



Open Mic Poetry Slam

At Columbia County Library
Wednesday, Feb. 23 the Delany Building.
6:00 to 7:30 pm
Details on the library's website and Facebook pages.

The Times

Thursday
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SERVING WAITSBURG, DAYTON AND THE TOUCHET VALLEY

Published Since 1878

ONE DOLLAR

The Times has a new phone number.

This week the telephone lines at The Times offices were hacked. When dialing the old number, callers are connected to suspicious calling centers NOT affiliated with *The Times*. Please DO NOT call the old number (509) 337-6631 or give out personal information to these scam artists.

Our new number is (509) 337-3042. Please, update your contact information. When called, we always answer the phone with a friendly "Hello, Waitsburg Times!"

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you again.

Columbia Pulp announces that it will idle operations

THE TIMES

DAYTON—Columbia Pulp, LLC, announced in a press release on February 12 that it would idle operations, effective February 18. The decision will affect approximately 80 employees over the next several weeks. The reduction in workforce will affect employees at the company's headquarters in Dayton and the production plant at Lyons Ferry

"We made this very difficult decision while continuing to evaluate our strategic options," said Terry Ryan, Columbia Pulp's Interim CEO. "We are acutely aware that this has wide-reaching impacts on many people – our valued employees and their families, farm suppliers, and the communities in which we operate. The Columbia Pulp team is talented and dedicated, and we are committed to assisting them through this transition."

Columbia Pulp was founded more than a decade ago with a vision to use wheat straw to create an alternative fiber pulp, for paper and packaging applications. After opening production facilities in 2018, Columbia Pulp became North America's first tree-free pulp mill.

In explaining Columbia Pulp's decision to suspend operations, Ryan said: "Being a first of its kind application with this type of technology has not been without challenges. And while this is normal for a company at the forefront in developing a product like this, to continue on we must make these hard choices while we evaluate our options going forward."

In an email to *The Times*, Ryan said that the difficult decision to idle operations is, in no way, reflective of the quality of work, talent, and dedication of the entire Columbia Pulp staff.

Columbia Pulp's approach for this action will be rolled out in phases over approximately seven weeks, at which point there will be 14 employees who will handle daily business operations. Currently, Columbia Pulp has over 80 employees.

The company shut down operations in April 2020, stating the temporary closure was due to COVID-19 restrictions. During that closure, the company worked to address "bottleneck" issues at their plant and investigate new product lines. They came back online in June 2021, increasing workforce over subsequent months.

The company is offering employees separation benefits to aid with the transition and will offer two-months continued health insurance coverage. Ryan said that Columbia Pulp is working with other regional employers to find positions for the workers let go by this decision.

The Times reached out to Jennie

PULP- PAGE 3



Port Commissioners delay decision on Childcare proposal

By Justin Jaech | THE TIMES

DAYTON— The Port of Columbia Commissioners held their regularly scheduled meeting at 5:02 p.m., February 9, 2022.

For the opening public comment period, Jorie Aukerman, a resident of Dayton for four years and Executive Assistant at Columbia County Health Systems, spoke on the need for a childcare center in Dayton. She is the mother of an eleven-week-old child and said she is very interested in hearing the Port's presentation about the childcare center.

Aukerman said she hopes to remain in her career at the health-care facility and be a long-term community member in Dayton. However, she said, this was becoming increasingly difficult due to the lack of childcare in the area, and as a single parent, she does not have the luxury of being a work-at-home or full-time mom. She closed by saying that she is here to advocate for herself and others who need childcare in Dayton.

After public comment, Jennie Dickinson, Executive Director of the Port, reported on the budget. She said the port's income for the period was typical.

An unusual or unexpected item was the expense for the Fall election, which was \$15,000, whereas, in 2015, the election expense was \$272. At the prompting of Commissioner Johnny Watts, Dickinson said she would investigate the cause for the higher cost.

Dickinson presented two new Port leases for the commissioners' approval. Three Pines Bookkeeping applied to rent an office on Cameron Street. The company operates online only and does not have any walk-in clients.

CHILDCARE- PAGE 5

THIS WEEK



Cheers to Margaret Terry for Mack's portrait (see page 10)



Meet the Coppei Creek Handyman (see page 5)



Halfway with Bill (see page 10)



Turkey Shepherd Pie (see page 9)

INDEX

- News Briefs..... 2
- Calendar 3
- Legals 6
- Puzzles..... 9
- My Recipe..... 9
- Pioneer Portraits..... 8

Commissioners approve \$5,000 grant to The Club

The approval came after discussion of nationalism, patriotism at Dayton's after-school youth program

THE TIMES

DAYTON—At a Monday morning meeting on February 14, The Club President, Jim Pearson, presented to the Columbia County Commissioners on The Club, following its request for \$5,000 from the Juvenile Justice Fund. The Club provides affordable afterschool and school break programs for more than 100 area youth. At its peak before COVID-19 restrictions, The Club had more than 200 members enrolled.

Pearson told the commissioners that the past couple of years had been challenging for The Club, facing challenges due to staffing, closures, and scheduling issues.

The Club provides enrichment programs, recently shifting to incorporate social-emotional learning (SEL) to help boost learning skills and social interaction in school.

"The kids we serve at The Club are struggling mightily, in a number of ways; academically, personally, and socially," Pearson said. "We have taken our program in a direction to try and address that as directly as we can, making social-emotional learning that focus."

Pearson explained that multiple studies have shown that children who have a firm grasp of how to interact appropriately with adults and peers do better in academic settings. The Club will continue to offer educational services, including help with homework and study skills, in addition to SEL.

Previously, The Club partnered with Blue Mountain Counseling to guide kids to become, as Pearson put it, the best humans possible. However, the Dayton-based counseling service has struggled with staffing and cannot spare a mental health professional at this time. Pearson said that he secured grant funding, so Rosy Nechodem, the school counselor for Waits-



Submitted photo

Working with clay at The Club.

burg School District, can work with kids at The Club.

In addition to daily elementary school level programs, Pearson said they have been incorporating middle school night activities. Sometimes it is a movie, or karaoke, and sometimes it's just running around playing games. He works with Dayton Middle School advisor, Jeff McCann, to help organize the well-attended events.

On top of that, The Club hires high school students to work as mentors and aides to the program. Pearson said that these positions are often the first jobs that the kids hold, and it gives them an opportunity to learn many necessary employment skills. One of many success stories about the young employees includes a student obtaining a much-needed full-ride scholarship to their chosen college, with the Club's guidance over college applications.

Pearson said over the past couple of years, Educational Services District (ESD) 123, based out of Pasco, suggested The Club become an all-ages community learning center. Pearson said the Club had turned down the offer, enjoying their autonomy, independence, and ability to pivot as needed to serve kids.

"This time, they (ESD 123) approached us and said 'we have surplus COVID-19 relief funds that we have been told to distribute within our territory.'"

CLUB- PAGE 5



NEWS

NEWS BRIEFS

AT THE LIBERTY:

The 355

THE TIMES

DAYTON—*The 355* is about a dream team of formidable female stars who come together in a hard-driving original approach to the globe-trotting espionage genre. When a top-secret weapon falls into mercenary hands, wild card CIA agent Mason “Mace” Brown (Jessica Chastain) will need to join forces with rival badass German agent Marie (Diane Kruger), former MI6 ally and cutting-edge computer specialist Khadijah (Lupita Nyong’o), and skilled Colombian psychologist Graciela (Penélope Cruz) on a lethal, breakneck mission to retrieve it, while also staying one-step ahead of a mysterious woman, Lin Mi Sheng (Bingbing Fan), who is tracking their every move. As the action rockets around the globe from the cafes of Paris to the markets of Morocco to the wealth and glamour of Shanghai, the quartet of women will forge a tenuous loyalty that could protect the world—or get them killed. The film also stars Sebastian Stan and Edgar Ramírez.

Rotten Tomatoes critics do not rate this movie highly, with only a 25% favorable, but audiences give it an 86%. The audience summary is “A great cast and lots of action make *The 355* a solid option for viewers seeking a fun thriller.” This movie is rated PG-13 for sequences of strong violence, brief strong language, and suggestive material. Runtime is 122 minutes.

The 355 will show at 7:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 3 pm on Sunday, and 6:30 pm on Tuesday. Use of masks is required of guests, and seating is distanced between groups.

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Saturdays 7:30 pm
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Tuesdays 6:30 pm

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Buy tickets online
At libertytheater.org
Or at Box Office
Tues & Fri 2-5 pm

THE 355

Rated PG 13

DUNHAM CELLARS WINE SALES BENEFIT THE WORK OF HOSPICE



Brad McMasters

Dunham Cellars partner John Blair presenting final \$2,000 check to WWCH Executive Director Julie Reynolds

WALLA WALLA—Since 2015, Dunham Cellars has generously donated \$10 from each bottle sale of their 2009 Founders Blend to Walla Walla Community Hospice (WWCH). Over the years, the sales of the 20th Anniversary blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, and Merlot from their Lewis Estate Vineyard have resulted in \$19,000 in donations for WWCH.

The wine is the namesake of Dunham Cellars’ founders, Mike Dunham, and his son, Eric, who started the winery in 1995. Mike died in 2013 and Eric in 2014.

Mike, who had been stricken with cancer, was on service with Walla Walla Community Hospice for several weeks in the spring of 2013. Following Mike’s passing, staff from the hospice visited the winery to offer grief support to family and coworkers.

Joanne Dunham, Mike’s widow and current partner in the winery, shared, “It has been an extremely heartfelt project over the last few years, and I am so glad we were able to give back. We are very thankful to them!”

As quantities diminish and the sales of the 2009 vintage come to an end, Walla Walla Community Hospice shared they are also very grateful for this project. According to Brad McMasters, WWCH Outreach Coordinator, “Unexpected, thoughtful financial support such as this is an investment in our community, funding the work we do towards outreach, bereavement support, and education. Dunham Cellars’ ongoing support has been a true gift to Hospice and to those we serve.”

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION APPLAUDS \$16 BILLION TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PACKAGE

THE TIMES

DAYTON—Columbia County Public Transportation expects to see much-needed benefits from the Washington Legislature’s new \$16 billion transportation funding package, “Move Ahead Washington,” which allocates \$3 billion to public transit over 16 years.

“Transit is essential to riders of all ages and needs. This announcement by the legislature will ensure our agency is sustainable and ready to grow with our community’s needs,” said David Ocampo, General Manager of Columbia County Public Transportation. “The project funding for our facility will assist us in growing our system and preparing to transition our fleet to zero emission in the future.”

Beginning in 2023, Washington State will administer the transit funding through new and existing grant programs.

Funding increases for current transit programs includes:

- \$600 million in transportation investments for people with disabilities.
- \$200 million to the Green Transportation Capital Grant Program.

Funding for new transit programs includes:

- \$1.45 billion in Transit Support Grants, formula-based funds that will be distributed to every agency in the state to ensure that those 18 and younger can ride free across the state, not just in Columbia County. Columbia County Public Transportation is expected to receive \$132,100 annually, roughly 10% of their budget, in direct operating assistance.
- \$400 million in Bus and Bus Facility Grants to support agencies in their capital needs such as bus replacement and expansion, and facility refurbishment, expansion and/or replacement. These grants will provide nearly \$50 million per biennium in competitive capital grants.
- \$293 million in transit-specific projects to many agencies, including \$1,500,000 for Columbia County Public Transportation.
- \$80 million to a Tribal Grant Program to support tribal transit service.

Move Ahead Washington allocated \$1,500,000 in direct appropriations for the agency to refurbish and expand for future growth of the Columbia County Maintenance and Operations Base in Dayton. Plans for the base include expanding the current facility

to accommodate fleet growth over time as well as refurbishing the base to help transition the fleet to zero-emission when the only one is available to do so. The funds are not allocated by biennium; however, Columbia County Transportation does not plan to begin this project for several years and anticipates the legislature will fund the project in the out years of the proposed 16-year plan.

“While there is so much to celebrate in this funding package, perhaps one of the most exciting aspects is that agencies from the state’s largest to smallest, rural to urban, will get much-needed financial assistance,” said Justin Leighton, executive director of the Washington State Transit Association. “We are thrilled about what a difference this money will mean to agencies like Columbia, which is one of the smallest transit agencies in the state.”

Columbia County Transportation provides on-demand and vanpool service to Columbia County and a small portion of Walla Walla County. With an annual operating budget of roughly \$1.5 million, Columbia carries about 50,000 annual passenger trips. During the pandemic, Columbia County delivered food to members of the community to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

LETTERS

SUPERINTENDENT THANKS VOTERS FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS

THE TIMES

Dear Waitsburg School District families and community:

On behalf of the Waitsburg School Board of Directors and our entire school staff, I want to thank you for your unflinching support in ensuring our community’s children have the education and resources they deserve. With the passage of our district’s 2022 Educational Programs & Operations replacement levy, we will be able to continue to provide vital programming over the next two years for our students that basic education funding from the state does not cover. These essential programs funded through levy dollars impact all Waitsburg students, from preschool through graduation.

We are committed to being good fiscal stewards and we appreciate our community’s longstanding history of supporting Waitsburg schools. We will continue to strive to meet the needs of each and every student along their educational journey. Thank you again for supporting our schools!

With gratitude,
Mark Pickel
Superintendent
Waitsburg School District

AUTHOR'S THANK YOU TO SUPPORTERS

THE TIMES

Dear Editor,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to friends, The Times, Ten Ton Coffee, The Royal Block, and to The Times readership who inspire my writing habit. Your support through the release of my first book, *Wingshooting the Palouse*, has been humbling. The signing event hosted by The Royal Block last week will not likely be topped. I appreciate being a part of this community and all you do to make it great!

Bradly A. Trumbo
Dayton, Wash.

BIRTHDAYS

February 17: Loyal Baker, Jack Rodgers, Chris Blair, Mathew Kurth, Betty Sauer, Angela Webb and Larry Lawrence.

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, Rich Pier-son, 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, Jane Conover Waldher, Jason Cook, Becky Harshman, Margaret Gibson, Heidi Sickles and Brandon Cole.



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The Times

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Dayton City Council selects interim city planning option

By Justin Jaech | THE TIMES

DAYTON—The City Council meeting went into session at 6:07 p.m., February 9, 2022. Mayor Zac Weatherford, Council members Teeny McMunn, Dain Nysoe, Laura Aukerman, Misty Yost, and Tiger Dieu were in attendance.

The Columbia County Emergency Management Director Ashley Strickland reported that contracted maintenance on the communications systems should be complete by the next City Council meeting.

The Consent Agenda was approved with Laura Aukerman abstaining because she said she did not receive a copy of the claim vouchers to review.

Mayor Zac Weatherford offered two resolutions for contractor agreements to provide planning and land use services for the remainder of 2022. Resolution 1486 would authorize an agreement with AHBL, Inc. to perform these services. In January's special meeting, Aukerman asked that Resolution 1486 be tabled to allow more time for study. Resolution 1486A was added for consideration and would authorize an agreement for MacKay-Sposito to act as City Planner for the remainder of the year.



Courtesy photo Council member Laura Aukerman



Courtesy photo Council member Teeny McMunn

Teeny McMunn wanted to know if the city would be billed in fifteen-minute increments, hourly, or some other way in the proposals. She said AHBL, Inc. had a history of reaching out to the city and attending council meetings in the past to explain their services. Neither company had a representative present to answer questions at this meeting.

McMunn said it appeared that AHBL was no more expensive than MacKay-Sposito and, in some areas, could be less costly. She said the decision was not just about price but service. She wanted a company that could handle a complex permit application and gets back to the city promptly.

She wished the council had been notified sooner that the contract with the County was expiring so

companies interested in providing interim services could be vetted more thoroughly. Regardless, she thought AHBL would best serve the city.

The city still had no luck attracting a full-time city planner even though the Human Resource Committee has revised the job advertisement twice. So far, the County Planning Department has been helpful in processing permits, but the mayor said his ultimate goal was to get a full-time planner.

After some discussion, Aukerman made a motion to accept Resolution 1486, and Misty Yost seconded. Council passed the resolution unanimously and rejected Resolution 1486A.

Dena Martin, the Columbia County Planner, briefed the council on Resolution 1487, which would defer parts of the Dayton Comprehensive Plan relating to affordable housing to the 2023 Comprehensive Plan cycle. The process takes many months to complete, and one of the essential steps is a review by the planning commission. Presently, the Planning Commission only has two members, which does not constitute a quorum, so the City Attorney recommends deferring these changes to the Comprehensive Plan until next year's cycle.

Aukerman moved to approve the deferral, with Tiger Dieu seconding, and Resolution 1487 was approved unanimously.

Martin also briefed the council on the need to authorize Ordinance No. 1989, which would amend the Dayton Municipal Code to adopt the 2018 International Building Codes (IBC). Last year the State and City updated their codes from the 2015 IBC to the 2018 IBC, but some sections of the city code had not been updated as required. According to Martin, this misalignment of codes between the city and the State has caused problems that Ordinance No. 1989 seeks to remedy.

Without the update, the city cannot enforce codes concerning unsafe buildings and needs the change to be able to identify problem buildings as unsafe to occupy. The change also helps homeowners in certain disputes with contractors.

Martin was asked if the city was required to adopt the codes. She answered that it was not required since the State had adopted them, however, not adopting them could make it harder to address potentially dangerous situations.

Aukerman said, she would like to read the code before she could vote on adopting something like that unless it's something they are required to adopt.

Martin gave an example of the problem describing a house that became unsafe and a fire hazard after water and power had been cut off. The tenants remained in the house without running water and burning wood for heat. Without the clarity of the proposed changes, there was nothing the city could do to remedy the problem.

Aukerman agreed that it was horrible but still did not want to vote without reading the code.

"Can we see the codes?" she asked.

Weatherford said, "Absolutely, you're more than welcome to look them up."

Aukerman said, "I'd like to make a motion to table this until we can have somebody give us the codes to know what we're voting for."

"You probably have a book there in the office," suggested Martin.

Dieu seconded the motion to table the adoption of Ordinance No. 1989.

The mayor said he did not want anyone to vote on something they didn't understand.

He continued, "I guess what's frustrating to me is that we had a plan to have planning services with AHBL, and council decided to table that. OK, So I called a special meeting, council decided to table that again, wanting a second option. I got a second option, and the council finally decided to authorize that resolution, which is fantastic because now we have planning services."

"We send out the agenda as soon as we can. The agendas were sent out last week. I feel that it is the council's responsibility to understand the agenda and what is in it. We did not include all the verbatim for these International Maintenance Codes and the International Abatement of Dangerous Buildings Code. But, I do feel like it is the council's responsibility to take it upon themselves to look items like this up before the meeting, so when we come to these meetings they understand what they are voting on."

Aukerman responded that she felt it was up to the mayor's office to provide all the information with the agenda. She was frustrated that the agendas were not self-explanatory. If the code to be voted on is too big to include, then maybe a link could be added to help her find the information, so she understands what she is to vote on.

"I would never ask a Council Member to vote on something they don't understand," said Weatherford. "The information's not here to understand it. That's all I'm saying. Give us the information, then I would understand it," said Aukerman.

After further back and forth, Martin explained that if you put the title of the code into a Google search, it comes right up.

The mayor asked for a vote on the motion to table the resolution's adoption. The vote was a tie, with Aukerman, Dieu, and Hovrud voting for; and McMunn, Nysoe, and Yost voting against the motion. The mayor was unsure whether he was authorized to break a tie vote in this situation, so he did not.

Next, the council interviewed applicants for the vacant City Council Position 6. Heather Hiebert, Karie Banks Wellsandt, and Kyle Anderson had submitted letters of interest for the position.

After a round of questions with the candidates, the council went into an executive session. After returning to the public session, Aukerman moved to appoint Kyle Anderson to the vacant position with Dieu seconding. The council voted to appoint him.

PULP - FROM PAGE 1 Dickinson, Executive Director of the Port of Columbia who has been a big supporter of this innovative company.

"There is great demand for sustainable products that can be produced with this pulp. I hope that the investors and owners can sort out their processing difficulties and get the plant operating at its intended capacity," said Jennie Dickinson, Executive Director of the Port of Columbia. "Anytime there is a reduction in force like this, it hurts the community, especially jobs that pay a living wage or more, with benefits. However, with an unemployment of barely 3% we are currently below full employment, so there will likely be some job opportunities in the community."

"We know that the work of all of our employees helped pave the way for an alternative fiber option in our target markets and will have a lasting impact," added Mr. Ryan. "We believe in this vision and what it means for the future of sustainability in the pulp and paper industry."

Community Calendar

Waitsburg Monthly Meetings

Waitsburg City Council
Third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

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

Waitsburg Commercial Club
Last Thursday of each month
January 27, 12:00 p.m.
McGregor's Conference Room, 115 Garden Street, Waitsburg
Zoom info available by emailing waitsburg-cc@icloud.com

Waitsburg Gun Club
TBA-General Membership / Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

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

Friends of the Weller Public Library
4th Monday of each month at 7 p.m.
Weller Public Library,
212 Main Street, Waitsburg

Waitsburg Parks and Recreation Meeting
Third Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
Lions Club, Waitsburg Fairgrounds
January 27, 2022 will be the first meeting.

Weller Library Book Club
February 15, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
at Weller Public Library

Waitsburg Celebration Days Meeting
TBA
Location to be announced

Dayton & Columbia County Meetings

Board of Columbia County Commissioners
First and second Monday of each month at 9 a.m.

Board of Columbia County Commissioners work session meetings Second and fourth Tuesday 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. at the Dayton High School auditorium

Columbia County Public Hospital District Board of Commissioners
Fourth Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. Call (509) 382-2531 for information.

Dayton Memorial Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Every month on the Third Monday at 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting ID: 852 3836 3787
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85238363787>

Dayton Kiwanis Club Meeting - Online
Second and Fourth Thursday at Noon
Zoom Meeting ID: 559 815 3650
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5598153650>

Starbuck City Council

Second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Starbuck City Hall

WAITSBURG SENIOR CENTER

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

Tuesday, February 22
Chicken & dumplings
Vegetable
Potato salad
Fruit juice
Brownie

WAITSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thursday, Feb. 17
B: Breakfast pizza
L: Super beef nachos
Refried beans
Veggie
Fruit

Friday, Feb. 18
B: Waffle & sausage
L: Turkey ranch wrap
Tater tots
Veggie
Fruit
Cookie

Monday, February 21
No School

Tuesday, Feb. 22
B: Biscuit & gravy
L: Chicken nuggets
Tater tots



Dinner roll
Fruit

Wednesday, Feb. 23B: L:
Cinnamon roll
L: Teriyaki chicken
Rice
California blend veggies
Fruit

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. Cameron Hedges

Current state of the Major League Baseball lockout

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES

Pitchers and catchers reporting to Spring Training mean preseason games are only a couple of weeks away, and winter is almost over. Pitchers and catchers were scheduled to begin reporting to teams on February 15, but that hasn't happened due to the baseball lockout. The first Spring Training games of the year are scheduled for February 25 and 26. Since tickets have already been sold for the games, the cancellation of these games will mark the start of owners losing money, which could speed up negotiations.

After very little activity, proposals have been going back and forth between the players' union and the league in recent weeks. It is difficult to tell how close both sides are to an agreement or if the regular season is in jeopardy. We won't know until closer to March. If no agreement is reached within a few days of March, players won't have time to prepare for the start of the season, and the first official games of the year would need to get rescheduled or canceled.

Though nothing is finalized, the players and owners seem to be agreeing on a few changes. Adding the designated hitter to the National League, allowing more teams to be eligible for the playoffs, advertising on uniforms, a league minimum salary increase, and a competitive balance tax (CBT) increase.

A universal designated hitter will end pitchers' batting in the national league. For such a long time, this has been a huge debate in baseball. After all these years, the reason it is happening doesn't come down to which style is better for the game but to protect pitchers from getting injured. One year after the Angels Shohei Ohtani unanimously won the American League MVP by hitting forty-six home runs, totaling one hundred RBI's, and pitching to a 9-2 record over one hundred thirty innings with one hundred fifty-six strikeouts, the league decides it is time for a universal designated hitter.

Expanded playoffs are also inevitable. Currently, ten teams out of thirty make the postseason in baseball. The players' union is offering to bump that up to twelve teams, and ownership wants to make that number fourteen. It would be disappointing to see almost half of the teams in MLB make the post-season. But seeing how much money the NFL, NBA, and NHL have made by expanding playoffs, it was only a matter of time. On a positive note, the Mari-

ners would have made it in as the seventh seed in the American League if the playoffs had expanded last year.

Hopefully, the advertisements on uniforms won't amount to much more than a patch on the upper arm of the uniform. We've seen these patches in the past to promote all-star games or teams wearing armbands and having the number of a player that has recently passed away on the uniform. I'm not thrilled about ads on uniforms, but if the ad isn't distracting or there are so many, they start to look like NASCAR jerseys, then okay.

Finally, the league minimum salary and CBT issue are really what the whole lockout is about. The owners have offered small increases to the league minimum salary and the competitive balance tax or "soft salary cap." The players are looking for larger increases on both with all the increased television revenue. How long the two sides argue over the dollars will determine the length of this lockout. Let's hope it is short.



Karen Huwe

DW girls look to rebound after Touchet's last shot in the game on Wednesday, February 9th.

2021 -2022 Supporters

Please support these businesses who support our student athletes!



There is still time to add your business to this list! Become a sponsor of our local sports coverage. Call us at 509-337-6631 or email advertising@waitsburgtimes.com for more information.

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Banner Bank	Lawrence Ranch, Inc
Bar Z Ranch, Inc	Mr. C's Smokin' Co.
Blush Salon & Spa	Weinhard Café
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The Times

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

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

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

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NEWS

CHILDCARE- FROM PAGE 1

Rural Route Farms, owned and operated by Tiffany Struthers, has applied to lease the garden area at Blue Mountain Station

Approval of policies that were relayed for further review at the last meeting and was discussed. Before any action was taken, Commissioner Seth Bryan asked that the Port switch from Robert's Rules of Order to Democratic Rules of Order, which he felt were simpler, more streamlined, and efficient. Genie Crowe asked for the policies to be approved as written and take up changes of the parliamentary procedures later.

Watts again asked the commissioners to adopt an employee cell phone policy. Under his proposal, the Port would pay employees fifty percent of their phone bill, not to exceed one hundred dollars. For employees who do not want to use their personal cell phones for Port business, the Port would provide one. Commissioner Crowe was concerned that providing cell phones to commissioners would not be cost-effective. For example, she might only use her phone for Port business five times a month.

Commissioner Watts replied, "In the event the volume is increased, the difference is this is a new day. Technology, that's what we use a lot now."

He thought it should be evaluated, and in the future, if a commissioner needed a phone, it could be provided by the Port without having to change policy. The commissioners passed the revised policies.

Dickinson had a brief discussion concerning the Washington Public Port Association Conferences. These meetings are held at various times throughout the year in multiple locations, with foci on different topics. She encouraged the commissioners to consider attending some, particularly those offering training.

In her report on Port properties, Dickinson said the Lyons Ferry Marina expects to receive drawings soon from Andersen Perry for the proposed pull-through sites. Also, the store at Lyons Ferry will extend operating hours in the next few weeks.

She said the Columbia - Walla Walla Railroad discovered damage to the tracks at a crossing in Waitsburg, perhaps caused by a snowplow. The rails will have to be repaired by the rail operator.

In Dickinson's career promoting economic development, she never imagined that housing and childcare would be her two biggest issues; however, they are having a significant impact on the ability of businesses to operate in the area.

Eileon McClellan, Program Director of the Walla Walla Valley Early Learning Coalition, began the presentation on the childcare center, saying she's always excited to talk about childcare, early learning, and economic development. Those are the three powerful things for a thriving community. McClellan said she would address the childcare situation in Columbia County and the proposed solution.

In pre-pandemic 2019, the Walla Walla Valley Early Learning Coalition and Columbia County Health System partnered on a feasibility study. The study found a critical shortage of childcare slots in the county. At the time of the study, there were thirty slots available with a demand for seventy. Currently, there are zero slots available.

McClellan said the lack of childcare options affects the entire community's economic development by making Dayton workers drive their children to Walla Walla every day, quit their jobs, or move to communities with better childcare access.

The feasibility study showed that nearly half of parents had to limit their work hours or take time off work, and a quarter had to quit a job because of the shortage of childcare options. Employers cited several problems exacerbated by the issue, including the difficulty attracting and retaining employees, absenteeism, and decreased productivity, quality, and profitability.

Paul Ihle of Columbia County Health System said his employer had identified childcare as a significant problem a few years ago and has been seeking a solution since then. They created a solution to have the Columbia County Health System build and own the childcare building while the Walla Walla YWCA runs the childcare operation.

Anne-Marie Schwerin, the YWCA Executive Director, spoke of the YWCA's long history of providing childcare.

Tabitha Haney of the YWCA spoke of the great success of their programs, supporting it with anecdotal evidence.

Shane McGuire, CEO of Columbia County Health System, gave an overview of the project. He stated proposed sites, including the vacant church across from the elementary school, the city park, the old migrant buildings near Seneca, and port property on Cameron Street, had significant time or monetary constraints. McGuire said CCHS identified the best option was the port property west of the garden area at Blue Mountain Station. He asked the Port Commissioners to approve leasing that land to CCHS, who would build a facility that the YWCA would operate. He emphasized that childcare is a significant hurdle to their workforce.

Dickinson said she had provided the childcare group a draft lease between the Port of Columbia and the Columbia County Public Health System. The lease is a bare-land lease at a discounted rate.

John McLean, an architect at Blue Room Studios, presented conceptual architectural drawings commissioned by the CCHS.

Dickinson said the location meets an economic development need, a community need, is allowable use, and meets zoning requirements. The existing buildings at Blue Mountain Station do not have the space available for the project.

Management at Columbia Pulp also spoke of the difficulty of attracting employees when they cannot offer childcare.

Genie Crowe offered her support for the project.

Seth Bryan agreed there is a childcare deficit in the community but said he is not convinced it is the government's responsibility to solve the issue. He said childcare should be paid for by the parents alone and not by a government agency.

He expressed other concerns, including that the facility would operate at a loss. He was also worried that since the Health System would be building the facility, their employees would have priority over other businesses.

Bryan thought it was a great opportunity for private business to come in and "set something up."

Shane McGuire rebutted that the CCHS providing the building would prioritize the Health System employees beyond a guarantee of a few slots to cover operating deficit.

Schwerin emphasized that the YWCA is not a governmental agency and is a private non-profit. She said the YWCA is a business and maintains a diverse funding base, but that does not mean they lose money.

Watts said he would like to "mull it over in my skull and kind of sort out the questions that I have so that they're most efficient (sic) put together."

Crowe said they did not have to decide today, and there was still time.

A few other members of the community spoke in favor of the project. Bryan said his hesitation was that it wasn't the maximum use possible out of the land at BMS. He said he was struggling with whether it was the best location, and he was concerned about the amount of traffic using the intersection (presumably Wagon Road and Highway 12). He continued by saying it uses a "high speed" intersection, and he is concerned about safety. He reiterated that he is not sold on the idea that BMS is the best location or would be the best use of Port resources.

Tiffany Struthers, a business owner at BMS, said the childcare facility would draw more potential customers into the area. She thought it would be a great asset to the BMS businesses if it were located there as traffic to and from the Childcare facility might stop to see what the BMS offers.

Dickinson and McGuire spoke to the urgency of the decision as grants needed to proceed with the project are time-sensitive. The plan presented to the commissioners identified two phases. The first phase consists of CCHS building a facility with three classrooms for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age kids. The budget estimate is \$1,752,881. Currently, there are three pending grant requests for the entire amount. The timely selection of the location is critical for the project to be awarded these funds.

McClellan said a decision was needed after the beginning of March or risk losing grant money.

Kris Takemura said the mission of the Port is to "maximize public resources and private investment, to create jobs, provide infrastructure... and I think this is providing important infrastructure."

Since a timely decision is essential, Crowe asked for a motion to consider using the space at BMS for a childcare facility. Watts said his position had not changed and asked to discuss this at the workshop scheduled to discuss the railroad on February 17, 2022.

None of the commissioners made a motion, and the issue was shelved without action.

Dickinson said that a contract was in place with ZeroDB Communications concerning the broadband project, and a walkout meeting was to take place on February 11, 2022.

The next commissioner workshop will be with the railroad operator on February 17, 2022.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, 2022. The commissioners agreed to hold this meeting as a hybrid meeting; in person at the port conference room with Zoom available to those wishing to attend remotely. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Courtesy photo

Commissioner Seth Bryan

CLUB- FROM PAGE 1

The Club was chosen as one of four independent programs to receive these funds. To receive the funds, Pearson must attend monthly ESD123 meetings, and all club activities funded by the relief money must be evidence-based. Pearson said that evidence-based programs were already the focus of The Club. The funds provided by ESD 123 cover more than half of the annual budget, and is a two-year commitment, said Pearson.

Commissioner Charles Amerein voiced his concern that the program lacked civic duty classes, how to be a citizen, and how important your country is. He went on to say that "it seems like public education systems don't find it very important, and that charities and funding, and things like that don't really support that anymore."

"I do know that people of this community tend to be very patriotic and feel that it is an important thing," Amerein said. "I know that Washington State law actually requires the teaching of patriotism in the schools, not that they do it."

His concerns stemmed from the last time he visited the Club and did not observe an American flag in the building or on the grounds.

There are no laws requiring government or public buildings to display the flag. However, the Federal Flag Code suggests the flag be displayed on or near the main building of public institutions, including public schools. The Club is a private non-profit after-school program and not a public school or government entity. Students at the schools are led through the Pledge of Allegiance daily.

"What we are talking about right now, today, is the donation of public funds, from a public that feels a certain way about patriotism, nationalism, things like that, to an organization that doesn't," Amerein said. "I was wondering, how do you square that circle? You want funds from the public purse, but you don't feel that civic ideas are as important."

There are no requirements or laws supporting the idea that public funding must be given only to those the government (County, State, or Federal) deems sufficiently patriotic or nationalistic.

Pearson said there is no intentional avoidance of patriotism or nationalism at The Club; it has tried its best to avoid politics, focusing on what is best for kids participating in after-school programs. He said the American Legion offered to provide a flag; however, the flag brought to The Club by Jeff McCann was too massive to fit the space. Overall, Pearson attributed the situation to miscommunication.



Submitted photo

Kids at The Club getting ready to climb the walls.

"I think, a deeper issue... it's not as high on our priorities when we have kids who can't even sit next to each other without knowing how to interact," Pearson said.

Amerein asked if there were any plans to hang an American flag at The Club, and Pearson said that at the time, there were no plans, and the conversation had not come up until this meeting.

Answering questions from Commissioner Marty Hall, he said that there is space that could be used to display a flag, but it would likely take away art display space or a mural. Pearson said that he would be happy to present the idea of displaying a flag to the Club's board.

Upon hearing that Pearson would take the flag issue to the board, the commissioners approved the \$5,000 request. The funds were already budgeted for, according to Commissioner Ryan Rundell.

If you are experiencing thoughts of suicide, or wanting to harm yourself call
(509) 876-0626 - Columbia County
(509) 524-2999 - Walla Walla County

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Coppei Creek Handyman Services opens in Waitsburg

Makaiwi Wachter is serving the Waitsburg, Dayton, Walla Walla, and Prescott area

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—If that honey-do list just keeps getting longer, it may be time to change over to a handyman-do list. Coppei Creek Handyman Services is ready to lend a hand, whether your deck needs refinishing or the unruly TV cables are driving you crazy.

Originally from the Vancouver, Washington area, Makaiwi Wachter pursued a career in hospitality, working in the food and wine industry. That field landed him in Dayton, where he worked at the Weinhard Café. Less than a year ago, he moved to Waitsburg with his family.

Wachter said that he has always been interested in construction, working on various projects, including helping family members remodel their homes.

After a quick phone interview, I met Wachter at his home, a property that I drive by regularly and watched it slip into disarray over the years. I was pleasantly surprised when I saw the neat lawn, tidy porch, and all the signs of a good handyman! He was also kind enough to help with the pronunciation of his first name: Makaiwi (ma-kee-vee).

Construction companies in this area are well-established and busy with large building and remodel

projects. However, finding someone to do small repairs is never easy.

“By law, I can only help out with tasks that the average homeowner is capable of doing, but may not have the time,” Wachter explains.

Things like repairing a fence, running cables into a wall, mounting a TV, or installing small appliances such as a hood vent, are perfect for a capable handyman.

“Not everyone has the time to do those things.”

While restricted as to how big of a project a handyman can take on, there really isn’t any project too small.

“One of my friends from the Vancouver area is a handyman, and he was telling me about a customer who called him to change a lightbulb,” Wachter shared. “He offered to teach the homeowner how to change the bulb, but they said ‘nope!’”

Like any business owner, Wachter started Coppei Creek Handyman Services to support his family, but knew he wanted to do more. As a veteran, serving just prior to 9/11, he plans to donate a portion of his profits to Mission 22, a nonprofit organization working to prevent veteran suicide and provide resources for healing. He will be selecting other organizations to support as his business grows.

“I wanted to give back to a lost community,” Wachter said. “And our veterans, they are such a lost community. Veteran suicide rates... we lose up to 22 veterans a day.”

Coppei Creek Handyman Services is open and



Beka Compton

Makaiwi Wachter, owner of Coppei Creek Handyman Services

ready for business. If you need a hand around the house, give Wachter a call at (509) 386-7943, or check his business out on Facebook by searching the business name. If the project is outside of Waitsburg, be sure to call first for more information.

Back to Los Angeles – Déjà vu all over again

By Vicki Sternfeld-Rossi | THE TIMES

The hazy sky, parking meter-lined streets, and a baby pink Tesla in front of me, blinded by the sun reflecting off impeccably clean, shiny cars, with not a pickup truck in sight. Yep, we’re back in Los Angeles for our Doctors and Dentist tour. Daniel had hernia surgery, and for me, it was mammogram time (or smash & dash, as my friends call it).

We landed in Los Angeles and sat on the tarmac for forty minutes, waiting for a gate to open, then another forty-five minutes in line to pick up our rental car. On to the freeway, which as usual, was a slow-moving parking lot.

However, on the good side: It was eighty degrees, sunny, and my “any excuse for a party” friends came through. There were eighteen of us lounging around the pool and fire pit, enjoying a great potluck dinner, lots of wine (and vodka), catching up on our lives. Considering I had to warm up my car to defrost the windows before heading to the Walla Walla airport for our 6:00 a.m. flight, the SoCal warmth was a welcome treat.

I walked from our hotel to my doctor appointments and surgery center about twenty times in the heat. After melting the soles of my shoes, I did manage to find a few sushi bars along the way for replenishment.

We dined out at some beautiful new fish restaurants. In one, Daniel was recognized by one of his students working there. Sushi and fresh fish are my L.A. staples, and I will appreciate a steak dinner when we are back in the PNW.

We stayed at the Marriott, which is one of many NFL sponsors. Considering the Rams were once our hometown team, I’d hoped to see some hunky football players flying through the lobby or working out in the gym. Of course, the players were elsewhere, and my sightings were only of paunchy middle-aged guys at the bar (no gyms for them).

As we were getting ready to board the plane home, I had thoughts: “Miss the plane accidentally on purpose, so I don’t have to listen to Daniel writhing in pain on our way back to Washington.”



Courtesy photo

My “any excuse for a party” friends and I enjoying the warm L.A. evening.

I’m not unsympathetic, but he was supposed to be icing and was prescribed pain killers. Neither of which he was using, so he was not having any fun.

We had a very long layover in Seattle, ensuring neither of us had any fun. (Was I being punished?) Thankfully, Seattle is a large airport, so if I needed it, I could find a place to hide, drink or just plug in the earphones and listen to soothing music.

We are back home, and I am grateful to be here. I have learned not to trust that spring is nearly here, but I see snowdrops blooming, tulips and daffodils popping, and daylilies are starting to sprout. Yesterday, we were back on the Waitsburg High School tennis courts. It was great to be hitting outside, even with rocks littering the court, a chain link fence net, and random school supplies scattered around the perimeter. I hope this is the beginning of many tennis Sundays.

The day before our trip, Daniel worked with our friend Eric to train our apple trees (who knew?). The trees are now staked out to spread their branches instead of reaching straight up to the sky. We finished the day with lunch on the deck! I admit I was wearing thermal underwear, a t-shirt, and a light jacket, but we were back outdoors and in the sun. It’s not L.A., but happily, it’s home.

Health and Protection Committee reviews FEMA protocol at February meeting

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The Waitsburg Community Health and Protection Committee met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 15. The six committee members, Jillian Henze, Bill Rodgers, Lanny Adams, Cameron Hedges, Jim Romine, and Terry Lawhead, tuned in to the Zoom meeting.

Chairperson Jillian Henze started the meeting with a brief update on the COVID-19 situation in Walla Walla County, sharing that positivity rates seem to be going down in the area. As of Monday, February 14, there were 886 Walla Walla County active cases and 12 hospitalizations. There were 13 active cases in Columbia County as of February 15. Over the past week, both Walla Walla and Columbia Counties reported two additional COVID-19 related deaths.

Henze said the state announced the end of outdoor masking on February 18. She anticipated that Governor Inslee would call a press conference regarding the indoor mask mandate by the end of the week. She did note that school mandates may differ from state mandates.

During the new business portion of the meeting, Henze reflected on conversations held last summer regarding fireworks and the City’s limitations on temporary bans. She said new legislation is being proposed to allow cities and municipalities to ban fireworks after 90 days of accepting an ordinance. Previously, cities had to wait one year before implementing a fireworks ban. The new legislation would

also allow municipalities to prohibit fireworks during dangerously dry conditions immediately.

Bill Rodgers expressed concerns about enforcing new ordinances, noting the difficulties with enforcement when illegal fireworks were used in the city limits last year.

Later in the meeting, Lanny Adams shared some Incident Command System (ICS) literature used by the Incident Management Type 3 Team he serves on through the DOC. According to FEMA, Type 3 designates a multi-agency/multi-jurisdictional team used for extended incidents. Adams referred to one of the books as the “incident management bible” and highly recommended that the city purchase a copy. He said he would provide a link should the city be interested.

Adams also shared two documents available through FEMA, the same as those he gave to the Waitsburg Christian Church during the 2020 flooding response. The forms provide clear directions for planning during emergency situations, lay out information including tasks and resources needed, and help formulate a plan to move forward. He also shared a document that helped determine safety hazards and how to mitigate them. Adams added that these forms were beneficial for the logistics team in incident management.


Henze agreed that the documents would be very nice to have. Waitsburg Christian Church pastor Cameron Hedges said he thought there were some briefer versions of the documents at the church, and Adams offered to drop more off if needed.

Don't forget to see author Charlie Potts at The Royal Block on Main Street in Waitsburg. All proceeds from the sale of his books during the event will go to benefit the Weller Public Library!
6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 17.

Benefit for the Weller Public Library

Author Charles Potts special presentation of his work, *The Fifth Convulsion* and *How the South Finally Won the Civil War*.

Books will be available at the event, purchase price will be donated to the Friends of the Weller Public Library.



The Fifth Convulsion
The Structure of American History

Thursday, February 17
6:30 p.m.
The Royal Block
Wine and Art Bar
222 Main Street, Waitsburg
This is a 21+ only event

ROYAL BLOCK
WAITSBURG

charlespotts.com

FUN & GAMES

The Friendly Forest

By Jimmye L. Turner



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

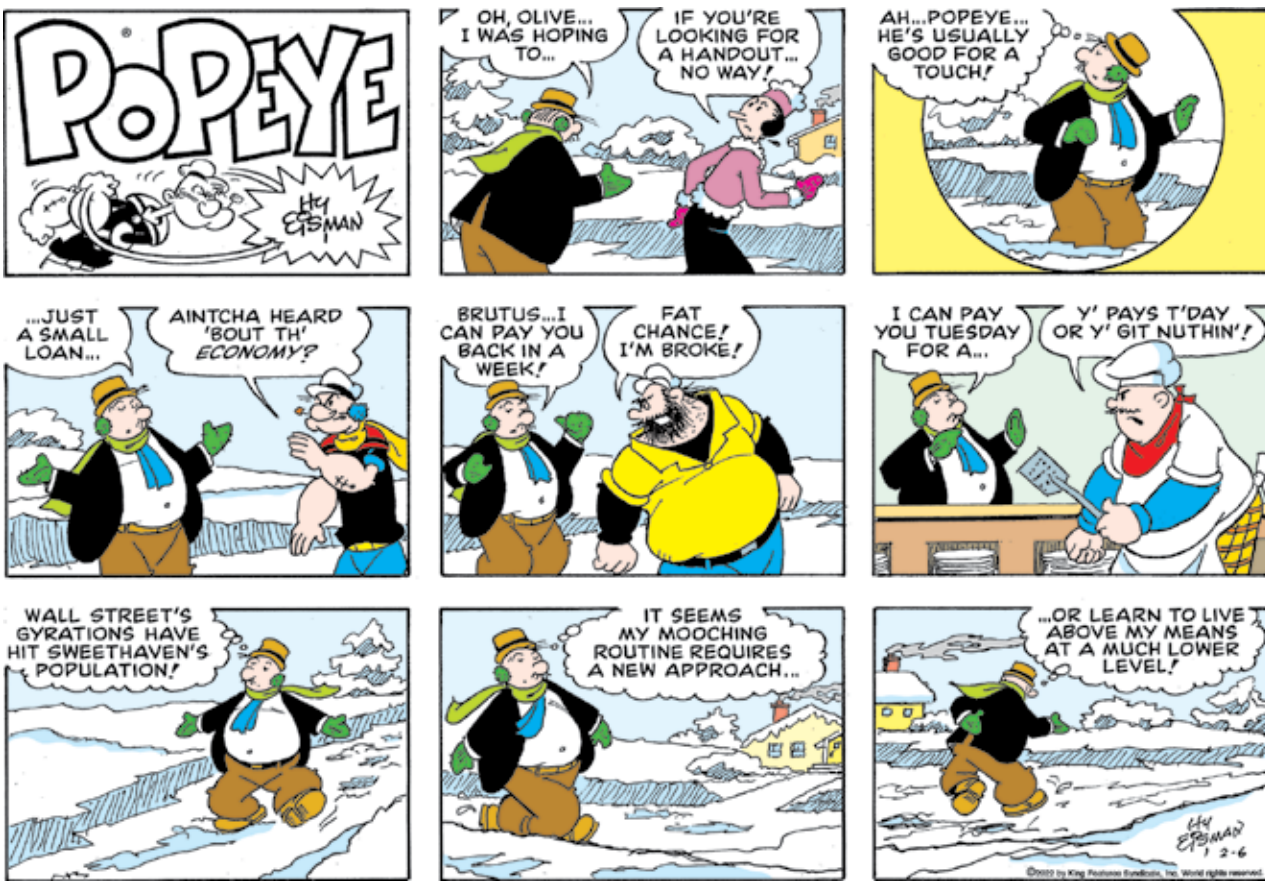
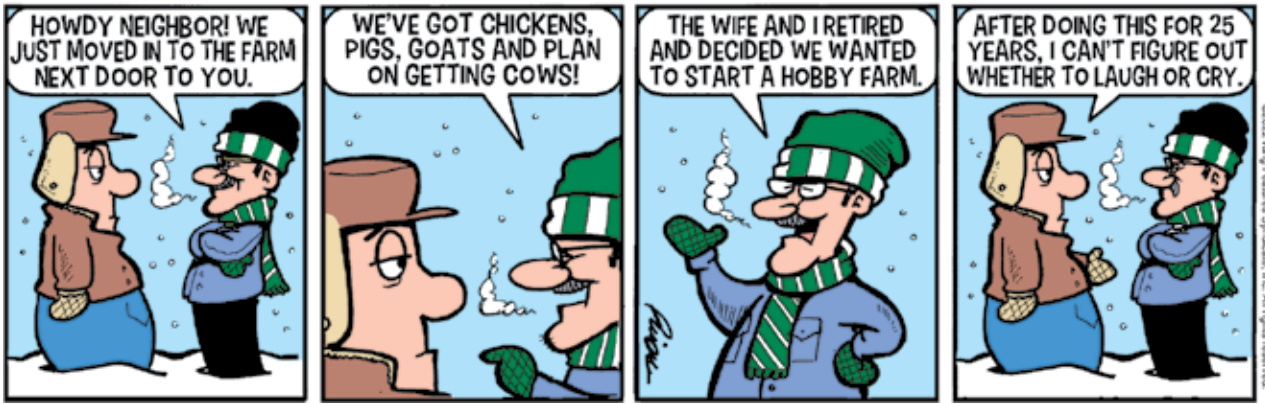


GRIN and BEAR IT



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Touchet Valley Weather

Feb. 16, 2022

Waitsburg's Seven Day Forecast

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Rain	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 48 Low: 33	High: 53 Low: 37	High: 55 Low: 38	High: 53 Low: 37	High: 50 Low: 33	High: 47 Low: 31	High: 45 Low: 27

Weather Trivia

How much water is equivalent to 10 inches of snow?
 Answer: Usually, one inch of water equals 10 inches of snow.

Weather History

Feb. 16, 1989 - A surge of arctic air produced all-time record high barometric pressure readings of 31.08 inches at Duluth, Minn., 30.97 inches at Chicago and 30.94 inches at South Bend, Indiana. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the southeastern United States.

Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation
Tuesday	56	34	45/32	0.00"	0.11"
Wednesday	62	41	45/32	0.00"	0.40"
Thursday	67R	39	45/32	0.00"	-0.29"
Friday	50	31	45/32	0.00"	43.9°
Saturday	47	27	46/33	0.00"	38.9°
Sunday	50	26	46/33	0.00"	+5.0°
Monday	50	34	46/33	0.11"	

Data as reported from Walla Walla

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Full 2/16	6:54 a.m.	5:20 p.m.	5:25 p.m.	7:25 a.m.
Wednesday	6:52 a.m.	5:22 p.m.	6:36 p.m.	7:48 a.m.
Thursday	6:50 a.m.	5:23 p.m.	7:48 p.m.	8:09 a.m.
Friday	6:49 a.m.	5:25 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	8:28 a.m.
Saturday	6:47 a.m.	5:26 p.m.	10:14 p.m.	8:48 a.m.
Sunday	6:45 a.m.	5:28 p.m.	11:30 p.m.	9:09 a.m.
Monday	6:44 a.m.	5:29 p.m.	Prev Day	9:34 a.m.

PIONEER PORTRAITS

Ten Years Ago

February 16, 2012

Recalling the grace-under-pressure composure WP Cardinals Quarterback Zach Bartlow displayed in his team's climb to the title game last football season, it seems hard to believe that he was afraid of being a football player at one time. It was back in fifth grade. He was just a few days too old to stay with the Little Giants, the team he'd played for since third grade. So, he became one of the youngest and smallest players on the Big Giants. "I was scared," he said, explaining that the big eighth graders on the other teams were pretty foreboding. "That wasn't a good year for me."

Twenty-Five Years Ago

February 20, 1997



[Photo Caption] Ken and Jan Zuger accept a certificate representing the hog they won in a benefit raffle held by the Columbia County Regional Health Foundation. The Hog was donated by Mead Ranch of Dayton.

Fifty Years Ago

February 17, 1972

Honorary Chapter Farmer Degrees were conferred on Bob Danforth, Pat Miller and Bill Dellos, instructor and chapter advisor, Monday evening at the annual FFA dinner. Terry Lambert was the recipient of the State Banker's Association Award and bond. Home Improvement award went to Larry Ketcherside with John Walker receiving the Sales and Service Award; Val Woodworth, Ag Mechanics; Roger Miller, Livestock Production; Rich Coleman, Public Speaking; Jay Thomas, Leadership; Guy McCaw, Chapter Star Farmer; and Jay DeWitt, Green Hand.

Seventy-Five Years Ago

February 21, 1947

Mrs. Robert Pollard, Lewis and Clark State Park, entertained the card club Friday afternoon. Mrs. Pierre Ganguet won high score and Mrs. Tubralow, Mrs. Eugene Meyers will be hostess at the next meeting.

Students on the second period honor roll at Waitsburg High School are Elsie Allmon, Wanda Buchan, Robert Wardrip, Dorothy Murphy, Betty Baim, seniors; Barbara Cockburn, Muriel Roberts, Inez Vining, Marilyn Otterson, juniors; Eileen Nutting, Doris Hayes, Gerald Gibson, Bill Zuger, Dolores Egli, sophomores; David Dilts, Donna Laughery, Sally Gibson, Wanda Johnson, Betty Dunn, Betty Pollard, Mary Shaffer and Erma Kessler, freshmen.

One Hundred Years Ago

February 17, 1922

E. W. Truitt, owner of Lyon's Ferry telephones that the ice is out of the river and the ferry is again in operation. The best road, he stated, is by Dayton, Delaney and Starbuck as the other road is in bad shape.

The Willing Workers of the M. E. Church will meet Wednesday, Feb. 22nd with Mrs. Geo. Lloyd. Mrs. James Archer, Mrs. R. R. Johnson and Mrs. Marvin Lloyd will assist the hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Mays entertained about 90 friends at their home at a dancing party the last of the week. A basket lunch was served.

Miss Margaret Zuger returned home last week from Pullman, where she has been visiting friends for several days.

One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago

February 19, 1897

The Rebekah Sisters gave a very enjoyable entertainment on Tuesday night of this week. After the program was rendered, all repaired to the Armory Hall where a bountiful supper on a table the entire length of the hall, was spread. During supper a phonograph was turned loose and dispersed music for several minutes.

Invitations are out announcing the marriage of Miss Sadie Bolter of Dixie to Mr. Charles H. Rader on Tuesday, February 23.

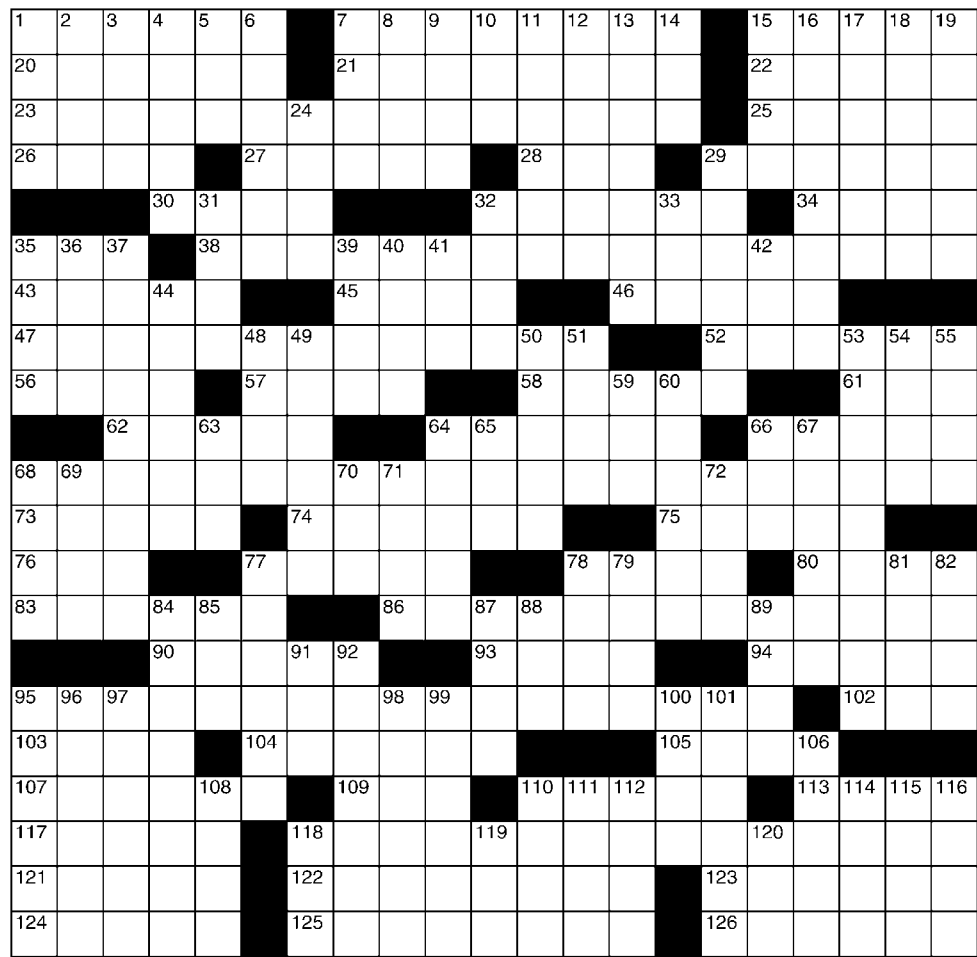
Rev. J. V. Crawford closed a very pleasant meeting at the Blue school house in Spring Valley last Sunday evening. He will commence a series of meetings on Whiskey Creek soon.

PUZZLES & LIFESTYLES

Super Crossword

MUNICIPAL APPLICATION

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Cabaret" performer Sally
 - 7 Allowable
 - 15 Egg-beating utensil
 - 20 Carey of pop
 - 21 Red wine, in Rouen
 - 22 Sonja on ice skates
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 Western flick, in old slang
 - 26 Like arias and anthems
 - 27 "Go back to zero" button
 - 28 Halloween's mo.
 - 29 Titan orbits it
 - 30 Other, to Juanita
 - 32 Bible book before Jeremiah
 - 34 Kingly title
 - 35 Perp pursuer
 - 38 Riddle, part 2
 - 43 Giraffe's kin
 - 45 Writer — Hubbard
 - 46 1998 Disney musical set in China
 - 47 Riddle, part 3
 - 52 Rubber-stamping item
 - 56 No, to Nabokov
 - 57 Worn-down pencils, e.g.
 - 58 Raise, as a building
 - 61 Pie — mode
 - 62 Maestro Kurt
 - 64 Actress Debra
 - 66 Second-rate flick
 - 68 Riddle, part 4
 - 73 Within easy reach
 - 74 Sports facilities
 - 75 Rudely brief
 - 76 Chomp on
 - 77 Begin
 - 78 "Der —" (Konrad Adenauer's nickname)
 - 80 General — chicken
 - 83 Canonized Italian theologian
 - 86 Riddle, part 5
 - 90 Composer John Philip —
 - 93 John Candy's old skit show
 - 94 Bath sponge
 - 95 End of the riddle
 - 102 — Ops (CIA tactics)
 - 103 QED part
 - 104 Nobel-winning "Mother"
 - 105 Sleep furniture
 - 107 Paid a visit
 - 109 Feline cry
 - 110 Credit card draw
 - 113 Beef quality grader: Abbr.
 - 117 Old arcade company
 - 118 Riddle's answer
 - 121 Like a well-pitched game
 - 122 Audits, as a course
 - 123 Actress Fawcett
 - 124 Vestige
 - 125 Mini-dictionary
 - 126 Having soft, loose flesh
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Sporty German cars
 - 2 Honolulu's island
 - 3 Dark brown songbird
 - 4 Insider talk
 - 5 Unit of corn
 - 6 Shepherd formerly of "The View"
 - 7 Giant in car rental
 - 8 Funny — (racehorse)
 - 9 Tech news website
 - 10 Suffix with west
 - 11 San Luis —, Mexico
 - 12 Florence native, e.g.
 - 13 Self-obsession
 - 14 Rock's — Leppard
 - 15 Horse halter?
 - 16 Circuit-cooling device
 - 17 Get a gut feeling about
 - 18 With 39-Down, John Muir was its first president
 - 19 Unit of corn
 - 24 Briny bodies
 - 29 Movie critic
 - 31 Taunt in good humor
 - 32 "Money — object"
 - 33 Lead-in to puncture
 - 35 McCarthy lawyer Roy
 - 36 Allowable
 - 37 Sidewalk materials
 - 39 See 18-Down
 - 40 Meal scraps
 - 41 Phone book listings: Abbr.
 - 42 Skillet or wok
 - 44 Wall-breaching bomb
 - 48 "Movin' —" ("The Jeffersons" theme)
 - 49 Most chaste
 - 50 Group of brainiacs
 - 51 Therefore
 - 53 Store selling latex
 - 54 "That is — ask"
 - 55 "— Yankees"
 - 59 Conger, e.g.
 - 60 Like pizza
 - 63 Articulate
 - 64 Girth
 - 65 Here, in Arles
 - 66 Life story, in brief
 - 67 Table — (pair's seating)
 - 68 "— Team" (2010 movie)
 - 69 Cole — (footwear brand)
 - 70 Tony winner Hagen
 - 71 Citrusy
 - 72 Amish "you"
 - 77 Like prunent material
 - 78 Joking Johnson
 - 79 Tax
 - 81 Clumsy sorts
 - 82 Hotel visit
 - 84 Mysterious
 - 85 Hulk player Ferrigno
 - 87 This, to Juan
 - 88 I, to Merkel
 - 89 Inuit vehicle
 - 91 Cow or hen
 - 92 Letters sent by plane
 - 95 Pour, as wine from a bottle
 - 96 Speechifier
 - 97 Steinway rival
 - 98 Really must
 - 99 Sneaker brand
 - 100 Lyft rival
 - 101 Accompany to the airport, perhaps
 - 106 Old Toyota
 - 108 Chomp on
 - 110 Penta-plus four
 - 111 — about (roughly)
 - 112 Big Apple blaze-control org.
 - 114 Balkan native
 - 115 Lacking color
 - 116 Lacking color
 - 118 Chinese menu abbr.
 - 119 Family gal
 - 120 Comrade



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MY RECIPES Luke Chavez

Turkey Shepherd's Pie



On a recent sunny walk around town, I spotted the first early spring crocus of the season, and on Main Street, the dirty giant mountains of old plowed snow have finally melted away. Even so, the cold dark nights and frosty mornings of late winter continue. Yes, despite our yearnings for spring, it is still most definitely sweater and casserole weather. This week, I turned to ground turkey to create an unexpected twist on an old favorite recipe, Shepherd's Pie. Filling the house with tempting aromas as it bubbled in the oven, the resulting dish was warm and welcoming on a chilly night.

Ingredients:

- 2 ½ pounds russet potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 8 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ½ cup whole milk
- 1 cup aged white cheddar, shredded
- Kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper
- 1 yellow onion, diced small
- 2 carrots, diced small
- 2 celery ribs, diced small
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme, stemmed and minced
- 2 small sprigs fresh rosemary, stemmed and minced
- 1 teaspoon dried tarragon
- 1 ½ pounds ground turkey
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- ⅓ cup tomato paste
- ½ cup dry red wine
- ½ cup turkey or chicken stock
- ½ cup fresh parsley, chopped

Directions:

In a large pot, bring a gallon of water with 2 tablespoons of kosher salt (1 tablespoon if using table salt) to a boil over high heat. Add potatoes and boil until soft, about 15 to 20 minutes. Test with a sharp knife to make sure potatoes are fully tender.

Meanwhile, heat 6 tablespoons of the butter with the milk in a small saucepan until heated through and butter is melted. Drain potatoes and return to the pot. Use a masher or a ricer to mash potatoes until smooth. Pour in the hot butter mixture and stir in the cheese. Mix until just combined and cheese melts. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large cast iron skillet, melt the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter over medium heat. Add the onion, carrot, and celery and sauté until onions are translucent, about 10 minutes. Then add the herbs, garlic and a pinch of salt, sautéing for another minute until fragrant. Next, add the turkey and cook, breaking up with a spoon, until fully browned.

Now, add the tomato paste and stir for 2 to 3 minutes until combined and darkened. Sprinkle the flour over the mixture and cook for another minute. Pour in the wine and stir until reduced by half, then add the turkey stock. Cook, stirring frequently until sauce has thickened. Stir in the parsley then season to taste with salt and pepper.

Top the turkey mixture with dollops of the mashed potatoes, then carefully spread with a fork to cover. (You could also transfer the mixture to a decorative casserole dish, then top with the potatoes.) Transfer pan to the heated oven, set a foil-lined baking sheet underneath to catch any drips. Bake until the potatoes begin to brown, and the edges are bubbling, about 30 to 35 minutes. Pull from oven and allow to cool for 15 minutes before serving.

Notes:

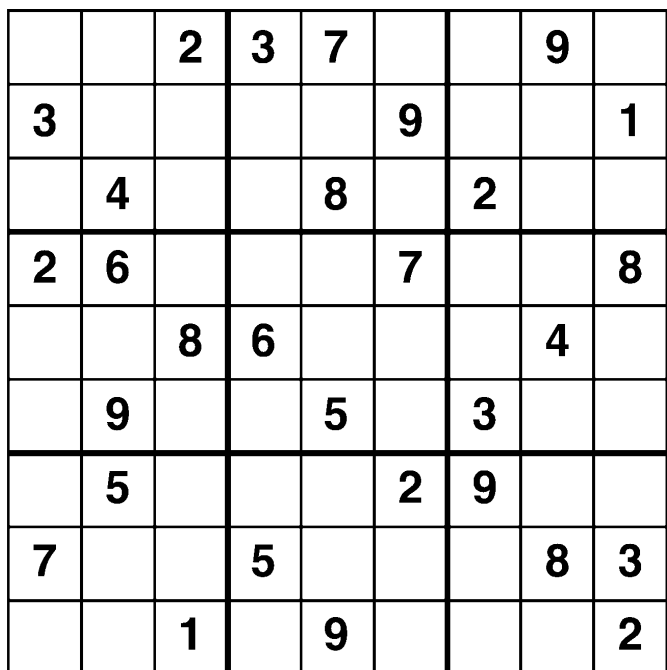
Traditional shepherd's pie is made with ground lamb or a combination of lamb and beef. In England, a version made with all beef is called cottage pie. The use of ground turkey creates a lighter yet still earthy and robust flavor. This recipe can also be adapted to use up any leftover roasted meats.

For variation, there is room to add other vegetables to the mix such as frozen peas or browned mushrooms. Parsnips or celeriac would be a delightful addition to the aromatics.

Perfect for casual entertaining, this comforting and satisfying dish is sure to become a favorite in your repertoire. Experiment with ways to make it your own. Serve with a crisp green salad and a fruit forward red wine, for a splendid meal. Enjoy!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

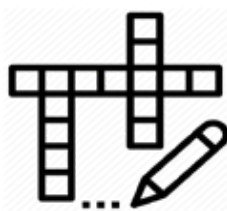


Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

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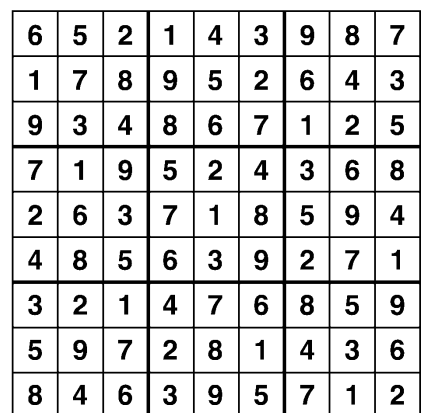
Super Crossword

Answers



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer



On the Photographer's Trail



By Bill Rodgers | THE TIMES

Last weekend, Terry Lawhead and I ventured down to Halfway, Oregon to gather winter photographs and impressions of the area for Volume 6 of "The Blues". This will be the latest in the series of books published by the Blue Mountain Land Trust.

Taking the long way, through Tollgate, Imbler, Cove, Medical Springs, Keating, and Richland, Oregon, we were amazed at the substantial difference in snow depths along the way, which increased at lower elevations. My best guess is that the difference in snow depth between the few inches at High Valley (elevation 3,340) and the foot or more in Halfway (elevation 2,543) may be attributed to a combination of thermal inversion, wind erosion, and the rain shadow effect of the Wallowa Mountains.

Little Lookout Mountain, located to the south of Richland, Oregon and the Powder River glared with a blinding icy coating created by partial melting in the

daylight sun and subsequent freezing during the frigid nights. Our journey was cut short by a destroyed, brand new, "off road" tire as we attempted to drive the gravel road between I-84 and Richland. We were forced to head into Baker City to replace the tire and will attempt the road again, once the snow has melted from these remote, relatively unknown and unpopulated highlands.

Terry and I will be exploring more of Baker and Union counties during the next six months to gather additional material for the book. At times we will be joined by photographer Mark Hussein of Bothell, Washington, who has contributed images to three volumes of "The Blues" books.

Hussein has journeyed to Waitsburg to co-instruct the Blue Mountain Land Trust's "Learning on the Land" one-day photography classes for the past five years. The next class is tentatively scheduled for May 28, 2022, and a fall class is also in the works. Stay tuned to the Land Trust web page (www.bmlt.org) for the online class sign-up form.



All photos by Bill Rodgers

PARTNERS FOR IMPROVING PATIENT HEALTH

By Dawn Meicher, ARNP

DAYTON—Columbia County Health Systems (CCHS) is proud to announce a new program for 2022 called Partners Improving Patient Health (PIPH). This program came out of a multi-year grant awarded to CCHS by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to help evolve the way we care for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), congestive heart failure (CHF), and cardiovascular disease (CVD), including difficult to control hypertension (high blood pressure, HTN) and those who have had myocardial infarctions (heart attacks, MI).

Our community partners in this program include Elk Drug, Aging and Long-Term Care, WA Dept of Health, DSHS, Hospice of Walla Walla and more. The first year of this grant allows for a planning phase. Currently, we are holding weekly meetings involving CCHS and Clinics administration and a variety of CCHS staff from analytics specialists to nurses and providers. We are working with our Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) contacts to help us with various grant requirements and reports. The initial process of putting together our list of patients that qualify for the three arms of the program is time-consuming in itself.

Currently, we are developing our list of possible participants, writing policies, printing education tools to help participants manage their disease, and doing research to make sure we are using the most current standards of care. The educational tools will be aimed at increasing participants' knowledge of their disease, and since knowledge is power, ultimately empowering patients in self-care activities such as using their 'as needed' medications, familiarizing them with the medications they take, understanding what to do when things



opportunities. These group programs will include education, community partners, and contact with a pharmacist, respiratory therapist, Physical or Occupational therapists who can offer additional knowledge to our participants.

A primary goal, and one of the purposes of the grant program, is preventing ED visits and hospitalizations. This decreases the cost of care for the patient and, more importantly, shows we are developing a better way of providing care by preventing sudden disease symptoms. Another core goal is to decrease disease stress on patients and their families. Future goals include meeting our participants at the time of their discharge from the hospital to help them understand their hospital care, disease changes, and medication changes. Research shows that working with patients to understand these changes can prevent hospital readmission, which is a common and costly event for patients in health care today. We also hope to begin contacting participants who have ED visits related to the diseases this program is focusing on, which may require changes to the participants' current plan of care. There is simply not enough time in clinic appointments to cover all these important things and spend enough time to help patients truly understand their chronic disease and its care and treatment. The PIPH program seeks to both address those time constraints and offer opportunities to care for our patients more thoroughly. We are excited to extend this program to our patients as a new model of care instead of the old 'fee for service' that we have now.

get worse, knowing what symptoms they should report to their Health Care Provider and which situations do require a higher level of care such as the Emergency Department (ED). We will seek to provide education programs for each disease and plan to use 1-on-1 home teaching and group

Cheers

Local artist Margaret Terry painted a portrait of Mack, a two year old German Wirehaired Pointer owned by Beka Compton. Mack was more than happy with his first painting!

