# March 1, 2025

Huckleberry Press

The Community Paper of the Inland Northwest

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# **Celebrating the Patron Saint of Ireland**



by Amy McGarry

With a last name like Mc-Garry, it makes sense that I have always embraced all things Irish. As a child, though I didn't know why, I wished my name was Bridgit. That was long before I

j learned that was my father's grandmother's name. Of course U2 was my favorite 80s band. In fact, I was so interested in my Irish heritage, for a time I majored in Irish Studies with plans to transfer to Trinity College in Dublin. I learned all about ancient Ireland's Celtic roots and the mystical Druids. I learned about the potato famine and struggles under British rule. I even attempted to learn Gaelic, the ancient language of Ireland. All I remember from that is *slante* (pronounced "slawn-che") means "health" in Irish; it's the standard way to toast when clinking glasses in an Irish pub, similar to "Cheers!" in English.

My path took a different turn, and I never fulfilled my dream to study in Ireland. I never even traveled there for a visit.

While I was living in Thailand serving in the Peace Corps, my family got the great idea to take

a family trip to Ireland. It was my dream trip and I didn't get to go. I'm not bitter. Ok. Maybe a little. I have had the great fortune to travel to over 20 different countries, and yet I still have not been to Ireland. I came close one time. I went to visit a friend who lived in the north of England. I asked my friend if we could make a quick trip over to Ireland, since we were so close. For some reason, he pooh-poohed that idea. But as he lived within driving distance to Edinburgh, Scotland, and was a native Scotsman, we drove there on one of our castle-hopping day trips.

Of course, my Irish studies included the island's transition to Christianity with the help of St. Patrick. That's when I realized that St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by millions, and many don't even know they're celebrating. I certainly didn't. The beauty of St. Patrick's Day is that it has become a global celebration of Irish culture regardless of its origins. While these days we associate parades, pub crawls, and green beer with St. Patrick's Day, the holiday began as a religious observance, commemorating St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

The Life of St. Patrick

To understand the history of St. Patrick's Day, we must first learn about the man himself: St. Patrick, whose life and legacy have greatly shaped the holiday. St. Patrick was born in the late 4<sup>th</sup> century in Britain, in what is now known as Scotland. His birth name was likely *Maewyn Succat*, but he is better known by the name Patrick, which he adopted later in life when he became a bishop.

At the age of sixteen, Patrick was captured by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave. During his six years in captivity, Patrick worked as a shepherd, which helped deepen his faith. After escaping from slavery and returning to Britain, Patrick became a Christian missionary and later decided to return to Ireland to spread Christianity to the Irish people.

St. Patrick's mission in Ireland was a turning point in the country's history. He is credited with converting many Irish people to Christianity, establishing churches, and playing a significant role in the Christianization of Ireland. He is also associated with using the three-leafed shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) to the Irish people, *Continued on page 11...* 







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March 2025

# **New Metal Business Opens in Clayton**



A new, locally owned metal roll-forming business has opened in Clayton, WA. Alpine Metal is a family-owned business that aims to be the go-to place for "all your metal roof and siding needs." Paul Burkholder, his father Joel, and his brother Joshua are co-owners of Alpine Metal, creating a different kind of business model for how metal roofing and siding products are sold. Together, with their family friend Lauren, they promise the

by Robin Milligan

best service possible. Plus free coffee!

Paul, his father, and his brother share in all of the tasks of the business. Each of them know how to do every task, without set roles or titles. They say they love working together as a team to give customers the best experience possible and pride themselves on their from their customers about which projects they are working on and how they do what they do, so their company can provide better service and products to those customers.

According to Paul, metal roofing is one of the best choices for longevity, durability, and energy efficiency, although it usually has a higher up-front cost. However, since Alpine Metal sells directly to the customer, the savings from cutting out a distributor is passed on to the customer.

Paul spoke readily about the benefits of the product, highlighting how metal is excellent in high wind, snow, ice, rain, and hail, and is resistant to fire and rot, unlike most of the other materials available for roofing. Because it reflects solar heat, metal roofing reduces the demand for cooling. Metal is also a lightweight choice, is easy to retrofit on existing structures, and is considered more sustain-



real-world approach to sales and service. Talking to customers, finding new and better ways of doing things, finding new products to fill customer needs, innovations, and ways of making the sales experience as painless as possible.

Paul (pictured) says that his dad, Joel, likes to think outside of the box and he loves to talk to people. The Burkholder's like to hear

# **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 1<sup>st</sup> of each month able because metal is recyclable and needs minimal maintenance once installed.

"Metal roofing, siding, trim, custom trims for all your needs, underlayment, fasteners, screws, vent boots, caulk..." Paul said. "We offer a comprehensive list of everything you'll need for your project."

They offer 20 colors and a few different styles of metal panels. They even have panels that hide the fasteners for a more seamless look. Looking forward to new and exciting ways to improve and grow with their community, they hope to continue to innovate in their craft.

Alpine Metal says they support local contractors and builders and enjoy making connections and promoting and recommending other local businesses. They

also work directly with the public, which is something they say sets them apart from many other metal manufacturers. You do not need to be a retailer or contractor to buy from Alpine Metal. In fact, they really enjoy selling directly to the customers who will be living with the product. When you make an order with this company, they are there for every step of the process. With experience and enthusiasm, these guys take the time to configure the materials to fit your vision. They'll help you figure out the design and layout of your project, fabricate your custom pieces, and even walk you through



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the process of how it is installed so you can do it yourself if you'd rather not hire a contractor. They'll gladly teach you how to use the materials and fasteners too. Paul said that they value their ability to help people and make a big decision as easy as possible for the customer. They believe that the buying process should be smooth and enjoyable.

"You don't need to shop around, come see us, we're not just another company, we're your neighbors. We're here to be friends," Paul said.

The Burkholder's moved to the area almost three years ago from south of Olympia and bought property. They enjoy the atmosphere in south Steven's County as much as the people. With experience in construction and building, they had friends who did this kind of work and saw an opportunity to start a business doing something a bit differently.

Paul says he really enjoys "the down to earth, common-sense people in the area. He says Stevens County is pleasant to work with and there is a lot less red tape than where they were before. He loves doing business here. They like Clayton and wanted to solidly serve





Stevens County and the greater Spokane area.

"Our number one goal is to offer fast and excellent service. We will make your order the same day or the next day, whenever possible. You don't need to wait a week for your order, we'll get it done fast and do the job right. We want to honor God with our business," Paul said.

Although they are already working and open to the public now, Alpine Metal will be having an official grand opening in the spring. Alpine Metal is located at 4436 Williams Valley Road, Clayton, WA 99110 and is open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday and can be reached at 509-345-1171 or sales@Alpinemetal.us.

Robin Milligan is an artist and entrepreneur living in Spokane, WA. She curates art shows, runs an IT company, and teaches ceramics and painting from her home studio. When not working, Robin spends her time with her three children exploring nature, rockhounding, making art, and swimming.



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# **Taste Budz Review: Five North Coffee + Gifts**



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

Zack and I decided to have a little morning date recently and stopped into Five North Coffee & Gifts in Deer Park.

- What we snacked on:
- ~Veggie Breakfast Burrito
- ~Chorizo Breakfast Burrito
- ~Keto Sweetie Donut
- ~Brownie
- ~Latte
- ~Americano

Sticking with tradition, I ordered the veg-

gie breakfast burrito, and Zack ordered the chorizo. All of their food and treats are sourced from different local businesses. The breakfast burritos were from Thomas Hammer. The tortillas were perfectly flaky and packed just right so that they didn't fall apart when you ate them – a pet peeve for both Zack and me.

I have been DYING to try Keto Sweetie's baked goods and I was pleasantly surprised that they carried their products. Keto Sweetie makes baked goods without any dairy, gluten, seed oil, and soy, nut and it was delicious! It literally melted in my mouth and had an excellent fudgy flavor.

Zack was happy to try my donut, but he was craving the real deal with his sweet treat, so he ordered the chocolate chip brownie (sourced from a Spokane bakery). I did steal a little bite and, oh my goodness was it rich, chocolatey, and absolutely divine. Zack scarfed it down in a matter of seconds.

You can't have a morning date without coffee. I got a sugar-free caramel latte and they used a special caramel drizzle sauce that didn't taste artificial or overly sweet. It was superb. Zack ordered an Americano with chocolate and cream. They serve Thomas Hammer coffee as well, which is one of my favorites. The roast was strong and full flavored.

Onto the ambiance: the interior is very cozy and they offer free WIFI if you want to sit and get work done. The middle-to-back part of the cafe is a gift shop that truly has something for everyone. It reminded me of Boo Radley's (in Spokane) merged with a boutique gift shop. There were crystals, children's toys, dirty



for someone, we will be stopping here.

Not only do they have local goodies, awesome gifts, and strong coffee, but the customer service is excellent. The woman who took our order brought all out food and drinks out to us so that we could just walk around and shop.



and that are low carb. I got the chocolate do- games, and more. Next time we are shopping destination!

Next time you are out with a friend or just need a little "me" time, make sure to check out this spot. Plus, it is located right on Main Street and you can explore all the other wonderful Deer Park shops.

509-890-5325, 5 N Main St., Deer Park, WA 99006.

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





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# **Laughter Really Is the Best Medicine**



**Best Medicine** By Bob Johnson

As a savvy kid, I always knew when the latest edition of Reader's Digest had arrived in the mail because Dad would come

sashaying into the kitchen and offhandedly say something like, "My, that bowl certainly has a plethora of vegetables in it."

Reader's Digest was the world's most widely circulated magazine at the time, and among its numerous departments was one called, "It Pays to Increase Your Word Power," which at some point was rebranded simply to "Word Power," apparently a nod to readers' ever-shortening attention spans.

While Dad loved learning new words, I, the future writer in the family, gravitated to another *Reader's Digest* department: "Laughter, the Best Medicine." It was (and is) a compendium of jokes, humorous observations and amusing anecdotes. An example: "I know a frog who thought he was 100% German. He was wrong. He's a tad Pole."

When Dad was done with each month's issue, I'd glom onto it and memorize three or four jokes to share with friends at school. I was not the class clown; I did, however, come

Laughter Really Is the to appreciate how a sense of humor equated know what either an endocrinologist or a with popularity. And safety. The school bully left me alone because he knew I had many allies.

> A different genre of humor has served me well over the course of my career in journalism, a career that has included writing more than 200 extended obituaries. It's called gallows humor, something shared with only a small cadre of co-workers primarily as a coping mechanism. For example, when finishing an obit about a lawyer, I might quietly utter to a colleague, "Case closed."

> It's inappropriate, hardly funny at all, but makes the writing process more bearable.

> Gallows humor is also common among doctors, nurses and hospital support staff. I know this to be true because a former oncology nurse has shared countless examples with me. And I get it. As difficult as it can be to write about someone who has passed, imagine what it must be like for the frontline professionals who fought to keep someone alive... and lost.

> On that happy note, let's go back to the fall of 2023 when a bunch of lab work, an MRI and an ultrasound confirmed to an endocrinologist that my thyroid needed to be removed. This came as a surprise to me because, until a few months prior, I did not

thyroid was.

The reason for the surgery: there was a possibility that the glob (that's the scientific term) affixed to the thyroid (a butterflyshaped gland in the neck) could be cancerous.

Ah, there it was – the C-word.

"But don't worry," the endocrinologist told me. "Thyroid C-word is a slow-moving Cword."

Don't worry.

About the C-word.

Perhaps when the C-word is hanging out in someone else's body it's nothing to worry about, but when it has decided to show up in one's own body, worry becomes ... something. And unceasing.

Perhaps I should mention at this point that we were still living in Las Vegas at the time of the diagnosis. It's a city that has seen the population overrun the medical infrastructure - too many patients, not enough doctors. It was a good thing I had a slow-moving C-word because the time between appointments could be months.

Perhaps I also should mention that I did not like my endocrinologist at all. Because of the medical situation in Vegas, it's a "take who you can get" scenario when it comes to



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### Page 7

# **Change of Plans**

### by Ray Bilderback

Growing up in the mountains, I developed a fondness for fly fishing small streams. In our region that includes such waters as Huckleberry Creek, Sherman Creek, the

little Pend Oreille River and the like. I've learned to endure mosquitoes, no-see-ums, unintentional tangles in the brush and quick, cold baths (unintentional as well).

Such annoyances are all in the realm of ordinary. But one day on the Little Pend Oreille, I chose a stretch of water a few hundred yards from the highway. It was a fifteen-minute trudge through the tall grass, old beaver channels and rose bushes. No matter. It was a warm day with just a hint of a breeze rustling the willows.

Finally, I was settled on the bank of a good pool, tying on a Royal Coachman, when something made me look up. A yearling bear was making his way to water from the ridge to the east. No problem. Then I heard a bleat, maybe more like a cry. Presently, I located the maker of the sound. A little ball of fur was trying to keep up with big brother and



was high-centered on a log.

The crying got louder. Where was mother?

I didn't need to wait long. Here she came over the ridge. Not waiting to cause her unnecessary concern, I secured my fly line, turned about and managed the trip to the highway in twenty seconds flat.

I still like to fish there, but quieter, less crowded would be my choice.

doctors and especially specialists. The one I ended up with seemed as if he were tutoring his medical assistant rather than counseling me during appointments.

Fortunately, he was not a surgeon, and I was referred (internal medical term: outsourced) to a different doctor who would perform the actual procedure (medical term: cutting).

Six months passed between the first time I saw the endocrinologist and the day I met the surgeon for my pre-op appointment. (Did I mention things moved slower than a desert tortoise in the world of Sin City medicine?) But from the moment he walked into the exam room, I knew I liked him better than the endocrinologist – a short bar, to be sure, but I took it as a good sign.

He said he always liked to perform an ultrasound with the patient, and in my case that meant with the patient and the patient's loving and supportive wife. He fired up the screen, rubbed some greasy stuff on my neck and placed the transducer (medical term: transducer) in the thyroid area.

"Can you tell if it's a boy or a girl?" I asked in my best "Laughter, the Best Medicine" tone.

He seemed to be taken slightly aback by the question, given that we were dealing with the C-word, but he smiled and said, "Maybe twins."

He kept moving the transducer around and then said, "Well, it's pretty good sized, but I've seen a couple bigger ones today. Honestly, it's not that big for a guy."

My reaction was unplanned and immedi-

At that point, the surgeon lowered the transducer and started laughing. I got the sense that it wasn't common for a patient to interact in such a way - with gallows humor - when the C-word was involved. He seemed relieved.

I pressed on. He looked to be in his late-40s or early-50s, and I asked whether he'd had much experience with this type of surgery.

"Probably around a thousand of them," he replied. "I've been working six days a week because of the shortage of doctors in the valley."

With an ever-so-slight smile on my face I asked, "Have you ever lost anyone?"

He paused, then replied with a sly grin, "Not yet."

When surgery day arrived and I was wheeled into the operating theater, I couldn't see the surgeon, but he spoke up almost immediately.

"Hi, Bob," he said. "How you doing?"

"I showed up," I replied.

Then he said, "I just want you to know that today is not going to be the day."

He had remembered me. Mission accomplished.

Next, he introduced me to the anesthesiologist, another voice without a body.

"Bob," he said, "in just a minute, I'm going to ask you to pick up that mask, put it up to your face, and then breathe in deeply and breathe out deeply. Once you do that about three times, you'll be out. Any questions?" I couldn't help myself.

"Just one," I said. "What exactly am I paying you for?"

up."

Doctor and anesthesiologist on my side. A patient can't ask for more than that.

Upon arriving in the Inland Northwest, it was determined that I would need another thyroid C-word surgery. Amazingly, I (and when I say "I," I mean my wife) had been able to find an endocrinologist here very quickly. Within a span of just two months I was seen, evaluated and went under the knife at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane.

I can't say enough about the entire staff there, a caring and professional group of people in every position from check-in to prep to surgery to recovery.

But the real highlight came in the prep room. As I lounged on the gurney before surgery, a pastor stopped in to pray with and for us. As he stepped through the door, I spotted a shiner under his right eye.

Pastor or not, I asked, "What did you do to tick off your wife?"

Without missing a beat he replied, "I brought her the wrong drink. I got her a Coke Zero and she wanted a regular Coca-Cola."

Two C-words. Was it a sign that The Man Upstairs wasn't ready to deal with my "humor" just yet? Or merely proof that laughter really is the best medicine?

A recipient of more than 90 national writing 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

ate. I looked at him and said, "Did you really just say that in front of my wife?"

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sharing his observations with Huckleberry Press readers.



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Cork

Sudoku Puzzle Instructions:	
Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logi- cally without guessing.	   r
Enter digits from 1 to 9 nto the blank spaces.	
Every row must contain one of each digit – so nust every column, as nust every 3x3 square.	

Puzzle difficulty level is "Medium." Good luck!

SUDOKU SUDOKU SOLUTION: Below is the Solution to This Week's Puzzle										
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8 S



Jokes curated from the Internet by Thea Cruden

How old are leprechauns? Old enough to remember when rainbows were black and white.

Do leprechauns like to eat leftovers? No, they prefer left-clovers.

Who was Cinderella's date on St. Patrick's Day? Pinch Charming.

- How do you pay for your green beer on St. Patrick's Day? With a lepre-coin.
- Why did the leprechaun say no to a bowl of soup? He already had a pot of gold.

What does the leprechaun order at a coffee shop? Green tea.

What kind of spells do leprechauns use? Lucky charms.

A leprechaun boy was about to propose to the girl of his dreams. He got down on one knee and popped the big question, only to have his beloved grab the ring from his hand and inspect it with a close eye. He felt so awkward as he waited for her answer. After a moment, she got a big smile on her face and threw her wee, leprechaun arms around his neck and cried, "Yes! Of course I will marry you!" Awhile later, the leprechaun's curiosity got the best of him and he simply had to ask her why she had looked at the ring so closely. Her answer? "Well, I didn't want you to be giving me a sham-rock!"

Why do leprechauns hate running? They'd rather jig than jog.

What do you call a leprechaun prank? A saint pat-trick.

Why shouldn't you borrow money from a leprechaun? Because they're always a little short.

What do you call a leprechaun who goes to jail? A lepre-con.

What kind of conversation do leprechauns have? Small talk.

What falls during March but never gets hurt? The rain.

What can be seen in the middle of April and March, but can't be seen in the beginning or end of either one? The letter "r."

What March flowers grow on faces? Tulips.



Join your local Chamber of Commerce, or renew your membership, and get

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*Huckleberry Press!* The *Huckleberry Press* is a **free** regional **Why is March the most popular month to use a trampoline?** It's spring-time.

Why is everyone so tired on April 1? Because they've just finished a long, 31-day March.

Can February March? No, but April May.

- I asked my girlfriend when her birthday was. She said "March first." So, I walked round the room and asked her again...
- My girlfriend messaged me to say she's breaking up with me because I'm too childish. So I marched over to her house, rang her doorbell and ran away. That'll teach her.
- Why is it easy to prank someone born on March 31 on April's Fool's Day? Because they were literally born yesterday.
- I went to a job interview this week. The interviewer noted that I had put on my application that I was very quick at mental arithmetic. "What's nineteen multiplied by seventeen?" he asked. Quick as a flash I replied, "Thirty-four." "That's wrong," he said. "But it was very quick," I pointed out.
- A guy is late for an important meeting. But he can't find a place to park. In desperation, he begins to pray. "Please Lord, if you help me find a parking stall right now, I promise to go to church every Sunday and never drink vodka again!" A moment later, he sees a beautiful empty spot right next to the entrance. "Never mind. Found one!
- Two Scouts camping in their backyard wanted to know the time, so they started singing at the top of their lungs. Then one of their neighbors threw open his window and yelled, "Cut the noise! Don't you know it's 3 o'clock in the morning?"
- A bear walks into a restaurant and says, "I want a grilled ... cheese." The waiter says, "Why the big pause?" The bear replies, "I don't know. I was born with them."

A weasel walks into a restaurant and the waitress ask, "What would you like to drink?" "Pop!" goes the weasel.

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



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### ...continued from page 1

which has since become one of the key symbols of St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick is believed to have died on March 17, 461 AD. Over the centuries, his death date became a day of celebration and reflection on his life's work. While much of the specifics of his life remain shrouded in mystery, he is remembered as one of the most important figures in Irish history.

### The Origins of St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day was initially a religious holiday, honoring St. Patrick's missionary work and his im-

pact on Ireland. For centuries, it was primarily celebrated by Irish Catholics and those of Irish descent. The first St. Patrick's Day celebration took place in Ireland in the early 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> century, but the observance did not spread beyond Ireland until much later.

The day was marked by attending mass, feasting, and celebrating the cultural significance of Ireland's patron saint. The color green, which is closely associated with Ireland due to its nickname "The Emerald Isle," became linked to the day, partly because of the Irish flag and the shamrock that St. Patrick is said to have used. Irish people would often wear green clothing and accessories to mark the occasion.

In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, St. Patrick's Day was officially recognized by the Catholic Church as a feast day, and it became a public holiday in Ireland. It wasn't until the Irish diaspora began spreading around the world, particularly to places like the United States, that the holiday started to take on its more festive, secular nature.

### The Irish Diaspora and the Global Spread

The transformation of St. Patrick's Day from a religious observance into the global celebration we know today is closely tied to the Irish diaspora. Starting in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, many Irish people left Ireland in search of better opportunities, particularly in the wake of the Great Irish Famine (1845-1852), which led to mass emigration. Large numbers of Irish immigrants settled in places like the United States, Canada, and Australia, taking their traditions, including St. Patrick's Day, with them.

In 1762, the first recorded St. Patrick's Day parade took place in New York City. This parade was organized by Irish soldiers serving in the British Army, and it was a way for Irish immigrants to come together and celebrate their heritage. The parade became an annual event, growing larger each year as more Irish people settled in the United States.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the U.S. became a way for Irish immigrants to assert their cultural identity and solidarity in the face of discrimination. As Irish communities began to thrive, their celebrations grew in scope, with parades, music, dancing, and the wearing of green. These celebrations, often including alcohol and revelry, became less focused on the religious aspects of St. Patrick's Day and more focused on Irish pride.

### The Commercialization and Globalization of St. Patrick's Day

By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, St. Patrick's Day had grown beyond the Irish-American community to become a broader celebration of Irish culture. The holiday became recognized not only by people of Irish descent, but also by people around the world who were drawn to the lively festivities associated with it. Parades, pub gatherings, and the wearing of green became global customs, even in countries with little to no historical connection to Ireland.

As the holiday gained popularity, the commercialization of St. Patrick's Day grew as well. Companies began using the occasion to promote products, and marketing campaigns began to associate the day with food,



tors. Other major cities with notable parades include Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco. These celebrations typically feature bagpipes, marching bands, Irish dancers, and floats decorated with shamrocks and other Irish symbols.

The commercialization of St. Patrick's Day has led to a somewhat secularized version of the holiday, where people focus on the fun of wearing green, attending parades, and enjoying Irish-inspired food and drinks. However, for many, the spirit of St. Patrick's Day remains connected to the legacy of St. Patrick and the Irish people.

The Irish people. My people. Since no one on my father's side had passed down any information of this ancestry, nobody knew when our Irish relatives arrived on Ellis Island. With the scientific advances in DNA testing and the internet's access to ancestry records, I excitedly ordered a kit to test my DNA. In addition to my father's Irish blood, there was also the issue of my mother's side of the family, which also had no records of ancestry.

I excitedly awaited the results in hopes of finding out exactly where in Ireland my people came from and perhaps even hints about long lost relatives. I assumed I had to be one quarter Irish at the very, very least, and was hoping for more. Imagine my surprise when the results arrived and I learned that most of my blood wasn't Irish at all. I was over 30% Scottish and only 23% Irish. What?

After getting over the shock, I decided 23% was still a good portion of Irish blood. And why not embrace my Scottish ancestry? St. Patrick himself was from Scotland. And I always did really like Rod Stewart. Heck, I have even visited my ancestral homeland without even knowing it at the time!

More importantly, St. Patrick's Day is a celebration for everyone, a day we can all be Irish. Like that day I took my friend to a St. Patrick's Day parade and asked her, "Are you Irish, too?" She smiled broadly and said, "Today I am!"

### **Local Celebration**

In Spokane, the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day parade is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 12 p.m.

Slante!

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.



drinks, and entertainment. Cities around the world started to hold largescale parades, and iconic landmarks, such as the Sydney Opera House, the Colosseum in Rome, and the Christ the Redeemer statue in Brazil, have been illuminated in green to mark the occasion.

One of the most notable aspects of St. Patrick's Day celebrations today is the widespread consumption of alcohol, particularly Irish beer and whiskey. The tradition of "pub crawling" and drinking in celebration is widespread, with many people attending social gatherings and events where they can enjoy Irish drinks and foods.

### **Modern Celebrations**

Today, St. Patrick's Day is a celebration of Irish culture and heritage, and it is observed in many countries, from the United States to Japan, Australia, and beyond. Parades, festivals, concerts, and dances are held, with people of all backgrounds joining in the festivities. In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day remains a public holiday, and it is a day of national pride and celebration, though it is also a religious occasion for many.

In the United States, the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade is one of the largest and most famous in the world, attracting millions of specta-

# 8251 BBQ – Chewelah's Newest Restaurant



by Chloe Thompson

Chewelah General Store. 8251 BBQ is serving up plates of delicious Texas-style barbecue, all smoked in-house and with a menu of perfectly paired sides

culinary landscape that

boasts a variety of great

restaurants, cafes, and

breakfast spots to cater to

all tastes - and there's an-

other exciting spot that just

Set within the beautiful

launched in February.

crafted by Jack and Michelle McDaniel. Having both served in the U.S. military, Jack and Michelle were keen to operate a veteran-owned business. The classification for a naval flight engineer, 8251, pays homage to Jack's role in the military, which he was keen to champion in his new venture.

For anyone who hasn't visited Chewelah General Store, owners Rob Nye and Jill Trinchero have created a truly stunning community space that promotes local producers, small businesses and artists. You can tell how every detail has been immaculately thought out, resulting in the perfect balance of art and nature, meeting a more industrial, modern interior, which all adds to the dining experience.

As someone who's had quite limited experience with classic American barbecue, and after hearing how much effort and thought went into the cooking processes, I was thrilled to sample a platter of some of the most amazing

Chewelah offers a lively meats I've ever seen. Cherrywood smoked, melt-in-the-mouth beef brisket that you could cut with a spoon. The pulled pork had the perfect balance of flavor and the ribs were some of the best I've tried – the epitome of "falls of the bone." The handmade venison and wild boar smoked sausage bites had the perfect snap and were like nothing I'd ever had before.

> The sides are certainly not an afterthought either. The Mexican street corn offered an excellent balance of sweet and fresh to the platter. Slow cooked beans with hearty sausage



were rich and dynamic and the smoked mac & cheese is something I can see myself ordering again and again. Homemade pickles and coleslaw provided the perfect sharpness that really cuts the meat and, whilst I do love a traditional Hawaiian roll, the sourdough rolls on offer were just another example of how much thought and effort has gone into the food.

Jack and his family made the move to Chewelah from Texas in the summer of 2024, and he's spent many years perfecting his recipes, even having custom smokers made to get them just right.

"Chewelah has been such a great move for our family, and Michelle and I are super excited to be starting this new chapter doing something we love," Jack said. "Rob and Jill have worked so hard to make the Chewelah General Store an amazing space for the community to enjoy great food, local produce and art, and we're really happy to continue that while bringing something new to town."

Jill Trinchero said, "We feel so fortunate to have found Jack and Michelle to take over at the General Store. From the start we intended on passing this labor of love along to operators who are talented, passionate and share our vision. BBQ has a bit of a cult following and people know what to expect. It makes wonderful take-out and fits the aesthetic of Chewelah General Store to a T. We are thrilled that it will remain a place for the community to gather and share wonderful food. We look forward to being on the other side of the bar and joining in the fun!"

Chloe Thompson Slater, now living in Chewelah, graduated with an honors degree in journalism from the University of the West of Scotland and has worked on "some amazing projects," including filming local counts at the Scottish independence referendum and general election. She specializes in marketing and PR services, and enjoys cooking, socializing, writing and pretty much anything to do with the outdoors.

2025 Annual Home & Garden Show Spokane Community College **Colville Campus** 985 South Elm Street, Colville WA Friday, March 14th 10am-5pm Saturday, March 15th 9am-4pm PRIZES, SEMINARS, **DEMONSTRATIONS AND FOOD!** 

