### **COFFEE BREAK**

# **OUT OF THE VAULT Umatilla: From boom to bust and back**

#### **BV RENEE STRUTHERS** East Oregonian

The city of Umatilla, located at the confluence of the Umatilla and Columbia rivers in northeast Oregon, was once a boom town serving the throngs of people traveling from Portland to the gold fields of Idaho. Established as a transfer stop for miners and supplies from the river to the inland route in 1862, Umatilla Landing was first platted in 1863, just after the establishment of Umatilla County.

The town quickly grew to a population of 1,500-1,800 permanent residents, and as many or more transients moving along the Portland-Umatilla-Boise route, the shortest way to get supplies to the gold fields. Umatilla Landing from 1863-1867 featured trading stands, a drug store, hotels, dance halls, feed stables, barber shops, blacksmith shops and 22 saloons, along with many other stores. Six stores averaged sales of \$200,000 a year, and about 95% of the payments were in gold dust.

By 1864 the town had a mayor, a marshal and a town council, and Umatilla was designated the county seat in 1865, when the first school was also built. A stage route established in 1864 hauled supplies from Umatilla to the foot of the Blue Mountains, and from there John Hailey and his partner William Ish took the goods by saddle train to Boise, serving 15,000 miners in the Boise area.

Chinese passing through the area also established a village two or three miles below Umatilla.

In the winter, when the Columbia River iced over, the permanent residents spent their days ice skating, playing games and practical jokes, dancing and waiting for the return of the steamboats. The first steamers to arrive each spring were packed so tightly with passengers that the officers and deck hands could barely get around to do their jobs.

The decline of Umatilla was as sudden as its expansion. Alternative routes to the gold fields were developed in 1866, and Umatilla's trade evaporated quickly. With the establishment of other, larger cities the county seat was moved to Pendleton in 1868. And when the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads linked in 1869. the Portland-Umatilla-Boise route traffic dried up. Umatilla's population dropped precipitously.

Travel writer Theodor Kirchhoff stepped off the steamboat at Umatilla in 1872 to find the town he had known was gone. Instead of harness bells jingling while hundreds of muleteers' whips cracked, Kirchhoff witnessed the wind howling around empty buildings with shattered windows, blinding clouds of dust, sand flats and sagebrush, and a population of 100. "From the opposite shore of the river, a few miserable Indian tents glumly watch the city sink into ruin," Kirchhoff wrote in his account.

Today's Umatilla, however, has rebounded nicely. The construction of McNary Dam from 1947-1954 brought an influx of new residents, but it was the opening of Interstate 82 in the late 1980s that put the city back on the map. The growth of Hermiston to the east and the Port of Morrow to the west have helped reestablish Umatilla as a crossroads community along the Columbia.

The history of Umatilla County's first boom town was placed in the hands of a newly formed historical society in 1993. The Umatilla Museum, featuring 157 years of the city's ups and downs, is located at 911 Sixth St.

# **DAYS GONE BY**

#### 100 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 27-28, 1919

Lee Drake never had visions of being a prize winning trap shooter and, in fact, never had his score sheets framed when the state tournament was held in Pendleton on May 5, 6 and 7. Naturally he was surprised when he received a letter today from the American Trapshooting Association, notifying him that an engraved trophy was being sent him for winning in Class D. Although a registered tournament, the local shoot had no word of trophies being put up in the various classes by the American Trapshooting Association. The award of a cup is as much of a surprise to other members of the club as to Drake.

#### 50 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 27-28, 1969

Phebe Bartholomew, the peppy oldster who is the friend of three or four generations on Butter Creek, will celebrate her 95th birthday. There will be an open house "at the ranch down Butter Creek way," and callers will be welcomed at the gate from 2 to 6 p.m., said Mrs. Bar-



contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

tholomew's daughter, Mrs. Jasper Myers. "The last time we had a big party for Mother was on her 90th birthday," said Mrs. Myers. "We invited people to lunch, and 175 showed up. I told her we'd better make this afternoon refreshments."

#### 25 Years Ago From the East Oregonian July 27-28, 1994

A 22-year-old Gilliam County woman arrested for a shooting that left her father paralyzed and without an eye will not stand trial. A grand jury Wednesday failed to return an indictment against Teddy Bean after hearing testimony from several witnesses most of the afternoon, Gilliam County District Attorney Pat Wolke said. The grand jury did, however, issue indictments on two counts of fourth-degree assault against Clarence Bean, the victim in the July 12 shooting. Wolke said he didn't know exactly why the grand jury failed to indict Teddy Bean. He said the seven-person panel was instructed on the laws regarding self-defense and defense of a third party, but he couldn't say if that's what it relied upon. Police said Clarence Bean, 50, had been assaulting his wife and 15-yearold son the night of the shooting.

#### Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses a represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter McM combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle. CLUES SOLUTIONS 1 it ends a chess game (9) Inc. 2 blocking move in ice hockey (9) $\mathbf{3}$ a tick in a box (9) 4 part of your salary (8) amilv 5 IOU for an event (9) õ 6 where coats are minded (9) 0 2019 7 allowed to grow (9) DYC **KMA** KR RK HE NCH HECK PAYC CHEC RAI KMA BO ECK CHEC UNC CKED ΤE HECK CHEC OOM

7 Little W☺rds

82/7 4. PAYCHECK 5. RAINCHECK 6. CHECKROOM 7. UNCHECKED Today's Answers: 1. CHECKMATE 2. BODYCHECK 3. CHECKMARK

# ₩ŨRD★Roundup™

#### Find and Circle...

Three crustaceans	VOO
Three five-letter musical instruments	
Three Texas cities	
Three punctuation marks	
First two Greek letters	

, yuzwela to Saturday's puzzle: LOBSTER SHRIMP CRAB / RANJO CELLO PLANO / © 2019 Andrews McMeel Syndication

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## Edited by David Steinberg July 27, 2019

### DOWN

**Universal Crossword** 

- 39 Big Mack? 43 Like a fictional hatter
  - 1 Cheese partner
    - 2 One-hit wonder?
    - 3 Blackbeard portrayer

4 Acid test paper

5 Small fruit pie

Enterprise

9 Drop the ball

e.g.

"That hurts!"

Deanna on the

8 Froot Loops mascot,

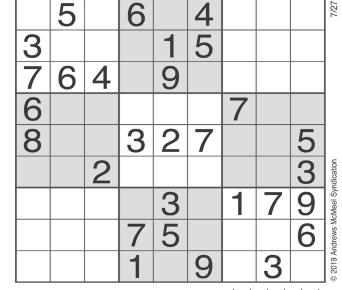
- McShane
  - - 38 -lacto vegetarian

31

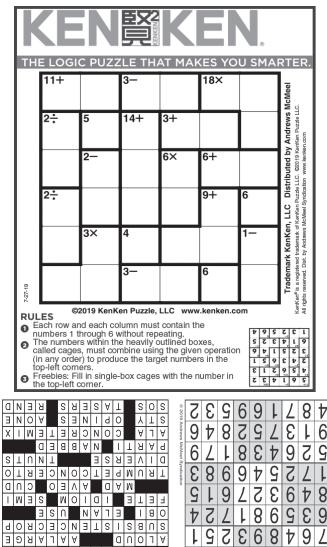
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30 Wee bit

hero



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M V I F

TOTTER

a palm 15 Night light?

1 Daily delivery

5 Walk unsteadily

11 52, in ancient Rome

14 Berry harvested from

**ACROSS** 

- 16 \_ Taylor (fashion store) 17
- \*Prominent place for an NBA team's logo (see letters 1-8)
- 19 E.R. figures
- 20 Legendary
- 21 It may be inherited 23 For all to hear
- 26 Egg designation
- \*Farm family's food 28 source, perhaps
- (letters 7-14) 32
- Kimono accessory
- 37
  - "In seventh heaven" or "on cloud nine"

47 Bossy's mouthful 48 \*Certain jazz piece

45 Former Chevrolet

subcompact

- (letters 6-13) 53 Wide-ranging
- 54 Letter-shaped fasteners
- 55 First installment
- 56 Collared
- 60 In the style of
- 61 Foundation foundation? ... or a hint to the starred entries' indicated
- letters 66 Slop-serving spot
- 67

- Sounds off
- Top-of-the-line 68
- 69 Plea for help
- 70 Stunning weapons
- 71 Tear up
- 10 Noisy crib toys 11 Hedy in old films
  - 12 Rainbow color before

29

6

7

- violet
- 13 Top of a foot
- 18 Singer Gorme
- 22 Speeds (along)
- 23 Beginning
- 24 Garage service
- 25 Final notice
- 27 Keen insight
  - Presentation parts,
  - often

40 Neutral shade

"Giant Brain" of 1946

"The Lego Movie"

- 41 Mixed breed 42 Altar declarations
- 44 Small stone fruit
- 46 Good-sized chamber group
- Six-point completion. 48 informally
- 49 Theater district
- 50 Tanning bed emanations
- 51 Game with sets and matches
- 52 Win over
- 57 Dermal woe
- 58 \_ Rabbit
- Porgy's girlfriend 59
- 62 -Locka, Florida
- 63 Curly companion
- Rural stopover 64
- 65 Crossed (out)

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- 33 Vivacity 35 Gala
- 34 Put mileage on