



The Times

Thursday
July 16, 2026
Vol. 149 No. 21
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SERVING WAITSBURG, DAYTON AND THE TOUCHET VALLEY Published Since 1878 ONE DOLLAR



Courtesy photo

Team members relaxing on Washington's Long Beach Peninsula, after a day at basketball camp. (l-r): JJ Gleason, Gage Myrnear, Alex Zuniga, Carsyn Pennington, Bryer Paul, Liam Kiefel, Jake Lynch, and Hudson Lynch. Article below.

THIS WEEK



Times Travelers
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Phil Eugene Monfort
1923 – 2026
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Waitsburg HS boys team attends basketball camp

By Karen Huwe | THE TIMES

ILLWACO, Wash. — Chris Andrews has replaced Westin Wallace as Waitsburg High School's head basketball coach. Wallace resigned after taking a teaching position in Reardan, Washington.

Andrews previously coached the Waitsburg middle school boys. He worked with Wallace to ensure the high school boys could attend a summer basketball camp in Ilwaco. Using funds raised through various fundraising efforts and a generous donation from the Waitsburg Lions Club, the team was set.

Eight of the team's student-athletes attended the camp from June 29 through July 2.

"One of the biggest highlights was how competitive our young group remained while facing older varsity teams. Despite having a very limited bench and playing seven games over four days, our players consistently demonstrated resilience and determination. They never gave up and competed hard in every game against teams with significantly greater depth," said Andrews.

COLUMBIA COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEM RECEIVES GOLD-LEVEL QUALITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

By Lane Gwinn | THE TIMES

DAYTON — Columbia County Health System received the Gold-level Rural Hospital Achievement of Quality Excellence from the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) for its work to improve patient safety and quality of care. The award was presented at the WSHA Rural Hospital Leadership Conference in Chelan on June 28, 2026.

Gold is the highest achievement, and the WSHA recognized CCHS at this level after evaluating the hospital's achievements in fall prevention, sepsis care, and opioid harm prevention.

"This recognition reflects the dedication of employees throughout our health system," said Amy Crickmer, PhD, RN, Director of Quality. "Quality improvement is not a single project or the responsibility of one department. It is part of the work our team does every day to provide safe, reliable care for our friends, neighbors, coworkers and

loved ones."

The Rural Hospital Achievement of Quality Excellence is awarded to hospitals that demonstrate a strong commitment to health care.

Columbia County Health System is a public hospital district serving Dayton, Waitsburg, Starbuck, and surrounding communities in southeastern Washington. The health system includes Dayton General Hospital, Columbia Family Clinic, Waitsburg Clinic, Columbia Family Dental Clinic, Rivers Walk Assisted Living, and a range of specialty services, including outpatient, rehabilitation, and behavioral health. As a rural critical access health system, CCHS is committed to providing trusted, high-quality care for the communities it serves.

For more information about CCHS go to <https://cchd-wa.org>.



Port board continues comp plan review

Port Director helps at Lyon's Ferry Marina on July 4th

By Justin Jaech | THE TIMES

DAYTON — The Port of Columbia Commissioners held their regular meeting at 5 p.m. on July 7, 2026, at the port's conference room. Present were Commissioners Mike Spring and Scott Hudson, Executive Director Jennie Dickinson, and Economic Development Coordinator Shane Laib. Commissioner Johnny Watts did not attend.

The commissioners completed the agenda administrative items without debate.

Dickinson said the conference room remodel would not begin until August 2026.

She also said the sale of the Lyon's Ferry Marina and Campground had still not closed but expects a deal with the prospective buyer to be completed soon. Dickinson said she worked the cash register at the Lyon's Ferry gift shop on the Fourth of July to help after the manager had quit unexpectedly two days earlier. She said most people she saw while working at the till were tourists. The planned pull-through

sites in the RV park are still in the cultural resource review stage.

At Blue Mountain Station, a call for bids for the Mainstem Malt project should be issued the week of September 10, 2026, if financing proceeds as planned. The director would like to present bid proposals at the October 14, 2026, board meeting. Foodstock will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2026, at BMS.

The CWW Railroad lease negotiations continue, but the draft should be available in August. Much of the delay stems from discussions on a tourism element. The lease is expected to be for a term of ten years.

Under Community and Economic Development, Shane Laib presented data showing how the port has assisted local businesses over the past year.

A discussion followed on unnamed business projects in Columbia County. The projects were not identified, and no specific information was offered.

Beginning in May 2026, the commissioners began reviewing sections of the Port's comprehensive plan. This month, the review covered the real estate and transportation sections.

The meeting adjourned for an executive session. The agenda stated that the session was to consider pricing for the sale or lease of port property. Any following action to sell or lease public property would be taken in a meeting open to the public.

Washington primary voting begins July 17 through Aug. 4

OLYMPIA — Primary voting begins July 17, the following are the dates and deadlines for Wash. voters:

- **July 17** – Start of 18-day voting period (through Election Day). Ballots are mailed out and Accessible Voting Units (AVUs) are available at voting centers.
- **July 27** – Online and mail registrations must be received 8 days before Election Day. Register to vote in person during business hours and any time before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- **August 4** – Deadline for Washington State voter registration or updates (in person only).
- **August 4** – Primary - Deposit your ballot in an official drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day.



NEWS BRIEFS

NEWS BRIEFS

AT THE LIBERTY: “Young Washington” July 17-21

THE TIMES

DAYTON — Before he was the Father of a Nation, he was a soldier fighting to survive. In “Young Washington,” a single misstep thrusts young George Washington into the center of a global conflict, testing his honor, loyalty, and courage.

The cast includes William Franklyn-Miller as George Washington, Mary Louise Parker as Martha, Ben Kingsley, and Kelsey Grammer. Rated PG-13 for sequences of intense war violence and some bloody imagery; runtime: 125 minutes.

The Rotten Tomatoes audience rated the film at 92%. One member wrote, “From the opening scene, ‘Young Washington’ transports you to colonial America. It felt authentic to the period, with strong performances, suspenseful battle scenes, and wonderful cinematography.” An RT critic said, “It will inspire you to learn more about Washington and other Founding Fathers; a rousing reminder that even our greatest heroes start out as young men and women brimming with potential.”

The Liberty Theater’s Annual Yard Sale raises funds for the theater’s operations. The sale will be on Friday, July 24, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday, July 25, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the annex behind the theater. Donations are now being accepted (no clothes, please). Drop-off times are Saturday, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., behind the theater. Contact Bev Startin at (509) 382-4093 for more information.

Online registration is open for Missoula Children’s Theatre’s production of “Aladdin.” Rehearsals and performances will be over the week of August 3. Participation is free for children; 1st grade through 12th grade. Registration is required, in person at the theater on Tuesday, July 28, and Friday, July 31, between 2 and 5 p.m., or online at libertytheater.org. Auditions are Monday, August 3, at 10 a.m., followed by rehearsals all week. Performances are Friday, August 7, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, August 8, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 and will go on sale mid-July. Please call (509) 382-1380 with any questions.

Upcoming Movies: “Young Washington” on July 17-21, “Minions & Monsters” on July 24-28 “Odyssey” on July 31-August 4.

THE LIBERTY THEATER – DAYTON

KIDS SUMMER MOVIES

1:00pm - FREE ADMISSION
\$2.00 small drink (or water) with small popcorn



JULY 14 & 17 **JULY 21 & 24**

MCT-ALADDIN PERFORMANCES

AUGUST 7 at 7:00pm
AUGUST 8 at 3:00pm

Friday 7:00 pm
Saturday 7:00 pm
Sunday 3:00 pm
Tuesday 6:30 pm

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LETTERS

RICHARD SCHRAM FOR WW SHERIFF

I am pleased to endorse Richard Schram for Walla Walla County Sheriff.

During my tenure as Walla Walla County Emergency Management Director, I worked closely with Richard while he served as Chief Deputy for the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office. Throughout that time, he consistently demonstrated professionalism, reliability, and a strong commitment to public service.

In emergency situations, where sound judgment and steady leadership are critical, Richard was someone I could always depend on. He approached challenges calmly, worked effectively with partner agencies, and remained focused on serving the community. His ability to coordinate efforts, solve problems, and support emergency operations earned my trust and respect.

Richard also brought the same integrity and dependability to daily operations. He followed through on commitments, treated people with respect, and built positive working relationships across organizations. He was a steady presence who could be counted on regardless of the situation.

Based on my experience working with him, I am confident Richard has the leadership skills, professionalism, and dedication necessary to serve the people of Walla Walla County as Sheriff. I am proud to support his candidacy and encourage voters to do the same.

Lizabeth Jessee
Walla Walla, Wash.



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TIMES TRAVELERS



Gaudi Guys, John Avery and Luke Chavez, in front of the famous Casa Batlló, one of Antoni Gaudí's iconic homes in central Barcelona. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casa_Batló

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The Times

A PROUD TRADITION

The Times was founded in 1878 by C.W. Wheeler and has been produced every week since then. It is one of the oldest newspapers in the state of Washington.

The Times publishes news and information about Walla Walla and Columbia counties and their communities.

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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3-year subscription: \$105

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Phillip Eugene Monfort

October 17, 1923 – July 3, 2026

Phillip Eugene Monfort passed away on July 3, 2026, after 102 years of full and fruitful living. Born on October 17, 1923, in Iola, Kansas, to Earl Monfort and Winnie Remsberg Monfort on his parents' birthdays, he was the youngest of 9 children. An inventor, adventurer, and entrepreneur, he moved to Waitsburg in 1947 before an administrative error recalled him to Korea.

As a young man, Phillip worked in a war-defense plant before being drafted into the Army Air Corps. He eventually bought his own plane and flew throughout the States, creating friends and experiences along the way. While in Florida, Phil encountered Moral Re-Armament (now Initiatives of Change). He came to a true faith in Christ through their work and was challenged to live out his life to the standards of absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness, and absolute love, which are fulfilled in the work of Christ. It was through MRA that he developed the daily practice of waking early to pray and listen for the guidance from the Holy

Spirit speaking into his life. He wrote down these thoughts daily in a notebook.

Keen to share his passions with others, Phillip would happily talk about Christ's mercy towards him, six days of creation, ponies, trains, farming, and interracial harmony with anyone willing to listen. Prior to the Internet, he kept his own library of books, articles, and films, which he believed important, and shared them liberally with others. He lived boldly yet modestly, touched many, and will be greatly missed.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his eight siblings. Phillip is survived by his wife, Jeanetta; their two daughters, Margaret Shultz (Jeremy) and Sarah Torrens (Alister); and four grandchildren: Evelyn Grace and Isaiah Franklin Shultz, and Saphira Alexandra and Thaddaeus Phillip Torrens; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at the Waitsburg Presbyterian Church on August 1, 2026, at 10:00 AM and will be streamed; see the online obituary at <https://www.herringgroseclose.com> for the link prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Initiatives of Change or Answers in Genesis through the Herring Groseclose Funeral Home, 315 W Alder St, Walla Walla, WA 99362. Friends and family are invited to sign the online guestbook at www.herringgroseclose.com.



Submitted photo

Phillip Eugene Monfort
October 17, 1923 – July 3, 2026



Karen Huwe

(above) Commercial Club President Brittany Crane recorded the questions and answers at the July 8 forum.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FORUM HELD IN WAITSBURG

WAITSBURG — Waitsburg voters had an opportunity to hear from 14 Walla Walla County candidates at the Waitsburg Town Hall on Wednesday, July 8, 2026. The candidate forum was sponsored by the Waitsburg Commercial Club

and moderated by Joy Smith and Virginia Romine.

Approximately 70 people attended the two-hour event. The candidates gave opening statements and answered questions from the moderators and audience.

The candidates who attended are running in state and county races, including Washington State 16th Legislative District (positions 1 and 2), Walla Walla County Auditor, Walla Walla County Clerk, Walla Walla County Commissioner, Walla Walla County Sheriff, and Part-time District Court Judge were present.

Podcast and bluegrass at the Mikkelsen Barn July 17

By Lane Gwinn | THE TIMES

WAITSBURG — The Cascade of History podcast will be recording for later broadcast during the Mythical/Movable Blue Mountain Bluegrass Jam on Friday, July 17. The jam will be held at the historic Mikkelsen Barn from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Cascade of History podcast producer and host, Feliks Banel, will be speaking with people at the jam between songs or outside the barn. The podcast presents news and stories about people who study and add to the history of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia.

Tuchet Valley Acoustic Music Project (TVAMP) founder Kate Hockersmith said, "Feliks Banel will be giving his listeners a glimpse of what the jams are all about by recording the event and asking questions between tunes or outside the barn."

Mikkelsen Barn was built in 1918 by Ernest and Charlotte Mikkelsen. From 2019 to 2022, the current owner, Kristen Darrow, renovated the big red barn, with funding in part from a grant from the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic

Preservation's (DAHP) historic barn program.

Recipients of DAHP grants are encouraged to make renovated barns accessible to the community and continue agricultural use. Working with Hockersmith, Darrow frequently hosts the bluegrass jams once a month from spring through fall.

Mikkelsen Barn is located at 12241 Lower Waitsburg Road, about six miles south of Waitsburg.

The Cascade of History podcast can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/48tr-jahu> or by using the QR code on the right.

To sign up for the Magical/Mythical Blue Mountain Bluegrass newsletter, email Hockersmith at TVAMP1@charter.net



courtesy photo

Feliks Banel on the move for Cascade of History podcast

TWO VIEWS OF BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP OVER 2 DAYS

By Lane Gwinn | THE TIMES

All members of the United States Men's National Soccer Team must meet FIFA rules to qualify. This includes players who were born in the United States, born outside of the country to an American parent, have an American-born grandparent, or are naturalized citizens.

One day after the Supreme Court ruled against President Trump's executive order limiting birthright citizenship, the president intervened on behalf of USMNT striker Folarin Balogun, who had received a red card and a one-game suspension. Balogun was allowed to play in the knockout round after FIFA President Gianni Infantino received Trump's call.

Trump said it would have been highly unfair for the U.S. to lose a star

player over a play he did not believe was a foul.

Folarin Balogun is eligible to play for the US team through birthright citizenship. His parents, Florence and Ben Balogun, are Nigerian citizens who hold British residency status. In 2001, after a visit with her sister in Brooklyn, New York, Florence was denied a return flight to London by the airline due to pregnancy. Stranded in Brooklyn, she remained with relatives, gave birth to Folarin, and returned home a few weeks later.

Balogun is eligible to play for Nigeria, Great Britain, or the US in the FIFA World Cup. His mother encouraged him to play for the US team, saying she doesn't believe things happen by luck, and the circumstances of his American birth stuck with her. Before he was thinking about the decision, she had already made up her mind that he would one day play for America.

According to the PEW Research Center, 33 countries offer unconditional birthright citizenship to anyone born on their soil, regardless of parental nationality or legal status.

BIRTHDAYS

July 16: Margaret Fitzekam, Judy Bauerlie, and Karlee Young.

July 17: Mack Garrett, Bill Hamann, and Emily Hubbard.

July 18: Andrew Estes, Jean Krause, Mike Hinchliffe, James Hamilton, Connie Maiden, Judy Groom, Courtney Gritman, Stephanie Thomas, and Thomas (Josh) Pennington.

July 19: Ray Johnson, Jessica Hofer, Jacob Johnson, Adam Mellish, Zachariah Beasley, Marilyn Stellwagen, and Porter Larsen.

July 20: Gary Marshall, Beverly Low, Brandon McKinney, Alexa Groom, Jamie Pettichord, Lisa DeCoria, Reagan Miller, and Joan Winslow.

July 21: Jill Wood, Andy Mays, Susann Anderson, and Jackson Hogan.
July 22: Tom Keeney, Kathy Buroker, and Krissy Lytle.



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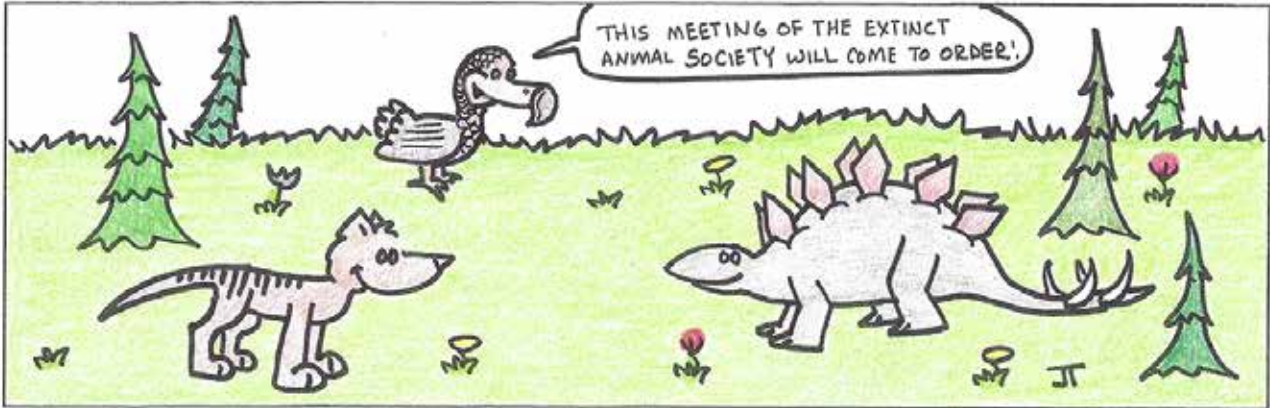
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LEGALS & FUN

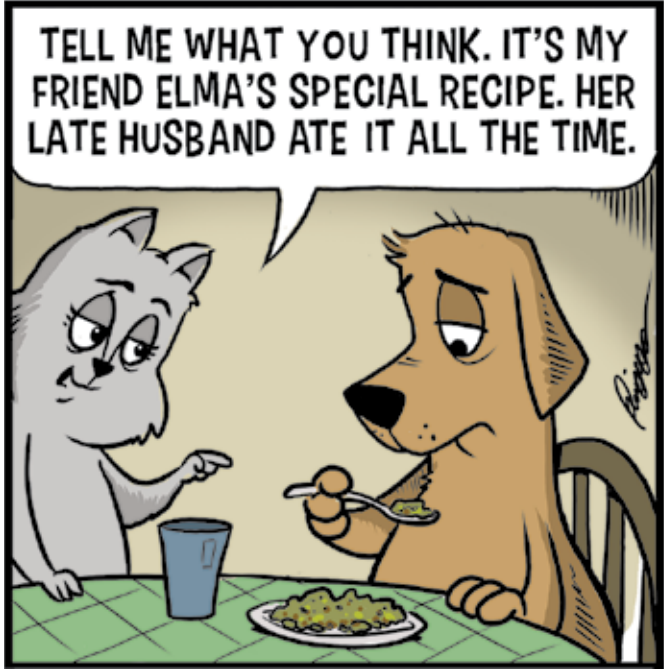
The Friendly Forest

By Jimmye L. Turner



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT



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Out on a Limb



ON SECOND THOUGHT...



by Gary Kopervas

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
Case No.: 26-2-00465-36
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
CRAIG WOLD, an individual, Plaintiff,
vs.
BRANDON BLAINE HARDY and JANE DOE HARDY, individually and on behalf of their marital community; and also all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein and located at 1116 Alvarado Terrace, Walla Walla, Washington, Defendants.
The State of Washington to all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described in the complaint and located at 1116 Alvarado Terrace, Walla Walla, Washington:
You are hereby summoned to

appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the 9th day of July, 2026 and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiff CRAIG WOLD, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorneys for plaintiff, CRAIG WOLD, at his office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court. The object of this action is for Quiet Title. Dated this 1st day of July, 2026.
s/ Kelby J. Derenick
Kelby J. Derenick, WSBA #42860
Attorney for Plaintiff
14 E. Main Street, Suite 214
Walla Walla, WA 99362
The Times
July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026
7-9-a

Public Hearing Notice
City of Waitsburg, WA,
Randy Hinchliffe, 106 Main St
Waitsburg, WA 99361-0035,
is seeking coverage under the Washington State Department of Ecology's Construction Stormwater NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit. The proposed project, Water Lines, is located at State Route 124 in Waitsburg in Walla Walla county. This project involves 1.25 acres of soil disturbance for Utilities, construction activities. The receiving water is the Touchet River.
Any persons desiring to present their views to the Washington State Department of Ecology regarding this Application, or interested in Ecology's action on this Application, may notify Ecology in writing no later than 30 days of the last date of publication of this notice. Ecology reviews public comments and considers whether discharges from this project would cause a measur-

able change in receiving water quality, and, if so, whether the project is necessary and in the overriding public interest according to Tier II anti-degradation requirements under WAC 173-201A-320. Comments can be submitted to:
ecyrewqianoi@ecy.wa.gov, or
ATTN: Water Quality Program, Construction Stormwater
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696
The Times
July 16, 23, 2026
7-16-a

PIONEER PORTRAITS

Fifteen Years Ago
July 21, 2011



[Photo Caption] Cole Smith from Northstar Construction takes off the old framing around the windows of the historic Mock building, constructed in 1902 and once a pool hall.

Twenty-Five Years Ago
July 19, 2001

Volunteering on a medical mission to the African country of Kenya this summer gave a 20-year-old Waitsburg college student valuable experience treating the sick and injured, but Elizabeth Abbey will tell you she came home most impressed by the trust the Kenyans she helped treat showed her. "They are very trusting," she said. "I know that we helped a lot those people we saw and that we did what we could fore them. They trusted that what we gave them would help. I know they appreciate it." The trust trickled down to the youngest patients the 37-member group, which included two medical doctors and five registered nurses, treated.

Fifty Years Ago
July 15, 1976

Orin Walker presented a sewing machine to the Waitsburg Historical Society Monday night—the first sewing machine to be brought to the Touchet Valley. It arrived here in 1865 when his grandparents came from Oregon to settle below Prescott. The machine is a Wheeler and Wilson model patented in 1852, just three years after Elias Howe patented the first sewing machine in 1849.

Mrs. Tim Pettyjohn of Prescott reports to The Times this week that their two sons are busy on the All-Star Baseball Teams this summer – Keith, 9 years, with the College Place Mustangs and Mike, 11, with the Touchet Valley Broncos. They are the grandsons of Vance Orchard of Walla Walla who is preparing the Historical Society book, "Waitsburg, One of a Kind."

Seventy-Five Years Ago
July 20, 1951

John Richardson, 1950 graduate of Whitman College, will be the new athletic director and manual arts instructor at Waitsburg High School this fall.

Waitsburg swimmers won the honors at the Dayton swimming meet Tuesday afternoon. Taking part were Glenn Vogt, Bobby Webber, Ronnie Milligan, Neil Witt, Bruce Brunton, Jerry Baker, Jerry Todt, Lynn Jones, Carolyn Egli, Patsy Stedman and Deana Land.
Rainbow Girls are having a swimming party at the Glen Smith pool Sunday evening.

One Hundred Years Ago
July 23, 1926

Several hundred people availed themselves of the opportunity to witness the Masonic Grand Lodge ceremonies in connection with the laying of the corner stone of the new Waitsburg High school building on Tuesday, July 20 at 4 o'clock.

Morris Land and Ben Moore left Thursday for a few days fishing trip beyond Godman.

Clifford Light, Fred Zuger and Lewis Neace returned Sunday from a few days on the upper Tucannon.

The highway between here and Dixie was opened to travel Sunday.

One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago
July 26, 1901

Misses Adelle and Eva Morgan, accompanied by Messrs. Platt Morrow and Wesley Bowman spent last Sunday under the refreshing shade of fir trees in the Blue Mountains.

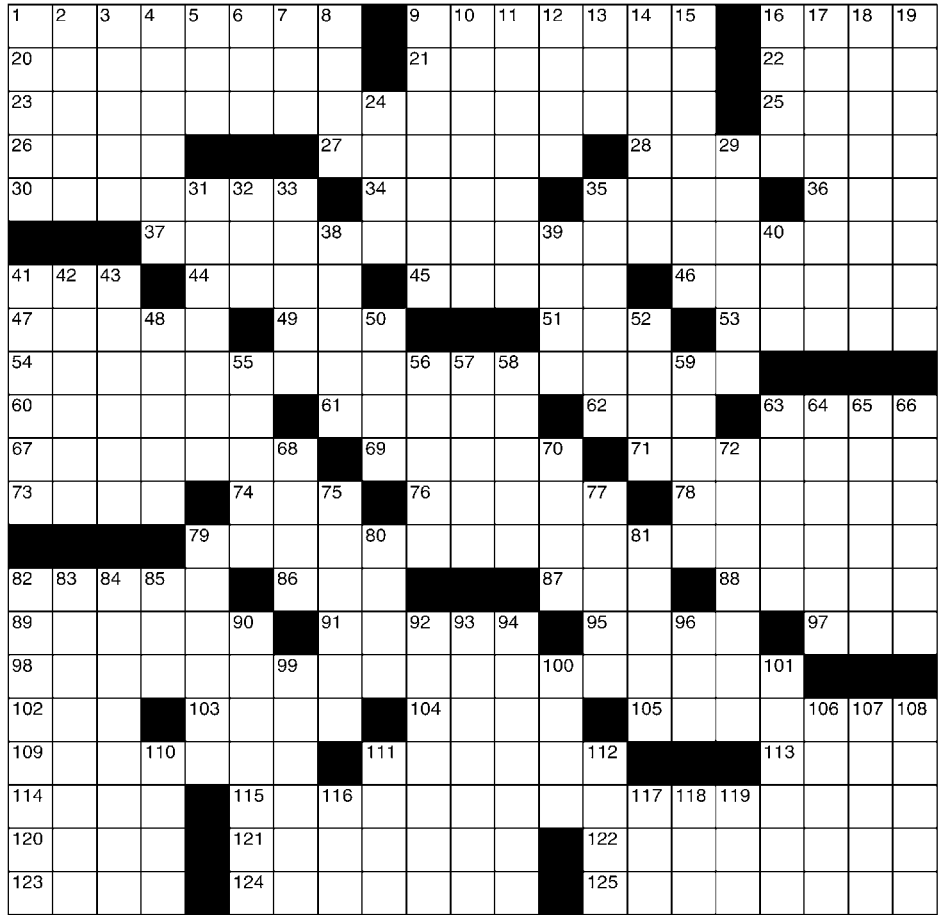
The Preston-Parton Milling Co. has decided to give its employees a week's vacation under full pay this year. The mill will not shut down however and the boys will get away two or three at a time. Con Dixon is taking his vacation this week.

John C. Neace was in the city the latter part of the week having returned from the Rock Creek country where he went to gather up several car loads of horses belonging to Lewis Neace and sons. The horse, some 400 in number will be shipped to better pasture in Montana.

PUZZLES & LIFESTYLES

Super Crossword CHARGING JOE

- ACROSS
- 1 Reserves of stock
- 9 Person applying a mail stick-on
- 16 Understands
- 20 Actress Palicki of "Friday Night Lights"
- 21 Popcorn personage Redenbacher
- 22 Out of the wind, nautically
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Watson of "Little Women"
- 26 Was bested
- 27 Rug threads
- 28 Emo of zany comedy
- 30 Crafty plans
- 34 Amaz of "I Love Lucy"
- 35 Have in mind
- 36 King, in Paris
- 37 Riddle, part 2
- 41 Unhappy
- 44 Almonds, e.g.
- 45 See 63-Across
- 46 Jamaican music genre
- 47 Alpine climber's tool
- 49 Extra NFL periods
- 51 Actress Long of "Missing"
- 53 Nobelist Bohr
- 54 Riddle, part 3
- 60 "The Taking of — 123" (2009 film)
- 61 Check casher, e.g.
- 62 Pre-2001 space station
- 63 With 45-Across, informed on the latest
- 67 Lacking living organisms
- 69 Shampoo brand
- 71 Vidal — (shampoo brand)
- 73 Some till bills
- 74 Helium, e.g.
- 76 Dot in the ocean
- 78 Fife sound
- 79 Riddle, part 4
- 82 Pong producer
- 86 Tart's cousin
- 87 Capote, to his pals
- 88 "The First 48" network
- 89 Ricky Martin's old boy band
- 91 "Sir," in colonial India
- 95 "Hey there, tiger!"
- 97 Wee child
- 98 End of the riddle
- 102 Yoga chants
- 103 Loosen up
- 104 Tolkien trilogy initials
- 105 To some degree
- 109 Popular rum brand
- 111 Swindling guy
- 113 Really ruin
- 114 Scrapped (out)
- 115 Riddle's answer
- 120 Give for a while
- 121 Determines the sum of
- 122 Thief's activity
- 123 Uno + dos
- 124 Some tax cheats
- 125 Lays out for proofing
- DOWN
- 1 Cries loudly
- 2 Like a one-off committee
- 3 Fail suddenly
- 4 Purring baby
- 5 Precept
- 6 "Warzone" singer Yoko
- 7 Wildebeest
- 8 Narcissist's love
- 9 People crying loudly
- 10 Maple fluid
- 11 Greed for wealth
- 12 Russian-built fighter jets
- 13 Arafat's gp., once
- 14 Formed a secret union?
- 15 Ginger's trait
- 16 Scottish Celt
- 17 Suburb of Phoenix
- 18 Pertaining to time
- 19 Ocean coasts
- 24 "White Flag" singer of 2003
- 29 Have in mind
- 31 Tailless feline breed
- 32 Aussie bird
- 33 New Jersey's — Hall University
- 35 Smaller than large
- 38 Lens aperture setting
- 39 Russo of "The Intern"
- 40 Hi-tech movie effects
- 41 Hold to one's decision
- 42 Novelist Chinua
- 43 Buy and sell
- 48 Eldest of the Musketeers
- 50 Suddenly lose patience
- 52 Warts and all
- 55 Pal, in Peru
- 56 Song line
- 57 Kin of "Oy!"
- 58 Beautiful, in Bologna
- 59 Poetic Muse
- 63 Old Glory's land, informally
- 64 Really strong
- 65 City in Spain or Ohio
- 66 A short round of tennis
- 68 Al who drew the Yokums
- 70 For fear that
- 72 To the extent that
- 75 Bern's land, to the French
- 77 Australia Zoo owner Irwin
- 79 Not as messy
- 80 Harvest
- 81 "The Flight Attendant" star Kaley
- 82 Bandleer, informally
- 83 Drink infusing device
- 84 Cutoff cry from a film director
- 85 Long to undo
- 90 Out with one's sweetie
- 92 Hint-providing columnist
- 93 "My thoughts exactly"
- 94 Alternatives to GIFs or JPEGs
- 96 Hulk Hogan's 1980s org.
- 99 Isaac of sci-fi
- 100 Actress Drescher
- 101 Sings in the Alps, perhaps
- 106 Perez of film
- 107 Quaint reply of denial
- 108 Canoodles, in Cambridge
- 110 Determines the sum of
- 111 Street rep
- 112 Hawk's home
- 116 Plato's "H"
- 117 Hog's home
- 118 Vivacity
- 119 "Little" actress Issa



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Weekly SUDOKU

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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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MY RECIPES
Luke Chavez

Gazpacho

Late summer is a productive time in the garden. There are moments when it feels like keeping up with the harvest is impossible, with mountains of summer bounty taking up valuable counter space in the kitchen. This week, we had beautiful tomatoes, cucumbers, and banana peppers that were all ready to be picked which inspired an exploration of classic recipes for Spanish gazpacho. Silky and vibrantly colored, this refreshing chilled soup is a wonderful way to celebrate the flavors of the season. The addition of cheese croutons as a garnish provided a satisfying crunch.



Ingredients:

- 2 pounds ripe tomatoes
- 1 large cucumber
- 1 to 2 long mild peppers, such as cubanelle, banana, or Anaheim
- 1 jalapeno or serrano pepper, (optional)
- 1 small red onion
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 teaspoons sherry vinegar, or red wine vinegar, plus more
- Salt
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more
- For croutons:**
- 2 to 3 thick slices stale crusty bread
- 1 to 2 ounces Manchego cheese, finely grated (see notes)
- Pinch of sweet paprika
- For garnish:**
- Fresh herbs such as basil, parsley, and chives, finely chopped

Directions:

Core the tomatoes and roughly chop into large chunks. Place tomatoes and all their juices into a large bowl. Peel the cucumber and use a spoon to scoop out the seeds, then chop into chunks. Core and seed the peppers and roughly chop. Peel the onion and quarter. Place all chopped vegetables and the garlic cloves into the bowl with the tomatoes. Toss to evenly mix.

Add the chopped vegetables into the pitcher of a blender, either all at once or working in batches if needed. Blend at high speed for a few minutes until smooth, stopping to scrape down the sides with a rubber spatula a few times. While the blender motor is running, add the vinegar and season with a generous pinch of salt. Next, turn the speed down to medium and slowly pour the olive oil in, allowing it to emulsify into the tomato mixture. As the oil emulsifies into the soup the color will turn from bright red to a silky orange or pink. If the mixture seems too watery continue to add a little more olive oil to get a smooth, creamy texture. Stop the motor and taste for seasoning, adding more salt of vinegar as needed.

Strain the gazpacho through a fine mesh strainer over a large bowl, pushing the liquids out with a rubber spatula. This will take some time but is worth the effort. Discard the solids and transfer the soup to a large pitcher. Chill gazpacho in the refrigerator until very cold, for at least 6 hours or overnight.

While the soup is chilling make your croutons. Preheat the oven to 375. Tear or roughly cut the bread into 1-inch cubes then place in a mixing bowl and drizzle with 1 to 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Season with a pinch of salt and paprika. Toss bread to evenly coat in the oil and spices. Spread the bread out on a foil or parchment lined baking sheet and set on the top rack of hot oven. Bake for about 10 minutes then toss the croutons and rotate the pan. Bake for another 5 to 10 minutes, until the croutons are lightly golden and crispy. Next, sprinkle the tops of each crouton with a clump of the grated cheese and return pan to the oven. Bake until cheese is golden and melty. Keep an eye on them to prevent burning. Remove pan and allow croutons to cool.

Before serving taste the soup one last time and adjust the seasoning if needed. To serve, pour gazpacho into chilled bowls or decorative glasses. Garnish with some chopped herbs and place a few croutons centered on top. Also, a small drizzle of olive oil to finish is lovely. If it is a particularly hot day, serve with a few ice cubes in the bowl.

Notes:

Use the best, juiciest tomatoes you can find when they are in season. Heirloom varieties, cherry tomatoes, or plump Romas are all great options when available.

Manchego cheese is a delightful sheep's milk cheese from the La Mancha region of Spain. It has a distinct nutty flavor with a firm texture. It can often be found in grocery stores with larger imported cheese selections. If you cannot find Manchego you can substitute with Pecorino Romano, Parmigiano, or even an extra sharp, aged white cheddar.

Enjoy!

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

B	A	R	B	R	A		O	B	A	M	A		M	I	S	O		L	A	B	
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Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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



Community Calendar

WAITSBURG MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Planning Commission
Second Friday of the month @ 10 a.m. @ City Hall and on Zoom.

Waitsburg Parks and Recreation Public Meeting
First Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. @ Waitsburg City Hall
Info email: info@waitsburgparks.org

 **Waitsburg School Board**
Third Thursday of every month @ 6 p.m. at the Waitsburg Elementary School Library. Zoom info is available at [Waiatburgsd.org](https://waitsburgsd.org) by emailing waitsburgcc@icloud.com

Waitsburg Home and School Association
First Wednesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at the Waitsburg Elementary School Library. All welcome.

Waitsburg Historical Society
Third Thursday of the month @ 6 p.m. @ Weller Public Library

Waitsburg Booster Club
First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. High School Home Ec. room

Weller Public Library Board of Trustees
Second Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m. Weller Public Library, 212 Main St.

Friends of the Weller Public Library
Second Tuesday of the month, @ 7:15 p.m. Weller Public Library, 212 Main St.

Waitsburg Commercial Club
Quarterly meetings, second Tuesday of January, April, July, and October. At noon. Zoom info is available by emailing waitsburg-cc@icloud.com.

Waitsburg Resource Center Community Food Bank
Thursdays, 2 – 4 p.m. Food Donations @ 106 ½ Preston Ave

Waitsburg Christian Church
Drop-off and pick-up Clothing Donation Center upstairs at 604 Main Street.



DAYTON & COLUMBIA COUNTY MEETINGS

Board of Columbia County Commissioners
Regular meetings - First and third Monday of the month @ 9 a.m. Work sessions - Second and fourth Monday of each month @ 9 a.m. Call-in info at www.columbiaco.com/114/County-Commissioners

Dayton City Council
Second Tuesday of the month @ 6 p.m. Call-in information available at: <https://www.daytonwa.com/54-inside-city-hall/city-council>

 **Dayton School Board**
First and third Wednesday of the month @ 6 p.m. @ Dayton High School auditorium

DHS Alumni Meeting
Every Third Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. @ Dayton High School Library

The Coalition for Youth and Families
Second Tuesday of the month @ noon @ The Port of Columbia - 1 Port Way, Dayton, Wash.

Columbia County Public Hospital Dist. Board of Commissioners
Fourth Wednesday of the month @ 9 a.m. Call (509) 382-2531 for information.

Dayton Memorial Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Third Monday of the month @ 7 p.m. Delany room and Zoom Meeting ID: 852 3836 3787 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85238363787>

Columbia County Parks and Recreation Pool District
Regular Board Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month, 5 p.m. @ Columbia County Fire District Conference Room.

Dayton Kiwanis Club Meeting
Second and fourth Thursday @ Noon Hybrid in-person meetings at the Delany Library with online Zoom available.



PRESCOTT MEETINGS
Prescott Joint Park & Rec District (PJPRD) Monthly meetings for 2026 are 2nd Thursday of each month, @ 6:30 p.m.
Prescott School District Board of Directors Meeting 4th Thursday of each month, @ 6 p.m. @ Prescott School Multi-Purpose, room 401, and on Zoom, Meeting ID: 846 7687 9995

STARBUCK MEETINGS
Starbuck City Council
2nd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at Starbuck City Hall.

Church Directory

St. Mark Catholic Church
405 W. Fifth, Waitsburg
Mass
Friday, 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, 5 p.m.
382-2311
Father O'Leary

Waitsburg Presbyterian Church
504 Main
Sunday School 8:45 a.m.
Worship 10 a.m.
337-6589
Pastor Heidi Lum

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

Lunches

WAITSBURG SENIOR CENTER

504 Main Street
11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, July 21
Sweet & Sour Pork
over Udon Noodles
Cookie,
Fruit
MOW: Stirfry vegetable

WAITSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

FREE SUMMER MEALS
Waitsburg Schools will provide free meals to any child 18 years and younger during the summer break at the Elementary multi-purpose room starting June 24.
The program ends on July 19, and meals will not be served on July 4.
Breakfast will be served Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 9 a.m., and lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m.





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Events, Film, Performance, Live Music

WAITSBURG

Mythical/Movable
Blue Mountain Bluegrass Jam
at Mikkelsen Barn
12241 Lower Waitsburg Road
Friday, July 17, at 7 p.m.



RICHLAND

Allied Arts Association Annual Juried Show
@ Gallery at the Park
Through August 14, 2026
89 Lee Boulevard, Richland, Washington
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday - Thursday: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, Saturday: 10 p.m. - 5 p.m.



Waitsburg Resident Greg Tate won the Mid-Columbia Watercolor Society Award for his painting "Prescott Grain Elevators" at the 2026 Annual Juried show at Gallery at the Park.

DAYTON

CHEF VAL PRESENTS

A SUMMER EVENING IN SPAIN

SAT, JULY 25

@ THE BOBCAT ROOM
229 E. MAIN ST. DAYTON, WA 99328

◆◆◆◆◆

\$45 PER PERSON

4-COURSES
SERVED FROM 5-7:30PM

DINE IN ONLY
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
TEXT ONLY 509-386-2448

Evening at the Depot Benefit Auction
Saturday, August 1, 2026 @ 6 p.m.
At the Dayton Historic Depot Museum Courtyard
Live Music by Calico Bones
Auction items include:
Travel Packages, Local Art, Theater Tickets, Spa Treatments, and Gift Baskets
Tickets at the Depot or on the Events page at HistoricDaytonDepot.org.





2026 Foodstock

JULY 18, 10A-3P DAYTON, WA

Eats & drinks

Co-op Market (Thai)
La Ramada (Mexican)
Shewa Ethiopian Cuisine
Baskin Robbins
Plus more!

Live music

10:00-1:00
CALICO BONES
1:00-3:00
LUCAS SIMPSON GROUP

Groovy food & music

Fun stuff to do

Splash down the water slide
Make tie-dye shirts, string beads, face painting
Beer garden
Shop arts & crafts vendors
Play lawn games
Plus other fun activities

Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Eat, drink & have fun!

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



And special thanks to the volunteers who help make this event possible!

Blue Mountain Station, 700 Artisan Way, Dayton, WA 99328
bluemountainstation.com

Give peas a chance

Make food, not war

