

 The Governor announced on **February 17** that the indoor mask mandate will be lifted on **March 21** 

# The Times

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ONE DOLLAR

## The Times has a new phone number.

Recently 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.



Three Waitsburg kindergarteners are playing in the Walla Walla indoor soccer league at Blue Ridge Elementary. Coach Chelsie Abel also has one player from Dayton and five from Walla Walla on her team. The team practices once a week and plays games on Saturdays. They started January 22 and their last game is on March 5th. In her first year as an indoor soccer coach, Abel stated "It is so much fun!" (L-R) Cash Grende, Cooper Smith and Cannon Abel (Waitsburg); Charlie Wright (Dayton)

## THIS WEEK



Rollin' Colon (see page 2)



Royal Block not Writer's Block (see page 7)



Skillet Apple Upsidedown Cake (see page 9)



Around the Valley: with Karen Huwe (see page 10)

## INDEX

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



## City council accepts bids for city surplus properties

*The former city hall will have new owners, and the former "pocket park" will add to a new business, American 35.*

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—Sales agreements will be negotiated with the city for two Main Street properties after bids were accepted at the February 16 Waitsburg City Council meeting.

Mayor Marty Dunn, Councilmembers Jillian Henze, Jim Romine, Randy Charles, and Kevin House were in attendance. Councilmember Court Ruppenthal was not available for the meeting.

During the public comment portion, Tom Bennett asked if there was a way to address the dog waste left on the sidewalks and in the alley behind his building on Main Street. City Administrator Randy Hinchliffe said that the best thing to do is snap a photo of any dogs that Bennett sees, send them to Hinchliffe, and he will try to contact the pets' owners.

The council reviewed bid proposals for the surplus property, including the former city hall and the vacant lot at 124 Main Street. At the December 2021 meeting, the council approved changes to the city's surplus property policy, allowing the city to consider proposals and the amount of the bid.

There were two bids for the city hall property; Hinchliffe recommended the council approve the bid from Randy Hollowell of Walla Walla for the former City Hall building. In the proposal, Hollowell said there were four partners for the project: He will be the lead and primary contact, and other partners would be James, Bruce, and Brent Hollowell.

With more than 20 years of experience in the construction field, Hollowell said that he and his partners have the experience, knowledge, and resources to renovate the building for a retail space at the main level and residential units on the upper level.

In the bid proposal, the retail space will be changed minimally to create booths for pop-up space for local artisans and vendors. Hollowell said they were considering converting the middle room of the building to commercial kitchen space with a three-compartment sink, prep sink, and a handwashing sink. This kitchen would be a commissary providing opportunities for food trucks or a snack/lunch shop in the rear space.

'Ultimately, I want what is best for Waitsburg,' the proposal reads. 'I have been coming through since I was a kid. I have watched the cycles, but due to recent events, feel like it is headed to a whole new level.' The entire proposal can be temporarily found on the City of Waitsburg's website.

Hollowell and his partners expect anywhere from \$250,000-\$350,000 in, on top of the \$205,000 they offered for the building. He wants to begin the renovations as soon as possible.

Councilmember Randy Charles asked Hinchliffe how the city could enforce a buyer to follow through on their proposals. He said this was not a reflection on Hollowell, and he was only concerned over the possibility the building could be left empty.

Hinchliffe said there could be a clawback provision in the sales agreement; however, he did

**SURPLUS- PAGE 3**

## Brown's position at Dayton School District uncertain

*Dayton School Board delays vote on changes to administration included in Superintendent's recommendations proposal.*

By Justin Jaech | THE TIMES

DAYTON – The Dayton School Board convened their regular meeting, both in-person and over Zoom, at 6 PM, February 16, 2022. Present were Superintendent Guy Strot, Chair Jeffrey McCowen, Vice-Chair Grant Griffen, Zac Fabian, Korinda Wallace, and Aneasha Dieu.

The meeting was well attended by the public, both in-person and online.

The Consent Agenda, consisting of past minutes and several personnel changes, mainly in the coaching staff, was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Before the first public comment portion of the meeting, McCowen gave an update concerning a group call initiated a few hours earlier by Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal. In the call, he said Governor Inslee would most likely announce the end of the mask mandate for most indoor activity in the following days which would go into effect for schools in March. The Governor has since announced the mask mandate for schools and most other indoor activity will be lifted on March 21. Healthcare facilities, school buses, public transit, prisons, and long-term care facilities will still continue to require masks.

Charles Amerein, Columbia County Commissioner, spoke during the first public comment period: "Hello, ladies and gentleman, my name is Chuck Amerein. I'm a member of this community and an elected representative [unintelligible], and I just wanted to say that it's been quite clear for some time masks are infected, that the masking isn't about safety or health, it's about compliance, it's about teaching blind obedience and I don't think that's something I'd like to see happen because the safety of this nation depends on the future of the kind of people we raise in it. And if we raise people who are afraid, which is what this is, this is a symbol of afraid, of being afraid of catching the cold, being afraid of catching something that has a 99.8 percent survivability ratio [sic] and so, if you're afraid of that you wear a mask and you're a good person – made a virtue out of being afraid -- and I don't agree with that. I've caught the COVID, I've been in the hospital with COVID and you know what? I just happened to be one of those lucky people who had a really bad reaction to it but I still don't think this is the right thing. I wouldn't want anyone else to signal that they're afraid of something that probably isn't going to do them any harm just to be a good citizen. When you start doing things like that, then you start doing other things. You start ostracizing, othering [sic], you start making other people the enemy. You start thinking less of yourself and start listen-

**DSD- PAGE 5**

# NEWS

## NEWS BRIEFS

## LETTERS

### AT THE LIBERTY: *The King's Daughter*

THE TIMES

*The King's Daughter* - King Louis XIV's (Pierce Brosnan) quest for immortality leads him to commission a young sea captain to capture and steal a mermaid's (Fan Bingbing) life force, a move that is further complicated by his illegitimate daughter's (Kaya Scodelario) discovery of the creature.

Rotten Tomatoes critics did not care for this film and gave it only 19% favorable ratings, but the audience reviews were 80% favorable. The cast also includes William Hurt, Julie Andrews, Rachel Griffiths, Pablo Schreiber and Benjamin Walker. It is rated PG for some violence, suggestive material and thematic elements. Runtime is 91 minutes.

This movie will show Feb. 25-1 March, at the Liberty Theater's usual days and times (see advertisement here or the theater website). Use of masks is required of guests, and seating is distanced between groups.



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Rated PG-13

**THE KING'S DAUGHTER**

### WASHINGTON'S MASK MANDATE ENDS MARCH 21 FOR MOST INDOOR SETTINGS

*Masks will still be required for healthcare settings, long-term care facilities, prisons, and jails*

THE TIMES

OLYMPIA—Governor Jay Inslee last week announced that, on March 21, the indoor mask mandate will be lifted for most settings. The February 17 announcement was made after nearly two years of mandated mask wearing, and recent rapidly declining COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

Masks will no longer be required in schools, child-care facilities, bars, restaurants, churches, gyms, grocery stores, or retail and business establishments after the goal date. Masks will still be required for dental and outpatient offices, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and all correctional facilities. Federal law will remain in effect, which requires masks be worn on all public transportation systems and school buses.

The March 21 date, which falls on a Monday and is more than a month away from the announcement, may seem arbitrary for some, but during the press conference, Inslee explained that the goal for lifting the mandate is to reduce the state's COVID-19 hospitalization rate to 5 per 100,000. According to the latest modeling from the Washington State Department of Health, that goal will be met by March 21.

"At that level of hospital admissions, the hospitals will be able to have relatively normal functions," Inslee said, during a press conference.

Local governments will still have the authority to implement their own face mask or vaccination requirement for employees and customers, and school districts will still be able to mandate that students and teachers wear masks, should they choose to do so.

### ROLLIN' COLON EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY COMING TO WALLA WALLA

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—The Rollin' Colon is coming to Walla Walla. This walk-through model of a colon will be in the main building at Providence Southgate Medical Park, 1025 S. Second Ave., in Walla Walla, from March 6 to 12. Hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. with special hours for school students on March 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Colon Cancer Foundation's traveling Rollin' Colon is a 20-foot long, 12-foot high walk-through reproduction of the human colon. The Foundation created the exhibit to inform the public about the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer and the other diseases of the colon. Healthcare providers from Providence St. Mary Regional Cancer Center and Providence Gastroenterology will be on hand to answer questions during the exhibit.

This fun and interesting multimedia experience provides important health information, helping to encourage colorectal cancer prevention and screening across the country. As visitors walk through Rollin' Colon's three-dimensional interior they will view everything on a large scale, including giant polyps, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, and the different stages of colorectal cancer.

The visit from the Rollin' Colon is supported by the Providence St. Mary Foundation to further education about colon cancer prevention and treatment in the Walla Walla Valley.



### HOPE THAT PORT COMMISSIONERS SEE VALUE OF CHILDCARE PROPOSAL

Dear Editor

Regarding the February 9th meeting of the Commissioners of the Port of Columbia, as reported by Justin Jaech in the *Waitsburg Times*, "Port Commissioners Delay Decision on Childcare Proposal." The purpose of the Port is to "work to create an environment that is attractive to business and industry. The Port of Columbia serves as the lead Economic Development agency for Columbia County, and uses infrastructure development, real estate management, transportation, small business assistance, and community outreach to create such an environment." When presented with an opportunity to do that work, some of the port commissioners seem to be ambivalent.

I hope that the port commissioners see the value in the proposed project, so that we can finally, after almost two years of sacrifice and hard choices, get some childcare in this community. Our economic well-being is tied to its ability to provide adequate childcare for working families. Some of the sacrifices working parents are making in order to care for their kids, (leaving their jobs, leaving town, reducing hours) means fewer dollars spent at local businesses and fewer people to work at those businesses. The financial strain and emotional toll these sacrifices take on families can only have a depressive effect on the local economy.

I understand that childcare may not be an issue that some of our commissioners have had to deal with directly, and maybe they don't understand the urgency of the situation. As a parent who has had to make some tough choices, I can say from experience, that it is dire. A decision needs to be made now for the future of the community. There was much talk in the last election about wants versus needs. Adequate, quality, reliable childcare is an immediate need. We've been waiting for almost 2 years for a new daycare to open. It's apparent that it isn't going to happen without help. The Port is in the unique position to help local families while improving the local economy. I hope they don't let politics get in the way of making a real impact in the lives and businesses of Columbia County residences.

Thank you,  
Amy Rosenberg  
Dayton, Wash.

### SEPARATING NATIONALISM FROM PATRIOTISM

To the Editor;

In a recent County Commissioner's meeting The Club requested a grant of \$5,000. The Club is an organization that is filling a need in the community – they are teaching social and emotional learning, personal responsibility, and positive relationships with peers and adults, among other things. As an additional requirement of this grant being approved Mr. Amerein wants them to fly the flag – as he puts it, "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."

I am a member of that tax paying public and I have no desire for them to fly the flag.

You have no idea how that organization feels about patriotism – just because they have no flag displayed? How presumptuous!

The flag has been co-opted by those who think they are more patriotic than the rest of us who don't walk around in flag cloths and fly it all the time (and I live with a Veteran).

When I filed my property taxes, there was no line on the assessment stating that by paying my taxes I consented to the requiring of any grantees or other recipients of funds having to fly the flag.

There is no state law requiring the recipient of public funds to fly a flag so quit with the flag waving nonsense.

Now let's speak to that word nationalism. Nationalism, which is a political system that puts one's nation above all others, should be separated from patriotism, particularly as nationalism is often driven more by racial and ethnic superiority than a love of country. In the US it is associated with right-wing extremism. 55% of Americans feel that white nationalism poses a very or somewhat serious threat to the U.S. (*Nationalism in the US - Statistics & Facts* Published by Erin Duffin, Mar 11, 2021)

So Mr. Amerein, is nationalism your agenda for Columbia County? Or is it truly patriotism? Patriotism though like love, or religion, cannot be forced down anyone's throat. If people want to fly a flag they will. They don't need your help.

J.L. Goldsmith  
Dayton, Wash.

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**SURPLUS - FROM PAGE 1** not elaborate on what that might look like.

The council voted unanimously to accept the bid from Hollowell and partners with a clawback provision. Now the city attorney will negotiate a sales agreement with the buyers, which will need approval by the council.

There was one bid submitted for the vacant lot at 124 Main Street. The bid for \$24,000 was submitted by Tom and Judy Bennett, who are opening American 35 in the building adjacent to the lot. The Bennett's proposal stated the lot would provide outdoor dining and gathering space for their business. The council voted unanimously to accept the bid.

The council reviewed the status of purchasing an emergency backup generator. Before the pandemic, the city received a FEMA grant for \$51,000 to purchase and install the generator. After supply chain issues delayed the project, costs for the generator increased. Hinchliffe was able to get an additional \$15,000 from the grantor, however, the costs have continued to rise. The city received two bids to continue the project; Walla Walla Electric was the low bidder at \$83,161, and Dayton Electric bid \$95,405.

Hinchliffe said he had looked into a low-hour used generator, however, the grant will only allow the purchase of new equipment. The project is mainly funded by grant money, with the city responsible for 25% of the total project cost. Hinchliffe estimated that the city's portion would cost \$10-12,000, up from the original \$6,200.

Hinchliffe has reached out to inquire about a second grant increase. If the increase is denied, the city's portion for the project may be as much as \$20,000, should they move forward. The city's share would come from the Water and Sewer fund.

The council voted to move forward with the project.

FEMA funds will cover the cost of a new culvert on E Second Street, near Harmon Street, replacing the current drainage ditch that flooded in 2020.

A public hearing will be held at the March meeting, regarding the possible vacation of an alley that splits a property on W Third Street. The alley, according to Hinchliffe, is no longer used as an alley and has no utilities connected to it.

During council reports, Jim Romine reported that potential vandalism on Main Street had been thwarted just ten days prior to the meeting. While crews were pouring a new concrete slab at the north end of Main, a four-legged, scruffy-haired resident, otherwise known as Tuffy Stellwagon, had attempted to permanently imprint the wet concrete. He was caught in the act by city staff and returned home with clean paws. Romine reported that Tuffy is on house arrest for the time being.

In the Administrator's report, Hinchliffe said work on the splash pad had been delayed after parts had not yet been shipped, and the city is still looking for contractors. He said he had hoped the pad would be open by Memorial Day, but that looks less likely.

Hinchliffe said a past employee has been rehired for the fourth public works position and will start next month.

## Waitsburg School Board discusses upcoming Job Fair

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The Waitsburg School Board met Thursday, February 17, for a regular monthly meeting. Board members Christy House, Stephanie Cole, Lisa Morrow, Carol Clarke, and Sarah Boudrieau were all present.

Secondary Principal Stephanie Wooderchak had a short report this month, sharing that the ski days had beautiful weather so far, and the kids were enjoying their time at Ski Bluewood.

Wooderchak said the Social Studies curriculum committee had been meeting to determine if there is a need for a social studies department. They had reached out to surrounding school districts to see what other schools were teaching in social studies. Wooderchak said the last time the board considered a social studies department was in 2012.

The Job Fair will take place at the high school on March 8, and the list of exhibitors is just shy of 30 participants. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m., and surrounding schools have been invited to attend. Wooderchak said she hoped to have the FFA members act as greeters and help with the luncheon that afternoon.

Preston Hall Middle School will host an Open House event during parent-teacher conferences on March 29 and 30. The high school has requested that Senior Exit interviews be included in the conference period.

DW Sports Athletic Director Sam Korslund provided an update on the sports combine. He shared that middle school basketball was the only winter sport being played. Currently, 21 students signed up for baseball, 14 for softball, and only six for track and field. Three students have registered for golf. Korslund noted that the numbers could change a little bit before the season.

Korslund said he was sure two of the six students signed up for track would drop out before the start of the season. The combine requires a minimum of five athletes to have a team. Middle school students may be able to practice with the high school athletes, Korslund said, and eighth-grade students would be allowed to compete against high school students. Both the head and assistant coach are

onboard with the younger students. Calls to rally track and field athletes popped up on social media over the weekend.

The Combine committee is considering a Wolfpack Booster Club to help split the costs associated with DW Combine, said Korslund. Waitsburg's Booster Club is currently inactive, while Dayton's Booster Club is very active. The booster club would help raise funds for major projects, like football field repairs or improvements should they arise, and to mediate conflict between the two schools.

Korslund said he wanted to give the students a chance to provide feedback on upcoming coach evaluations. He acknowledged that a student could use their voice to retaliate against a coach. However, he would be comparing the student's evaluations to his own. This information was all discussed at the Combine Committee meeting.

"I want to hear what the athletes have to say," Korslund said. "This generation does not like to feel like their voice is not being heard."

Closing out his report, Korslund said that the Combine committee was considering Wolfpack banners for both school's gyms. He said each gym's current branding would not be changed, but he wanted to get a Combine banner in each gym.

Superintendent and Elementary Principal Mark Pickel reported that the Jump for Heart event was so successful he might have to rent a wetsuit to fulfill a deal he made with students. Each student who raised at least \$100 would get the opportunity to hit the principal with a pie. Pickel said that he would get all the pie-throwing out of the way in one day, though it sounded as if it was going to be an all-day affair. The elementary school had the goal to raise \$4,000 for the charity, Pickel did not have a final amount to report.

Switching to the Superintendent's Report, Pickel said Governor Jay Inslee announced the end of the indoor masking requirement on March 21, after two years of safeguarding against the COVID-19 virus. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Pickel reported that, in talking to some of the high school teachers, he had learned that the student representative had historically been the ASB president. He asked if the board would be interested in pursuing that or prefer to have students apply for the representative position.

Later in the meeting, board members House and Cole expressed that they wanted a student representative there because they are interested in the position, not just because they are the ASB president.

He brought up the idea of a Move-Up Night for the district so that students and parents could get to know their upcoming teachers and classrooms. The school hosted a similar event in 2019, which was well attended.

During old business, Pickel reported on enrollment, saying there were 113 elementary students, 70 middle school students, and 79 high school students, totaling 262 students in the district.

## 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 Commercial Club

Last Thursday of each month  
February 24, 12:00 p.m.  
Ten Ton Coffee, 216 Main Street, Waitsburg  
Zoom info available by emailing [waitsburg-cc@icloud.com](mailto: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](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

First and third Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.  
Lions Club, Waitsburg Fairgrounds  
For more information email: [waitsburgpr@protonmail.com](mailto:waitsburgpr@protonmail.com)

#### 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, March 1

Chicken fried steak  
Potatoes  
Vegetable  
Roll  
Fruit  
Cookie

### WAITSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### Thursday, Feb 24

B: Muffin & yogurt  
L: Beef tacos, chips  
Refried beans  
Garden salad  
Fruit

#### Friday, Feb. 25

B: pancake on a stick  
L: Joyce's choice

#### Monday, February 28

B: Yogurt parfait  
L: Pulled pork sandwich  
Baked beans  
Macaroni salad  
Fruit

#### Tuesday, March 1

TBA

#### Wednesday, March 2

TBA



*Church Directory*

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**Waitsburg Presbyterian Church**  
504 Main  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m.  
337-6589  
Pastor Stan Hughes

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**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

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**Waitsburg Christian Church**  
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Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
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337-8898  
Rev. Cameron Hedges



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## WSU women's basketball team poised for NCAA tournament

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES

The women's NCAA Division I Tournament will host sixty-eight teams with play-in games for the bottom four seeds for the first time.

The number of teams that qualify for the women's tournament has changed over the years. When the tournament started in 1982, only thirty-two teams qualified. By 1994, the field grew to sixty-four teams, matching the men's tournament, and stayed at that level until this year.

In an early tournament prediction by ESPN, the Washington State Cougars were given a #10 seed which translates to a top forty ranking. At this point, six

teams from the Pac-12 are expected to make the tournament. A Washington State win against #2 Stanford on February 24 would go a long way in securing a better tournament spot by moving the team into a top 25 ranking. Stanford has only lost three games this season, all to ranked opponents, and is riding a fifteen-game win streak that stretches back to December 31, so it is a bit of a long shot.

Should the Cougars lose to Stanford, they will have another opportunity to improve their ranking at the women's Pac-12 tournament to be held in Las Vegas March 2-6. How they perform in that tournament against ranked teams in the Pac-12 Conference will go a long way in determining what seed they receive in the tournament. They could be placed in the West bracket, which will be played in Spokane this year. If not an actual home-court advantage, it would certainly be a home crowd advantage for the Cougars.

The women are currently 1-5 against the top twenty teams this season, with the lone win coming last Sunday against #8 Arizona. This win capped off a stretch of eight wins over their last ten games and has moved them into a second-place tie in the Pac-12 Conference with #25 Oregon.

The Cougars feature a pair of sisters from New Zealand, both guards. Charlissee Leger-Walker, a sophomore, leads the team in scoring, averaging 16.1 points per game, and her sister Krystal Leger-Walker leads the team in assists with 4.5 a game and steals with 1.7 per game.

Despite returning most of their team that made the NCAA tournament last year, the Cougars were picked in the preseason to finish only sixth in the Pac-12. Should the team make it this year, it would be only the third time the Cougars have made the tournament. They have yet to win a game at the tournament.



8th grader Bea Karl shoots a free-throw against Rogers on Thursday

## DW Wolfpack win one, lose two

By Karen Huwe | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG/DAYTON—The middle school DW Wolfpack girls basketball team has six players from Waitsburg and seven from Dayton.

The team played in three games last week. They traveled to Rogers Adventist School in College Place on Monday, February 14th and lost 34-26.

On Wednesday, February 16th, the Prescott Tigers came to Waitsburg. The Wolfpack fell behind early in the game, 10-0, but battled back for a loss in a close game, 24-23.

Thursday, February 17th, DW had a rematch with Rogers. It was an extremely physical game with about 20 fouls called in the second half. The DW girls won 28-20. The middle school girls have three games left this season.

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## 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.

Periodical postage paid at Waitsburg, Wash. 99361. (USPS 630-120) Postmaster: Send address changes to The Times, Subscription Mailing Address, P.O. Box 97 Waitsburg, Wash., 99361. For address corrections send Form 3579.

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 rejected 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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## SOME POWDERED INFANT FORMULA HAS BEEN RECALLED DUE TO POSSIBLE BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION

THE TIMES

OLYMPIA—Abbott Nutrition announced late on Thursday, February 17, that it is voluntarily recalling powdered infant formula produced at their Sturgis facility in Michigan. This includes Similac, Alimentum, and EleCare brand formula.

The recall comes after four consumer complaints about infant illnesses related to Cronobacter sakazakii and Salmonella bacteria. In all four cases, infants were hospitalized, and Cronobacter may have contributed to a death in one case. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is investigating and working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state and local partners to alert customers to avoid purchasing or using certain powdered infant formula products manufactured at that facility.

The FDA is advising consumers not to use Similac, Alimentum, or EleCare powdered infant formula if:

- The first two digits of the code are 22 through 37; and
- The code on the container contains K8, SH, or Z2; and
- The expiration date is 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later.

Washington WIC is in the process of alerting local WIC providers and WIC participants of the voluntary recall. If you have one of these cans, you SHOULD NOT use the formula. Either return it to the store, contact Similac at [www.similacrecall.com](http://www.similacrecall.com), or call 1-800-986-8540. WIC families are encouraged to call their clinic if they cannot get resolution from the store.

If you don't participate in WIC but are concerned you may have one of the recalled formulas, please visit [www.similacrecall.com](http://www.similacrecall.com), or call 1-800-986-8540. The website allows you to look up the formula lot number to see if it's been recalled.

If your infant has consumed the recalled formula, please contact your healthcare provider.

Cronobacter bacteria can cause severe, life-threatening infections (sepsis) or meningitis (inflammation of the membranes that protect the brain and spine). Symptoms may include:

- poor feeding
- irritability
- temperature changes
- jaundice (yellow skin and whites of the eyes)
- grunting breaths
- abnormal movements

Cronobacter infection may also cause bowel damage and may spread through the blood to other parts of the body.

Salmonella is a group of bacteria that can cause gastrointestinal illness and fever called salmonellosis. Most people with salmonellosis develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps. More severe cases of salmonellosis may include a high fever, aches, headaches, lethargy, a rash, blood in the urine or stool, and in some cases, may become fatal.

Don't dilute infant formula. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions on the can to prepare the formula. The FDA advises parents and caregivers not to make or feed homemade infant formula to infants.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) works with federal, state, and local partners to help people in Washington stay healthy and safe. The WA WIC program is one of the ways we carry out this work by providing access and services that improve the lifelong health and nutrition of over 140,000 women, infants, and young children in Washington state.

## DISTRICT 3 COUNTY COMMISSIONER GREG TOMPKINS WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

THE TIMES

In a letter to *The Times*, County Commissioner Greg Tompkins announced he would not seek re-election.

"After much thought and consideration, I have decided not to seek re-election to a fifth term as Walla Walla County Commissioner, District 3. I am proud of the accomplishments and changes I have been a part of during my sixteen years as a county commissioner. I had the pleasure of working with very dedicated and committed former county commissioners, David Carey, Pam Ray, Gregg Loney, Senator Perry Dozier and Jim Johnson as well as my current seatmates Commissioners Todd Kimball and Jenny Mayberry.

"Also, I would be remiss not to include retired Clerk of the Board, Connie Vinti, current Clerk of the Board, Diane Harris and Assistant Clerk of the Board, Jill Munns, who have made the past sixteen years enjoyable and successful.

"I have full intentions of completing the remainder of my term as we are in the midst of some major construction projects at the Courthouse campus and potentially with the Walla Walla City-County dispatch facility.

"It has been a pleasure serving the taxpayers of Walla Walla County and I have sincerely appreciated the moral and financial support I have received from my constituents throughout my years of service. I'm looking forward to slowing down and spending time with my family, most importantly with my grandchildren."



## DSD- FROM PAGE 1

ing to what you're told to. And I'm not for that, I'm for a strong, independent, self-reliant, critical thinking type of population because that's only thing that keeps government from being despotic, and I didn't really plan on speaking tonight and this is all coming from off the cuff. Heretofore, at the Columbia County Commissioners we have never, I think, initially when it was bad, I did wear a mask because I thought it was actually something to be afraid of. I thought that this thing has a two percent mortality rate. Two percent? No, four percent actually. Four percent would have been forty people dead on our community. I thought that's a big number. You gotta be ready for that. And as we kept the international traffic open and they had flights coming in from China this thing was raging where they had no other restrictions, they did nothing all that time. They told people not to wear masks because they couldn't get enough of them. When they told people to wear anything, you know, these stupid cloth masks which they've actually admitted don't work. These are all things that say this isn't near as bad as they made it out to be, and we've been reacting this way all this time, setting a bad example for the children, showing them that it's alright to be afraid, that's what you should be. You shouldn't be smart, you shouldn't think critically, you just do what you're told and that's what I object to and I don't think that's [unintelligible] now that's just my opinion. Thank you."

As of February 16, 2022, Columbia County has 601 COVID cases recorded, 56 hospitalizations, and 13 deaths, this calculates to a death rate in Columbia County of two percent (not 0.2 percent) and the hospitalization rate is nine percent.

Pearl Dennis asked what the financial impact might be if the DSD chose to end mask mandates now instead of waiting until they are officially suspended in March.

Strot said \$289,000 of state funding would be at risk of being withheld monthly.

Grace Trump gave the ASB Report, and the Elementary and Secondary principals also shared their respective reports with the Board.

Sam Korslund was not available to give his report as Athletic Director.

Strot reported that as of the time of the meeting, one staff member was out with COVID-19, and no students presently have COVID-19.

He said he intended to lift the mask mandate for students and staff as soon as allowed, but anyone who wished to continue wearing a mask could do so. This option would apply regardless of vaccination status.

Strot also reported on the enrollment numbers in the district. In June 2021, there were 386 K-12 students, which has dropped to 336 students presently.

Veronica Perez gave the Budget Status Report. She emphasized the impact of declining enrollment on school revenue. A loss of 30 students results in a decrease of revenue to the schools of over \$260,000. The general fund balance is forecast by Perez to drop from \$899,268 last year to \$360,261 this year.

Pearl Dennis raised a point of order concerning public comments on the evening's agenda. She said the board would be voting on item 13, the recommendations by the Superintendent, after the public comment period, making any comments on the subject irrelevant to the action.

The public comment period was followed by an executive session, for which the stated purpose was to "review the performance of a public employee."

Following the executive session, the action item was scheduled, listed as Item 13.

The Superintendent recommendations to the Board were contained within a written presentation made available to the Board and the public online. The presentation mainly highlighted the district's problems, principally the migration of students from Dayton to surrounding schools. Most of the recommendations closely followed Strot's improvement plan, which he has been developing and presented in the past, both to the Board and public forums.

New to the recommendations in item 13 is an effort to expand a partnership with Walla Walla Community College to offer greater learning opportunities.

What apparently brought the public in force to this meeting was a new item, titled "Reorganize administrative structure." This item would have the elementary school principal act as principal for grades K - 7. The Superintendent would act as both superintendent and high school principal. The recommendations propose three new positions: two teachers on special assignment (TOSA) for academic support and a K - 8 dean of students.

"So first of all, I'm a little annoyed that the agenda item comes out after executive session when we know we lose a lot of people at that point instead of being up where there might be fuller attendance. So, I'm kind of annoyed by that and just a question, are you anticipating taking action on that... tonight? I can understand reviewing it as perhaps as an agenda (item) seven report, but in terms of action item, I don't think these things have come before the Board before. It's big! It's got a lot of meat to it, and I don't understand why it's kind of sneaking in here at the bottom without a lot of notice to the community or dialog with the community. So, I am concerned that you are thinking of actually taking some action on that item," said Dennis.

Strot responded, "And we were planning on taking action on it, and the reason for the executive session is there are some personnel names that are associated with it that we are going to talk about in executive session. It will be a very quick executive session. That's the reason why..."

Dennis said, "I think it's a lot to try to push through at the end of a - at the very tail end of a school board meeting that as far as I can tell, and I try to keep track of these things, as far as I can tell there was no notice, or not much notice to the community, unless something kind of just leaked out and somebody happened to see it in the packet and maybe told their neighbors. That's not the way, in my opinion, that's not the way to effect changes that are this big."

Dennis was referring to the proposed administration restructuring Strot added to item 13 of his recommendations. Many were in attendance after seeing the change in the board packet posted online shortly before the meeting. The restructuring would eliminate one administrator, keeping Amy Cox as the Elementary School principal for grades K-7 and Strot acting as Principal for grades 8-12 and District Superintendent. This would mean Kristina Brown would lose her position with the district.

This was not discussed in prior presentations or workshops with staff or the community.

After approving policy readings, a surplus sale, and school calendars, the Board went into executive session which was expected to last for about ten minutes.

The Board reconvened about thirty minutes later instead of ten minutes. McCowen announced the Board would not be taking any action tonight but would defer action until the next March meeting.

Strot presented his recommendations to the board in open session. He did not clarify his position on the administrative shake-up or specifically explain what Brown's employment status would be at the district.

At the end, although it was not a public comment period, Dennis asked how the plan is being coordinated with the staff and the community.

McCowen said the board would be voting on the entire Recommendations by the Superintendent proposal at the next Board meeting on Wednesday March 2, 2022. It is also possible for the board to only approve sections of the proposal. There will be public comment at that meeting before any action. Since the restructuring item has not been publicly workshoped, interested parties should reach out to the district before the meeting with questions and comments. The proposal is available on the Dayton School District website. Superintendent Strot said he could be reach by email or phone.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

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# LEGALS

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA No.: 22-4-00016-36 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: CHARLENE E. WILLIAMSON, 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: February 10, 2022

Personal Representative: Cherrie L. Wallace  
Brian H. Andrews, WSBA #57791

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. 22-4-00016-36  
The Times  
February 10, 17, 24, 2022  
2-10-c

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA NO: 22-4-00027-36 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

RCW 11.40.030  
In re the Estate of: JAMES PETER RIZER, 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: February 17, 2022.

Susan J. Swayne, Personal Representative Attorney for Personal Representative:  
Jeremy Hyndman, WSBA #44320

Basalt Legal PLLC  
6½ N. Second Avenue, Suite 200  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509-529-0630  
The Times  
February 17, 24, March 3, 2022  
2-17-a

### Notice of Adjournment

The Regular meeting of the Columbia County Health System Board of Directors that is scheduled to be held on February 23, 2022 at 1:30pm in the Administration Building on the District's Dayton, Washington campus has been adjourned to March 3, 2022 at 1:30pm in the Administration Building on the District's Dayton, Washington campus.

The Times  
February 24, 2022  
2-24-c

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

No. 22 2 00080 36 SUMMONS

VIRGIL REED, Plaintiff, vs. SHERWOOD & ROBERTS-WASHINGTON, INC., a Washington for-profit corporation and assigns, Defendants.

A lawsuit has been started against you in the above-entitled court by the Plaintiff named above. The Plaintiff's claims are stated in the written Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you with this Summons.

In order to defend against this lawsuit, you must respond to the Complaint by stating your defense, in writing, and serving a copy upon the undersigned attorney for the Plaintiff within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, excluding the day of service (or within sixty (60) days if this Summons was served upon you outside the State of Washington), or a default judgment may be entered against you without notice. A default judgment is one where Plaintiff is entitled to what he asks for because you have not responded. If you serve a Notice of Appearance on the undersigned attorney, you are entitled to notice before a default judgment may be entered.

The originals of this Summons and Complaint have been filed with the clerk of the above-entitled court.

If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be served in time.

This Summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of the Superior Court Civil Rules of the State of Washington. DATED this 9th day of February, 2022.

MINNICK-HAYNER, P.S. By: /s/Mona J. Geidl, WSBA #42455, Of Attorneys for Plaintiff P.O. Box 1757 Walla Walla, WA 99362 (509) 527-3500  
The Times  
February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2022  
2-17-b

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA No.: 22-4-00017-36 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

(RCW 11.40.030) IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: ROBERT L. WILLIAMSON, 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: February 10, 2022

Personal Representative: Cherrie L. Wallace  
Brian H. Andrews, WSBA #57791

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. 22-4-00017-36  
The Times  
February 10, 17, 24, 2022  
2-10-b

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

No. 22 4 00037 36 PROBATE NOTICE OF CREDITORS

In Re the Estate of PRISCILLA J. DAUBLE, 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 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.

Personal Representative: DENNIS D. DAUBLE

Date of First Publication: February 24, 2022

/s/ DENNIS D. DAUBLE, Personal Representative of the Estate of PRISCILLA J. DAUBLE

Attorney for the Personal Representative and address for mailing and service:  
Steven C. Frol  
Minnick-Hayner, P.S.  
P.O. Box 1757 249 West Alder  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
Court of Probate Proceedings and Cause Number:

Walla Walla County Superior Court Cause No.: 22 4 00037 36  
Publish:  
The Times  
February 24, March 3, 10, 2022  
2-24-a

## SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON, WALLA WALLA COUNTY

No. 22-4-00032-36 Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030)

In re the Estate of Sally Edith Reynolds, 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 timeframe, 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.

Date of First Publication: February 24, 2022

Lenard L. Wittlake, Personal Representative

Attorney for the Personal Representative:  
Lenard L. Wittlake, PLLC, WSBA #15451

P.O. Box 1233  
Walla Walla, WA 99362 (509) 529-1529  
Court of Probate Proceedings:  
Walla Walla Superior Court  
315 W. Main  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
The Times  
February 24, March 3, 10, 2022  
2-24-b

## CLASSIFIEDS HELP WANTED

### Full Time Bookkeeper and Agriculture Service Tech

The McGregor Company is a recognized leader in providing excellent service to local farm families. Our company offers outstanding career prospects, benefits, and advancement opportunities. We have a current opening in the Dayton/Waitsburg area for a full-time **Bookkeeper**. Primary Responsibilities: Customer service, invoicing product sales, inventory management, accounts payable records, phone and radio communication, and general office administration. We also have current openings for full-time **Service Technicians**, duties may include helping customers, loading trucks, deliver product to the field, working in the shop and doing maintenance around the facility. Full time positions with overtime in busy season.

Minimum Qualifications: **(Bookkeeper)** Computer skills required and experience in a bookkeeping/accounting role. Knowledge of ag fertilizer/chemical business preferred. **(Service Technician)** mechanical experience, ag experience, or willingness to learn. Application available at [www.mcgregor.com](http://www.mcgregor.com) email resume to [hr@mcgregor.com](mailto:hr@mcgregor.com).

### DAYTON PUBLIC WORKS SEASONAL WORK

The City of Dayton Public Works Department is accepting applications for two Temporary/Seasonal employees for the Parks, Cemetery and other areas where needed. Duties will include but are not limited to mowing, weed eating, trimming, restroom maintenance, general groundskeeping. The wage is \$14.49 per hour, with no benefits included. The position will be for 90 days worked. Applicants must have a valid Washington State drivers license and be at least 18 years of age. Jobs are open until filled. Applications available at Dayton City Hall in Dayton, 111 South 1st Street or apply online at [www.daytonwa.com](http://www.daytonwa.com). Any questions about the position, please call 509-382-2361 and ask for Ryan.

### DAYTON PLANNING COMMISSION - 3+ VACANCY

The objective of the city planning commission is to provide guidance and direction for Dayton's future growth through continued review, improvement and implementation of the city's comprehensive land use plan and related land use documents. Eligibility requirements: Must have interest in environmental affairs, planning, land use, urban recreation, and/or residential and commercial development. Must live in the city limits or the urban growth area. To apply, submit a letter of interest to the Director of Planning and Community Development. Appointments are made by the mayor with the confirmation of the City Council. For additional information, please contact Dayton City Hall at 509-382-2361 or email [info@daytonwa.com](mailto:info@daytonwa.com).

### POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR:

**PARA EDUCATOR** (7 hrs./day). The Waitsburg School District is accepting applications for Para Educator position primarily for secondary age students for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. Must hold an AA degree or equivalent. Please direct questions and inquiries to Stephanie Wooderchak, Secondary Principal at 509-337-6351 or E-mail: [swooderchak@waitsburgsd.org](mailto:swooderchak@waitsburgsd.org)

**SUBSTITUTES.** Waitsburg School District has immediate openings for substitute teachers, substitute office staff, substitute classroom para-educators, substitute custodians, substitute school bus drivers and substitute food service assistants.

Application materials are available online @ [www.waitsburgsd.org](http://www.waitsburgsd.org) or by calling the District Office at (509) 337-6301.

## Office Space FOR LEASE

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1200 square feet, 2nd floor of owner occupied building. Private entrance, reception area, office space, conference room, kitchen, bathroom. White box condition. Contact: Mark, 509-520-9308, [pam@hjpe.com](mailto:pam@hjpe.com)

# Dayton Post Office Sesquicentennial

THE TIMES

DAYTON—March 15, 2022, will mark the 150th anniversary of the operation at the Dayton Post Office. Originally a post office by the name of Touchet was established in 1864. When city of Dayton was officially founded in 1872, the post office's name was changed from Touchet to Dayton.

Dayton was platted as a town by Jesse N. Day in March of 1872. After the name change for the post office, Jesse N. Day was appointed postmaster in September of 1872. The first postmaster of Dayton was George W. Miller, who served as postmaster of Touchet at the time of name change.

To mark the 150th-anniversary event a commemorative cover has been designed by Robert Keatts, author of Postal History of Southeastern Washington.

The cover has been designed and formatted for a No. 10 official envelope. The cover will be available for \$2.50, including a stamped envelope with the Dayton Post Office cancellation of 15 March 2022. Each cover will be autographed by Postmaster Malinda Thrall.

An insert gives a brief history of the Dayton Post Office and a list of postmasters and their appointment dates from 1872 to 2022.

The commemorative cover is not an official USPS item but will be available at the Dayton Post Office on March 15, 2022. After that date it may be available at the Depot gift shop or from the author by emailing [robert\\_wwscc@yahoo.com](mailto:robert_wwscc@yahoo.com). Interested individuals may pre-order, but the covers will not be available until after the commemorative date. All orders will be mailed in larger envelopes to prevent USPS mail distribution center spray cancels being applied to the commemorative cover.

Below is a sample of the commemorative cover to be canceled at the Dayton Post Office on 15 March 2022. The cover will be limited to 100 copies.



# Royal Block adds local writers to the menu

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—Wine enthusiasts, art lovers, and musicians have all enjoyed the opening of the Royal Block, in Waitsburg last year. Preparing for the third book reading in less than a month signals the interest in the new venue from local authors and readers alike.

The Times columnist Brad Trumbo debuted his book, *Wingshooting the Palouse*, earlier this month at the Royal Block with a book signing event. The evening was well-attended by readers, upland game hunters, friends, and curious folks drawn in by the warm light shining through the tall, historic windows. It was an excellent opportunity to meet one of the area's most prolific and nicest bird hunting writers.

Walla Walla-based author and poet Charles Potts held a reading on February 17 attended by more than 30 residents and visitors from Waitsburg, Dayton, and Walla Walla. At the beginning of the reading, Potts announced that all money raised from book sales and donations that evening would benefit the Weller Public Library in Waitsburg.

Karen Huwe, boardmember of Friends of the Weller Public Library, shared that nearly \$500 had been raised, and while the board is still deciding which project the money will go towards, they were all very appreciative of the support.

"We (Friends of the Library) are always doing renovations, always looking to buy new books," Huwe said. "We really appreciate Charles choosing to benefit the library, and we appreciate Lane (Gwinn) giving him the suggestion."

The Royal Block will be celebrating International Women's Day on March 5, with a reading by former Waitsburg Mayor Markeeta Little Wolf. She will be reading from her new book, *The Wrestler's Daughter*. This book was published just before Christmas and reviewed in the January 13, 2022, edition of *The Times*. It is a book of recipes wrapped in Little Wolf's memoirs.



Above: Author Charles Potts discussing his work and raising money for Weller Public Library.

Right: Brad Trumbo signing books and chatting with readers, hunters, and friends.

Left: Markeeta Little Wolf will be next at the Royal Block. Reading from her book on March 5, 5:p.m.



# And the Season is?

By Vicki Sternfeld-Rossi | THE TIMES

The day before we left for Los Angeles, we enjoyed lunch with our friend Eric on our backyard deck. Eric declared, "I'm calling it, Spring is here." Right! Heard that before.

While in LA, I received a text from one of my Waitsburg friends with a picture of crocus springing up in her yard. She also wanted me to know that Spring had arrived.

I texted back, "Yeah, I remember last year when we had two feet of snow the last two weeks of February."

I have a picture of a vase of my daffodils sitting on the deck with six inches of freshly fallen snow on the table surrounding them. It's a cute picture and a reminder of the cold to come. And, evidently, rightly so. It's snowing today and we are going into single digit temperatures later this week. This time I am prepared.

First, I will be turning on every sink, shower and bathtub faucet in the house and guest house. I will crank up the heat in every room and keep all the bathroom and kitchen cabinet doors open. I am determined I will not have frozen pipes again!

No garden clean-up started at this house yet. I know I should probably be thinking about doing something garden prep wise, because I went to Cascade the other day, and they have tons of garden soil, compost, and fertilizer bags stacked in the front. As long as I see snowflakes, I will continue to procrastinate.

At least I had a healthy dose of sun in Los Angeles and a few stunningly sunny days here in Waitsburg to curb my crankiness. However, with Spring come taxes and as I start preparing to do our first set of taxes for the restaurant, and my per-



sonal taxes, I may go back to cranky mode.

Math has never been my strong suit. Although I am good at arithmetic, preparing taxes, financial statements and anything that is not just a quick calculation is not my forte', nor anything I enjoy. As I've often mentioned, patience is not a virtue of mine, and tax preparation require a lot of it.

I've recently noticed (maybe because I know tax season is imminent) that anything related to numbers is becoming an irrational annoyance to me. First, the Superbowl. Why does the NFL insist on using Roman numerals to count the games? LVI? Isn't it just easier to say "56"? Are they going to eventually change to meters instead of yards? I never did understand the 1st and 10 down. Is it ten tries? One yard out of a possible ten? Who cares? Move

the ball to the goal, then over the line and score!

Olympic coverage had so many numbers running on the screen when athletes were competing, I began to get bored. Ice skating has so many intricacies; artistic, technical, penalties, reductions, and commentary it all starts distracting me from the actual skating. The skier's and skateboarders have distance, height, timing, number of runs, and I'm sure other factors that count. How about a new scoring system; don't fall, don't knock down a gate, just go faster and beat the others down the hill?

Now, I've discovered Curling. Agreed, it doesn't have the speed of skiing, the danger of snowboarding or the artistry of skating, but it drew me in. No plethora of numbers constantly flashing across the screen, the players were so riveted in their plays, there was teamwork and it appeared there was good sportsmanship among the competitors.

With the end of the Olympics and a little time before taxes are due, the only numbers I am intently watching are the weather temperatures. Is it spring yet?

## BIRTHDAYS

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



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

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

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

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

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

**March 2:** Alina Reese, Dean Atkinson, Kyla Winger, Rich Fry, Sandy Startin, Peter Mercer, Bill Callahan, Mike A. Mayberry and Jessica DeCoria.



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Waylon Lee Cole,  
Love Mom and Dad

# FUN & GAMES

## The Friendly Forest

By Jimmye L. Turner



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



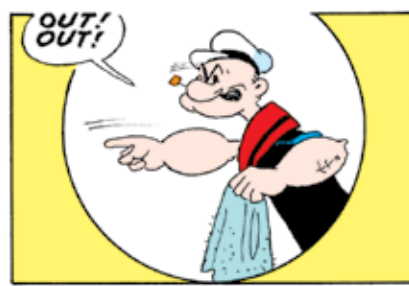
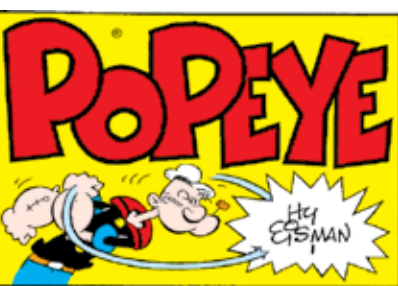
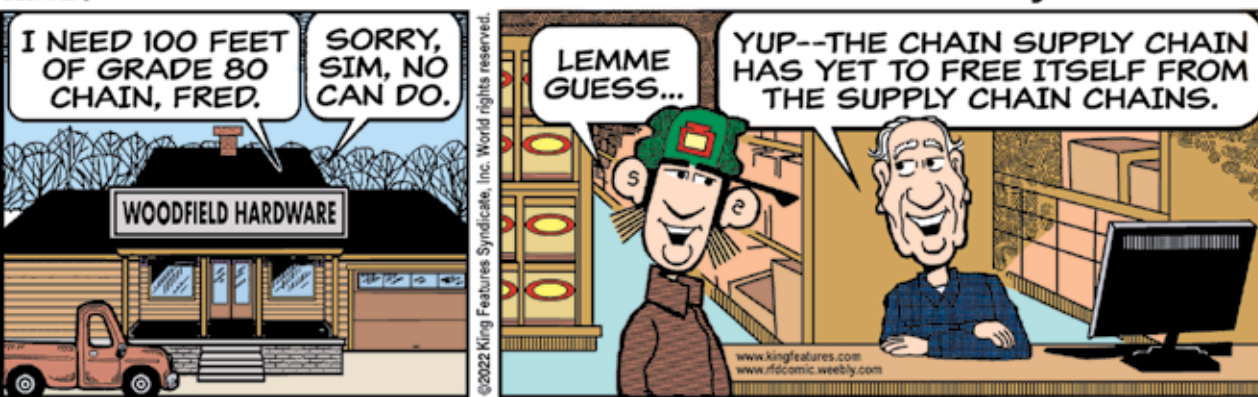
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



## Touchet Valley Weather

Feb. 23, 2022

### Waitsburg's Seven Day Forecast

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Rain & Snow Possible	Scattered Rain
High: 27 Low: 16	High: 33 Low: 15	High: 39 Low: 19	High: 46 Low: 27	High: 48 Low: 33	High: 53 Low: 39	High: 55 Low: 40

### Weather Trivia

What was the biggest recorded outbreak?  
 Answer: On April 3rd and 4th of 1974, 148 tornadoes traveled across 13 states.

### Weather History

Feb. 23, 1990 - A fast-moving storm produced near blizzard conditions in Michigan. Snowfall totals ranged up to 9.5 inches in Allegan County, wind gusts reached 74 mph at Ann Arbor, and five-foot snowdrifts were reported around Saginaw.

### Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation
Tuesday	50	37	46/33	0.02"	0.04"
Wednesday	53	33	47/33	Trace	0.40"
Thursday	52	34	47/33	0.00"	-0.36"
Friday	59	36	47/33	0.00"	43.0°
Saturday	56	42	48/33	0.00"	40.1°
Sunday	49	35	48/33	0.02"	+2.9°
Monday	41	25	48/33	Trace	

Data as reported from Walla Walla

### Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Last 2/23	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	First 3/10
	Wednesday	6:42 a.m.	5:31 p.m.	12:48 a.m.	10:04 a.m.	
	Thursday	6:40 a.m.	5:32 p.m.	2:06 a.m.	10:43 a.m.	
	Friday	6:38 a.m.	5:34 p.m.	3:21 a.m.	11:33 a.m.	
	Saturday	6:37 a.m.	5:35 p.m.	4:27 a.m.	12:37 p.m.	
	Sunday	6:35 a.m.	5:36 p.m.	5:20 a.m.	1:51 p.m.	
	Monday	6:33 a.m.	5:38 p.m.	6:02 a.m.	3:10 p.m.	
	Tuesday	6:31 a.m.	5:39 p.m.	6:34 a.m.	4:30 p.m.	

## PIONEER PORTRAITS

### Ten Years Ago

February 23, 2012

Dayton High School students don't have to wait for the new skills center to be built at Walla Walla Community College to gain employable skills before they graduate. They can, and many do, enroll in the high school's welding class to satisfy credit requirements and learn a trade they can use as a career or as part-time work to pay for other education. Steve McLean has been teaching welding at Dayton High School for 33 years. His uniform is dirty blue coveralls with "Boss" stitched to the front. The "Boss" currently has 42 students in his welding classes, which he said is a pretty average number for the term.

### Twenty-Five Years Ago

February 27, 1997

Waitsburg City Council voted last week to "pursue negotiations" with Walla Walla County Sheriff Bill Jackson for law enforcement services in lieu of maintaining a marshal's office in Waitsburg. The action reversed the direction the governing body indicated at its Feb. 5 meeting. Jackson, attending the council meeting Feb. 19 with County Commissioner Pam Ray, proposed providing services to the City of Waitsburg for the remainder of 1997 for between \$96,000 and \$100,000. The City's 1997 police budget is \$112,000.

### Fifty Years Ago

February 24, 1972



[Photo Caption] Scouts invaded the Fire Department during the Citizenship activities of Scout Week. Hanging on the new pumper are (top) John Mason, Mark Leid, Loyal Baker and Wade Done. Standing below are Honorary Fire Chief David O'Brien, Daron Baird and Ken Lucas. Waitsburg Fire Chief Jack Otterson showed the scouts all the equipment in the local department.

### Seventy-Five Years Ago

February 28, 1947

Pictsweet Foods, Inc. spent over \$1,350,000 in Waitsburg and vicinity during the year 1946, according to figures released by the local cannery office today.

Henry Conover has been appointed a justice of peace for the City of Waitsburg to replace A. S. Dickinson.

Bluebirds met Monday and held their first cooking lessons. Lois and Louise Dye and Frances Donley made cupcakes and koolaid, and served the girls. Mrs. Brunton, our sponsor, and Judy Brunton, visited during the afternoon. The committee chosen for cooking next Monday will be Deana Land, Lynn Jones and Evelyn Miller.

### One Hundred Years Ago

February 24, 1922

The purebred hog auction sale, held at Walla Walla last Friday proved to be a very successful affair and the result should prove to be of much benefit to the hog industry in this Valley. Poland China hogs were purchased by C. N. Eaton and J. W. Sweazy.

A number of young people gathered at the home of Celestia Loundagin for a good time Tuesday evening. There were 8 present. Refreshments were served.

Judge H. V. Grubbe was in Dayton Wednesday where he attended a D.A.R. dinner, the guest of the Dayton comrades.

### One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago

February 26, 1897

Waitsburg Academy defeated Whitman Academy at football on Feb. 22 by a score of 6 to 0.

Last Wednesday Chas. Shaffer, a young man living near Alto was shooting squirrels with a Winchester rifle when the firing pin flew out striking him near the right eye and cutting a very ugly wound. It is thought that the eye may be saved but it was a very close call.

Col. E. G. Babcock of the Columbian Nurseries made us a pleasant call this week and added his name to our subscription roll. Col. Babcock will soon have the finest nursery and orchard in the state. He is now putting out another orchard of 20 acres.

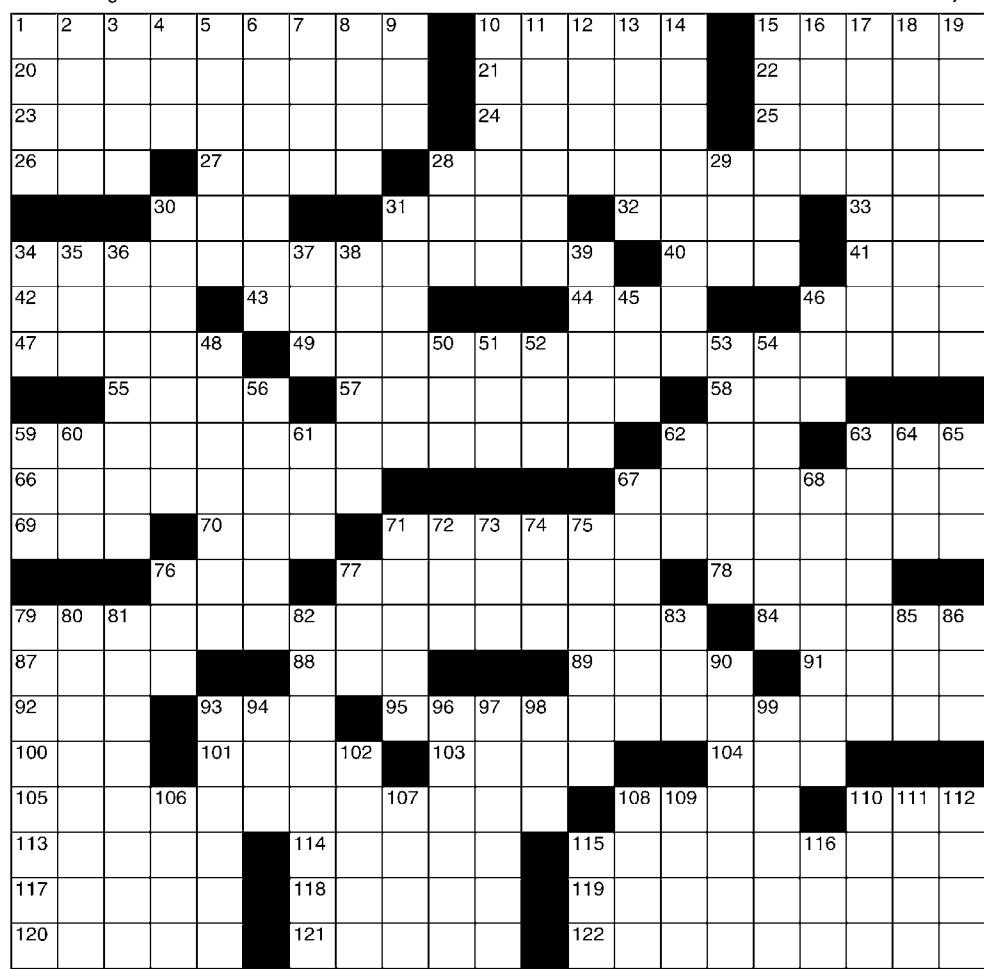


# PUZZLES & LIFESTYLES

## Super Crossword

PROGRAM FINALES

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sci-fi zapper
  - 10 "Flashdance" star Jennifer
  - 15 1,152, to Caesar
  - 20 Stateside
  - 21 U-shaped bend in a river
  - 22 Protest shout
  - 23 Gave spirit to
  - 24 Chicago airport
  - 25 See 42-Across
  - 26 Bad grade
  - 27 Causes wonder in
  - 28 Subcompact car of the 1980s
  - 30 Naughty kid
  - 31 Saroyan's "My Name Is —"
  - 32 Mex. miss
  - 33 Abate
  - 34 HarperCollins or Simon & Schuster
  - 40 — Antonio
  - 41 Suffix with Brooklyn
  - 42 With 25-Across, Czech tennis great
  - 43 Crude dude
  - 44 Gallery stuff
  - 46 Film director Preminger
  - 47 Holiday song
  - 49 Optimistic attitude
  - 55 Give and take
  - 57 False appearances
  - 58 Flaky dessert
  - 59 Restricted entry
  - 62 USMC rank
  - 63 Frat dude
  - 66 Soon-to-be adolescents
  - 67 Inquire into
  - 69 One of 100 in D.C.
  - 70 Monk's title
  - 71 Stuff applied to the wall of a room
  - 76 School org.
  - 77 Certain Ukrainian
  - 78 Fine riverbed sand
  - 79 Athlete's advantage
  - 84 1836 Texas
  - 87 Abbr. on a phone dial
  - 88 Sgt., e.g.
  - 89 Must-have
  - 91 In a bit, to bards
  - 92 "— a snap!"
  - 93 Took a chair
  - 95 Features of many limos
  - 100 Sue Grafton's "— for Noose"
  - 101 Movie-rating org.
  - 103 Defendant's opponent
  - 104 Part of LAPD
  - 105 "Necktie," "bathrobe" or "jumpsuit"
  - 108 College bigwig
  - 110 Furry foot
  - 113 Taken together
  - 114 Great values
  - 115 Subsequent stage
  - 117 Coup —
  - 118 Omit, as a syllable
  - 119 Balsam or turpentine
  - 120 Blissful spots
  - 121 Doles (out)
  - 122 Maker of the eight programs that are the theme of this puzzle
  - 9 Ticked off
  - 10 "Awright!"
  - 11 Dig out from the ground
  - 12 Impose — on (outlaw)
  - 13 Some nobles
  - 14 Affirms solemnly
  - 15 Suburb of D.C. in Virginia
  - 16 Wheat — (cereal)
  - 17 Judge of the O.J. Simpson trial
  - 18 Owing
  - 19 "Don't worry, things are going to work out!"
  - 28 60-min. periods
  - 29 "Give — whirl!"
  - 30 "You're preaching to the choir!"
  - 31 Lung cell
  - 34 Pen maker
  - 35 Egg cells
  - 36 Boat-rowing guys
  - 37 Style of jazz
  - 38 Bathtub sponges
  - 39 Great reviews
  - 45 Scale notes after dos
  - 46 Bullring cheer
  - 48 Library penalty
  - 50 Old railroad watchdog agcy.
  - 51 — Bo (exercise system)
  - 52 Age-verifying cards
  - 53 Top ventures
  - 54 Food fish from Africa
  - 56 Eye squintingly
  - 59 A DJ might spin them
  - 60 Furiousness
  - 61 Gene stuff
  - 62 Co. big shot going to work out!
  - 63 Gold-winning figure skater Brian
  - 64 Hotfoot it
  - 65 Slugger Mel
  - 67 Burned a bit
  - 68 Sentimental pop songs
  - 71 Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"
  - 72 Ida. neighbor
  - 73 China's Lao- —
  - 74 Suffix with Brooklyn
  - 75 Comedian Gilda
  - 76 "Ask Me Another" ailer
  - 77 Available without an Rx
  - 79 Occur at the same time
  - 80 Acquired the film rights to
  - 81 Army meal companion
  - 82 As a team
  - 83 "So yucky!"
  - 85 Do some lawn work
  - 86 Add- — (peripherals)
  - 90 Pupil-widening drug, e.g.
  - 93 Young salmon and sea trout
  - 94 Clerk on "The Simpsons"
  - 96 Tristan's love
  - 97 Surgery assistants
  - 98 TV magnate Turner
  - 99 Olympic athlete, e.g.
  - 102 She sang "Hello"
  - 106 Strategize
  - 107 Stand by
  - 108 Sub shop
  - 109 Part of 62-Down: Abbr.
  - 110 El —, Texas
  - 111 Almost like
  - 112 Departed
  - 115 — de plume
  - 116 "— So Shy"



## MY RECIPES

Luke Chavez

# Skillet Apple Upside-Down Cake



Since moving to Waitsburg, we have been slowly remodeling our older home one room at a time. Finally, the end is in sight with the biggest project, a planned complete overhaul of our kitchen, scheduled for later this year. In anticipation of this, we have been getting by with the aging components of our current kitchen, making piecemeal repairs to buy us time until we eventually replace everything. Lately, it seems that as soon as we fix one problem the next one pops up. First, it was the dishwasher that was on the fritz. As soon as we got it back and running, the garbage disposal failed. Once that was repaired, less than a week went by before the oven, which might be older than me, went out with an actual bang. Yikes!

So, for the time being, any recipe testing that involves the oven will be (pun intended) on the back burner. Thankfully, I came across an interesting recipe for skillet cakes that are cooked on the stovetop. By covering the pan with a lid, the cake cooks with steam resulting in a velvety soft texture, a cross between a Dutch baby and English steamed puddings. Here, apples, cranberries and a simple caramel sauce are started in the pan before the batter is added, creating a scrumptious upside-down cake, perfect for entertaining.

### Ingredients:

- ¼ cup sugar, plus ½ cup, sugar
- Zest of one lemon
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons plain yogurt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 apples, such as Granny Smith or Golden Delicious
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- Pinch of ground nutmeg
- ½ cup frozen or fresh cranberries (optional)

### Directions:

First, prepare the batter. In a large mixing bowl, add the lemon zest to ¼ cup of the sugar. Whisk the zest around to release oils into the sugar. Add eggs and whisk until creamy, then pour in the oil, whisking to incorporate. Next whisk in the yogurt and vanilla until combined. Mix in the flour, baking powder and salt, just until a smooth batter forms. Set aside.

Peel and core the apples, and slice into ¼-inch thick slices.

In a heavy bottomed 10-inch cast-iron skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add the remaining ½ cup sugar with a pinch of salt and continue to cook, stirring frequently with a wooden spoon, until sugar dissolves and turns a rich caramel color. Be careful not to burn! Remove pan from the heat, and decoratively arrange the apple slices over the caramel. If using the cranberries, arrange them to fill in the gaps between the apple slices. Over the fruit sprinkle the cinnamon, ginger, and nutmeg.

Next pour the batter over the top of the fruit, and gently spread evenly with a rubber spatula. Place skillet over low heat and cover with lid. Cook for 20 to 25 minutes, until cake is set, and a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, or a thermometer reads at least 180 degrees.

Take off the heat and allow to rest for 5 to 10 minutes. Place a large serving platter over the skillet, carefully and quickly flip and invert the cake out. Serve warm.

### Notes:

This cake recipe can be easily adjusted to feature various fruit combinations. Instead of apples try it with pears. In the summer, fresh plums and peaches would be fantastic. Instead of cranberries try adding cherries or chopped nuts. Dried fruits or fresh figs would be divine. Pineapple or banana would create a tropical flair.

This delightful cake makes a light dessert, served warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Try serving it with a brunch spread as an alternative to pancakes or waffles. Also, lovely as a sweet treat as part of a tea service.

Enjoy!

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

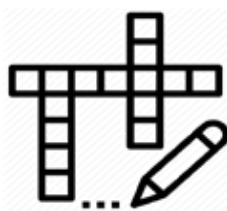
4			8					7
	9				1	8		
		1	3	4				5
		4			8	9		
	5	8	6					2
7				2				5
	6		7			3		
		3		5				8
1					6			2 4

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

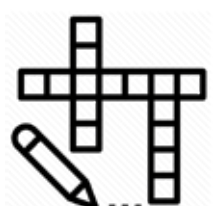
### Answers

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

### Answer

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



## Around the Valley: with Karen Huwe

Waitsburg's young people are staying fit by engaging in a variety of sports and activities. Parents, grandparents and fans of our youth are volunteering to coach, chauffeuring players and cheering at events. Whether it's indoor soccer, basketball, wrestling, skiing or competing in the Kids Heart Challenge, players are learning new skills, competing with intensity and building team spirit.



K-2 students at Kids Heart Challenge event



6th grader Ellie Teal (left) is a first-year skier

Skiing, a lifelong sport, is offered to the fifth-grade students at Waitsburg. Due to COVID, the current 6th graders were unable to ski in 2021, therefore they are learning to ski this year as well on Wednesdays. The first ski day was February 2nd and the program ends on February 23rd. The 5th-6th grade students ride the bus to Bluewood to take lessons or ski on their own to improve skills. On February 17th, all 6th-8th grade students had the chance to ski. Middle school staff alternated supervising students along with parent volunteers.



Karen Huwe

Practicing dribbling with Coach Kiefel.

Twenty-four boys and girls in grades 3rd through 5th grade have been working on basketball fundamentals with Coach Gabe Kiefel. One 3rd-4th grade boys' team and one 5th grade boys' team play games on Saturdays at the YMCA in Walla Walla. They practice twice a week and will have played six games when the season ends. One 4th-5th grade girls' team was unable to join the YMCA league but have played in a tournament in Dayton. They hope to get more games scheduled. Coach Kiefel states, "There has been a significant improvement in skills over the last month". Other basketball volunteer coaches are Jessica & Tyson Reger, Kayla Barnett, Henry Hubbard, Bill Ayotta, Jessica Kiefel and Ethan Carpenter.



Submitted photo

Wrestlers at first practice in January 2022

The Waitsburg Matbirds wrestling team, have 36 girls and boys, ages 5-14, practicing takedowns three days a week. They will participate in tournaments every Saturday March through April. They first tournament will be at Hanford on March 5. Head Coach Jason Taylor is assisted by Coach Jake Winona. Other volunteer coaches are Charlie & Caleb Barron, Carlos Norris, Lucas Collier, Jared Culley, Steve Mertens and Robert Parish.

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