



COMMUNITY NEWS

Public Safety & Street Racing
PG 2



BUSINESS NEWS

The Dollhouse Returns
PG 4



WRANGLER'S WRITINGS

His Morning Chew
PG 8

SUN VALLEY KETCHUM HAILEY



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Free | May 15 - 28, 2024 | Vol. 5 - No. 10 | woodriverweekly.com

"Foraging for life, love and the perfect meal."
- Ava Chin

FORAGING WILD EDIBLES

Food Grows Everywhere

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

Look around, leaves are bound, and the sky is a brazen shade of azure. Spring is here and summer approacheth. While the good people who source or grow produce, tote it to the farmers' market and make your comestibles dreams come true, you too can add to the bounty simply by walking your neighborhood or a riparian zone near you. What's more intriguing at a dinner party than edible flowers, morels, huckleberries or wild garlic that you plucked from the land yourself? Foraging is the next level in situational awareness—for what may be called "creative sustenance." Foragers know this and take advantage of the bounty within the boundaries of Blaine County for a unique, free and replenishable resource.

How many edible plants can you identify in Hailey? Maybe too many to list, but there are some common appetizing or medicinal plants and fungi that grow around town, on the outskirts, and maybe even in your own backyard. Wild apples, dandelions, Saskatoon and elderberries, nettles and wild onions are some of the many available riches. It's worth noting that there are any number of regions in the U.S. where you can find actual produce growing in the median. Seattle, for instance—in Ballard, and just north of that neighborhood, you'll regularly find zucchini, tomatoes, strawberries and herbs growing right there for anyone to harvest. Food forests have been gaining traction as people are realizing that food is actually infinitely abundant and easily grown. Anyone who's dealt in heirloom seeds knows this. What is a seedless watermelon? Maybe easier to eat, and there's no knocking Mendel and his modification of peas, but what actually is a fruit without seeds? Convenience? Your mileage may vary. Of course, climate and habitat play the starring role in all of this, as do the contents of the soil.

How Many Apple Trees Can You Count In Ketchum?

Community gardens are a slightly subtle but enormous victory for the locals who maintain and share or barter with their yield—true grassroots community living, pun intended. For those without a backyard, there are apps where you can rent garden space such as <https://yardyum.com/>. Sun Valley's Institute for Resilience is a great resource for finding local food <https://www.sunvalleyinstitute.org/localfoodalliance/> locallygrownguide. Mycologists and fungi fanatics might enjoy <https://idahomushroomclub.org/> serving southcentral Idaho.

Backcountry Bounty

It's very important to identify what you find and a quick search for 'foraging in Idaho' will yield quick results. There are dozens of photo-based plant and fungi identifying apps to consider, such as iNaturalist, PlantNet, Wild Edibles Forage. Resources to help you do that come in the form of apps, websites, books and even local foraging guides that donate their time and experience. Some basic tools will help—a pair of gloves, a utility knife, shearing scissors and a cheesecloth or even plastic bag to hold your harvest. You might opt for a printed field guide such as Foraging Idaho: Finding, Identifying, and Preparing Edible Wild Foods, Foraging in Idaho: Foraging Log Book for Local Backyard Gatherers: Hunting, Identification And Adventures or Wild Edible Plants of Idaho.

Foraging is often a community quest. You might find an appetizing batch of wild garlic in someone's yard and find that it's time to ask permission. This is an opportunity to open up a conversation, weaving the fabric of community, getting to know your neighbors and making new friends. But there are plenty of backcountry spots and riparian zones where you can have a walkabout and discover your treasure.

What treasures await the forager? Thimbleberries, lambs quarter (similar to spinach), wild raspberries and chickweed make for a splash of excitement for an enchanted luncheon. Exquisitely colorful and unique salads, pickled garlic, pine needles for a tea or ground to a powder and infused into ice cream are a handful of ideas for foraged goods.

The Cycle of Life

Keep in mind a few guidelines as foraging is something of a game. Consider the harmony intrinsic to the glory of Earth's ecosystem. Everything in the natural world has an interwoven purpose, from poison ivy to plantains. What may seem like a weed could be the roughage a hare loves, daily grazing for a goat or medicine for a mountain lion. Depending on what you're looking for, it's wise to take only as much as you intend to consume, reasonably, both to keep the balance in the plant and animal kingdom and to be courteous to other foragers.

Spring is morel season and brings out the most foragers, as these delicious fungi are highly profitable. An absolute delicacy, they're great for eating fresh, sauteing, drying for storage or even dried and ground for powder to add umami to soups or barbecue rubs. These delightful mushrooms can be found in forested areas, specifically near coniferous trees, including spruce, fir or pine. They're generally found on south-facing



Aric and Mandi Iverson foraging morel mushrooms. Photo credit: Barbara Patterson

slopes and, oddly enough, forest fires leave a perfect habitat for their growth. Always keep a guidebook with you for identification, as mushrooms can be tricky and false morels are toxic. The difference is easily recognizable as good morels have a honeycomb interior while the interior of false morels are more like cotton. Do note that the popularity of these mushrooms can require a permit, for up to 5 gallons per day, free from the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. It's wise to check with the office before lacing up your hiking boots.

Local Literacy

Some may remember the Hailey Alley Plant Walk, a popular event most recently held in August of 2023, that offered the chance to become familiar with the splendor in the grass around town. Learn to identify local species of plants with the Wood River Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society. It's a fun and educational event with an exercise component as you stroll through the alleys of Hailey. There's rumored to be another Edible Plant Walk for Adults in Hailey put on by The Nature Conservancy of Idaho.

But if you really want to match your skiing and hiking adventures with a flair for the edible, you may consider a backcountry adventure. Put on your long sleeves and loose pants, to guard against poisonous plants and insects, and escape northward into the vast expanse of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area to the Alice-Toxaway Loop and the Sawtooth Lake Trail for edible greens and berries. Heading east, you'll find the alpine meadows of the Pioneer Mountains where huckleberries and thimbleberries can be found on Hyndman Creek Trail and the Pioneer Cabin Trail. The Boulder Mountains, north of Ketchum offer forest and wetlands bearing gifts of mushrooms, berries and wild greens. Heading southward to the high-alpine trails of the Smoky Mountains, you can find nettles and wild onions on Goat Creek Trail or Prairie Creek Trail. If you hone in to the northeast, to the alpine lakes and meadows of the White Cloud Mountains, you're bound to find all manner of mushrooms, edible greens and berries on Washington Lake Trail and the Fourth of July Lake Trail.

Foraging is the ultimate foodie recreation for hikers with a hankering for exotic edibles. Plan your adventure! Pack your guidebooks, tools and keep an eagle eye out to hunt with the exultant realization that delicious vegetation is all around you in the mountains and meadows of Idaho. Imagine the delight in the vibe of your next dinner party—decorated with locally harvested and ironically exotic treats. Foraging is hunting, too, and a colorful way to enjoy May as we lead up to the summer months.

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Public Safety & Street Racing



Racing is rampant on Main Street, 1st and 2nd Avenues and Myrtle Street in Hailey. Photo credit: Isaiah Frizzell

BY ISIAH FRIZZELL

Asking for a friend?

Do you drive a Kia? Do you have a TikTok account? There's been a long trend on YouTube and TikTok of crews, who started in Cincinnati, that bust in through a Kia's back passenger window, use a flathead screwdriver to rake off the plastic steering column, pry off the ignition, and hidden below is a spot where they fit the end of a USB cord into the ignition and make it vroom! This 'great accomplishment' can be done in under a minute and a half.

What follows is a Grand Theft Auto-style tearing through streets, driving in the same lane—the opposite direction—frightening drivers and eventually drifting, crashing or even flipping the cars. Some of these Kias are then sold for as little as \$50-\$100 after the jacking.

Will this come to Blaine County? Unlikely! But due to the rampant racing that HAS been happening for years in the Valley, it's worth being aware of some of these ridiculous trends that kids, mostly gang affiliated, may get into. Watch your vehicle.

The Fast and the Foolish

The street racing in Blaine County is not even remotely new. If you frequent Facebook groups like Blaine County Rants and Raves or You Know You're Old School Ketchum or Hailey, you'll see people posting, livid and frightened, by the cars and commotion. Disruption of the peaceful by the rebellious. The illegal racing is rampant on Main Street, 1st and 2nd Avenues and Myrtle Street in Hailey. On Highway 75 they get going around 9 p.m. In Bellevue, they blast around 8th Street near O'Donnell Park—leaving everyone's nerves shot.

Every city has a crew of folk who hotrod and blast the streets, drifting and raging for the adrenaline and rebellion. What's in rebellion? A chance to be oneself, taste the forbidden fruit and socialize in some motorized cultural way. Perhaps fueled by movies and video games but really it's an age-old culture. Street racing has been going on since cars.

Anyone who's seen "Two Lane Blacktop" or "American Graffiti" knows the role. It's also well-known that Hollywood stars like James Dean or Steve McQueen, "icons of cool," would race their cars up and down Mulholland Drive. It is cultural—part and parcel of having a car and the teenage lightning that splashes from the pores of the young and aimless. Idle hands? In Minneapolis, a giant drag-racing event was broadcast on Snapchat by a large event promoter. They were summarily busted by their very posts to social media. Some call it "self-snitchin'". Story here (https://www.hometownsource.com/abc_newspapers/news/publicsafety/law-enforcement-busted-massive-street-racing-event-in-blaine/article_35a78d0e-ac44-11ea-878d-5bd98d2f1231.html)

Solutions

The situation begs for proactive action. Set up a social media account, share it with others, take photos or videos — everyone can post anonymously — and tag the local police department. It's optimal to get license plates, show make and model of the car, and the perpetrators' vehicles will be flagged for future violation backed by video evidence. Make no mistake, social media is a double-edged sword. Like all forces, it can be used for good, evil and all in between.

The issue is street racing. Is it kids being kids? For sure it's all ages, but it's not cool. The racing up and down and all around has everyone in the community spiraling. There are some things that just don't fly and recklessly putting people, oneself included, at risk of injury or death is socially bankrupt at best and morally cavalier.

Speaking out is necessary but ranting and raving with text in a general Facebook forum isn't going to do a whole lot without evidence, though it does spread the word. People are happy to announce locations of the nuisance but photos would seal the deal. A communi-

Continued
STREET RACING
Page 7

WRW STAFF

PUBLISHER

Christopher Seldon
(208) 788-4789
publisher@woodriverweekly.com

MARKETING & SALES

Mandi Iverson
(208) 721-7588
mandi@woodriverweekly.com

NEWS EDITOR

news@woodriverweekly.com

CALENDAR

mandi@woodriverweekly.com

COPY EDITOR

Patty Healey

PRODUCTION & DESIGN

Mandi Iverson
mandi@woodriverweekly.com

Christopher Seldon

chris@woodriverweekly.com

ACCOUNTING

accounting@woodriverweekly.com

DEADLINES

Display & Classified Ads, Monday 5 p.m.
Calendar Submissions — Friday 5 p.m.

CONTACT

Wood River Weekly
P.O. Box 3483 Hailey, Idaho 83333
(208) 788-4789 woodriverweekly.com

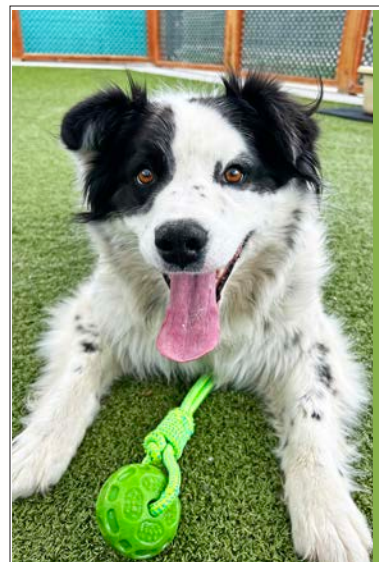


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DOLLHOUSE RETURNS

Lara Spencer Is Back

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

The Dollhouse? Reopening? The historic, iconic, and sparkling little consignment store that could is back, full tilt. The enigmatic Lara Spencer is home again, bringing her visionary heart and a living lucid dream to the people of the Wood River Valley. At a new location in Hailey, The Dollhouse is reborn and in service to the community with Spencer's radical take on social well-being through her amour de soi bodega.

History Does Rhyme

"All of this is a whole miracle," says Spencer on the reopening of The Dollhouse. "All of this is happening through manifestation and the support of the community." Spencer lives her life through vision and prayer. "When it's right, it flows and is almost effortless."

Spencer has been in consignment for over 25 years, far before it was a trend. She was recruited by the Seattle Mariners to help build Safeco Field working as a merchandise coordinator and manager for the flagship team store for a decade—a Major League babe working for Major League Baseball garnering the coveted title of Employee of the Year. How exquisitely American.

Dottie Spencer, Lara's mother, was a well-known interior designer who worked for Sun Valley Rug and Tile, while her brother, Michael Beasley, director of technology for The Community School, were longtime residents of the Valley. Lara Spencer, rocking the block in Seattle, one day received a letter. Her niece was being bullied at school, in a big way. Perhaps unconventionally beautiful and sensitive, the abuse was enough for the embattled young girl to reach out to her aunt and the potency of the note exploded in the crucible of Spencer's soul. She knew immediately what she was going to do and how she would do it. Everything she was to do became manifest in a single blistering moment as Spencer decided, resolutely, to move from Seattle to Ketchum and open The Dollhouse as a service to others with the express purpose of healing the esteem-afflicted and boosting the inner confidence and self-image of all who would enter or come in contact with her services.

"The mission statement is and has been, always, 'service first, financial gain second.' I made the decision to move when I received that letter. 'I'm going to move to Ketchum where my family is. I'm going to build this thing, I'm going to be recycled, I'm going to be of service and I'm going to make sure everybody who walks through the door feels valued.' All of a sudden I knew what I was going to build. I knew what the name was. I knew where it was going to go and I had never even seen the space. The Valley needs this. Service first.

"So, I called The Advocates in 2006 and talked to the social change coordinator, Darrel Harris, and I said, 'My name is Lara. I'm going to build a small business and it's going to be inclusive and positive to everyone and I want to be of service to you.' And that's how that started."

A survivor of domestic violence herself, Spencer was on a mission to be of service to the traumatized and the bullied. The Dollhouse was open for a decade, from 2006–2016. Longtime locals know it well and remember it ecstatically as a pure vibe. More than a store, it was an egregore.

"All these years later I'm restarting. Before I put any money down on anything, I called Darrel Harris and I said, 'I'm back! I'm ready to help and I'm going to run it the same way I did before, and she lost her mind. She said, 'I was just talking about you yesterday!' And literally we'd not spoken in over five years! She said, 'We're looking for new visions and creative events like you did all those years ago.' God, source, creator, whatever you call it, things come together in that way. But the way it has to work for me, I have to give to heal."

The Heart Meanders Magnetic

Spencer has been through much since The Dollhouse closed, but the critical years were those of the COVID-19 pandemic. These years inflicted acute trauma on nearly everyone, on nearly every level. "In my particular case, it was a very, very hard realization to see that half the people don't care about the other half of the people. And my spirit broke. I live for service and it really damaged me spiritually. Before the pandemic, people



Lara Spencer in front of the new location of The Dollhouse in Hailey. Photo credit: Lara Spencer

moved here to be connected, to slow down their lives and to give. And then it changed dramatically, and the change was so fast it sped up everything that happened in our world, in our community, and we didn't have the infrastructure. Our service workers are leaving. And to be honest, it's us, the face-running service workers of the community, we create the vibe of this town. We're the different that make it different, the kind that make it kind. If we lose all of us, there's nothing to offer except nature, which we didn't build in the first place. Our tapestry is unwoven. Anyone in this town that knows me will be surprised to hear that I couldn't hold a positive space. I could not do it. I was rocked."

Community was the first to suffer through isolation, polarization and misguided stances pressed by mainstream media. A confluence of events pressed Spencer. Her mother died on her birthday in December just before the pandemic and shortly after she had spinal surgery. Things were piling up. "After that experience, what I needed was community members. I was working at the time during the pandemic and I just, I resigned. Too broken. I had a girlfriend call me. 'Come over to the Sawtooth Brewery, the tap room in Hailey. I'm leaving. Come take this job.' I thought, no, I don't think I can do that job, I don't think this is what will heal me. She knows me very well. She said, 'No, you're wrong, come down.' I went and I sat there for about three hours. I had the best root beer and watched her work. And it happened, I got this great warm feeling. And I'm realizing this is where the community hangs out, year-round. They want a family atmosphere to relax in. And I realized I can do this, I can be a part of this and I can heal. And I saw how much work they do in the community with Music in the Park in the summertime and a couple beer [sales] to charity, one being the Big Wood River Project. Things got better and better for me being surrounded by the community. It got me to this space where my heart is almost healed and I met the people who helped manifest the magic."

Spencer speaks with a heavy undertone of concern that sparkles with care.

"I knew when I'm ready it will happen. And it was Jed Lyttle, a fifth-generation Haileyite, a Realtor, who comes in for his weekly minute to himself, who said, 'Lara, there's a sign!' I ran across the street and the sign was down. Heartbroken. Two weeks later, he says, 'Lara, there's that same sign again,' so I ran over there and wrote the number on a Post-it note and later that night I sent a message. It was an owner who's been in the Valley for a very long time. He cares about the way our town is constructed, so that we don't lose any more history. He knew who I was. I wasn't the first in line but everyone fell out and this deal to rent the space was done with a handshake. He had faith in me."

Extolling the smoothness of the wheels that service-to-your-community keeps oiled, Spencer

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Continued
DOLLHOUSE
Next Page

The New Dollhouse

Continued from Previous Page

raps onward.

“I called Darrel and people came out of the woodwork and said, ‘I’m going to support you the best I can.’ You know, like even bringing clothes in a bag because I’m in consignment. But what made the most impact was that people were cheerleading for me to be my best self and several of these people had just moved to the Valley from California (Spencer stresses the syllables) but they were kind and they were physically contributing to the community. And that’s when I realized, holy cow, I’m here to say our community ISN’T gone. I have to remind people! We didn’t write the story about the hurt. How the pandemic affected the community. So you know, how do we fix what was broken, how do we get that back? We need to regroup and I’m here to stand up and say, ‘This is how you fix it.’ How do you move forward and back at the same time? Watch me do this! I’m going to move forward by building a business that gives back to the Valley. Not only am I going to move forward by building The Dollhouse again, I’m going to roll it back at the same time. It’s not Dollhouse 2.0. It’s Dollhouse negative zero.

Can You Hear Me Now?

“I have a telephone, one line, with buttons. It doesn’t have call waiting and there’s an answering machine that you put a tape in. And the slowdown comes with things like that. I’m going to make sure that we have eye contact and meaningful conversations happen because The Dollhouse offers a lot of pretty things but they’re just a vehicle to get to a deeper subject matter. A lot of people can create a store but I’m blessed with a gift that helps people feel intimately close to me and through the vehicle of fashion we get to talk about self-image, about feeling less-than at the job, and we get to talk about winning. You know, I wore this jacket you fit me in and got the job! Those are the conversations that lead to success for everyone. And if the people around me are successful, are healing, they’re going to carry that message forward. That’s the point. I care first about kindness and community and second about the money. That’s a winning system in this community. So we’re in the process of building something that’s so needed now. Because of the pandemic onslaught, people need an extra way for a side hustle that’s in town.”

Consignment is something like a ‘public goods’; an inexhaustible resource inclusive to all. When community members, who care about local and care about community, have a means to generate income, within their community, they have a flexible resource to use and replenish for the benefit of all. It becomes a sort of mecca, stitching the fabric of the community back together.

As Spencer says, “Consignment is a very specialized niche in the retail world and it takes years to master it. You can’t work at Nordstrom for 20 years, walk in and run a consignment store. It’s super-hands-on and I failed a lot before I got really good at it. I’m not an online seller. If I’m selling to my community, my community should kinda walk in the door unless they’re bedridden or need something special and then I’ll drive to your house.

“I’m going to be able to bring things in, sell them, and then those checks will go out and pay someone’s rent. Some of them will go into a savings account for someone in high school. I’m able to make them more money than any store in this Valley or anything online.”

The Dollhouse will be directly across the street from The Attic. Spencer states that when she receives items that she can’t sell, she’ll be donating them directly to The Attic. “Because The Attic has proven what they do with that money. I’ve watched them grow – the housing they provide, the services.”

Standards

Spencer was the very first consignment boutique in the Valley. In addition to sitting on the board of directors for The Advocates, she was also their keynote speaker. Community is in her DNA. She’s mentored high school students who received credit for school through her programs, helped the Hailey Fire Department buy their first flagpole, and created a fundraising event for the art department at Wood River High School.

“How do we inspire others to a higher plane? Impact. It’s all about impact, heartfelt impact. I have a trunk full of love letters from so many locals. People who know. They’ll be able to come in and not be judged.”

A Love Letter to Community

“Dear Lara – Do you know what happens in your shop? Well, let me tell you. Spirit happens. Light happens. Empowerment, grace, beauty. Love happens in your shop. I’m not sure one can accurately put a name to what happens at The Dollhouse, but I can tell you that people have a transformative experience there. You take such great care of the women. Truly great care from your heart. You exude the truest light, love & share it freely. You and The Dollhouse are an amazing gift to this Valley. Rock on! Doll #1 (A local shopper) from Spencer’s collection of love letters to her and The Dollhouse.

Spencer’s last ad for The Dollhouse had said, ‘It’s not goodbye, it’s see you later.’ A mock cover of Rolling Stone magazine — the ad was prescient. A true Phoenix, Spencer has arrived again.

“Everyone matters. I don’t know if I could have done it without the love of so many people saying, ‘It’s your time.’ Energy is a real thing. The energy they’re throwing at me actually matters. They were pushing the energy and giving me so much love, it manifested!”

“My specialty is women and teen girls. It’s my counseling ability. I relate to that, that’s my background as a survivor of domestic violence and living through abuse. But the landscape has changed

*Continued
LARA SPENCER
Next Page*

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Lara Spencer

Continued from Previous Page

as far as gender roles and what it looks like now. I don't think there's any other store open but The Dollhouse Consignment Boutique that is a gender-fluid recycled fashion house. That's what it is and I'm proud to call it that. There will be signs in Spanish because that's important. It's about the confidence, it's not about the ego. I want to own it and set a new standard for what we do in this Valley and open up that mindset. I'll set the tone. The Dollhouse was always that. It's a mix of fashion and styles and purposes. Gender-fluid is so new in this Valley. I have a new construct.

"I'm going to take in women's sizes zero to 3X. I'm trying to break down all these barriers. You know, junior cut girls size zero to thirteen. And this is a test because men wear their clothes out here in this Valley, so specifically men's cuts? I want graphic T-shirts, band T-shirts or something odd. I want hoodies, cowboy jeans and 501s because all of that can flex. If that works, we'll expand it. I'm going to take feedback and we'll grow in the direction that works for the community."

Fashion holds many keys. Uniforms, power suits, trending styles, club kid fits—it takes a belief in oneself, not a selfish grasping, but genuine self-care, self-love and the desire to inspire others. Often the brightly dressed are judged as attention seeking and while that may be occasionally true, the inner confidence required to wear expressive clothing is an intentional gift to those who observe the wearer. It can be inspiring and at its core is a type of service—an energy exchange donated by the person gleefully wearing the outfit.

"This is about love. It's about loving your community

enough to say, 'I'm going to take a stand.' The pandemic broke me and I became bitter. I'm not afraid of anything in this world but I was afraid to be bitter. It happened to me and I had to fight to get it out of my spirit. So how do I, now with a platform, help bring back our town? It's slowing things down, using a push-button telephone, making sure the interactions happen."

Spencer laughs and twirls the idea of putting a sticker up that says 'No Cellphones'. She flinches at the idea of using Apple Pay because she wants to be able to look people in the eye, say thank you and continue the conversation.

"It's about the physical modeling. Welcome to The Dollhouse! Not allowing negative-image selftalk in the store, helping people switch their language and actually walking the walk. Giving clothing out to, of course, The Advocates, but I will support Mountain Humane because of the dogs and cats and animals! The women of this Valley who've been here for decades, like myself, it is incumbent upon us to walk that walk and be grace. That's a huge word, grace. You know we lost the grace, the ability to be graceful for a little bit there. I know so many people that think it's gone. I'm here to say 'NO, IT ISN'T'!"

Spencer doesn't so much speak as sing the essence of community and the ability for solutions-based thinking. "Community members whispered about the problems that arose from people who came here and didn't say 'on your left' or just push you out of the way, let their dogs go anywhere and not pick it up. People who don't understand how to live this way, in this community. The demoralization came because we whispered. I don't have to whisper anymore. This is a 'we' planet. We are the solution. We have been demoralized but we don't have to stay there!"

"I think The Dollhouse will have a community-standards board in the store so people understand "how we



New location of the Dollhouse in Hailey. Photo credit: Lara Spencer

live and why we live the way we do." Doing community our way. Yeah! I'm gonna do that, oh my goodness!"

The time is now. Grand opening date will be advertised on Facebook and via press release.

How to Consign at The Dollhouse

Beginning May 15, 2024, there will be an open drop-box any time between 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday through the end of May. You can bring up to 30 items clean, folded in a garbage bag—anything from jewelry to shoes to handbags to clothing.

If you have any special needs (e.g. a late-night drop or otherwise) email Lara Spencer at thedollhouse5b@gmail.com

Lara Spencer is a 5B OG, *iykyk* – a genuine Phoenix ready to rock the Valley wide awake and embroider the community with kindness and love.

After the month of May, The Dollhouse will be consignment by appointment only. Landline phone number to come.



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Street Racing

Continued from Page 2

ty forum for this type of thing is in order. The community must nip it in the bud by vigilance and the ever-trusty phone camera. No one wants to play this game but when the hand is forced? The police are doing their best and it's challenging to be in all places at once. Photos and anonymous tips could change the game. Perhaps there is a solution in the making—as a citizen's duty.

Keeping the community safe

Playing devil's advocate, there are places these adrenaline escapades could proceed where no citizen would be harmed. The idle will continue to rival—perhaps they just need a venue? What if there were a designated, lonely, haunted country road where the wild could rip their rods? Perhaps for a trophy or a taxed money pot? That's an interesting but somewhat reasonable example

of finding a solution that offers a compromise without the boot on the face of the word 'No'.

Kids will be kids, and maybe just giving them a space to be kids could work. People like to say "there will always be outlaws" but is that type of language really useful? Proactive solutions begin with collaborative words. Encouraging all manner of freedoms generally results in a win for everyone involved. Do mothers and fathers like to see their children join MMA fighting or go off to battle a banker's war in a foreign land? Usually not, but they do it to activate some semblance of a greater good. Yes, it's somewhat controversial but that's where the rubber meets the road in life. Striking a balance between freedom of expression and public safety.

An example of this can be found where drag racing is measured and metered. "It's easy to forget how far drag racing has evolved in 60+ years since the car-crazy '50s got everything going. The early drag strips were funded largely by fraternal social groups, like the Elks or the Lions, as a solution to rampant street racing and all the trouble that was often the result. The goal was to

get the speed-obsessed kids off of the streets and into a better and safer venue where they could feed their compulsions without danger to the general public. It worked, and drag racing became hugely popular. Car clubs now had a place to settle their beef and once the flag dropped, loudmouths were forced to put up or shut up. And not much has changed." (<https://www.drivingline.com/articles/drag-racing-101-understanding-the-basics-of-1320-racing/>)

Everything is a compromise. How can you flip a problem into a solution—and potentially profit from it? Courageous thinking and diplomatic action.

Which type of hand creates harmony—the iron fist of constraint or the velvet glove of compromise? Of course, yes, they have to stop doing this on the streets of Blaine County; however, they may not have to stop doing it altogether. Diplomacy and forward thinking help harmonize the heinous and, as a community, it can be done. Solutions, sublimation and the diplomacy of proactive thinking could result in a safe, metered path to winning on all sides.

Pickleball With Men's Second Chance Living House

Men's Second Chance Living House (MSCL) invites everyone to save the date for their third annual Pickleball Tournament fundraiser, to be held on Saturday, August 1-4, 2024 at The Valley Club. Building on two highly successful past events, this summer's tournament will be bigger, more exciting, and more fun than ever.

Tennis Legends John McEnroe, Mikael Pernfors, Vince Van Patten and our very own Mats Wilander will be part of that excitement as they help coach and play throughout the weekend.

MSCL House is thrilled to announce a partnership with the Wood River Pickleball Alliance (WRPA) for this year's event. WRPA is a dedicated volunteer organization that whose mission is to build community through the sport of Pickleball. WRPA offers free clinics and equipment, works to actively get people involved in the sport that is sweeping the nation and supports outreach programs in the community. They are instrumental in making the August event one to remember.

Since 2018, Men's Second Chance Living has been helping men achieve sustained recovery from substance use disorders and successfully reenter society. We inspire renewal for all men who choose a future of sober living. We promote a healthy process leading to sustained recovery through our four r's, which include Recovery living, Rebuilding critical support systems, Restoring physical and mental health, and Reentering the workforce.

This is the can't-miss event of the Sun Valley summer season. This weekend is critical in supporting yearly operating costs for MSCL and offering the best services to men in early recovery from substance use disorders.

This new partnership brings exciting changes to the 3rd Annual Pickleball Tournament. In addition to the popular team tournament, a Legends & Celebrity Weekend Senior Pro Invitational will bring tennis legends, celebrities, and top senior pickleball pros from around the country to play exhibition games, host clinics, and compete for prize money. We are excited to announce the following legends participating in this incredible event:

- John McEnroe, former #1 professional tennis player
- Sun Valley's own Mats Wilander, former #1 professional tennis player
- Mikael Pernfors, French Open Finalist and back-to-back NCAA Singles Champion
- Actor/former top 25 Professional Tennis Player Vince Van Patten

But not all the fun is taking place on the courts! Additional events will include a welcome party, Legends dinner and pickleball exhibition and paddle up at a private residence with the opportunity to bid on playing Sunday with the Legends.

High visibility sponsor opportunities are available throughout the weekend. Please email Sonya at sonya@msclhouse.org or Joanne at WRPAEvents@gmail.com

Wood River Land Trust Celebrates with the Community

This June, the Wood River Land Trust embarks on a celebration of 30 years of dedicated conservation and community building in the Wood River Valley. Under the theme "30 Years of Connecting Wild Spaces + Creating Happy Places," the year-long celebration will highlight the significant efforts made possible by the action and support of our local community.

Founded by a small group of concerned citizens in 1994, the Wood River Land Trust has been instrumental in shaping the landscape and ethos of the Wood River Valley. Together with the support of the community, the Land Trust has created and opened 16 public nature preserves that provide the backdrop for our daily lives; protected almost 28,000 acres of wildlife habitat and working lands; restored over 19 miles of rivers and streams; and fostered a love for nature to ensure these places are cherished for generations. "This anniversary is a reflection of all that we've been able to accomplish with the help of our community," says Amy Trujillo, executive director of the Land Trust, "and also a recognition of the work still to be done and our continued commitment to protecting the wild spaces and happy places important to our community."

The Wood River Land Trust invites the community to celebrate this shared commitment throughout the year at events sponsored in part by local businesses and organizations, that encapsulate the spirit of community connectivity that the Land Trust values. Some of these summer events include:

- Boxcar Bend Volunteer Work Party – June 15, 2024
- Weed Warrior Day at Howard Preserve – June 28, 2024
- Hailey Rocks! Summer Music Series – July 11, 2024
- Big Wood River Clean Up and Howard Preserve Anniversary Picnic – September 21, 2024
- The Wood River Land Trust invites all community members, partners, and friends to join in celebrating the 30th anniversary. In partnership with the community, they will continue to build upon a legacy of conservation and connection, ensuring the Wood River Valley remains a place where nature and community thrive in harmony.

For media inquiries or further information, please email info@woodriverlandtrust.org.

Project 208 FC Redefines Girls' Soccer in the Wood River Valley

Project 208 FC, formerly recognized as Albion SC Sun Valley, is a new local organization focusing on the enhancement of girls' youth soccer in the Wood River Valley. This is a club dedicated to girl players with the birth year of 2016 through 2006 interested in a positive experience developing the love of soccer.

"When I was my daughter's age, I played soccer with the boys at Wood River Junior High School. There wasn't a team opportunity for girls," says soccer mom Andrea Gallegos. "Now my daughter is enjoying the current SV Albion 2010 girls' team, and we are excited for the future of the girls exclusive Project 208 FC. It is fun to watch her thrive in the sport that we both love and to have these opportunities for young women."

Kevin Hansmeyer, executive director of Project 208 FC, has been a coach for 15 years in California and in the Wood River Valley. He is the current director of soccer for the middle school at Sun Valley Community School and the director of soccer for Albion SC Sun Valley. In his current role, he coaches girls' teams years 2011 through 2005. They have enjoyed the options to participate in local and national tournaments and games. These teams create an opportunity for the girls to play with others that attend different local schools, fostering a deeper connection between players within the greater community.

"Playing a sport is about connections. The connections we make on the field, as a team, and with ourselves," says Kevin Hansmeyer. "My job is to help individual players navigate this process with the goal of developing a love for the game and themselves."

One of the benefits of forming Project 208 is to cut the costs of being associated with a large national club. Project 208 FC can provide an affordable but also a world-class experience with player scholarships available.

"We will be the highest paying club in the Valley for coaching staff, maybe in Idaho. By forming Project 208 FC we can offer many additional resources for our players," says Hansmeyer. "We currently offer private training, professional mental health coaching, and fitness programs. With these additional resources we will develop the whole self with an understanding of the psychological, physiological, tactical, and technical development levels of the young player. This is what drives the mission of Project 208 FC."

In support of the mission, Project 208 FC formed a board with leadership positions all held by local women with children that participate in youth soccer in the Valley.

Project 208 FC is multi-sport friendly, and all coaches are USSA licensed. It is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and any level of player experience is welcome.

To learn more about Project 208 FC and the soccer programs for girls, please visit project208fc.org.

Wanderlust: Bike Packing the Great Divide

The Hailey Public Library will host Bike Packing the Great Divide, the final talk in the popular Wanderlust series, with adventurer Shannon Jackson. Shannon and her husband mountain biked the full length of the renowned Great Divide Mountain Bike Route, which runs from Mexico to Canada. The free talk will be held Thursday, May 16, at 5:30 p.m. at Town Center West, 7 West Croy Street, in Hailey, and live streamed.

"Shannon is well known in the Valley as an avid backpacker, skier and cyclist," commented Kristin Fletcher, the library's education and engagement manager. "She may have outdone herself when she tackled the 2,700-mile route from the Mexican border to Banff, Canada, on mountain bikes with her husband to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary!"

Fletcher continued, "This will be an evening of beautiful scenery and entertaining stories from the trail suitable for armchair travelers or active outdoor adventurers. The Wanderlust series has taken us on explorations ranging from Morocco to Craters of the Moon to fascinating spots in between. We look forward to bringing it back next winter."

A retired registered dietitian and sports nutritionist, Shannon Jackson is a longtime resident of the Wood River Valley and an active outdoorsperson. Her book, *Better and Happier Together: Stories of Epic Adventures During Our First Forty Years of Marriage*, was published in 2023.

For more information about this and other talks, call (208) 788-2036 or visit www.haileypubliclibrary.org.



FISHING REPORT



THE "WEEKLY"
FISHING REPORT FOR
MAY 15 - 28
FROM PICABO ANGLER

Opening Day is right around the corner. Are you ready? Opening Day is May 25th this year and, of course, our famous Picabo Angler Opening Weekend Party is on Friday, May 24th at 5 p.m. behind the fly shop. There will be great raffles, food, beverages, live music, and more. All of our flyfishing-gear representatives will be on hand showcasing new product, and it will be a great opportunity to catch up with Picabo Angler staff and friends old and new. See you on May 24th!

If you are getting ready for the season, it's time to think about getting your gear organized and in good order. Be sure your fly boxes are full of the good early-season patterns. Silver Creek may be the only game in town with the spring runoff on other rivers. For the Creek, be sure to have Baetis, PMD, Callibaetis, Ants, Beetles and Brown Drakes. Come on in and check out all the new patterns here at Picabo Angler.

Anglers should check boots and waders. How are those bootlaces looking? How about those pinholes in your waders? Is it time for a patch or even a new pair of warm, dry waders?

It's time to throw out those old leaders and tippet spools, as well. Are you still using your tippet from three seasons ago? It's probably gone bad, as all tippet does eventually. Replace it with new stuff and lose a lot less fish this summer.

If you need to wet a line, you are a bit limited locally, but Magic Reservoir is fishing quite well at the moment. Leech patterns, streamers, and chironomids are your best bet. Give us a call with any questions.

Finally, take a moment and think about the fun we are all going to have together this summer. Flyfishing is for everyone and anyone. We will be fishing close together until the runoff abates and other fisheries come into play. In the meantime, let's remember that fishing is all about fun and camaraderie!

Hope to see you all on Friday, May 24th!

Happy fishing, everyone!



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COMMENTARY

NO BONES ABOUT IT

FRAN JEWELL

Making Walks More Fun

BY FRAN JEWELL

Everyone walks their dogs. Many take advantage of that time to catch up on phone calls or chatting with fellow walkers. Many times our walks turn into "our" walks instead of a walk for the dog. That can be a good thing, too. It can be the only break in an otherwise stressful day for us. I am always refreshed after taking a walk with my dog(s).

We can ramp up those walks for our dogs, tiring them out a little faster and giving them a job to do. This is especially important for some of the really high-energy dogs like border collies, Aussies, and almost all of the hunting breeds. In fact, this enrichment activity is good for EVERY dog! It can help the shy or fearful dog. Old dogs still have this instinctual skill that can keep him so happy for a very long time. Dogs that like to run off looking for trouble can benefit from this activity. Even the perfect dog will enjoy his walk even more so when you incorporate this activity.

What is it? Using your dog's nose! The dog's nose is so beyond what any of us can even imagine. It is their natural ability for survival. We think what dogs really need is playing with other dogs but, given a choice, many dogs will choose using their nose over play with another dog. Notice I said many, not ALL. I did search and rescue with two of my air-scent dogs for almost 10 years. When you see a dog find a few hairs on the ground 100 feet away or a button in a five-acre field, you begin to understand just how keen that survival skill of scenting is.

How do we incorporate that into a walk? Finding odors start at home. First, hide a few pieces of stinky treats around your home; under a chair, behind a plant, or even slightly under a rug. Attach a word to that as your dog hunts for the food. Say either "go find it" or "search." Say the word when your dog FINDS the treat. Soon, he will attach that scenting/searching behavior with the word and then it can become a command.

Next, plant a few treats in the yard for your dog to go find. Help him by pointing to it if he doesn't find it right away.

Now, if you have a really fast, nosy dog, you can place treats in a small container, such a clean Altoids box with a few holes punched in it. I am always looking for small containers to hide treats in. But, the container must be big enough that your dog cannot swallow it. You can even use an old wallet, or small purse you get from a thrift store. I used to use those when I was training my search-and-rescue dogs to find articles.

On your walk, before you let your dog out of the car, walk along



Photo credit: Fran Jewell

the route you plan to take and drop a container here or there. As you walk, say your "find it" or "search" command so your pup knows to start using his nose. It is best if you walk somewhere that there are not many other dogs that will find the container before your dog does. You can also do the same game in your backyard. When your dog finds the container, teach him to sit while you get the treat out and then keep the found tin in your pocket for the next walk.

Be sure to remember where all the containers were and pick them up. We don't want wild critters attracted to the areas you walk by rewarding them with food!

When I did search and rescue, every walk was about finding a wallet, a sock, or a glove or any other object that had only human scent on it. But, my dogs were taught to find the human scent for search and rescue. Even now, my tracking and pet dogs LOVE to find objects!

Making your walk more challenging for your dog will bring you closer to your dog and enrich both of your lives. It can keep the wandering dog from running off. It can help the overly-energetic dog be more tired and easier to live with. Be creative about what you can add for him to search. Use different containers, different food, and different places. This will guarantee more fun for both of you when you discover just how incredibly smart your dog is!

Happy hiking!

Fran Jewell is a dog behavior consultant, NADOI-certified instructor and vice president. She owns Positive Puppy Dog Training LLC and can be reached at (208) 721-7221.

SCIENCE OF PLACE

HARRY WEEKES

Grouching

BY HARRY WEEKES

From the start of November until the end of April, my morning routine is pretty simple. I get up when I wake up, shuffle to the other end of the house, put on my walking clothes, and head out into Indian Creek. This skulking around happens in the dark, with my mornings guided by either the faint glow of dimmer switches or ambient light from the moon and stars.

All of this changes by May, when there is enough light in the sky by the end of my walks that I am no longer able to distinguish stars in the sky. The Dachshunds, less governed by time than they are by the sun, suddenly find enough light to entice them out of bed and into the kitchen, where I immediately put them out for their own morning rituals.

As Whiskey is new to the planet (he's the 6-month-old), he is still developing a routine, and figuring out what to make of the world (born in the winter, the sights, smells, and sounds of spring are still novel for him).

On this morning, Olive did her usual business and returned to the door as quickly as possible. Whiskey, for his part, seemed to bask in the emerging morning. He sat side-saddled (as mini-Dachshunds do) on the patio, gently moving his head back and forth, bobbing it ever so slightly as he drank in the smells and let the sounds of the birds wash over him. Brewer's sparrows sang away, robins chirped loudly, and the first towhees buzzed from the nearby willows.

Moving about, preparing for my own day, it's easy to pay attention to what's in front of me, and just as easy not to pay attention to what isn't. There was something wonderfully peaceful and casual in Whiskey, something that made me take a moment to consider what he was considering. As I watched him, he turned his head up and looked intently into the trees. I followed his gaze to find the silhouette of a female dusky grouse awkwardly working her way about the ends of the branches, happily munching on the aspen catkins. (What's nice about writing a piece like this after the event is that I can say "female dusky grouse" as though I was able to distinguish that in the twilight. You'll soon understand how I knew.)

There is something so wonderfully absurd about a heavy-bodied bird like a grouse struggling on the tightropes of thin aspen branches that I figured I had better get a picture. Whiskey took the opportunity to give up the grouse and return to bed.

As I took the picture, two more females joined. And then I started to hear another scratching, and clucking, and thumping. Realizing

it came from above, I backed out into the yard to find a male dusky grouse in full display—red throat pouches extended, yellow eyebrow prominent, and tail up and bristling. He danced around the roof in short running bursts, punctuated by directed clucks at the females gathered around their breakfast and over my head.

I had planned for this piece to be about the harriers nesting off our driveway. But I followed the morning gaze of a miniature Dachshund to the trees surrounding my house, a moment I could have passed up in a thousand ways.

Olive, who had watched the whole thing, simply tucked her head back into the cushions, apparently not able to understand why either dog or human would stand in the cold, marveling at the birds.

Harry Weekes is the founder and head of school at The Sage School in Hailey. This is his 52nd year in the Wood River Valley, where he lives with Hilary and one of their three baby adults—Simon. The other members of the flock are Georgia and Penelope (Georgia recently fledged from Davidson College in North Carolina and Penelope is at Middlebury College in Vermont).



Dusky grouse male. Photo credit: Harry Weekes

Are CPAs Becoming An Endangered Species?

BY SUZANNE HAZLETT, MBA, CIMA®, CFP®

In a series of articles last year, the Wall Street Journal asked and answered the question, “Why is no one going into accounting?” The Journal asserted that what was once a launchpad into the upper middle class for hundreds of thousands of Americans, a decades-long career in accounting is no longer paying off. Salaries have risen for young people in finance, marketing, logistics and consulting in recent years. At the same time, the median, inflation-adjusted pay for young accountants has stagnated, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of salary data compiled by the Census Bureau.

It’s true only some people need a professional in their corner come tax season. For others, tax software might be adequate when followed by a professional review. But for those with K-1s to contend with from master limited partnerships, complicated business structures, income from multiple states, major life transitions, or other complicated tax scenarios, a strategic, knowledgeable numbers pro may be valuable when it comes to tax planning.

Here are a few signs that you’ve found the right tax professional.

1. **They have good ideas before you do.** Your accountant should proactively lead the tax strategy conversation, collaborating closely with your other professional advisors.
2. **The shoe fits.** Your accountant should have experience in your particular situation and be capable of thoroughly researching rarer issues. It helps, too, if your values align with the person who’ll know every detail of your financial life.
3. **They’re in the know.** The laws surrounding personal and business deductions change. Expect your accountant to be up to speed on regulatory changes and current tax law and to keep you informed in the language you understand.
4. **Their reputation precedes them.** You’ll likely want to work with someone vetted and recommended by people you know well and trust.
5. **They’re accountable for what they say and do.** Your accountant should be responsive, responsible, trustworthy, and transparent. They don’t have to be an expert in everything but should be able to research an issue and get back to you as needed. Prompt, honest communication paired with a proposed solution is what you’re looking for. This relationship should last, so when you find the ideal fit, let that professional know you value them.



Suzanne Hazlett, MBA, CIMA®, CFP® is the founder of Hazlett Wealth Management, LLC.

“Accounting is not just about counting beans; it’s about making every bean count.”
– William Reed

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Dreaming Our Future

BY DOVE

Do you take time to remember your dreams and see what kind of insights those nocturnal journeys give you? Or do you just move on with no introspection about where you go at night? From what I have studied, your consciousness takes a trip at night to parts of you that are unknown. This gives you the opportunity to explore the unknown energies that need to be resolved, or enjoyed, as the case may be. Repetitive dreams I believe are true messages for you to bring to your conscious mind. I know I had a repetitive dream that occurred about 49 times until I actually threw a lamp at the masculine aspect of myself in a dream. I really needed that part of myself to wake up, have courage to speak my truth and live the life that would bring me joy. After I threw the lamp in the dream, I never had it again. Once I got the message in my conscious mind, I had the perseverance to move forward.

What if we could merge our unconscious mind with our conscious mind and bring all the wisdom for all our journeys into our reality? I think we could move forward into our divine purpose and fulfillment rapidly. When we keep parts of ourselves hidden from view, we never really embrace all of who we are. For me, that becomes the whole journey; embracing all of who we are with love creates a pathway to health, abundance and joy. In order to embrace all of who we are, we must know and accept all of who we are. The good, the bad and the unknown become visible, and we feel all of it and remove it from judgment. We are loved by Source; now we must be loved by us.

We are not little. We are magnificent beings of energy that have been suppressed by doctrines of limitation and beliefs of unworthiness. To come into this reality takes the greatest courage of just about any incarnation. It is not for the weak of heart or mind. Develop compassion for all who are challenged by this life. Become an example of compassion and strength for all to follow. Give each person the tools to rise above the limitations they have accepted and imposed on themselves or others. You can’t do it for them, but you can be an example to them and start them on their path. It is up to them to stay on their path.

Now is the time to shine your light with every ounce of your being. Your light is needed to shift the energies into that of grace. Examine your dreams, mesh them together with your reality. Become the best you can be, and others will follow. Dream your magnificence from a place of compassion and humility and your purpose will be manifested in joy. Much love, Dove



COME ON: STILL COVID

BY JOELLEN COLLINS

I can imagine that many of the “survivors” of the recent world pandemic are breathing some sighs of relief that the coronavirus is not quite as dangerously deadly than it was months ago. Most thought we could resume our lives “kind of” as they were pre-COVID. We no longer were required to spend many days in isolation and be flexible about institutions that had changed or been closed because of the widespread transmission of this virus.

I thought I could now visit some friends, shop without being required to wear a mask, and even travel again. I have learned this is not always true, and that beyond being careful about checking for signs of the disease and considerate of others who may risk more extreme effects if contaminated with COVID, life might return to “normal.”

To quote the great Gershwin lyric, “It ain’t necessarily so.” Life is not the same. For example, we are affected by the damage done to education through decreasing attendance and learning via computer versus an in-person teacher. Will children behave differently with peers after long months of not being able to study or play together? Where are the social lessons of the playground and classroom between peers and teachers?

We have noted the delays in many of our endeavors due to new seating, crowds, and a loss of comforting ways we could show empathy. Shaking hands is still anathema to some, hugs rare, and distance exacerbated by the new difficulties of travel. I used to take lightly these challenges, but not now, due to COVID affecting rules and schedules, even though the imminent widespread prospect of death from the virus, crowd control, numbers of employees and changes in seating and other aspects of travel are different. I have added these to my task of polishing the now rusty wheels on my feet.

Three trips I planned to take in the next two months have been or may be altered due to some of my family members and friends coming down with the virus after even careful visits with others. One weekend with my son-in-law’s parents was cancelled because the hosts contracted COVID. The make-up event, a Mother’s Day celebration, may also be changed if anybody tests positive. I also am planning a highly emotional and perhaps necessary trip to

Oklahoma at the end of this month to meet dozens of people of my generation who are “cousins” to me but who I haven’t known because my biological parents gave me up for adoption. Since my birth father was one of 13 siblings, the number of “cousins” I have is massive. My story is too long to cover in this column, but it is one of several unexpected circumstances that could still be “cancelled due to COVID.” We’ll see, but I’m learning to live by this quote from Marie Curie: “Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

HIS MORNING CHEW

The sign read on the classroom door, “You’ve been assigned a seat.” I left my house at 4 a.m. Hadn’t taken time to eat.

If I’d have stopped at Denny’s for their eggs and bacon plate, I’d still be on the road and walking in an hour late.

So, I gazed across the rows of cowboy hats and bolo ties. Then read my name pinned to a chair. Could not believe my eyes.

‘Cuz my seat was in the front row. One I didn’t want to keep. Just feet from the instructor. How was I to get some sleep?

The time was 8 o’clock straight up. I hurried to my chair. The instructor stood and introduced himself as Mr. Blair.

His pants and shirt were pressed and not a hair was out of place. He wore a gentle smile on a fresh clean-shaven face.

His Charvet Silken Men’s Bowtie was expensive but the best. He was a proper gentleman, aside from all the rest.

And sitting there beside me was a grizzled ornery type. His eyes were red and swollen and he smelled Jack Daniels ripe.

I watched him take a can of Coke and down in one big gulp. Then promptly stuffed his cheek plumb full of Beech-Nut chewing pulp.

The rough old fellow tore the lid right off the can of pop. He spit some drool. His aim was true and didn’t miss a drop.

All morning I would see him slobber chew into the can. Each time he spit, my stomach rolled. There ought to be a ban.

And then our fine instructor spoke right up and saved the day. He straightly told the gruff old man, “Sir, put your chew away!”

The old man then obliged him. Spit the whole of darkest brown. Then put the can up to his mouth and drank it all straight down.

Our traumatized instructor tossed his waffles on the floor. My stomach was plumb empty or there’d been more puke for sure.

The class dismissed for lunch but not a single person ate. Each said they’d lost their appetite. One said, “I’d rather wait.”

There was no sign of the old man. Did not come back to class. I wondered if our queasy stomach teacher chewed his butt?

I understand a man who chews. But in class there’s no excuse. So if you’re sitting next to me please swallow all your juice.

– Bryce Angell



Bryce Angell - The outdoors has always been a large part of my life. My father was an outfitter and guide for 35 years and I was there to shoe and care for the horses and help him do the cooking. We took many great trips into the Yellowstone area. Even now that I’m older, we still ride into the Tetons, Yellowstone and surrounding areas. My poems are mostly of personal experience. I am now retired and enjoying life to the fullest. I plan to do more riding and writing.

Local Physician Killed in Avalanche

On Friday May 10, Dr. Terrence “Terry” O’Connor was killed in an avalanche.

A beloved community member, O’Connor lost his life on Donaldson Peak in Idaho’s Lost River Range. He was an experienced backcountry skier who that day was with a partner on the downhill. It appeared that he triggered a small wind slab avalanche and was carried downhill which triggered a larger avalanche. His partner called for help via satellite communication and then descended to find O’Connor with her probe pole and a rescue transceiver. Using a shovel she dug him out and attempted CPR. Search and rescue arrived at the scene for evacuation taking O’Connor to St. Luke’s Wood River Emergency Department where he later died.

Dr. O’Connor was well-known in the community and had served as director of Blaine County Ambulance District. He was dedicated

to the Wood River Valley community and recognized for his pivotal role during the pandemic. His work has been honored by South Central Public Health District and the Idaho Hospital Association where he is honored not only in the community but across the state of Idaho.

Dr. O’Connor worked in Ketchum specializing in Emergency Medicine. He was a 2004 graduate from the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine. His primary affiliation was with St Luke’s Wood River Medical Center.

For the 2023-2024 season in the US alone there were 16 avalanche related fatalities. Satellite communication, strong buddy system strategy and transponders are critical for safety in backcountry skiing. The two were doing everything right but the unpredictability of the elements overcame this trip.

The community mourns and our condolences are with his family.



Terrence R. O’Connor, MD

NUESTRA VOZ CUENTA

H. ROMERO



Photo credit: Marycruz G. Romero

Sheriff’s Team In Action!

BY HERBERT ROMERO

OUR VOICE COUNTS

The Blaine County Sheriff’s Office Hispanic Liaison Team has made a true impact on our Latino community within Blaine County. They have responded to our invitations to community and cultural events. Not only have they built bridges, trust and strong relationships, they have also made connections by interacting with the children and their families. In addition, they provide key information in Spanish, most specifically about signs of discrimination and the specific role of the sheriff’s office with ICE [U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement]. Now that I, Herbert Romero, am part of the team, it will empower me to further coordinate and collaborate with other leaders to ensure that we continue to know and feel comfortable with our local law enforcement. This will allow us to create proactive initiatives. I’m truly thankful to Sheriff Harkins for his leadership and for initiating this vital team.

NUESTRA VOZ CUENTA

El Equipo de Enlace Hispano del Sheriff ha tenido un verdadero impacto en nuestra comunidad latina dentro del condado de Blaine. Han respondido a nuestras invitaciones a eventos comunitarios y culturales. No sólo han construido puentes, confianza y relaciones sólidas, sino que también han establecido conexiones al interactuar con los niños y sus familias. Además, brindan información clave en español, más específicamente sobre señales de discriminación y el papel específico del departamento del sheriff con ICE. Ahora que yo, Herbert Romero, soy parte del equipo, esto me permitirá coordinar y colaborar aún más con otros líderes para garantizar que sigamos conociendo y sintiéndonos cómodos con nuestras autoridades locales. Esto nos permitirá crear iniciativas proactivas. Soy Realmente agradecido con el Sheriff Harkins por su liderazgo y por iniciar este equipo vital.



BETTER HOMEOWNERS NEWS

ANNA AND MICHELLE



Making Sense of Home Improvements: What Adds Value?

BY ANNA & MICHELLE

Before diving into renovation projects, it’s important to understand which upgrades are likely to boost your home’s value and which ones may not yield a significant return on investment. While certain improvements can enhance your home’s appeal and attract potential buyers, others may fall short of expectations.

It’s prudent to explore examples of home improvements that have the potential to increase your home’s value, as well as situations where renovations may not have a substantial impact on its worth. By gaining insights into these factors, homeowners can make informed decisions and maximize their return on investment when upgrading their properties.

Home improvements that may increase the value of the home:

- **Hardwood Floors** – Refinishing or updating to wood floors have good appeal and have a high return on the cost.
- **Kitchen Remodel** – Updating the kitchen with modern appliances, countertops, and fixtures can increase the home’s value by improving functionality and aesthetics.
- **Bathroom Update** – Renovating bathrooms with new fixtures, tiles, and amenities can enhance the home’s appeal, especially if it increases the number of bathrooms or improves their condition.
- **Curb Appeal** – Enhancing curb appeal through landscaping, exterior painting, or updating the front door can make a positive first impression and increase the home’s perceived value.
- **Energy-Efficient Upgrades** – Adding energy-efficient features such as insulation, or windows, can attract environmentally conscious buyers and reduce utility costs, thereby increasing the home’s value.
- **Open Floor Plan** – Removing walls to create an open floor plan can improve the flow of the home and make it feel more spacious, which may appeal to modern homebuyers and increase value.

Home improvements that may not affect value significantly:

- **Over-Personalized Upgrades** – Home improvements that are highly customized to the homeowner’s taste, such as extravagant or niche features, may not appeal to a broad range of buyers and may not recoup their cost.
- **Low-Quality Workmanship** – Poor-quality renovations or DIY projects that are not executed professionally may detract from the home’s value rather than adding to it.
- **Excessive Upgrades** – Spending too much on renovations relative to the home’s overall value for the neighborhood may not yield a commensurate increase in value.
- **Unpermitted Additions** – Home improvements made without the necessary permits or that violate building codes may lead to complications during the selling process and may not add value to the home.
- **Overcapitalization** – Investing in upgrades that exceed the anticipated resale value of the home for the neighborhood may result in diminishing returns and may not justify the expense.

While there are many powerful investment aspects of homeownership, not all the money spent on it will necessarily increase the value. If the cost of some renovations won’t be able to be recaptured in the sales price, homeowners should recognize that in advance of making them. If they decide to move forward, they must realize that it was done for personal convenience or enjoyment.

On the other hand, some improvements can satisfy convenience, enjoyment and return part or all the cost. The latest Remodeling Impact Report done by the National Association of REALTORS® and the National Association of Remodeling Industry can provide more insight into cost recovery.

Your real estate professional can provide guidance of a more specific nature.

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CROSSWORD

answer from page 12

COMBO	ALIT	ASPEN	WEB
ALIEN	BOAR	CHILI	MEME
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SHEILA	PASS	EIRE	TRY
LARGE	BILL	CONTRACT	
ALTO	NAP	BONO	TILER
PEER	STY	SEDAN	EMILE
	OREO	PSI	IDEALS
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	WISH	BONE	WILDHORSE
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SPEED	LIMIT	NEWS	STORY
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ORE	SNORT	ENDS	TOMES

SUDOKU

answer from page 12

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Happy Spring!



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CHAMBER CORNER

MIKE MCKENNA

Meeting the Students Where They Are – Syringa Mountain School

BY MIKE MCKENNA

Shawn Myers wasn't exactly sure what to expect when she started teaching at Syringa Mountain School in Hailey. She had never taught at a Waldorf-inspired school during her decade-long teaching career.

Shawn's two sons had gone through the traditional Blaine County school system, just like she had. So stepping into the exceptionally large classroom at the south-Valley charter school was a new experience. But it didn't take long for Shawn to realize she'd made a good decision.

"It's definitely not a traditional school, but once you get into it, it all makes sense," Shawn said. "I can't imagine not teaching this way now."

Syringa Mountain School opened in 2014 as a local public school choice. Offering classes in kindergarten through eighth grade, the school is free for Blaine County residents. Most Syringa students will actually complete their education by graduating from Blaine County School District's Wood River High School.

What separates Syringa Mountain School's program from a more traditional model is that it focuses on a liberal arts and arts-integrated, experiential-learning style that is guided by the core principles of the Waldorf educational philosophy. This is done while still adhering to Idaho educational standards. The goal is to create a supportive community of peers, parents and teachers so that each child is a confident, self-directed and engaged learner who is invested in his/her own education.

Based on the theories of Austrian scientist Rudolph Steiner, there are more than 160 Waldorf-inspired schools scattered throughout the country and no two are exactly alike. One of the things that makes Syringa unique is its access to the natural splendors of the Wood River Valley. The rivers, mountains and trails that abound here are ideal platforms for movement-based, outdoor-focused education.

"In every lesson we are inclusive of the head, the heart and the hands," Shawn said. "The more they care about something, the more they'll care for it."



The motto for Syringa is "Cultivating curious and passionate learners prepared to build a life with purpose."

The school accomplishes this goal by accepting that every student is unique and has different skills, needs and challenges. The strength of the school is that it can adapt to fit each student.

"We meet the kids where they're at and support students in the ways they need. Each kid is different and they're not just a number in our classrooms," said Christi Thompson, Syringa's charter administrator and Special Education director.

Michelle Harris is president of the Parent Council. When she first visited the school as an option for her young son, she was "floored by the kindergarten room. It didn't look anything like a typical classroom." The large, spacious classroom allows plenty of room to move and is the typical setup for each grade. It's one of the reasons why Michelle highly recommends Syringa.

"More than anything, as a parent, I'm most pleased with how much my child is learning and that he is learning to love to learn," Michelle said, adding, "He's positively supported in areas where he struggles and challenged in areas where he thrives. He loves coming to school every day."

Find out more at SyringaMountainSchool.org.



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How To Play Sudoku

The Classic Sudoku is a number placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

CLASSIC SUDOKU

See answer on page 11

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See answer on page 11

The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

BREAKABLES: Not exactly fragile
by Fred Piscop

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 73 Kayaking challenge | 3 Spanish Surrealist |
| 1 Small jazz band | 75 Darken or lighten, say | 4 Tavern fare |
| 6 Touched ground | 76 Mideast airline | 5 Eight furlongs |
| 10 Rockies ski center | 77 Get ___ on (learn about) | 6 Helps in a crime |
| 15 Fly trapper | 78 Bountiful | 7 California wine city |
| 18 From another planet | 80 "Now ___ seen everything!" | 8 Othello schemer |
| 19 Piglet's father | 81 Workplace protection org. | 9 Latest fashions |
| 20 Cook-off creation | 85 More amiable | 10 Pinnacles |
| 21 Viral post | 86 Downton Abbey countess | 11 Lower leg |
| 22 French city, humorously | 87 Frequent st. crosser | 12 Sonar sound |
| 23 Outdo, barely | 88 Adverse fate | 13 Director Kazan |
| 24 Extreme enthusiasm | 89 ...by Thanksgiving guests | 14 River between Great Lakes |
| 25 Diva's delivery | 92 ...on a ranch | 15 Never existed |
| 26 ...by a column of troops | 95 Raven's call | 16 G major analog |
| 28 ...before a wedding | 98 Membership money | 17 Bonnie and Clyde star |
| 30 Treasury Dept. agency | 99 Neighborhood | 21 Fictional free-spirited aunt |
| 31 Work station | 101 Whirling water | 27 UAE part |
| 33 "Am too!" reply | 102 Darwinian ancestors | 29 Put up, as a barn |
| 34 Aussie woman | 104 Chess match "I win" | 32 "Cancel that" key |
| 38 Decline to bid | 106 Oath affirmation | 34 High-five sound |
| 40 Word on Irish euros | 107 ...by a driver | 35 ___ and hearty |
| 42 Have a go at | 110 ...by an anchorwoman | 36 Art Deco artist |
| 43 ...by a bank teller | 116 Graceland's state: Abbr. | 37 Horror film servant |
| 45 ...by an entertainer | 117 Cyberparty notice | 38 Participant in the game |
| 49 Saxophone range | 118 Wicked | 39 Chalet setting |
| 50 Drift off briefly | 119 Rose from a chair | 40 Sicilian peak |
| 51 Lawyer's pro ___ work | 121 Fridge foray | 41 Anvil metal |
| 52 Mosaic artist | 122 BOGO events | 44 Opening speech |
| 56 Look intently | 123 Hereditary bit | 46 Santalike |
| 57 Barnyard enclosure | 124 Video game pioneer | 47 "Deaf's off!" |
| 58 Family auto | 125 Gold source | 48 Against the clock |
| 59 Author Zola | 126 Sound of scorn | 53 Scammer in action |
| 60 Crisp, sweet sandwich | 127 Final stages | 54 Singer Fitzgerald |
| 62 Tire-pressure no. | 128 Weighty volumes | 55 What's left |
| 63 Noble standards | | 57 57-Across females |
| 64 Frozen treats | DOWN | 58 Shopping splurge |
| 68 ...by a marathoner | 1 Mushroom top | 61 Seasoned veteran |
| 72 "Doggone it!" | 2 Snowman in Frozen | 63 Loafing around |

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| 64 Neighbor of Pakistan | 83 Vacuum part | 104 Bishop's hat |
| 65 City of Colombia | 84 Visa alternative | 105 Undergo ___ of endurance |
| 66 Grand tale | 87 Leave wide-eyed | 106 Archipelago components |
| 67 Muscular power | 90 Overcast | 108 Tennis great Lendl |
| 69 Nobel Prize composer | 91 "Dig in!" | 109 Venus de ___ |
| 70 Actress Wilde or Munn | 93 Videophile's collection | 111 Smooth out |
| 71 Get tangled up | 94 Shows disdain for | 112 Encoil |
| 74 Scoffed at | 95 Former Cuban leader | 113 Simpsons bus driver |
| 78 Sore feeling | 96 Make the scene | 114 Be a nomad |
| 79 Crowds around | 97 Frankfurter | 115 Days gone by |
| 81 Fragrance | 100 Weasel out | 120 Talk trash to |
| 82 Spreadsheet function | 103 Repair with thread | |

MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

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