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PAPER



Huckleberry Press

The Community Paper of the Inland Northwest

OCTOBER 1, 2025

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Highway 395 Revisited... Sort of



by Bob Johnson

Each fall for two decades, I drove 228 miles of U.S. Highway 395 in California – from the Mojave Desert town of Oak Hills to the eastern Sierras community of Bishop – to attend a wonderful three-day event called the Millpond Music Festival. Doing the math (opening the calculator on my iPhone), that's 9,120 miles.

Over that many years and that many miles, one becomes intimately familiar with a road and, if one is open to the idea, how it informs one's life.

For instance, in 1997, my favorite singer-songwriter, Tom Russell, released an album called *The Long Way Around*. On it was a song called "Manzanar," which told the tale of a

Japanese emigrant who was relocated to an internment camp after Pearl Harbor was bombed:

*We picked your grapes and oranges
Made some money, bought a store
Until 1942
Pearl Harbor and the war
Came those relocation orders
They took our house, the store, the car
Then they drove us to the desert
To a place called Manzanar*

Now a national historic site, Manzanar is an hour south of the Millpond Music Festival grounds along Highway 395. It was a truly powerful few minutes when Russell sang that song at Millpond.

Like many historic roads (think: Route 66), Highway 395 has a few stops and starts as it meanders from its far-south starting point in Hesperia, California, through Nevada, Oregon and Washington to the Canadian border.

Now that we are proud residents of the Inland Northwest, I figured it was time to refamiliarize myself with the road originally nicknamed the "Three Flags Highway" to promote the link it provided from Canada through the United States to Mexico – even though it never made it as far south as envisioned.

I learned that, as it enters Washington from Oregon, it serves the Tri-Cities area (Kennewick, Pasco, Richland) and continues north toward Spokane. Once there, it can be a bit tricky to follow as it finds itself mired in the North Spokane Corridor Project. When that project is completed (c. 2030), Highway 395 will connect at Wandermere. But for the purposes of my geographic edification, Google Maps made it seem as if Mead would be a much more logical starting point. So, the plan evolved to follow Highway 395 from Mead to the Canadian border.

Continued on page 11...

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Taste Budz Review: The Station, LLC



By Zack & Brooklyn Bolin, Facebook:
Taste Budz, Instagram: [tastebudz_spokane](https://www.instagram.com/tastebudz_spokane)

The leaves are beginning to turn, making it a great time for scenic drives. If you find yourself near Newport on an adventure, be sure to swing by The Station to get some of the most delicious baked goods.

What we enjoyed:

~Hot Hawaiian Calzone
~Italian Sub with Pasta Salad

This hidden gem may not look like much from the outside, but inside they are creating some of the best bread we have ever had.

I ordered their hot Hawaiian calzone; it was loaded with jalapeños, red onion, pineapple, Canadian bacon, bacon, red bell pepper, and house marinara. The marinara was thick and full of flavor. The dough was perfectly golden brown, slathered in garlic butter, and topped off with parmesan cheese. You can actually order any of their specialty pizzas as a calzone or even build your own.

Zack was in the mood for a sandwich, and he loves Italian subs. Theirs came packed with pepperoni, ham, salami, provolone, thinly sliced onions, and house Italian mayo. I forgot to make it a deluxe and add tomato, lettuce and pepperoncini, but now we have

something to look forward to for next time. The pasta salad wasn't to either of our styles. However, if you love a mayonnaise-based pasta salad and BLTs, then it would be perfect for you!

They bake all their own bread and make their sauces in house, as you may have already gathered. Their menu is extensive and includes take-and-bake lasagna, crustless pizza for a low-carb option, salads, and some amazing looking desserts.

We didn't get to try their pastries this time around, but their options sounded delicious with homemade cheesecake and huckleberry sticky buns.

You can either get the items as take-and-bake or have them baked for you. They have pizza by the slice if you are



just looking for something small, or you can do full family sized orders.

The shop itself is very small – you would never know such heavenly creations were being made inside. You can place your order online and just drive up to their window to pick it up.

If you find yourself in the area, make sure you don't pass this spot by!

The Station, LLC
37270 Highway 41
Oldtown, ID 83822

Hit The Trail With Soph



By Sophia Mattice-Aldous

Being outside provides plenty of opportunity for comic relief. A sense of humor can go a long way toward alleviating a hard situation (although, if you're at a funeral or marriage counseling session, I would advise caution).

However, when you're hiking a trail that feels longer at the end than it did at the beginning, and all you want is a hot bath and a cheeseburger, some mirth can keep you and your cohort(s) from snapping at one another. If you're by yourself, then at least you're free to laugh at your own jokes.

"And this is where they'll find my body," I sometimes mutter after an especially arduous trek that leaves me huffing and puffing.

Hey, I never said your sense of humor couldn't

be a touch dark. Plus, I'm still here to trek another day.

I recall a particular nature excursion as a kid when my family was hiking the hills behind our house. A huge, craggy square of rock we dubbed "The Eagle's Nest" sat at the top, giving way to vast layers of loose shale at the bottom. While we didn't go all the way to the top (that would've involved some actual rock climbing), we had gone a good distance up the hill to a small stand of birches. We were on our way back down when my foot caught on the shale and I exemplified the term, "Arse over tea kettle." I came to a stop only a few feet from my parents who came running to see if I was hurt. Surprisingly, there was nary a scratch or sprain. When mom and dad saw that I was unhurt, their concern was replaced with relieved laughter. Mom said that, for a split second, she thought I was a loose boulder from the Eagle's Nest, tumbling toward them.

"Hell, Soph, I know you want to get home, but the house isn't that far away," dad teased.

Years later, on my first solo hike up Jungle Hill

in Ferry County, I passed a couple headed back down.

"How many miles to the top?" I asked chipperly.

"Forget the top, how many miles to the parking lot?" the man responded.

Another fun one to yell from a summit is, "They're taking the hobbits to Isengard!"

That one is not as effective if no one in your party is a Tolkien fan, but still worth the effort.

What has made you laugh whilst hiking? Let me know in an email. Meanwhile, happy, hilarious trails to you.

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.

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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Chocolate Ice Cream and the Art of Choosing Your Focus



by Kerry Schafer

Whatever you do, do not think about chocolate ice cream cones. Do not think about that cool creamy sweetness on a hot summer day. Do not think about catching that melted drip with your tongue before it spills over and runs down the cone. Don't think about strawberry ice cream either, the good kind with the chunks of frozen strawberry. Or any kind of ice cream, for that matter. Do not, under any circumstances, think about ice cream at all...

I'm willing to bet that you're thinking about ice cream right now. Even if you stop reading right this minute, set this paper aside and try your hardest not to think about ice cream, chances are pretty good that it will still be on your mind.

A friend texted me last week to ask, "How do I stop myself from getting sucked into a thought spiral of doom?" And what I told her is that it doesn't work to try not to think about something. Just like that chocolate ice cream, the more you tell yourself not to think about it, the more your brain is going to get stuck on that thought.

One trick is to choose to focus on something else: thoughts, ideas, things and projects that are happier, better, more hopeful. This can be hard work at first, just like starting an exercise program at the gym. But if we practice, if we make the choice over and over and over again to think about more positive and hopeful things, the neurons in our brains will actually start rewiring themselves until our automatic tendency is to look for the bright side. Besides being happier (which is generally considered very good in itself) we may also make better decisions, have healthier relationships, and be more productive and creative when we have a positive mindset.

Last week, during a moment of weakness when I got sucked into doom scrolling on Instagram, a post caught my attention. It was simple. No video. No bells and whistles. Just these words, in a handwritten font:

"Things that are also happening in the world:

- *Someone gathered the courage to begin*

writing their first novel

- *Someone painted a flower*
- *Someone sang in the car, full pelt, as loud as they could*
- *Someone brewed an absolutely cracking cup of tea and relished every drop*
- *Someone else baked a cake for a friend*
- *Someone wrote a line of poetry that finally expressed what's been hiding inside." (@ inspiredtowrite)*

I found this post to be such a simple, profound, and powerful reminder of how we sometimes get so caught up in looking at what is going wrong that we are blind to all that is going right.

"But that's reality," you might say. "I'm not going to pretend that life is all rainbows and unicorns and lollipops when things really are dark and dismal."

Bear with me for a minute. Imagine that you're driving in your car and you turn on the radio. Your usual station is full of so much static and noise that you can barely hear the music. It's a sound that sets your teeth on edge, but instead of adjusting the dial, you say, "It's important to be aware that there is static in the world of radio. Enduring it builds character." Or, "Life doesn't always give us what we want. It's good for me to listen to this, it will make me a better person. Other people are enduring static, it would be selfish of me to listen to something else."

I think life is a lot like that radio dial. Choosing to change our focus isn't as easy as tuning to another radio station, but the more we practice the easier it gets. Now, I'm not suggesting that we should all embrace ignorance of the world around us and live in a fairytale reality. What I am suggesting is that there are good people and good things all around us, right along with the bad, and it's important to remember to see them.

Circling back to my thoughts on that Instagram post:

Yes, today somebody killed somebody, and somebody robbed somebody, and somebody was convicted of assault. There are big, scary fires burning across the state and the forests are dry, dry, dry. There are old wars going on, and new wars possibly

starting, and people arguing and fighting and killing each other, and just generally a whole lot of ugliness out there.

AND.

As I write this, I am luxuriating in a mug of stellar coffee paired with homemade zucchini bread, thanks to the usual overly exuberant zucchini harvest. A content dog is stretched out by my feet, working on a bone. There's a cat purring in my lap.

One morning last week, the dogs woke me early, and when I let them out, I caught a display of the Northern Lights. This morning, when I got up, the sky was full of stars. The air smelled clear and clean, and I heard owls calling to each other off in the distance. Right this minute, people all over the world are writing and reading books, and performing and listening to music, and creating or enjoying art. Others are harvesting the yield from the summer's gardens or baking bread or preparing a delicious meal for loved ones. Somebody adopted an abandoned dog and is showering it with love and treats and offering it a forever home. Somebody hugged a child today and told her how much she was loved. A baby was born. Somebody fell in love.

And somebody, somewhere, right this moment is enjoying the cold, creamy deliciousness of a chocolate ice cream cone.

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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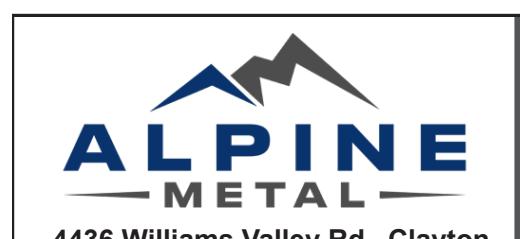


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He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother



When I was a child in the early '70s, my family had a vast collection of vinyl record albums and 45s. I was taught from a young age how to gently set the record player's needle at the right groove for the beginning of a song, including a stern lesson to never swipe the needle across the grooves. So, I was trusted to play records by myself.

In those days – I was just five or six years old – my still developing brain lacked the capacity for higher level thinking like metaphor or figures of speech. I could remember lyrics to songs easily. But I took all their lyrics literally. For example, "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" starts with "The road is long, with many a winding turn...." A windy road was easy to picture in my innocent brain. The song also conjured an image in my mind of the singer literally carrying a man, his brother, draped over his shoulders. But it was easy for the singer, because the man wasn't heavy at all. He wasn't heavy because he was his sibling, his brother.

I too have a brother, along with my five sisters. My brother, Denny, is 18 years older than I. As I was growing up, he was making his way in the world. He rarely visited. But I liked him when he did visit.

He was playful and had funny nicknames for me, like "Aimsworth," and "Aimless." When I listened to that song, I imagined myself carrying my own brother over my shoulders. He wasn't heavy, but he was too large for a small child to easily carry.

About a year ago, out of the blue, my sister Shannon sent me a link to the song, with lyrics. I don't think I had heard that song since I was a child in the basement with that tall stack of 45s. This time, as I listened and read the words carefully, my heart broke and I began to cry. Of course, now, with my adult understanding of metaphors and figures of speech, the song had a whole new meaning. Except, coming from my sister, the term "brother" was still intended to be our blood sibling.

"The road is long, with many a winding turn, that leads us to who knows where."

As a child, I thought little of my big brother at all, except when I was taught how to push the correct button to accept a collect call from Monroe State Correctional Facility. Many a winding turn indeed. Later, he moved to California and fell in love with a woman who gave him a daughter and a son. But that relationship didn't work out.

When I was 16, my brother moved back to Spokane to live with my parents and me. He needed to get clean and sober. He needed to get back on his feet. He did both.

He graduated from Spokane Community College with a civil engineering degree. Countless times, my father expressed his admiration that my brother did what was necessary to move forward and never once showed any self-pity. In those years, my brother and I became friends.

Clean and sober, with his degree in hand, he moved back to California to be a civil engineer and a father to his children. He did both for years, contributing to the building of the new Stanford stadium. He eventually found great joy in being a grandfather.

When the time came, Denny chose to retire in Harrison, Idaho, which was much more affordable than San Jose, Calif. My brother enjoyed living alone. He enjoyed the nature surrounding his little house in the woods overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene. His passion was walking the Centennial Trail along the lake below his house. He spent all year "training" for his favorite day of the year, Bloomsday.

Every summer, Denny hosted his sisters, nieces, and nephews when we wanted to play at the lake. He never went swimming with us, but he always barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs ready for us when we returned to the house. July 4th was especially fun because the hill behind his house provided the best viewing for the fireworks show.

The years went on and Denny got older.

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October 2025

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by Gail Young

Produced and Directed by Jennifer Clark

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"It's a long, long road, from which there is no return." Then he was diagnosed with dementia.

My sisters and I are all too familiar with what that diagnosis means. My mother had Alzheimer's, and my father had Lewy body dementia. How would it progress? Who would help him? His children in California were in no position to help. His few friends were in no position to help. All my brother had, *has*, is his sisters.

At first, my sister Mary took him in to live in her home. Denny was no longer comfortable living alone and was eager to move in with Mary; thankfully, offering no resistance. The other sisters, including me, helped out where we could. That system was okay when he was able to drive and to cook for himself and didn't need 24/7 attention. But the disease progressed. After about a year, he could no longer drive, he no longer cooked for himself, and we didn't feel comfortable leaving him alone. Mary has a job as a nurse, leaving Denny home alone for long periods. When Mary was home with him, the burden became more and more heavy. "But I'm strong, strong enough to carry him. He ain't heavy, he's my brother." Mary carried him as far as she could, but she couldn't be in two places at once.

Dementia can cause changes in personality and decision making. My brother insisted he was moving to California. He liked the weather better. His children and grandchildren were there. Oh, and he was planning to marry the mother of his children. My sister Marcia and I made several trips to San Jose with Denny over the course of many months, spending countless hours trying to help him set up his new life, to ensure his safety and well-being.

Two weeks after we left him in San Jose (against our better judgement), I received a phone call from Denny. Once again, the relationship didn't work out. The mother of his children didn't want to get married. She couldn't take care of him. He wanted



to come back to Spokane. I took time off of work, flew down to San Jose, and moved him back to Spokane.

He needed professional care. My sister Shannon took the lead on this difficult task. Denny didn't want to live in an assisted living facility. He didn't want to pay the exorbitant fees. He kept insisting he could live in an apartment by himself. He tried to insist he could drive. But when he had clarity on the severity of his condition, he finally agreed. It was a rough transition, with many calls begging to leave the facility. Thankfully, my brother has now adjusted to his life in an assisted living facility, close enough for sisters to visit weekly at the least; more often when there is a crisis, which still happens regularly. He is allowed to walk around the grounds of the facility and we have learned he has a talent for corn hole. They play competitively three times a week at the facility.

He called me just yesterday. I always panic when I see his name on my phone. Will he be having another paranoid delusion? Will he beg again to move out of the facility?

Has he imagined that corn hole has been canceled? No, no and no. Yesterday he just wanted to know when the party will be. He remembered that we are having a birthday party to celebrate his 76th birthday in October. He remembered! He will probably ask us 20 times when the party is, even though it's on his calendar, but at least he remembers we're having a birthday party for him. And that we'll be playing family corn hole!

He still remembers us, his sisters. For that we are grateful, as we are for when he has a good day, when he seems clear and cheerful. Other days... are harder. "So, on we go, his welfare is of my concern, no burden is he to bear. We'll get there. He ain't heavy, he's my brother."

*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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Resilience in Every Grain: Christo's Journey Through Life and Woodworking



by Robin Milligan

Christopher Stanke, known to friends as Christo, said he has always had a deep connection to woodworking. "I like to say that I have three loves: music, woodworking, and traveling," he shared. Although, since finding himself here in the northwest, he hasn't been traveling. "My passport has expired and I don't care. This is home," he said.

Christo's love of woodworking began in childhood; his father was a home builder, and they built everything together. Christo was afraid of heights, so he was told to manage the woodshop. He said he became addicted to woodworking. "I loved the tools, and the smells, really everything about the shop," he recalled. As he grew up, his passion and dedication to his craft continued to grow.

In 2015, he had a cabinet and woodworking shop in northern Israel near the Sea of Galilee. "My partner got a call, and I could tell something was wrong. I got a call as well. My shop was on fire," he remembered. The building had been firebombed. "I was devastated. All of my work and materials were gone. I could have just given up and decided it was all over, but this is what I love to do," Christo said.

During the next three years, he rebuilt his business, this time near

Tel Aviv. He remembers working tirelessly, day and night, to restore what he had lost, only to lose something far more precious. "I thought everything was going well, then my wife passed away. She was beautiful, young, and healthy," he reflected. His words lingered for a moment before he continued.

Not knowing what they were going to do next, he and his two children got their passports and left everything behind. Christo, who had been born in the United States but lived in Israel for 13 years, set out with his children to experience the world.

They took their time exploring many places and cultures. "We flew into Copenhagen and started touring Europe. I told my kids, when we find a place that feels like home, just say when, and we'll be there," he explained. "We traveled all over Europe, and it wasn't for us. We then flew into L.A. and toured the southern U.S., up the East Coast, and took our time getting to see as much as we could as we went," he said.

"When we drove through Colville, we all thought it was a cute place, like so many other cute places we had been to. Then we were driving down Highway 25 where the two rivers meet, and the way the sun was setting over Lake Roosevelt was magical. There is just something about this place. My kids were in the back seat of the car and said, 'Dad, what about here?' Out of everywhere we had been, all three of us

knew. Within three days, I bought an RV and started looking for property," he recalled. He found a place in Rice that he really liked, and they moved off-grid.

Christo looked for a place to set up a woodworking shop because it is what he loves, but realized that, as a single dad, he needed to be realistic about what they needed and what he could accomplish. He ended up working for the lumber company and hardware store, Haney Lumber in Colville, for several years. He said it was "woodworking adjacent." He built the front counters for the store and updated the offices. "I love to help people," he said. "Customer service was great. I love talking to people. However, I really wanted to get back to my passion."

He continued, "My kids inspire me. They are the coolest kids you'll ever meet. We've been through rough things together. They have seen the world, they are funny, philosophical, and they inspire me. To have the strength to do everything we've done, I just look at them, and I have all the reasons I could need," he reflected. Raising his kids and building their home was the most important work for Christo, but now he is getting to dive back into one of his three loves full time and is so excited to share his passion with the community.

"You won't be disappointed in my work. I'm probably going to surprise you. And I'll walk you through it, so there is no reason to

be scared. We'll find a way to get it done right," he beamed.

Christo bought a beautiful cabinet shop in July of this year. He said it is about 4,000 square feet and has plenty of space to create. Christo is making cabinets, and so much more, under the business name Old Kettle Road Woodworking.

He works in many styles, from modern to rustic to European. "I want to get as excited about it as you are," he said. His work includes countertops of all kinds, butcher blocks, and accent walls, as well as cabinetry.

"It's expensive getting a custom kitchen built. Not everyone can afford that. I can take your kitchen and reface it, refinish it, update the hardware, and revive your kitchen," he said. "I also love doing furniture restoration, bringing something old and loved back to life. This work is time consuming, but it's worth the cost to restore history," he added.

His projects span residential and commercial work, from restaurants and offices, to boutique hotels and high-end interiors. He notes that his quality craftsmanship and excellent customer service make Old Kettle Road Woodworking really stand out.

"My favorite part of what I do is taking an idea and making it reality," he said. "I love creating. I really love that I can change someone's world by putting something in it to make it better. You have all these raw materials and a design, and you make it into something

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different." Christo said he also creates outdoor living spaces, turning outdoor areas into comfortable living space that extends a home into the yard.

"The Northwest is peaceful. It's also diverse, colorful, open, and inviting. The sailing is really fun here, and it's just a beautiful place to be," he said. "I really love it here."

According to Christo, Kettle Falls and the community his business serves have welcomed him and his craftsmanship with glad-

ness. "What a splash! I wasn't expecting the amount of buzz this would create. I'm being pushed in the direction of my dreams. The feedback has been out of this world. There is no reason for me to go beyond this area. The people here are great, really good people. From the moment we came here, people have let us feel like this is home," he said.

Christo doesn't see himself as just a business owner. He is an optimist and someone who has dared to continue to dream after

many obstacles. His positivity is contagious and powerful. Christo wants to be part of the community he serves. He wants people to come in, check it out, and dream with him. "I have the experience, but also the energy to start from scratch again. Tragedy happens to everyone. You have to go through the darkness to get into the light. I believe I am truly blessed, and I am confident that the future is going to be great," he said.

Old Kettle Road Woodworking
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christo@oldkettleroad.com
Robin Milligan is an artist and entrepreneur living in Spokane. She runs a tech company, curates art shows, and teaches ceramics and painting from her home studio. When not working, Robin spends her time with her 3 children exploring nature, rock-hounding, making art, and swimming.

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 H V Q O T U R M E R I C O L L A G E D O C I P Z S
 C W E Z S A L T O R T I L L A C H I P S O S E U Q
 V S Y V A Q A N I T N E L A V H B I A Z R Q T X K

1. Avocado
2. Bacon
3. BakedPotato
4. Banana
5. Beef
6. Beer
7. BellPepper
8. BlackBeans
9. Broth
10. Cayenne
11. Cheese
12. ChiliPowder
13. Chives
14. Cilantro
15. Cocoa
- Powder
16. Cornbread
17. Cumin
18. Garlic
19. GreekYogurt
20. GreenChiles
21. Guacamole
22. HotDogs
23. Jalapenos
24. KidneyBeans
25. Limes
26. MapleSyrup
27. Olives
28. Onions
29. Oregano
30. Paprika
31. Pepper
32. PicoDeGallo
33. PintoBeans
34. Pork
35. PotatoChips
36. Queso
37. Salsa
38. Salt
39. Saltines
40. Scallions
41. SourCream
42. Sriracha
43. Sugar
44. Tapatio
45. TaterTots
46. Tomatoes
47. TortillaChips
48. Turmeric
49. Turkey
50. Valentina

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

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

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

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!



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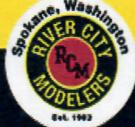
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Berry Funnies

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

Why did the man bungee jump on the first day of autumn? Because he loved the fall.

What do you call someone who imitates your fall centerpiece? A cornucopier.

What did the jack-o'-lantern do when pulled over by the police? Spilled its guts.

Who won the skeleton costume contest? No body.

What do you call a small pepper in the fall? A little chili.

What is a Ghostbuster's job? Spook keeper.

What did autumn say to summer? I'll fall-ow you anywhere.

How do you repair a broken jack-o'-lantern? Use a pumpkin patch.

Honest Job Applicant

A guy goes into a company for a job interview. The interviewer asks him, "What would you consider to be your biggest weakness?" The guy thinks for a minute and says, "I'm honest with everyone. I don't know how to be anything other than completely honest, no matter what someone asks me." The interviewer says, "I don't really see how honesty could be considered a weakness. In fact, I think it's a great strength!" The guy looks the interviewer right in the eye and says, "I don't really care what you think."

Why don't fir trees ever get the blues? They're evergreen.

What do you call the smallest apple on earth? An apple-teenie.

What movie best describes Thanksgiving morning? The Hunger Games.

What was the Pilgrims' favorite kind of music? Plymouth Rock.

What is the best fall fairy tale? Pumpeilstiltskin.

What did the ghost say on the first day of class? "I love going back to ghoul."

What did the baby corn say to the mama corn? Where's pop-corn?

Why did the farmer bury all his money? So that his soil would be rich.

Sanity Test

During a visit to the mental asylum, a man asked the director, "How do you determine whether or not a patient should be institutionalized?" The director said, "Well, we fill up a bathtub. Then we offer the person a teaspoon, a teacup, and a bucket and ask them to empty the bathtub." The man nodded, "Oh, I understand! A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup." The director frowned and motioned to the orderlies, "No, a normal person would pull the bathtub drain plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

Why did the pie go to the dentist? Because it needed a filling.

What kind of apple would you find in the old west? A Granny Smith & Wesson.

The Cure

A lady goes to her doctor for a checkup. The doctor asks her if she is having any problems. "Yes, doctor," she says. "I have to fart a lot. Fortunately, no one can hear them or smell them. In fact, I've farted twice since you came in and they were silent and odorless." The doctor nods and says, "I can treat this problem with an over-the-counter medication, a prescription, and a referral. The medication will help your body produce less gas. The prescription will help you recover your sense of smell. I'm giving you a referral to an audiologist to see if they can help you hear better."

What do you call a corn that joins the army? Kernel.

What did the grape say when it got stepped on? Nothing, it just let out a little wine.

Why didn't the corn win the race? Because it got too husky.

What do you get when you drop a pumpkin? Squash.

Why did the apple always get detention? It was rotten to the core.

Why was the jack-o'-lantern afraid to cross the road? It had no guts.

What do you get when you cross a turkey with a centipede? Drumsticks for everyone at Thanksgiving.

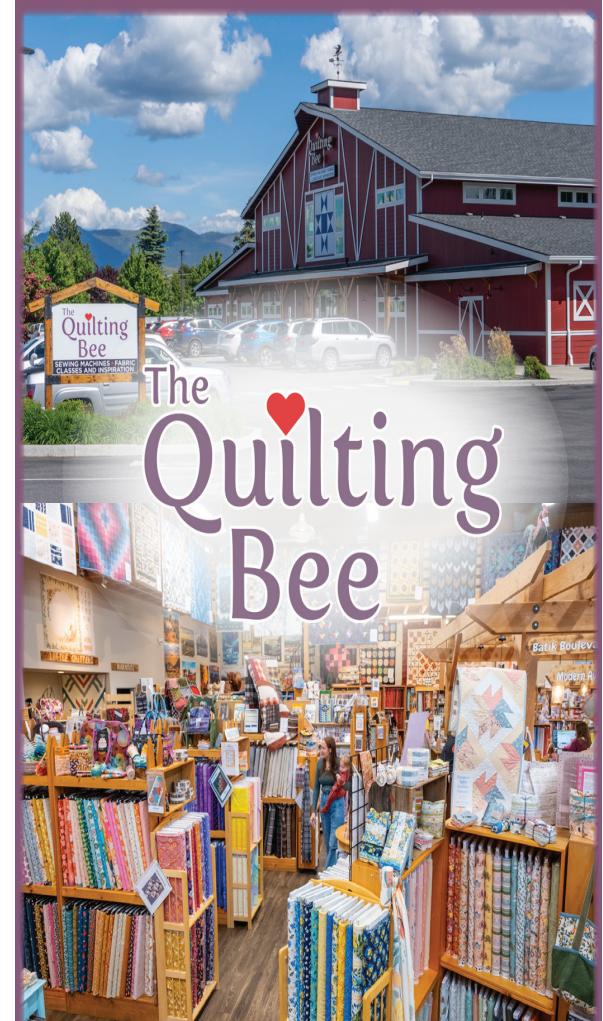
Why did the farmer break up with his tractor? Because they were always having a row.

Why did the apple go out with the prune? Because he couldn't find a date.

If money really did grow on trees, what would be everyone's favorite season? Fall.

What happened when the turkey got in a fight? He got the stuffing knocked out of him.

Who lives in the scary Hundred Acre Wood? Winnie the Boo.



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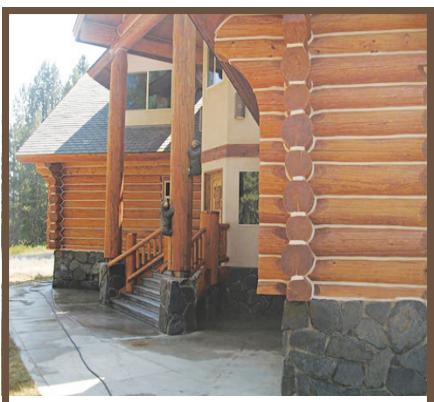


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The Pioneer Picnic Grounds



by Ray Bilderback

When I was a boy, in the late '30s and early '40s, we looked to the radio for information and entertainment. I remember sitting with my grandfather Lloyd, listening to Gabriel Heater at six in the evening. Grandfather rarely missed a broadcast. Mr. Heater loved to come on with a fulsome, "There's good news tonight." Of course, in the first years of World War II, there was seldom good news. Germany had run rampant over much of Europe by that time, Japan had struck Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands, and the islands of the South Pacific were overrun by Japanese soldiers. The radio helped us keep up with the news and strengthened our resolve to do whatever we could to help. There was a tremendous effort on the home front as well as in the battlefields.

But I get ahead of myself. We kids had a regular schedule of 15-minute radio shows we dared not miss: Captain Midnight, Terry and the Pirates, the Lone Ranger and Tonto to name a few. They were sponsored by Wheaties, Kellogg's Cornflakes, Ovaltine, Pepsi Cola and lots more. Each product had its own program and the competition for young listeners was fierce.

I had a friend in the fourth grade that liked the same programs and we would go to my house one day and his house the next. We were more restrained in my house because I lived in a wartime duplex in Vallejo (next to Mare Island shipyards). The man in the other half of the duplex had the night shift and needed his sleep (Mother had a time of it trying to keep three boys quiet enough to satisfy the neighbor).

But I had started listening to boy's soap opera after school before the war. I must have started when I was six and I remember saving enough box tops to earn a Captain Midnight decoder ring.

I sent the box tops and the 12 cents and waited patiently (for about three days) before I began haunting the post office. The postmaster was just as happy as I was when the ring finally arrived, for I asked him nightly on my way home from school if the ring had come. "Please check again." He was a patient man and humored me.

When the ring came, I started coding and decoding amongst other kids. It helped our reading skills immensely, until the baseball season came and the rings lay forgotten in a dresser drawer.

At the turn of the 20th century, people could keep track of the news through their local newspaper. But there was no radio, television, cell phones or movies. How did they entertain themselves?

Loren Moos in The Lincoln County Centennial History & Cookbook gives this account:

"An idea of a picnic on Crab Creek discussed at a sewing party at the farm home of Mrs. Grange Porter turned into an institution that lasted 27 years.

Earlier picnics before that consisted of saddle horse races on existing roads. There were foot races, songs, speeches and food for a one-day celebration. In 1902, this Pioneer Picnic officially became known as The Lincoln-Adams County Association ... To be a member you had to have lived in either county before 1889 when Washington was still a territory...."

In 1903, a racetrack, a grandstand and a dancehall were built (I know that the covered dance floor was 100 feet by 200 feet because my father-in-law and I stored hay in the dance hall in the '70s.) From pictures in my possession, I judge the covered grandstand to be 300 feet in length and at least 10 rows deep. The racetrack oval appears to cover a mile.

These folks were serious! Some of them came a week early to get a favorable spot for the family tent. There were outhouses and a good well for drinking water.

There were baseball games; no matter how small they were, each town at that time had its own baseball team and rivalries were serious. Sometimes they hired professional pitchers, they were so intent on winning.

There was professional horse racing employing horses imported for that purpose. There were professional jockeys as well. I rely here on my father-in-law's memory. He said the horses were walked several miles on farm roads to get to the picnic grounds from the railroad siding at Keystone. He said he and several other kids liked to play under the dancehall. Sometimes they would be run off by the jockeys who gathered there to gamble and quarrel; nasty bunch according to him.

I have tried and failed in my effort to count the cars in my photo. Way more than 100 anyway and mostly model T Fords (you could have any color you wanted as long as it was black). My photo is not dated but I think it was taken in the mid-'20s by the number and shape of the cars.

Besides the horse racing and baseball games there were balloon ascensions, foot races, speeches, band concerts and food. To top things off, there was a big dance at night on that floor that measured 100 by 200 feet.

The big depression of 1929, the aging of those eligible for membership and a menagerie of other factors closed in. The last official picnic at that site was held in 1929. You have to admire the effort they'd go through to have a little fun and that dance...I'd love to get on a magic carpet and take in that affair!

I would like to thank Maureen Bourne, Joe T. Smith and Loren Moos for help (each in their own way), with the information necessary to write this article.

Ray Bilderback, creator of the Reuben Braddock 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."

Highway 395

...continued from page 1

border.

Sounds like fun, eh?

The area in and around Mead certainly can be just that if one visits during a harvest season – as we’re in now. This fall, it’s mainly about apples, and the farmers known collectively as the “Green Bluff Growers” provide dozens of reasons to swing by and stay awhile.

For instance, one can sip a glass of wine at Wildland Cooperative, a glass of beer at Bodacious Berries/Big Barn Brewing, or a glass of hard cider at Twilight Cider works. A little one (or a big one) could lick an ice cream cone while they feed the sheep at Walter’s Fruit Ranch. The whole family could ride the cow train at High Country Orchard. (Note to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals: These are not real cows.)

Foodies can compare pumpkin donuts at Hidden Acres Orchards and Beck’s Harvest House. One could further indulge a sweet tooth at Green Bluff Candy Company, part of the Halbig Family Farm.

Sufficiently sated and profoundly bloated, one can then proceed to the Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve to walk it off on the 1.4-mile Aster Loop Trail, named for the flowers now holding on for the final few days of their 2025 blooming season.

A final note about Mead: It was named after George Meade, who led the Union Army in the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War. Why? We have no idea. Nor do we know why the community did not include the “E” at the end of the general’s name in the town’s name.

Learning about the origins of town names along Highway 395 led to one inarguable conclusion: Being among the first to arrive somewhere, and to claim it, gave one a leg up in having their name be all or part of a community’s name. If only I’d lived in the Inland Northwest during the late 1800s or early 1900s. The map could be dotted with names like Bobville, Bobtown, Bobburg... or just Bob.

Herbert Dart would have agreed with that assertion. He was the first postmaster of the first town we encountered after getting back on the road: Dartford. (Note to self: Add “Bobford” to the working list of possible town names.)

Next was Deer Park, which came into being when a railroad siding was being built for the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway. According to historical documents, Deer Park got its name when surveyors for the railroad saw deer grazing nearby.

Given that inspiration (or lack thereof), we’re lucky there aren’t a thousand towns with

“Deer” as part of their name. Let’s see... Deerville. Deertown. Deerburg. Or perhaps... Deerbob.

Clayton came next, and we learned it was named not for some dude named Clay, but rather for the clay deposits found there, which the Washington Brick Company utilized from its establishment in 1893 until a fire destroyed the company and most of the town in 1908.

Towns along Highway 395 also are named for bodies of water, often with no imagination incorporated. For exhibit A, we give you Loon Lake, which was named for... Loon Lake.

Fishermen (fisherpeople?) know that Loon Lake (the body of water) is where a state-record (27-lbs., 7-oz.) tiger trout was caught in 2022. Fishermen (fisherpeople?) also know that the 2025 season runs through Oct. 31, so there’s still time to go after that record and have a (true) big-fish story to share with friends.

Continuing north we find the town Chewelah, its name being the Kalispel word for water snake or garter snake. It’s now home to the Mistequa Casino, after originally opening as the Chewelah Casino in 1993. Many casinos offer craps among their table games, in which rolling a one on each of two six-sided dice is referred to as rolling “snake eyes.” Could the connection between the Kalispel word for water snake or garter snake and the term “snake eyes” be the reason the casino was renamed? Presumably not, since the casino offers blackjack and other table games... but not craps.

Back on Highway 395, we enter Blue Creek, named for Blue Creek; Addy, where nepotism played a role in its naming as postmaster E.S. Dudrey selected the nickname of his wife, Adeline; and Arden, which was named by an early settler named Jack Mooney — who obviously didn’t know he could have selected Mooneyville, Mooneytown, or Mooneyburg.

Another example of spell-checker not existing in the 19th century is Colville, named after the governor of the Hudson’s Bay Company, Andrew Colvile — with only one “L” in the second syllable, not two.

An early settler named Thomas Ward is the namesake of Ward, although he was not responsible for the community’s naming. Another early settler, Adam Boyd, is the namesake of Boyds, but it’s not known why the “S” was added to the town name. Between Ward and Boyds, Kettle Falls was named for the waterfall of the same name.

Barstow is not named for a body of water, but it does share a name with a California city that’s 42.7 miles northeast of where Highway 395 begins (or ends, depending on which way you’re going).

The origin of Dulwich is unknown, but it shares a name with a town in South Australia

and a neighborhood in London, England.

Just 10 miles from the Canadian border, we pass through Orient, named after the largely Chinese placer miners who extracted large amounts of gold ore during the first decade of the 20th century. Then it was on to Goldstake, part of the Orient Mining District of today’s Ferry County – so we can safely presume how it got its name.

Finally, 106 miles beyond Mead, we reach little Laurier at the Canadian border, named after Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who was the prime minister of Canada from 1896 to 1911.

There, two things came to mind:

1. We will need to return one day and continue our journey north because, at the border, U.S. Highway 395 becomes British Columbia Highway 395.

2. Given the Mead-Meade, Boyds-Boyd, and Colville-Colvile conundrums we encountered, it’s apparent not all historians are detail-oriented.

And then there’s yet another reason I hate artificial intelligence. An AI search revealed this information: “No major, real-world city is named Bob.”

Bob Johnson has received 99 national writing awards over the course of his career in journalism. Now a resident of North Idaho, he enjoys sharing his observations and ruminations with Huckleberry Press readers.

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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# 44403

\$565,000

Over 3,000 sq. ft. in this 4 bed/3.5bath home on a large corner lot within an hour of Spokane, with golf course and ski hill as a part of your new community. This home highlights custom craftsman build including a theater stage and full screen wired for sound/ lights and projector for all your family and or entertaining possibilities. Chewelah's Peye Creek babbling through the front yard, under your very own bridge, lighted path-

way and established native and elaborate landscaped yard. Fully fenced back and side yard in addition to a 2 car attached garage with workshop. This home has it all and the room and design to accommodate a multitude of living enjoyment and options! Come see it today.



MLS# 44583

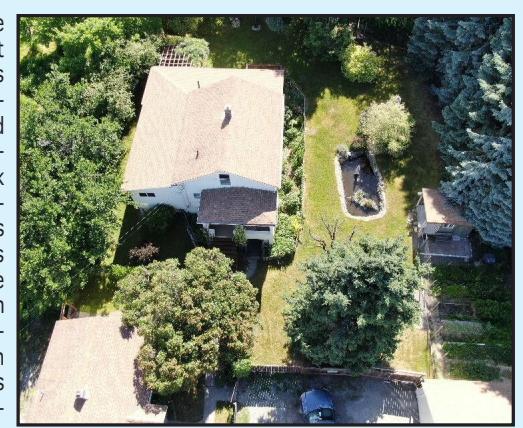
\$879,000



MLS# 44032

\$149,000

This lot is ready for your new home! Power, water and septic and concrete pad are installed (the old home was recently removed). The 2 car garage is on this property and the cars are in the process of being removed. Last home was 23'X 44'.



MLS# 44446

\$449,000

2 HOMES: Fantastic opportunity to live in one home and have a rental or guest home too. Beautifully updated 1930s home with stunning hardwood floors, primary bedroom & walk-in closet, updated bathroom with claw foot tub and shower. Door out to your own private deck to enjoy the peaceful setting. New appliances in the updated kitchen with pass through opening to the living room, gas log stove and French doors out to the pergola covered deck. Fenced garden area with shed and a separate greenhouse style shed. Year around pond with pump for watering and a creek that is spring fed. There is a French drain installed around the main house and an outside entry to the basement where the laundry is located and 2 cool storage rooms, Updated 1940 2-bedroom 1 bath ADU with its own fenced side yard. There is so much to this property you just have to see it to appreciate the beauty. The soil is incredible and the creek runs all year. The property is fenced with a few access options for easy entry to both yards. Plus a 2 car garage that has been freshly painted.



MLS# 44937

\$269,000

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# 45002

\$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

\$599,000

Kettle River Waterfront Paradise: it's like buying your own park! Elegantly built home with an open floor plan, vaulted ceilings with lots of windows to let the sunlight and views inside. Floor to ceiling tiled wood stove in the living room with a spacious redwood deck to watch the river flow. Special crafted kitchen with Acacia wood 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.



MLS# 44404

\$244,999

PRICED TO SELL - SMALL TOWN LIVING. Very well maintained home. This home is ready for you to make it your own. A large kitchen, 3 large bedrooms, 2 bath and one has a walk in bathtub. Pellet stove, heat pump, ceiling fan, wheel chair ramp, laundry room is off the kitchen in its own room, with exit/entry from the attached carport. Enjoy peace and quiet while sitting on your covered, screened in front porch or on the newly redone porch in the back. Partially fenced, large yard with established landscape and room for a garden. Large shed and/or workshop, existing slab and electrical are ready for your garage to be built, car shelter can stay. So much potential at a great price and READY TO MOVE IN!



MLS# 44847

\$869,000

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