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Huckleberry Press

The Community Paper of the Inland Northwest

September 2025

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Cherishing My List of Lasts



by Amy McGarry

Remember when you were a kid and time seemed to go by so slowly? You felt like you were nine years old in the third grade forever. You were always looking forward to being a teenager, then an adult, but it took so long. Then one day, you're an adult and every year seems to go by faster and faster.

There's a science to this phenomenon, or maybe math. I'm not good with either, but this makes sense to me. It's called "Ratio of Time to Life Span." Put simply, as we age, a year represents a smaller proportion of our total life. For children, a year is a large portion of their life. For older people, it's a smaller fraction. The more years we have under our belts, the more quickly the years seem to pass.

I was 40 years old when I had my one and only child, my daughter. At that late age, to begin my adventures in parenting, I had acquired a little wisdom along the way. I knew that time was passing more quickly and, as everyone says, my daughter's childhood would pass too quickly. I knew she would grow up too fast. I knew I should cherish every minute.

Full confession: I didn't always enjoy being a parent and I didn't cherish every minute. Time flies when you're having fun, but what about when you're not having fun? Don't get me wrong. I love my daughter with all my heart, but she wasn't an easy child. She was especially active, and I had health issues that made it hard to parent such an active child. I always tried my best, but I didn't always enjoy it.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit when my daughter was smack in the middle of middle school – the seventh grade. In retrospect, I can be sad for all the kids whose lives were so unfairly disrupted with the quarantine, like the seniors in high school who didn't get to have a graduation ceremony. At the time, however, our online-middle school-from-home-life was so miserable, it was all I could do to get through every day. For my daughter's privacy I won't share specific details, but I literally thought we both might end up in the loony bin. And pandemic time went by so slowly.

Lest I feel too sorry for myself, I know I had it easier than many, mostly because I have the one and only child – not two, or three, or six. I must also be grateful. For as challenging as online school was for my daughter, there were some great teachers who helped make it less painful.

When the quarantine ended, my daughter returned to

school mid-year as an eighth grader. But she, like so many other Gen-Zers, continued to struggle with mental health issues. Luckily for us, she had a very good counselor, who helped tremendously. Again, I am so grateful. But for me, time continued to slug along at a snail's pace.

And then, the miracle. When you are raising a daughter who was difficult, literally from birth, you can't help but dread the teenage years. Or heck, just remembering myself as a teenager made me dread my daughter's teenage years. But when my daughter started high school, she became a pure delight. And easy! Of course, we have our moments, but all in all, my kid is the best teenager I could ever imagine. She's pleasant, she likes school, she enjoys spending time with me, and she talks to me. I couldn't be happier, and we are having fun! But what happens to time when you're having fun? Yes, time flies! It doesn't help that I'm getting so old that the whole Ratio-of-Time-to-Life-Span thing is doing its number on me.

Now it's September and my daughter, my baby, my one and only, is starting her (gulp) senior (last!) year of high school. September emotions for me have always included excitement and hope. September is better than January for new beginnings, fresh starts and optimism. But this September, I'm overcome with a whole new set of emotions, such as panic and grief.

We recently went shopping together for back-to-school supplies. I almost cried. I realized this is the last time she and I will go back-to-school shopping. Those precious packs of pencils. Those glowing neon highlighters. And now I'm grieving all the "lasts:" the last first day-of-school photos, the last softball games, the last school dances, the last yearbook; the list goes on and on.

But I don't want to just grieve this list of lasts; I want to cherish the lasts. I want to cherish every moment. All that "wisdom" as a 40-year-old new mother, but I wasn't wise at all. I didn't cherish nearly as much as I wish I had. "Well, better late than never," I say. I can make up for it now by cherishing each and every moment, including when I sit in the passenger seat as she practices driving, my least favorite moments with my daughter whom I usually enjoy so much.

My daughter will enter her senior year at the age of 16 because she skipped kindergarten and started first grade a year early. She just finished her driver's education classes but still needs many hours of practice driving before she can take the test for her driver's license. I'm not saying my daughter is not a good driver, but she's still learning. I'm not a good instructor as I'm prone to panic. I panic

when she takes a turn too wide. I panic when she comes up to a stoplight too fast. I panic at the thought of her driving by herself.

What's more, I panic when I think that she will most likely be moving out at this time next year, leaving me and her father with an empty nest. Just as I failed to prepare her for driving by getting her behind the wheel as soon as possible, I have failed to prepare her for so much she will need when she leaves home.

In my defense, of course I spoiled her. She's an only child. Furthermore, she's a Gen-Zer whose parents are notorious for overparenting, resulting in kids who are less independent than previous generations. But perhaps the biggest issue is that Acts of Service is my love language. I'm not a hugger or a gift giver, but I will do everything for my daughter to show her I love her. Never mind it would serve her better to let her do things for herself. I'm talking about survival skills: cooking, shopping, making appointments, and doing laundry.

The good news is that I figured this out as an almost empty nester instead of next year, when it will be too late. I still have time! And I'm seeing some good signs already. Recently she had plans for a picnic with friends. I came into the kitchen as she was loading something into her bag.

"I made sandwiches, mama!"

"What? You made sandwiches! Fabulous," I replied, clapping my hands.

I know, you're thinking, "Whoop-dee-doo, making sandwiches is no big deal." But it was to me. She could have asked me to make sandwiches. But she didn't. She took it upon herself to make them. That told me she is taking steps towards independence. Maybe they are baby steps, but she is taking steps.

At the time of this writing, it is the last weekend before the start of senior year. I reminded my daughter of this, and we both went into fake sobbing. We then proceeded to write out the softball schedule on the calendar, joking about being a senior and still being on junior varsity. Oh, these precious lasts.

As you read this, I'll be well into my list of lasts, but I'll be over my pity party, knowing billions of parents everywhere have gone through this, or are going through this same grief. As you read this, I plan to be too busy cherishing every little last to feel sorry for myself. You might see me in the stands at a JV softball game, too hot or too cold, my butt hurting, cheering on my senior, cherishing these precious, precious lasts.

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.

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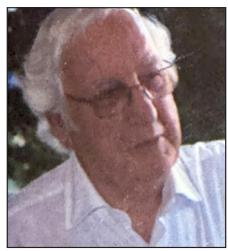
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The Big Haircut



by Ray Bilderback

Washington state has become one of the world's richest agricultural areas, producing vast acreages of wheat, lentils, soybeans, chickpeas, apples, potatoes, dry beans, onions, award-winning wines and frozen foods such as sweet peas, asparagus, and French fries (yes, French fries).

A major crop in eastern Washington is wheat. The USDA National Agricultural Statistical Service reported that in 2017, Lincoln County had 367,786 acres in wheat. Adjoining Adams County had 273,973 acres in wheat.

Wheat was found in Egyptian pyramids but was a human food long before that. For centuries, wheat harvesting was done with a hand sickle, then bundled up and taken to a threshing floor. There, it was stomped on or flailed until the wheat was separated from the chaff. It was a lengthy process and a bushel of grain was hard-won.

Settlers in eastern Washington at the turn of the 20th century cut the wheat, bundled it into shocks, transported the shocks to a stationary thresher where the wheat was separated from the chaff and then sewed into sacks. Harvesting wheat was still labor intensive, but yields were up and so was the amount acreage a family could manage.

Gradually, farm families acquired the modern combine that cut the wheat, threshed it and stored it in a hopper where, by means of its own conveyor system, it could be off-loaded to a truck.

Marvelous; it cut harvest times and cut labor costs as well. That became very important when World War II labor shortages occurred. At that time, the average farm was less than

2,000 acres (keep in mind half of that acreage was in summer fallow, set aside to rest each year).

Harvest time has always been accompanied by exhausting days of preparation, and that's if everything went well. George Smith of Sprague was as ready for the 1973 harvest as anybody else when he died suddenly at home.

George had been a wheat farmer all his life. When he was 13, his father died and just like that he and his brother, Joe T., age 12, had a farm to run (they did so with help from their mother and older sisters).

George's death left his widow with a terrible problem: if the farm were to pay its bills and its taxes, if she were to have funds enough to live on for the coming year, the crop needed to be harvested in a timely manner. Timely meant before rainfall lodged the wheat and mold got at it, before it got too dry and heads shattered.

You get the picture. The wheat needed to be harvested, but all the local wheat farmers were set to harvest their own crop and for all the same reasons. The problem was discussed at church, at the lodge, and over kitchen coffee in many households. Lloyd Bourne and Art Pelley took on the problem. They would have a harvest bee. It would be a community gathering, much like a barn raising or quilting bee.

Lloyd's son, Terry, was 14. He took on the task of removing machinery, parts of trucks and this and that of a farm operation from the big shop. Then he scrubbed it down so they could have a massive harvest lunch there.

They chose a Sunday for the event. The combines came lumbering across fields and dusty country roads to the adjoining farm owned and operated by Lloyd and Maureen Bourne (Maureen was George's niece) where the operation was planned. By mid-afternoon,

19 combines had harvested nearly 1,000 acres of wheat, securing a payday for George's widow. Like many wheat families, it would be her only check that year. Imagine the planning that took.

Along with the combines, there were 19 wheat trucks and we kept the little country elevator quite busy. Some observers said the combines looked like bees in a hive, some said they were like a herd of coordinated elephants prowling the hillsides.

Back at the shop, some volunteers washed truck windows, filled radiators, checked tire pressures – anything to be a part of it.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, people would need lunch. Maureen, with help from many hands, organized the lunch. Tables and chairs, loaned by the school in Sprague, were set up in Terry's clean shop and ladies from nearby farms brought their favorite casseroles and desserts. There were hot roast beef sandwiches, baked beans, mac and cheese and salads galore.

All were welcome and some people came just because they didn't want to miss out. It was that kind of thing; I got to drive one of the trucks and have felt all these years how lucky I was to be included.

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."

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

The Huckleberry Press is available for free at over 500 locations in northeastern Washington and northern Idaho, and online at huckleberrypress.com. Subscriptions are \$32/year to cover mailing costs.

The Huckleberry Press is published 12 times per year.

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The Art of Asking Helpful Questions



by Kerr Schaefer

Have you ever wondered why knock-knock jokes work so well? Let's be honest, most of them are not all that funny, and yet, we can't resist them. When your friend, co-worker, or spouse walks up to you and says, "Knock-knock," with that cheesy, wait-for-it expression on their face, you know what's coming. But have you ever not replied with the requisite, "Who's there?" And then a moment later, even though you know better, you catch yourself asking, "Boo who?" and they say, "What are you crying for?"

Our brains are hard-wired to search out the answers to questions, even in the form of knock-knock jokes. Give your brain a riddle or a problem to solve, and it will happily occupy itself, sometimes for hours, with or without our conscious attention, looking for the answer.

Most of us habitually and unconsciously feed our brains questions that lead to answers that don't contribute to our general well-being. A lot of the self-talk we engage in takes the form of questions — and, like most of our unconscious (or semi-unconscious) self-talk, these questions tend to be negative, such as:

- How come nothing ever works out for me?
- Why is life always so unfair?
- Why do bad things always happen to me?
- Why is my relationship such a mess?
- Why can't I ever do anything right?
- Why am I so stupid/clumsy/[insert insult here]?

When we ask ourselves questions like this, our brains very helpfully get right to work searching out answers. They sort and sift through all sorts of data: social interactions and faux pas, mishaps, mistakes, and failures, going all the way back to early childhood. Then they start creating the brain equivalent of pie charts and flow sheets that present evidence and answers, and draw conclusions.

Unfortunately, the conclusions drawn from these data sets are not likely to lead to us feeling motivated, centered, loved, fulfilled or successful. In fact, given the tone of the unconscious negative self-talk going on in our brains all day, it's a wonder more of us don't end up staying in bed with the covers pulled up over our heads on a regular basis.

As an example, let's explore a perennial classic. Suppose I ask, in a moment of frustration, "Why can't I ever do anything right?"

My brain is going to sift through my memory banks and log every incident connected to me not doing things right. It's also going to include the times a parent, teacher, boss, or lover told me I was missing the mark. And then my brain is going to feed me something that sounds like this:

"Well, Kerr, let's see. We've discovered thousands of incidents where you didn't measure up and can certainly confirm that you do not seem able to do anything right. Remember that time you failed an exam? Those Cs you got in math and that D in junior high chemistry? What about that friendship you totally blew up by being catty, and the time you bounced a check, and oh, what about that time you were fired from a job you should have been way over-qualified for? The answer to why you can't do anything right is because you're obviously flawed, broken, and inept. We don't see much chance of this changing in the future, given your track record with not doing things right."

And then the whole self-fulfilling prophecy thing starts to play out. I believe I can't do anything right, therefore I notice every time I make a mistake or don't quite measure up, and that leads to more

mistakes and more not measuring up and eventually to me not even trying to succeed.

But... My brain has delivered inaccurate results. It's not the brain's fault! The problem is that the question as I asked it led to the exclusion of conflicting data. My brain, looking for the answer to "why can't I do anything right," filtered out all of the many times I succeeded. It discounted the friendships I've nurtured, the rewarding jobs I've excelled at, the fantastic grades I received in courses I was good at, the books I've written, the awards I've won and all of the other good things in my life.

Fortunately, a small adjustment in the questions we ask will lead to different answers. I began consciously shifting up my questions a few years back and I'm often surprised and delighted by the results. Now, I try to ask questions more like:

- How is it that I'm always so lucky?
- What if I'm actually really good at this?
- I wonder why my partner loves me so much?
- I wonder how this situation is going to work out to be a good thing in the end?

When I ask questions like this, my brain accesses entirely different data banks. This time, what comes up are all the times I've been lucky, the many ways in which I have succeeded, the times I thought a set of circumstances was heading straight for disaster but then something good happened instead.

Again, the self-fulfilling prophecy kicks in. If I'm remembering all of the times I've succeeded, all of the things I've done right, the times I've been loved and have loved, I'm going to feel better in general. I'm going to feel more optimistic, more confident, and more motivated to try new things and to seek out positive experiences.

Trust me, this really works. Ready to give it a try? Ask yourself some good questions; maybe even write them down and see what happens.

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

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Hiking with Soph: What's in My Pack?



By Sophia Mattice-Aldous

This is a list of what I keep on my person as a day hiker. Be sure to do your own research and reach out to me at sophianewportminer@gmail.com if you think I've forgotten something important.

- Water. This seems like an obvious necessity, because it is. I prefer a bottle that can clip on to my pack or belt, but that's not gospel. I also carry Sawyer squeeze water filters. They're inexpensive, easy to use and weigh only about 3-ounces.
- First aid kit. I feel like this one should be obvious.
- Duct tape, a.k.a. the Great Fix-All.
- Compass, along with a fully charged smartphone. You may not get cell reception in a lot of more rural places, but it's still a good idea to have it on hand.
- Waterproof poncho. Sometimes, despite what the forecast says, the weather can change quickly, and it makes for a more comfortable hiking experience to have a poncho on hand. You don't have to break the bank; I got mine from Cabela's for \$6.99. It's reusable, lightweight and easy to pack.



With 10 miles of trails, Frater Lake is a scenic, fairly easy hike in Pend Oreille County with trails open year-round right off of Tiger Highway.

- Whistle. It's good to have on hand when things don't go to plan and, as the bumper sticker says, poop happens. If you find yourself lost in the woods and you're trying to signal your location to search and rescue, yelling is less likely to be heard, no matter how strong your stage voice is. A whistle's high-pitched sound carries farther, is louder, and doesn't take up so much of your energy like screaming can. It can also be used to help deter wildlife, if said critters get too curious.
- Sunscreen and bug spray. Because I have the complexion of copy paper, I also take a hat.
- Emergency bivy. A lightweight, easily portable shelter in case you must set one up.
- Pocketknife, for those moments you feel like flicking a pretend switchblade and pretending you're a gang member in "West Side Story." You don't do that?
- Bear spray. Also applicable to cougars, moose and dangerous animals like humans. Like many other items listed here, it's better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it. Be sure you learn how to properly use it as well.
- Fresh socks. Because musty, moist feet are not ideal in any situation, especially when trekking.
- Plastic grocery bags. Which are easy to store and helpful for the "pack it in, pack it out" philosophy.
- Toilet paper and trowel. Much

like in the dating world, a thoughtful hiker doesn't make other people deal with their crap.

- Hand sanitizer. See above.
- Snacks. Plenty of non-perishable, energy-rich food.

Sophia Mattice-Aldous is not a 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.

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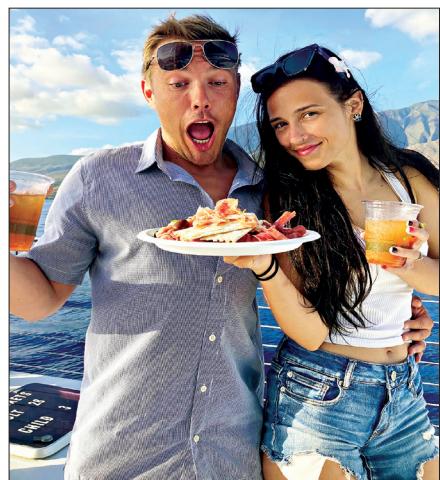


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Taste Budz Review: Quartzite Brewing & Lola's Eats



By Zack & Brooklyn Bolin, Facebook:
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Summer went by in the blink of an eye, and as we soak up these last few sunny weeks, there is no better place to enjoy them than on Quartzite's lovely patio.

Zack and I enjoyed:

- ~Hoppy Pilsner
- ~IPA
- ~Pineapple Cider
- ~Pulled Pork Sandwich
- ~Chicken Bacon Croissant

Quartzite knows that you need snacks while you drink, which is why they partnered with Lola's Good Eats to bring you delicious gourmet sandwiches while you enjoy their custom brews.

It was a hot day, so I started with a crisp and refreshing pineapple cider. The flavor

was a nice mix of floral and sweet, without either being too overpowering. Next, I went for their hoppy pilsner. I love a classic pilsner but was pleasantly surprised by how well the extra hops paired with the classic flavor.

Zack also kicked off with a pineapple cider and then moved on to their IPA, which was hoppy, zesty, and refreshing.

Quartzite is a great place to hang out with friends, as they are dog-friendly and have a wide selection of board games. Zack and I crushed some Jenga while we waited for our delicious sandwiches.

No matter if you like ciders,



sours, ambers, IPAs, pilsners, or even wine, Quartzite brews up something for everyone.

As for Lola's, I was stuck between wanting an all-veggie sandwich or their pulled pork. The lovely gentleman working the food truck said his sister used to be a vegetarian but loves the pulled pork, and that sold me. It's served on classic toasted bread with sweet, succulent pulled pork. They also dice up red onion and sprinkle it on as a finishing touch. It was absolutely divine.

Zack went back and forth between a few different sandwiches but finally decided on the chicken and bacon croissant. The sandwich was

massive and loaded with sizzling bacon, cold-cut chicken, and fresh tomatoes. Lola's even sells Mexican Cokes in beautiful, big glass bottles.

Don't let the last few days of summer pass you by. Go enjoy some delicious cold ones at Quartzite. Quartzite is open Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Lola's is open Thursday and Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again from 4:30-6:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. They are located at 105 W. Main Ave. in Chewelah.

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80 Questions... and Not Even One Answer



by Bob Johnson

I have lots of questions, but do you have any answers?

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Did you go huckleberry hunting this season?

Did you find some?

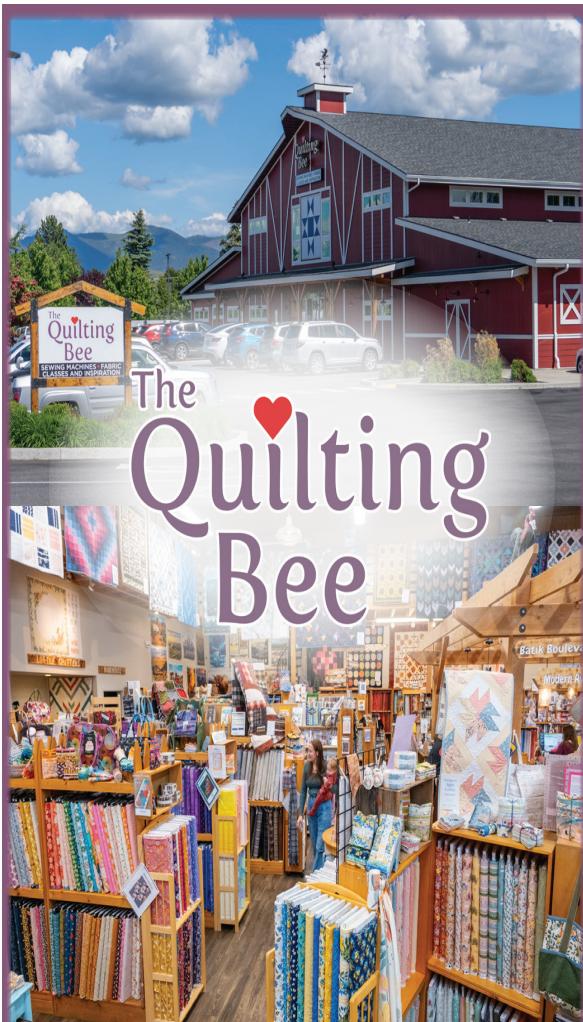
Enough to bake a pie?

Or to make some jam?

Did you know that, while huckleberries can be found in parts of Washington, Oregon, Montana, and the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, the bushes are the most widespread and prolific in Idaho?

You do know that huckleberries are not the same as blueberries, right?

Are you aware of the two primary ways



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to tell the difference — color and flavor?

Did you know that the colors of huckleberries encompass various shades of red, blue and purple, while blueberries tend to be exclusively dark blue?

Did you know that a huckleberry tends to be both sweet and tart, whereas a blueberry will lack the tart characteristic?

Have you ever wondered why you've never seen a "U-pick" huckleberry field?

Could it be because it's virtually impossible to domesticate huckleberries?

Isn't it amazing how many uses there are for huckleberries at the breakfast table — from huckleberry pancakes and waffles to huckleberry butter and syrup?

Have you ever thought about having a huckleberry-focused lunch, perhaps a salad tossed in a huckleberry vinaigrette, accompanied by a cup of huckleberry-infused tea?

Wouldn't it be fun to complete an all-day huckleberry feed with a dinner of pork tenderloin with a wild huckleberry reduction, grilled trout with a huckleberry coulis, or beef ribs brushed with huckleberry barbecue sauce?

No dinner is complete without dessert, right?

If calories are no object, would you consider a slice of huckleberry pie, a bowl of huckleberry cobbler or a scoop of huckleberry ice cream?

Aren't we now so hungry that we should move on to a different category of questions?

FOOD

Wait, this is a different category?

Have you seen the new colors being used on the exterior of Del Taco restaurants around the area?

Specifically, have you seen the new shade of green painted on the buildings?

Isn't it the most unappetizing color you've ever seen?

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Is it supposed to match the color of their green hot sauce?

Did they have to change the color of that sauce because the Federal Drug Administration is taking steps to phase out synthetic food dyes in the U.S. food supply?

Did someone at the Environmental Protection Agency misread the memo and tell Del Taco to change the color of its paint?

Aren't these the type of hard-hitting questions you expect us journalists to ask?

Have you now lost your appetite for huckleberries?

And everything else?

DRIVING

Because everyone agrees that the Spokane area has a pothole problem, why aren't concrete (or blacktop) steps taken to solve it?

Is it about money?

Is there not enough money available to fund a fix?

If that's the case, wouldn't it be a good idea to seek a creative way to generate more revenue for the city and town governments that have pothole problems?

For instance, couldn't cameras be installed at some of the busier intersections?

Couldn't these cameras be used to photograph cars making right turns that roll through — or barely even slow down for — red lights?

Couldn't the cities and towns then mail traffic tickets to the offenders?

Given the number of offenders, wouldn't the ticket revenue pay for the cameras pretty quickly?

Once the cameras are paid for, couldn't the ongoing revenue be used to fund pothole repair?

Wouldn't those cameras serve an additional purpose — to motivate people to



actually stop at red lights?

Might that also address the question we all ask on occasion: "Where's a cop when you need one?"

On a related driving safety matter, why do so many drivers opt not to use the turn signals on their cars?

Are they afraid they'll burn out the lights?

Wouldn't it be safer for everyone if everyone did use their turn signals?

And isn't that especially true for the car making the turn, since the purpose of the turn signals is to alert others where you're going so they don't attempt to go there at the same time?

Wasn't this one of the basic concepts taught in driver's education class?

What's that?

You say they no longer have driver's ed in many high schools?

Well, doesn't that explain a lot?

GEOGRAPHY

How do you define the Inland Northwest?

Does it encompass eastern Washington and northern Idaho exclusively, or does it extend into western Montana?

It's pretty easy to figure out where western Montana begins, but where, exactly, do eastern Washington and northern Idaho begin?

Did you know that some people consider certain areas of Oregon and British Columbia to be part of the Inland Northwest?

Further, did you know that some refer to the Inland Northwest as the "Inland Empire?"



Wouldn't this be confusing for people moving to the area from California's Inland Empire?

Were you aware that the late Spokane historian, George Fuller, described our Inland Empire as the basin between the Rockies and the Cascades?

Isn't it interesting that this basin, which is home to a very French-sounding city called Coeur d'Alene and a very French-sounding winery called Pend d'Oreille, is about the same size as France?

Speaking of France, why would an American fly there, seek out a Parisian café and order an Americano?

COFFEE

Why does one prominent coffee chain use the word "tall" to describe its smallest drink size?

Why does that same chain offer a size that's actually smaller than the tall — called a "short" — but not include it on its menu?

Continuing our questions about that same chain, why does it use English to describe its two smallest sizes (short and tall), but Italian to describe its three largest sizes ("grande," "venti" and "trenta")?

Honestly, doesn't "grande" sound more Spanish than Italian?

Could that be because I took Spanish classes in school but not Italian classes?

...continued on page 11

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**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!

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

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

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

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Berry Funnies

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

How do bees go to school? By school buzz.

What's the best place to grow flowers in a school? Kindergarten.

Why is six afraid of seven? Because seven ate nine.

Which school do the birds go to?

High school.

Why does a dog do so well in school? Because it's the teacher's pet.

Why is the teacher wearing sunglasses in the class? Because she has bright students in her class.

What is black when it's clean and white when it's dirty? The blackboard.

What is the blackboard's favorite drink? Hot chalkolate.

A snail goes to buy a car. The salesman is surprised when the snail picks out a fast, expensive sports car. He's even more surprised when the snail requires that a big red "S" be painted on both sides. "Why would you want such a thing?" asked the salesman. The snail replied, "I want people to say, 'Look at that S car go!'"

Why do fireflies get bad grades at school? Because they are not bright enough.

A room that a student can never enter. A mushroom.

A school bus that a student can never enter. Syllabus.

Why don't giraffes go to elementary school? Because they only go to high school.

Teacher: "One great thing that we have today that we didn't have 10 years ago?" **Student:** "Me!"

Teacher: "Your essay on the cow is similar to that of your friends' essay. Have you copied?" **Student:** "No, teacher. It's about

the same cow."

What can children catch but not throw? A cold.

Why can't a bicycle stand by itself? Because it is two tired.

A guy goes door to door looking for work. One homeowner hands him a brush and a can of paint and offers him \$150 to paint his porch. A few hours later, the guy comes back to the homeowner and says, "I'm finished. But you should know that your car's a Ferrari, not a Porsche."

What grades do young pirates get in school? High Cs.

How much do computers eat for lunch? A byte.

What do ducks use for solving problems? A quackulator.

What did one pencil say to another on the first day of school? You're looking sharp.

What does a spider do on the Internet? Create a website.

The coolest letters of the alphabet? AC.

Which school does an ice cream man go to? Sundae school.

How do the fish go to school? By octobus.

What's so fresh in the chemistry class? The experiment.

Why are the dark ages named so? Because they have many knights.

Which tree is the math teacher's favorite? Geometree.

What's the calculator's favorite statement? You can count on me.

How do you know that Saturn was married more than once? Because it has many rings.

Which school do surfers go to? Boarding school.

Riddles

1. You will always find me in the past. I can be created in the present, But the future can never change me. What am I?
2. There were 3 girls walking to school. They had 1 umbrella to share. How did they not get wet?
3. Despite my name, I am not a queen. When you hold me up to things, their length is seen. What am I?
4. I can fill a room, but I take up no space. What am I?
5. It's the only place in the world where today comes before yesterday. Where is it?
6. When is homework not homework?
7. How can the teacher's coat pocket be empty, and still have something in it?
8. What goes up and down stairs without moving?
9. Take one out and scratch my head, I am now black but once was red.
10. What is brown, has a head, and tails, but no legs?

10. A penny.
9. A match.
8. Carpet.
7. It has a hole.
6. When it's done at school.
5. The dictionary.
4. Light.
3. A ruler.
2. It wasn't raining.
1. History.

Answers



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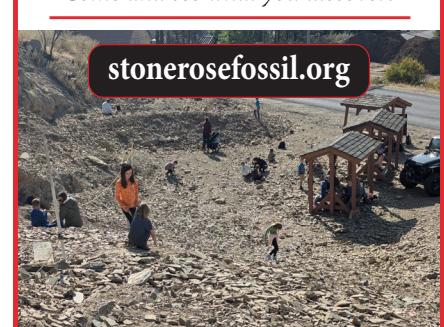
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80 Questions... and Not Even One Answer

...continued from page 7

Even though Italian nomenclature is part of the aforementioned coffee chain's marketing and branding efforts to suggest an association with the perceived sophistication of Italian coffee culture, why is its default dark roast from the Indonesian island of Sumatra?

Are you getting the impression that I don't like this particular coffee chain?

Would you be surprised to learn that I actually love it?

Isn't there something to be said for product consistency – that you can depend on getting a good cup of Verona (if you ask to substitute it for Sumatra) no matter where you go?

That said, couldn't these omnipresent coffee houses of America learn something from their counterparts in Europe?

Don't the shops in Europe offer a much wider array of baked goods such as cakes, bars, cookies, muffins and pastries in multiple flavors?

Don't those baked goods make keeping track of calories much easier by enabling us to eat just one of them and be done with eating for the day?

Isn't the coffee culture in Europe a good way to compare the general culture there with the general culture in America?

Don't Europeans sit, sip and savor their morning espresso or cappuccino, whereas we Americans embrace the fast-paced grab-and-go nature of mobile ordering?

Alternately, aren't many of us in the

Inland Northwest — especially during the winter months — more likely to grab our cup o' joe at a locally owned drive-through coffee hut?

Doesn't the fact that we live in a four-seasons climate (five, if you count pothole repair season) make working in such huts uncomfortable, given that constant rush of arctic air encountered whenever the sliding window is opened during the winter?

Do the employees at the "bikini coffee" drive-throughs get paid more during the winter?

In a sense, wouldn't that be considered hazard pay?

In states where biological boys are allowed to play in girls' sports, are men allowed to work in bikini coffee drive-throughs?

POLITICS

Is it best to avoid discussing politics, lest it lead to a heated discussion?

Or an all-out brawl?

Doesn't the same hold true for discussions about religion?

Especially at the Thanksgiving dinner table?

Unless your goal is to have a lot of leftovers?

A curious nature and willingness to ask hard-hitting questions has resulted in Bob Johnson receiving 99 national writing awards over the course of his career in journalism. Now a resident of North Idaho, he and his family enjoy exploring the Inland

Northwest, and Johnson is asking lots of questions and sharing his observations with Huckleberry Press readers.

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counter tops from Africa, hickory cabinets with an abundance of counter space and storage, large dining room with a private viewing deck. Primary bedroom with jacuzzi tub, walk in shower and closet plus electric fireplace. Plenty of bathrooms for entertaining and sleep overs. Separate cabin with running water, electricity and private outhouse in a serene setting with large deck, trees and expansive yard. Plenty of water with a private well and 2 car Carport with storage, RV Carport & shed. 6.57 acres.

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\$230,000

A beautiful setting with room to garden, just off the Columbia with water views and close to town. Some established grapes and raspberries to get you started. Features 2 bedroom, with a 3rd extra room for games or additional sleep space. Attached 1 car garage. Starter home or bring your tool belt and bring up to date with your own personal touches.



MLS# 44881

\$619,000

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. 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.



MLS# 44277

\$599,999

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.



MLS# 44583

\$879,000

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.

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