

2020



The Times

Thursday
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SERVING WAITSBURG, DAYTON AND THE TOUCHET VALLEY

Published Since 1878

ONE DOLLAR



Bill Rodgers

Classic red barns stand out against winter blue skies and white dashes of snow. Soon, they will be complemented with lush greens of an eastern Washington spring.

DGH Chief of Staff discusses COVID-19 vaccine distribution

Twelve have been hospitalized for treatment since March

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—Dr. Kyle Terry, Medical Chief of Staff at Dayton General Hospital, touched briefly on vaccine distribution and safety protocols for patients and staff when he spoke to the hospital board of commissioners on Dec. 17.

Terry said COVID-19 vaccines would be distributed according to population numbers. With 2-percent of the national population, the state of Washington State will receive 2-percent of the vaccine. He thought Walla Walla County would receive the first distribution of the Pfizer vaccine.

He said the Columbia County Health System (CCHS) has a better chance of getting the Moderna vaccine.

Columbia County Health System and Public Health are working together on COVID-19 messaging to the community regarding vaccinations. There is no confirmed date of delivery of either of the vaccines.

CCHS CEO Shane McGuire said the Health System had been given the use of an ultra-cold refrigerator to store Pfizer vaccine. The Moderna vaccine needs refrigeration, however, it does not need ultra-cold temperature storage.

Dr. Terry said the ad hoc committee on COVID-19 had established new safety protocols for patients and staff when patients are admitted to the hospital. He said patients would be tested for the virus before and after they are admitted. Staff will wear N95 masks and use protective eyewear in any patient contact situation.

The COVID-19 statistics represent a worrisome picture in a county with a population of just over 4,000.

On Monday, Columbia County Public Health Director Martha Lanman said there had been 12 hospitalizations since COVID-19 began infecting people in the community, and four people have died.

Patients who need hospitalization are transferred to hospitals outside the county for treatment at one of four hospitals; Providence St. Mary's Hospital in Walla Walla, Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane, or St. Joseph's Medical Center, in Lewiston.

Waitsburg City Council finalizes 2021 budget

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The Waitsburg City Council met on December 16 for a regular meeting. The board discussed an inter-fund loan and reviewed budget amendments. The Council also held the final public hearing for the 2021 City Budget.

At the November 2020 meeting, the City Council discussed a potential second round of business grants to use the remaining amount of the CARES Act funding the city received. Due to time constraints, it was decided to use the money for infrastructure purposes, focusing on water lines.

“The money was used to cover water line installation costs associated with the bid alternative project (Taggart to Dewitt) due to the City being negatively impacted by the pandemic to where we had a revenue shortfall associated with utilities that would have paid for the alternatives costs,” City Administrator Randy Hinchliffe said. “It turned out that the timeline to spend the money wasn't going to work for the second round of grants due and would have only covered one months' worth of expenses for the ones that had already applied. So rather than send money back to the state, I was able to work with our grant manager to find a way to use the funding towards the waterline project to upgrade critical public health infrastructure, such as providing access to running water for individuals and families in rural areas to allow them to maintain proper hygiene and defend themselves against the virus.”

The council was presented with Resolution 2020-711, authorizing an inter-fund loan. The loan, which would not exceed \$100,000, was proposed to be pulled from the Cemetery Maintenance and Improvement Fund. The loan would cover expenses related to flood repair. The city is scheduled to receive funds from FEMA, however, that schedule has been delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The loan, if approved, would be paid back once the money from FEMA is received and would be active starting January 1, 2021. Hinchliffe noted that the FEMA funds are not a matter of 'if,' but 'when' at this point, but he anticipates the money will be received in the early months of 2021. The Resolution

states that the loan shall be paid back in six-month installments, starting June 30, 2021. The loan would garner a .159% interest rate and must be paid back by December 31, 2023. The council voted to approve Resolution 2020-711.

The council reviewed Ordinance 2019-1059, amending the 2020 budget that was approved in December 2019, to account for unseen expenses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The amendments included changes to the Current Expense Fund, Municipality Capital Improvement Fund, and the Water and Sewer Fund. A complete overview of the budget amendment can be found on the city's website.

The City of Waitsburg presented the 2021 Final Budget during the final public hearing. Projects being considered include implementing a water reservoir dechlorination system, potential water, and sewer system upgrades, infrastructure improvement along the city's levee, widening E. 7th Street between Coppei Ave to Main Street, and widening W. 5th Street between Main to Arnold Lane.

The City anticipates \$331,000 from tax revenue, \$13,500 in licenses and permits revenue, \$374,650 in intergovernmental revenue, \$15,000 in services charges (cardboard collection, cemetery fees, swimming pool revenue), and \$16,225 in miscellaneous revenue. Total revenue for 2021 estimated at \$750,375

Liabilities include \$842,726 in continuing governmental obligations to be financed by the city's Street and Road Fund in 2021.

The Millrace Grade Crossing Project, which has been discussed over the past year, will cost roughly \$680,000. The grading project aims to make Millrace Road safer for traffic and will help prepare the area to accommodate the Touchet Valley Trail, should that project happen.

A complete overview of the 2021 Budget, including public employee salaries and expected expenses, is accessible on the city's website, www.cityof-waitsburg.org.

The council reviewed and approved the third payment for the Sidewalk Improvement project, totaling \$85,501.99, paid to Nelson Construction Corp., of Walla Walla.

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TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

DAYTON CHAMBER ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR OUTSTANDING BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND CITIZENS

Annual awards banquet canceled

THE TIMES

DAYTON—The Dayton Chamber of Commerce has announced the annual award banquet's cancellation because of COVID-19 restrictions. However, the Chamber is accepting nominations for the Dayton Chamber of Commerce 2020 Community Choice Awards.

"It is especially important that we still pay tribute to the exceptional businesses, organizations, and citizens in our community who have gone above and beyond in 2020."

To make a nomination, fill out the electronic form found on the Dayton Chamber website at historicdayton.com.

Scroll down to the bottom of the page for the form and click on the nomination form image to download or stop by the Chamber office.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

WAITSBURG—The City of Waitsburg is offering to pick up Christmas trees following the holidays. Residents can set their trees out at the curb, and city employees will be around to dispose of them, for no additional charge. Pickup will be available during the first week after the new year, Jan. 4 through 8.

SPREADING SOME HOLIDAY CHEER WITH THE HELP OF KIWANIS CLUB OF DAYTON!

THE TIMES

DAYTON—This year has been challenging for us all, especially many of the kids served by The Club. To help spread some joy, The Club's Board of Directors and staff hatched a plan to provide holiday gift bags to our members. What happened next is a shining example of the giving nature of our community.

Kiwanis Club of Dayton, due in part to a shared board/club member, came up with an idea to provide a little something to The Club's kids while simultaneously supporting local business. The idea: Purchase \$1,000 in Dayton Dollars to be included in the holiday gift bags for the kids. Dayton Dollars can be redeemed for goods at any Columbia County retailer.

Thanks to Dayton Kiwanis' incredibly generous, thoughtful, and creative idea, The Club provided each member with 20 Dayton Dollars to spend locally on themselves. In addition to the Dayton Dollars, the holiday gift bags included cards from staff, art activities, food items, and other miscellaneous goodies.



The bags were meticulously hand-decorated by The Club's staff. Once complete, The Club's staff also delivered the bags to the kids' doorsteps. Even behind masks, it was easy to make out the smiles!

TOUCHET VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL RECEIVES \$5,000 ARTSWA GRANT

THE TIMES

DAYTON—Washington State Arts Council (ArtsWA) recently awarded a \$5,000 support grant to the Touchet Valley Arts Council (TVAC) owner, and operator of Dayton's historic Liberty Theater. ArtsWA, in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Commerce, made the CARES relief funding available to Washington State arts and cultural organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The review panel consisting of ArtsWA staff, ArtsWA commissioners, and community members evaluated applications based on financial need, arts and cultural programming, and the community served by the organization.

TVAC serves Columbia County and surrounding area. The Liberty Theater is home to a first-run cinema, stage productions, guest artist concerts, lectures, foreign films, short-film festivals, civic events, and community forums.

The Liberty Theater has been closed since March due to state restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. TVAC and the Liberty Theater staff have taken steps during the shutdown to ensure patrons' safety upon its reopening.

Festival of Trees winners



Congratulations to the 2020 Festival of Trees winners!

First prize: Blush Salon

People's Choice: The Burger Hut

Waitsburg FFA would like to thank all of their participants for decorating trees and sharing the holiday cheer with Main Street Waitsburg. Trees will be up through the remainder of the holiday.

Touchet Valley Weather

Dec. 23, 2020

Waitsburg's Seven Day Forecast

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly Sunny Areas of Fog High: 38 Low: 22	Partly Cloudy Areas of Fog High: 35 Low: 24	Mostly Cloudy High: 38 Low: 28	Scattered Rain High: 40 Low: 29	Mostly Cloudy High: 39 Low: 25	Mostly Cloudy High: 36 Low: 23	Cloudy High: 33 Low: 18

Weather Trivia

What is the name of the high dense clouds that bring steady rainfall?



Answer: Altitransus.

Weather History

Dec. 23, 1989 - A historic arctic outbreak spread to the Gulf Coast region and a total of 122 cities across the central and eastern United States reported record low temperatures for the date. Forty-one of those cities reported record lows for the month of Dec.

Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation
Tuesday	49	30	38/28	0.01"	0.81"
Wednesday	54	39	38/28	0.04"	0.55"
Thursday	49	41	38/28	Trace	+0.26"
Friday	50	36	38/28	Trace	47.0°
Saturday	54	47	38/28	0.09"	33.0°
Sunday	55	47	38/28	0.38"	+14.0°
Monday	65R	42	38/28	0.29"	

Data as reported from Walla Walla

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Wednesday	7:33 a.m.	4:11 p.m.	12:54 p.m.	1:04 a.m.
Thursday	7:34 a.m.	4:12 p.m.	1:13 p.m.	2:06 a.m.
Friday	7:34 a.m.	4:12 p.m.	1:35 p.m.	3:09 a.m.
Saturday	7:34 a.m.	4:13 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	4:13 a.m.
Sunday	7:34 a.m.	4:14 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	5:18 a.m.
Monday	7:35 a.m.	4:15 p.m.	3:08 p.m.	6:21 a.m.
Tuesday	7:35 a.m.	4:15 p.m.	3:54 p.m.	7:22 a.m.

The Times

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The Times

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



The Blues V, available for pre-order

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA—The Blue Mountain Land Trust is thrilled to announce *The Blues V*, the next volume of *The Blues* collection of photo books.

The Blues V edition features dramatic landscapes of the John Day River Basin by Bill Rodgers and Burien photographer Mark Hussein. This volume contains 30 images of mountains, canyons, rivers, prairies, and the stunning John Day Formation.

The photo book is available to preorder at www.bmlt.org and will be shipping in late-January, just in time for Valentine's Day.

Prescott School Board monthly update

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

PRESCOTT—The Prescott School Board met on December 17 for a regular meeting.

A brief update from the Associated Student Body (ASB) Co-Advisor Bob Young, thanking the administration for their continued support of the ASB and the students.

Superintendent Justin Bradford said that more than 60 students attended a virtual hot cocoa party. Bradford said the kids were happy to see their teachers and thanked staff for making the event happen.

He said they have been having some student engagement problems since transitioning back to the HOPE 1.0 distance learning model. He said most of those issues were connectivity related, and the district was working to accommodate students as needed.

Superintendent Bradford attended a webinar about SB 5395 and shared updates regarding the curriculum. He noted that the younger grades, K-3, focus on social-emotional learning instead of development and health. The bill requires schools to teach scientifically and medically accurate comprehensive sexual education at age-appropriate levels.

The school district will be switching over to Qmulative for school correspondence, grading, and other functions. That program will take the place of Skyward

after January 6.

An update on the athletics department was given. The earliest possible start date could be February 1, but board members expressed that they did not anticipate a start that soon based on COVID-19 case numbers. The next athletic director meeting will be on December 21, and more information would be available then. Updates will be sent to families, as well as posted on social media.

Prescott School District will return to the HOPE 2.0 in-person learning on January 6, 2021. Students group "B" will return to school on Thursday, January 7. Group "A" students will return to school starting Monday, January 11, 2021. Wednesdays will be set aside for remote learning for all students. Classes will be held five days a week- two days will be in person, and three days will be remote. Information has been sent out to parents and students.

Meals will be available for students learning from home, with deliveries starting January 7. Students will receive four meals at the school and six meals at home.

Masks and other protection measures will still be required, and Bradford expressed some concerns with staff getting sick and leaving the district shorthanded. He said they have been exploring distance teaching options, should a teacher test positive but still feel well enough to teach from quarantine, and they have explored substitute options. He said that he and two other staff members, who all hold the proper teaching certifications, can sub if needed.

The board meeting adjourned shortly after the HOPE 2.0 discussion.

MICRO-BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HITS MILESTONE OF \$200,000 IN GRANTS AWARDED TO 50 ENTREPRENEURS

THE TIMES

WALLA WALLA— On Nov. 19, a cohort of 15 participants graduated from Mercy Corps Northwest's Micro-Business Assistance (MBA) Program, which offers support for entrepreneurs looking to start or grow a small business.

The MBA program has now served 50 entrepreneurs in Walla Walla and has disbursed a total of \$200,000 in grants over the last two years. The program is available to business owners and entrepreneurs in Walla Walla and Columbia Counties and the City of Milton Freewater. It provides grants, loans, and education to new and existing businesses that may not qualify for traditional bank financing. The program incentivizes participants to save \$500 while completing educational requirements. This is matched with a \$4,000 grant once all program requirements are met. The program is unique as one of the only in the region to support a clientele of 78% Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs.

Melva Solís is a program participant and the owner of Super Clean Professional Services, a house-cleaning company servicing the Walla Walla area. The MBA program was her key to starting a small business.

"I believe that the support I have received from Mercy Corps has been a great stepping stone, which personally has allowed me to see beyond my previous limits and realize that it's possible to achieve your dreams," she shares.

Solís chose to start her own business to increase her independence and fuel a new personal and financial growth path. She is part of the most recent group of 15 graduates who completed the program in November.

The initiative is supported by a Community Development Block Grant provided by the city of Walla Walla to Mercy Corps Northwest and backed by ten partnering financial and educational institutions.

Applications for the next round of entrepreneurs opens on Jan. 1, 2021. You can view more information on the application and eligibility requirements here.

To receive information on Walla Walla's Micro-Business Assistance Program, please contact Cynthia Montero at wallawallainfo@mercy Corps.org or visit mercycorpsnw.org.

State Board awards colleges nearly \$5 million in CARES Act funding

Walla Walla Community College awarded \$138,411

THE TIMES

OLYMPIA—The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges awarded nearly \$5 million in federal CARES Act dollars to community and technical colleges across the state as they work to restore workforce-related programs affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The one-time grants come from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds provided by the CARES Act.

Workforce programs, in which 48% of the community and technical college system's approximately 356,000 students were enrolled in the 2019-20 school year, were significantly disrupted in the spring quarter by the COVID-19 pandemic and measures to control its spread. Since these programs require a hands-on component, measures like physical distancing and lab and classroom capacity reduced the number of students who could participate at any one time. The GEER grant is intended to help colleges find new and effective ways to provide instruction so students can complete their programs.

"There's no question the pandemic has impacted our students and our colleges. Faculty and staff continue to look for innovative ways to teach our students, and these GEER grants will go a long way in that effort," said Jan Yoshiwara, executive director of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. "These are the programs that will help get Washington state's economy back on track. We thank Gov. Inslee for awarding the college system this funding."

Community Calendar

Waitsburg Monthly Meetings

Waitsburg City Council:

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

Waitsburg School Board:

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

Waitsburg Celebration Days:

Third Monday of every month at 7 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

Dayton & Columbia County Meetings

Board of Columbia County Commissioners

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

Dayton City Council

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

Dayton School Board

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

Columbia County Public Hospital District Board of Commissioners

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

Coalition for Youth & Families

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

Columbia County Rural Library District Special Meeting—Budget workshop

November 10 at 6 p.m.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85238363787>

DAYTON SENIOR ROUND TABLE LUNCH MENU

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

Thursday, December 24

Country fried steak
Au gratin potatoes
Mixed veggies, Gravy
Broccoli salad
Pineapple, Milk

Tuesday, December 29

Spaghetti
Green beans
Salad
Garlic bread
Peaches, Milk

WAITSBURG SENIOR CENTER

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

Tuesday, December 29

Chicken & dumplings
Vegetables (chef's choice)
Coleslaw
Garlic bread
Fruit

WAITSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

No School—Winter Break



Church Directory

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

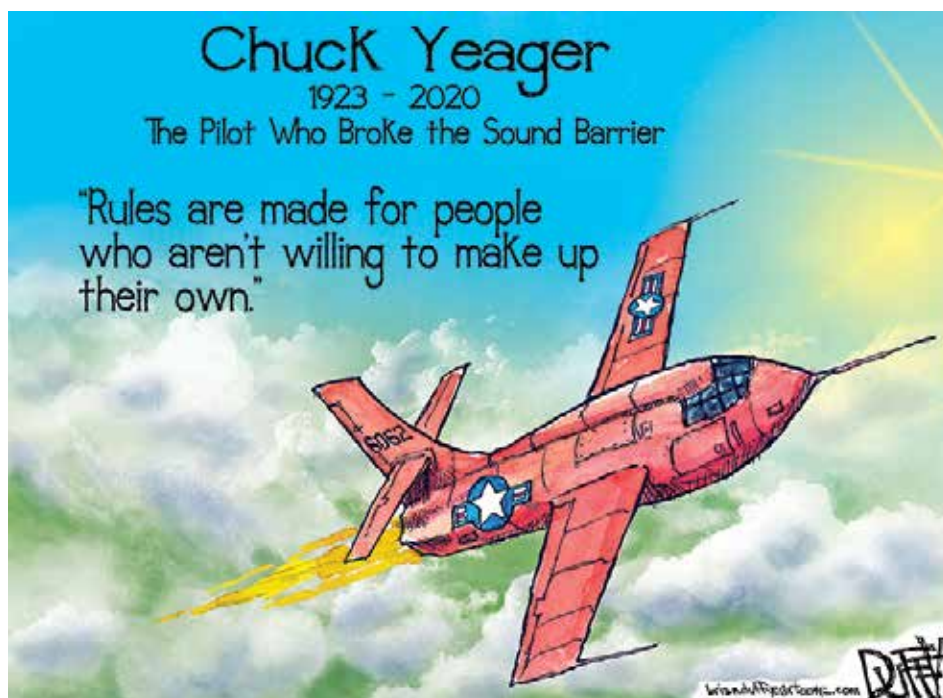
Waitsburg Chapel
320 W. 2nd
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Bible Study
Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
337-6235
Rev. Jimmie Daves

Waitsburg Christian Church
604 Main St
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Each Sunday
337-8898
Rev. Matthew Wyatt

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NEWS & COMMENTARY



LETTERS

CONCERNS OVER COMMISSIONER'S ACTIONS

Letter to the editor
My name is Sharon Eaton, and I do not like to cause problems or arguments. However, there was an incident at the Dayton Senior Center on Dec. 15 that has caused me a concern. Because of COVID-19, we are not going into the Senior Center Building. We are able to pick up meals safely on Tuesday and Thursday thanks to Orinda Woods and other volunteers. (Most of whom are over 65.) The senior citizens do this by driving up in their cars and are given a meal by volunteers- all wearing masks. When we pulled up, on Dec. 15, we noticed a County Commissioner, Chuck Amerein, going from car to car. He was talking to people in their cars which was a very kind gesture. However, he was not wearing a mask. Chuck also went into the Senior Center and was given a mask. When he came out of the building, he was holding it in his hand. As an elected leader of our community, I was concerned that he didn't take the health and safety of the seniors seriously. Part of the job description for our commissioners states: to use sound judgement and best practices- I think that that should include wearing a mask around the most vulnerable citizens in our community. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Sharon Eaton
Dayton, WA

NICE THINGS!

I had the nicest surprise last week. UPS had a Christmas mix-up and delivered a package for me to the wrong address, here in Waitsburg. The lovely person who received it took it to the Post Office so I could be found.

I was delighted when I got a call from Sarah at the P.O. telling me my package was waiting for me there.

Thank you Sarah and a BIG thank you to the person who dropped my Cougar Gold cheese off at the Post Office.

I love our little town!
Kate Hockersmith



WWCSO

December 14

A woman attempted to mail an illegal controlled substance to her incarcerated boyfriend. Walla Walla

Deputies recovered a trailer discovered stolen out of Oregon. Walla Walla County

December 15

Residence burglarized while resident is away. Prescott Shop window damaged. Touchet

Male arrested for malicious mischief, DWLS 3rd and attempted vehicle prowl. Walla Walla County

December 17

A motor vehicle theft was reported. Walla Walla County

Deputies stopped a vehicle and the State Patrol took over DUI investigation. Waitsburg

December 19

Male arrested for making false allegations. Walla Walla County

December 20

A theft of motor vehicle was reported in the county. Waitsburg

Identity theft occurred from the victim's unemployment benefit card. Waitsburg

A THANK YOU FROM WAITSBURG RESOURCE CENTER

Dear Editor,
We at the Waitsburg Resource Center (the Food Bank) are so grateful for the donations made during this challenging 2020 year of the pandemic. As a non-profit we also thank all who volunteer (20+) at the WRC.

Each month the WRC serves about 100-150 neighbors in Waitsburg and Prescott, distributing over a ton of food each month. With the generous monetary donations received, we purchase other food and hygiene supplies as needed.

The support from community members, businesses, youth groups, students, along with donations made in honor and memory of loved ones has been phenomenal.

As a result, we have also been able this year, to support other non-profit groups, who because of COVID have not been able to run their own fundraisers, that in turn support our neighbors in need.

Thank you to all for your continued support of the WRC, with monetary gifts and with food and hygiene donations.

Sincerely,
Waitsburg Resource Center Board Members

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.
Romans 15:13



Margi Benson

Stephanie Hinchliffe and her first-grade class brought much-appreciated food donations to the Waitsburg Resource Center last week.

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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Reader's Forum

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

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

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

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

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

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1-year subscription: \$40
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1-year subscription: \$45
2-year subscription: \$85
3-year subscription: \$120

OBITUARY



Verla Ernestine Rouse

Verla Ernestine Rouse, age 102, passed away peacefully at home in Dayton, Washington on December 10, 2020. She was born on October 17, 1918 on Angel Ridge out of Peck, Idaho, the youngest of five children born to George Oren Stevens and Julia Matilda Johnson. She graduated from high school in Kooskia, Idaho in 1939 and attended beauty school in Waterloo, Iowa.

Verla married Joseph Edward Rouse on December 17, 1941 in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. They had two children, Audrey Lynn Rouse (1944) and Wayne K. Rouse (1948), both born in Lewiston, Idaho.

In 1949, Ed and Verla purchased the City Cleaners dry cleaning business on Main Street in Dayton, Washington. They expanded the business to include clothing alterations and installed the coin-operated laundromat next door. Verla was a very talented seamstress and a sewing 4-H leader. Ed and she enfolded a local teen, Vicki Tewalt (Eslick), into their family in 1959. Verla was a member of Eastern Star and the Dayton Methodist Church. She turned her life fully over to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in 1967.

After Ed suffered a debilitating stroke in 1975, they sold the cleaning business and moved to Prosser, Washington where Verla worked at a clothing store owned by her cousin, Jerry Johnson. Ed's declining health and other circumstances precipitated a move to Pasco, Washington in 1984. Ed passed away in March 1985. Verla worked in the alterations department of the Bon Marche in Kennewick for several years after that.

Verla was known to all as an exceedingly kind, generous and loving woman. She was very active in her church - volunteering to serve wherever and whenever she was needed. Verla enjoyed travelling and was always up for an adventure. She toured the Holy Lands in 1990 and participated in a mission trip to Sucre, Bolivia in 2000. She enjoyed riding the Amtrak train between Pasco and North Dakota to visit her son and his family. Verla was always very stylish and physically fit - participating in aerobic exercise classes well into her 80s.

Verla moved back to Dayton in 2011 to be closer to her daughter's family and enjoyed meeting new friends in the Eagle Manor apartment complex. She lived with her daughter and son-in-law from 2017 until her death.

Verla was preceded in death by her parents, siblings, husband and son. She is survived by her daughter Audrey Eaton (Wilbur) of Dayton, four grandchildren (Tanya Eaton Patton (Gene) in Dayton, Travis Eaton (Swan) in Kennewick, WA, Mike Rouse (Tammy) in Minot, North Dakota and Debbie Rouse Ferguson (Dan) in Ray, North Dakota, 11 great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

VA announces initial plans for COVID-19 vaccine distribution

THE TIMES

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced on Dec. 10, 2020 a preliminary plan for distributing COVID-19 vaccinations it will implement once the Food and Drug Administration issues an emergency use authorization for a vaccine.

VA has worked in close coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Operation Warp Speed to plan for COVID-19 vaccination of VA staff and Veterans.

VA will first provide vaccinations to front-line VA health care workers and Veterans residing in long-term care units in 37 of its medical centers across the country.

The 37 medical centers were chosen for their ability to vaccinate large numbers of people and store the vaccines at extremely cold temperatures.

Health care workers will be among the first to receive vaccinations because they are at high risk for contracting and spreading COVID-19 to other staff members and patients, and their health is critical to ensuring the continued care of Veterans.

Veterans in VA's long-term care facilities will be the first patient group to be vaccinated. As vaccine supplies increase, additional Veterans will receive vaccinations based on factors such as age, existing health problems and other considerations that increase the risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19.

VA anticipates a limited vaccine supply immediately after FDA's approval, but expects more supplies to be available in short order.

"VA is well prepared and positioned to begin COVID-19 vaccinations," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Our ultimate goal is to offer it to all Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated."

Shipments to the remaining VA medical centers across the country, including the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, are expected soon.

The local VA has posted information on the Walla Walla VA's external website to help educate our Veterans about what to expect, https://www.wallawalla.va.gov/WALLAWALLA/features/COVID-19_Vaccine_Coming.asp.

Waitsburg School Board monthly update

By Beka Compton | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG—The Waitsburg School Board met on December 17, 2020, for a regularly scheduled meeting.

Chairman Ross Hamann announced that he would not be running for another term after 18 years of serving on the board. He stated that he is looking forward to spending time with his family, especially his grandkids, and that being on the board for nearly 20 years has been a great joy. The board elected Pam Chapman as the new Board Chair.

Secondary school Principal Stephanie Wooderchak reported appreciatively that board member Pam Chapman visited the high school and toured the building. She extended the invitation to all of the board members to tour the school at their convenience.

Wooderchak reported that she attended a Character Strong administrators conference via Zoom. The Character Strong curriculum provides students with the social-emotional learning (SEL) element of the district's curriculum. There was an emphasis on SEL by Governor Inslee and state education leaders implemented earlier this year.

A 'huge thank you' to Mrs. Abel and the Waitsburg FFA for continuing on the Festival of Trees on Main Street in Waitsburg. Voting was virtual this year.

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) testing has been rescheduled to January 19 and January 21. The testing will span over two days to accommodate the "A" and "B" groups of students. The ASVAB is now an acceptable form of state-testing standards for graduation requirements.

Associated Student Body (ASB) officers from both Dayton and Waitsburg schools have discussed the DW Athletics mascot and will be meeting with artists from Dayton and Waitsburg for mascot mockups. At

the time of this meeting, the students had narrowed their choices down to the DW Wolfpack, DW Thrashers, and the DW Kings. Once the mockups have been completed, the final stage of voting will be scheduled. The next meeting concerning the mascot will be on January 7, and Wooderchak said the final vote could be as early as February.

Superintendent Pickel and Wooderchak gave an update on athletics. While there has not been much movement regarding Washington State school athletics, Wooderchak said that there are currently four potential schedules being proposed by the Eastern Washington Athletics Conference, but they are not willing to commit to a schedule at this time. Officials are concerned about recent holiday-related case spikes. One proposed schedule has low-risk sports starting as early as February.

Superintendent Pickel reported that the elementary students were finishing the second round of diagnostic testing. The testing measures a student's baseline in reading and math to identify strengths and weaknesses. Diagnostics tests are given three times a year to measure learning growth.

The District's current student management system, Skyward, will be inaccessible between Dec. 18 to Jan. 6 as the school transitions to a new program, Qmulative. The staff, students, and parents will not be able to access grades or other correspondence during this period. Notice of the system's shutdown and transfer has been sent to families.

An invitation to visit the elementary school when board members are available was extended, following the invitation to visit the secondary schools.

A conference was recently held to discuss SB 5395, the sexual education bill passed in November. The bill went into effect December 3, 2020, and requires various levels of medically and scientifically accurate sexual education to be taught at age-appropriate levels. The Superintendent is looking to form a board after

the second semester, consisting of parents and staff to explore curriculums. Kindergarten through third-grade students will receive social-emotional learning. No sexual health is required for this age group.

The school district is exploring options to sell two properties the district owns on Coppei Avenue. Both parcels are bare lots with no structures. Superintendent Pickel has been working with a Spokane area law firm, to understand the district's sales options.

Superintendent Pickel said they are hopeful for an A/B group return for middle and high school students after winter break, though there are concerns about possible holiday-related spikes in COVID-19 cases. He noted that the school has a solid supply of PPE, and felt the staff would be safe. He urged those at the meeting to remind friends and family to follow guidelines closely to help prevent another outbreak.

A meeting was held with administrative staff regarding social media communications. The school is on Facebook and Instagram, accessible by following @waitsburgsd. An Educational Services District (ESD) 123 official said that 'if you want to reach the students, use Instagram. If you want to reach the parents, use Facebook.' Superintendent Pickel said he is looking forward to better utilizing social media platforms to communicate with parents, students and stakeholders.

The board reviewed two policies for the second reading, a social media policy and an excused and unexcused absences policies. The board approved the social media policy. They tabled the excused and unexcused policy until a later date so the board could review new language regarding COVID-19 and illness-related absences.

The school offered a permanent contract to Brian Seagraves, who was hired earlier this year as a temporary maintenance employee. The board approved the contract offer and adjourned the meeting.

BIRTHDAYS

December 24: Shirley Kitterman, Carolyn O'Brien, Shane Hilton, Mary Conner, Barbara Wagener, Tracey Harper, Karen Stroobants.

December 25: Solon Pirella, Donna Manley, Les Richardson, Sonia Borrowdale, Annette Becker, Carol Hevel, Dalton Carlisle, and Neil Maxwell.

December 26: Sandra Farley, Sydney Claire Brookshire, Jennifer Nielsen, Margie Douglas.

December 27: Everett Wright, Laura Keyser, Veronica Hartwell, Adam Branson, Marcus Mead.

December 28: Brendan Donovan, Peggy Baker Mudd, Marie Leonard, Nancy Otterson, Jo Ann Perry, Ellie McWilliams, Scott Huwe, Gail Harshman, Sarah Chromy, Kelly Jo Lyons, Janice Mason Eatherton, Christopher Danforth, Richelle Coleman, Jayce Gleason and Jay Dimak.

December 29: Jared Kibler, Betty Rollins, Linda Anderson, Howard Laughery, Dick Finch, Miles Hubbard, Holly Menino, Kevin Blair, Colby Mayberry.

December 30: Bob Collins, Megan McKinney, Henry Hubbard, Krista Houle.

SANTA SLEIGHS IT



Beka Compton

Santa, superspreader of joy, was spotted driving down Main Street in Dayton over the weekend. It's rumored that he has a long list of deliveries come Christmas Eve, he is going to need extra cookies to keep up. Don't forget to leave the reindeer a carrot or two!

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Rick Harrison, O.D.
Justin Dalke, O.D.

NEWS & SPORTS

Stakeholders participation at Port's annual economic development strategy meeting

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—The Port of Columbia held the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) stakeholders' meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 16. The forum gives community stakeholders a chance to discuss projects they are involved in and provide input into the five and ten-year CEDS project list.

Each year, at the end of the meeting, stakeholders are asked to prioritize economic development projects for the community.

Fifty-seven stakeholders attended last week's CEDS meeting and voted for the projects they believe are the most pressing. The top priority include affordable housing, assisted living housing, Broadband improvement, Touchet Valley Trail and walking paths, and public area ADA accessibility.

"We've been conducting this vote as part of our annual economic development exercise for over 20 years, so this is not new and is not meant to be a broad community survey," said the Port's Executive Director Jennie Dickinson.

She said the purpose of the exercise is to gather anonymous input and provide information to the people already doing the hard work in the community.

Last year the stakeholders picked Affordable/Senior/Assisted Living housing as their number one choice.

This year, Rachel Elfenbein, Advocacy Coordinator for the Walla Walla Community Council, and Meagan Hayes, City of Dayton Planning and Community Development Director gave stakeholders updates. Elfenbein talked about the Regionwide Affordable Housing (RAH) initiatives for the Cities of Dayton, Waitsburg, Walla Walla, and College Place. The RAH initiative is currently in the advocacy stage, working to convene volunteers throughout the area to serve on implementation taskforce subcommittees.

"The more community participation we have, the stronger our advocacy efforts will be," she said.

Meagan Hayes discussed steps the City is taking to address housing affordability. The City of Dayton has established an Affordable Housing Commission to direct the City's efforts.

Columbia County Health System CEO Shane McGuire presented steps the Health System is taking to help people live "safely" in their own homes and what care the Health System can provide to people when they need more than what they can receive in the home.

Public Health Director Martha Lanman said the Friends of the Community Center committee is seeking funding for a feasibility study to assess construction of a pool or a combination pool and community center. She expects the study to be completed in 2021. Stakeholders chose a combined pool and community center as the second priority at last year's meeting. School Facilities Improvements/Levies/Bonds was the third priority identified by stakeholders last year.

Lanman also discussed COVID-19 challenges in the community.

Dayton Chamber of Commerce Director Molly Weatherill-Tate gave an update on Dayton Development Task Force and Dayton Chamber activities.

Participants received an update on Columbia Pulp, LLC operations at the Lyons Ferry Pulp Plant near Starbuck from the LLC's Technical and Quality Control Director, Kristi Kobetich.

Kobetich said the market for products made from straw pulp is strong, and the straw supply is ample. The bondholders have granted operation managers permission to make the material handling process more efficient, which should begin in January.

The pulp company is creating a hiring strategy to safely bring 80 or more employees back to the plant, keeping COVID-19 challenges in mind. Full-scale production should begin in late spring, she said.

Jennie Dickinson provided an update on Port activities. Here are a few highlights from her presentation:

- The Port's Industrial Park and Blue Mountain Station are at 100-percent capacity.
- Anderson/Perry & Associates is nearing 30-percent completion on the Touchet Valley Trail's design stage, and progress will be shared with the public in February or March.
- The Port continues to seek funding from the state legislature for the rehabilitation of the Columbia-Walla Walla (CWW) railroad. It is working to help

Paul Didelius, the rail operator, gain the ability to ship grain from the county to the Port Kelly terminal at Wallula.

- The Port will continue its efforts to get the Broadband infrastructure funded. Another round of funding will be available in the summer of 2021.

Dickinson said 2020 has been dominated by the COVID response and helping individual businesses.

"The biggest thing we did this year, and the most time consuming is the small business grants."

In conjunction with a local review committee, the Port facilitated pass-through grant funding to 50 businesses. The funding came from four different sources for a total of \$416,152.

Dickinson provided some economic indicators for Columbia County.

- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 situation, small businesses are down by one or two employees. Eating establishments have had employment going up and down, depending on restrictions.
 - The Dayton School District is now down to about 29 employees, she said.
 - Ag-related and utility-related businesses appear to have been unaffected by unemployment.
 - According to the state, the county unemployment rate was 4.7-percent in October.
 - The top taxpayers are Columbia Pulp LLC and the wind farms owned and operated by PGE, PacifiCorp, and Puget Sound Energy, helping keep the tax rate low. The median hourly wage increased with construction at the wind farms.
 - Assessed value has now reached over a billion dollars.
 - The agriculture sector is providing economic stability, and the housing market is strong.
 - Before the pandemic, the poverty rate had been trending in a positive direction. Now, 17-percent of households are participating in the state's food assistance program.
- "Many of the economic indicators are headed in the right direction, so things are good here for the most part. The downtown and retail sector continues to struggle, and it is difficult to see what we can do to help it," Dickinson said.

Seahawks playoff scenarios

By Eric Umphrey | THE TIMES

With last week's win over the Washington Football Team, the Seahawks have secured a place in the NFL Playoffs. Instead of going over this week's matchup with the Rams, I thought I'd go through the various playoff scenarios for Seattle instead. The other teams to keep an eye on the next couple of weeks are the Green Bay Packers, New Orleans Saints, Los Angeles Rams, Arizona Cardinals, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Let's start with the best case for Seattle. That would be clinching the #1 seed in the playoffs. For that to happen, Seattle has to win both of their remaining games, plus the Green Bay Packers need to lose both of their remaining games, and the New Orleans Saints need to lose one of their two remaining games.

For Seattle to get the #2 seed, they need to win the NFC West and finish with a better record than Green Bay or New Orleans, and Tampa Bay. They can do this by either winning both of their last two games or splitting the last two games of the season and getting help from other teams.

Here are the two ways that lead to Seattle winning the NFC West. Thanks to the New York Jets getting their first win of the season against the Rams last week, a Seattle victory over the Rams this week clinches the NFC West division for the Seahawks. Winning the division this week would be a best-case scenario as it would allow the Seahawks to know whether or not next week's games mean anything for higher playoff seeding or if Seattle would be better off resting its players. If the Seahawks lose this week, the only way they can win their division would be to beat the 49ers in the final week of the season and have the Rams lose their last game to the Cardinals.

If Seattle loses this week and wins next week but loses the division to the Rams, they will likely become the #5 seed in the playoffs unless the Tampa Bay Buccaneers win both of their remaining games. If that happens then, Seattle drops to the #6 seed.

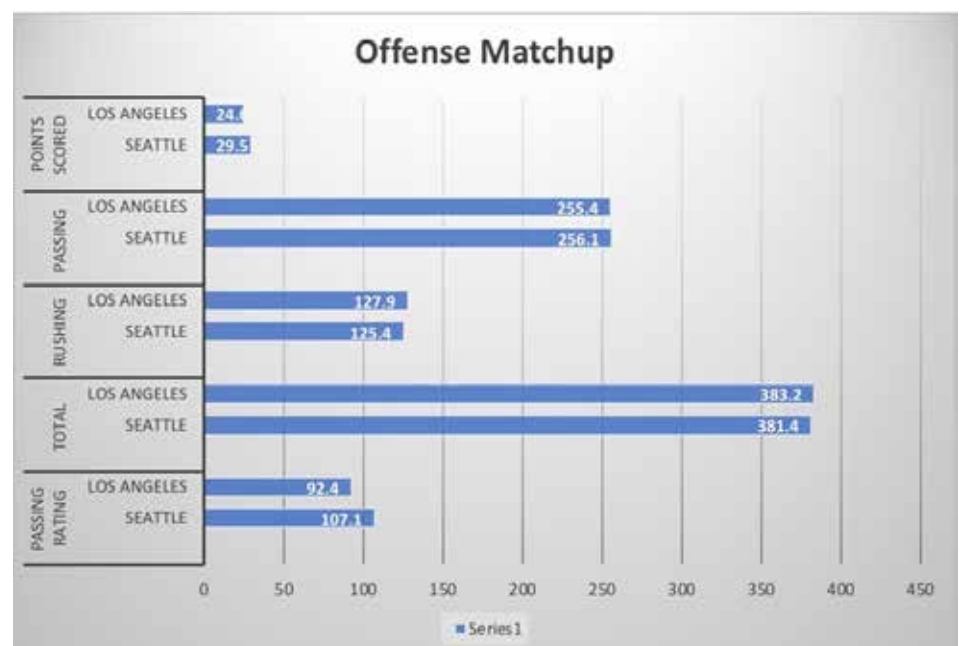
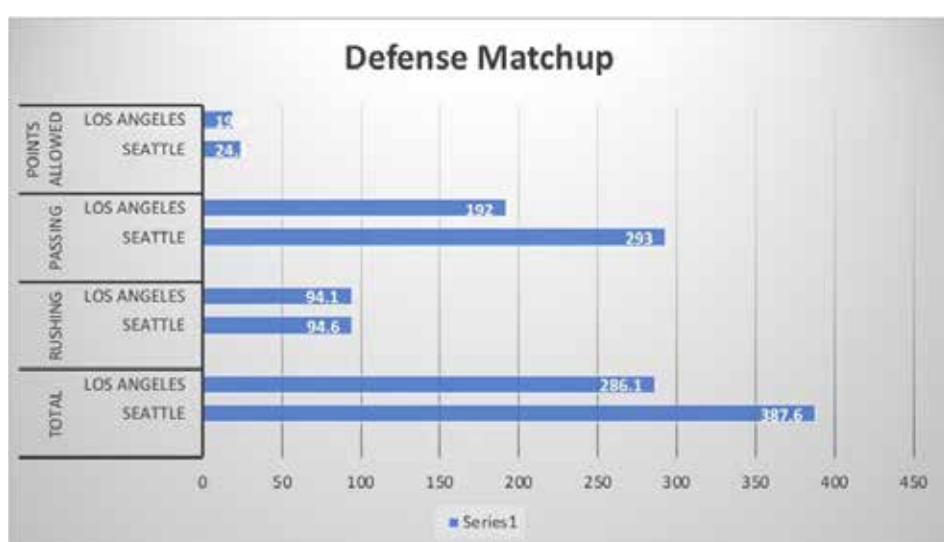
Next, let's look at the worst-case scenario where the Seahawks lose both of their last two games. The key teams, in this case, are Arizona and Tampa Bay. If Seattle loses tie-breakers to both teams, Tampa Bay would need to lose both of its final

NFL WEEK SIXTEEN GAMES AND PICKS

Day	Time	Station	Away	Home	Pick
Fri	1:30PM	FOX/NFL	Minnesota	New Orleans	New Orleans
Sat	10:00AM	NFL	Tampa Bay	Detroit	Tampa Bay
	1:30PM	PRIME	San Francisco	Arizona	Arizona
	5:15PM	NFL	Miami	Las Vegas	Miami
Sun	10:00AM	FOX	Atlanta	Kansas City	Kansas City
	10:00AM	CBS	Cleveland	New York Jets	Cleveland
	10:00AM	CBS	Indianapolis	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
	10:00AM	CBS	Carolina	Washington	Washington
	10:00AM	CBS	Chicago	Jacksonville	Chicago
	10:00AM	FOX	New York Giants	Baltimore	Baltimore
	10:00AM	FOX	Cincinnati	Houston	Houston
	1:05PM	CBS	Denver	Los Angeles Chargers	Los Angeles Chargers
	1:25PM	FOX	Philadelphia	Dallas	Dallas
	1:25PM	FOX	Los Angeles Rams	Seattle	Seattle
	5:20PM	NBC	Tennessee	Green Bay	Green Bay
Mon	5:15PM	ESPN/ABC	Buffalo	New England	Buffalo

games, and Arizona would have to split its remaining two games for Seattle to stay the #5 seed. Should Tampa Bay win one game and Arizona wins its last two games, the Seahawks would drop to the #7 seed.

Here is the current injured list for the Seahawks. The players listed as out for this week are Brandon Shell OT, Phil Haynes G, and Damarious Randall S. DeeJay Dallas RB is listed as doubtful with a grade 3 ankle sprain during last week's game against Washington.



Washington State imposes new emergency coastal steelhead fishery regs

By Brad Trumbo | THE TIMES

Recent declines in salmon and steelhead survival across the Pacific Basin have been documented since approximately 2013 and affecting all stocks in dammed and undammed systems. An ocean “dead zone,” or hypoxic, warm water mass, heavy with algae blooms, plays a significant role in the ocean rearing component of these fishes’ life history.

Declines in winter steelhead populations spurred a need for emergency adaptive management among the coastal fisheries in Washington’s Olympic Peninsula. Fishery managers forecast the 2021 steelhead return up to 2,000 fish below escapement (returning adults surviving fisheries to reach the spawning grounds) goals in many of the coastal rivers.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposed alternatives via town hall meetings to the general public to ensure abundance, productivity, distribution, and genetic diversity. Four factors are critical to sustainable wild steelhead populations. To adequately achieve these four factors, the following alternatives were considered.



Brad Trumbo

Wild steelhead caught on the fly.

- 1) Early closure of steelhead fisheries coast-wide.
- 2) Complete closure of all coastal steelhead fisheries except the Quillayute River and its tributaries, where escapement goals are expected to be met.
- 3) Imposing a combination of bait and gear restrictions, early closure, and requiring the release of all rainbow trout (rainbow/steelhead under 20 inches in length).
- 4) Coast-wide closure of all winter steelhead fisheries.

Among the alternatives, 3 and 4 are thought to



Brad Trumbo

Fly-fishing the Hoh River for winter steelhead from shore will remain legal under the new coastal fishery regulations.

achieve all four critical factors; however, a complete closure under alternative 4 would restrict anglers from harvesting hatchery fish, which is not ideal for preserving the integrity of wild fish genetics.

Alternative 3 still provides a coastal fishery and reduces potential stress and harm to wild fish through bait and gear restrictions. More complex regulations make law enforcement equally challenging, yet, balancing the protection of fishes with angler opportunity to achieve all goals is a mission requirement for WDFW.

During a town hall meeting on November 24th, several public advocates approved of alternative 4. This was countered with a concern that eliminating angling opportunity could reduce constituency advocacy and conservation dollars needed to support the WDFW and coastal resources in the future. Con-

versely, local economic impacts from a reduction in tourism related to fishery closures was considered a con for alternative 4. Overall, the public supported alternative 3, in alignment with WDFW’s recommendations.

A final town hall was held December 11th where the WDFW Fish and Wildlife Commission presented the regulation change in favor of alternative 3 and collected final public comment. Specifically, new coastal steelhead fishery regulations require single-point, barbless hooks, selective gear with bait prohibited, no fishing from a “floating device” (e.g., raft, boat, float tube, inflatable pontoon), an April 1st early closure, and mandatory release of all rainbow trout.

The new regulations, which take effect on December 14th, are supported by past harvest and spawning survey data.

Man Keeping Time: Greg Petersen

By Mike Ferrians | THE TIMES



Local Horologist Greg Petersen

Before visiting Greg Petersen at his Dayton home, I’d not heard the term “Antiquarian Horologist.” But that’s what’s on his calling card. Horology — from the Greek “hora,” meaning time - is the study and measurement of just that. Greg is a man who keeps the measure of time on antique mechanical clocks. Entering his home was like stepping back in time.

Looking around in awe, I asked Petersen how many clocks he had.

“Oh, about 50 or 60, somewhere in there,” he answered.

The clocks in his charming house include grandfather clocks, repeaters, curved-top tambours (mantel clocks), “regulators” (kitchen clocks), flat-top mantels, and German Black Forest cuckoo’s, to name a few. There’s an early 20th-century German Gustav-Becker and several American Seth Thomas wall clocks.

They are all in perfect running condition. Not all are ticking, however. Keeping all Peterson’s timepieces running would be onerous, so he keeps ten running at a time.

One of the clocks hanging in his dining room is a 19th-century French wall “repeater,” because it tolls the hour twice. It’s an impressive timepiece, with a beautifully resonant chime. According to Petersen, the first toll officially announced preparation for prayer time, and the repeated toll indicated that prayer time had begun.

“I think the real reason was so that the first toll would wake you up, and the second one would tell you what time it was. Makes sense to me, a guy who likes hitting the snooze button,” said Petersen.

When he was five years old, Petersen started his path to becoming a horologist by tearing apart his parents’ alarm clock. That must have been fun. In 1963, his father gave him a classic flat-top mantel clock for his fifteenth birthday and showed his son all he knew. But that wasn’t his original inspiration.

The year he turned four, his babysitter gave him a children’s book for his birthday. He brought it out to show me. It appeared to be in near-perfect condition. Originally published in 1945 by Margaret Wise Brown, “The Little Fur Family” tells the tale of a young bear enjoying a day in the woods with his family. As we

thumbed through it together, looking at the illustrations, we came to one showing a grandfather clock.

“I remember looking at that clock again and again,” he said. “I really believe that’s where my first interest in clocks began.”

Over the years, Petersen has worked on hundreds of clocks. Among the more notable is the courtroom calendar clock at the Walla Walla Courthouse, which he worked on with one other person. He also serviced the antique clock that still graces the Columbia County Auditor’s office, originally placed there when the courthouse was completed in 1875.

“I still have to pay my taxes, though,” he said, tongue-in-cheek. I was most impressed with two clocks displayed on the second floor of Petersen’s home. One was his father’s flat-top mantel clock, and next to it, the very mantel clock his father gave him in 1963, both in perfect condition.

“Clocks were once an important part of the household,” he said. “With all the digital devices we have now, we just don’t need mechanical clocks like we once did. They’re obsolete.”

Petersen’s neat and busy-looking basement workshop suggests otherwise. He has half a dozen clocks waiting to be worked on. He can spend anywhere from two to sixteen hours on a clock, depending on its condition.

“A lot of them just need a good cleaning. People don’t realize their clocks need oiling and cleaning. Would you go for years without putting oil in your car?” he asked.

He sources replacement parts from the only three companies still operating in the United States. Someday, he said, those will disappear, too.

Obsolete or not, people keep bringing clocks for repair, heirlooms or collectibles, as if Petersen were the clock doctor. Our Black Forest cuckoo is now one of them. If you have a timepiece you’d like him to look at, you can call him at (509) 386-8787 or send an email to petersen19472@gmail.com

And if you consider taking one apart, keep in mind that marking the intricate pieces before disassembling is key to getting it back together again.

“Just don’t bring me a clock in pieces in a box,” he said with a grin.

Whether or not you own an antique timepiece, I think many readers will agree: the romantic appeal of an old clock chiming the hour will never be obsolete.



Photos by Mike Ferrians
Above: A beautiful 19th century French brass “repeater” timepiece.



Left: Petersen’s busy horology workshop could make Santa’s elves jealous.



Dayton City Council meeting for December

By Michele Smith | THE TIMES

DAYTON—At the Dayton City Council meeting on Dec. 16, 2020, Planning and Community Development Director Meagan Hayes discussed progress by the Affordable Housing Commission. The Commission is reviewing multi-family tax exemptions, which could stimulate the construction of new or existing multi-family housing. The commission is also in the process of developing a marketing campaign.

The Dayton Planning Commission is working on docketing items and will be opening the Subdivision Code. Hayes said that would be done to streamline procedures and remove unknown and undesirable burdens or hurdles within the code. She said the goal is to stimulate growth and development in the city, to expand the economic base.

The Dayton Preservation Commission is working on restoring the grist wheel next to the Dayton levee path. Re-grouting will take place in the spring.

Hayes, along with Dayton Development Task Force members, are implementing a trial run of improvements for Main Street Trees, and the Task Force will fund those.

Hayes said the Planning Department had received a variance in a subdivision application, and the application is under review.

Recently, various site plan development applications have come into city hall.

Development inquiries and meetings are increasing “exponentially,” the housing market is on fire, and

vacant lots are selling the second they are posted, said Hayes.

City Administrator Trina Cole said the South Third Street Sidewalk Project’s final walkthrough would take place this week.

She said Mayor Zac Weatherford and staff in the Public Works Department met with representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers for a walkthrough of the Dayton levee. The Public Works Department needs to remediate a few areas before a final inspection can be done.

County Commissioner Ryan Rundell, who was at the city council meeting, said the commissioners would vote this week on the new interlocal agreement with the City for law enforcement, dispatch, and court services. Once both parties sign the contract, the City’s Finance committee will meet to discuss its effect on the 2021 budget.

Rundell reported to the city council about the county’s Flood Control Zone District. The county engineer is waiting for permits from the state so that sediment removal from the Touchet River can begin, he said.

The Dayton City Council considered and adopted Ordinance No. 1972, amending portion of Title 8 of the Dayton Municipal Code, adopting new provisions related to real property surplus procedures and vacation procedures as requested by the Affordable Housing Commission. A Real Estate Review Committee could be established to make recommendations to the city council.

The City Council also considered and authorized the following:

The first reading, by title only, of Ordinance No. 1973, an ordinance granting PacifiCorp Inc, to provide for the transmission, distribution, and sale of electric energy for power, heat and light, and any other purpose for which electric energy may be used, within the City of Dayton’s public right of ways.

Resolution No. 1447; amending the Solid Waste Collection Service Agreement with Basin Disposal, Inc. The monthly collection rate will be 17.50 per month for a 96-gallon trash can.

Resolution No. 1448; repealing Section 2 of Resolution No. 1400 and authorizing the 2021 City of Dayton Master Fee Schedule.

Resolution No. 1449; a Fuel Tax Grant Agreement with the Transportation Improvement Board, in an amount up to \$300,780, for overlay projects on “J” Street, between S Third St. and S. Fourth St., on Pearson Street between S. Third St. and S. Fourth St., and from Tremont St. to School Bus Street in 2022.

Resolution No. 1450; the Urban Forestry Management Plan by Community Forestry Consultants, for management of Main Street Trees.

Resolution No. 1451; giving the City Administrator the authority to legally bind the City for the sole purpose of requesting federal reimbursement for various federally funded transportation projects.

Resolution No. 1452; Authorizing Dec. 24, 2020, as Council’s discretionary holiday. This is to allow city staff a day off on Christmas Eve.

LEGAL NOTICES

ORDINANCE 2020-1065

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WAITSBURG, WASHINGTON, ESTABLISHING A STREET NAME

The full text of Ordinance 1065 is available for examination on the City’s website www.cityofwaitsburg.com or at the City Clerk’s Office, 147 Main St., Waitsburg, WA, during normal business hours.

Adopted the 15th Day of September 2020
Marty Dunn, Mayor

ORDINANCE 2020-1066

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING A PORTION OF THE 2020 BUDGET OF THE CITY OF WAITSBURG, AS ADOPTED IN ORDINANCE NO. 2019- 1059.

The full text of Ordinance 1066 is available for examination on the City’s website www.cityofwaitsburg.com or at the City Clerk’s Office, 147 Main St., Waitsburg, WA, during normal business hours.

Adopted the 16th Day of December 2020
Marty Dunn, Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-1067 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2021 BUDGET OF THE CITY OF WAITSBURG

Estimated resources, including fund balances or working capital for each separate fund of the City of Waitsburg, and aggregate totals (net of transactions between funds) for all such funds combined for the year 2021 are set forth in summary form below, and are hereby appropriated for expenditure at the fund level during the year 2021 as set forth below:

Fund	Amount
Current Expense Fund (001)	\$ 750,375
Cemetery M&I Fund (002)	\$ 104,088
Library M&I Fund (003)	\$ 2,800
City Street & Road (102)	\$ 842,726
Promotion (106)	\$ 500
Municipal Capital Improvement (107)	\$ 32,000
Water & Sewer Department (401)	\$ 790,725
Total All Funds	\$2,523,212

The full text of Ordinance 1067 is available for examination on the City’s website www.cityofwaitsburg.com or at the City Clerk’s Office, 147 Main St., Waitsburg, WA, during normal business hours.

Adopted the 16th Day of December 2020
Marty Dunn, Mayor
The Times
Dec 24, 2020
12-24-d

ORDINANCE SUMMARY BY TITLE ONLY FOR PUBLICATION PURPOSES ORDINANCE NO. 1971

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DAYTON, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF DAYTON, WASHINGTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021.

The full text of Ordinance 1970 adopted the 2nd day of December, 2020 is available for examination at the City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer’s Office, 111 S. 1st St., Dayton, WA during normal business hours, Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Full text of the Ordinance shall be mailed upon request.

By: /s/ Zac Weatherford, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Trina Cole, City Administrator
Approved as to form: /s/ Quinn Plant, City Attorney
Published:
The Times
Dec 24, 2020
12-24-a

ORDINANCE SUMMARY BY TITLE ONLY FOR PUBLICATION PURPOSES ORDINANCE NO. 1970

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DAYTON, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF DAYTON, WASHINGTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021.

The full text of Ordinance 1970 adopted the 2nd day of December, 2020 is available for examination at the City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer’s Office, 111 S. 1st

St., Dayton, WA during normal business hours, Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Full text of the Ordinance shall be mailed upon request.

By: /s/ Zac Weatherford, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Trina Cole, City Administrator
Approved as to form: /s/ Quinn Plant, City Attorney
The Times
Dec 24, 2020
12-24-b

ORDINANCE SUMMARY BY TITLE ONLY FOR PUBLICATION PURPOSES ORDINANCE NUMBER 1972 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DAYTON, WASHINGTON AMENDING

The full text of Ordinance 1972, adopted the 16th day of December 2020, is available for examination at Dayton City Hall, 111 S. 1st St., Dayton, WA during normal business hours, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

Section 1: New Chapter – Disposition of Surplus Real Property
Section 2: New Chapter – Vacation
Section 3: Severability
Section 4: Effective Date

By: /s/ Zac Weatherford, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Trina Cole, City Administrator
Approved as to form: /s/ Quinn Plant, City Attorney
The Times
Dec 24, 2020
12-24-c

ORDINANCE SUMMARY

Pursuant to RCW 35A.12.160, the Council of the City of Prescott hereby approves for publication the following Ordinance Summary:

1. The name of the

City is the City of Prescott, Washington.

2. The Ordinance summarized is Ordinance No. 2020-08, adopted by the Council of the City of Prescott on December 14, 2020

3. The Ordinance repeals and replaces Ordinance 458 adopted on November 12, 2007 in full. The Ordinance adopts new guidelines required by the Department of Ecology to conform with current law and requirements regarding flood damage prevention.

4. The Ordinance is summarized as follows:

a. The Ordinance is divided into six sections.

b. Section 1 provides the statutory authorization, findings of fact, purpose, objectives of the Ordinance, and applicability of the City’s current Development Standards.

c. Section 2 defines terms used in the Ordinance.

d. Section 3 outlines general terms of the Ordinance such as applicable lands, compliance, and penalties for noncompliance.

e. Section 4 outlines the administration of the Ordinance, including the development permit application required by the Ordinance, the designation of a floodplain administrator, and related matters.

f. Section 5 states standards for flood hazard reduction.

g. Section 6 outlines requirements for variances.

5. The Ordinance provides that states that the Ordinance shall take effect upon passage by the Council, approval by the Mayor, and after the publication as provided by law

6. A copy of the entire

Ordinance will be mailed upon request or may be examined at City Hall.

This Ordinance was APPROVED by the Council of the City of Prescott on the 14th day of December, 2020.

Steve Heimbigner, Mayor
The Times
Dec 24, 2020
12-24-f

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY UNION GAP, WASHINGTON NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO APPROPRIATE PUBLIC WATERS

TAKE NOTICE: That Crown Columbia Water Resources of Spokane, WA, on October 2, 2020, under Application No. S4-33265 applied to appropriate public waters, subject to existing rights, from all surface water and ground water in hydraulic continuity with surface water, within the Columbia River Basin within Washington State at the instantaneous rate of 49.9 cubic feet per second, for the purposes of irrigation, domestic, and municipal. That the annual quantity will be fully mitigated by existing water rights placed, or to be placed, into the Washington Trust Water Rights Program, making the proposed annual appropriation water budget neutral.

That the proposed source is all surface water or ground water in hydraulic continuity with surface water within the Columbia River Basin within Washington State as

LEGAL NOTICES CONTINUE ON PAGE 12

ORDINANCE 2020-07

AN ORDINANCE adopting the Budget for the City of Prescott for the year 2021. BE IT ORDAINED by Council of the City of Prescott that:

SECTION 1: The Budget of the City of Prescott for 2021 be, and the same hereby adopted and fixed as follows:

#001: CURRENT EXPENSE FUND EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Wages	\$ 25,532.00
Maintenance & Operations	\$ 128,594.00
Totals:	\$154,126.00

#101: CITY STREET FUND

Salaries & Wages	\$ -0-
Maintenance & Operations	\$ 16,521.00
Totals:	\$ 16,521.00

#401: WATER FUND

Salaries & Wages	\$ 30,792.00
Misc.	\$ 35,808.00
Totals:	\$ 66,600.00

TOTAL 2021 BUDGET: \$237,247

REVENUES

Taxes	\$ 79,699.00
Int.	\$ 150.00
Misc.	\$ 74,277.00
Totals:	\$154,126.00

Serv.	\$ 66,600.00
Misc.	\$ -0-
Totals:	\$ 66,600.00

SECTION 2: That a copy of the detailed budget and Budget Ordinance to be forwarded to the Division of Municipal Corporations of the State of Washington.

SECTION 3: That if an item section or port of the Ordinance or of the Budget described in the same shall be adjudged to be invalid, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or an item, section or part of said ordinance or budget.

SECTION 4: This ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and support of the City government and its existing institutions and shall take effect immediately upon its passage and posting.

Passed and approved by the City of Prescott this 14, day of December 2020.

Attest: Linda Vannoster, Clerk-Treasurer, Steve Heimbigner, Mayor
Approved as to form: Jared Hawkins, City Attorney

The Times
Dec 24, 2020
12-24-e

Wylie Monuments
CRAFTSMANSHIP & ARTISTRY SINCE 1912

BRODY RAY BOSCHMA
FEBRUARY 20 - 25, 2016

ISAIAH 41:10
DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU; DO NOT BE DISMAYED,
FOR I AM YOUR GOD. I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU AND HELP YOU;
I WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH MY RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND.

Wylie Monuments is honored to announce our first ever award won at the prestigious 2019 American institute of Commemorative Art Design contest. Placing 3rd in the flat marker category is this beautiful marker full of symbolism representing faith and family, with a duplication of the inscription in braille at the bottom.

Thank you to the Boschma family for placing your trust in us.

When it comes to creating a unique and special memorial for your loved one, look no further than Wylie Monuments. Our family serving yours since 1912.

Wylie Monuments - 501 West Main Street Walla Walla, WA (509) 525-6223 www.wyliemonuments.com

Goodbye 2020 and good riddance!

By Vicki Sternfeld-Rossi | THE TIMES

I assume I'm not the only one ready to bid good riddance to 2020, am I? Ever the optimist, I am cautiously hopeful that 2021 will be a good or at least better year. And since it was an unusual year, I am going to do something unusual for me. I am going to be reflective for a change. Although maybe it's just a way to reinforce 2020 is over!

Daniel and I reconciled, then he moved here in March. This adjustment to my 10-year single life coincided with the pandemic and lock-down. Togetherness suddenly had a whole new meaning. I AM glad he's here for many reasons. He is handy, he's renovated, built things, fixed the house, and he cooks. I've adjusted to his growling and cursing; he's still adjusting to the fact that old houses have their quirks. This spring, he built a slew of planters scavenging every bit of scrap wood, old kitchen cabinets, and used kitchen drawers available from our kitchen renovation.

That led us to an amazing discovery! We can grow things! We had a prolific garden, with vegetables, herbs in abundance that we could share with friends and neighbors! Who knew two city slickers could actually grow a garden?

Our king-size bed was a welcome addition in 2020. It was a revelation. I am embarrassed to admit I am the culprit that made a larger bed necessary. Daniel usually sleeps on his back in a straight line; he may turn right or left but stays in



straight alignment. On the other hand, I sleep in a big X, taking up about three-fourths of the entire bed. Mugsy copes by moving from spot to spot as I turn and move my X around in the bed.

A proverb known as Parkinson's Law states, "that people usually take all the time allotted (and frequently more) to accomplish any task." For me, that translates to "my X will increase to fit any space. So, bigger is better, and we all sleep a little sounder."

I am only glad that with Daniel as my personal chef during the shelter at home order, with the gym and Y closed, and all the free shipping from wineries, I haven't gained 50 pounds or become an alcoholic. The year isn't over. However, there are no big bashes to attend or big family gatherings that turn into eat-a-thons, so there isn't much chance of debauchery or drunkenness (at least visible to others).

It's been a year of learning as well. I have learned how to have Zoom meetings with clients and family, but even better, my friends here and in Los Angeles have discovered Zoom cocktail parties! I also use the Houseparty app to connect with my sister. I see her and her husband more often than when I lived in LA. Just click on the app, avoid the freeway traffic, and PJ's are acceptable.

I have also re-discovered the art of procrastination. Last April, I vowed to do a clean out of my closet to clear out clothes, linens, and old towels. Not accomplished! I thought it would be a good time to do some interior painting. Not done. But a new skill I did develop, speed ordering on Amazon.

Thank you 2020, for my fashionable collection of masks and the money saved not buying lipstick, the ability to cut a coffee filter with precision to insert in a mask, learning to flip my mask on and off with style (if I don't drop it first), and, I've adjusted to foggy glasses while wearing my mask. The upside being, the fog softens my wrinkles when I look in the mirror.

Holiday streamers

Deck your halls with new Christmas classics

By Brianna Wray | THE TIMES

Christmas Chronicles 2 2020 Netflix

Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn are back in another North Pole adventure. This time, true believer Kate (Darby Camp), rebelling against her mother's new boyfriend, runs away to the North Pole but is followed by exiled elf, Belsnickel (Julian Dennison). This film is fun and also brings up some good points about the naming of Santa's village. Will the name change permanently in favor of Mrs. Claus or the elves who built it? That may be a tale for another Christmas.



Klaus 2019 Netflix

Klaus is an Academy Award-nominated film starring Hollywood heavyweights Jason Schwartzman, J.K. Simmons, Rashida Jones, Will Sasso, Neda Margrethe Labba, Sergio Pablos, Norm Macdonald, and Joan Cusack. It's rated for rude humor and mild action, so clearly is a good time. In it, a selfish postman and a reclusive toymaker form an unlikely friendship, delivering joy to a cold, dark town that needs it. Together, a postman and a teacher prove that their civic duties provide the basis for an entire town's civility. Can you put a stamp on a community? Only with a little luck.



Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale 2010 Hulu

This R-rated darkly comic Christmas horror is set in an archeological dig in northern Finland



and begins on Christmas Eve. The crew finds a mysterious and sacred grave encased in sawdust. In this town, there are no illusions about gifts and cookies. Santa is a punisher of naughty kids, as evidenced by their historical texts with depictions of a beastly Santa over a cauldron. And that's not soup in there.

Happiest Season 2020 Hulu

A holiday rom-com, or perhaps dram-com, about being true to oneself and trying not to ruin Christmas. A longtime lesbian couple Abby (Kristen Stewart) and Harper (Mackenzie Davis), visit Harper's family for the holidays. What Abby thought was a well-established reality in Harper's parents' eyes was a figment of one's imagination. Harper is still in the closet. Now, under the guise of friends, the couple must undergo Harper's mother's attempts at matchmaking. But it's just five days, right?! Fans of the Canadian sitcom Schitt's Creek will recognize Dan Levy, who has unofficially revised elements of his now-iconic character, David.



The Cookie Chronicles

Chapter 25—The long goodbye

A dog's parting gift

By Paul Gregutt | THE TIMES

Most dog owners grow accustomed over the years to the painful fact that these wonderful creatures are not blessed with long lives. Depending upon the breed, they average as little as eight, and rarely more than 15 years will mark the course of a full life.

For someone like me, who has had only one dog, anticipating the inevitable loss of her cannot be tied to any past experience. The easy way to deal with Cookie's mortality is simply to ignore it. Until you no longer can.

Time marches on, and once Cookie reached age ten this past summer, it was impossible not to notice the years taking a bit of a toll. Her teeth have become problematic, requiring annual dental surgery and sometimes removal. Her energy is more and more limited; her sleep time longer and longer. She's putting on weight. And by some estimates, nearing her allotted lifespan.

Common wisdom is that small dogs tend to live longer than big dogs and mixed breeds longer than purebreds. This is good news for Cookie. She's part terrier, and some terriers average 15 or 16 years. She's part poodle, and small poodles are in the same league. And she's part chihuahua, also averaging around a 15-year lifespan.

Even so, she's well past mid-life. So far, her health is good, and she's as sharp and opinionated as ever. But we've seen friends whose dogs deteriorated to the point where the poor creatures were horribly crippled by debilitating disease, and yet their owners were simply unable to let them go.

How do you prepare for the loss of your best friend? How do you know when it's time to do the hardest thing you've ever done? When is too soon, and when is too late? With any luck, we won't have to face these questions directly this year or next, and maybe not for another half-decade. But face them we will.

A wise friend who just went through this wrenching time with her dog posted some helpful words on Facebook.

"In the last two months," she wrote, "I came to realize that our time with L--- was nearing the end. She was a great communicator, and she taught me how to understand her. A few months ago, she gave up her own bedroom and moved into mine. She was able to get me up for walks three to four times a night. Our prayer time, I called it.

"In all kinds of weather, windy, rain, icy, lights, and darkness. Sometimes I sang while she checked out the surroundings. But mostly, I welcomed the silence.

"I learned from her... patience, slowness, and listening to nature. It was in the last week that things became harder for her. Getting up on her back legs was difficult to do on her own. I got to help her. Her every step was an effort, but she insisted on taking our walks.

"Then one Friday night, her legs could not hold her body up. I gave her the best comfort care I could. Saturday morning, our small family met and said goodbye. Hard as it was and is, it was time to let our sweet L--- go."

It may well be that the greatest gift and most important lesson we can receive from a beloved dog is wrapped in such heart-rending emotion. Somehow finding the courage and strength to accept their mortality, and using that to help us accept



our own.

Cookie and I have chatted about all this, but she doesn't really have any particular concerns. She lives in the moment and happily follows a well-established routine. Her self-awareness does not include worrying about her future. This is a wonderful gift in and of itself. So much of being human seems to be caught up in planning for, dreaming about, worrying about, or simply fearing a future that never comes. As John Lennon memorably stated, "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans."

Perhaps the wisest plan is to focus on the potential happiness within each unfolding moment. Whether that moment brings a treat, a walk, a belly rub, a nap, a romp in the garden, a friend at the door, or something totally unexpected, we can count on Cookie to welcome it with unbounded joy.

Until the day arrives that she does communicate that the end is near, we will cherish each and every one of these precious moments. We will give her all the love we possess. And at the right time, we will do what is best for her, not what is easiest for us.

LIFESTYLES

Dec. 16 fresh fallen snow
Snowshoeing along Umatilla Rim Trail

Rode it back in summer
Getting spectacularly happily lost.
Walked it with Stuart
Carrying a ladder
To nail blue diamonds as high on trunks as we could.
Seeing those diamonds today
Was remembering forgotten favors of friends,
A physical comfort
In our fragile world,
Old maps and their ideas almost unrecognizable.
Looking across a pristine meadow of silent untouched snow,
No steps of anyone having come this way before me,
And seeing deeply into the darkened trees beyond
Spotting a shiny blue diamond
Was an answer to a troubling question I hadn't even asked yet.
We are safe in limited ways, now,
Dependent upon each of us to help with careful trail building.
The trees are ancestors and descendants,
Who can really know who is what anymore
But we do know the snow keeps giving roots reasons to live.

45.6982° N, 118.0558° W

By Terry Lawhead | THE TIMES



Courtesy photos

Top: Blues Crew member refreshing a 'blue diamond' on the trail at Horseshoe Prairie Nordic Ski Area
Horseshoe Prairie provides an opportunity for nordic skiing and snowshoeing on a marked groomed and non-groomed trail system. Currently, there are approximately 10 miles (16 kilometers) of marked trail. The area is bordered on the west by the North Fork Umatilla Wilderness. In preparation for the 2020-21 season, the Blues Crew refreshed the blue diamond trail markers and placed new trail direction signs at the intersections A-H. The Tamarack Trail will be groomed regularly this season.

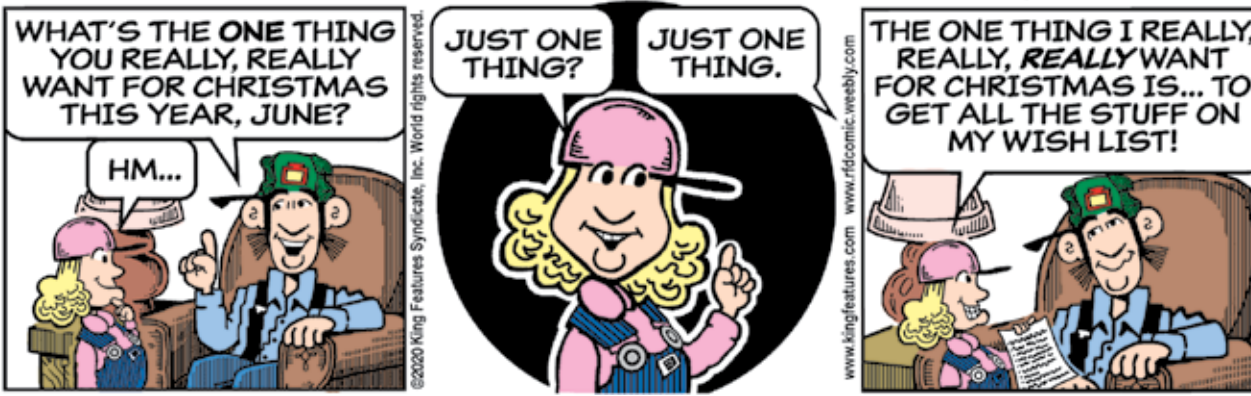
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



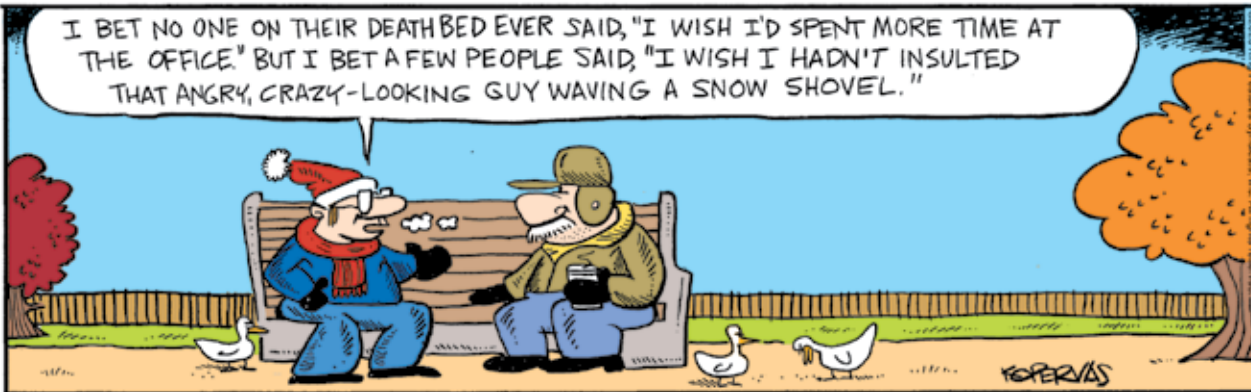
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



PIONEER PORTRAITS

Ten Years Ago

December 23, 2010

First responders from Waitsburg and Walla Walla help an injured driver from Oregon onto a stretcher after his pickup truck rolled off a Highway 12 embankment just north of Minnick Hill around 2 a.m. on Tuesday morning.

The Cardinals are on a roll, winning their third matchup in a row Tuesday against the Mac-Hi Pioneers in a non-league game that ended with a score of 59-23.

November was a great month in Starbuck, and the Starbuck Stars have been busy! Students are hard at work learning and growing, and no student is working harder than McKenzie Dobbs, Elementary Student of the Month.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

December 28, 1995

A committee in Dayton is looking into whether the city should hire a private contractor to maintain the City Cemetery. Councilman Tim Donohue asked for the study.

The city swimming pool in Waitsburg will include a 20-foot round wading pool for toddlers, it was announced recently. City officials said about \$110,000 has been raised from city funds and private donations for the pool renovation project. Work on the 67-year-old pool across from Preston Park has been continuing this fall. The wading pool will be 2-foot at its deepest point. There will not be a fence between the large pool and the wading pool, officials said. City officials said donations have been generous for the community project. "It is hard to spend money when people are giving it like this," said a Council member. "You want to make sure every dime is spent like it supposed to be spent."

Fifty Years Ago

January 7, 1971

Major Glen A. Griffith of the Walla Walla Air Force Detachment will present a program to the Commercial Club on Tuesday evening, January 12.

Three Dayton young people were charged with a Waitsburg burglary by Columbia County prosecuting attorney H. N. Woolson this week. The break-in took place early Thursday morning, December 31, at Touchet Valley Hardware with stolen items including a toolbox, radios, a recorder, toaster, knife and carving set, wristwatches, a saw, lawn edger, steam iron, drill, and coffee pot. The merchandise was found in a shed behind a vacant house on 401 W. Main in Dayton. Officers were searching for drugs.

The Jerry Herrings arrived in Prescott in time to spend Christmas with the Herrings, and other family members arrived on Sunday, the Ray Lorenzs, the Charlie Herrings Jr., and the Charlie Herring III and the Bill Pitlicks.

People will believe anything if you whisper it.

Seventy-Five Years Ago

January 14, 1946

Ira and Harold Bloor have purchased the James building adjoining Bloor's Market, and plan to expand their business this spring, remodeling the entire building to accommodate 200 new steel lockers in the rear and a quick freeze room.

Jacqueline Weller and Mary Hirsch entertained at a dinner party on New Year's Eve at the home of Miss Fanny Weller. Eleven couples attended.

Boy Scouts who will receive their second class rank at the Court of Honor Thursday will Freddie Rankin, Earl Smith, and Bob Collins.

One Hundred Years Ago

January 21, 1921

E. L. Woods this week announced that he would start a first-class dairy in a few days. He has purchased all the equipment of I. D. Casey and Sons and is now purchasing a fine herd of tested cows.

Sheriff Springer and his officers celebrated the national prohibition anniversary Sunday by adding another still to the County's collection. The still was found in College Place and held about fifteen gallons of mash and capable of running out about a quart an hour.

Lewis Atkinson has accepted a position as bookkeeper in the Waitsburg Mercantile Co., left vacant by the resignation of Miss Grace McCall.

One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago

January 17, 1896

Miss Mabel Keiser is in Walla Walla this week visiting Miss Sophia Ormsbee.

E. W. McCann and J. B. Caldwell are representing this part of the country in the matter of jury work at this term of court.

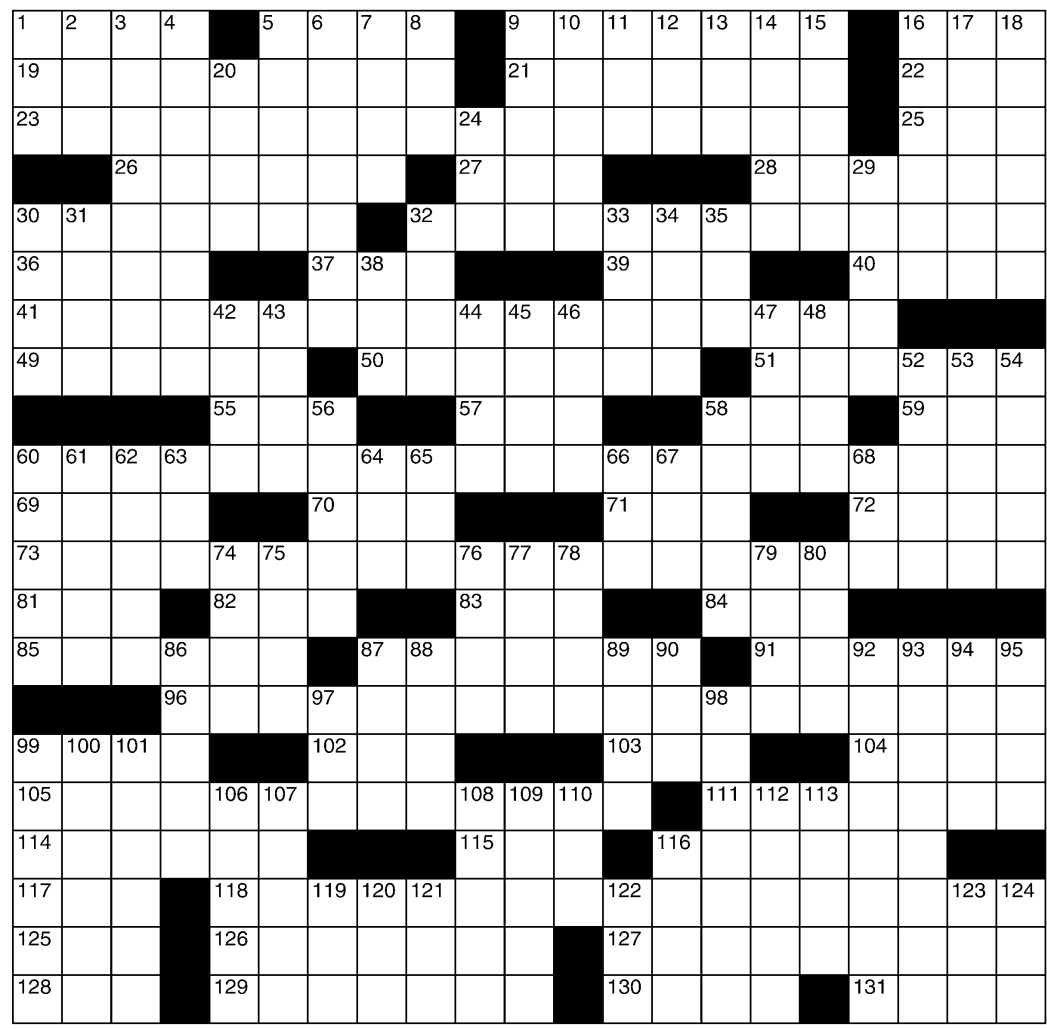
R. O. Sanders and family arrived home on Monday for a three months visit among relatives and old friends in Indiana and Illinois. They had a delightful time, but after, "there's no place like home."

FUN & GAMES

Super Crossword

EMCEE RIVALRY

- ACROSS**
- 1 Moves like a dog's tail
 - 5 Sicilian erupter
 - 9 Not too swift
 - 16 Slack-jawed feeling
 - 19 Question to an unknown caller
 - 21 Portable grill
 - 22 See 38-Down
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 In favor of
 - 26 Downhillers, e.g.
 - 27 "— hawl!" (rodeo yell)
 - 28 Magazine agent's success
 - 30 Total failure
 - 32 Riddle, part 2
 - 36 Run — (buy drinks on credit)
 - 37 Title for Lancelot
 - 39 Sleep study acronym
 - 40 Big vases
 - 41 Riddle, part 3
 - 49 Cab Calloway catchphrase
 - 50 Lovingly, to a musician
 - 51 Common folks
 - 55 Similar to
 - 57 Actor Kilmer
 - 58 Peppery
 - 59 Boxer Clay, later
 - 60 Riddle, part 4
 - 69 PC combo key
 - 70 Water, in Vichy
 - 71 A, in Italy
 - 72 "Zip — -Doo-Dah"
 - 73 Riddle, part 5
 - 81 Author Rand
 - 82 Fall Classic mo.
 - 83 12, on a sundial
 - 84 Small kid
 - 85 Clorox, e.g.
 - 87 Having no 131-Across
 - 91 Sarajevo locale
 - 96 Riddle, part 6
 - 99 Some vipers
 - 102 — -pah-pah
 - 103 Gen. Lee's side: Abbr.
 - 104 Half-pint
 - 105 End of the riddle
 - 111 — Stone (hieroglyphic discovery)
 - 114 Gretel's brother
 - 115 Metal source
 - 116 Painter's undercoat
 - 117 A Gershwin brother
 - 118 Riddle's answer
 - 125 Sci-fi author Stanislaw
 - 126 Email, e.g.
 - 127 Some overcrowded houses
 - 128 Historic span
 - 129 Smiled villainously
 - 130 See 74-Down
 - 131 Top of a car
 - DOWN**
 - 1 It follows "/" in a URL
 - 2 "Feels so nice!"
 - 3 Loses one's hair
 - 4 Not guaranteed only to float
 - 5 Merman of song
 - 6 British prime minister May
 - 7 Small peaves
 - 8 Enzyme-name suffix
 - 9 Transparent
 - 10 Dwells
 - 11 Shikoku sash
 - 12 Is no longer
 - 13 Here, in Le Havre
 - 14 Sandbar
 - 15 Indian language
 - 16 Public scandal
 - 17 Like Afghans
 - 18 Act of exiting
 - 20 Clic — (Bic brand)
 - 24 Drain-clearing stuff
 - 29 Shocks
 - 30 Quick race
 - 31 Sewing case
 - 32 Baby buggy, to Brits
 - 33 Tolkien meanies
 - 34 Fish in a Pixar title
 - 35 Doctors' gp.
 - 38 With 22-Across, spaced out
 - 42 "If — a Hammer"
 - 43 Mouselike animal
 - 44 1970s Chevy
 - 45 "Curses!"
 - 46 Shed skin or feathers
 - 47 Doctors' gps.
 - 48 Curse
 - 52 Resident of Riyadh
 - 53 Page of "Juno"
 - 54 Album's first half
 - 56 Make — in (begin working on)
 - 58 "Grand" hotel
 - 60 1983 comedy with Mr. T
 - 61 Gasoline additive
 - 62 Wading bird
 - 63 Sickly
 - 64 Label
 - 65 Color shade
 - 66 "Say again?"
 - 67 Rock's Brian
 - 68 Boat mover
 - 74 With 130-Across, home of a Scottish "monster"
 - 75 Say again
 - 76 Old lovers
 - 77 "Say it — so!"
 - 78 — Field (Mets' home)
 - 79 Drifting sort
 - 80 English prep school
 - 86 Aides: Abbr.
 - 87 "Hmm, I guess so"
 - 88 Grandiosity
 - 89 In the past
 - 90 Magazine or book divs.
 - 92 Wall — (financial district employee)
 - 93 Nearly massless particle
 - 94 Lacks entity
 - 95 "— boy!"
 - 97 Vie for the love of
 - 98 Lurches from side to side
 - 99 For a spell
 - 100 Generous type
 - 101 It's west of Colombia
 - 106 Bursts (with)
 - 107 Of the past
 - 108 Ski cottage
 - 109 Like pop flies
 - 110 Co.'s top dog
 - 112 Hall's pop partner
 - 113 Slightly built
 - 116 Admiral Graf — (German warship)
 - 119 Mao — -tung
 - 120 Sugar-name suffix
 - 121 Big rabbit feature
 - 122 Peak: Abbr.
 - 123 Siouan tribe member
 - 124 Abbr. on a bounced check



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TEENY MCMUNN: MY RECIPE BOX

Best Spinach Dip Ever

This came into my email. I had not thought of the spinach dip for a while and, truth be told, I hadn't thought of it period, because it has sour cream, like most dips. But I do know it is popular and it might be a nice addition to the snacks while waiting for Christmas dinner, or during a football game. It had a 5 star rating.

Recently I found small round sourdough breads, which might be another idea of several placed around, rather than a large one.

Side note: I was given a recipe for Vanilla Wafer Cake with no flour in it. Just crushed vanilla wafers and I hear it's really good. It has pecans, coconut, and chocolate chips. If you would like the recipe, let me know. I haven't made it yet.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 1 (16 oz.) container sour cream
- 1 (1.8 oz.) package dry leek soup mix
- 1 (4 oz.) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped
- ½ (10 oz.) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 1 (1#) loaf round sourdough bread

DIRECTIONS:

In a medium bowl, mix together mayonnaise, sour cream, dry leek soup mix, water chestnuts, and chopped spinach. Chill in the refrigerator for 6 hours or overnight.

Remove top and interior of sourdough bread. Remove top and interior of the bread bowl. Fill bread bowl with dip. Tear top bread and interior into pieces for dipping.

MY NOTES:

There are many versions of a spinach dip. This is one of many. Google for other versions if you like. This one came from All-recipes.com.

ENJOY! ☺

Merry Christmas. May it include family, friends, good food, and relaxation!



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38 East Main Street Walla Walla (509) 529-9963 www.BOOKANDGAME.com

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

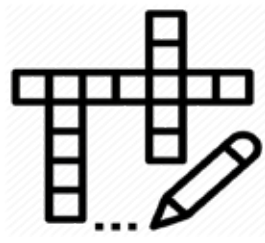
8				2				6
	2		7		1	8		
		6		9				3
4	9		1					2
	1			8				9
		5			3	7		
5				7		3		2
	8		5			1		
		7			2			6

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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Ornithogalum umbellatum forms carpets of low-growing foliage topped with star-shaped white flowers during April and May. It's great for keeping a sunny bank of soil from eroding away, an accent in a sunny garden, or covering exposed roots under trees or shrubs. It can be invasive, and will need thinning out from time to time. It attracts bees and other pollinators with its nectar- and pollen-rich flowers.

— Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.easytogrowbulbs.com, www.gardenersworld.com, www.missouriherbarium.org

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



Washington State Department of Health welcomes new secretary of health

THE TIMES

OLYMPIA—The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is pleased to welcome Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, as our new secretary of health.

Secretary Shah comes to Washington from Harris County Public Health (HCPH) in Texas, where he served as the executive director and local health authority. Harris County is the third-largest county in the nation, with nearly five million people. His appointment to the position was announced last month by Governor Jay Inslee, and his tenure begins today, Dec. 21.

“I want to begin by thanking Governor Inslee, Secretary Wiesman, and the great people here at DOH for welcoming me so warmly to the state of Washington,” said Secretary Shah. “I know this is a difficult time to be making such a transition, especially in the midst of this pandemic. However, I am a firm believer in working together to take on any issue in front of us. As your new secretary of health, my goal is to build upon the work of a strong leader such as Dr. Wiesman in serving the people of Washington. Utilizing every tool in our toolbox, including vaccines, I am confident we will turn the corner in our battle against COVID-19.”

“I am thrilled that Dr. Shah is stepping into this position, and I know that his expertise in public health leadership, especially during this pandemic, will benefit the people of Washington greatly,” said outgoing Secretary of Health John Wiesman. Dr. Wiesman will be taking a few months off and then join the faculty at the University of North Carolina, Gillings School of Global Public Health.

While the state welcomes the new secretary of health, public health guidance remains consistent. The state continues to encourage the people of Washington to practice the good public health behaviors that have helped in fighting the current surge of COVID-19 in the state.

- Wearing a mask, even with people you see regularly and in your smallest social circles;
- Keeping gatherings outside whenever possible;
- Avoiding any social gatherings indoors, but if participating, wearing a mask and ensuring windows and doors are open to maximize ventilation;
- Wearing a mask while in the car with other people, including with family who do not live in your household;
- Washing hands often, not touching your face, and carrying hand sanitizer for use when water and soap are not available;
- Staying home if you are sick or if you have been exposed to COVID-19; and,
- Getting tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms or were exposed to someone who tested positive.

Dr. Wiesman adds, “I have faith in the people of Washington and their ability to band together now and in the coming months to flatten the curve and continue to practice these safety measures as long as they’re needed. We can take heart in knowing that the vaccine has already started to roll out, creating a safer, brighter future for people across the state.”

Washington State Parks Annual Yule Log Celebration

A lasting tradition endures

By Brianna Wray | THE TIMES

WASHINGTON—Yule is the name of the old Winter Solstice festivals celebrated in Scandinavia and other parts of northern Europe. What became the Yule Log was originally an entire tree that was carefully chosen and brought into the house with great ceremony. Yule festivities like this have been celebrated since the Iron Age, when Celtic Brits and Gaelic Europeans would gather to welcome winter and the lengthening of days. The log was thought to represent the following year’s good or back luck. There are many variations and superstitions associated with different wood types. The log chosen would be split and half would be reserved for the following year’s fire.

At its ancient inception, the Yule log would be burned with half sticking out of the hearth, a practice which is perhaps a bit risky for modern celebrations. An alternative was developed over the years with the introduction of a log shaped cake-roll dessert. A sweet and chocolaty, safe option.

While Washington State is far removed from ancient Europe, celebrations of this rich tradition are welcome among all our many native tree species.

Typically, Washington State Parks hosted a Yule Log event at Schafer State Park by the Satsup River.



Families and friends were welcomed to come and hunt for the log, which was decorated with holly berries and hidden by the rangers. Once found, rangers blew the old fog horn and the finder was allowed to split the log with an axe and add their name to the axe handle.

This year, in light of the restrictions set in place following the COVID-19 pandemic, the event went virtual with a small number of rangers gathered at Schafer State Park to share songs and stories, distanced six feet or more.

“For the holidays you can’t beat home sweet home,” rangers sang by the fire. Following that, they sat down with historians to learn about Yule’s transition to a Christmas event that’s been celebrated at Schafer park since 1954.

The first celebration came about after a park neighbor shared the idea found in a women’s magazine. The event would include music with rangers hauling out a pump organ while a local doctor, Dr. Jim Moore, played Christmas carols on accordion. When it became too difficult to transport the organ, the Parks service formed a hand-chime choir. They’ve performed through snow, rain and sunshine, but were stopped by COVID-19.

This year’s virtual event can be seen on at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAG7NBt5FW8> where you can listen to the rangers sing and share the history of the Yule Log event, all in front of a roaring fire in a stone fireplace. Cozy up with a cup of cocoa.



LEGALS (Cont.)

described in the Amended Trust Water Agreement between the Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Crown. The agreement is available from Ecology upon request. That the proposed place of use is within the Columbia River Basin described above, Washington.

Protests or objections to approval of this application must include a detailed statement of the basis for objections. All letters of protest will become public record. Protests must be accompanied by a \$50 recording fee payable to the Department of Ecology, Cashiering Unit, PO Box 47611, Olympia WA 98504-7611, within 30 days from: (publisher to insert date of last publication)

Cash shall not be accepted. Fees must be paid by check or money order and are non-refundable.
The Times
December 24, 31, 2020
12-24-g

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

Congratulations
Scott Marinella

1986 2020

Please join us in congratulating
Scott Marinella
on his January 1, 2021 retirement.

He began his legal career in Dayton in January 1984. Through the years he has contributed to our community as a civil attorney, counseling and advocating for his clients. His public service includes Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, counsel for Dayton General Hospital and the Port of Columbia County, and Dayton School District Board member. He is currently Columbia County’s elected District Court Judge and will continue in that capacity. Given COVID-19 restrictions, there will not be a retirement party; however, well-wishes by phone, letter and email are encouraged.

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