



The Times

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



Beka Compton

Garrett Warren navigates a combine through a barley field at Winnett Farms on Whiskey Creek Road July 27.

Library, City Hall still at center of council meeting discussions

City Council approves purchase of former LimaGrain building for future home of City Hall

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The Lions Club building was packed during the July Waitsburg City Council meeting, with nearly fifty residents gathered with concerns about a recent property purchase, the current Weller Public Library's building and its governing entities and inquire about a recently-surplused horse barn.

Residents in attendance included mayoral candidate Kate Hockersmith, council candidates Jillian Henze, Rebecca Wilson, and Randy Charles. Park and Rec commissioner candidates Bart Baxter, Beth Daves, and Leroy Cunningham. Weller Public Library Board of Trustees members Jim Leid, and former member Eleanora Montgomery.

Many attended the meeting over concerns about the potential surplus of 212 Main Street, the building which houses the Weller Public Library. In May, the city held a public hearing to decide about the future of the library, exploring the option to surplus the current building and move the library. The main reason the council gave for the possible surplus of the building was due to the lack of funds to bring the more than 100-year-old building into American Disability Act (ADA) compliance.

The council experienced high community attendance at the May meeting, with many members of the community being firmly against the surplus of the historical building and moving (or closing) the library.

In June, Waitsburg Mayor Marty Dunn removed the agenda item regarding the surplus of 212 Main Street, stating that the city needed more clarity on the legal responsibilities regarding the building and the library.

"We (the city) know that we own the building, but we do not know any of the infrastructure, or what is going on in the library," Dunn said. "There was never any intention of closing the library."

The council has not publicly discussed the potential surplus of the building since that meeting. The Friends of the Library and the Weller Library Board of Trustees have held multiple meetings open to community members. Both groups are continuing to make a case against moving the library or selling the building.

One source of confusion has been between the library board and the city. For weeks, the city has referred to the board as an advisory committee. The board has always maintained its designation as the Board of Trustees. The Library Advisory Committee is advisory only and has seven members where the board has only five.

During the July meeting, the city's attorney, Jared Hawkins, shared that there was no need to have both a library advisory committee and a board of trustees. The board of trustees satisfies state statutes, while the advisory committee was an extra entity created for an unknown reason in 2009. Hawkins recommended removing the advisory committee.

Due to a lack of communication between the board of trustees and the city, the board appeared defunct and the council members and leadership were unaware of who was on the board.

According to Elenora Montgomery, the current board members, Jim Leid, Becky Huwe and Montgomery continued functioning without council involvement for the sake of the

COUNCIL - PAGE 6

Van Ausdle Tire officially open for business

Light car and truck tire services are in full swing, with owners already eyeing expansion

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

DAYTON—A return home was the perfect start for Dayton's newest tire and service business, Van Ausdle Tire. Owned and operated by Dru and Brooke Van Ausdle, formerly of Pomeroy and Dayton, respectively, the business has had a booming opening month after their July 6 opening.

Located at 36713 Highway 12 in Dayton, in the former J-Har Logging building, Van Ausdle Tire currently offers tire service and sales for cars and light trucks, commercial and ag tire services, custom wheels, and "all the basics," according to Brooke. The Van Ausdles plan to add a boom truck by next summer, allowing them to service tractors and other farm equipment. Brake and alignment work is in the business' near future.

The Van Ausdles met just after high school in 2006 and attended school at Washington State University. While attending college, Dru began working for Les Schwab Tires in Pullman.

"After we graduated, we decided to stay with them, and he (Dru) started their management program- that happened after we got married in 2012," Brooke shared. "That moved our family, first, to Centralia, and then down into the San Francisco area, San Carlos. It was a big move!"

The family, joined by daughter Ava, then had the opportunity to purchase a member-dealer in Davenport.

"We jumped ship, essentially, and left the corporate side of things," Brooke explained. "We moved to Davenport to get ready to purchase that store."

Brooke and Dru spent roughly five years in Davenport, managing the branch and preparing to purchase the business. However, plans changed, and the family moved back to the Dayton area after Brooke's father, Terry Hoon, reached out to his former employer Jerry Harshman, owner of the building.

"It just went from there," Brooke said. "We have been back and forth between Dayton and Davenport since March, trying to remodel the business and keep our daughter in school."

Van Ausdle Tire is open Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Hours may be adjusted as Dru and Brooke get settled into their new routine as business owners and Dayton residents.

"We are feeling very grateful and very happy to be here," Brooke said. "Both of our families are close. It's been a really good transition for us!"

Van Ausdle Tire is on Facebook. Be sure to give them a follow to stay up-to-date with business changes, hours of operation updates, and business expansion.



Courtesy Photo

Dru and Brooke Van Ausdle, owners and operators of Van Ausdle Tire, 36713 Highway 12, Dayton.

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NEWS BRIEFS

AT THE LIBERTY: SPACE JAM: A NEW LEGACY

THE TIMES

DAYTON— Welcome to the Jam! NBA champion and global icon LeBron James goes on an epic adventure alongside timeless Tune Bugs Bunny in this animated/live-action event *Space Jam: A New Legacy*. This transformational journey is a manic mash-up of two worlds that reveals just how far some parents will go to connect with their kids. Basketball great LeBron and his young son Dom are trapped in digital space by an A.I. gone rogue. To get home, LeBron must lead Bugs, Lola Bunny, and the whole gang of notoriously undisciplined Looney Tunes characters to victory over the A.I.'s digitized champions on the court: a powered-up roster of professional basketball stars as you've never seen them before. It's Tunes versus Goons in the highest-stakes challenge of his life that will redefine LeBron's bond with his son and shine a light on the power of being yourself. The ready-for-action Tunes destroy convention, supercharge their unique talents and surprise even "King" James by playing the game their way.

A New Legacy hasn't been a huge hit with the critics. Rotten Tomatoes critics give this film just a 30% favorable rating, but the audience rating is 80% favorable.

This film is rated PG for some cartoon violence and some language. Runtime is 115 minutes. Movie showings are July 30 – Aug. 1, and Aug 3: on Fri. & Sat. at 7:30 pm, Sunday at 3:00 pm, and Tuesday at 6:30 pm (not 7:30).

The Missoula Children's Theater is returning to the Liberty Theater in early August. If you know kids who might want to participate in this weeklong workshop and gain performance and stage experience, please look for more information on the Liberty Theater website.

Although Washington State has lifted most COVID restrictions, the Liberty Theater is maintaining distancing and mask requirements for a while longer. Please help us provide a relatively safe environment for all by complying with this mask requirement and by maintaining social distancing. We appreciate your assistance and support.

WALLA WALLA FAIR AND FRONTIER DAYS DEMO DERBY TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—The 2021 Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days presents an exciting event in their lineup: the Demolition Derby. Sponsored by Walla Walla Valley Honda, the Derby begins on September 2nd at 6:00 PM. Gates open at 4:30 PM.

You can join the Demolition Derby as a spectator or participate as a driver.

Driver registration is available on the Walla Walla Fair's website. The deadline for registration is August 10th.

Tickets for the Demolition Derby at the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days start at \$18. Purchase tickets early to ensure the best available seating. Tickets can be purchased in advance on the fair's website www.wallawallafairgrounds.com/p/tickets or by calling the ticket office at (509) 527-3250.

The Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days theme is "Stars and Stripes and Country Nights." It runs from September 1st through September 5th.

MILL CREEK WATER TO BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH GROUNDWATER FROM WELLS TO MEET DEMAND

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—The City of Walla Walla Water Division will soon supplement the drinking water supply by using water from one or more of the city's seven groundwater wells. Drought conditions have caused below normal stream flows in Mill Creek.

Typically, 80-90% of Walla Walla's drinking water is treated surface water from the Mill Creek watershed. The combination of high customer water demand, lack of rainfall, low streamflow, and the requirements to provide a minimum stream level at Kooskooskie for fish and wildlife has created the need for the well water.

With the turning on of wells, some customers may notice slight changes in the taste and temperature of their water. The available streamflow and customer demand will determine how many wells will be used. The city will start with one well and then add additional wells as required. Each well is tested before use to ensure that it continues to meet all state and federal drinking water standards.

Using wells increases the cost of providing water. The city strongly encourages customers to do their part to conserve water during this period of drought. Please visit the city website for conservation tips at <https://www.wallawallawa.gov/government/public-works/water/conservation>.

LICK CREEK, GREEN RIDGE FIRE UPDATE

THE TIMES

The Lick Creek Fire is 90% contained, according to an update provided on Tuesday, July 27. California Team 12 assumed command of both Lick Creek and Green Ridge fires on July 26.

Smoke will continue to be visible as unburned pockets of vegetation inside the fire area are consumed. Crews will continue to monitor and patrol the perimeters until full containment is achieved. Lick Creek Fire has burned 80,392 acres, and is located roughly 20 miles southwest of Asotin.

The Green Ridge Fire has burned 6,799 acres, and remains at 15% containment, with more than 330 personnel overseeing firefighting efforts.

A wildland fire module will work along the southern portion of the fire. Crews will be finishing structure assessment and protection measures to the south near Godman Guard Station and to the north near Tucannon. Structure assessment and protection will also take place on the east side of the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness in the Grouse flats area. These crews will also be available for initial attack of any new fires in the local area. A combination of hand and aerial ignition, using helicopters and UAS (Unmanned Aircraft System), may be used to accomplish the burnout operations along prepared roads to the south and west of the fire as conditions allow.

The remaining Level 1 evacuation area for Garfield County will be expanded from Mountain Road going west to Columbia County line and north from Umatilla National Forest Boundary to Linville Ridge Road to Blind Grade extending to the Columbia County line. If you have any questions, please contact the Garfield County Emergency Management Director, Tina Meier, or Sheriff Drew Hyer at (509) 843-3494.

Green Ridge Fire updates are provided daily at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7628/>, and on Facebook via the Green Ridge Fire page.

THE LIBERTY THEATER - DAYTON
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JULY 30-AUG 3

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



LeBron James, Eric Bauza

SPACE JAM: A NEW LEGACY PG

Touchet Valley Weather July 28, 2021

Waitsburg's Seven Day Forecast

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
Mostly Cloudy Areas of Haze High: 95 Low: 68	Partly Cloudy Areas of Haze High: 101 Low: 69	Partly Cloudy Areas of Haze High: 104 Low: 72	Partly Cloudy High: 103 Low: 74	Partly Cloudy High: 94 Low: 66	Partly Cloudy High: 92 Low: 65	Few Showers High: 94 Low: 66	

Weather Trivia

Are small raindrops shaped like teardrops?

?

Answer: No, they are spherical in shape.

Weather History

July 28, 1952 - A severe storm with hail up to an inch and a half in diameter broke windows, ruined roofs and stripped trees of their leaves near Benson, Ariz. The temperature dropped to 37 degrees and hail was three to four inches deep.

Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation
Tuesday	89	71	92/64	0.00"	0.00"
Wednesday	84	62	92/64	0.00"	0.09"
Thursday	82	56	92/64	0.00"	-0.09"
Friday	88	59	92/64	0.00"	76.4°
Saturday	96	58	92/64	0.00"	78.1°
Sunday	98	66	92/64	0.00"	-1.7°
Monday	90	71	93/64	0.00"	

Data as reported from Walla Walla

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Wednesday	5:31 a.m.	8:27 p.m.	11:10 p.m.	10:37 a.m.
Thursday	5:32 a.m.	8:26 p.m.	11:28 p.m.	11:43 a.m.
Friday	5:33 a.m.	8:24 p.m.	11:48 p.m.	12:48 p.m.
Saturday	5:34 a.m.	8:23 p.m.	Prev Day	1:53 p.m.
Sunday	5:35 a.m.	8:22 p.m.	12:09 a.m.	2:57 p.m.
Monday	5:36 a.m.	8:20 p.m.	12:34 a.m.	4:02 p.m.
Tuesday	5:38 a.m.	8:19 p.m.	1:03 a.m.	5:04 p.m.

The Times

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Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Goodnight sweet Moon

Virtual Public Meeting

Thursday, August 19
on Zoom - 4 p.m.

What would you like to see for the future of Columbia County Public Transportation?

Join the Zoom meeting or email your suggestions and comments to info@ccptransit.



Call (509) 382-1647 for more information


Dayton Washington • 509-382-1647

Fireworks ban discussed by City of Waitsburg

The City of Waitsburg may have to wait until 2023 to implement a fireworks ban if approved by the city council

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—A fireworks ban may be in Waitsburg's future as community members and leadership grow concerned about ongoing dry conditions, heightened fire danger, and overall weather changes.

The potential ban was discussed at the July 21 City Council meeting. If a ban was implemented the soonest it could take effect in Waitsburg would be June 2023.

Washington State laws govern the regulation of fireworks, including what days fireworks can be sold and when they may be discharged. The laws do allow some local regulation, allowing cities and counties the opportunity to prohibit the sale and discharge of fireworks altogether.

Any local fireworks ordinances that are more restrictive than state law may not take effect until at least one year after adoption, according to Municipal Research and Services Centers of Washington (MRSC).

The current extreme fire conditions had local communities asking for emergency bans of neighborhood use this year. State law requires municipalities to enact local legislation concerning firework bans by June 26, one full year before being enforced. There is no exception for emergency fireworks bans in response to drought, extreme heat, or other circumstances. Across Washington, many cities and counties, including the City of Leavenworth, City of Poulsbo, and Thurston and Whatcom Counties, have ordinances in place that allow fire officials, the mayor, or other designated persons to declare an emergency ban. Each municipality had waited for one year before their ordinance was effective.

During the July regular meeting, council members were asked if it would be possible for the city to put on a firework display on the Fourth of July. This would let families still enjoy the tradition of fireworks and lessen the number of fireworks

discharged by individuals in neighborhoods. Mayor Marty Dunn said that while the City of Waitsburg has never put on a public display, he did remember times where families gathered at the football fields to light off fireworks. He said that the council would be continuing the discussion in the future.

City attorney Jared Hawkins said that he would be exploring verbiage for a new ordinance regarding fireworks.



Courtesy photo

Bottle rockets, similar to ones found by a Waitsburg resident in her yard after July 4th celebrations on her street. These and other illegal fireworks are listed on the Washington State Patrol website.. They may not be used in Washington state, even without a firework ban.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED



Prescott Pool Needs Lifeguards Lifeguard Certification Class 2021

Minimum Requirements:
A. 15-16 years of age or older
B. Able to dive into deep water, do a timed swim, other swimming, and tread water.
C. Competitive hourly wage with potential for bonuses. Bonuses may be awarded on the basis of education and training, experience, performance, special skills, and length of service at the discretion of the board.
D. Scholarships possible with a seasonal exclusive commitment to the Prescott Pool.
Interested individuals should contact Pauline Cordeiro, Office Manager prior to August 12, 2021.

At the address or email listed below:
Prescott Joint Park and Recreation District Post Office Box 30 Prescott, Washington 99348
Email: prescottparkrec@gmail.com
509-849-2314

Help Wanted 2021-2022 Positions

The Dayton School District is currently looking for qualified adults to serve as substitute teachers, paraprofessionals (teacher's aides), food service assistants, secretaries, and bus drivers (training available). Class B CDL with school bus endorsement is preferred but not required.
Contact Jana Eaton at the District office (509-382-2543) or learn more from the District website @ <https://www.daytonsd.org/page/employment> page. EOE

Help Wanted

Columbia County District Court: Legal Process Assistant II, FLSA exempt (non-union).
Salary DOE; 35 hours per week with benefits.
Complete application packet including full job description and Columbia County application available via email, at diane_dill@co.columbia.wa.us, or pick up in person at the District Court Office 341 Main St, Ste 4, Dayton, WA 99328. **Position open until filled, with expected start date in August. Fax transmissions not accepted. Applications which do not contain all materials requested will not be processed.**
Individuals assigned to this position are responsible for providing administrative support to the Court by performing clerical duties, providing excellent customer service on a daily basis, and

processing legal documents. Duties include receipting of monies, public contact work on the telephone or over the counter, processing and maintaining court records, files and other legal documents, and staffing the courtroom. The position requires the application of considerable knowledge of court and general office practices and procedures.

Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent and one (1) year in a legal or law enforcement environment or other professional setting, or an equivalent combination of related education and experience. Familiarity with Word and Excel required, experience with DISCIS preferred. Successfully complete a Criminal Background Check.
A background check is a condition of employment.



HELP WANTED FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR - STARBUCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Food Service Assistant - (3 hrs./day) We are accepting applications for a part-time food service assistant. Preferred: Experience working in a school setting, with customer service and food prep for groups of 40+. Needed: someone who is dependable, punctual and has good attendance.
Para Educator - (6 hrs./day) We are accepting applications for a temporary para educator,

with the potential of becoming permanent. Required: AA degree or equivalent. Needed: someone who enjoys working closely with students, is dependable, punctual and has good attendance.
Substitutes - We are looking for qualified individuals interested in substituting for classroom teachers, para educators, custodian, school bus drivers and food service assistants.
Application materials are available from the District Office at 509-399-2381, or you may email Connie Fox Boyer at cfoxboyer@starbuck.k12.wa.us. Positions are open until filled. Starbuck School District is an equal opportunity employer.

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/waitsburg-school-district/page/school-board--272>

Waitsburg Gun Club

Monday May 24 - 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
July 28, 7 p.m. Weller Public Library, 212 Main St., Waitsburg

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. 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

DAYTON SENIOR ROUND TABLE LUNCH

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

Thursday, July 29

Broccoli lasagna
Mixed veggie
Garlic bread
Banana
Milk

Tuesday, August 3

Chicken sandwich
Potato chips
Pickled beets

Grapes
Snickerdoodle
Milk

WAITSBURG SENIOR CENTER

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

Tuesday, August 3

Lasagna
Vegetable
Coleslaw
Garlic Bread
Fruit

WAITSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Waitsburg School District

Free Summer Meals begin June 21. Available to all children 18 and under. Served 11 a.m.- noon, Monday-Friday at the Waitsburg Elementary Cafeteria



Walla Walla
(509) 525-4110

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



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NEWS & COMMENTARY

LETTERS

WASHINGTON POLICE REFORM LAWS HOW WILL THEY IMPACT LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES IN WALLA WALLA COUNTY

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—This past session, the Washington State legislature passed multiple bills addressing “police reform” following various tragic police events that have occurred in other cities around the nation. In May, Governor Inslee signed several of these “reform” bills into law. The majority of these laws take effect July 25th, and they will profoundly impact policing across the state of Washington. Most of these new laws are ambiguous and require profound legal interpretation. We have been asking and waiting for clarification from the Attorney General’s office. Although there are still questions to be answered about implementing these new laws, we think it’s important to share with the community members in our jurisdictions what we know currently about how these laws will influence the way we deliver public safety services moving forward.

The new laws touch on many principles that are already at the core of policing in our state. For your local law enforcement agencies, our communities and citizens are the lenses through which we view our profession. We make it a point to partner with the people who live, work, and/or raise families in the Walla Walla Valley to create an overall safe living environment. While we may change the methods, we use to deliver our services, our commitment to our communities and citizens, and doing our part to keep them safe, will not waiver.

We encourage you to learn about the recent legislation referred to and to contact us if we can answer any questions. The main reform Legislative Bills are: House Bills 1054, 1140, 1223, 1310, and Senate Bills 5051, 5066, 5476. As a result of these recent legislative changes, law enforcement response to non-criminal calls will greatly decrease.

The Walla Walla County law enforcement agencies strive to continuously provide our citizens professional service utilizing our core values of Honor, Integrity, Loyalty, Courage, Commitment, Duty and Fairness. We will adapt to the new changes and look forward to the ongoing positive interactions with our community as we go about providing our best in public safety services. We commit to working alongside other public service agencies such as Comprehensive Health, Fire/EMS, social services and dependency organizations who will be called upon with greater expectation.

Sheriff Crider, Chief Bieber and Chief Tomaras have met and discussed how specifically the legisla-

tion will effect law enforcement agency response in their jurisdictions. At a minimum, the following are the areas in which law enforcement response will be eliminated:

Welfare checks - generally local law enforcement will not respond; however, a supervisor may give approval if it is determined there is no other alternative, e.g. A person lives in Kansas and hasn’t heard from a relative in over a week and there is no one else local who can check.

Involuntary Treatment Act - A DCR must have completed an evaluation and signed the DMHP form prior to law enforcement response. Officers will still verify the ITA requirements (a danger to themselves, a danger to others, gravely disabled) prior to taking action.

Mental health calls - Generally law enforcement will not respond. Community members should call Comprehensive Mental Health’s Crisis Response Team (CRT) at 509-524-2999 for assistance with a mental health issue. If a supervisor determines a crime has occurred an officer will respond.

Civil calls - Generally law enforcement will no longer respond. If an actual crime has occurred, a supervisor will determine if law enforcement response is required. Law enforcement will continue to serve no contact orders, orders for protection, etc.

Suspicious person calls: Dispatch will broadcast for information. Law enforcement will drive by if available to be a visible deterrent but will not make contact unless a crime is observed.

Unfortunately, over many years, law enforcement has become the default response when people call 9-1-1. Whether or not the police were the correct resource to respond, we responded. All three of our organizations take a great deal of pride in the level of service we provide our community. The recent police reform legislation which goes into effect on Sunday, July 25, 2021, places our agencies and personnel in a difficult position; One in which we want to continue providing any and all services our community requests, but at the same time must reduce our responses to certain calls for service in order to comply with the law.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark A. Crider
Sheriff Walla Walla Sheriff’s Office

Scott Bieber Chief of Police Walla Walla Police

Troy Tomaras Chief of Police College Place Police

BE ALERT TO INTERNET, PHONE SCAMS

By Lane Gwinn | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—Recently, I received a voice message from a number I was not familiar with. The message claimed there were actions filed on my social security number for fraudulent activities. The recorded message said I needed to call the provided number before they begin legal proceedings.

This is not the first call or email I have received from someone identifying themselves as a financial or government agency. Before I started getting calls like this, my parents received similar messages. One incident involved my very intelligent and computer savvy father-in-law. He got a notice from his “bank” that his debit card was being used and he needed to verify his account number and other information to the provided number. The email looked like it came from his bank, had the right letter head and disclaimers on the bottom.

He bit. Gave the requested information and then thought to warn me of possible scammers like the ones his “bank” had identified.

It seemed odd a financial institution would contact him this way, so we called the bank. They had not contacted him, however they had flagged some suspicious activity. This activity took place after he responded to the bogus email. Someone in Las Vegas had started charging tens of thousands of dollars on his account. Luckily it turned out to be an easy fix, though, if it could have been worse.

He was very embarrassed that he could be so easily tricked.

That was over ten years ago, and now I am in the right age group to get these scams sent to my email or phone. Perhaps it is my advancing age or they have gotten better at impersonating banks, government agencies and relatives.

There are the scams impersonating financial and government institutions and scams that appear to be from family or friends. One common scam directed at seniors appears to be a call or email from a grandchild who needs “grandmother” to send emergency funds.

So, here is what you should do if you get a message from your bank or the IRS requesting you contact them to clear up a problem with your account?

Never give personal information such as social security, birthdate or address. Even if they know the last four digits of your SSN, they may be scammers.

Take all the information you can from the call. Names, the phone number or email address.

Hang up and call the organization the callers claimed to be from.

Contact family members or trusted friend to let them know.

If you have internet accounts, you can check to see if they have posted any notices on your account.

Report the call to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts>

Alert family, friends and the community.

Unless you personally know the person on the other line, take all precautions to protect your identity and financial information.

Don't be afraid to be distrustful when it comes to your personal information!

BIRTHDAYS

July 29: Ginger Henze, John Kenney, Rachel Reedy, DeLynn Liebermann.

July 30: J.E. McCaw, Kohl Perry, Tim Rogers.

July 31: Glen Vogt, Joan Hamberg, Elizabeth Jorgensen, Joanna Lanning, Rob Danforth, Angela McKinley, Don Richardson, Kenneth and Richard LaRue.

August 1: Karen Lyman, Jessie Winnett, Terry Lambert, Christina Bunch and Amber Woodworth.

August 2: Heather Herion, Terry Presler, Malia Kalahele.

August 3: Shannon Hodges, Christian Pearson, Stacey Estes, Troy Head, Karen Myers, Jeff Leid, Peter Koper.

August 4: Rebecca Vaughn, Alex King, Benjamin Bloor.

Happy Birthday

WELCOME TO NEW PASTOR

THE TIMES

To the Editor,

We invited the Christian Church to join us for our 4th of July worship at Waitsburg Presbyterian. This last Sunday, the 25th, we were invited to join them for their service.

This has been a taste of the past. Years ago our congregations met together for two months every summer. July meetings were in one of the churches. August meetings were in the other. Those times are fondly remembered by the many who took part in them.

In August we will look forward to sharing with the Christian Church as they welcome their new pastor, Cameron Hedges, and his family.

May all of our community make them feel at home.

Stan Hughes,
Pastor, Waitsburg Presbyterian Church



Remembering my awesome Sister, Pam Conover on her birthday July 30. I usually came to Waitsburg on her birthday. So enjoyed spending the day with her and her friends on her special day. Love and miss her, Judy

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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DW athletic combine changes focus of July WSD board meeting

Waitsburg school board members expressed community-wide support of varsity games played at both schools for all sports

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The Waitsburg School Board met July 22 for a regular meeting. The school board is meeting in a hybrid fashion, via zoom and in-person.

Dayton-Waitsburg athletic director Sam Korslund discussed a possible schedule-change proposal, which he presented to the Dayton School Board the week prior. The schedule that the DW Combine Committee had proposed had all indoor sports games played in Dayton, with football and baseball games played in Waitsburg. Korslund acknowledged that he had received some feedback from members of the Waitsburg community that indicated that both parents and athletes wished to have more home varsity games in Waitsburg.

The initial proposed change moved all fall high school sports and middle school football, to Waitsburg, with middle school volleyball games played in Dayton. Winter sports, including boys and girls basketball, would be played in Dayton. Korslund said that gym and court sizes were two of the most significant factors. According to Korslund, Waitsburg's basketball court is high school regulation size, while the court in Dayton is collegiate.

"I know it doesn't make much sense," Korslund said. "We are playing high school ball, and a high school court is more than adequate; however, WIAA recommends the collegiate-sized court."

He also noted that Dayton's facility has a third locker room, which could accommodate a visiting team. Spring sports would continue to be split between the two towns.

Korslund said another option is splitting the seasons between the schools but noted that he had yet to talk to a coach or an athlete that wanted to go that route.

Waitsburg school board members asked where the gate money went, with more games being played in Dayton. Korslund said that he would like to see the money split between the two ASB bodies.

If hosted by a specific group like the FFA, money raised by concessions goes to the FFA, and game night dinners have a history of being very successful fundrais-

ers for student groups. Gate money typically goes to the hosting ASB body.

Board member Ross Hamann shared that not having any varsity basketball games is a hard pill to swallow for the community of Waitsburg.

"I have a hard time explaining to people that we've had basketball games for over 100 years, but it's over now," he said. "Our community has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars into our facilities; we just put a brand new roof on the gym. I, for one, would like to continue to see varsity events at our gyms. Splitting it so that half of the games are in Dayton and half are in Waitsburg makes sense."

Hamann explained that he had never observed any issues with seating or space at the Waitsburg events, even while attending Combine events. Other board members echoed his statements.

Korslund said he would continue working towards an equitable schedule, hearing the concerns of the board members.

"We will proceed with the plan for now, but I will keep advancing this conversation," he said.

Maintenance and transportation supervisor Colter Mohny said that the gym re-roofing project is nearly done, sharing that it was great-quality work.

"It looks clean, it looks good," he said.

Superintendent Mark Pickel shared with the board that the first day of school for the 2021-22 year will be September 7, with registration occurring the week of August 23. A newsletter will be going out to parents within the next couple of weeks.

New preschool students have been invited to a preschool camp that will coincide with Kindercamp.

The district is currently planning on a full, five-day-week return to school in September. Masks will likely be required for all people, regardless of vaccination status, while indoors. Guidance will be reviewed as the date approaches.

There were no bids on the properties that the school voted to surplus earlier this year. Another call for bids will be advertised in early August. Pickel said that it had been a struggle to get an appraiser out to view the property.

The athletic code of conduct was reviewed and approved, by the school board. The code of conduct presented included changes that were suggested by the board after a long discussion on items that presented a potential legal conflict.

The board reviewed policy readings and exited the meeting for a public budget hearing.

NEW RESOURCE FOR CURRENT FIRE CONDITIONS, USAGE RESTRICTIONS ON NATIONAL FORESTS IN WA, OR

THE TIMES

PORTLAND—Members of the public planning their next outdoor adventure on National Forests in the Pacific Northwest now have a tool they can use to check fire information for more than one forest quickly and easily. The new resource can be found on the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region website, at <https://go.usa.gov/xFTHh>.

Website visitors will find current fire information and usage restrictions for all National Forests in Washington and Oregon on one page, in an easy-to-use, at-a-glance format.

The page can also be found linked to the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region website's homepage, or by clicking "Fire & Aviation," "Fire Information," "Current Fire Status," and "Fire Restrictions Across the Region" at the top of the page.

The chart displays fire risk levels (low, moderate, high, very high, and extreme), common public use restrictions (PURs) – such as whether campfires are allowed in or outside of designated fire rings, if there are limits on ATV and chainsaw use, and industrial fire precaution levels (IFPLs) for each forest.

It also includes a link to current forest orders, which links with each forest's "Alerts and Notices" page where current fire and other related closure information are posted. These forest orders may include large area or forest closures and other restrictions necessary to protect resources and ensure public safety.

The Pacific Northwest is facing a very challenging fire season. Fuels on the landscape are very dry; vegetation, including leaves and grasses and larger shrubs and trees, has been further stressed by extreme heat and drought. Members of the public are encouraged to plan carefully and "know before you go."

Determine what hazards may be present in an area (including fire risk) and what closure orders and other precautions may be in effect before you visit.

Carry the "ten outdoor essentials" every time you travel in a forest, even while driving through or for day hikes and short trips. During fire season, include water and a shovel, fire extinguisher, or other tools to put out fires.

Have a safety plan; make sure someone knows where you are and when you expect to return, and ask them to contact local law enforcement if you don't return when expected or they have a reason to believe you're in danger. Leaving a copy of your trip plan in your tent or on your vehicle may also help others find you if an evacuation is ordered. Familiarize yourself with maps of the area and have a plan for what you'll do if a wildfire emerges without warning.

WALLA WALLA COUNTY VACCINE CLINICS AUGUST 4, 11, 18

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) and healthcare partners will open vaccine clinics on the first three Wednesdays in August (August 4, 11, 18). All three clinics will be held at the Providence Southgate campus. The clinics on August 4 and 11 will run from 3-5 p.m., and the clinic on August 18 will offer extended hours and run from 3-7 p.m. Clinics held after August 18 will be announced later as DCH evaluates the vaccine interest level in the county.

All clinics will offer interested residents both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Janssen, Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine. There will be a mix of first- and second-dose appointments, along with walk-in appointments available from 3:30-5 p.m. on August 4 and 11. Walk-in appointments will also be welcome on August 18 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Anyone arriving at the clinic for a vaccine should use the main entrance of the building and are asked not to use the urgent care entrance of the facility.

Anyone under the age of 12 years old is not eligible to receive a COVID vaccine. Those interested in receiving the J&J vaccine must be 18-years old or over. People younger than 18-years old will only be eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine. They must have written parental consent or bring a parent or guardian with them to their vaccine appointment.

Everyone interested in scheduling an appointment should complete the following steps:

- Step 1: Go to <https://www.covidwcc.com/clinics>.
- Step 2: Scroll through the list of first-dose clinics and click the "Schedule an Appointment" button after confirming eligibility under the selected clinic.
- Step 3: Select an appointment time and complete the registration process.

Residents who are homebound or without Internet/computer access can call the DCH helpline (509) 524-2647 and leave their name, date of birth, phone number, and a message stating that they are homebound or do not have access to the internet or a computer.

SEAN C. MILLIGAN

for PORT of COLUMBIA COMMISSIONER

- Sean understands the role of a Port
- He has the knowledge and commitment to continue serving well
- He is analytical, and makes decisions based on facts
- Since his appointment, he has served our county well
- Sean offers continuity

RETAIN Sean Milligan

COLUMBIA COUNTY HAS NEW SCHEDULING TOOL FOR VACCINATIONS

THE TIMES

DAYTON—Anyone who wants to get a COVID-19 vaccine can now check out the county's new, easy to use, scheduling website: <https://ccvaccines.as.me/>. It is an easy to use, 3 step, online questionnaire which allows you to schedule your own vaccination. Choose the date that is right for you and get vaccinated.

Vaccination Clinic Addresses

CCPH: Columbia County Public Health @ 112 N. 2nd St. Dayton, WA 99328

DSD: Dayton School District, Multi-Purpose Room @ 614 S 3rd St, Dayton, WA 99328*Vaccine varies by vaccination clinic

Columbia County COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Schedule

Schedule online at ccvaccines.as.me or call Public Health at 509-382-2181. Vaccine varies by vaccination clinic.

Dates:	Times:	Location:
August 12, 2021	9:30am-11:00am	CCPH
August 12, 2021	12:00pm-6:00pm	DSD
August 24, 2021	4:00pm-6:00pm	CCPH
September 2, 2021	4:00pm-6:00pm	CCPH
September 7, 2021	4:00pm-6:00pm	CCPH

CCPH: Columbia County Public Health @ 112 N. 2nd St., Dayton, WA
DSD: Dayton School District, Multipurpose Room @ 614 S. 3rd St., Dayton, WA



ICE CREAM SOCIAL
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NEWS & LEGALS

COUNCIL - FROM PAGE 1

Weller Public Library. The city sent out a call for applications for new board members last month. The board chose four new members from the applications and retained Jim Leid for the five positions, as required by state statute. Members for the Board of Trustees must be approved by the City Council and have staggered terms. There are no plans to close the library, but the City Council has not publicly discussed the potential surplus of the building since removing the action item from the June agenda. Jim Leid spoke for the board saying they do not want the building to be sold or the library moved to a new location.

Councilmember Karen Gregutt said she remembers that at the last meeting the council said they were not selling the building. Several members in the audience responded, saying this was not the case. *The Times* reviewed tape of the June meeting and found the mayor only postponed a vote on the surplus resolution by taking it off the evening's agenda. He also said that there was never any intention of closing the library. After the item was taken off the agenda, there was no further discussion or comments about the library at that meeting.

A purchase agreement was approved for 106 Main Street, as the future home of City Hall and possibly the library, according to Hinchliffe in an earlier email to *The Times*. The city first presented the agreement in a July 1 workshop, but details were not discussed. Community members expressed concerns about the location being in a flood zone. They remembered how much water was in the basement during the 1996 flood and in events prior to that.

City Council candidate Randy Charles said the council's lack of transparency in this matter was disappointing.

"This decision has been made without openness and transparency to the public," Charles said during the public comment period, going on to say that the idea was introduced at a workshop which did not allow for any public comment.

Charles said there appears to be no estimate for renovation costs to make the new building ADA compliant, which was one of the stated reasons of moving City Hall.

"This seems like it is already a done deal," he went on to say. "To me, the residents of our city deserve more. They deserve better than that."

Other community members who spoke against the move included former councilmember Terry Jacoy, Attorney Mike Hubbard, Jim Leid, Kate Hockersmith, and Cindy Daves.

Councilmember Gregutt spoke about preserving the historic architecture of Waitsburg, just before the council approved the purchase agreement.

"The architecture of Waitsburg is priceless, historic and fabulous. There have been a lot of guardrails put in place and various schemes since I have been around, to protect it and keep it the way it is so it doesn't turn into a Burger King or something," Gregutt said. "However, just because something is beautiful, and precious, and lovely, and was a bank or whatever it was before City Hall got there, doesn't mean that you can let it turn into a toothache that you can ignore."

The idea of moving City Hall from its current location has been discussed since at least 2004, according to city administrator Randy Hinchliffe. Other locations included the current Waitsburg Clinic space, and the former Kingdom Hall on Coppei Avenue.

The purchase price of 106 Main Street was \$200,000. According to city administrator Randy Hinchliffe, it would have cost roughly \$1.6 million to bring the current City Hall up to date and full functionality. The purchase for the new building

will come from funds from the FEMA reimbursement of roughly \$300,000.

The council went on to approve the surplus of a horse barn at the fairgrounds that has been neglected beyond reasonable repair. The barn, known around town as the "long barn" or the "cat barn," was used to house racehorses in the past but has recently become a hotspot for suspicious activity.

An agenda item for a SEED grant to fund a splash pad in Preston Park was taken off the agenda. Hinchliffe said the project had been approved for the SEED funding before the meeting. However, the grant was pulled just before the meeting, as criteria changed. He resubmitted the application and feels confident it will be approved. He said other applicants were in the same situation and working through the issue.

Hinchliffe reported that it has been hard to find a contractor for the splash pad. He recommended that the city purchase the jets and other materials now, with the hopes of installing the pad next summer. He said he would continue to search for a contractor for this year if the weather allowed possible construction.

The council interviewed three applicants, appointing Jillian Henze to fill a city council position vacated by David Paxton earlier this year. Henze will finish Paxton's term, which ends on January 1, 2022. She is also running for Council Position 5 in the upcoming General Election.

Hinchliffe shared that the pool was being evaluated for leaks, which necessitated filling it with water for divers to identify leaks. Once filled with water the pool started leaking from one wall, indicating a major leak. Public Works began filling the pool on Monday, July 19. Hinchliffe said the city has used "enough water to fill the pool three times" in just three days as they wait for the inspection.

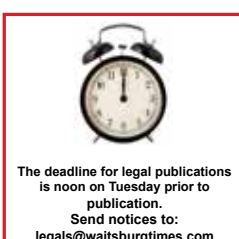
He shared that the Department of Transportation approved the funding for the Millrace Grade Project, and ongoing safety improvements. He will be placing the project out for bid soon.

Hinchliffe and Public Works Specialist, Lisa Norris also brought it to the council's attention that the waste treatment plant has had an influx of non-flushable items, like "flushable" wipes and plastic cocktail straws. These wipes are getting caught on tree roots and uneven pipes causing major backups. The plastic straws are not biodegradable and cause problems with machinery at the water treatment plant. Letters asking residents to refrain from flushing non-flushable items will be going out.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
No. 21 4 00145 36
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Matter of the Estate of
DONNA J. MONTZHEIMER,
Deceased.
The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing of the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2)

four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.
DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: July 22, 2021
Laurel L. Copeland
Personal Representative
For
The Estate of Donna J. Montzheimer
P.O. Box 625
Newman Lake, WA 99025
509-951-1960
Court of probate proceedings and cause number:
Walla Walla Superior Court
21 4 00145 36
The Times
July 22, 29, August 5, 2021
7-22-a



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
No. 21 4 00148 36
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
RCW 11.40.030
In re the Estate of:
DUKE O'DELL MORROW,
SR.,
Deceased.
The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative, or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below, a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of:
(1) Thirty (30) days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the Notice to the Creditors as provided

under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or
(2) Four (4) months after the date of first publication of the Notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.
Personal Representative:
DUKE MORROW, JR.
Attorney for the Personal Representative:
MONA J. GEIDL of Minnick-Hayner, P.S.
Address for Mailing or Service:
Minnick-Hayner
249 W. Alder Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Court of Probate Proceedings: Walla Walla County Superior Court
Cause Number: 21 4 00148 36
Date of First Publication: July 29, 2021
By: /s/ Duke Morrow, Jr.
DUKE MORROW, JR.
Personal Representative
Dates of Publication: July 29, 2021
August 5, 2021
August 12, 2021
The Times
July 29, August 5, 12, 2021
7-29-a

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
No.: 21-4-00140-36
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(RCW 11.40.030)
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
NANCY J. HERRES,
Deceased.
The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020 (1)(c); or (2)

four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.
DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: July 29, 2021
Personal Representative:
Kevin J. Herres
Jared N. Hawkins, WSBA #35426
Attorney for Personal Representative
Address for Mailing or Service:
2225 Isaacs, Suite A, Walla Walla, WA 99362
Court of probate proceedings and cause number:
Walla Walla County Superior Court Cause No. 21-4-00140-36
The Times
July 29, August 5, 12, 2021
7-29-b

2021 wheat harvest yield forecast lowest since 2015

Impact from the drought varies from field to field, slope to slope and farm to farm.

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WASHINGTON—The full impact from the 2021 drought is beginning to show as farmers harvest a smaller-than-average wheat crop.

“The crop is probably 30% below the average,” said Byron Behne, Senior Marketing Manager for Northwest Grain Growers in Walla Walla. “Last year was way above average; it was an exceptionally high-yielding year. We might handle half of the wheat that we did last summer.”

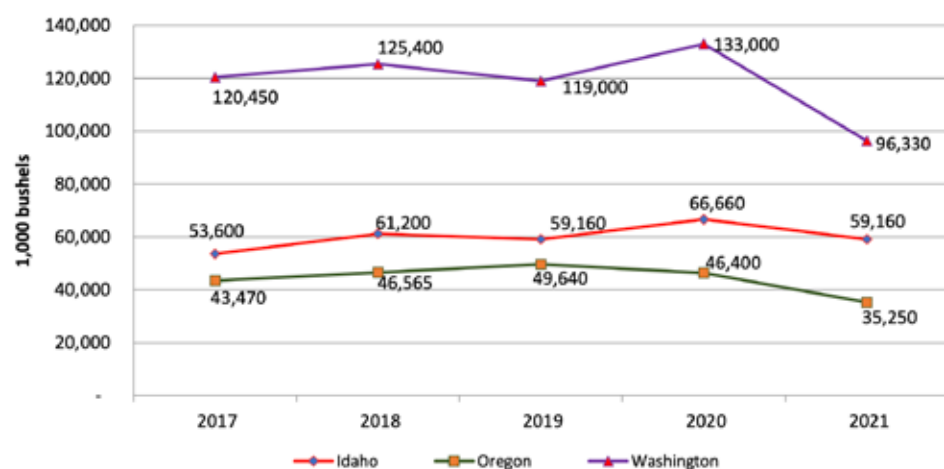
Based on June 1 conditions, The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecast 2021 Washington wheat production at 96.3 million bushels, down more than 60,000 bushels from the previous year. An average of 57 bushels per acre, down from 71 bushels in 2020, is expected.

The quality of wheat is highly variable this year, as well. Re-crop fields that had wheat last year and spring wheat have taken the brunt of the damage, while wheat planted on summer fallow ground has had significantly less impact, according to Behne. Summer fallow is the practice of keeping a field vegetation-free for a growing season, allowing the land to retain rainfall water for future crops.

“Wheat on true summer fallow, winter wheat on true fallow acres, has not been affected as much as wheat on recrop or spring crops in general,” Behne explained. “There was more moisture in the ground for the crops to draw on.”

Washington State declared a drought emergency on July 14. Today, most of Columbia County (60.49%), and the majority of Walla Walla County (88.6%), are still experiencing the effects of exceptional drought, according to drought.gov. So far, 2021 has been the third driest year in 127 years of data collection for Walla Walla County and the 7th driest year for Columbia County.

Winter Wheat Production - Idaho, Oregon, and Washington: 2017-2020 and Forecasted June 1, 2021



The overall impact of the drought will vary from field to field, with factors like slope direction, ground quality, and area all playing a part in the wheat crop's success. South-facing slopes are most likely to have a harder time producing quality wheat this year due to lack of moisture and exposure to the heat.

The drought's impacts are meeting expectations. Behne said that the last time Washington experienced anything like this was in 2015. Many of the same issues are arising once again, including wheat having higher proteins than the market desires, test weights are lower, and 2021 yields are lower than those in 2015.

Wheat prices, however, are soaring. Behne said that rising prices had been influenced by tight stocks at the end of 2020 and an anticipated small crop.

“These prices are the highest I can ever remember during harvest,” Behne said. “The grain remaining in the bin prior to harvest, last year's ending stocks, were as tight as we have ever seen them. There was hardly any wheat left to draw from.”

Washington wheat providing sweet treats around the world

Eighty percent of Washington wheat is soft white, which, once milled into flour, is perfect for cakes, cookies, and other sweet favorites

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

If you drive anywhere in Eastern Washington, you are almost guaranteed to pass wheat fields. There are more than 3,700 wheat farmers on the east side of the Evergreen State, who, in 2020, represented an industry that reached nearly \$800 million across the state.

Wheat is one of the world's most essential crops, providing 20% of all calories necessary to sustain the seven billion people across the globe. Of the six different types of wheat grown across Washington state, roughly 80% of that is soft white wheat. Once milled down into flour, soft white wheat is the main ingredient in favorite sweet treats, including cakes, cookies, pastries, crackers, and Asian delicacies.

A lot of work goes into the process of turning that wheat into flour. Growers choose which wheat, where and when to plant. Weather and environmental factors outside of the farmers control, like this year's drought, impact the size and price.

After crops are harvested, wheat is often offloaded to local grain elevators, where it is weighed and analyzed before being transported for sale.

Once sold, soft white wheat makes its way to a mill, where the wheat berries are separated from field debris; weeds, seeds, chaff, and whatever else gets picked up by the combine. The wheat berries are then pushed through scourers, where they are pushed against steel casings to remove the dirt in the crease of the berry.

Once cleaned, the berries move on to a tempering process to make it easier to separate the flour-producing part of the berry from its tough bran coat.

With the bran removed, the berries go on to the crushing stage of the milling process. While 'crushing' is the technical term, the berries are actually cracked as they are run through large steel rollers. The first

set of rollers are corrugated, and break the berries into coarse bits which then pass through screens of increasing fineness. Air currents are used to remove impurities from the middlings, coarse fragments of the endosperm.

The wheat is separated into five or six different streams which go through multiple screens. The finest mesh screen is as fine as the final flour product. In the final step of the crushing process, the wheat is sent through smooth steel rollers, and the flour is bleached and stored. Some flour producers will enrich their product by adding thiamine, niacin, riboflavin and iron. Once enriched, the flour is bagged up and off to the store!

According to the gourmet magazine, Bon Appetit! "Soft wheat flour is typically packaged as cake flour or pastry flour, and is best used for cakes, cookies, and pastries that should be tender and crumbly. It can also be used in fresh pasta, and produces a tender noodle."

Soft white wheat has lower protein levels than hard red wheat, so the gluten works slightly differently, making it less than ideal for breads. The gluten in soft white wheat is weaker which makes it perfect for more delicate baked goods.

Of course, when given the option between a warm chocolate chip cookie or a slice of bread... we all know what the obvious choice is!

SPORTS

Mariners have good week as trade deadline looms

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES

After dropping the opening game of the Oakland series in Seattle, the Mariners rebounded with three straight wins by one run to win the series. They also beat the Astros on Monday, coming back from an early seven-run deficit to win 11-8. This stretch has moved them up to one game behind the A's for second place in the division and one game out of the second wild-card spot. With the trade deadline coming up on July 30th at 4 p.m., it's surprising the Mariners haven't been more active trying to improve the team for this year and beyond.

The Twins traded former Mariner Nelson Cruz to the Rays for prospects. Even at age forty, Nelson Cruz would have made a fantastic addition to the team as he is still hitting .289/.367/.542 with twenty-one home runs on the season. In his four years with Seattle, Cruz hit .284/.362/.546 with one hundred sixty-three home runs. He averaged a home run every 13.8 at-bats. In his time with the Twins, Cruz hit .304/.386/.598 with seventy-six home runs. He averaged a home run for the Twins every 12.3 at-bats.

Cruz will be a free agent at the end of the season, so it wouldn't have been a long-term commitment for the Mariners. He currently has four hundred thirty-eight home runs in his career. If he can play a few more full seasons, he has a

legitimate chance at the Hall of Fame.

Baseball writer Ken Rosenthal reported on Twitter last week that the Mariners were interested in Pittsburgh's Adam Frazier. Unfortunately, Frazier was traded to the Padres this Monday. Frazier is having a breakout season at age twenty-nine, hitting .324/.388/.448, and leads the major leagues in hits with one hundred and twenty-five. Primarily a second baseman, Frazier can also play the outfield, which would have provided the Mariners with some extra flexibility. Frazier won't become a free agent until 2023.

With Frazier no longer available, there is speculation that the Mariners are looking at acquiring the Royals' Whit Merrifield. This would be a move that doesn't make sense to me. It seems like Merrifield has already begun his decline phase as a baseball player. Now thirty-two years old, his batting average, walk rate, and slugging numbers have all been on the decline since his age twenty-nine season when he hit .304/.367/.438. This year he is currently hitting .272/.319/.403 and is under contract next year and has a team option for 2023.

The Mariners are only a game out of the playoffs, with a winning record against the teams in their division this season. With the sixth-lowest payroll in the major leagues, the Mariners can't afford to stand pat during the trade deadline. The teams they are competing against won't.

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS

Wins			Batting Average		
C. Bassitt	OAK	10	M. Brantley	HOU	.331
G. Cole	NYG	10	V. Guerrero Jr.	TOR	.328
A. Civale	CLE	10	C. Mullins	BAL	.317
Z. Greinke	HOU	10	Y. Guriel	HOU	.311
L. Lynn	CHW	10	X. Bogaerts	BOS	.309

ERA			Home Runs		
L. Lynn	CHW	1.91	S. Ohtani	LAA	35
C. Rodon	CHW	2.24	V. Guerrero Jr.	TOR	32
G. Cole	NYG	2.74	M. Olson	OAK	27
K. Gibson	TEX	2.87	R. Devers	BOS	27
R. Ray	TOR	3.12	M. Haniger	SEA	25

Strike Outs			Runs Batted In		
G. Cole	NYG	166	R. Devers	BOS	81
C. Rodon	CHW	145	V. Guerrero Jr.	TOR	80
R. Ray	TOR	142	S. Ohtani	LAA	76
L. Giolito	CHW	136	J. Abreu	CHW	75
C. Bassitt	OAK	132	A. Meadows	TB	71

Saves			Stolen Bases		
L. Hendriks	CHW	24	W. Merrifield	KC	25
M. Barnes	BOS	22	T. Anderson	CHW	16
R. Iglesias	LAA	21	C. Mullins	BAL	16
A. Chapman	NYG	18	I. Kiner	TEX	15
R. Pressly	HOU	18	M. Straw	HOU	15

MARINERS HITTING

AB – At Bats, R – Runs, H – Hits, HR – Home Runs, RBI – Runs Batted In, BB – Base on Balls, BA – Batting Average, OPS – On Base Plus Slugging, WAR – Wins Above Replacement

	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BB	BA	OBP	OPS	WAR
M. Haniger	377	70	99	25	62	28	.263	.319	.833	+2.2
J.P. Crawford	373	51	100	5	31	33	.268	.329	.697	+2.4
K. Seager	369	39	80	19	58	36	.217	.290	.712	+1.1
T. France	333	47	92	9	44	27	.276	.355	.779	+2.0
D. Moore	234	29	44	10	34	24	.188	.274	.641	+0.8
L. Torrens	184	24	41	12	25	17	.223	.291	.753	+1.2
T. Murphy	176	23	36	8	22	22	.205	.294	.674	+0.8
T. Trammell	156	23	25	8	18	17	.160	.256	.615	-0.4
K. Lewis	130	15	32	5	11	16	.246	.333	.726	+0.5

AL West	W	L	PCT	GB
Houston	61	40	.604	-
Oakland	56	45	.554	5.0
Seattle	55	46	.545	6.0
Los Angeles	50	49	.505	10.0
Texas	35	65	.350	25.5

AL East	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	62	39	.614	-
Tampa Bay	60	40	.600	1.5
New York	51	47	.520	9.5
Toronto	49	47	.510	10.5
Baltimore	34	64	.347	26.5

AL Central	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	59	41	.590	-
Cleveland	49	48	.505	8.5
Detroit	47	55	.461	13.0
Kansas City	43	55	.439	15.0
Minnesota	43	58	.426	16.5



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HARVEST EDITION

Whoopem Up Hollow Farms brightening the day one flower at a time

Locally owned and operated, Waitsburg's newest farm aims to bring joy to customers

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—If you had asked former ICU nurse Brittany Brannock about owning a flower farm a year ago, she would have called you crazy. But funny things happen when you take a leap and purchase a 120-year-old farmhouse with a few acres attached.

Brittany and her husband, Tre, decided to move back to his hometown in 2020, in a year of change, including selling their home in West Seattle and welcoming their son, Bode, into their lives.

The farm is nestled away on a backroad, surrounded by wheat fields.

"We really liked the house," Brittany said, enjoying her shady backyard complemented by the buzzing of happy honeybees and the occasional cluck from content, free-range hens. "It had property, and there were other projects we could do. We put an offer on it and were surprised when it went through!"

With a little bit of elbow grease and a whole lot of love, the Brannocks have transformed weedy, overgrown pastures into colorful cut-flower gardens and bright sunflower patches after just a few short months. They decided to share their newfound labor of love by establishing Whoopem Up Hollow Farms.

"I've always enjoyed flowers. I think they are very special," Brittany said. "They are something that connects people and that people enjoy. I thought since there isn't really anything like this in Waitsburg, why don't we do something?"

Figuring out how to care for the land, establish the flower gardens, and navigate environmental challenges has been a learning experience, Brittany shared. Healthy land husbandry practices are essential to the Brannocks, with Brittany using chickens to help clean up and fertilize areas at the property. The current drought has proven difficult, and she is constantly exploring options to conserve water and move towards more organic practices.

Their flower business is starting out small, with Brittany and Tre selling fresh-



Brittany Brannock, co-owner of Whoopem Up Hollow Farms, loves spreading joy with fresh cut flowers. Flowers are available at College Place and Waitsburg Farmers Markets.

cut arrangements at the Waitsburg and College Place farmers markets. They have plans to expand the business for next summer with a farm stand, larger cut-flower gardens, a u-pick space, and community events.

"It's really neat to see people again and have something that people were excited to see down at the farmer's market," Tre said, sharing that one of Whoopem Up Hollow Farms' first customers was a high school friend's mom. "Brittany was an ICU nurse- this is a complete 180 from what we were doing before. She has found something that she is passionate about, and she can bring joy to other people. It's really neat being able to re-engage and contribute back to the community that has fostered so much of my growing up."

If you'd like to brighten up your home with fresh flowers, check out Whoopem Up Hollow Farms at the Waitsburg Farmers Market on Saturday mornings, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Nancy's Dream Garden Center, or at the College Place Farmers Market on Thursdays, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Lions Park. The farm is on Facebook, as well, by searching the business name.

The best way to contact the Brannocks is by emailing whoopemuphollowfarms@gmail.com.



Photos Beka Compton

Black eyed susans, zinnias, and sunflowers are just a few of the cut flower varieties found at Waitsburg's newest flower farm.

Be safe, understanding harvest traffic

THE TIMES

The 2017 Census of Agriculture found over 4.5 million farm vehicles participate in the United States harvest. At 91%, the bulk of that equipment is tractors, followed by combines, forage harvesters, and other self-propelled equipment. Many of those vehicles will share the road with passenger cars at some point during their season.

Non-commercial drivers are often frustrated when delayed by a convoy of tractors, combines, and flagger vehicles. Frustration can have severe consequences if it fogs judgment. In 2018, farm vehicle accidents claimed 98 lives across the country.

The bulk of harvest lasts only a few weeks in our area. These easy tips make sharing the road with farmers easier for drivers and safer for all involved.

Keep an eye out. Farm equipment, including combines, tractors, grain trucks, and equipment attachments like combine headers, may turn onto a road unexpectedly from a nearby field, driveway, or sideroad. Because of the size of the machinery, it may be difficult for operators to see a car on the road.

Slow down. As soon as you spot farm equipment on the road, tap the brakes. Tractors and other heavy machinery tend not to go much faster than 25 miles per hour. It does not take long to catch up and potentially collide with them. These machines are extremely heavy, with combines often weighing 20,000 pounds or more. They are hard to accelerate, hard to stop, and need lots of space to turn.

Stay a safe distance away. More distance means better visibility. A popular rule of thumb for gauging distance: If you can't see their mirrors, they can't see you.

Pass with caution! It's not uncommon for farm equipment to span into the next lane, especially when turning. It can be extremely difficult to see oncoming traffic or obstacles on the road. It may be hard to judge how many pieces of farm equipment are traveling together.

Plan ahead. During harvest, it is wise to leave a few minutes early to be on time, anticipating getting behind equipment on the drive.

There are many laws and regulations governing

the movement of farm equipment on public roads. Escort vehicles, commonly known as flaggers or pilot vehicles, are required when farmers move a piece of equipment that exceeds 12 feet 6 inches wide.

When traveling in a convoy, escort vehicles are required at the front and the rear of the group. According to the Washington State Patrol, 500 feet between vehicles are required so cars can pass, and the convoy must pull over and let traffic pass if five or more vehicles are waiting to go around.

Typically, farm equipment is prohibited from utilizing the road during the night. There are exceptions for emergency situations and when daylight is adequate enough for visibility. Proper farm equipment nighttime lighting includes two red tail lamps and two red reflectors.

Equipment more than 10 feet wide requires an "oversized load" sign, visible from the front and back on either the escort vehicle or the implement itself.

A safe, successful harvest requires a little extra attention from all drivers. Plan ahead, leave extra space, and support local farmers!

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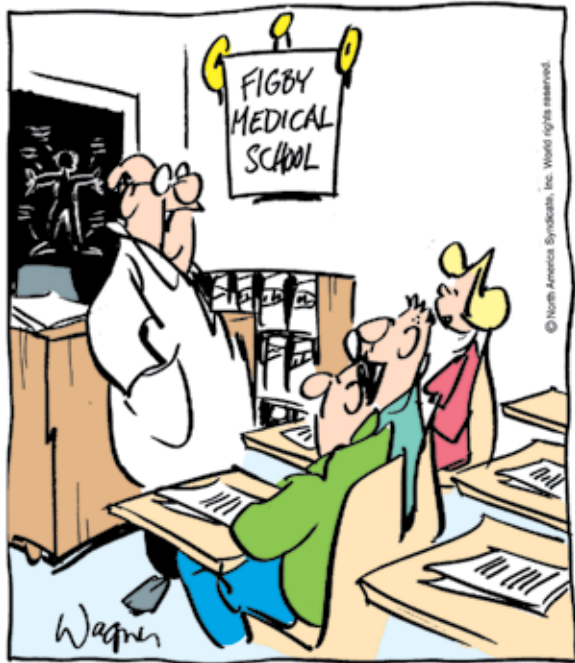
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FUN & GAMES

GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



"In three years you'll be opening offices, so start saving your magazines."

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



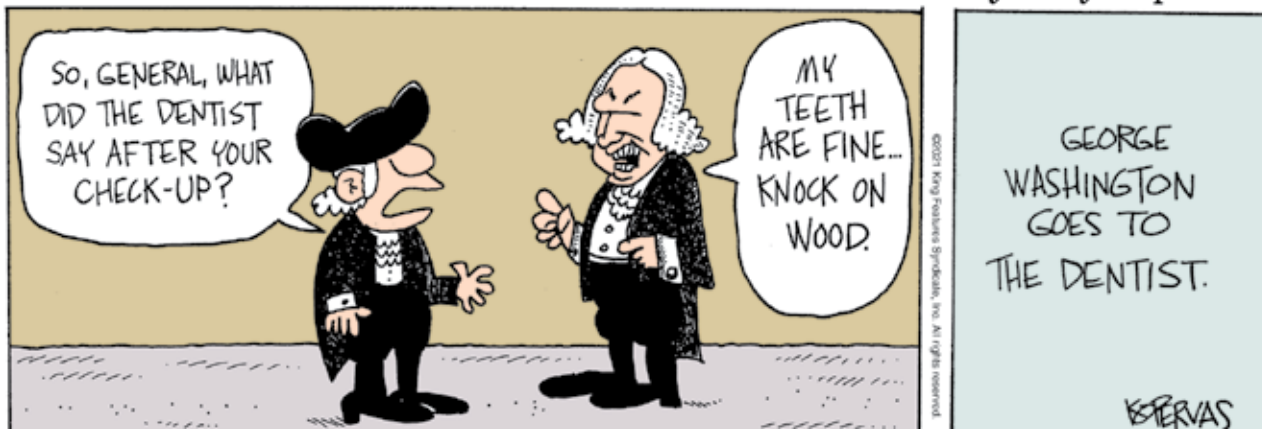
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



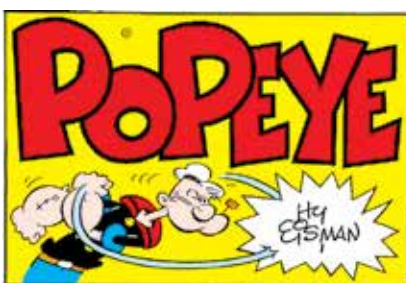
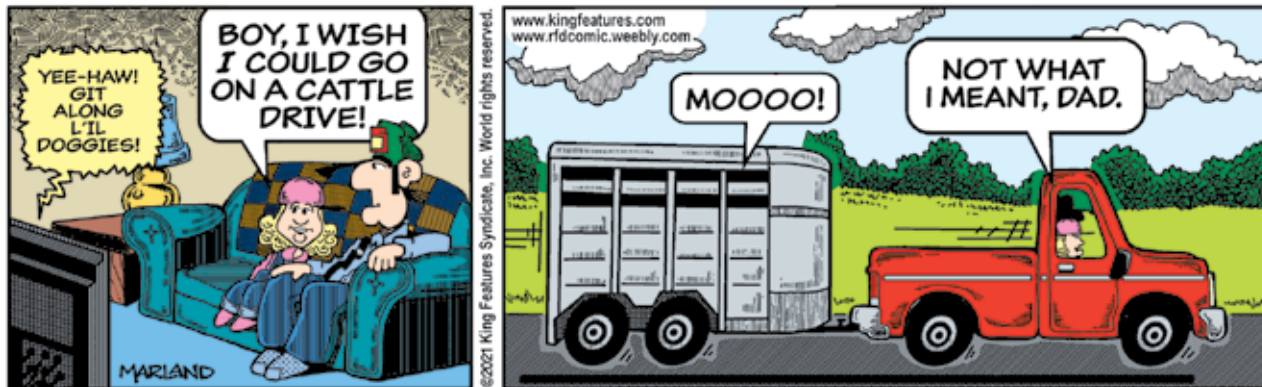
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



PIONEER PORTRAITS

Ten Years Ago

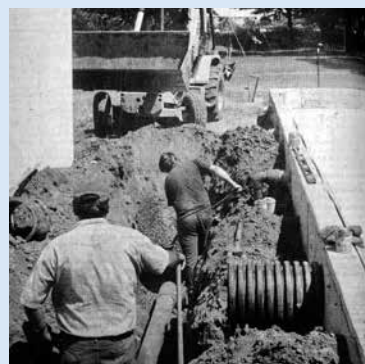
July 28, 2011

For T. J. Hersey, running her father's grocery store in Dayton is a way for him to live on. Hersey is now a third-generation grocer in the town. Her grandfather, H. W. Stephenson, came to Dayton in 1938 from Portland, Ore., and he opened up a grocery in 1944. Hersey's father, Gail Bennet, took over in 1961 and ran the neighborhood Steve's Grocery on Fourth Street until he passed away last year.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

August 1, 1996

Waitsburg's Days of Real Sport Queen Stacey Wolfe placed first at the Toppenish Pow Wow Days Parade on July 4. The following weekend Stacey and Flag Bearer Stata Powers took first place at the Caledonian Games Parade and Rodeo on Sunday. Queen Stacey was accompanied by Karen Mohny and Gail Wolfe when she took another first at the Dayton Depot Festival Parade. The royal court of Queen Stacey and Flag Bearer Stata Powers, accompanied by Val Powers, were at the Chief Joseph Days parade and rodeo grand entry the last weekend in July. When Stacey isn't busy representing Waitsburg, she can be found at the pool in Prescott as a lifeguard.



[Photo caption] The Waitsburg swimming pool project is progressing. City workers George Niño, Sr., William Wilson and Tim Pettichord recently finished installing drainpipe and were readying the area for a time when the decking will be poured. The city council hopes to finish the project this fall.

Fifty Years Ago

July 29, 1971

Waitsburg City Council appointed Mrs. S.R. (Laura Jean) Hevel to fill the unexpired term of Councilman Joe Abbey who resigned after moving into a ranch home out of the city limits. Mrs. Hevel, a native of Pendleton, Oregon, is a graduate of Oregon State University and taught school before going to Waitsburg. She and her husband, Dr. S.R. Hevel, are parents of David, a University of Washington Senior, and Claudia, a Sophomore at Stanford. The newest member of the Council, as far as City records show, is the first woman to ever serve as an active member.

Waitsburgites can pretty well figure that the harvest season is officially here, when they can stand on Main Street and watch the combines make their rounds on Reservoir Hill. Such was the case Monday morning, when Ron Kenney started harvest operations with three machines on the hill immediately north of town. The hill, which ripens early because of the south and east exposure, is usually one of the first fields to be ready.

Seventy-Five Years Ago

August 1, 1946

Bob Carney has purchased the local delivery service from Roy Crall and took over the business on Thursday Aug. 1. Mr. Crall is working for Pictswest Foods.

The Bramlet-Kessler Sawmill on Lewis Peak in the Blue Mountains, which is operated by Frank and Ralph Bramlet, and Leland Kessler of Waitsburg, is cutting this week some of the largest timber ever taken out of this part of the country. The timbers are 44 feet long, some 10 by 26 feet and others 12 by 28 feet.

Betty Anderson was awarded the honor of being all-round camper of the Camp Fire group attending Camp Kiwanis last week from the Blue Mountain district.

One Hundred Years Ago

July 29, 1921

Miss Wilma Mock and Mr. Milford Gould were quietly married Wednesday at Dayton.

Miss Celestia Loundagin and Mrs. Lucile Holbrook went into camp at Guntle Springs on the Coppei the first of the week.

Merrill Cox and Bob Weller returned the first of the week from a fishing trip over on the Little Salmon. They report splendid fishing.

Ralph McKinzie killed a very large rattlesnake in the road near Starbuck Sunday. The rattler was 4 feet long and 2½ inches in diameter at the middle and had 7 rattles and a button.

One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago

July 31, 1896

Harvest is now in full blast, and the demand for harvesting supplies is on. If you are looking for the best goods adapted to harvest requirements, try Davies and Wilson's. See their \$2.00 harvest outfit consisting of Jumper, Overalls, Gloves, Drawers, Undershirt and Shirt. It's a corker for the money.

Rev. V. C. Evers, who has been pastor of the First M. E. Church for the past four years, is to be succeeded by Rev. M. C. Reuter. Rev. Evers is a good man and able.

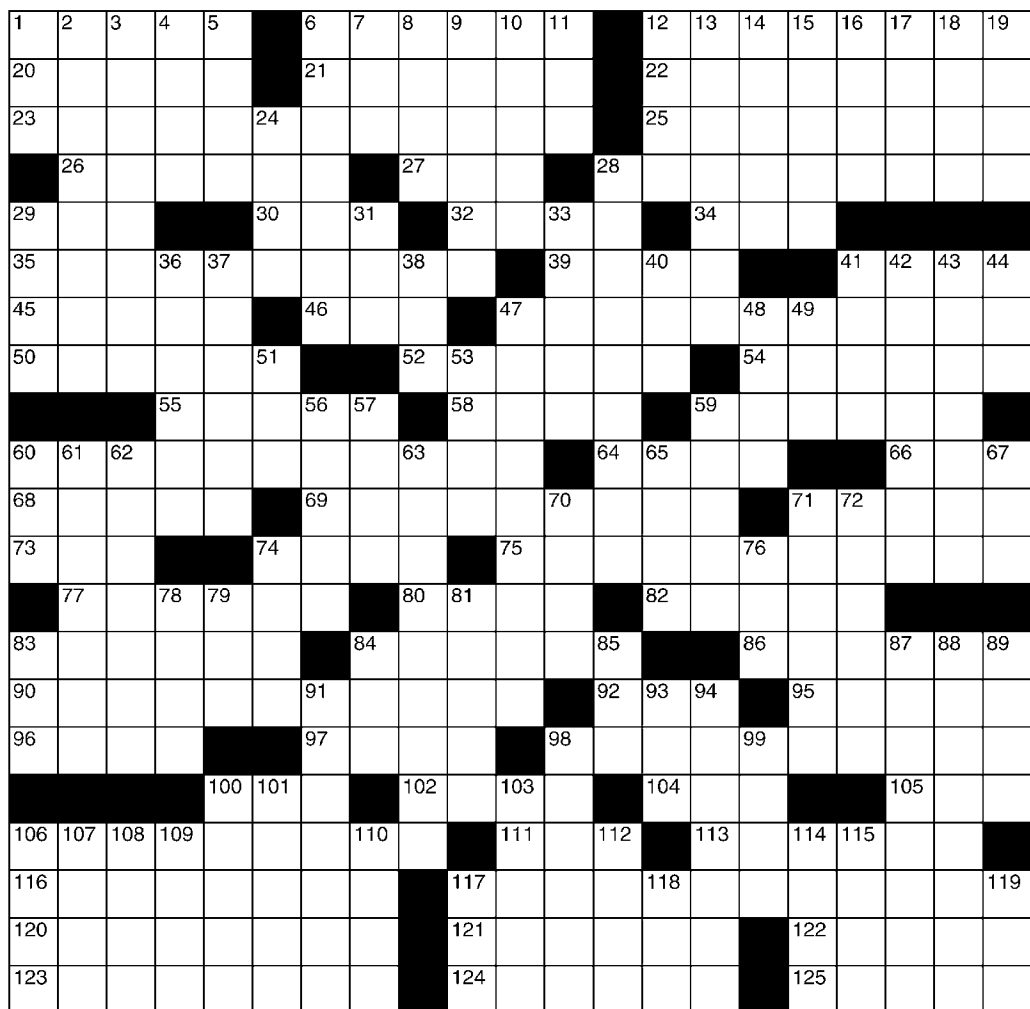
Mrs. J. C. Arnold had the misfortune to lose a valuable Jersey milk cow this week.

PUZZLES & LIFESTYLES

Super Crossword

I WILL GO ON

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pagan belief
 - 6 Shortly
 - 12 Refuses to comply with
 - 20 Bubbling over
 - 21 Not end on schedule
 - 22 She played Natalia Boa Vista on "CSI: Miami"
 - 23 Warming up a 24-ounce Starbucks drink?
 - 25 Corded phone connection
 - 26 See 11-Down
 - 27 Beijing-to-Taipei dir.
 - 28 Indian-language word meaning "lower limbs?"
 - 29 Greek dawn goddess
 - 30 Car ad abbr.
 - 32 Edison's middle name
 - 34 Go quickly, old-style
 - 35 Put clothes on a raccoon relative?
 - 39 Margarine, old-style
 - 41 Praise highly
 - 45 Gossipy sort
 - 46 Pea keeper
 - 47 Shiny gray wrist bones?
 - 50 Bagel option
 - 52 Non-paper money
 - 54 Defeated in a footrace
 - 55 Countrified
 - 58 "Right on!"
 - 59 Echo
 - 60 "That South Asian yogurt drink is my favorite!"
 - 64 Strip race
 - 66 Anger
 - 68 Defiant type
 - 69 Scan for typos and such
 - 71 "Me and Bobby —" (1971 hit)
 - 73 Off-roader, in brief
 - 74 Counterfeit
 - 75 Spatula on a Hawaiian porch?
 - 77 Noontime nap
 - 80 Ring match
 - 82 Singer Debby
 - 83 Words after many fiction book titles
 - 84 Legions
 - 86 Least vicious
 - 90 Beautiful woman in the Muslim paradise who's destitute?
 - 92 During each
 - 95 Actress — Grace Moretz
 - 96 Really tiny
 - 97 Be worthy of
 - 98 Chariot in which the Bible's three wise men traveled?
 - 100 Fast escape
 - 102 1952 Winter Olympics city
 - 104 Egg: Prefix
 - 105 Foldable bed
 - 106 Pool lengths completed by Hindu
 - 111 "... bug — feature?"
 - 113 Typos and such
 - 116 Geometric plane curve
 - 117 Fight a ruling family of old Florence?
 - 120 Stopped sleeping
 - 121 Tristan's lady
 - 122 Tendencies
 - 123 Anonymous
 - 124 Wood finish
 - 125 Inner tension
- DOWN**
- 1 Crib outburst
 - 2 "Except after C" lead-in
 - 3 Roughens
 - 4 — Field (Mets' stadium)
 - 5 "Put — on it!"
 - 6 The so-called "Godfather of Punk"
 - 7 Fall mo.
 - 8 Malting drinks
 - 9 Potted dwarf
 - 10 Spy's info
 - 11 Start of an end-of-week cry that's followed by 26-Across
 - 12 Wrap offerer
 - 13 Sir Walter Scott hero
 - 14 Christian music singer — Patty
 - 15 Classic song
 - 16 Umpire's call
 - 17 Lake that abuts Ohio
 - 18 Egg foo —
 - 19 Gets the idea
 - 24 DEA figure
 - 28 "Bamey Miller" star
 - 29 Ben & Jerry's rival
 - 31 "Red Book" Chinese chairman
 - 33 Put in words
 - 36 Go hungry
 - 37 Justice Alito
 - 38 Raiders' stats
 - 40 Lead-in to a holiday
 - 41 Delayed
 - 42 Call into a court of law
 - 43 Cornered
 - 44 Big racket
 - 47 Between solid and liquid
 - 48 Filmmaker Nicolas
 - 49 Tea holder
 - 51 Time stretch
 - 53 Old El — (salsa brand)
 - 56 Top dog
 - 57 Tomb raider
 - 59 Sirius XM medium
 - 60 Lyric writer Gershwin
 - 61 "We'd better skip that"
 - 62 Apparent
 - 63 Mexican hats
 - 65 Broccoli —: Var.
 - 67 Perpetually, to poets
 - 70 Be worthy of
 - 71 1972 Summer Olympics city
 - 72 Christmas Nativity display
 - 74 WWII battle site
 - 76 Unit of bricks
 - 78 "Climb — Mountain"
 - 79 Six, in Sicily
 - 81 Forebodings
 - 83 Yellowfin tuna, in Hawaii
 - 84 Santa —
 - 85 Wrap offerer
 - 87 Deciding (to)
 - 88 One-man bands, e.g.
 - 89 Examine
 - 91 Doe and hen
 - 93 Vainglory
 - 94 Construction bolt installer
 - 98 Many a Utah churchgoer
 - 99 Fish lurer
 - 100 Vilify in print
 - 101 By itself
 - 103 Untethered
 - 106 Time stretch
 - 107 Tot's H2O
 - 108 Composer Khachaturian
 - 109 Create
 - 110 Hip hangouts
 - 112 Showing skill
 - 114 Country's McEntire
 - 115 Yemeni port
 - 117 Part of ACLU: Abbr.
 - 118 Fruity drink
 - 119 Suffix with 31-Down or 93-Down



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MY RECIPES Luke Chavez

Farro Tabbouleh Salad



Living in wheat country, I feel a deep connection to the fields of grain that surround me, even though I'm not a farmer myself. The rolling hills give us a colorful reminder of the changing seasons: from vibrant spring green to the golden hues of summer. Watching the combines and grain trucks during the busy harvest season, I am always reminded that our farmers, with the help of modern machinery, are continuing an agricultural tradition started many millennia ago. According to the archaeological record, wheat was being cultivated by man as early as 9600 BCE, and the growth of ancient civilizations was fueled by the domestication of this important staple crop.

For this week's recipe, I wanted to highlight the ancient grain farro, a hulled wheat species closely related to the wild einkorn that was first cultivated in regions of the Fertile Crescent. Farro cooks into a nutty grain with a delightful chew and is wonderful served hot or cold. Here the farro is chilled, combined with an abundance of herbs and lively Mediterranean flavors, to make a refreshing summer salad.

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup farro
- 4 cups water
- 1 bay leaf
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ red onion, chopped
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- ¼ to ½ cup olive oil
- 1 cup fresh mint leaves, loosely packed
- 1 cup flat leaf parsley leaves, loosely packed
- 1 cucumber, peeled and ¼-inch diced
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- Kosher salt
- Fresh ground black pepper

Directions:

Cook Farro. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large skillet that has a lid, over medium heat. Add farro and stir constantly, toasting farro for 3 to 5 minutes. Farro will darken slightly and become fragrant. Add the water, bay leaf and ½ teaspoon of kosher salt. Bring to a boil, stir, and cover with lid. Reduce heat to maintain a gentle simmer, and cook until tender, another fifteen to thirty minutes. Farro will have a firm chew and still hold its shape. Start checking at twelve minutes. If grains start exploding you have cooked them too long. Drain and spread on a sheet pan to cool. Discard bay leaf.

Put chopped onion in a small bowl. Sprinkle ¼ teaspoon kosher salt over onions and add lemon juice, set aside to macerate (soften). While onions rest, chop and prepare all the other vegetables. Finely chop mint and parsley together.

When farro is cool, begin building salad. In large mixing bowl add farro, tomatoes, cucumbers, herbs, lemon zest, and onions with all the lemon juice. Toss to fully mix. Pour in olive oil, starting with ¼ cup. Season to taste with salt and black pepper. Toss thoroughly. Add more olive oil if needed. Taste and adjust seasoning. Serve immediately or cover and chill for up to an hour to marinate the flavors.

Notes:

Traditionally, tabbouleh salad is made with bulgur, which is a cracked grain used throughout the Mediterranean and middle east. I've also seen versions made with freekeh or even couscous. This version celebrates the larger grains of farro.

Farro can be found in grocery stores with well-stocked bulk bins or packaged under the Bob's Red Mill brand. I am a big fan of Bluebird Grains which is a wonderful grower of organic farro in Winthrop, Washington.

Fresh mint and parsley are key to this salad. Add some fresh dill for an added dimension of herbal zest. Green onions can be a bright substitute for the red onion.

Serve this cool and satisfying salad as a side dish to grilled meat or fish. Perfect for a summer feast. Enjoy, and give thanks to the hard work of our area farmers.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Super Crossword

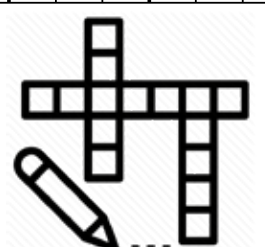
Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

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

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THE LAST PAGE

VIEWS OF OUR LOCAL HARVEST ARE BEAUTIFUL FROM THE ROAD



Beka Compton



Bill Rodgers

"Waiting for harvest"

THE VIEW BEHIND FARM VEHICLES CAN BE DECEPTIVE





Beka Compton



Beka Compton

One vehicle pulling a combine header may seem easy enough to pass, but it was hiding an entire convoy of farm equipment. When approaching farm equipment, it is always a good idea to give them a little extra space, for your safety as well as theirs.

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