

# Huckleberry Press

The Community Paper of the Inland Northwest

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# Tinsel of Christmas Past and Other Old School Decorations



It's that time again! Even before Thanksgiving, in some stores, right after Halloween, the aisles are filled with a plethora of Christmas decorations. Some of you can't wait to peruse through these treasures to add to your collection: new garlands to drape around your living room; a new wreath for the front door; lights with the newest technology, blinking, changing colors; or a whole new set of

ornaments to match the color scheme for this year's Christmas tree.

I love that finding the perfect, new decorations for your Christmas brings you excitement and joy.

Full confession: the only new Christmas decorations I ever bought were gifts for other people, and a single new ornament for the tree each year when my daughter was a child. That single ornament was always personalized for my daughter, with her name and the year, her photo from that year, or a fictional character that was her obsession of the year, from Minnie Mouse to Harry Potter. Other than these, my preference is always to stick with the vast collection of decorations and ornaments that I made as a child, and gifts to me, with the addition of my own kid's handmade decorations.

This is my small attempt to create some Christmas memories for my child that my mom created for me. When I reflect on Christmases from my own childhood, believe it or not, I don't remember opening gifts as much as I remember my fascination with the decorations that adorned our house and the joy they brought me.

My mom loved to decorate for Christmas. When I was a kid in the

70s, she had boxes and boxes full of decorations. As soon as we could get a tree, she'd pull out the lights and ornaments, and a variety of decorations, mostly handmade by her seven children.

Unlike people I know today, she never bought any new decorations, with one exception: tinsel. Or sometimes we called them icicles. If you are a Boomer or Gen-Xer, you remember tinsel. If you don't know what tinsel is, it is foot long strips of foil that we would drape on the branches of the Christmas tree to mimic the effect of icicles.

You might also remember tinsel was difficult to save and even more difficult to clean up. It took forever to take the tinsel off the tree. Throughout the season, individual icicles would inevitably end up on the floor. They had to be picked up by hand because they were a nightmare for the vacuum. Tinsel isn't recyclable and is dangerous for pets. All of these tinsel troubles are probably the reason that I don't know anyone who puts tinsel on trees these days. But when I was a kid, it wouldn't be Christmas without tinsel on the tree.

One of my favorite items to pull out of the boxes each year was the faux stockings handmade by my creative sister, Marcia. These were sock shapes cut from alternating red and green felt with our names in glitter glued on. Barbara's was the biggest, because she was the oldest. They got progressively smaller with each sibling's name. I loved that mine was the smallest. Baby stockings are cute and adorable like baby animals are.

When I got big enough to reach, my great joy was hanging them over the fireplace.

continued on page 2...



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#### ... continued from page 1:

But I think my very favorite Christmas decoration was *the* candle. My mom loved candles and had many candles for Christmas that she never burned. They were for decoration only and for adorning the house year after year.

Her collection included a variety of sugar frosted candles with Christmas images on them. These were candles encased in a glass container, with a frosted finish to the exterior, which gave the appearance of being covered in a layer of sugar. To a child's curious hands, they also had the texture of crystal, sugar coating, providing a delight to my sense of touch.

But nothing could compare to the delight of the touch and magnetism of the candle. We didn't have a name for it. I thought it was unique to our family. Thanks to Google, I found out "it's a thing" – a traditional Christmas decoration. Now I know the candle is called a Christmas Family Drip Candle. Me and my siblings of all ages loved

It was made by using a glass bottle as a candle holder for a taper candle. Burning the candle, the wax was allowed to drip down the sides of the bottle and harden. Then another candle of a different color was added to do the same. This was repeated over and over.

Those dried drips of wax were irresistible to children of every age. To this day, I can't explain why picking at that dried wax was so sat-



isfying, but for me and two of my older sisters, we had to be sneaky picking at that candle or there would be trouble.

Funny thing, kind of sad, nobody remembers exactly how our drip candle started. And nobody remembers who made the Christmas Kissing Ball from Christmas cards. My mom always hung plastic mistletoe at the entrance, between the living room and kitchen, much to my chagrin. I found it awkward and embarrassing to catch a sister smoothing with

her boyfriend under the mistletoe. One year, the Christmas Kissing Ball was hung in lieu of the mistletoes. Like the candle, I thought the kissing ball was unique to our family. Again, thanks to Google, it

wasn't. Maybe you had one in your house.

As I reflect on the decorations of Christmas past and consult with my siblings, one thing becomes very clear: there are some answers that neither Google nor AI can give me. They can't tell me who started the candle or who made the kissing ball, or answer many more questions I have about Christmases past.

I wish I would have thought to ask these questions when I was young, when everyone in the family was younger with fresher memories, when my parents were still alive.

So this year, when we pull out my box of Christmas tree ornaments, I will take some time to share with my daughter. I will lovingly address each ornament, made by me or gifted to me as a child, saved by my own mother and passed down to me. I'll tell her about the terrible winter of 1978, when we were snowed in and my mother kept me entertained with making ornaments. How my mom taught me to sew and embroider by making ornaments. I'll show her the Hawaiian Christmas tree ornament decorated with little shells and starfish, and explain about the distant relative who cherished me and brought it to me from Hawaii. I'll show her the ornaments I bought for her for her first Christmas, and how special it was for me to have that memory.

Maybe this will be the year we make our own kissing ball. Better yet, I think it's time we started our own drip candle. I think I might even have to buy tinsel for the tree this year, just for old time's sake.

Amy McGarry grew up in Spokane Valley, Washington. After a 20 year hiatus, she moved back to Spokane Valley where she lives with her husband, daughter and two cats. She is the author of I am Farang: Adventures of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand available on Amazon.com, Auntie's Bookstore, and Barnes and Noble.

# **Huckleberry Press**

The *Huckleberry Press* began in the Fruitland Valley, nestled in the shadow of northeastern Washington's Huckleberry Mountains. Since 2003, "Huckleberry Country" has expanded throughout the Inland Northwest to the 12 counties of Adams, Benewah, Bonner, Douglas, Ferry, Kootenai, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman.

The Huckleberry Press is dedicated to celebrating and connecting people with their communities by featuring stories of people making major contributions as individuals, with new or expanding businesses, and through special, community events. Also included are small business advice, lifestyle, humor, and seasonal features. The Huckleberry Press is dated the 1st of each month.

#### Articles and ad space reservation deadline: 20th of each month

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#### **Subscriptions**

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#### The *Huckleberry Press* is now published 12 times per year.

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# Why Nonprofits Win Big with Access to Foundation Directory Online and GuideStar through StartUp Spokane



by Mark Pond, MILS

Running a nonprofit can feel like juggling flaming flamingos while riding a unicycle over a bed of coals. You've got big dreams, a great mission, and a world to change – but finding the money, trust, and connections to make it all happen? That's the tricky part. Thankfully, tools like Foundation Directory Online (FDO) and GuideStar can help nonprofits keep their balance, and, through StartUp Spokane, they're publicly accessible through both the Spo-

kane Public Library as well as the Spokane County Library District.

Let's dive into why these tools can be total game-changers for non-profits and how StartUp Spokane's offerings can take organizations from "just scraping by" to "absolutely thriving."

First, a quick breakdown of these two tools:

- Foundation Directory Online (FDO): think of this as the ultimate matchmaking service, except it's for nonprofits looking for funders. It's packed with data on over 300,000 grantmakers, helping organizations zero in on funders that align with their mission and saving a ton of time.
- GuideStar: this is like your nonprofit's public résumé. It's where you can build trust with donors, grantmakers, and collaborators by showing off everything from your financials to your program successes. A great GuideStar profile screams, "We've got our act together!"

By giving nonprofits in the Spokane area access to these tools, StartUp Spokane offers the resources needed to nail funding strategies, build credibility, and grow.

#### **Smarter Fundraising with Less Stress**

Fundraising can be a grind. Without the right tools, finding the right funders feels like throwing spaghetti at the wall and hoping something sticks. FDO changes all that by helping nonprofits identify funders whose missions align with theirs.

For example, if your nonprofit teaches kids about sustainable farming, FDO can help you pinpoint funders who've already invested in environmental education. No more wasting time pitching to funders who probably won't give you the time of day, let alone any money.

For smaller or newer nonprofits, especially those operating on shoestring budgets, this focused approach is a lifesaver. Through StartUp Spokane, nonprofits can tap into FDO to stop spinning their wheels and start landing meaningful grants.

#### **Build Trust and Show Off with GuideStar**

In the world we live in, trust tends to be an essential element when it comes to raising grant funds. By maintaining a detailed profile on GuideStar, nonprofits can show donors and funders that they're serious, transparent, and worth investing in.

GuideStar's Seals of Transparency (bronze, silver, gold, and platinum) are badges of honor that help nonprofits stand out. When your nonprofit has one, donors are more likely to say, "Take my money!"

#### Networking and Teaming Up

Nonprofits don't have to go it alone. Collaboration with other organizations can amplify impact and open the door to new funding opportunities. FDO and GuideStar can make it easier to find potential partners.

With FDO, you can identify other nonprofits working on similar issues, perfect for teaming up on a grant proposal or brainstorming ideas. Meanwhile, GuideStar lets you dig into details about organizations you might want to work with, so you can make sure your values align before joining forces.

#### **Making Data Your Superpower**

In the nonprofit world, decisions made without data are basically shots in the dark. FDO and GuideStar give nonprofits the kind of insights that make success more predictable.

For instance, FDO provides historical data on funders so you can see what they've funded before and what they're likely to support in the future. GuideStar helps you compare your organization to similar ones, offering inspiration and benchmarks for growth.

#### **Breaking Down Financial Barriers**

Tools like FDO and GuideStar aren't cheap. A single seat license for the two platforms combined would be over \$4,000 annually. For many small nonprofits, those subscription costs are just too steep. But through StartUp Spokane, nonprofits get access without having to stretch their already-tight budgets. This levels the playing field, giving grassroots organizations the chance to compete for grants and attention with larger, more established nonprofits.

#### Keeping it Local with a Global Reach

While the data on FDO and GuideStar is global, StartUp Spokane helps nonprofits stay rooted in their local community. Spokane-based organizations can use FDO to find funders who prioritize the Pacific Northwest or look for collaborators in their backyard.

With GuideStar, nonprofits can showcase the unique impact they're having in our region while highlighting how they connect to broader issues

#### Planning for the Long Haul

Access to these tools isn't just about winning a grant here or there – it's about building a sustainable future. Nonprofits that use FDO and GuideStar effectively can create smarter strategic plans, diversify their funding sources, and build reputations that keep support rolling in

For newer nonprofits, this access is like a fast-track to credibility and success. For established organizations, it's a way to sharpen strategies and scale up. Either way, the long-term payoff is huge.

Working through StartUp Spokane offering access to FDO and GuideStar is a major win for local nonprofits. These tools help organizations fundraise more efficiently, look more professional, and build connections that lead to growth.

In a universe where resources are tight and competition is stiff, StartUp Spokane gives nonprofits the edge they need to not just survive but thrive. With these tools in their arsenal, our region's nonprofits can turn big dreams into reality, and do it with confidence, strategy, and style.

Mark Pond, MILS, has been the Business Research Librarian with the Spokane Public Library since 2006, and, before that, worked in similar capacities for the Seattle Public Library and the University of Washington Libraries since 1998. Mark has led the effort to develop Spokane Public Library into a nationally recognized leader in the field of business research.





# Savoring Post-Vegas Culture Shock



by Bob Johnson

California.

My lovely wife, Michelle, my bonus daughter, Makayla, and I recently moved to the Inland Northwest from Las Vegas. But please don't hold that against us. At least we didn't come here from

If you have lived in the Inland Northwest for a long time, consider yourself fortunate.

You have either grown up in this truly bucolic place or you have found it. You have either avoided or escaped "city life," just as Lisa and Oliver Wendell Douglas did when they moved from New York City to the community of Hooterville on the TV sitcom, *Green Acres*. If you are under the age of 50, you may now pause to Google that analogy.

About our exit from Vegas: no, we were not asked by the mob to leave because we'd won too much money on the craps tables. We came of our own free will, and we've been experiencing instances of culture shock every day. Notice I didn't say that we're "suffering" from culture shock. We don't miss Sin City even a little bit for reasons including:

• We have not heard one driver honk loudly at another (we did hear one driver lightly tap their horn when the person in front of them was paying attention to their phone rather than the traffic light). In Vegas, we refrained from honking even at the worst drivers because one never knew if the guy in the other car might go nuclear after a bad session at the craps tables and take a shot at us.

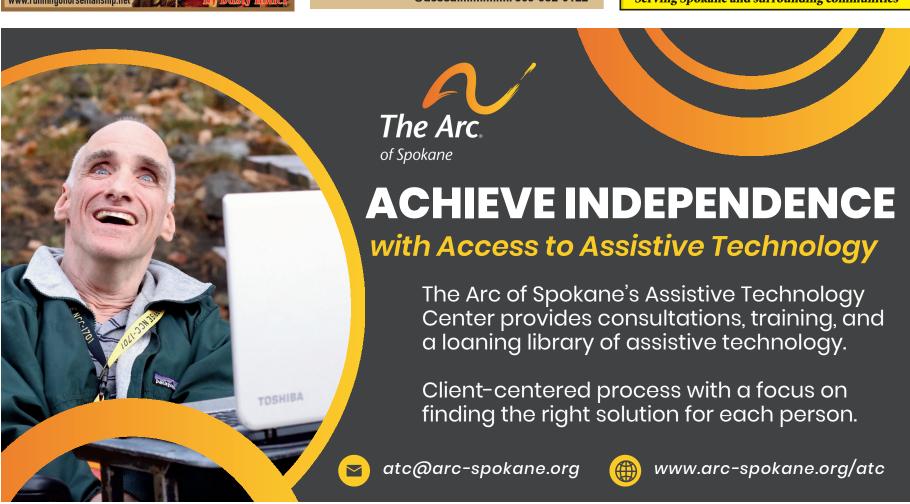
- When driving on two-lane roads, the drivers of cars coming from the opposite direction often wave at us. In Las Vegas, if anybody waved at all, they did so with just one finger.
- People are friendly. During one visit when we were deciding whether to make the move, we stopped by a gift shop in downtown Coeur d'Alene. As the clerk was ringing up our purchases, she casually asked where we were from. We told her and added that we were thinking about moving to the area. Her face lit up and she enthused, "You should! You'd love it here!" It was far from the reaction we'd heard we might get. Perhaps the fact we weren't coming from California informed the reaction.
- As we've worked to establish ourselves with new doctors and transfer medical records, almost all the phone calls have been answered by real people, rather than robots instructing us to listen carefully "because our menu options have recently changed." The first time I called our new ENT office, I almost jumped out of my seat because I figured I had at least another minute and several prompts to maneuver before I'd have to open my mouth. Instead, I heard, "Dr. Throat's office; how may I help you?" (note: doctor's name changed due to the HIPAA law).
- Supermarket deli sections are loaded with salad options. That may not sound like a big deal, but back in Vegas the stores have been transitioning to pre-packaged

- salads and offering fewer choices. We left one market recently with eight different selections, ranging in weight from a quarter pound to a half pound our own salad bar.
- The air is clear. The skies are spectacular. There is no smog blown in from California that lingers in the area for days on end.
- There are no flow restrictors on the shower heads. This may be my favorite aspect of Inland Northwest life thus far. I've never had a problem with the person who invented flow restrictors, but what genius at the Las Vegas City Hall thinks they really conserve water? Showers here, without restrictors, take five minutes, and I'll take any odor examination you'd care to put me through, so don't even go there. Showers in Vegas took 15 minutes. Were the restrictors really saving water? I'm not a math guy, so you do the math.
- Orders come out of drive-through windows correctly here. That was a rarity in Vegas, especially if one requested even one deviation to a standard sandwich "recipe." It got so bad that I sent revised jingle lyrics to the folks at one burger chain, and I did the work pro bono. You'll recognize the tune; free to sing along: "Hold the pickles? Hold the lettuce? Special orders do upset us." Things were so bad that we got in the practice of checking the bags before leaving the windows because it was highly likely that something would be missing or not made correctly.









Although, honestly it became a great reason to cut back on fast food.

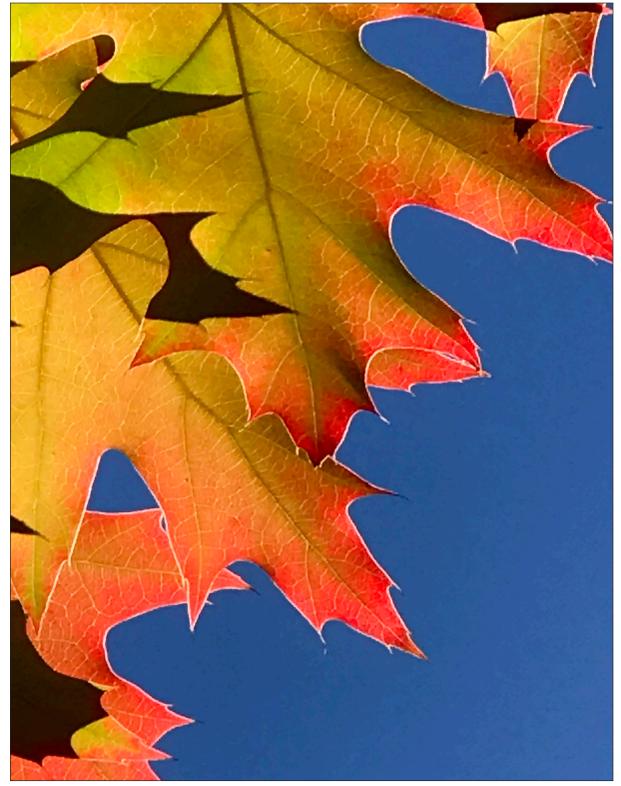
- We've already found some great locally owned diners and restaurants and can't wait to discover more. We especially love the places that are open for breakfast and lunch only, many of which use products provided by local farmers in their recipes. At too many breakfast spots in Vegas, you risk having the air in your "private space" polluted by someone who had just pulled an all-nighter inside a smoke-filled casino, where they'd kept bringing him free alcohol so he'd continue gambling and leave with just barely enough money to buy breakfast. Don't be fooled the next time you visit Sin City; those drinks are not free.
- No matter where you live in the Inland Northwest, you're not far from water and trees. This is perhaps the best culture shock we have been experiencing. We have essentially moved from a vast desert wasteland that, for reasons beyond my comprehension, continues to add casinos, stadiums, arenas and housing tracts to its landscape to a forest. We have ponderosa pines, Norway and Japanese maples, lilacs, Douglas firs and blue spruces; they have cacti.
- We have majestic eagles and ospreys; they have the Flamingo.
- We have several outstanding French restaurants, some with Pacific Northwest influences; they have a fake Eiffel Tower.
- We have grass; they have AstroTurf.

Is there anything we miss about Las Vegas? Honestly, no. Is there anything we don't like about the Inland Northwest? Honestly, no.

Hey, I heard that snicker, "Just wait until winter really sets in."

But we've already bought our cold-weather gear: long underwear (TMI?); wool sweaters; warm trousers; windproof and waterproof outer coats; knit hats; non-slip sneakers; and boots.

By the time we get dressed for work on that first really cold winter day, it will be time to



Fall colors and clear skies. Publisher photo.

come home.

The way we look at it, a little winter suffering is a small price to pay for what was a spectacular autumn season of colors provided by all those non-cacti.

We're all thrilled to be here. We promise to be good neighbors.

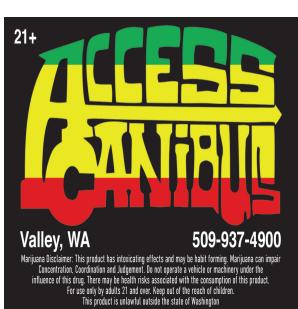
A recipient of more than 90 national writ-

ing awards, Bob Johnson has covered sports, wine, music, travel, business and numerous other topics over the course of his 50-year career. Now, he's looking forward to exploring the many aspects of his family's new home in North Idaho and the surrounding area and sharing his observations with Huckleberry Press readers.













# The Gift of Support and of Literature



by Amy McGarry

What is the perfect Christmas gift for the person that has everything? A book! What is a great way to support local writers this Christmas season? Buy books as Christmas gifts! It's a win-win!

But there's so many local writers with so many good books from which to choose. How do you de-

I can help because I have had the honor of belonging to a writing group of immensely talented writers. But first, a little background on the fun story that connected me with these local writ-

First, we have to travel back in time to 1986 when I was a senior at University High School. When I signed up for Mr. Lalonde's mythology class, I had no idea the impact it would have on my life journey.

Mr. Lalonde assigned a project where students could choose any medium to represent their learning of mythology. Less creative than my classmates who made dioramas, games, or videos, I wrote an essay about Greek goddesses as psychological symbols. Even then, I loved to write.

Jump ahead 30 years. While interacting on Facebook with a friend from high school, my former mythology teacher, Mr. Steve Lalonde, inquired if I were the same Amy McGarry who wrote the paper about Greek goddesses as psychological symbols. He remembered my essay from 30 years before!

Steve could have no way of knowing the influence that simple question would have. I had always wanted to be a writer, and had already been writing for a long time. While I had been encouraged by many, I never had the confidence to "go for it," to pursue my passion, to put together a story or a piece for publication, let alone share it with the world. The fact Steve had remembered my piece from 30 years ago was just the inspiration I needed at just the right time.

When Steve connected with me on Facebook, he told me he had recently published his first book; a collection of poetry called A Palette of Verse and was working on his first novel, Phoenix Rising. I confessed I envied his writing career, because I wanted to be a writer, too. I had an idea for a book that I wanted to write, but just couldn't seem to find the inertia to get it started.

Although retired from teaching, Steve was continuing his life's mission of supporting students, encouraging their dreams and goals. He had formed a writing group with two other former students, much younger than me, which he invited me to join. That changed everything for me.

We met weekly to share our writing, provide feedback to each other, and support each other's endeavors. It was exactly what I needed to start my book and add to it every week. Thanks to the group's support and Steve's guidance through the self-publishing process, I was finally able to fulfill my life-long dream and publish two books: *I am Farang*: Adventures of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand and Culture Clash: My Marriage to a Moroccan Muslim.

Steve continued to write, drawing on his immense knowledge of history, producing a series of four historical fiction stories, set in ancient Greece and ancient Egypt, culminating in *Strymon: A Novel*.

His most recent book, however, is a heartfelt, touching memoir on his experience as a life-long teacher, including testimonials from former students. This must-read for any teacher or former teacher is called: ... Spokane. It's also available, along with all of his other books, on his com, Auntie's Bookstore, and Barnes and Noble.



A 1906 ad urges finicky shoppers to consult a catalog that contains the titles of more than 2,600 books. Image from the New York Times.

publishing website, ouranian publishing.com. This website is also the home of Steve's blog and his monthly newsletter, Historically Speaking, where he continues to do what he does best – teach. The topics are supplemental to his historical novels about ancient Greece, Egypt, and Nubia.

The next member of our writing group is a prolific, whirlwind of a writer who never ceases to amaze me with her talent and creativity, crossing genres and styles. From children's books to adult fiction to motivational self-help, Kristi Stalder is a powerhouse of talent. This is her bio:

Kristi Stalder is an award-winning author recognized for her timeless children's books and compelling narratives. She holds a certification through Harvard Business School Online, and combines her passion for writing with managing thriving enterprises alongside her husband. When she's not immersed in her latest novel, Kristi enjoys Roman Empire documentaries, baking cakes from scratch, and horseback riding. For more information about her books, visit www.KristiStalder.com.

Her upcoming titles include: Secrets of the Enigma Wilds (summer 2025), Just Like the Sun (winter 2025), and Beacon of Lies (summer 2026).

Her recent release is The Success Challenge: Redefine Success and Become Extraordinary

Another member of our writing group I value immensely, for her keen insight, skill with language, and beautiful spirit, is Kim Verdone. For those who love how poetry weaves language into expressions of heart and soul, you'll want to get Kim Verdone's *The Building Blocks* of Butterflies: A Collection of Poems and Prose. This gem is a collection of personal moments and musings on the depths of curiosity surrounding life, love, self-belief, and faith, and finding one's place within it all.

If you love a craft fair, you can also find signed copies of these books at The Ridgeline Band Booster Craft and Vendor Fair. This craft fair will be held on Saturday, December 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, December 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ridgeline High School in Liberty Lake, Washington. The fair will feature over 180 crafters and vendors, baked goods, and concessions. Admission is \$2, but children 5 and under are free.

Amy McGarry grew up in Spokane Valley, Washington. After a 20 year hiatus, she moved back to Spokane Valley where she lives with her husband, daughter and two cats. She is the author of I am Farang: Adto teach: A Memoir and is available at Auntie's Bookstore in downtown ventures of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand available on Amazon.







# Taste Budz Review: Big Red's Colbert Trading Company



By Zack & Brooklyn Bolin, Facebook: Taste Budz, Instagram: tastebudz\_spokane

When you walk up to a restaurant and they have a coin-operated batmobile out front, you know you are in for a treat. At least, that is how Zack and I felt at Big Red's Colbert Trading Company.



What we devoured:

- ~Pizza (Half Chi-Town, Half Sears Tower)
- ~Classic Chicago Style Hot Dog
- ~Bacon Dog
- ~Cheesy Pesto Bacon Stuffed Mushrooms
- ~Garlic Fries

Our eyes were way bigger than our stomachs, but the entire menu sounded so good we couldn't decide what to order. We knew we had to start with the stuffed mushrooms, and boy,

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were they delicious. Their fresh mushrooms were LOADED with cream cheese, pesto, bacon, topped with three different cheeses and garlic, and then baked to a golden perfection.

Next came our pizza. Being a veggie and meat lover, the Sears Tower Pizza had my name written all over it. Housemade dough gets topped with housemade tomato sauce, then pepperoni, salami, sausage, bacon, ham, green peppers, onions, mushrooms, olives, and pineapple all get layered on top. I think this was the first time I have ordered a pizza and didn't have to add a single topping. Zack is a meat man, so the Chi-Town pizza was calling to him. It was packed with pepperoni, sausage, salami, bacon, and ham. The dough was tender and chewy on the inside, and the crust was nice and crispy.

Onto our dogs. I had never had a classic Chicago hot dog before, but now I will never be able to go back. Freshly cut cucumber and tomato

line the bun, and it gets topped with diced onions, peppers, a huge pickle spear, mustard, celery salt, and neon green relish. If you, like me, wonder why the relish is neon green, it's because they used to dye it to make it stand out in advertising, and now it has been adopted as a staple in a true Chicago dog. Zack went with the Bacon Dog, and it did not disappoint. Caramelized onions, cream cheese, bacon, and barbecue sauce come together to make a savory, creamy hot dog. Trust us when we say, you've never had anything like this.

You would think at this point we wouldn't have been able to eat any more food, but we made room for their garlic fries and house-made sauces. Heaps of fresh garlic and parsley sit atop a bed of golden french

fries. They let us sample all their sauces, including blue cheese, tartar, ranch, and smoked onion ranch. If you are ordering a salad, they also have house-made balsamic and honey mustard.

The restaurant is owned and run by Leslie and Curtis Bytnar. Curtis is originally from Chicago (so everything is the real deal), but

he has cooked all over Spokane. He started his own food truck, Big Red's, a while back, but he and his wife bought the pizzeria in February of this year and now use the truck as their kitchen. They kept pizza on the menu but upgraded to making everything from scratch. Then over the summer, they added items from the food truck menu, and it has been a huge hit. If you grew up in the '90s, you will especially appreciate every detail Curtis and Leslie put into decorating this restaurant, from original Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle figurines to a Michael Keaton Batman poster, to Pee-Wee playing on the TV. You will feel like you've stepped back in time. Not only have they turned the establishment into an amazing family-friendly location with all kinds of unique memorabilia, but they have continued preserving a building that was established back in 1885. If you have not had a chance to check this place out, it is a must-go! You will love the decor, people, and most importantly, the food. Zack and I are looking forward to stopping in again, especially next summer, to enjoy their beautiful outdoor area that is almost two acres.

18711 N Yale Rd, Colbert, WA 99005, 509-209-8086, colberttradingcompany.com.

Zack & Brooklyn are a married couple that love showcasing all the fun places to play and eat in the Inland Northwest. They created Taste Budz to promote local businesses and expose people to the great restaurants all around them. Keep up with them to find your next culinary destination!



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## **Happy Holidays!**

CYACOLDBUXAAHBPHTINB D HIIK  $\mathbf{E}$ U S Y WGR YKE В Η C H Η U V U RAK O L F TR U S R D Т Η Y G G W M EΝ Т D Ν Ν  $\mathbf{P}$ В L U Z D QΕ V I B Ι Ι I H D ΥU Ρ O В  $\mathbf{E}$ Ε G  $\mathbf{Z}$ RALH R LR Q  $\mathbf{T}$ F 0 Η F Μ D  $\mathbf{T}$  $\mathbf{L}$  $\mathbf{Z}$  $\mathbf{E}$ B ER S R J Α Ν C N X V F Η IHA U K  $\mathbf{E}$ S IYNAAJE Z Т F D R O IKS J G  $\mathbf{R}$ G Ν F L N Y R Ρ S ΚO R  $\mathbf{R}$ V S Т U Ν C Ν 0 ТX ERTB GU Т Z Т В YGD  $\mathbf{E}$ Q F Р P Μ W Т S W Т  $\mathbf{F}$ GNKF  $\mathbf{L}$ QΕ AKA EHPME D S I L L  $\mathbf{E}$ Α R F В Μ Z M B N EGMAТ C Q Ε L JA В L SAKS SE LΕ Y GΕ Т I Q ΗQ RALC N M Т Α D Ι C UН V U Т F MAEUARF Q B  $\mathbf{E}$ Ι 0 G R ΙK S Ι  $\mathbf{R}$ 0 F Z D  $\mathbf{F}$ 0 C F U Y N EΙ 0 Т D D I B N R  $\mathbf{E}$ Т Т 0 U K ZC C Y Z E R P G S 0  $\mathsf{R}$ NWY Q K R Ι В ΜЕ X S QEHAG ВР KF L J  $\mathbf{L}$ В E S D R G W G 0 U  $\mathbf{R}$ Ι I F Y H R L F X G R D R Α Ε C G Y Ι E NC D Ν  $\mathbf{E}$  $\mathbf{P}$ S Η I  $\mathbf{E}$ 0 ΚL R E $\mathsf{L} \mathsf{F}$ R  $\mathbf{E}$ V K INF  $\mathsf{R}$ S L Ο Z 0 ΑL Ρ Α Ι R G D Q W H EJ 0 Q N U C I M W L R U Т Ε S C  $\mathbf{L}$ Ε J  $\mathbf{E}$ G S V ANΡ G J 0 X J Ν Μ A N N O N A O W V Ι Ι V V R ELHL Α S G Ι Α A R C A F Т X В G F Q G D C Α Ν D Y C Y D ΗЕ Ι C ΗA RΙ Т  $\mathbf{E}$ C E MВ  $\mathbf{E}$ R S Ν ΑP ΚN  $\mathbf{E}$ ARYRTXZTHKNUWERELKNIWTU

Believe Blanket Blizzard Candle Candy Carols Charity Christmas Cold

December

Decorate
Earmuffs
Eggnog
Elf
Evergreen
Family
Frigid
Fireplace
Flurries

Friends

Frosty
Fruitcake
Gingerbread
Gloves
Hanukkah
Hibernate
Holly
Icicle
Igloo
January

Jingle
Kwanzaa
Lights
Merry
Noel
Peace
Peppermint
Reindeer
Ribbon
Scarf

Skating
Sleet
Sleigh
Snowflakes
Snowman
Sparkle
Sweater
Toboggan
Traditions

### **HUCKLEBERRY COUNTRY SUDOKU!**

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

#### Sudoku Puzzle Instructions:

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces.

Every row must contain one of each digit – so must every column, as must every 3x3 square. Puzzle difficulty level is

#### SUDOKU SOLUTION:

Twinkle

Below is the Solution to

# This Week's Puzzle

6	G	$\forall$	S	ŀ	7	9	3	8
2	7	9	3	$\forall$	8	6	9	ŀ
8	ļ.	3	g	6	9	$\forall$	L	2
9	2	8	ŀ	ε	Þ	۷	9	6
9	Þ	7	6	8	9	ŀ	2	3
3	6	ŀ	9	۷	2	9	8	$\forall$
₽	ε	S	7	9	6	8	ŀ	9
۷	9	6	8	2	ŀ	ε	Þ	9
ŀ	8	9	₽	9	3	2	6	7



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Jokes curated from the Internet by Thea Cruden

What did Frosty's girlfriend give him when she was mad at him? The cold shoulder.

What do gingerbread men use when they break their legs? Candy canes

Why is everyone thirsty at the North Pole? No well.

What did the snowman say to the aggressive carrot? "Get out of my face."

What do you call an old snowman? Water.

Elves use what kind of money? Jingle bills.

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? He got 25 days!

A man was driving along the highway and saw a rabbit hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the rabbit, but unfortunately the rabbit jumped in front of the car and was hit. The driver, being a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road, and got out to see what had become of the rabbit. Much to his dismay, the rabbit was dead. The driver felt so awful, he began to cry. A woman driving down the highway saw the man crying on the side of the road and pulled over. She stepped out of her car and asked the man what was wrong. "I feel terrible," he explained, "I accidently hit this rabbit and killed it." The woman told the man not to worry. She knew what to do. She went to her car and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead rabbit, and sprayed the contents of the can onto the rabbit. Miraculously the rabbit came to life, jumped up, waved its paw at the two humans and hopped down the road. 50 meters away the rabbit stopped, turned around, waved and hopped down the road, another 50 meters, turned, waved and hopped another 50 meters. The man was astonished. He couldn't figure out what substance could be in the woman's spray can! He ran over to the woman and demanded, "What is in your spray can? What did you spray on that rabbit?" The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said: "Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave."

Why shouldn't you lend money to elves? They're always short

How do sheep say Merry Christmas to each other? Fleece Navidad.

What is every parent's favorite Christmas song? Silent Night!

Why did Rudolph have to attend summer school? Because he went down in history.

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? "It's Christmas, Eve!"

What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas? "I'll never part with it!"

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow!

In light of the rising frequency of human/grizzly bear conflicts, the Montana Department of Fish and Game is advising hikers, hunters, and fishermen to take extra precautions and keep alert for bears while in the field. "We advise that outdoorsmen wear noisy, little bells on their clothing so as not to startle bears that aren't expecting them. We also advise outdoorsmen to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity. Outdoorsmen should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear poop. Black bear poop is smaller and contains lots of berries and squirrel fur. Grizzly bear poop has little bells in it and smells like pepper."

What is a vegan's favorite Christmas song? Soy to the World.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite.

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? Claustrophobia!

What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Ice crispies.

What do you call Santa when he stops moving? Santa Pause.

The local United Way office realized that it had never received a donation from the town's most successful lawyer. The volunteer in charge of contributions called him to persuade him to contribute. "Our research shows that, out of a yearly income of more than \$600,000 you give not a penny to charity. Wouldn't you like to give back to the community in some way?" The lawyer mulled this over for a moment and replied, "First, did your research also show that my mother is dying after a long illness, and has medical bills that are several times her annual income?" Embarrassed, the United Way rep mumbled, "Um... No." "Second, that my brother, a disabled veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair?" The stricken United Way rep began to stammer out an apology but was put off. "Third, that my sister's husband died in a traffic accident," the lawyer's voice rising in indignation, "Leaving her penniless with three children?" The humiliated United Way rep, completely beaten, said simply, "I had no idea..." On a roll, the lawyer cut him off once again, "...And I don't give any money to them, so why should I give any to you?!"

What do you call an elf that runs away from Santa's workshop? A rebel without a Claus!

What do you call a reindeer ghost? Cari-boo!

What is it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum? A meltdown.

What reindeer game do reindeer play at sleepovers? Truth or deer.

What is Santa's dog's name? Santa Paws!

Two storks are sitting in their nest: a father stork and baby stork. The baby stork is crying and crying and father stork is trying to calm him. "Don't worry, son. Your mother will come back. She's only bringing people babies and making them happy." The next night, it's father's turn to do the job. Mother and son are sitting in the nest, the baby stork is crying, and mother is saying "Son, your father will be back as soon as possible, but now he's bringing joy to new mommies and daddies." A few days later, the stork's parents are desperate: their son is absent from the nest all night! Shortly before dawn, he returns and the parents ask him where he's been all night. The baby stork says, "Nowhere. Just scaring the heck out of college students!"

Jerry King cartoon printed with permission. www.jerryking.com



"It's the new fitness keyboard. You have to stomp on the keys instead of using your fingers."

# **Reporting Deadline For Local Business Owners**



by Caleb Stapp

A federal requirement under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) that went into effect January 1, 2024, is set to impact thousands of small business owners across the country. Known as the Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) Report, this measure aims to prevent illegal activities like money laundering and tax evasion by increasing transparency about who owns and controls certain entities.

With key deadlines approaching, here's what local business owners need to know to stay compliant and avoid costly penalties.

#### Who Needs to File the BOI Report?

Most corporations, LLCs, and other entities created by filing documents with a U.S. state or tribal authority will need to file. Foreign entities registered to do business in the U.S. must also comply.

Exemptions apply to certain groups, including: companies with over 20 employees, \$5 million in annual revenue, and a physical office in the U.S.; and publicly traded companies, banks, nonprofits, and governmental entities.

#### What Must Be Reported?

Business owners will need to report two main types of information like entity details, which can include legal name, any DBA names, address, formation jurisdiction, and tax ID number; and beneficial owner information such as full name, date of birth, residential address, and a government-issued ID number (such as a driver's license or passport). Beneficial owners include anyone owning at least 25% of the company or exercising substantial control over it.

#### **Important Deadlines**

New businesses (created on or after January 1, 2024): BOI reports are

due within 30 days of formation. Existing businesses (created before January 1, 2024): The BOI report must be submitted before Jan. 1, 2025.

#### **How to File**

All reports must be submitted electronically through the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

#### **Penalties for Non-Compliance**

Failing to file – or providing false information – can result in hefty fines of up to \$591 per day, plus potential criminal penalties of up to \$10,000 or two years in prison.

#### **Stay Compliant: Tips for Business Owners**

*Check Your Status:* Determine if your entity is required to file or can qualify for an exemption.

*Get Organized:* Collect beneficial ownership information early to avoid last-minute stress.

Consult a Professional: Financial or legal advisors can help ensure compliance and integrate these requirements into your broader financial strategy.

*Stay Informed:* Rules may evolve, so keep an eye on updates from Fin-CEN or the Treasury Department.

For more information about BOI reporting requirements, visit FinCEN's website or reach out to your experienced financial or legal advisor.

Submitted by Caleb Stapp, Deep Creek Financial Planning. This article is for informational purposes only and not a substitute for specific tax or legal advice. Consult with a qualified professional about your unique situation. Securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor. Member FINRA/SIPC. Deep Creek Financial Planning is not registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor.

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**Asking \$220,000 / Amber Zagelow (509) 499-4942** 



Very nice 3bd, 1.75bth home on large corner lot in Davenport! 2,600+sw ft, attached 2 car+ garage, large rooms, nice back yard, full basement, fireplace on each floor, nice kitchen with lots of cabinets!

Asking \$325,000 / Rick Sawyer (509) 660-0610



Well established full mechanic shop, auto parts store & hardware store in Harrington! Lots of space, tons of equipment including, lots of inventory, lots of land for expansion or storage. Great opportunity!

**Asking \$629,000 / Cassandra Becker 509-768-0482** 



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Asking \$37,000 / Patrick Katz (509) 721-0626

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# **Community Connections**

Please send updates or corrections to publisher@huckleberrypress.com or to Huckleberry Press, P.O. Box 983, Kettle Falls, WA 99141.

### Regional Chambers of Commerce

# Greater Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box X

Bonners Ferry, ID 83805 visitbonnersferry.org | 208-290-1143 info@bonnersferrychamber.org

#### **Chewelah Chamber of Commerce**

401 South Park St., #E Chewelah, WA 99109 chewelah.org | 509-935-8595 Meeting: Fridays, 7 am, Mistequa Casino

#### Coeur d'Alene Regional Chamber of Commerce

105 N 1<sup>st</sup> St., Ste 100 Coeur D Alene, ID 83814 cdachamber.com | connect@cdachamber.com | 208-664-3194 Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7 am, Coeur d'Alene

Resort

Colville Chamber of Commerce 986 S Main St., Ste B

Colville, WA 99114 colville.com | 509-684-5973 Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, Noon, Eagle's Lodge

#### **Deer Park Chamber of Commerce**

316 E. Crawford St.

Deer Park, WA 99006
deerparkchamber.com | 509-276-5900
Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, noon, call for each month's location

#### **Harrington Area Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 291 Harrington, WA 99134 harringtonbiz.com

# Greater Hayden/Hayden Lake Chamber of Commerce

157 W Hayden Ave., Ste 103 Hayden, ID 83835 haydenchamber.org | 208-762-1185

#### **Kettle Falls Area Chamber of Commerce**

425 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Kettle Falls, WA 99141 kfchamber.org | 509-738-2300 Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 5:30 pm, Kettle Falls Visitor Center

#### **Lake Spokane Chamber of Commerce**

5972 Hwy 291 Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026 info@lakespokanechamber.com | 509-218-8062 Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 11:30 am, Suncrest Fire-Rescue Sta. 8

#### **Newport-Oldtown Chamber of Commerce**

325 W 4<sup>th</sup> St. Newport, WA 99156 newportareachamber.com | 509-447-5812 Meeting: Quarterly, rotating locations

#### **North Pend Oreille Chamber of Commerce**

P.O Box 388

Metaline Falls, WA 99153 npochamber.org | info@npochamber.org

#### **Rathdrum Area Chamber of Commerce**

8052 W. Main St., Ste 201 Rathdrum, ID 83858 rathdrumchamber.com 208-687-2866 Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 11:45 am, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

#### **Republic Area Chamber of Commerce**

P.O Box 502 Republic, WA 99166 republicchamber.org | 509-429-1877 Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, noon, 157 N. Clark Ave.

# Ritzville Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Info

111 W Main Ave. Ritzville, WA 99169 ritzvillechamber.com | 509-659-1936 Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 6 pm, Ritzville City Hall

# **Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce** 1202 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Sandpoint, ID 83864 sandpointchamber.org | 208-263-2161 Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, noon, Tango Community Room

#### **Spirit Lake Chamber of Commerce**

Spirit Lake, ID 83869 spiritlakechamber.com | 208-428-1908 Meeting: 1st Tuesday, 8 am, Community/Senior Center

#### **Greater Spokane Inc.**

P.O. Box 772

801 W Riverside Ave, Ste 100 Spokane, WA 99201 spokanechamber.org | 509-624-1393

#### **Sprague Chamber**

213 S. C St. Sprague, WA 99032 spraguechamber.com | 509-251-9165

#### **Springdale Area Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 275 Springdale, WA 99173 southstevenschamber.org | 509-703-0352 Not currently meeting – looking for volunteers

#### **West Plains Chamber of Commerce**

P.O Box 228 Airway Heights, WA 99001 westplainschamber.org | 509-235-8480

### Regional Rotary Clubs

#### Benewah, ID

St. Maries: Tuesdays, noon, Benedictine Hall

#### Bonner, ID

Center Community Room

Ponderay: first three Tuesdays of the month,

7am, Tango Cafe, Sandpoint

Sandpoint: Wednesdays, noon, Sandpoint

#### Kootenai, ID

Post Falls: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month, noon Highlands Golf Course Grille

Coeur d'Alene Sunrise: Tuesdays, 7am, Coeur d'Alene Resort

*Coeur d'Alene Evening:* Thursdays, 4:30, Life Public House

Coeur d'Alene: Fridays, noon, Coeur d'Alene Resort

#### Pend Oreille, WA/ID

Newport-Priest River: Wednesday, 6:45 am, St Francis Church Parish Hall

#### Spokane, WA

Deer Park: Thursdays, noon, First Street Bar & Grill

Spokane Valley Sunrise: Mondays, 7am,

Mirabeau Park Hotel

Spokane North: Mondays, noon, Bark, A Rescue Pub

Liberty Lake: Tuesdays, noon, Trailhead Golf Course

Greater Spokane Valley: Wednesdays, noon, Darcy's

Spokane 21: Thursdays, noon, The Spokane Club

Spokane Aurora Northwest: Thursdays, noon, The Onion Bar & Grill

Spokane South: Friday, noon, Shawn O'Donnell's American Grill & Irish Pub

#### Stevens, WA

Colville: Wednesdays, noon, The HUB

Kettle Falls: Thursdays, 7am, Sandy's DriveIn

#### Whitman

*Colfax:* Thursdays, noon, Methodist Church *Pullman:* 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, noon, Zeppos

