

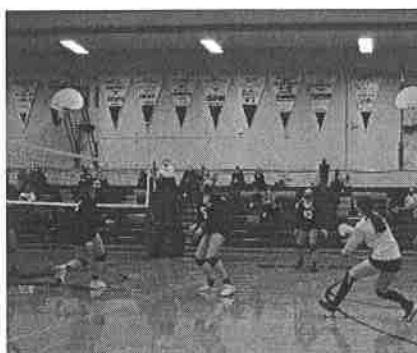


DW fall sports begin

By Zac Bly, *The Cardinal*
February 19, 2021

WAITSBURG—With the news of DW fall sports on the way, there are some things that are going to look different for sports in this pandemic. The football and volleyball season began February 15th and ends on March 29th with their season lasting six weeks. DW football practices and games will be held in Waitsburg. All of the DW volleyball's practices and games will be held in Dayton.

There have been changes to how and when athletes will be playing their seasons. As most of us know the traditional fall sports season has been affected by the pandemic, thus making the health and safety of all involved with these sports the main reason for the changes.



Karen Huwe
DW Volleyball at Mabton

The first game for volleyball was on February 23, against Mabton at Mabton. The first football game will be held on February 27, against Highland in Waitsburg. You can go to the Waitsburg School District website to get the full game schedule.

Due to COVID protocols, there will be only limited people in attendance at the games per Stephanie Wooderchak, the Waitsburg Athletic Director, "Two spectators per rostered student-athlete per home and away contest." Even with the changes and challenges, DW athletes are excited to be back.

COVID-19 affects Waitsburg High School

By Jay Dimak, *The Cardinal*
February 22, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic that sent all Waitsburg High School students home last March continues to affect our high school. WHS began the 2020-2021 school year at home with the Distance Learning model. On October 5 we began the Hybrid schedule we are in today. WHS students were once again sent home to learn on ZOOM in November, but we were able to return to the building in January.

Things seem to be becoming normal again when the DW football and volleyball team began practicing on February 15. Volleyball had its first game Tuesday, February 23 and the football team plays its first game on Saturday, February 27.

As of the week of February 22, there were seventeen active COVID cases, with five new cases in Walla Walla County. There have been 50 deaths in our county.

There are still no graduation plans yet, though some type of ceremony will happen on June 4. Many wonder what the 2021-2022 school year will look like. We will have to wait and see.



Stacey Grende

A Walla Walla County Public Works employee works in Mill Creek to save a bridge from the flood

Flooding in Waitsburg

By Katherine Houchin, *The Cardinal*
February 22, 2021

WAITSBURG-- In early 2020, our town of Waitsburg experienced traumatic flooding around the city. The floods were caused by snow and rainfall. From these two sources, the town seemed to go underwater in places very fast. With the recent snowfall and then the rain plus the warming of temperatures, citizens of Waitsburg were wondering whether history would repeat itself.

By Thursday, February 6, the river around Waitsburg began to exceed the levee and flood the streets and yards of specific sections of town. Early Friday morning, school was cancelled and kids from Waitsburg reached out to help with whatever they could. Four-wheel drive vehicles were very helpful during this time. Helpers reached out to move sandbags to places where they were needed. Many people did what they could to help out during the flood, while others were just trying to save their home. Residents who worked their hardest, saved many animals who were petrified.

The floods made it hard to replace what was damaged and get everything back to its original state. It was a scary moment for everyone in the town. Concerns are still being raised about if we will have a recurrence of last year with all this snow or will we be back to normal for a while?

OP-ED

A school schedule

By Teagen Larsen, *The Cardinal*
February 22, 2021

What has your favorite school schedule looked like? I am a senior this year and have experienced about five different schedules and each of them has felt just a little different.

My siblings before me had the same schedule I started high school with. I arrived at 8:30 a.m. and got to leave at 3:10 p.m. with a little bit of different times of lunch. Thinking about all of the changes I have experienced in high school, I asked Mrs. Wooderchak a few questions about how Waitsburg High School puts together a well thought out schedule that can last years.

There is a committee that dedicates their time to putting together a full schedule for all three buildings that create the Waitsburg School District. Mrs. Wooderchak says, "Sometimes a committee works on a schedule and sometimes an administrator will work alone on the schedule after they receive input from staff. We have also asked students what classes they would like and then tried to fit those classes into the schedule based on student input. The committees include staff from all three buildings because we share staff – for example, we share paraprofessionals because they come to each building and cover the office so that secretaries can go to lunch, we share teachers between Preston Hall and the High School, and we share a fitness teacher with the elementary.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

SPORTS

Is Gonzaga going undefeated?

By Colton VanBlaricom, *The Cardinal*
February 22, 2021

WAITBURG (*The Cardinal*) -- Gonzaga just finished up another blowout win against the San Diego Toreros with a score of 106-69, looking like it will end its regular season undefeated, with just two more games to go in the 2020-2021 season.

Gonzaga launched its season in November, beginning a mighty good year in men's college basketball. The men's team is 22-0 this season and shows no signs of losing any games in the regular season. Gonzaga has also won 48 straight home games, the longest streak in the nation. Gonzaga ranks number one out of all Division 1 schools for the 13th straight week. Their only competition are the Baylor Bears, being undefeated as well. If Gonzaga can finish their conference season with no losses, they have a really good chance of going undefeated this year.

Looking to the 2020-2021 NCAA Basketball tournament, the side of the bracket they have been put in is a good side, where it appears that they have no major competition compared to the other side of the bracket. This is based off Andy Kats bracket prediction of the 2021 March Madness College Basketball Tournament.

If his bracket is right then Gonzaga has the best chance to have an undefeated season and win it all. The last time this was done was in 1976 and it was the Indiana Hoosiers.



DW SPORTS SCHEDULES

VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
02/23	Mabton	Mabton
02/25	Kittitas	Dayton
02/26	TCP	TCP
03/02	WWVA	Dayton
03/06	River View	Dayton
03/09	Col-Burbank	Burbank
03/11	TCP	Dayton
03/13	WWVA	WWVA
03/18	River View	Finley
03/20	Col-Burbank	Dayton

FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
02/27	Highland	Waitsburg
03/05	TCP	Waitsburg
03/13	Mabton	Mabton
03/19	River View	Waitsburg
03/25	Col-Burbank	Burbank

BUSINESS

The inside view: Ten Ton Coffee

An exclusive interview with Ten Ton manager and co-owner Luke Chavez

By Natalie Teal, *The Cardinal*

12:45 PM PST, February 19, 2021

WAITSBURG (The Cardinal)— On February 17, an interview was held with Luke Chavez, one of the original founders and co-owner of Waitsburg's own Ten Ton Coffee. Luke has held his position at the small eat-n'-art cafe on Main Street since its opening in May of 2018. For the first two years, Ten Ton was completely owner-operated, but now a team of five works to satisfy Waitsburg's coffee cravings.

Ten Ton Coffee is open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In this time they experience a rush of customers throughout early morning, late morning, and lunch. "Weekends are the busiest days," Luke explains, "and weekdays can be wildcards."

It's easy to understand the rush with Ten Ton. They sell a variety of coffee beverages and delicious house-baked goods that will satisfy any hungry customer. When asked about any bestsellers on the menu, Luke had a lot to say: "Our espresso-based drinks are the bulk of our business. We sell a ton of caramel sauce lattes and mocha breves. Our chocolate chip cookies, which have been on the menu since day one, have a very devoted fan base." Ten Ton's breakfast burritos have hosted a continuous popularity among customers, and their fresh bagels seem to be hot on the market.

Waitsburg, a small, rural town in Southeastern Washington, contrasts greatly from the booming city life in Seattle, Luke's home. To open a coffee shop in a large city where customers and employees come in abundance would seem like a practical choice, but Ten Ton had a different plan. Luke explains they were searching for a small, quiet town to set up shop in, and they "fell in love" with Waitsburg. Ten Ton's founders felt our town could benefit from having a cozy place to gather with friends over a nice cup of coffee.

Ten Ton has come a long way since then. They have slowly added more items to their menu, shifted from five to seven days a week, and hired more employees. Now, Luke is happy to say he is content with their little shop on Main Street. He believes a great part of their business fits well with the charm Waitsburg provides. "We have been so moved by the support and love we have received from Waitsburg," Luke adds.

Small businesses have been struck hard by the COVID-19 pandemic; the pressure of upholding our new health and safety regulations and the loss of customer flow has been devastating to so many of the businesses we've come to love. Ten Ton too has faced these hardships.

The road to transitioning to a safe, efficient, take-out only model was, according to Luke, relatively easy, and for this he is thankful. Ten Ton invested time and money in meeting the standards to keep the cafe running, and he takes pride in knowing Ten Ton has stayed open every day of the pandemic and has kept its baristas employed.

"There have definitely been some extremely slow days, and we had to completely rearrange our space to meet distancing requirements, but we were committed to keeping the town safe while caffeinated."

Luke decided to offer his final thoughts at the conclusion of our interview: "Owning a small business can be a lot of extremely hard work, and often feel overwhelming," Luke admits, "but the rewards of having a positive impact on a small town have made it so rewarding. I will always be grateful for how welcoming Waitsburg has been to us."

LOCAL

Senior Spotlight: Colton VanBlaricom

By Shawn Evans, *The Cardinal*
February 22, 2022

Colton Van Blaricom is a 17 year old senior at Waitsburg High School. He is a diverse student who intends to empower others around him for the better. As a student-athlete, he is one of the most honest and big-hearted students at Waitsburg High School. In 2021 Colton has a goal to help others and provide himself with the knowledge to help and improve others in life by the end of the school year. Colton hopes to achieve this goal by providing mentorship on the football field and the basketball court this year Colton says that finally being able to play sports is a blessing and he hopes to help others within sports and academics so students can succeed on all levels. There's never a dull moment on the football field with Colton and he can't wait for our first game of the season as it's been a long time since we have played any sport.

When asked what his plans were after high school, he kind of gave me a blank stare and later I asked why? Colton told me, "It's all gone by so quickly." Many seniors have said the same thing, but Colton's response is the one that stuck out the most. He shared his plans after high school. "I want to start my own gym and help others succeed mentally and physically, to help others feel better about themselves." Colton, when asked what was his favorite memory of high school stated, "Playing sports with friends and having a good time doing it" was his favorite memory growing up at Waitsburg High School.

When asked what advice do you have for future high school graduates, Colton said, "Live in the moment and don't let anything stop you from that." If you know Colton he never gives up, so what do you think his favorite quote? "NEVER GIVE UP." Colton said that that's the main goal: never give up and just live in the moment.

My next question to Colton was what is your favorite thing to do in your free time? "Well," Colton said, "I love to lift and play sports with friends and family." If you know Colton that's his favorite thing to do with his given free time. Nobody really knows where Colton is until they look in the weight room or the gym. "That's exactly where I'll be," Colton said.

As Colton's time at Waitsburg High School comes to an end, he intends to inspire others and make his last couple months memorable. Colton chooses to help others with their sports and their schoolwork, making sure everybody is set and ready to go for the summer. When asked why he loves sports Colton said in a humble voice, "Because it gives you a tough mentality and shows you how to never give up no matter the situation."



Colton VanBlaricom doing something he loves: playing basketball

Sam's Corner Gas

By Brandon Leroue, *The Cardinal*
February 22, 2022

WAITSBURG-- Have you heard about the business that is named Sam's Corner Gas? Sam's Corner Gas is the only gas station in Waitsburg that has a convenience store and is the only place where you can pay for gas with cash or plastic.

Sam's is one of the friendliest places to stop in Waitsburg. Sam and his employees all have a smile on their faces.

On the store's webpage, people have great things to say about Sam's Place. Billie J. Marr wrote, "Sam is the gentlemen who greets you at his store. Afternoons and Evenings, and that store is clean and ... the food is always hot and fresh." Another person that has been to Sam's is Misty Brown, and she says "Sam is awesome. He always has a smile and something to cheer me up when I go there."

Sam's Place has a decent selection of food and drinks. He even has things for cars and also things for first aid and batteries at his convenient store. It makes one thing clear--Sam's is the place to stop.

CONTINUED FROM A SCHOOL SCHEDULE

"Students' needs are based on state graduation requirements. Staff availability. Elective choices from year to year – because we need to make sure we offer enough electives grades 7 thru 12 so that students don't repeat electives which means classes are rotated. We also look at individual class needs based on academic, emotional, and behavioral data."

From a senior's point of view, it means a lot to me to be put in a situation where I will have full potential to graduate at the best of my ability and on time with the rest of my class, even if I might not get that elective that I wanted. It is an exciting feeling to leave on summer break with the classes you have in mind to take next fall. That is the goal Mrs. Wooderchak likes to work towards so the students will be excited to return for school. Sometimes this doesn't always happen, but at some point throughout your summer you get to come into the school again and choose before school starts. Personally, this always made me more excited to start school again so I could take that one class I was so excited to take.

I, as a student, don't know what it takes or feels to have to put a schedule together with the never ending list of rules to follow and making sure that everyone is at some compromise. However, I do understand wanting to make the best outcome as I can. I know Mrs. Wooderchak does everything in her power to give us classes we want to be excited about taking and in a way that doesn't stress us out, like waking up earlier than we have to.

Every parent, and maybe teachers, know that coming in as a freshman can be intimidating or that kids just don't enjoy school, not all, but most. From asking our secondary principle many questions, I learned that she takes all of those ideas and then some from students to put together a schedule. "Students are more excited about schedules when we can offer more electives."

"When we start classes at 8:30 a.m. it seems to be better for students. We started classes at 8:10 a.m. and I believe that was too early for students and made it hard for them to get to school. It would be nice to start the day later but then we have trouble with what time school is over for the day and when we can begin sports practices and games." Electives are fun! Even being able to sleep in just an extra fifteen minutes is really nice. Students think teachers are out to get us, but really all they want is the best for us and you can see that translate through the schedule at where it starts.

Freshman and sophomore year is hard, point blank, it is and it is stressful. Maybe you are a freshman reading this right now and thinking, "I am not getting a lot of electives." Well, my freshman year I didn't either; I got to write a lot of essays. Coming into your freshman year is intimidating. I can remember the night before freshman year. I was beyond scared of how the seniors were going to treat me and if my classes were all of a sudden be extra hard. This isn't prison, school isn't meant to intimidate you or make you feel like not coming at all. Mrs. Wooderchak said, "We try very hard to separate ninth grade in the core classes (English, science, math) when possible. This is considered a transition year and it can be very challenging. When we have classes that are too large (over 28) we also try to split those classes as much as possible." She looks out for you, and the entire school district.

A schedule is a plan for carrying out a process or procedure. During my four years of high school I have experienced a variety of schedules. Looking back I have enjoyed experiencing many different forms of schedules because I have figured out that being on a block schedule (which is what our high school is doing now) is my favorite one. A block schedule has offered me more classes than I would have usually taken and made this stressful time for me worthwhile. Next year, I know Mrs. Wooderchak will make a new schedule to fit everyone and after you read this article you now can think about what your favorite schedule might look like.

ENTERTAINMENT

FEBRUARY WORD SEARCH

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

FRIEND
CANDY
SNOW
ROSE
CHOCOLATE
HEART
BIRTHDAY
ARROW
LINCOLN
SHADOW
KISS
ICY
LOVE
WASHINGTON
RED
BURROW
GROUNDHOG
CUPID
PRESIDENTS

Created by Emilie Bundy

First semester WHS honor roll announced

4.0

Makenna Barron
Julio Mercado
Natalie Teal
Lily Bone
Megan Forney
Koby Harris
Teagen Larsen

3.25-3.99

Nathalie Abel
Theo Anderson
Caleb Barron
Amy Bly
Levi Boudrieau
Shawn Evans
Jillian Foxe
Chloe Gleason






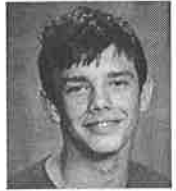


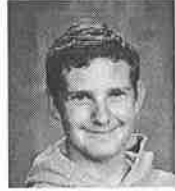


3.25-3.99

Lesli Gomez
Hendrix Groom
Antonio Herrera
Laura Hill
Kenzie Lewis-Seal
Elsie Mann
Sarabeth McGowen
Brayden Mohny

3.25-3.99

Jasper Morrow
Abbi Paolino
Monte Pettichord
Alexis Reeves
Alyssa Seagraves
Grant Teal
Kaylee White

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