm, 830 acre-feet/year. Applicant is seeking to change 1,628 gpm, 693 acre-feet/year to irrigation of 369 acres April 1 to October 15.

That S4-022119CL(B) is a Trust Water Right with a March 1, 1896 priority date, for instream flows of 16,001.18 gpm, 6,186.71 acre-feet/year. Applicant is seeking to change 5,649 gpm, 2,082 acre-feet/year to irrigation of 1108 acres April 1 to October 15.

That the three proposed points of withdrawal are located in the W1/2 of Section 11, E1/2 of Section 14, W1/2 of Section 2, all in T. 7 N., R. 31 E.W.M., Walla Walla County, WA.

That the proposed place of use is within Sections 2, 11, and 14 of T. 7 N., R. 31 E.W.M., Walla Walla County, WA.

Protests or objections to approval of these applications must include a detailed statement of the basis for objections. All letters of protest will become public record. Cash shall not be accepted. Fees must be paid by check or money order and are nonrefundable. Protests must be accompanied by a \$50 recording fee payable to the Department of Ecology, Cashiering Unit, PO Box 47611, Olympia WA 98504-7611, within 30 days from: February 18, 2021.

The Times
February 11, 18, 2021
2-11-d

ORDINANCE SUMMARY BY TITLE ONLY FOR PUBLICATION PURPOSES ORDINANCE NO. 1975

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DAYTON, WASHINGTON, AMENDING PORTIONS OF TITLE 1 OF THE DAYTON MUNICIPAL CODE REVISING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE ON THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION
The full text of the

Ordinance No. 1975 adopted the 10th day of February 2021, is available for examination at the Dayton City Hall, 111 South 1st Street, Dayton, WA during normal business hours, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

By: /s/ Zac Weatherford, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Trina Cole, City Administrator

Approved as to from: /s/ Quinn Plant, City Attorney
The Times
February 18, 2021
2-18-a

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

The City of Dayton hereby gives notice that a public hearing has been scheduled to take testimony for or against the proposed amendments to the City zoning map (no site-specific re-zones) and the policy addition related to incorporation of the Urban Forestry Management Plan. Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan is a legislative decision with final approval requiring a public hearing by the Dayton Planning Commission and approval by the Dayton City Council.

Project name: 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update

Project location: Incorporated Dayton, Washington

Public Hearing: The public hearing has been scheduled for February 23, 2021 at 6:30 pm and will be held via Zoom. Participants may visit www.daytonwa.com to locate a direct link to the meeting, or type the following into their browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89972042727?pwd=LzRnMUxxWGhrL1sMm1vamQ3M1FNQT09>

Applicable materials may be reviewed at Dayton City Hall between the hours of 7:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday.
Phone—509-382-2361
Email – info@daytonwa.com
The Times
February 18, 2021
2-18-b

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA NO. 21-4-00035-36 PROBATE NOTICE TO

CREDITORS

In re the Estate of JAMES WALTER WEINGART, Deceased.

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided by RCW 11.40.070 by serving or mailing to the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of:

(1) Thirty (30) days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or


(2) Four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051, and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of first publication: February 18, 2021

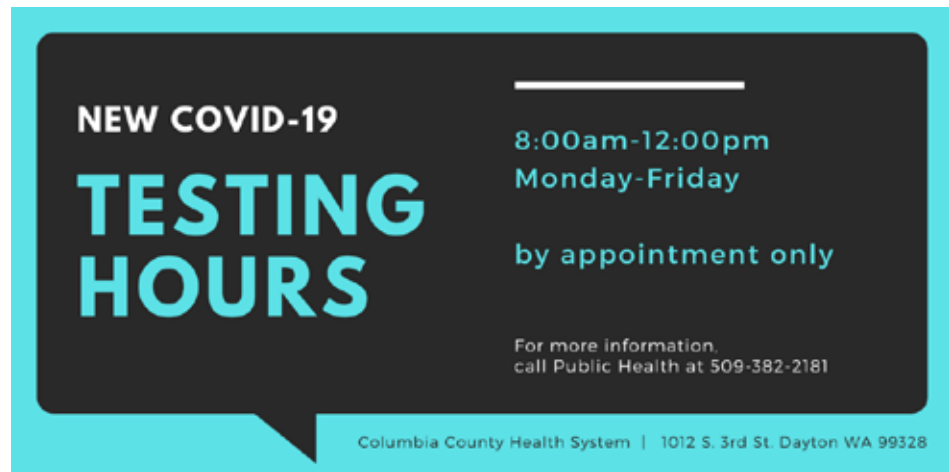
Personal Representative: Estate of James Walter Weingart

C/O Michael E. de Grasse
59 S. Palouse Street
P. O. Box 494
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Walla Walla County Superior Court

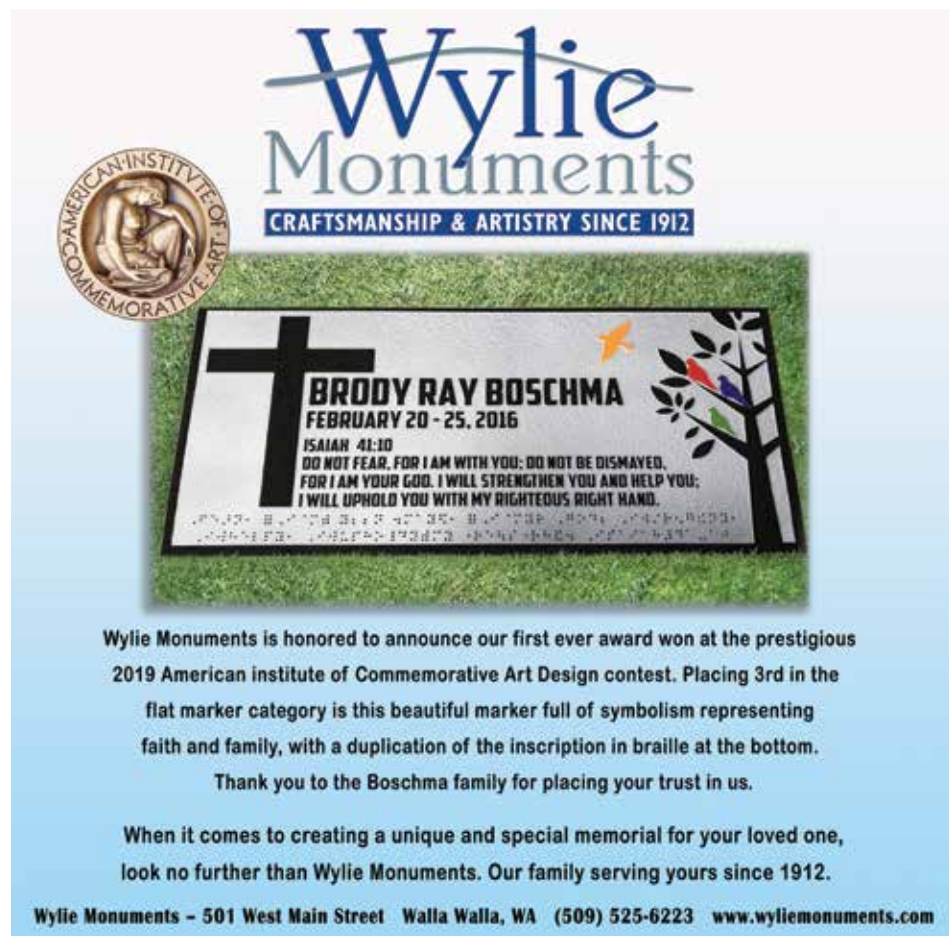
Cause No.: 21-4-00035-36
/s/ Michael E. de Grasse
Personal Representative
The Times
February 18, 25, March 4, 2021
2-18-c



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



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COLUMBIA COUNTY IN PHASE 2 OF THE OF THE GOVERNOR'S ROAD TO RECOVERY FOR COVID-19

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—Local restaurants can now open their doors to indoor dining at 25% capacity, Columbia County Public Health Administrator Martha Lanman told the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday.

Over the weekend, the South-Central Region, which includes Columbia County, was given the green light to advance to Phase 2 of the governor's plan for recovery from COVID-19. The region will remain in Phase 2 for two weeks, then will be reevaluated, she said.

"We will have to be vigilant in order to stay in Phase 2," she said. "If we don't meet the Phase 2 requirements, we would go back to Phase 1 for two weeks."

Lanman said only three people are currently positive for COVID-19, and while county numbers are encouraging, there is the need for greater caution.

She said she learned of seven new variants over the weekend. Lanman encourages people to get over their "hesitancy" about being vaccinated and call the public health department to make an appointment.

"We appreciate all the people who have," she said.

Lanman said the vaccination clinic at the fairgrounds is going well.

On Tuesday, 95 first doses of the Pfizer vaccine are to be administered, and 130 second doses will be administered on Thursday, Feb. 18.



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Growing Your Own Fruit

By Ali Fitzgerald | THE TIMES

It's February, and you know what that means: Spring is just around the corner, yet cabin fever is still at the door. Although the winter weather can be questionable, now is the time to prioritize your fruit trees and get them ready for the year ahead.

You might be thinking, "I can't have fruit trees! How am I supposed to grow an orchard?" Here's the thing, never has growing your own fruit been easier. There are countless options for self-pollinating varieties, dwarf options that will never need a ladder to manage, and even varieties you could grow in large pots if desired. You can also pick out some multi-grafted trees with multiple types on the same tree for the ultimate selection in one space-saving package.

For those of you who are new to fruit trees, I know it can be intimidating. My advice is to pick up a solid reference book to walk you through how to grow trees. You'll always have it on hand if a question comes up. I strongly recommend *The Holistic Orchard: Tree Fruits and Berries the Biological Way* by Michael Phillips; however, there are many options out there.

If you are ready to take the plunge, I recommend seeking out reputable nurseries that carry a large selection of tree varieties. A few good places to start online are Trees of Antiquity, specializing in heirloom varieties; Raintree Nursery located in Washington State; and Stark Brothers, one of the oldest fruit tree companies operating. Order early as the popular varieties often sell out quickly. You can also buy trees from your local nurseries but choose carefully. Make sure the trees are in good condition and still dormant. It's best to purchase your trees early and intentionally, so you have the space and a plan for getting them in the ground and off to a good start. Newly planted trees should be watered *deeply* once a week during the growing season to ensure healthy root growth.

Maybe you already have some trees to your name. Now is the time to prune them! Yep, you need to do this BEFORE spring hits and your trees break dormancy. While I can't cover all of the details in this article, I can give some general guidelines.

First, always start by pruning back dead, damaged, or crossing branches. These branches will be the easiest to spot. After that, it takes a little more finesse. Apples, pears, plums, and sweet cherries should be pruned to a central leader. Peaches, nectarines, and apricots should be pruned to an open center. This allows light in and keeps adequate air flow. If there are any sucker sprouts

growing from the base of the tree, clip those off as well. Pruning always seems to be the most challenging task to wrap your head around but trust me; your trees will greatly benefit from this small effort on your part. Many reputable online nurseries such as those mentioned above also have blog posts and videos to guide you through the pruning process.

If your trees have any diseases (fire blight is a common one for apples and pears in our area), be sure to dip your pruners in a diluted bleach solution after every cut to ensure you do not spread any diseases further. Again, a solid fruit tree reference book should give some guidance on managing pests and diseases as well as signs to watch for that may indicate you have a problem.

While this article briefly covers some high-level considerations, growing fruit trees is a wonderful experience and can provide you with the freshest produce you can get your hands on with minimal effort. I'll wrap things up for this week, but I wanted to leave you with an old saying, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now." And I couldn't agree more.

RESOURCES FOR FRUIT TREE GROWERS

Online nurseries:

Trees of Antiquity at <https://www.treesofantiquity.com>
Raintree Nursery at <https://raintreenursery.com>
Stark Brothers at <https://www.starkbros.com>

Books:

Ali's Favorite! - *The Holistic Orchard: Tree Fruits and Berries the Biological Way* by Michael Phillips
The Fruit Gardener's Bible: A Complete Guide to Growing Fruits and Nuts in The Home Garden by Lewis Hill and Leonard Perry
Fruit Trees for Every Garden: An Organic Approach to Growing Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Citrus, and More. By Orin Martin and Manjula Martin

YouTube videos:

The Gardening Channel with James Prigioni:
How to Prune an Apple Tree! - <https://youtu.be/LoCc9LI5nM>
How to Prune a Peach Tree! - https://youtu.be/b0K6_OevFwc

Chat with Mike: Dr. Carol Clarke

Spiritual education in Panama

By Mike Ferrians | THE TIMES

Over the last four years, former Waitsburg Schools Superintendent Carol Clarke has spent significant time in Panama City, Panama. She began working with Crossroads Christian Academy (CCA) after close friends shared that the school was hiring.

"When I retired from Waitsburg Schools, I knew I wanted to keep my home in Waitsburg. I also knew I would need something to keep me occupied and engaged," said Clarke. "But I didn't want to teach due to my hearing impairment. I thought, well, I can't knit, can't do needlepoint, but I'm good at running a computer! I prayed about it and came to the point where I felt strongly it was God's call for me to go and experience it."

It wasn't long before Carol accepted the role of Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, a role she has fulfilled working in Panama City and remotely from her home in Waitsburg. She began working with the school in July 2017.

"It was hard leaving my home, but I know God had His hand in my doing this." Crossroads Christian Academy, located on Panama City's outskirts, was founded as a ministry of Crossroads Bible Church (CBC) in 1997 by a small group of missionaries, pastors, and other parents primarily from the United States. The non-denominational Crossroads Bible Church is located on the same campus. There was an exodus of Americans in Panama after the country regained sovereignty of the Panama Canal, leading to the academy's decision to increase outreach to the community. It has grown from the original 29 to over 200 students today.

The student body is diverse, comprised of Panamanian, American, and international students. English is the primary language for instruction, and enrollees must be proficient in the language to apply; Spanish is taught as a second language.

"It really is a unique place," said Clarke. "It's the only American International Christian school in Panama. And the city really is a first-world international center, operating in some ways in a third-world infrastructure."

When she arrived in Panama, Clarke discovered that there were many exciting things to do in the area, in addition to her work at the school. Opportunities included interaction with indigenous people from outlying villages, including the Embera tribe.

"We were sent to work in a village that had running water but no electricity. One of the men asked if I knew anything about fixing toilets. As a matter of fact, I did!"

With help from a young teacher from New Jersey, who had just arrived on her first teaching job, Clarke got to work on the village's plumbing.

"I told her, 'We're going to work on toilets, and let me warn you; we're going to get dirty.' After that, we helped repair holes in the goal nets at the soccer field there."

At the end of the day, the village plumbing did not include showers, so they bathed in bleach water.

When Clarke is in Panama, she lives in an apartment not far from the school. It's also about an hour's drive from the Chagres River, where she and other school and church members load all the tools and supplies needed for a mission trip onto a small boat for a 45-minute journey upriver.

When in Panama, she attends the Crossroads Church on campus. Since being home this year, she has been viewing the pastor's messages via YouTube, which he delivers both in English and Spanish. Part of Clarke's spiritual education has been witnessing the level of devotion and sacrifice she's seen in the Christian community in Panama, particularly missionaries.

"They give up the comfort zones of their lives to help and serve others," she said.

In March 2020, the school had approximately 280 students before the world be-

gan to shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Clarke. Since then, enrollment has dwindled to just over 200 students. Students have been working remotely, with elementary students struggling the most to keep up. Clarke keeps in touch with the staff remaining in Panama City to get accurate information about needed supplies and support for children.

The Panamanian Ministry of Health has confirmed 330,985 total cases of Covid-19 in the country as of February 12, 2021. Panama City has a population of 1.8 million, almost half the country's total population. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Embassy have issued a Level 4 Travel Health Notice for Panama at this time. To travel to Panama now, air passengers need to have a negative COVID-19 test no more than three days before the flight. After arrival, passengers must quarantine for two weeks. These restrictions may change by the time Clarke hopes to return in April.

Meanwhile, she is busy ordering materials for the next school year and waiting to receive her COVID-19 vaccinations. When the time comes, she will be ready to return. What was true for her four years ago is still true: "I believe God calls me when He's ready."



Marty, Becky and Jacob Dunn visited Carol Clarke in Panama City in 2018, and assisted on a mission trip. Above, Carol and Jacob are in the boat ready for a trip up the Chagres River to visit the Embera tribe.



Mike Ferrians

Carol Clarke at home in Waitsburg



Clarke and three friends during *Fiesta Patrias* (similar to Independence Day). Dressed up, they represent the U.S., Venezuela, Puerto Rico and Panama.

Russell Wilson's sack problem is his own

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES

Russell Wilson made news this week for comments he made on The Dan Patrick Show. He suggested he was getting sacked too often and implying the problem is with his offensive line.

Wilson said, "I think that sometimes you hold onto it a little bit just because you're looking for that play and you find it, but also so many of those times it turns into touchdowns too. But you never want to be sacked that many times. Four hundred times basically is way too many — four hundred too many. So, I think that's a big thing that we've got to fix. That's got to be fixed and has to be at the end of the day because my goal is to play ten to fifteen more years."

Within Wilson's quote, he describes the type of player he is, one that scrambles and holds on to the ball sometimes too long in order to extend the play to score. That type of player is going to get sacked a lot.

All sacks are not created equal. Most of the time, when we picture a quarterback being sacked, it is from a hard hit coming from the quarterback's blind-side. But a quarterback can be ruled down by contact without being tackled, and that counts as a sack. If the quarterback runs out of bounds behind the line of scrimmage because of defensive pressure, that is a sack.

Besides, the NFL has made several rule changes

over the years to protect quarterbacks from injury. The types of hits quarterbacks used to take now result in penalties, fines, and suspensions for the defensive player. I'm not suggesting that Russell Wilson has never been hit hard, but his career started after the league began putting rules in place to protect quarterbacks.

A few of those three hundred ninety-four career sacks can be dropped at Wilson's feet, literally. Wilson has eighty-five fumbles in his career. Thirty-five of those fumbles he recovered, likely for a loss of yardage, which counts as a sack. Many of the fifty he didn't recover could have been "strip" sacks, when the ball is knocked out of a quarterback's hands.

His offensive line isn't to blame for all of these. In just eight years, Wilson is already on the NFL's career top twenty list in sacks. All of the quarterbacks ahead of him played at least thirteen years in the league.

Pass Block Win Rate (PBWR) is a new metric developed by ESPN to rate offensive linemen individually and as a team. As a team, the Seahawks were ninth in the league in PBWR the last season. It suggests that Wilson had an above-average offensive line in front of him in terms of pass protection. Improving Seattle's defense should be the priority this offseason with their limited salary cap space. If Wilson believes the offensive line is the top priority, perhaps it is time to restructure his contract and use some of his salary to attract those needed players.



PAC-12 CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL

	Conf.		Overall					Rank
	W - L	GB	W - L	Home	Away	Streak		
USC Trojans	11 - 2	—	17 - 3	10 - 1	6 - 1	W6	#17	
UCLA Bruins	10 - 3	1.0	14 - 5	9 - 0	4 - 4	W1		
Oregon Ducks	7 - 3	2.5	12 - 4	7 - 2	4 - 1	W3		
CO Buffaloes	10 - 5	2.0	16 - 6	8 - 1	5 - 5	L1		
Stanford Cardinal	9 - 6	3.0	13 - 8	5 - 2	5 - 4	W1		
Arizona Wildcats	8 - 7	4.0	14 - 7	10 - 4	4 - 3	L1		
Utah Utes	6 - 7	5.0	9 - 8	6 - 3	3 - 5	L1		
OR State Beavers	6 - 8	5.5	10 - 10	9 - 4	1 - 6	L3		
AZ State Sun Devils	4 - 6	5.5	7 - 9	4 - 6	2 - 2	W1		
WA State Cougars	5 - 10	7.0	12 - 10	9 - 5	3 - 4	L2		
WA Huskies	3 - 12	9.0	4 - 16	3 - 6	1 - 6	W1		
CA Golden Bears	3 - 13	9.5	8 - 15	6 - 6	1 - 9	W1		

*Neutral site games cause Home and Away games not to add up to overall record.

PAC-12 CONFERENCE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	Conf.		Overall					Rank
	W - L	GB	W - L	Home	Away	Streak		
Stanford Cardinal	16 - 2	—	19 - 2	4 - 1	13 - 1	W8	#6	
Arizona Wildcats	12 - 2	2.0	14 - 2	11 - 1	3 - 1	W6	#10	
UCLA Bruins	10 - 3	3.5	12 - 3	6 - 1	6 - 2	W2	#8	
Oregon Ducks	9 - 5	5.0	12 - 5	7 - 3	5 - 1	L2	#13	
USC Trojans	8 - 7	6.5	10 - 8	7 - 3	3 - 5	W1		
WA State Cougars	7 - 9	8.0	9 - 9	5 - 4	4 - 5	L3		
CO Buffaloes	6 - 8	8.0	8 - 9	7 - 3	1 - 6	W2		
AR State Sun Devils	5 - 7	8.0	10 - 7	9 - 4	1 - 3	W1		
OR State Beavers	4 - 6	8.0	6 - 6	4 - 4	2 - 2	L1		
Utah Utes	4 - 13	11.5	5 - 13	2 - 7	3 - 6	L3		
WA Huskies	2 - 11	11.5	5 - 11	1 - 5	2 - 5	L1		
CA Golden Bears	0 - 10	12.0	0 - 13	0 - 8	0 - 5	L13		

*Neutral site games cause Home and Away games not to add up to overall record.

Tech Talk: Head in the clouds

Access storage options on the go

By Brianna Wray | THE TIMES

INTERWEBS—From between seemingly ceaseless snowflakes and bouts of sledding, we can agree that now is an excellent time to be inside. And while we've got all this indoor time on our hands, let's talk about fun stuff: digital file management. If you're failing to see the fun, I understand. Digital storage tends to only be a fun subject if you've got your ship together, so to speak. If not, the subject comes up with sighs and groans and much chagrin.

Who has the time? No one, but also everyone. It's true what they say: it's never too late to start a good habit.

Build new systems now and then the time to go back and retroactively sort old files will come in increments here and there until the project is complete.

Addressing old file storage issues by building organizational tiers in a new platform can be similar to taking out a new loan to consolidate lingering and high interest debt. Is signing up for new loans an everyday option, no, but it can lead to a long-term fix. If you already have good storage habits, expanding into new platforms only adds to the landscape of your digital real estate.

The good news is there may be storage available to you already. Have an Amazon account? Access up to 5 gigabytes of storage for free. The Google Drive suite provides a host of useful apps with 15 gigs of free storage included in the bundle. Even better, any files originating in the Google apps (Docs, Sheets, etc.) don't count toward the storage allotment. Only data imported from other sources count against the free 15 gigs.

Meanwhile Adobe users have at their disposal 100 gigabytes of included storage. Larger quantities of storage are available for purchase through internet services providers (ISPs), Apple, Google, and

more.

But what even *is* the cloud? Simply stated, cloud storage is a model of computer data storage in which the digital data is stored in logical pools, said to be on "the cloud." The physical storage spans multiple servers, and the physical environment is typically owned and managed by a hosting company. That description is factual and specific and yet leaves one to wonder, *no really, what does the cloud look like?*

A long time ago when I lived in Seattle and worked in the mailroom for Centurylink, I was responsible for the mail at two locations, one full of corporate big wigs and the second barely housed anyone, just floors and floors of the 'cloud'. One of the technicians unlocked the door for me one day so I could see the cloud in person. The similarity to a real cloud was that the environment was chilling, as fans turned off and on to cool the hardware that makes the internet world go round.

It was crisp, but instead of the effervescent air of a cumulonimbus, what I saw behind the perfectly ordinary door was unending towers of computer servers aligned in a grid. The building spanned a city block, and the grid of towers spanned several floors. All was well, they all seemed to have flashing-green lights, and every few rows there was a technicians' station stocked with spare parts and tools for times when the lights flashed red.

Most of the servers hosted there were owned by bigwig companies, but ordinary citizens were also permitted to house and maintain their servers on the premises. As a result, all these privately owned servers needed to be caged and locked up for security purposes.

Towers of information locked in an innocuous downtown building, locked in a room, and locked in a cage. If you ask me, the cloud looks like the perfect setting for the next installment of *The Matrix*.

The amount of storage available to you could be enough to power your next creative project. Video and especially complex audio editing files are large



and are best saved to external storage devices and drives to avoid bogging down local memory.

Good habits for file saving include a universal file naming convention that consistently relays as much information as possible. Avoid special characters or spaces in a file name. Use capitals, dashes and underscores instead of periods or spaces or slashes.

Use date format ISO 8601: YYYYMMDD. Images that come out of the camera with file names like DSC 1099 or IMG 4997 aren't as helpful as 2021-02-14_Snow_Avalanche_videoclips. This system leaves room to include a version number as images are edited for different projects.

With everything in its place, you'll know digital peace.

Plans, pandemics, and pork

By Vicki Sternfeld-Rossi | THE TIMES

My father always reminded us that “man proposes, life disposes,” or, as John Lennon so articulately reminded us: “Life is what happens when you’re busy making plans.”

When Daniel decided to move here last March, we each had plans. His was buying tools for home repairs; mine was “date weekends,” opera and museums in Seattle, Walla Walla Symphony, the Chamber Music Festival, Willamette Valley wine tasting, Los Angeles trips to scope out trendy new restaurants, and tennis with my friends. But, as we all know, life with a pandemic scuttled everyone’s plans—time to rethink, regroup and replan.

I am a lucky lady. I live with a chef. I didn’t have to spend the pandemic learning how to cook, I just had to eat, learn portion control, and how to work off the great food I had the privilege of eating. Along with my passion for food, I have a passion for tennis, which helps me from becoming the Goodyear blimp. And, of course, my insomniac Mirror purchase has been a good exercise boost.

One tip that the pandemic was truly problematic was when flour and yeast became “hot commodities.” We joined the masses, coveting flour, packages of yeast, and trying different bread recipes and techniques. As Daniel is a chef and baker, some of the artisanal flours were a bit perplexing. After a few minor flops, he’s perfected bread baking, so he’s started some new projects, all of which seem to revolve around pork!

His first project, which we finally got to eat yesterday, was homemade salami. He ground the meat, cured it with salts and flavorings for a few days, then we stuffed it into the casings, ready for the next step. Voila’, we have homemade salami, and it was worth the wait! We’ve delivered some to our neighbors, and I assure you, the garlic content should keep Waitsburg free of vampires for years. I have also packaged some up to send to friends and family. I apologize in advance to the USPS.



Earlier this week, Daniel brined, and sous vide cooked pork belly, basically homemade bacon, which we used in our recent dinner of Bucatini all’ Amatriciana (thank you, Kate). Bacon is not just a great partner for eggs; versatility is its middle name!

Yesterday, after trudging through snow and tending to my freezing hands from digging Mugsy out of snowdrifts (small dog, short legs), it just felt right to have soup for dinner. Ham hocks cooked in the pressure cooker, with the stock we had made a few days ago, was the base for added vegetables, beans, and pasta. I’m glad Daniel dares to use the pressure cooker because warm and tasty soup for dinner made quickly was perfect.

Since pork is not the only food we should be eating, I bought a chicken. I noticed we had a few bottles of wine put

aside because they were not great to drink but were fine to cook with, so I suggested Coq au Vin. After marinating the chicken in wine mixed with a variety of spices and herbs, you start to cook the chicken in bacon; what else? No wonder it tastes so good.

Today is Valentine’s Day, and we’re having Veal Chops for dinner. Time to give the pigs a break. But, not for long because we have spare-ribs in the freezer, and they will be dinner later this week. Meanwhile, Daniel bought another batch of meat, the grinder is ready and today starts another batch of homemade salami.



He once mused about raising chickens, which I nixed, but maybe we should consider a pig instead?

Book Briefs

Beka's Picks

Spilled Milk by K.L. Randis
Young Brooke Nolan navigates the dangerous waters of a broken social service agency who is working to keep her abusive father in the house, rather than keep her safe. A glass of spilled milk at the dinner time forces Brooke to speak out about her abuse, and in doing so, she risks losing family support, and comes to realize that not everyone wants to be saved. *Spilled Milk* is based on a true story.

This book was a very emotional experience. It was told through the



eyes of a six year old, who was experiencing extreme abuse, and I was committed to hearing her story once I read the first page.

The Institute, Stephen King

In the middle of the night, Luke Ellis’ parents are murdered, and the attackers load Luke into a black Suburban. He wakes up at The Institute, where he meets the other kids with stories similar to his, known as the Front Half. As people start disappearing to the Back Half, Luke becomes increasingly desperate to escape The Institute to seek help.

Stephen King is my go-to thriller author- I have yet to be disappointed by him. *The Institute* is a binge read, with King creating a creepy, thrilling, yet oddly believable story.



KID-FRIENDLY APPS: NOGGIN

A fun, interactive app with games for ages two and up.

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

The Noggin app is loaded with games that teach everything from counting and matching to language, plus, it features all of the characters that kids adore, like the Paw Patrol pups, Dora the Explorer, and Bubble Guppies.

Kids have the ability to pick what games they would like to play using different categories, like science or math, or they can choose which characters they want to hang out with. There are games, e-books, and play-alongs, and the app features a huge selection of Bob Books, which are narrated and highlight words for easy reading.

The app allows users to create profiles, so families with multiple kiddos can share a subscription without interrupting each other’s progress.

The app is easily one of my daughter’s favorites, and she has a blast interacting with her favorite characters. To say she shocked me when she looked at me one morning said ¡Hola! Cómo estás?, after playing a game featuring Dora and Boots would be an understatement. The app has inspired a love of the Spanish language, which I feel I could not have done alone.

The app does require a subscription, which costs \$7.99 per month, and is my biggest complaint, however, if you go to Noggin.com, they are partnering with the National Head Start Association to offer Noggin for free, for nine months. The app is available on Amazon devices, in the Apple Store for iPhones/iPads, Roku devices, and on the Google Playstore for android devices.

Tech Chat with Mike: the ReMarkable tablet

By Mike Ferrians | THE TIMES

The digital notepad that altered my lifestyle

Let me tell you about my most recent tech acquisition: the ReMarkable pad. I ordered it in April 2020 and received it seven months later. Due to Covid-related restrictions, the Norway-based company has been taking orders and shipping in batches. Once the product got to Hong Kong, it reached my front door in five days.

The ReMarkable pad is an elegant digital writing and sketching instrument designed for people who love pen and paper but live in the digital world. Other digital pads and apps have some of the same functions, but ReMarkable is focused on the feel, touch, and simplicity of thinking and writing on paper, without distraction, but with the advantages of digital conversion and WiFi connectivity.

I have been a journal-keeper since 1986 and always loved to write. The calm, focused process of thinking and writing is essential to me. ReMarkable promised this experience in digital form. I’m familiar with this concept as many digital pianos and performance keyboards are engineered to have the tactile touch sensitivity and tones of acoustic instruments.

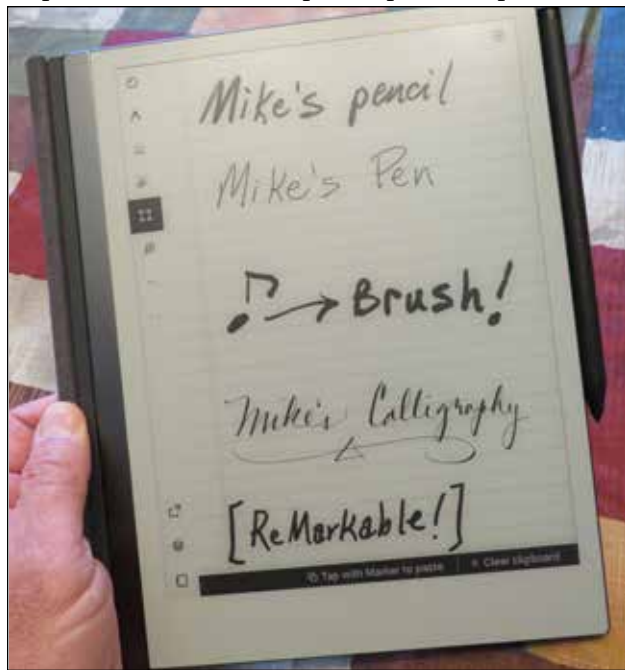
Except for a few minor issues which I think could be improved or added to future upgrades, the ReMarkable is precisely what I expected it to be. It’s a tad expensive for its particular purpose, but what it does, it does exceptionally well. I have it with me almost constantly as a daily journal or for note taking at meetings and interviews. The handwritten notes can be converted into digital text. The converted text can be saved on my computer or immediately sent to others.

ReMarkable does a great job turning script into a text document, however, I have to do some post-conversion editing. I am getting faster at it. Fairly neat handwriting also helps as ReMarkable uses a character recognition program to make the conversion to text possible.

Organizing my writings on the device is easy, I keep multiple document folders and organize them as I please. The ReMarkable comes pre-loaded with 47 templates for drawing, notating music, illustrating, storyboarding, planning, and organizing.

Writing on ReMarkable is pleasant. It’s the thinnest tablet on the market - at 0.19 inches. The spe-

cialized pen (sold separately, for some odd reason) functions much like other digital pens for scripting or digital art—the other end of the pen functions as an eraser. I can select sections of the script and move them around on the page or delete them easily. The digital inking process is quick, with an immediate response at the touch of pen to pad. The pen comes



Mike Ferrians

with eight different functions, from pen and pencil to highlighter and calligraphy and the touch sensitivity functions, you would expect to experience with those various tools. Although ReMarkable is a greyscale device, the various writing and drawing tools feature a spectrum of unique textures. Yes, it has a paintbrush.

One of the coolest features of ReMarkable is the page function menu, which can be turned on and off from the page at any time. Select your writing tool, your stroke thickness, your tone (black, gray, or white), your erase functions, etc. Manage pages and files with handy overview, conversion, and layering icons.



Lane Gwinn

Above: The ReMarkable pad is great for note taking and drawing in a digital format that feels like paper, almost. Close enough to have fun.

Left: This digital pad is easy to use and will quickly become one of your best work tools.

Finally, with the companion desktop and smartphone proprietary cloud service syncing apps, ReMarkable can function as a web page or PDF reader, and you can mark-up documents to your heart’s content. But it cannot serve as a web browser - again, simplicity without distraction.

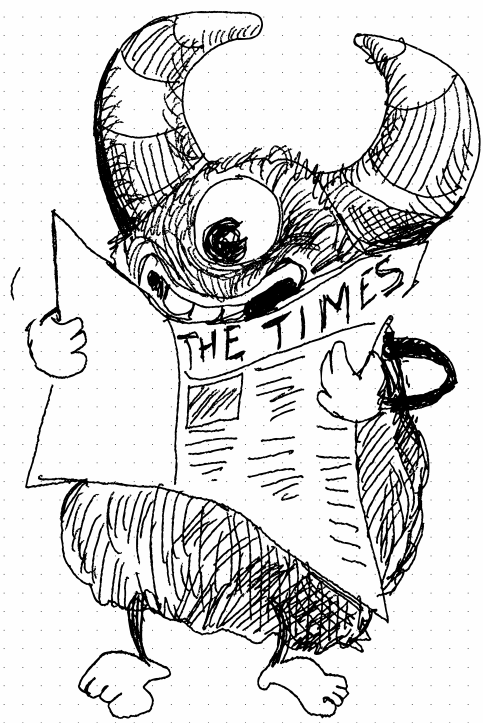
I can also download e-books on the device. However, the developers chose to avoid copyright issues by limiting the device to EPUB files, which are public domain and open licensed content. I like going to www.gutenberg.org for a whole host of public domain books and classic literature, which can be downloaded to ReMarkable as EPUB files. And I love the freedom to digest news stories for reading at my leisure, without a hundred other things barking for my attention.

ReMarkable isn’t for everyone. It was a perfect fit for me. I can take it to work, to school, to the library, and the coffee shop - reading, doodling, composing, and reflecting to my heart’s content. Go to remarkable.com for more information. Or, give me a shout; I’d be glad to let you try it out!

FUN & GAMES

PIONEER PORTRAITS

MONSTER ON THE LOOSE

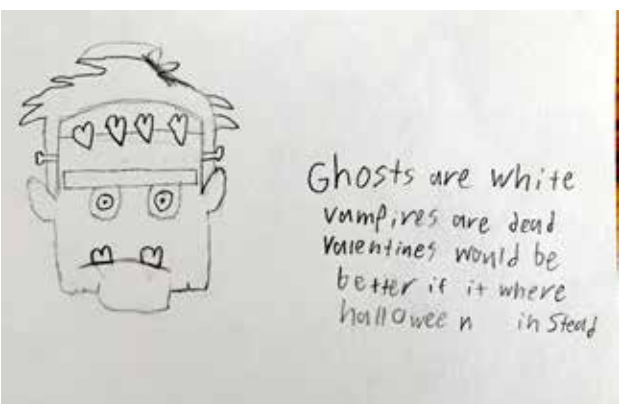


This little monster took a walk through *The Times*, looking for fame and fortune. Can you spot him!

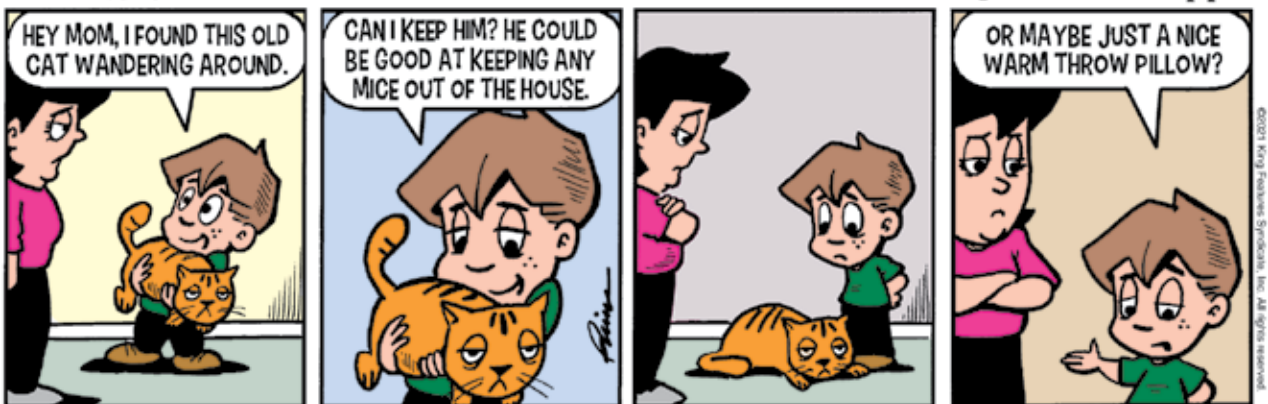
LAFF - A - DAY



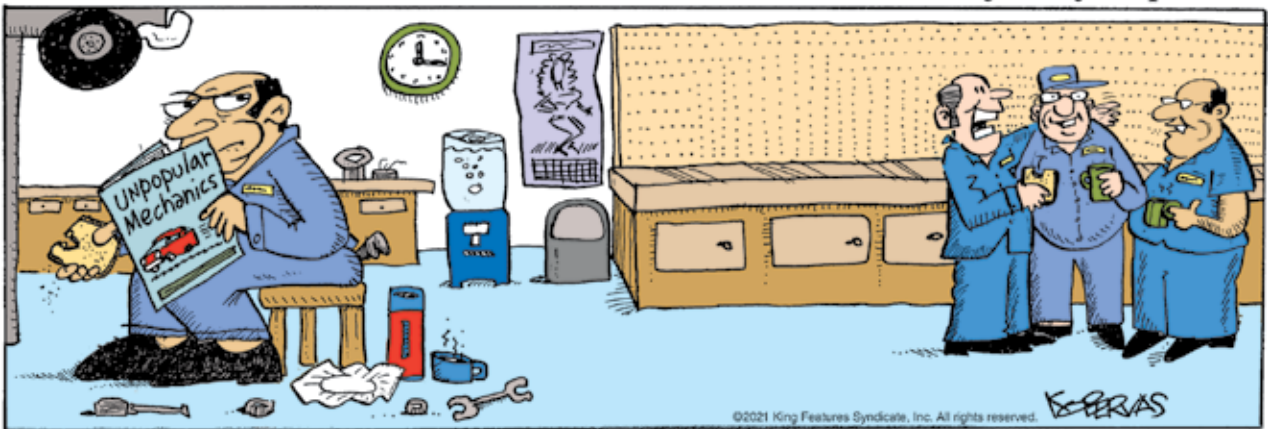
"Now we know what that funny little plug was."



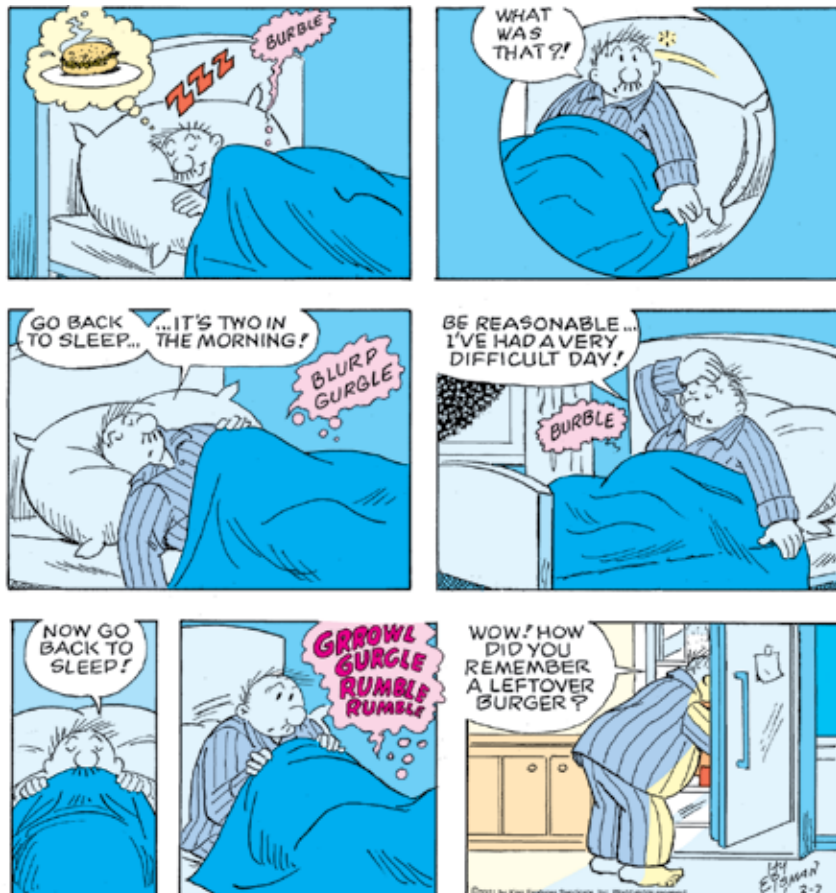
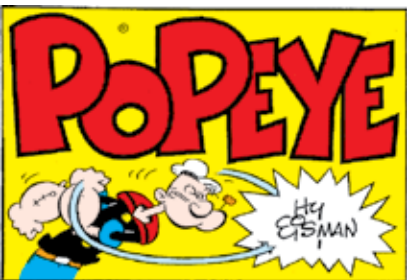
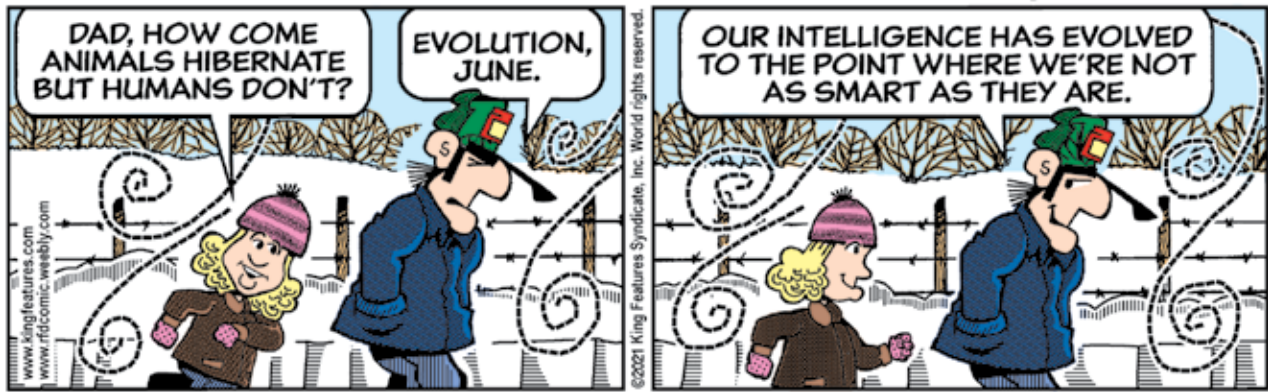
Amber Waves



Out on a Limb



R.F.D.



Ten Years Ago

February 17, 2011

Following the announcement that there will be no pari-mutuel horse racing this year in Waitsburg, Dayton and Walla Walla, the board of the Days of Real Sport has cancelled its annual May racing event for 2011. The DRS director said they hope it will only be a temporary interruption of a near century-old Waitsburg tradition.



At first I thought *The Times* building at 139 Main Street would be the best place for an espresso bar, but the more I considered it, the more I realized we'd be much better off consolidating our news offices in a renovated from office and making the Mock building next door at 137 Main Street the coffee shop. In the end we compromised, using a portion of both buildings for each business. - Imbert Matthee

Twenty-Five Years Ago

February 22, 1986

Relieving a major financial concern for the city of Waitsburg, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers announced they will repair the dike system along the Touchet River through town. Corp officials estimate that the river flowed at ten-times normal during the flood, at about 9,500 cubic feet per second. The 1964 flood flowed at 9,350 cubic feet per second.

Some eastern Washington lakes are due to open to fishing March 1. But the southeast waters are likely to be fishless, and season changes are ahead for some of the Columbia Basin lakes, the state announced Tuesday.

Overheard in Waitsburg: "Whoever made Mother Nature mad, should apologize."

Almost as inevitable as the melting snowpack and heavy rain brought the flooding to Waitsburg, a T-shirt has been made to remember the event, the worst flood of the century. Blue Crystal screenprinting of Waitsburg (itself a flood victim) has designed the short. Creative duo Pam Reithmier and Elizabeth Cole say they have a Dayton version.

Fifty Years Ago

March 4, 1971

Secretary of the Waitsburg Junior Livestock Show, Mrs. John Wood reported this week that entries for the April 9-10 show have been slow in coming in.

Waitsburg has two new businesses beginning operation this week, Jack and Vira McNew, former residents, have purchased the Union 76 station from Johnnie Hutsell. McNew has been operating a service station at Steptoe, Washington.

Bill Payne received the Commercial Club Community Service award at the Club's annual banquet last Tuesday evening. Emcee Larry Broom made the presentation, citing Bill's work as President of the Days of Real Sport, Touchet Valley Grain Growers, the School Board and the Waitsburg Rural Telephone Company.

Morris and Becki Kurth recently purchased the Touchet Valley Hardware from Miles and Lois Brunton. They want to get better acquainted with people in Waitsburg and the surrounding area so are inviting you to enjoy a genuine old-fashioned western welcome at the Hardware this coming Saturday.

Seventy-Five Years Ago

March 8, 1946

The Girls' League basketball team coached by Roselle Collins will play the Prescott team Friday evening in Preston Hall, on the team are Ruth Wolfe, Irene Casey, Mary Hirsch, Jacqueline Alexander, Donna Jeremiah, Shirley LeVassuer, Dorothy Murphy, Roselle Collins, Marilyn Otterson, Betty Baim, Barbara Reid and Mollie Kellogg.

Ira Bloor is the owner of a bottle of Olympia beer and a shaving mug which were found in the cornerstone of the James Building which was built in 1908.

Kenneth Smith rode into town the other day in a new jeep and soon the popular army vehicle was covered with boys and some not so young.

One Hundred Years Ago

March 18, 1921

Miss Harriet Stewart won the ladies prize at the American Legion masquerade dance Saturday night. She was dressed as an old fashioned maiden.

Friday evening Margaret Zuger entertained at a dancing party at her home. Those present were Nellie Harrington, Eichelberger, Lucile Roberts, Lena Fox, Bessie Barnes, Arvilla Grigsby, Nadine Gohlson, Donna Buroker, Dwight Schiltz, Henry Roberts, Floyd Taylor, Merrill Buroker, Edgard Leonard, Jake Schmilt, Gail Schiltz, Joe Evans, Crawford Donohue, Orville Fox and Frederick Zuger.

One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago

March 13, 1896

C. M. Grupe was in the Burg on Thursday making arrangements for his new lumber yard in this city. He says he will begin to put in his stock in about a month.

If there is anything on earth that will make a man feel meaner than he really is, it is Lagrippe.

Mrs. J. C. Neace and Mrs. C. B. Richardson gave a pleasant whist party on Wednesday evening. There were ten tables and a pleasant party it was.

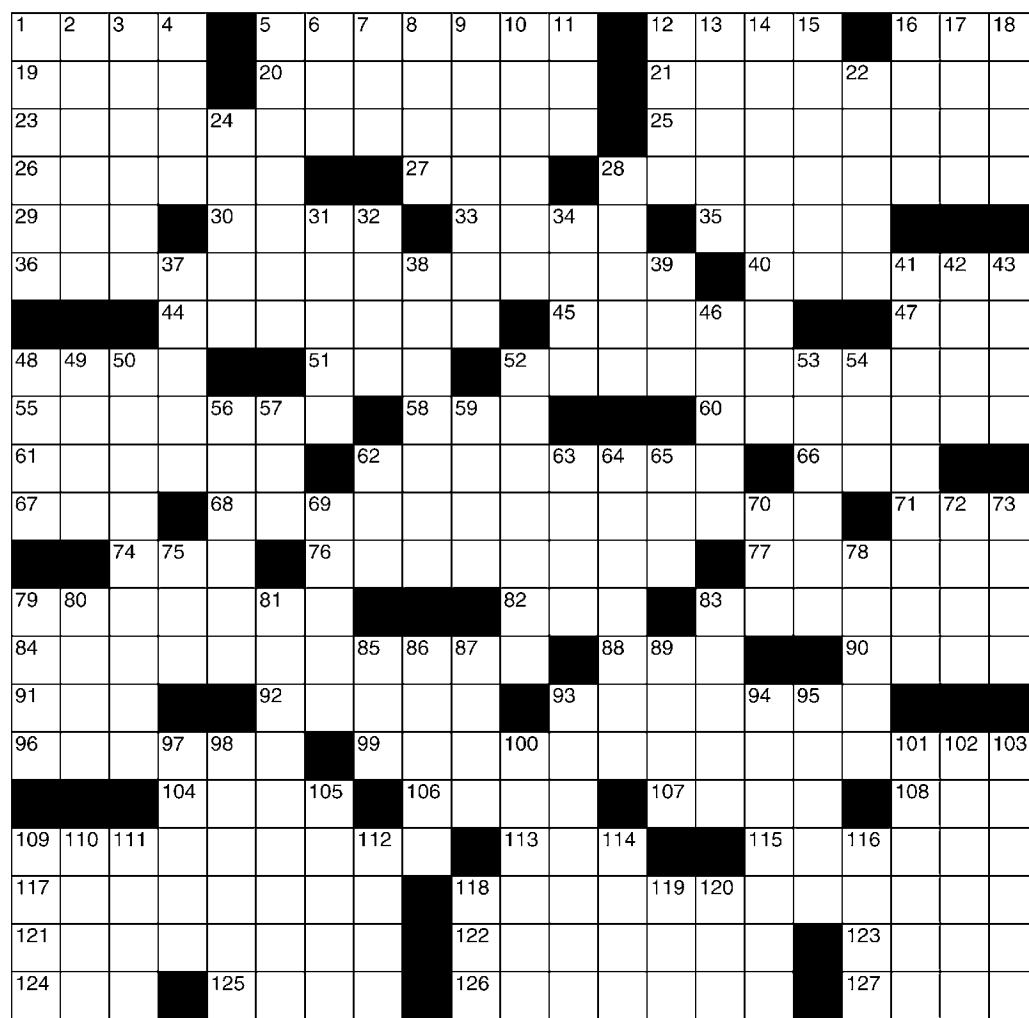
At Walla Walla on Thursday, all business houses were closed from 3 to 5 o'clock p.m. covering the houses for College prayer meetings throughout the city. A wonderful change seems to have come over that beautiful city.

PUZZLES & LIFESTYLES

Super Crossword

BACKUP FUNCTION

- ACROSS**
- 1 "When — your age ..."
 - 5 Having two systems
 - 12 One of the "Little Women"
 - 16 Angry crowd
 - 19 "99 Red Balloons" band
 - 20 Really foolish
 - 21 First digits dialed, often
 - 23 * President of Nicaragua
 - 25 Added yeast to, as bread
 - 26 San —, Buenos Aires
 - 27 Oklahoma tribe
 - 28 * Rock yielding element #28
 - 29 Riddle-me- —
 - 30 1/36 yard
 - 33 Jai —
 - 35 Head, to Fifi
 - 36 * Historical French area
 - 40 Way of being torn, thrilled or loved
 - 44 Put aside for future use
 - 45 Handed out
 - 47 Prefix with soul
 - 48 With 8-Down, 1859 George Eliot novel
 - 51 Cal. neighbor
 - 52 * Crank-turned instrument
 - 55 Prioritizes, as patients
 - 58 Hosp. area
 - 60 TV antennas
 - 61 Bond film actress d'Abo
 - 62 Place for a welcome mat
 - 66 CPR giver
 - 67 Mil. officer
 - 68 * An off-Broadway theater is named for her
 - 71 Linden of TV
 - 74 Ice-T's music
 - 76 Plane fliers
 - 77 Viewpoint
 - 79 Apple tablet download
 - 82 A fifth of fifty
 - 83 Nuclear reactor part
 - 84 * Popular citrus fruit
 - 76 Plane fliers
 - 88 "I solved it!"
 - 90 Nile vipers
 - 91 China's
 - 92 Fully enjoy
 - 93 1966-2013 bookstore chain
 - 96 Funny feline photo meme
 - 99 * Musical group playing industrial drums
 - 104 Egg cell
 - 106 Genesis twin
 - 107 Diana of "Dance Hall"
 - 108 Ball or bass ender
 - 109 * Mafia boss
 - 113 Newsman
 - 115 2017 biopic about an Olympic figure skater
 - 117 Per-night cost to stay at a 105-Down
 - 118 "Mr. Mom" plot premise (and what the answers to the starred clues have)
 - 121 Like not-yet-sampled food
 - 122 Two-function
 - 123 Fodder tower
 - 124 Day, in Spain
 - 125 Squirmy fish
 - 126 Lee who advised Reagan and Bush
 - 127 Couturier Cassini
 - 42 River duck
 - 43 Many heirs
 - 46 Sprang
 - 48 24-hr. "bankers"
 - 49 Tow
 - 50 Business of Delta
 - 52 Chemistry lab tube
 - 53 Ominous last words
 - 54 Cup edge
 - 56 Female bud
 - 57 Rhea's kin
 - 59 Fizzy drink
 - 62 Fraction: Abbr.
 - 63 — gin fizz
 - 64 Vicious vortex
 - 65 Lifesaving locs.
 - 69 "Lady for a Day" director
 - 70 It flows in la Seine
 - 72 Rent- — (security guard)
 - 73 Classic Ford models
 - 75 Ending for lime
 - 78 Blueprints
 - 79 Part of IHOP: Abbr.
 - 80 Part of UTEP
 - 81 Claim the truth of
 - 83 Actress Edie
 - 85 Colorado NHLers, to fans
 - 86 Eminent
 - 87 Coll. seniors' tests
 - 89 Challenging
 - 93 "Never on Sunday" rule
 - 94 Person who is prospering
 - 95 Opposite of east, in Madrid
 - 97 Key next to a period
 - 98 Disinclined
 - 100 Dine away from home
 - 101 Throat part
 - 102 "Casino —" (Bond film)
 - 103 Not digital
 - 105 Roadside lodging
 - 109 "Damn it!"
 - 110 Rice-A- —
 - 111 Greek vowel
 - 112 Crimson and cherry
 - 114 Boxer Oscar — Hoya
 - 116 Roughly
 - 118 Std. for a nutritionist
 - 119 Deep groove
 - 120 Suffix with Siam



MY RECIPES Luke Chavez

Lentil and Celery Minestra

While it often feels controversial, I have always been a lover of the winter months. Watching the snow gently fall while tending to a simmering pot is one of my favorite simple pleasures. During snow events, like we have had this past week, I turn to recipes that can make magic out of a few pantry staples and keep me from having to leave the house. This hearty soup brings nourishing lentils and bright tomatoes together with one of my favorite overlooked vegetables: celery. The herbaceous and earthy qualities of the celery are distinct and bring an unexpected dimension of flavor to a comforting meal.



Ingredients:

- 1 cup lentils, rinsed (see notes)
- 1 onion, halved lengthwise
- 3 sprigs thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 medium carrot, diced
- 4 celery stalks, diced
- 2-3 garlic cloves, minced

- Salt
- 1 28-oz can chopped tomatoes, with liquid
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- Pinch of sugar
- Chopped flat leaf parsley
- Fresh ground black pepper
- Grated Parmesan cheese for serving
- Croutons, optional (see notes)

Directions:

Combine the lentils, one half of the onion (keep root end attached so layers stay connected), thyme, and bay leaf with 1 quart of water in a saucepan. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and add salt to taste. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes.

While the lentils simmer, start on the soup base. Chop the other half of the onion. Heat the butter and oil in a heavy soup pot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the onion, carrot, and celery, and cook, stirring often, until the onion is tender, about 5 to 10 minutes. Add the garlic and a pinch of salt, stir until fragrant for about a minute, then add the tomatoes with all their liquid and the pinch of sugar. Bring to a simmer, stirring often, until the tomatoes have reduced a bit and melded with the other vegetables, about 10 to 15 minutes.

When the lentils are done, discard the onion half, thyme stems and bay leaf, while keeping the cooking liquid. Add the lentils and their cooking broth to the tomato base. Stir in the tomato paste, another pinch of salt with an additional 2 cups of water and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat, cover, and simmer for 30 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning. Season to taste with fresh ground black pepper and stir in the chopped parsley. Serve with a generous grating of parmesan and have a bowl of cheese for passing around the table.

Notes:

Lentils come in an array of colors, each with different flavor profiles and final cooked texture. For this recipe choose a lentil that will hold its shape in the soup, such as French Puy, green or brown lentils. I used beautiful black "beluga" lentils. Red and yellow lentils, often used in Indian and Middle Eastern cuisines, tend to break apart in cooking, which is great in recipes where you want the extra thickening.

If you happen to have a hunk of Parmesan rind add it to the lentil cooking liquid. The rind will dissolve and add an extra rich depth of flavor to the finished soup.

If your celery heart has lots of tender leaves in the center, pinch them off and chop them up with the parsley.

If, like I did, you have some stale bread sitting around make some croutons to serve on top. Tear the bread into rough 1 inch pieces, toss them in olive oil, salt and other spices of your choice. I used paprika. Then spread them on a sheet pan and toast in a 375 degree oven for about 15 to 20 minutes, turning halfway. Keep an eye on them, they can go from perfectly toasted to burnt very quickly.

Pair with a fruit forward Willamette Valley Pinot Noir, a smooth Barbera d'Alba or perhaps a Chianti Classico. I served it with a 2018 R. Stuart & Co. "Autograph" Pinot Noir, which was divine.

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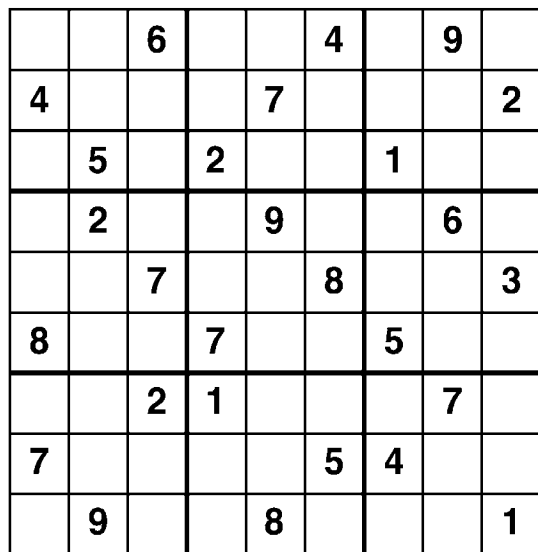
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

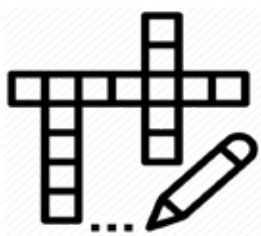


Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

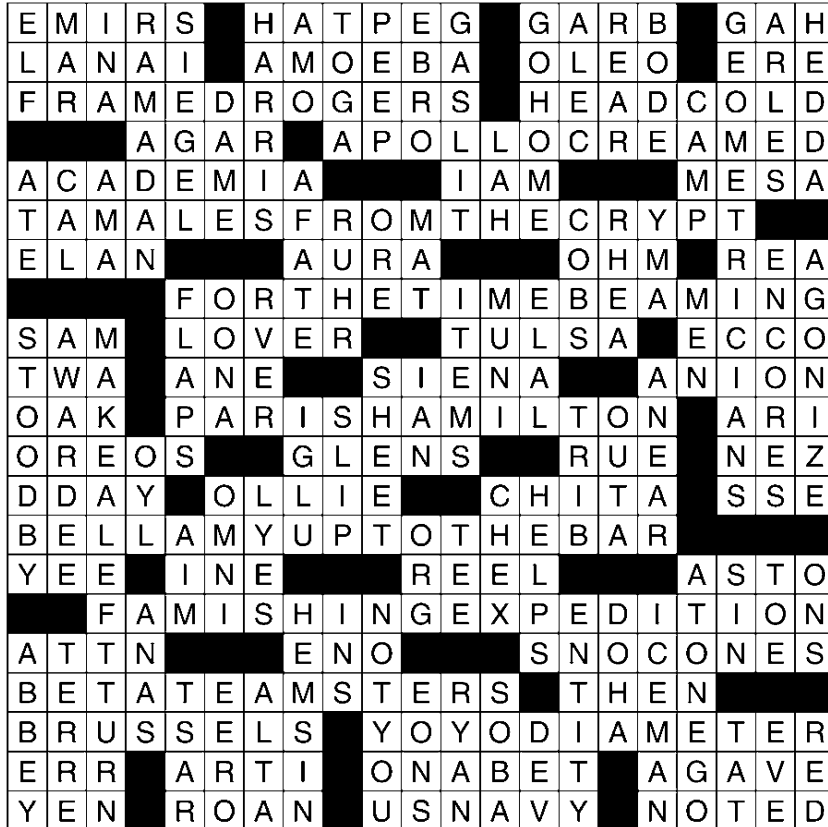
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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

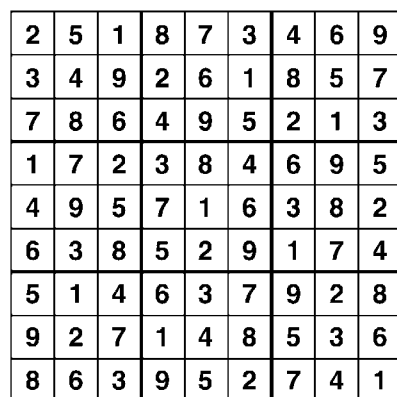
Super Crossword

Answers



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer



THE LAST PAGE

CWWCFD2 monthly board meeting update

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The Columbia-Walla Walla County Fire District 2 met on February 10, via Zoom, for a regular board meeting.

After the meeting was called to order by chairman Jake Long at 7 p.m., District clerk Anne Higgins presented an accounting report. She reported that some financial statements from both Walla Walla and Columbia County were complete. However, the January revolving account reconciliation from Walla Walla County was not available. She noted that budgetary items would have to be passed following the meeting, as the budget would have to be adjusted depending on what the board approved for upcoming motions.

There were two reimbursements, one for \$745 to former chief Michael Moynihan and one vendor payment to Advanced Paging and Communication, that would need individual approval, said Higgins.

Commissioner Deb Fortner reported on the status of improvements to the station house on Main St. Waitsburg. She said the contractor is waiting for delivery of external doors, and several other projects, including adding railing to the station's stairs, still need to be completed.

Interim Fire Chief Colter Mohny stated the district has not made any further progress with identification cards discussed at meetings prior, and he and Fortner were still trying to obtain the cards for the district's volunteers. He hoped that he would have more information to share at the March meeting.

Interim Chief Mohny reported that he finished the application for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), which is funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). According to the FEMA website, the grant is used to fund critically needed resources for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

He also reported that the Volunteer Fire Assistance Funding grant through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is available. The DNR website states Phase 1 for applying to the VFA grant will open in March 2021.

The grant is not structured traditionally, according to Mohny, but is more like a deeply discounted equipment sale. The grant offers 50% funding for equipment from the DNR cache to fire departments. Mohny said this is how CWWCFD2 purchased the majority of their wildland firefighting equipment. The officers and volunteers will complete an inventory of

current equipment to complete the grant application.

Commissioner Fortner shared that she has fire hose and ladder testing agreements for board for approval. The cost for hose testing is \$5,449 and \$96 for ladder testing through National Hose Testing Specialties, Inc., in Dallas, Ore. The board voted to allow Fortner to sign the contract on behalf of the commissioners.

The district received an application for the EMS Trauma Grant, provided by the Department of Health. The grants were just slightly less than \$1,300. Fortner submitted the grant in early-January.

Commissioner Long said he received an email from WESCOM, the dispatch service provider for Walla Walla County. The email was in follow up to a letter written by then District Chief Michael Moynihan. Commissioner Long shared a brief overview of the letter, noting March 1 as the date that Moynihan had hoped to implement the proposed changes, so commissioners could decide if they wanted to pursue the changes to dispatch services or leave them as they are.

Former Chief Moynihan first contacted Steve Ruley, Walla Walla County Public Safety Communications Manager, in October 2020 about a switch in dispatch services after experiencing multiple situations where emergency calls were delayed anywhere from five to fifteen minutes.

The Times reached out to Moynihan following the meeting, and he explained that he was trying to streamline the dispatch process, saying that ten minutes could be the difference between life and death, or saving structures.

The current dispatch situation with CWWCFD2 is interesting, because the district crosses county lines with each county receiving calls from within their county. This means calls that originate in Walla Walla County within this fire district go through a two-step process, answered first at WESCOM and then directed to Columbia County Emergency Management for dispatch to CWWCFD2.

"If the dispatch center that we (CWWCFD2) were being dispatched by was the same one that was receiving the majority of our 9-1-1 calls, that delay would not have happened," Moynihan stated.

It was Moynihan's understanding that there would be no additional cost should CWWCFD2 decide to switch to WESCOM. The district is already paying the minimum payment necessary, according to Ruley, and the call volume within the district was not high enough to raise costs.

"He (Ruley) and I had discussed not changing anything, with regards to the radio systems themselves, with the exception that we would be dispatched on a different channel. It's the same channel that they use to dispatch all (Walla Walla) county units," Moynihan said. "The Waitsburg repeater, and the current channel, would have become a tactical channel. Running a tactical channel that is on the exact same channel as your dispatch is extremely dangerous. If you don't have a separate channel for your firefighting, it creates a lot of confusion on the fighting grounds."

Moynihan went on to explain that he had no intention of canceling communications with Columbia County, but he would have liked to keep those communications as a fail-safe. He said his intention was to change where the district was dispatched from, and change the primary communication channel, with the safety of the district's volunteers and the community being his biggest driving factor.

At the meeting, Strickland urged the commissioners to review the costs associated with making dispatch changes suggested by the former Chief. His argument focused on the cost and possible legalities to change ownership of the Waitsburg repeater in Waitsburg, because there was grant money involved in the installation. He also mentioned expenses associated with creating new microwave lengths that would eventually be needed, though that was not clear how those would be affected by the proposed change. The board ultimately decided to leave communications as they currently are, making no changes to channels or dispatch processes.

Columbia-Walla Walla County Fire District 2 officers are Jamie McMillen, Jake Long, Jake Adams, Matt Spring, and Miguel Castillo. Mohny said that they are gearing up for training, and he is working on accommodating work schedules and other life events for the volunteer firefighters.

Fortner reminded the district EMT's and firefighters that the Walla Walla EMS contracts and transmitters were available at the station, and she needed those documents signed as soon as possible so she could return them to the county.

She also asked if the volunteers and line officers could help her with a flooring project at the station in the next couple of weekends. Mohny said he would get a note out to the district and would "make it happen."

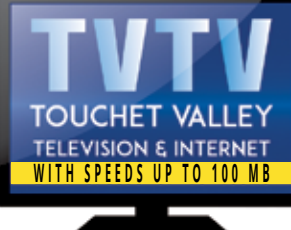
The board adjourned shortly before entering an executive session.

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