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Why Gratitude Trumps Complaining



by Bob Johnson

It had been a glorious late morning and early afternoon, even if the summer heat was beginning to take its toll. But we were prepared, having slathered every inch of exposed skin with SPF100 sunscreen before we got there.

We were heading back to our car with fresh memories of the Evening Light Lavender Festival bringing smiles to our faces. The event was held July 12-13 at the Evening Light Lavender Farm in Deer Park, said to be the largest certified-organic lavender farm in the United States with more than 24,000 plants.

Our daughter and a friend from her work had each picked bouquets of lavender, and my wife and I had grabbed a table in the shade and listened to singer-songwriter Daniel Hall as he performed both original and cover songs. While soaking in the sounds, we slurped down runny, but still yummy, lavender ice cream. Lavender lemonade and lavender iced tea also were being poured. Nearby, children were ascending and descending side-by-side inflated slides, giggling with glee.

Later, the four of us strolled the vendor booths, one of which offered every lavender product one could imagine, from lotion to body wash and from bar soap to neck wraps. Other vendors sold homemade crafts. I even found a custom cribbage board made from walnut – nice and big for the convenience of old eyes.

It had been a wonderful family outing.

But as we approached the gate (actually a simple table where festival-goers picked up their lavender-colored wrist bands), we encountered a middle-aged woman and a teenage girl – we presumed mother and daughter – who had just

entered the grounds. Neither was smiling. Just as they passed, we heard the mother say in a disdainful tone, “Well, this certainly isn’t worth \$13.”

We walked a little farther, out of their earshot, and then my wife spoke up: “How would she know if this was worth \$13? They just got here.”

I had another issue with what we’d just heard beyond the mother’s attitude. What kind of example was she setting for her daughter? By her words and actions, she was teaching her daughter how to be a pessimist. She was teaching her how to be unhappy about something even before experiencing that something.

Honestly, that’s no way to go through life, in my opinion. The greatest lesson I ever learned came from a talk-radio host during perhaps the darkest period of my life – when I was going through a divorce with my first wife. That was nearly 40 years ago, but the lesson has never left me: be grateful for what you have – even when you don’t have much.

Gratitude can overcome a whole lot of negativity, help us get through tough times and generally make us happier people.

Instead of being thankful for a gorgeous summer day, breathtakingly beautiful fields of lavender, and whatever adventures may await, that mother looked at the handful of craft booths and made a snap judgment that those booths represented the sum of the festival’s experience.

She was determined to have a bad time.

As we drove back home, she was the primary topic of conversation. Why was she that way? Had someone else in her life passed it along? Was she even aware of what a bad influence she was being on her daughter? Certain aspects of life may be influenced by our genes, but that need not apply to our attitude.

One of the things that made the festival special was its smallness. We do not live in New York City, Los Angeles, or even Seattle. Many small towns of the Inland Northwest stage annual festivals that, when you think about it, are celebrations of smallness.

As the discussion continued, we started thinking about the things this woman wouldn’t like about some of the remaining festivals of the summer. We agreed unanimously that she would have felt the same way about last month’s Davenport Pioneer Days, even though it was free to attend. She would have found no “value” in the chalk art contest nor the downtown parade with nary a Disney character in sight.

And even though the upcoming Valley Community Fair (Aug. 8-9) features both a cake walk and a pie contest, not to mention a horse show, she’d probably be disappointed that the cakes weren’t decorated by Buddy Valastro, the pies weren’t baked by Marie Callender, and there were no Clydesdales or Lipizzaner stallions among the horses.

We also agreed that the Blue Waters Bluegrass Festival, scheduled Aug. 8-10 in Medical Lake, would be a big target of this mother’s wrath, especially given the range of its ticket prices (\$38-\$84). Even though the legendary Laurie Lewis is on the bill, Bitter Mom (or B.M. for short, as we began to call her) would be upset because the creator of the bluegrass genre, Bill Monroe, wasn’t there. Of course, Monroe died in 1996, but facts rarely trump bitterness when one is determined to be unhappy or ungrateful.

The Huckleberry Festival at 49° North Mountain Resort in Chewelah, set for Aug. 9-10, doesn’t cost quite as much as the bluegrass festival (\$30 online or \$35 on site), but that doesn’t mean B.M. would be happy. Even though it has been made clear that

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Why Gratitude Trumps Complaining

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the huckleberry ice cream, huckleberry lemonade, and huckleberry desserts at the Saturday barbecue lunch will be available only until they sell out, B.M. would purposely arrive fashionably late so she'd be able to complain about what she didn't get.

Then there's the National Lentil Festival, taking place on Aug. 16, at historic Reaney Park in Pullman. It is absolutely brimming with activities guaranteed to distress B.M. For her, there wouldn't be enough garlic in the lentil soup, or a sufficient number of twists and ties in the balloon animals, and the crowning of the 2025 "Lil' Lentil" wouldn't be nearly regal enough.

Millwood, the first town incorporated in the Spokane Valley, will host its annual Millwood Daze on Aug. 23, in its historic district. Millwood Daze provides an opportunity for B.M. to complain about how the pancakes were unevenly flipped at the pancake breakfast and how the cars were parked at irregular angles at the car show, not to mention how many old buildings there are in the neighborhood.

We had just about finished bashing this unhappy, poor example of a mother when it dawned on me that I had seen her somewhere before. It took a few minutes, but then the memory came into clear view.

Several months earlier, I had been standing in line at Spokane International Airport, waiting to check in a bag for a flight back east. This woman – traveling without her daughter – seemed to be very upset with the gentleman behind the counter, so I did what any professional journalist would do: I began eavesdropping. It was not difficult because she was gradually becoming louder and louder.

The airline employee was trying to explain to her that her flight had been cancelled due to severe weather. She pointed outside and said, "It looks pretty nice to me." He replied that the severe weather was occurring in Dallas, which was the airport of origin for her incoming flight. DFW had been shut down for at least four hours because of lightning storms, and once the delays reach a certain point, the airlines have no choice but to begin cancelling flights so as not to disrupt the following day's schedule.

B.M. (as I did not know her then) was having none of it and insisted on



being placed on the next available flight.

"It's your job to get people on airplanes," she told the gentleman, who no doubt appreciated the reminder of what his job was. Through it all, he remained amazingly calm.

There was a line forming behind me, so the gentleman finally relented.

"So, you want me to get you out of here in the next hour," he said. "Is that right, ma'am?"

"That's right," B.M. replied.

"Okay, ma'am. One moment."

After he punched a few keys, a boarding pass appeared behind the counter.

"Checking just the one bag?" he asked.

"Yes," B.M. replied, curtly.

"Tell you what," he said. "Because of all you've been through today, I'm going to waive the \$40 bag fee."

B.M. did not thank him. She just nodded.

"Here's your boarding pass, ma'am," he said. "You board in 20 minutes."

Again, there were no words of thanks. The woman grabbed the boarding pass and walked away in a huff. Yes, that definitely was B.M.

I then stepped up to the counter and the gentleman asked, "How are you today, sir?"

"I'm doing great," I replied. "I'm not going to ask you how you're doing."

"Oh, we get one or two of those every day," he said. "You learn not to take it personally."

"Where was she trying to get to?" I asked.

"Cleveland."

"Where did you end up sending her?"

"Fargo."

"So, there's a flight from Fargo to Cleveland?"

"Not that I'm aware of."

Bob Johnson is the recipient of 99 national writing awards and has long known about the folly of treating airline ticket agents poorly. Now a resident of North Idaho, he and his family enjoy exploring the Inland Northwest, and Johnson is sharing his observations with Huckleberry Press readers.

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.

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Berries



by Ray Bilderback

When I was 11 and 12 years old, I lived with my maternal grandparents on their little farm. On that farm, there was a respectable raspberry patch I liked to frequent and there were the usual gardening chores. You might think that was enough farming to satisfy a growing boy, but it was not.

Sometimes I got to visit with Cousin Marjorie; a year older than me and no doubt a lot wiser. On their farm, she was in charge of watering long rows of corn, beans and whatnot. Hoe in hand, we would help the water along the 100-foot rows and plug up gopher holes in the process. When that was done, we chopped buckets of clover and scattered the goodies in the chicken houses (they had about 3,500 hens).

Such chores took about three hours. Finally, we got to the part I liked best: picking strawberries. The berries we picked in those long-ago times were much smaller than the berries you buy in today's supermarket. They didn't have to be shipped anywhere so they didn't have to be large and tough. Instead, they were small and juicy.

Lunch was often chicken with egg noodles and strawberry shortcake topped with whipped cream from their cows. After lunch, we had to wait a half hour before hiking down their long drive to the river for a cooling swim. Sometimes, I cleaned chicken houses when Uncle Johnny could not. He suffered from a mustard gas attack in the World War I. I never asked for pay; working with Cousin Marjorie was its own reward.

Part of those "growing up" years, I lived at my paternal grandfather's ranch where Auntie Ann presided over the kitchen. I often roamed the fields and the oak-covered hills, scaring up covies of quail or tracking deer in the fashion, I imagined, of Daniel Boone. Sometimes I would forget the time and miss lunch.

One summer day began hot and brassy, and such wanderings were out of the question. I hung about in the gloomy depths of the ranch house reading Horatio Alger's Pluck and Luck for the third or fourth time. Outside, the

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horses sought shelter under the apple trees and the chickens refused to come out the cover of the lombardies. We were in for a drenching.

About 1 p.m., rain clouds built across the valley towards us and shards of pure energy rent and slashed the advancing mass. Thunder rumbled through a hole in the sky. We pulled in our ears.

Out of all that racket, we got a fine rain. Afterward robins bobbed across the lawn looking for the sounds of lunch, and the chickens chased soggy grasshoppers in the pasture. In the far hills, rainbows faded in and out. Pretty soon I caught the sounds of my aunt singing in the kitchen. I grabbed a berry pail and headed for the wild blackberry patch in the upper pasture. Visions of crusty, sugary ripeness rattled about in my head. If I was quick enough, there would be blackberry cobbler for supper that night.

That was then. This is now, and I hunt different game. In eastern Washington, there are wild chokecherries and elderberries, and they have their uses, but the prime berry on picker's minds is the delightful huckleberry. There are seven kinds of huckleberries in our state, and often two or three kinds in the same patch. Although abundant one year, a patch may be pretty disappointing the next. That's why, to be successful, you need to know the location of several patches and those at a variety of elevations.

Huckleberries range from the very small "grouse berries" with bushes a few inches high to larger berries borne on waist-high bushes. Most huckleberries are a very deep, (almost black) blue. So, imagine my surprise when I came upon a large patch of wildly, red-when-ripe huckleberries on ... creek. Surely, you didn't expect me to give up the location? Wild

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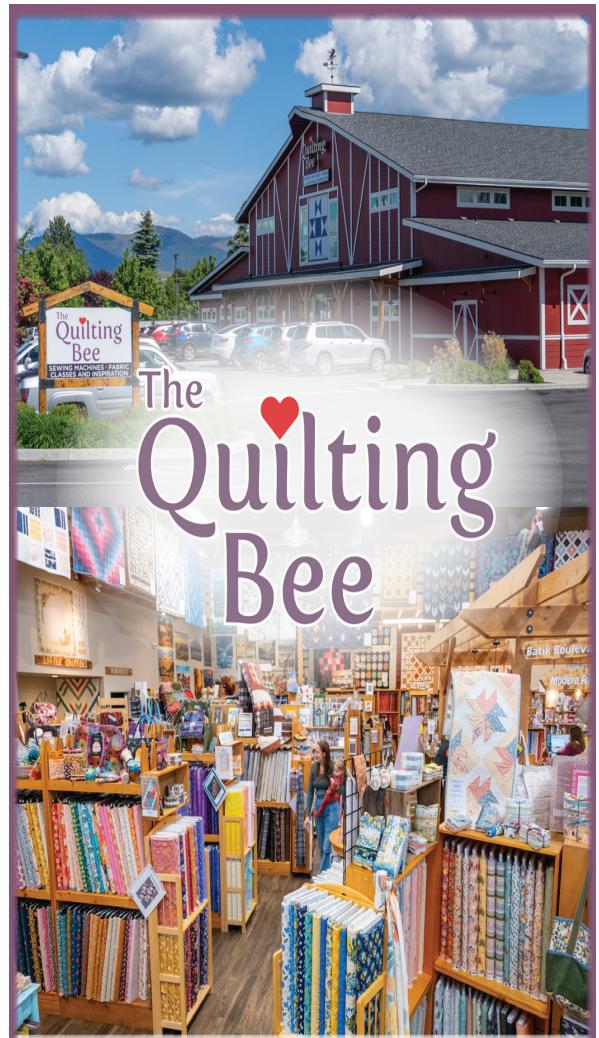
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berry hunters are a secretive lot, so if you get invited to go picking with someone, you know two things: they wish your company and they are willing to share their spots with you. You are friends and, as Polonius noted in Shakespeare's Hamlet, "Your friends, their adoption tried, grapple them to you with hoops of steel."

Grab a bucket and get out of the house. Finally, a word about attire: long, trousers, sturdy shoes and long sleeve shirts will help you avoid scratches and mosquitoes.

Happy hunting!

Ray Bilderback, creator of the Reuben Bradock novels, was born and raised in the Sierra foothills of California. He served in the U.S. Navy Seabees during the Korean War and taught for many years in the west. He makes his home in the mountains of eastern Washington with his archeologist wife, Madilane Perry. "In the 1930s and 1940s, where I lived, we still used horses and hand tools, canned and preserved what we grew or raised, lit our kerosene lanterns, stoked our woodstoves. In my writing, I draw from those times like water from a sweet well."



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Hit the Trail with Soph

By Sophia Mattice-Aldous

While perusing a list of local hikes sent to me by a correspondent from the Washington Trails Association (WTA), I felt a skittering of exercise insecurity. Don't get me wrong, I was happy to receive said list, but some of the difficulty ratings on the trails had me muttering, "Not all of us have the stamina of Pheidippides and the lungs of a draft horse, Holly."

In all reality, it's not WTA's or Holley's fault that my physical endurance currently competes with that of an ant driving a motor scooter around the inside of a donut (hhmmmm, donuts!).

I just dislike exercising. Our society's obsession with it, and how you're supposed to look before you even start exercising, annoys me. My eyes glaze over when people start to talk about their diets, especially those that purport bodies can be transformed with powders, "all natural" energy drinks, and numerous other supplements, but act like eating a slice of bread is akin to licking an underground tank at Hanford.

But I love to go hiking. And if I'm being truthful with myself, my family's history of heart health and diabetes has a high likelihood of being part of my inheritance. It is with this in mind that I have become an unofficial member of the Out of Breath Hiking Society, a loosely organized group of mostly me, myself and I,

along with my mother who occasionally joins me for outdoor expeditions in Pend Oreille and Stevens counties. We sweat a lot and sometimes my heart feels like a hamster is holding a heavy metal concert in my chest cavity, but we have a good time.

If you've lived in eastern Washington/north Idaho for any length of time, you may know it's not an understatement that our backyard is huge. Between the Idaho Panhandle and Colville National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Department of National Resources, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, we literally have millions of acres of public land to play on. I've been fortunate enough to do some traveling in my lifetime, and such access to land and the ability to protect it is not guaranteed, or even possible, in some places.

Short story long, why not take advantage of the proximity?

Growing up, my family didn't have a lot of money. We never wanted for

food, shelter, or clothing, but vacations were usually kept within the Inland Northwest and involved a lot of camping. Spokane was two hours away; Kettle Falls was 30 minutes, and the Inchelium Reservation was right across the river. Family outings usually consisted of packing lunches, going to a trailhead, and following said trail to whatever summit lay ahead. Sometimes we would go pick morels or huckleberries. If it were a

particularly long trek and my parents had a little extra cash, we would eat out for an early dinner. Sometimes Mom would bring a book of poetry or haikus to read aloud when we stopped for a short break. Though my brother and I groaned and rolled our eyes as we entered teenagerhood, I did, and still do, appreciate her and my late father's efforts to expose us to the arts, literature and the ways they would combine them with nature. Some of my best memories are the seemingly little moments: taking in the lush greenery of spring as we drove down a dirt road, laughing as we sat in tall grass on our way up White Mountain, eating our sandwiches and teasing poor mom because she had made them with enough peanut butter to choke a horse, or just standing silently as a family on a summit, looking at a horizon that was so vast and yet somehow so reassuring. You could argue that I have my nostalgia goggles firmly strapped, but why not, when the views are so beautiful?



The author hiking Gold Hill Community Forest. The perspective shows off the beautiful setting and makes the copious amounts of sweat hard to spot.

doctor, personal trainer or dietician, so if you're looking for that kind of exercise and health column, it's not this one. However, she is a lifelong Washington resident and reporter with an affinity for The Great Outdoors who thinks fitness should be fun, and that looks different for everyone. For her, it's going outside. If you have questions and/or comments, including hiking suggestions, email sophiamatticealdous@gmail.com.

A circular poster for the Valley Community Fair. The title 'VALLEY FAIR' is at the top, with 'COMMUNITY' written below it in a smaller arc. The center features a cartoon illustration of a barn with a cow, a pig, and a rooster. A sign on the barn reads 'VALLEY, WA 99181'. A blue ribbon with the number '1' and the name 'P. COTTER' is on the right. The poster is surrounded by several large, yellow sunflowers. Below the title, the text 'FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH & 9TH' is in red. The main body of the poster lists various fair activities in a grid format: VENDORS, CAKE WALK, EXHIBITS; PARADE! SATURDAY AT NOON!; MUSIC IN THE PARK, PIE CONTEST; CORN HOLE COMPETITION; HERDING DEMONSTRATION, ANIMAL JUDGING; COLORING CONTEST, FUN RUN; ANIMAL SHOWING CLINIC; KIDDY ARTS & CRAFTS, GAMES AND CONTESTS!. At the bottom, there are links to the fair's website and Facebook page, and a QR code with the text 'SCAN ME'.

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Taste Budz Review: Clayton Burger



By Zack & Brooklyn Bolin, Facebook:
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Breaking news! Clayton Burger is open again and in high demand. Zack and I stopped in and were greeted by smiling faces and juicy burgers.

What we enjoyed:

- ~ The Deluxe Cheeseburger
- ~ Bacon Cheeseburger
- ~ Small & Large Fry

Their menu is extensive and has everything from burgers to espresso to banana floats. I was craving a cheeseburger, so I ordered the deluxe cheese. They finely dice their onion and lettuce so that you get a little bit in every bite. Their pickle slices were huge, crunchy, and delicious.

Zack ordered a bacon burger, and they didn't skimp on the bacon. They used thick cuts that were the perfect balance of crunchy and chewy.

The burgers were so fresh and juicy, but honestly, my favorite part of the meal was their ginormous French fries. Seriously, these things were as long as my head. They had an ultra-light breading, and they were fried to a perfect golden brown. They offer tons of side sauces, but we kept it classic with fry and tartar sauce.

Zack and I tried to stop into Clayton Burger a few years back, but it was right after they had shut down and we didn't realize it. They have

been missed, and since reopening their doors about a month ago, they've been consistently busy.

They are still under the same ownership, and are only open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. while they get everything back up and running.

The service was top notch, everyone was very kind and attentive, the facilities extremely clean, the service fast, and the awesome menu was packed with options. Neither Zack nor I would have been able to finish it, but they have their signature "Clayton Burger" which comes loaded with two patties, two slices of bacon, a hot dog, cheese, relish, onion, pickle, tomato, and lettuce. They also offer an amazing selection of side dishes like mozzarella sticks, jalapeno cheese rounds, and even mac and cheese bites. Zack and I regularly drive through Clayton, and we are so excited to have a local burger spot.

If you have a sweet tooth, you will be over the moon with their dessert options. They have soft serve, a variety of Breyers hard ice cream, sundaes, and banana floats.

Whether you are on the road and need to

grab a quick bite or want to sit down and enjoy an amazing meal, you won't be disappointed. Make sure to stop by and show this local gem some love.

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I'll Be Happy When...



by Kerry Schafer

Have you ever found yourself caught up in a vicious cycle of "I'll be happy when...?"

It goes like this: I'll be happy when (and if) I get that perfect job, buy my dream house, go on that fabulous vacation, move to a better community, win the lottery, get married, get divorced, and so on.

Most of us fall into this trap on a pretty regular basis, only to discover that after a brief spike of pleasure, elation, or satisfaction, we fall right back into needing some other future thing in order to be happy.

I have come to believe that all of those desires that we think are going to make us happy are an ever-shifting mirage, because we can't live in the future, only in the now. Harry Chapin totally nailed this in his platinum hit song "The Cat's in the Cradle." (If, like me, you always thought this was a Cat Stevens song – nope! It was Harry Chapin. It took about five Google searches to convince me I was wrong.)

I think it's the universal relatability of that famous recurring line, "we'll have a good time then" that makes the song such an enduring classic. We can all empathize with the man who kept putting off having a good time until it was too late.

Let's take love as an example.

At some point in our lives, every one of us is convinced that happiness will be ours if that one radiant being we've fallen in love with returns our devotion. Eventually, if our love continues to be unrequited, we move on. If we're lucky enough to have our person love us back, we move into a state of perfect bliss – for a time.

Sooner or later, we realize that this person we love isn't perfect after all. There's the first big fight. The daily annoyances. Squabbles over how to squeeze the toothpaste, which way the toilet paper roll should be installed, and whose turn it is to take out the trash. Currently, the divorce rate in the U.S. is about 41%, and a lot of the marriages that endure are not necessarily happy. Even if you are one of the lucky ones who falls in love and stays in love long term, I think we can safely assume that a relationship with the person of your dreams isn't the key to lasting happiness.

Then there's the myth that happiness lies in landing the perfect job.

You're on the lookout for a better job when you see it – your dream job! This, finally, is the thing that is going to make you feel fulfilled and happy. You fill out the application, track down some glowing referrals, write a letter and wait with fingers crossed.

You nail the interview, you get the job, and you are happy, until you begin to notice that the job isn't really perfect after all. You need a bigger office. There's that annoying co-worker. Really, you're not paid enough for everything you do, and you deserve a promotion, a raise. At every step, you're telling yourself that little lie that says you'll be happy when you get it.

Finally, after a lot of years of not being happy, you get to retire. That will finally make you happy, right?

Alas, probably not. If you haven't figured out how to be happy in the now, retirement won't be any happier than your work life.

But, I have happy news! Researchers have discovered that we can all learn how to be happier in the now, rather than waiting for some elusive future. Leading brain researcher Dr.

Richard Davidson of the University of Wisconsin said, "Based on what we know of the plasticity of the brain, we can think of things like happiness and compassion as skills that are no different from learning to play a musical instrument or tennis...it is possible to train our brains to be happy."

How can you train your brain to be happy? Here are a couple of skills you can begin practicing right now:

Develop Awareness of Automatic Negative Thoughts. Our brains tend to run on autopilot a whopping 90% of the time. For most of us, this means an endless loop of dissatisfied, worried, resentful and unhappy thoughts, what psychologist Daniel Amen calls Automatic Negative Thoughts, or ANTS. Unsurprisingly, researchers at the National Institute of Health discovered that having negative thoughts stimulates the areas of the brain involved in depression and anxiety. So, it's no wonder that most of us are not exactly radiant with joy.

The first step towards changing these thoughts is to become more aware of them and deliberately choose more positive ones. Yes, we can literally think ourselves happier.

Cultivate Gratitude. There's a good reason why therapists and positive psychologists are continually telling their clients to practice gratitude: it works! We can shift automatic nega-

tive thoughts to automatic happier thoughts by deliberately shifting our focus. It can feel hard to get started, but the more you work your "gratitude muscle," the stronger it gets.

With time and practice you can learn to be happier right here, right now. And then, when you do get the job, buy the house, or connect with the love of your life, you will be able to enjoy it in the moment, rather than holding out for the next good thing.

"Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties." —Hellen Keller

Colville resident Kerry Schafer (who also writes as Kerry Anne King) is the bestselling author of 14 novels and the co-host of The One Happy Thing Podcast. Find out more at www.allthingskerry.com.

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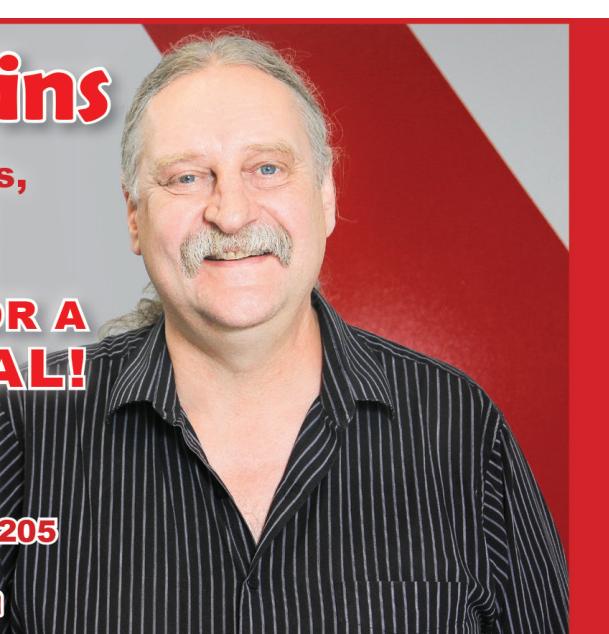
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N U W A S H I N G T O N Q S A T O K A D H T R O N

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 “Medium.” Good luck!

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

1. Alabama
2. Alaska
3. Arizona
4. Arkansas
5. California
6. Colorado
7. Connecticut
8. Delaware
9. Florida
10. Georgia
11. Hawaii
12. Idaho
13. Illinois
14. Indiana
15. Iowa
16. Kansas
17. Kentucky
18. Louisiana
19. Maine
20. Maryland
21. Massachusetts
22. Michigan
23. Minnesota
24. Mississippi
25. Missouri
26. Montana
27. Nebraska
28. Nevada
29. New Hampshire
30. New Jersey
31. New Mexico
32. New York
33. North Carolina
34. North Dakota
35. Ohio
36. Oklahoma
37. Oregon
38. Pennsylvania
39. Rhode Island
40. South Carolina
41. South Dakota
42. Tennessee
43. Texas
44. Utah
45. Vermont
46. Virginia
47. Washington
48. West Virginia
49. Wisconsin
50. Wyoming

SOLUTION: Below is the solution to this month's puzzle.

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



Berry Funnies

Jokes curated from the Internet and books, and created by Thea Cruden

Why do pirates like swimming so much?
They love all the cannonballs.

What did one flip-flop say to the other?
You're sole-mate material.

How do seashells stay clean? They wash up on the beach.

Why does the camera take terrible photos in the summer? Because it's focused on relaxation.

Why are elephants always ready to swim?
They're wearing trunks all the time.

Why is summer camp so hard for some people? Because it's really in tents.

Why did the hamburger break up with the hot dog at the barbecue? It was tired of being grilled about their relationship.

How do you prevent a summer cold? Catch it in winter.

Why did Humpty Dumpty have a great fall? Well, he had an awful summer, so he deserved it.

Why doesn't the sun trust umbrellas?
Because they're so shady.

What's the difference between a summer barbecue and a family reunion? At the barbecue, only the meat gets roasted.

Why don't mosquitoes make good comedians? Their jokes always suck.

Why did the watchmaker go on vacation? To unwind.

Where do birds go on summer vacation? The Canary Islands!

Why don't mummies go on vacation? They're afraid to unwind.

Why did the scientist wear so much sunscreen? Because she was a paleontologist.

What is brown and hairy and incredibly relaxed? A coconut on vacation.

Why do summer schoolteachers wear shades? Because their students are so bright.

How do you prevent dry skin after swimming? Avoid using a towel.

What's the best arm workout for swimmers?
Pool-ups!

How do campers react to building a campfire? They always want s'more.

What do you call a philosopher who likes to hang out in the pool? A deep thinker.

What does the crowd do at summer baseball games? The heat wave.

Where do zombies go on vacation? The Dead Sea.

What's everyone's favorite letter of the alphabet in the summer? Ice T.

When does red mean "go" and green mean "stop"? When you're eating a watermelon.

A bum asks a man for two dollars.

The man asked, "Will you buy booze?" The bum said, "No." The man asked, "Will you gamble it away?" The bum said, "No." Then the man asked, "Will you come home with me so my wife can see what happens to a man who doesn't drink or gamble?"

1. Riddle: A dog crosses the river without getting wet, and without using a bridge or boat. How?

2. Riddle: What has a head, a tail, is brown and has no legs?

3. Riddle: What breaks yet never falls, and what falls yet never breaks?

4. Riddle: The person who makes it has no need for it; the person who buys it has no

use for it. The person who uses it can neither see nor feel it. What is it?

5. Riddle: An electric train is headed east. Where does the smoke go?

6. Riddle: In my hand, I have two coins that are newly minted. Together, they total 30 cents. One isn't a nickel. What are the coins?

7. Riddle: An elevator is on the ground floor. There are four people in the elevator, including me. When the elevator reaches the first floor, one person gets out and three people get in. The elevator goes up to the second floor. Two people get out and six people get in. It then goes to the next floor up. No one gets out, but 12 people get in. Halfway up to the next floor, the cable snaps, and the elevator crashes to the floor. Everyone else perishes in the lift. How did I survive?

8. Riddle: Two mothers and two daughters went out to eat. Everyone ate one burger, yet only three burgers were eaten in all. How is this possible?

9. Riddle: A word I know, six letters it contains, remove one letter and 12 remains. What is it?

10. Riddle: How many months have 28 days?

Answer 10: All 12 months.

Answer 9: Dozens.

and daughter.

Answer 8: They were a grandmother, mother,

and daughter.

Answer 7: I got out on the second floor.

Answer 6: A quarter and a nickel.

Answer 5: Electric trains don't produce any

Answer 4: A coffin.

Answer 3: Day and night.

Answer 2: A penny.

Answer 1: The river was frozen.

Answer 5: Day and night.

Answer 4: A coffin.

Answer 3: Day and night.

Answer 2: A penny.

Answer 1: The river was frozen.

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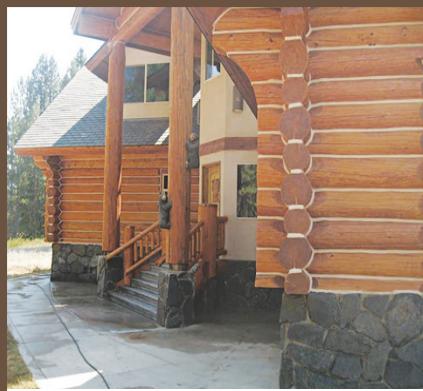


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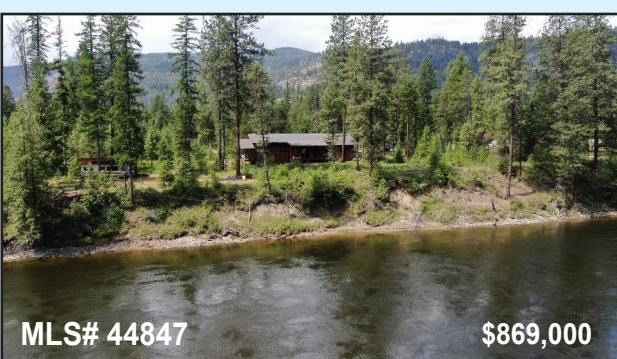
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MLS# 44588

\$425,000

separate laundry room. Corner lot w/ 2 charming porches that extend the living space and offer the perfect spot for morning coffee or evening relaxation. Many updates furnace, on demand hot water heater, gutters, and more. Upstairs, 3 generously sized bedrooms/full bath and skylight.

4-bed, 3 & 1/2-bath with 95' of Peye Creek frontage, Chewelah's finest. Meander over your own bridge, with creek babbling through your fully-developed, landscaped yard. Fully fenced back yard. Charming details, wired and set up for big screen movies and stage plays. Boasting elegance and functionality. Lighting and ambiance in every room. Upstairs laundry, office or rec room as well as main bed, bath and 2 additional bedrooms with dormer windows. 2 car garage and street parking on 2 sides. Nothing was forgotten when this home was built.



MLS# 44303

\$565,000



Beautifully updated split level 4-bedroom 2 bath home in the heart of Kettle Falls. Fenced large yard makes this a very private setting. Alley access on both sides of the garage for easy access. This home has all the amenities, deck overlooking the yard with great views, updated kitchen, walk-in tub, gas free standing stove, lots of windows adding light to all the rooms and an entry to the basement from the back yard. Extra-large 1 car garage with work bench and storage, plus an open carport with added storage room and Natural gas furnace. It's all here! Currently has a VA loan.

MLS# 44437 \$369,000

Peaceful setting in a very private location. Crafted log sided home with covered deck, large carport, workshop with loft, separate dry cabin, garden shed and a 14 ft door RV shop. Beautiful double fenced garden with 2 sets of grape vines. Local rock landscaping around the house. Open kitchen, dining, and living area on the main floor with easy access to the deck. Wood cabinets and built in pantry. The woodstove will keep you warm all winter. Upper-level hosts a very spacious bedroom with full bath, easy access closet with built in amenities, there is a total of 3 bedrooms 2.5 baths. Daylight basement with patio and a propane stove to heat the home if you have to leave. There is even 220 amp in the carport for an electric car hook up. You have to see this home to appreciate the beauty!



MLS# 44881

\$619,000



MLS# 43205

\$405,000

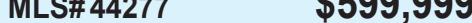
miss the root cellar just before going upstairs to outside from basement. Garden/greenhouse and small tack shed along with partial fencing. Some finish work still needed, but the Sq Footage and usable acres just outside KF city limits - MANY OPPORTUNITIES WITH THIS PROPERTY!

Breathtaking 180' Views of Lake Roosevelt and the Columbia River. Main floor living with master suite with walk in shower and large closet. Beautiful woodwork and ceilings throughout. Open kitchen, dining and living room with great views. You have to see this home to understand how comfortably elegant it is & great for entertaining. One additional bedroom on the main level and 2 bedrooms upstairs and a family room.

MLS# 44277

\$599,999

2 shops 36'x48' & 24'x40', 2 car carport, 2 car attached garage. Large patio for bird watching and enjoying the views. Upstairs has a relaxing balcony with views of the mountain and fields. Did I mention the views are outstanding? Close to all amenities and easy access off the highway.



Waterfront Oasis: Listen to the sounds of the Kettle River from this stunning, custom built home situated on 6.52 acres bordering the Kettle River. Large open floor plan with views from the kitchen, dining and living room. Plenty of windows to bring the beauty of outside inside. Main floor living with radiant heat, laundry and primary bed and bath. A beautifully finished basement includes wet bar, stone floors, a wood stove, bed and bath, lots of windows and an outside entrance. Two decks for your entertaining enjoyment & oversized 2 car garage. Secondary house for family and friends, that includes a kitchen, bath and huge bonus room with pool table and room for several sleeping areas and includes 2 car garage.



In-ground sprinkler, huge woodshed with storage, Screened gazebo and shed. Custom wood working throughout this home, radiant heat, wood stove and a mini split is included and the pad is in it just needs to be installed. Generator stays, 220 on the outside of the garage and STAR Link service stays - you just have to sign up.



MLS# 44583

\$879,000

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