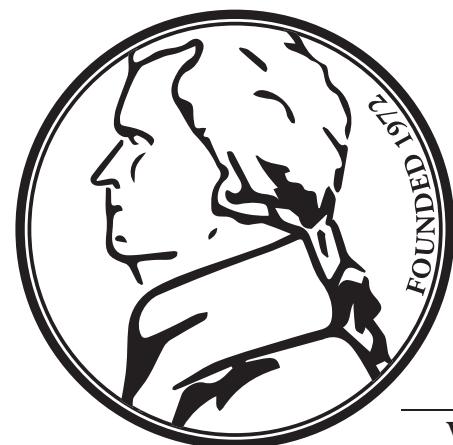


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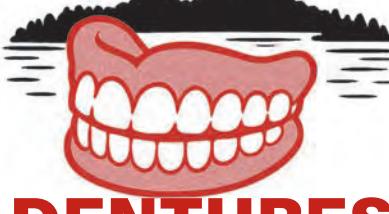

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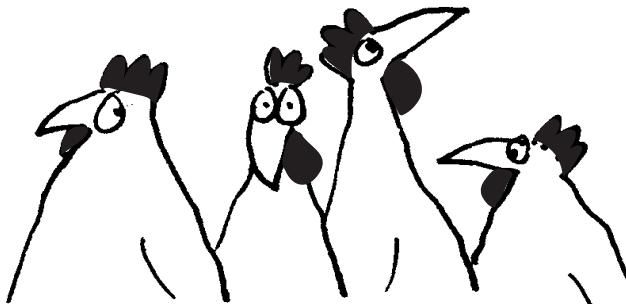
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KOOTENAI CLASSICAL Academy lottery application for 2026-2027 is open 1/8 through 7:59pm on 3/9. Lottery will run 3/12 at 5pm in the KCA gym. Next info sessions to be held at the school 1/28, 2/11 and 2/25, 6pm-7:30pm. Applications are available at kootenaiclassical.org and at the school. KCA public, open-enrollment, tuition-free charter school offering a K-11th classical education (K-12th by 2027), with a strong sports and weight program and jiu-jitsu. KCA's mission is to train the minds and improve the hearts of young people through a classical, content-rich education in the liberal arts and sciences, with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue in an orderly and disciplined, yet dynamic and fun environment. Contact Ashley Rice, 208-694-6333, ashley.rice@kootenaiclassical.org. More information at kootenaiclassical.org

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CHRISTIANS ARE ON probation; did you know that? (1 Peter 4:17) For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begins at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? (4:18) And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear? Most people in the Christian world mistakenly think just believing in God/Jesus Christ that they will skip into heaven without going through the investigative judgment process. As it is written in the Bible, it says: My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge and since you reject knowledge, I (Jesus Christ) will reject you. The Bible also states: (Matthew 7:21) Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the will of my father which is in heaven. (7:23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, you break my law. So, then the question is, what is the will of God? It's found in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. Tim, 208-217-8942, text

Lake City Playhouse Sweeps in the Awards from BroadwayWorld "Rent" Wins 8 Categories!

— Monica Thomas —



Almost exactly a year ago, Lake City Playhouse brought Jonathan Larson's famous musical, *Rent*, back to its stage. With local stars such as Robby French, Oskar Owens, and Daniel Renz involved with the production, it should come as no surprise that it was a favorite amongst local theater lovers.

But what I don't think anyone (including the cast and crew) could have predicted was just how beloved this particular production ended up being.

BroadWay World is the largest theater site on the internet, covering forty-five countries and over a hundred regions across the US, with Coeur d'Alene competing in the Idaho—Boise region.

Of the thirteen available categories that Lake City Playhouse and *Rent* were qualified for for the Boise

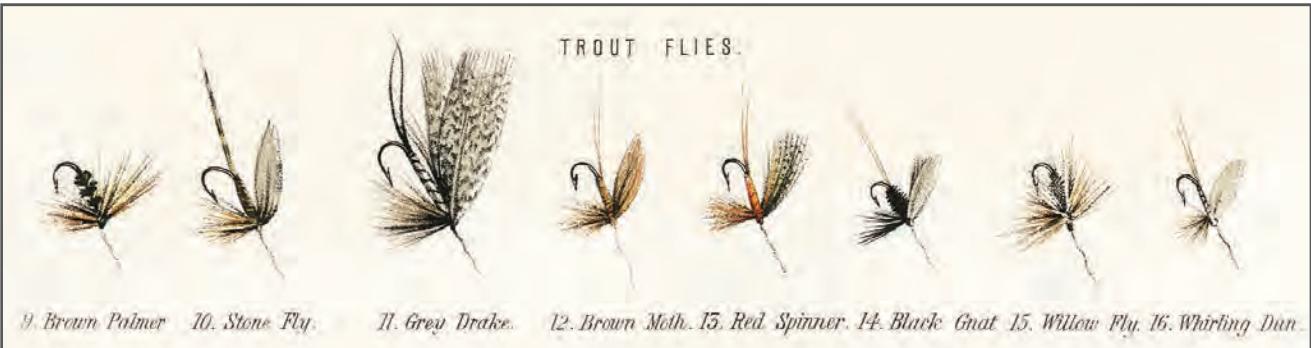
Regional Awards, they earned first place in eight of them! Considering how close the Coeur d'Alene community came to saying good-bye to Lake City Playhouse—its oldest theater—just a few short years ago, I'd say the turn-around is nothing short of wondrous and miraculous.

- Favorite Local Theater
- Best Musical
- Best Ensemble
- Best Direction of a Musical – Robby French
- Best Music Direction & Orchestra Performance – Heather Brown
- Best Scenic Design of Play or Musical – Jolena Long
- Best Costume Design of Play or Musical – Zoe Evans
- Best Performer in a Musical – Daniel Renz

Currently, Lake City Playhouse is putting the finishing touches on *Alice By Heart*, a poignant musical that follows a teenager living through the WW2 London Blitz while trying to reconcile love, grief, loss, and the heartache that comes with being forced to let go and move forward.

As a local performer, myself, I have worked with many of the cast and crew members, so I can say with a certainty that the vocals, acting, and entire world-building that is going into this production is going to be first rate. Jolena Long and Zoe Evans are returning as scenic and costume designers, respectively, and given their new award statuses, I can't wait to see what they've come up with!

Alice By Heart opens Friday, January 30th, and runs through Sunday, February 15th. For tickets and information, visit: lakecityplayhouse.org.



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A Smarter Muffin for January

By week three of the new year, my willpower has usually packed a bag and left a note on the counter. The holidays feel long over, my good intentions are still technically alive, and yet my afternoon coffee continues to demand a sweet treat.

At this point in life, I know that white-knuckling my way through cravings has never worked for long. If I don't plan a healthier treat I actually look forward to, I will default to whatever not-so-great option is closest. Judging by the chorus of agreement from friends and family lately, this isn't a personal flaw so much as a shared human experience.

So instead of giving up on goodies altogether, I decided to outsmart human nature and create something that feels indulgent, nourishes the body and keeps our best intentions from wandering off.

What makes these muffins work is the combination of sweet potato and applesauce, creating a muffin that's naturally sweet, deeply moist and satisfying. Instead of relying on flour, this recipe uses oats, which helps slow digestion and keeps blood sugar on an even keel. The result is a treat that feels steady and sustaining, not spiky.

There's flexibility built right into the recipe so you can use what you have handy. Any orange-fleshed cooked vegetable works here, including sweet potato, butternut squash or pumpkin. I recommend roasting it to cook off excess moisture and concentrate the flavor.

There's just a half cup of sweetener in the entire batch. You can reduce it to 1/4 cup if you prefer

a less-sweet muffin. It'll still be delicious.

The fat is modest, just 1/3 cup, since the batter already has plenty of moisture. A little flax meal adds fiber, omega-3s and antioxidants.

The add-ins are optional but encouraged. Pecans are lovely, but walnuts, almonds or pepitas bring texture. And the streusel topping? Optional, yes, but it's what gives these muffins that "fancy-pants bakery" feel. A small flourish that makes an everyday muffin feel special.



Sweet potato muffins with cinnamon-pecan streusel. A bakery-worthy treat with a smarter ingredient list.

SNEAKY LITTLE SWEET POTATO MUFFINS

Yield: 12 muffins

Total Time: 35 minutes

1 1/2 cups quick oats

1/2 cup all-purpose or whole wheat flour

1/4 cup ground flaxseed

1 teaspoon baking soda

2 teaspoons cinnamon or pumpkin pie spice

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup cooked, mashed sweet potato (pumpkin or butternut squash)

1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce

2 eggs

1/3 cup coconut oil, or butter, melted, or neutral oil

1/2 cup brown sugar, maple syrup or honey

1 teaspoon vanilla

Optional add-ins: up to 1 cup of pecans, dried cranberries, raisins and/or finely chopped dates

CINNAMON PECAN STREUSEL

1/4 cup white or whole wheat flour

3 tablespoons brown sugar

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

2 tablespoons coconut oil or softened butter

3 tablespoons chopped pecans

Heat oven to 350° F. Line or grease a muffin tin.

In a mixing bowl stir together oats, flour, flax, baking soda, cinnamon and salt.

In another large bowl, whisk together the sweet potato, applesauce, eggs, oil, sugar and vanilla until smooth. Add the dry ingredients gradually until all are incorporated. Fold in add-ins if using. Divide batter evenly into muffin cups. They'll be pretty full, that's alright.

Make the Streusel: Combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, chopped pecans and coconut oil or butter in a medium-size bowl. Top each muffin with a big pinch of streusel.

Bake 18-22 minutes, until set and lightly golden. Cool completely.

Good treats should do more than satisfy cravings. They should nourish the body, comfort the spirit and fit into real life without negotiation or guilt. These muffins manage all three, and that's no small thing.

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADimeDotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

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Going Out

BOOK SIGNING JAN. 24TH,
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 316 Pine St., Sandpoint. Local
 authors J.Q. Wenzel,
 Mark P. Ready, Michael
 Desind, Kendra Oliviera



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UPCOMING EVENT? SEND us details for your fundraisers, sales, theater shows, or anything else the community can support. We'll post it on our website's calendar. articles@nickelsworth.com

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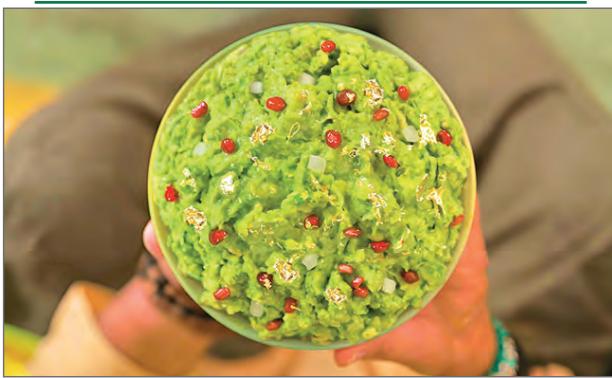
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Mix a Little Luck into Your Big Game Menu

— Family Features —



Picture this: Your team is down three points, but the taste of victory is just one field goal away. Sometimes, all you need is a little luck and a whole lot of guac.

After all, an estimated 250 million pounds of avocados are consumed during the Big Game each year, according to Hass Avocado Board Volume Data. That's enough to fill 30 million football helmets with guac – but filling your belly instead is a win-win for good luck and great flavor.

Dip into good fortune this football season with help from Avocado From Mexico's Guac Guru, Rob Riggle, whose visionary Good Luck Guac recipe is ready to share just in time for the Big Game.

Whether you're in it for the football, the commercials or the snacks, this recipe can score major points with your entire crew.

Crafted for fans of every team, this bold, golden twist on a favorite football snack is infused with ingredients associated with good luck – edible gold flakes and pomegranate seeds – to get you through the most nail-biting moments of the game. The star ingredient is fresh, high-quality Avocados From Mexico that offer good taste, good nutrition, and good times.

Beyond delicious dips, chips and lots of fun, hosting a watch party can also be a lot of work. Make sure

your hosting duties don't create interference or put you on the sidelines with these tips:

Get a jumpstart on party prep. The day before the game, tidy up your space and prepare as much of the food as you can. For dishes best served fresh – like guac – take care of the ingredient prep, like chopping veggies.

Create comfortable seating and viewing areas. For a watch party, you'll want plenty of room for guests to sit comfortably where they can see the screen and have easy access to the guac. If there's not enough space in the living room to fit everyone, consider bringing a TV to the kitchen so people can snack and watch at the same time.

Know your guests. From non-alcoholic beverage options to additional entertainment like board games and kid-friendly activities, become a next-level party host by providing a setup tailored to your guests' needs. One thing almost everyone can agree on: Guac made with Avocados From Mexico can be the star of nearly any party's snacking lineup.

Make it your team's lucky day with more game day recipes at AvocadosFromMexico.com/recipe.

Good Luck Guac

Recipe courtesy of Rob Riggle on behalf of Avocados From Mexico

- 4 avocados From Mexico, halved, pitted and peeled
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 tablespoon onion, minced
- 3 tablespoons pomegranate seeds
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 pinch edible gold leaf flakes
- 1. In large bowl, mash avocados until chunky-smooth.
- 2. Fold in lime juice, onion, pomegranate seeds and salt until well combined.
- 3. Garnish with edible gold leaf flakes.

Source: avocadosfrommexico.com

Community Calendar

Intro to Beekeeping, 5pm-6pm Thursday, Jan. 22nd, at St. Maries Library, 32575 N. 5th Ave. Hank Ausmus will inform participants about basic equipment, honeybee biology, techniques to improve hive quality, disease/ mite prevention, honey production and over-wintering. More info, 208-416-1003.

Family Paint and Sip, Friday, January 23rd, 9am and 11am, at CdA Library, 702 E. Front Ave. Gather in the Community Room for a paint party complete with hot cocoa, snacks, music and watercolor paints. Step-by-step instructions provided and led by librarian. Geared to ages 4-10. Read more at <https://cdalibrary.org/events/>.

Christmas Tree Pick-Up by City of Post Falls, Saturday Jan. 24th. By appointment only. Call 208-457-1820 (Republic Services). All decorations must be removed and pieces no longer than 7 feet. Tree only.

Western Territory Staff Songsters, Saturday, January 24th, 6pm, presents a free concert at Kroc Center Community Wing, 1765 W. Golf Course Rd., CdA. An inspiring gospel group entertains, featuring renowned vocalist Barbara Allen and voices from Salvation Army churches. All are welcome!

2nd Harvest Mobile Market, Tuesday, January 27th, 11am-1pm, at Hayden Library, 8385 N. Government Way. No appointment needed.

Stop the Bleed Training, Tuesday, January 27th, 4pm-6pm, for all ages at CdA Library, 702 E Front. Presented by Medical Reserve Corps of North Idaho and Panhandle Health District. Learn how to save lives by knowing how to stop severe bleeding with techniques such as pressure, packing and applying a tourniquet. Register at <https://cdalibrary.libcal.com/event/15733561>.

Courtesy of Coeur d'Alene Insider. For more extensive calendar, visit: www.cdainsider.com/calendar

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Super Crossword THE THIRD PERSON

ACROSS

1 Go to
7 Stooge who sometimes replaced Curly
12 Sauna locale
15 Defeater of Gore
19 Time: Prefix
20 On the briny
21 Retained
23 Old foxtrot dancer makes a two-in-one chess move?
25 Makes lively
26 Flow blockers
27 Oct. preceder
28 "All I Wanna Do" singer boasts?
30 Prefix with propyl
31 Winter hrs. in Philadelphia
33 Lawman Wyatt
34 Falsehood
35 "The Finest Hours" co-star yearns deeply?
40 America's first female astronaut takes a bus?
45 Top-secret U.S. org.
46 Starting on

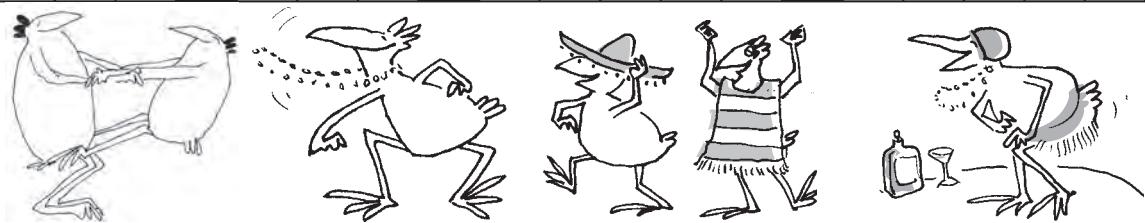
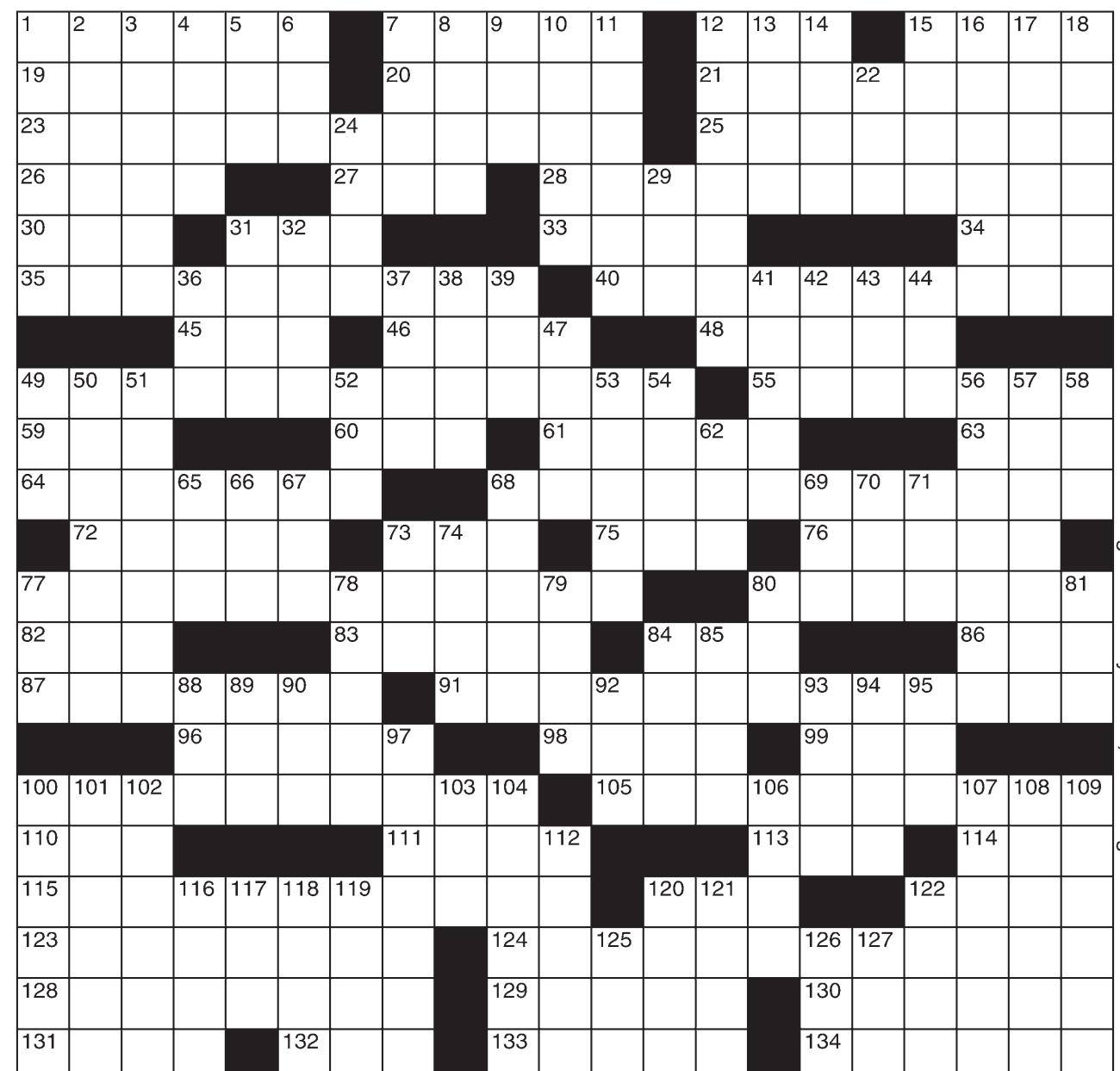
48 Sanaa locale
49 "Samson and Delilah" co-star develops fully?
55 Conductor
59 Big 20th-cen. conflict
60 Actress — de Armas
61 Universal rule
63 "Eww, mice!"
64 Harry Potter's skill
68 "Play It as It Lays" co-star does a fusing job?
72 "Middle Child" rapper
73 In the past
75 Spain's El —
76 Really annoy
77 "Broadcast News" co-star feels sore?
80 Dirt Devil or DustBuster, for short
83 Former TWA competitor
84 Coll. in Columbus
86 NYSE debut
87 Rolo filling
91 Frontwoman of Hole has a deep fondness?
96 Cowboy rope

98 Italian money
99 A, in Munich
100 "Jerry Maguire" star goes sailing?
105 "Coma" novelist makes dinner?
110 "There — god!"
111 Barber's cut
113 Boise-to-Tucson dir.
114 "Dr." of music
115 Miami Heat great walks in water?
120 Potentially shocking fish
122 Writer Urs
123 Came through, as a radio signal
124 "Cheers" actress yearns?
128 Setting fire to
129 Shire of film
130 "Apparently!"
131 Throw easily
132 Golf gadget
133 "Geez, that's rough"
134 Recluses

12 Dir. 135 degrees from 113-Across
6 G.P., for one
7 Postpaid enc.
8 URL start
9 Immigrant's class, in brief
10 Edwin of Reagan's Cabinet
11 Old Turkish officials
12 In a cutting way
13 Like a runt
14 Indigo dye
15 Wild pig
16 Innumerable
17 1-year-old on "Family Guy"
18 Steeds, in Westerns
22 Sierra maker
24 Sparkling 119-Down, for short
29 History topic
31 Exxon, once
32 Trade blows
36 Accrued qty.
37 Indian bread
38 This, in Peru
39 —'wester
41 Subsidiary theorem
42 Singer Sumac
43 Singer Des'—
44 Officeholders
47 Munich Mrs.

DOWN

1 Not alkaline
2 Defeat soundly
3 Quake
4 Vast spans



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Man Experiences Symptoms of Excess Thyroid After MRI

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a male who is 58 years of age. I recently had an MRI of my cervical spine, and just this month, I had a CT scan of my whole abdomen. Since then, I have had symptoms of dry eyes, weight loss and insomnia. I wondered if the contrast dye used for the MRI or CT scan can cause hyperthyroidism, as these are common symptoms for excess thyroid hormone. Do you think that I have hyperthyroidism? — G.L.

ANSWER: You are quite right that all these symptoms are commonly seen in people with excess thyroid. The weight loss is due to the increased metabolism of people with excess thyroid hormone. Insomnia is also common for similar reasons. Palpitations, tremor, anxiety, frequent bowel movements, and heat intolerance are all classical symptoms of excess thyroid hormone.

You are also right that the iodine-containing dye from CT scans can precipitate hyperthyroidism in a person who is destined to get it. However, the risk of this occurring is low. There is no increased risk of thyroid disease with MRI dye.

You could, indeed, have hyperthyroidism, and if you saw your doctor, you would very likely be tested. (I would certainly do so if I had a patient with these symptoms.) My experience is that these symptoms are not specific to thyroid disease, and it is probably some other cause. So, I would not be surprised if your thyroid tests were normal.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently got married again after being single for six years and have had five urinary tract infections (UTIs) in 14 months. My

primary care doctor, a urogynecologist, and a urologist have all agreed on estradiol cream. I was basically put on this treatment for a prolapsed bladder and to build up my vaginal walls since I am sexually active again.

After reading your recent column about hormone replacement therapy (HRT) in older women, I am concerned since I underwent menopause 20 years ago (instead of under 10) and just started this treatment two months ago.

I might add that I had not had a UTI for 50 years prior, but vaginal dryness may be contributing to these UTIs. My doctor has not recommended a progestin, but I have also been introduced to taking a cranberry supplement once a day in tablet form to keep bacteria from multiplying.

Would you have recommended the same treatment knowing that I have not had a period for 20 years? — L.E.

ANSWER: The risks from estrogen replacement in postmenopausal women are from systemic estrogen -- meaning estrogen that gets absorbed into the blood. This includes estrogen pills and patches.

Topical estrogen, such as vaginal creams, rings and gels, are not well-absorbed in the body and do not significantly increase the risk of heart disease, which is the major reason that I recommended caution to women who underwent menopause more than 10 years ago.

Similarly, progestins need to be used in women with a uterus when they're taking systemic estrogen -- but not topical estrogen. (Topical estrogen is absorbed slightly in women with atrophy of the vaginal lining, so it is always worth a consultation with an oncologist for women with estrogen-sensitive tumors, such as breast cancer.)

I don't generally advise systemic HRT more than 10 years postmenopause, but there still may be some times when it's appropriate after a thorough discussion between a woman and her doctor. In your case, however, the risk of heart disease, breast cancer or blood clots is negligible from topical estrogen.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Super Crossword

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C	H	R	O	N	O	A	T	S	E	H	U	N	G	O	T	O
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T	O	S	S	T	E	E										



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KOVELS®

Antiques & Collecting

By Terry and Kim Kovel

Paper Valentines

For many of us, receiving paper valentines may be the stuff of school days -- a piece of the past. The tradition goes back much further, of course, and wasn't always just for kids. The first commercial valentines in America were made by Esther Howland in Massachusetts in 1850. They were made with paper lace and featured written verses. Before then, people exchanged homemade valentines. Surviving examples are collected as folk art today.

The one shown here, preserved in a frame with fabric backing, dates to the mid-1800s and sold at Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates for \$279. It is an example of scherenschnitte (literally "scissor cuts"), a paper-cutting art that originated in Germany and was later brought to America. It was especially popular among the Pennsylvania Dutch. It features hearts, tulips, and birds known as distelfinks (a name for European goldfinches that means "thistle-finches"), all of which were favorite motifs. Scherenschnitte could be made for any festive occasion, or simply as artwork. We know this one must have been a Valentine because it is inscribed with a verse commemorating "the fourteenth day of February."

Q: I am curious about the bronze sculpture my father purchased from an estate sale around 1950. He converted the sculpture into a lamp. The sculpture shows a woman in a draped gown with one hand raised and the other arm outstretched. It is 27 inches high and weighs 26 pounds. I did not find any markings or signatures. Where was it made, when was it made, who was the artist and is there any value?

A: Bronze sculptures like yours were a common decoration in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. They were often made in the art nouveau style of the time. The most famous were made in France, but some were made in other European countries and the U.S. as well. They were often copies of sculptures by famous artists. Many were made into lamp bases, like yours. Unmarked bronze



Happy Valentine's Day! This cut-paper valentine was made for February 14 over a century ago. Today, it is valued as a piece of folk art.

sculptures or lamp bases usually sell for about \$200. We have not been able to identify its maker, but a book like "The Encyclopedia of Bronzes, Sculptors & Founders" by Harold Berman may help. A library or museum in your area may have a copy.

TIPS on framing paper documents and prints: No glue, transparent tape, or rubber cement. No scissors — don't trim anything. No pencils or pens, and don't try to rewrite an autograph. No staples or clips. No extremes of temperature or humidity. No direct sunlight — it fades the ink.

CURRENT PRICES

Clothing, bodice, Edwardian, needle lace collar, frilly trim, French knot embroidery, trapunto, bracelet length sleeves, button back, cotton, 1905, 18 inches, \$110.

Furniture, chest, hinged lid, twig decorated, robin's egg blue paint, applied stars and crescent moons, shaped bracket base, 20th century, 23 1/2 x 33 1/2 inches, \$450.

Glass-Venetian, lamp, electric, figural, fruit basket, multicolor, turquoise blue base, paper label, Murano, c. 1980, 8 1/2 x 9 inches, pair, \$2,065.

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit www.Kovels.com © 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



NEEDED: SNOW Shoveler for winter, mid-town Cda. 208-664-0809

KUBOTA 60" LX2980 Commercial front snowblower attachment with hitch and mid PTO drive, \$6700. Coeur d'Alene Tractor, 1112 W. Appleway Ave., 208-765-2315

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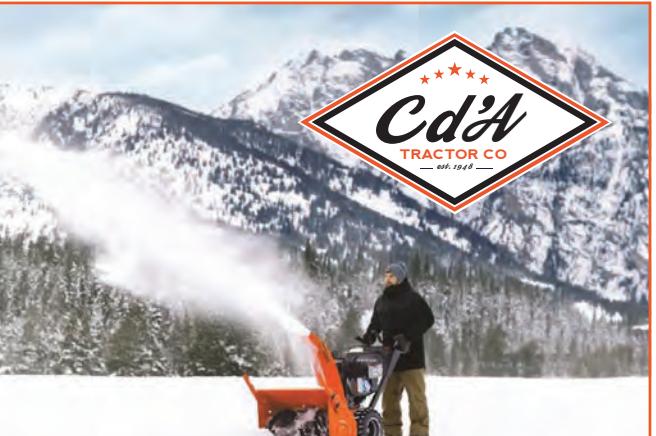
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F&G Citizens Shooting Range Advisory Committee to meet in Boise and virtually

— Idaho Fish & Game —



This will be the first of four meetings this winter.

The Idaho Fish and Game Citizens Shooting Range Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting on Jan. 29 at 6 p.m. MST at Fish and Game's headquarters building at 600 S. Walnut Street in Boise. The meeting will be streamed live via Zoom. However, members of the public in attendance or online can observe the meeting, there will be no opportunities for public comment or interaction with the committee during the meeting.

Agenda items include:

- Introduce new committee members
- Discuss available funding for upcoming grant cycle
- Begin review of grant applicants
- Determine eligibility and prioritize projects
- Determine what, if any, additional information will be needed for applicants

Join on Zoom:

- Meeting ID: 922 0794 4972
- Individuals with disabilities may request meeting accommodations by contacting the Director's office at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game directly at 208-334-5159 or through the Idaho Relay Service at 1-800-377-2529 (TDD).

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- Thursday, Feb. 5
- Thursday, Feb. 12
- Thursday, Feb. 29 (TBA)

Community Calendar

Breakfast With Your Sheriff, Wednesday, January 28th, 9am-11am, at Country Boy Cafe, 6160 E. Hwy 54, Athol. A complimentary breakfast will be provided by Reliable Towing so guests can talk with Sheriff Norris and members of his administration about issues affecting Kootenai County communities. All are welcome!

11th Annual Seed Swap, 1pm-3pm Saturday, Jan. 31st, at CdA Library, 702 E. Front Ave. Take extra seeds (home-saved or purchased) to share, and learn about seed-saving from regional experts.

Courtesy of Coeur d'Alene Insider, cdainsider.com

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Strap all items down securely with no dangling ropes to get caught in if you capsize.

Finally, remember that in bad weather, you must be extra careful about how much weight you take in your boat. With higher waves, a heavy boat is harder to control and more susceptible to being swamped. Stay safe.

*Don't forget to plan for the weight of the animal you will be hauling out!

Either overloading or overpowering your boat is extremely dangerous.

If your vessel does not have a capacity plate, this simple equation can help you find an approximation.

of (150 pound) people = (boat length x boat width)/15

A secondary estimation is to look at your freeboard space, the vertical height between the water and the top of your vessel.

- 6-8 inches for calm, small lakes and quiet rivers
- 8-10 inches for larger lakes and moderate chop
- ≥ 9 inches for white water or rough conditions

If you are adding a motor to your previously non-motorized boat, make sure it is the right size.

Putting an over-sized engine on your boat will cause your boat to sit too low in the stern, and that will make it much more susceptible to being swamped by its own wake or that of a passing boat. An overpowered boat is also hard to control.

Boat length x boat width = boat square footage

Square footage of boat	Max horsepower
35 feet or less	3
36-39 feet	5.5
40-42 feet	7.5
43-45 feet	10
46-52 feet	15

More details on capacity and motor size can be found here: www.boaterexam.com/boating-resources/boat-capacity/

Or

www.ilearntoboat.com/blog/boat-capacity/

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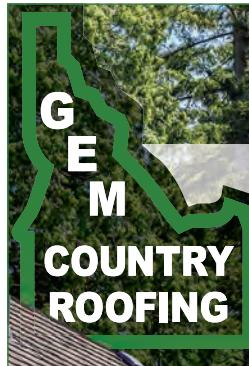
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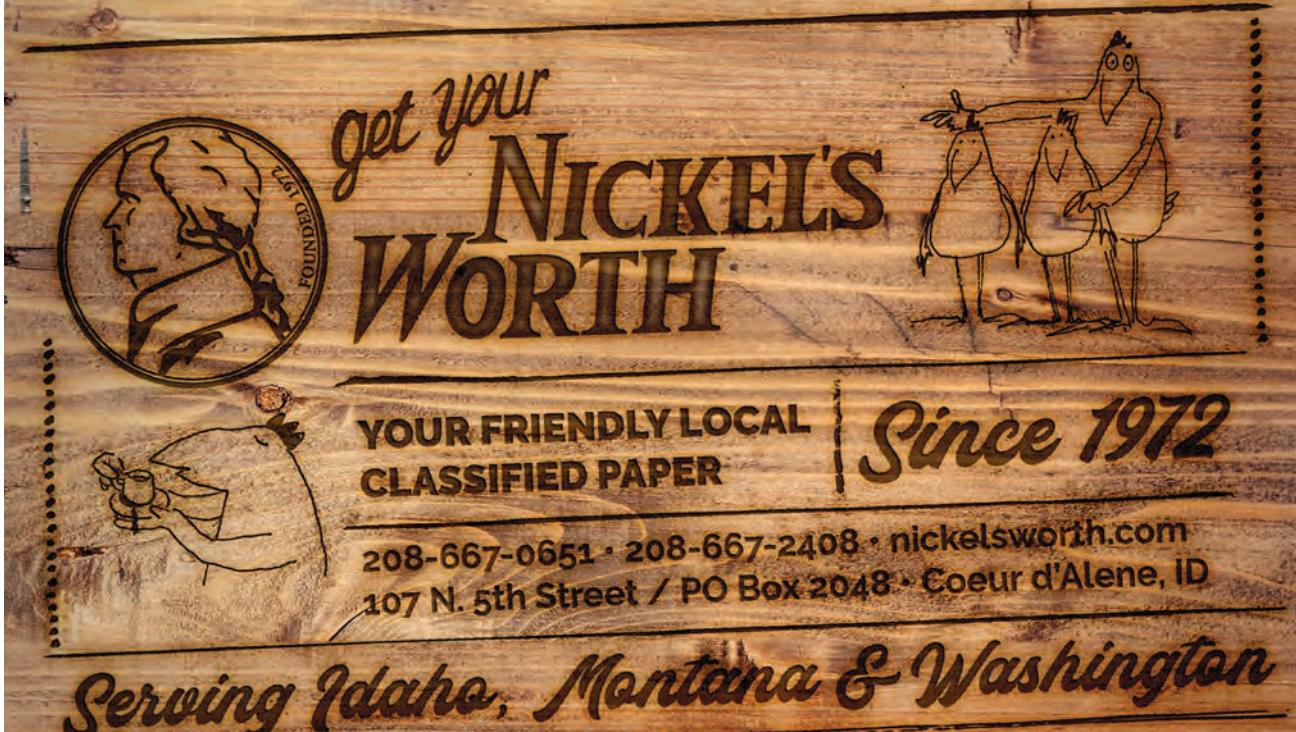
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— Vivian Bogardus —

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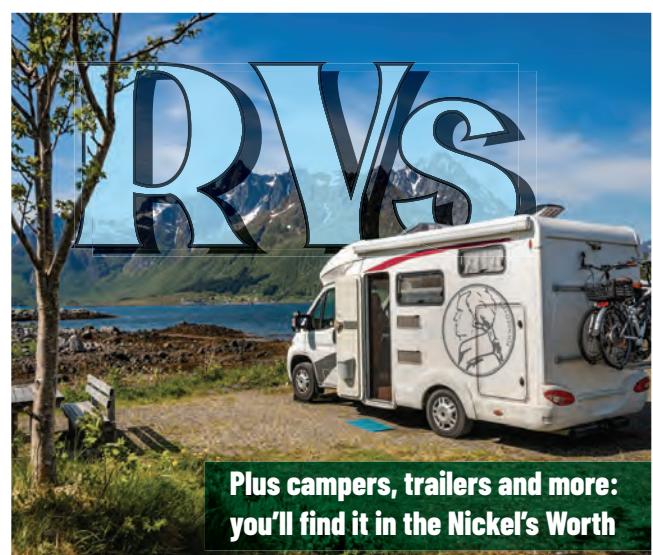


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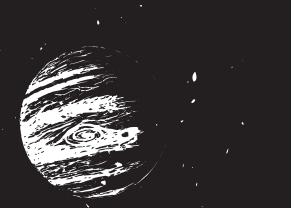
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National Plan For Vacation Day

Last Tuesday in January

— National Day Calendar —



National Plan for Vacation Day, on the last Tuesday in January, reminds us to plan our vacation at the start of the year for the rest of the year. The early bird gets to pack their bags and fly away to a little fun and relaxation!

With the frigid temperatures and growing snow piles, it's easy to start daydreaming of sunny skies. Who else is dreaming of sandcastles and the vacation days to come? But, for many Americans, those vacation dreams turn out to be just that: a dream.

Each year, Americans leave more than 600 million vacation days unused. Our work martyr attitudes combined with a culture of silence in the workplace is keeping workers at their desks instead of using their time off.

To change this, National Plan for Vacation Day reminds us to plan our vacation at the start of the year for the rest of the year. When it comes to taking a vacation, it is the planners of the world who get the job done. Planners are more likely to take all their vacation time in a given work year and take more extended vacations than non-planners. They are also happier with their jobs, relationships, and health. So don't knock the planners who get out the door to vacation! Get planning!!

How To Observe Plan For Vacation Day

Three Easy Steps to Planning a Vacation

Planning a vacation does not have to be a monumental task. Here are three easy steps to make it happen:

1. **Determine how much time off you earn.** Look up the number of vacation days you earn by checking with your finance or HR team. Don't forget to make a note of any office closures.

2. **Coordinate calendars.** Plot out your year—enter the number of days you earn, put your vacation dreams on the calendar, and use your custom link to get your family and friends involved in the planning.

3. **Share your plans.** Once you have your days determined, use the calendar to export your plans to Outlook, Gmail, or other electronic calendars to share with your boss, co-workers, and family.

As we close out a month of resolutions, make this the year you focus on your bucket list—not your to-do list.

Get ready to plan your vacation and use #PlanForVacation on social media.

National Plan For Vacation Day History

National Plan for Vacation Day, celebrated on the last Tuesday of January, is a day to encourage Americans to plan their vacation days for the rest of the year at the start of the year. Launched by the U.S. Travel Association's Project: Time Off initiative in 2017, National Plan for Vacation Day provides an opportunity to come together at a single moment to rally around the importance of planning for a vacation. In its inaugural year, more than 600 organizations, representing all 50 states, came together to encourage Americans to plan for vacation.

The registrar at National Day Calendar® proclaimed National Plan for Vacation Day to be observed annually in 2018.

About the Founder

Project: Time Off has uncovered an alarming trend over the last 40 years: Americans are taking fewer and fewer vacation days. To reverse this trend, we aim to prove that vacation travel is valuable and necessary for strengthening personal relationships, inspiring creative thinking, improving professional performance, and promoting better health.

Vacation FAQ

Q. What is a stay-cation?

A. Stay-cation is a vacation you take but you stay home during your time off. You may choose to work on projects that you find enjoyable, sleep in, or tour your city's sights. It's an excellent opportunity to pamper yourself. Sometimes these stay-cations or simply a long weekend. Other times, they incorporate some serious time off.

Q. Can I plan a stay-cation on National Plan for Vacation Day?

A. Yes! Even though a stay-cation may be less detailed than a get-away vacation, it still requires planning. You'll need to request time off from work. Schedule lunch dates with friends and family. Check the hours of the local museums, book stores, and historical sights. Either way, get planning!

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Idaho's Parental Choice Tax Credit Is About Trusting Idaho Parents

— Senator Lori Den Hartog —



Idaho has always believed that families, not bureaucracies, know kids best. We value local decision-making, personal responsibility, and practical solutions that meet people where they are. That's the spirit behind Idaho's new Parental Choice Tax Credit: expanding educational choice so parents can build the learning experience that fits their child.

For many families, "choice" already exists in theory – traditional public schools, charter schools, homeschooled options, virtual programs, private schools, tutoring, learning pods, and other pathways. But in practice, it can be difficult to tailor an education without flexible resources. The Parental Choice Tax Credit helps close that gap by supporting qualified

education expenses for eligible Idaho students, giving parents more ability to match their child with the right setting and support.

Here's what the program does, plain and simple. Eligible families may qualify for a refundable tax credit of up to \$5,000 per child (and up to \$7,500 per child with a qualifying disability). The credit can be used for a range of qualified education expenses tied to academic instruction, such as nonpublic school tuition and fees, tutoring in core subjects, textbooks, and curriculum materials covering English, math, science, and social studies.

This is not about telling families what to choose. It's about respecting that a "best fit" can look different from child to child – even within the same household. Some students thrive in a traditional classroom. Others do better with smaller learning environments, targeted tutoring, or a customized homeschool approach. A one-size-fits-all system will always leave some kids behind. Idaho can do better by empowering parents to respond early, adjust quickly, and pursue what works for the individual child.

This opportunity is now underway with the application process opening last Thursday, January 15, and running through March 15. All applications are processed in the order they're received, and because funding is limited, applying early matters.

A recent statewide survey found strong support for education freedom and for Idaho's new Parental Choice Tax Credit. That's not surprising. At the end of the day, most Idahoans agree on a simple principle: parents should have the freedom to choose the education that helps their child succeed.

The Parental Choice Tax Credit is about strengthening that freedom in an Idaho way: family-first, locally grounded, and focused on students, not systems. If you think this option could help your family, apply before March 15, visit the state's My School Choice website, and take a look at what may qualify. This program gives Idaho families the flexibility to act early, respond to their child's needs, and shape an education path that works...starting now.

Start the New Year off right – get your ad in the Nickel's Worth annual Health & Wellness special issue, featuring a special pull-out section focused on all things Health & Wellness. This includes (but isn't limited to!) medical offices, spas, diet, exercise... whatever health-related business or service you have, we'd love to feature you! We have ad options for every budget, so we're sure to have something that suits you.

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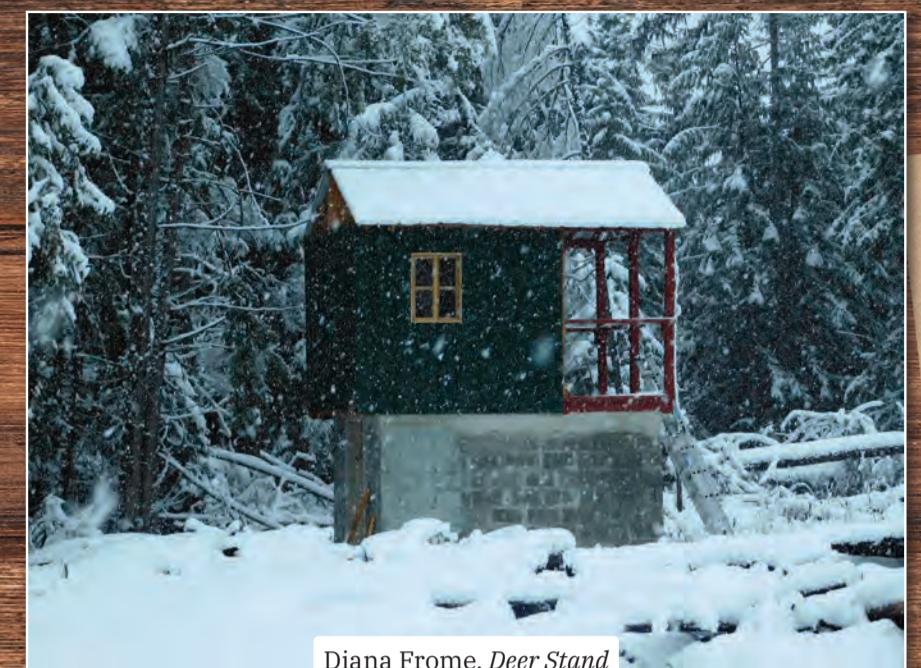
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James Pope, Hayden Lake South End



Diana Frome, Deer Stand

Dreaming Away Winter

— Vivian E. Bogardus
With fond thoughts of spring,
there's no robins to sing,
nor often a sun to shine.
But joy would be mine,
if dreams would incline

to come true.
Clouds smother the sky,
while mourners stand by,
fond-thinking of summer
to come,
Dreaming Winter Away.

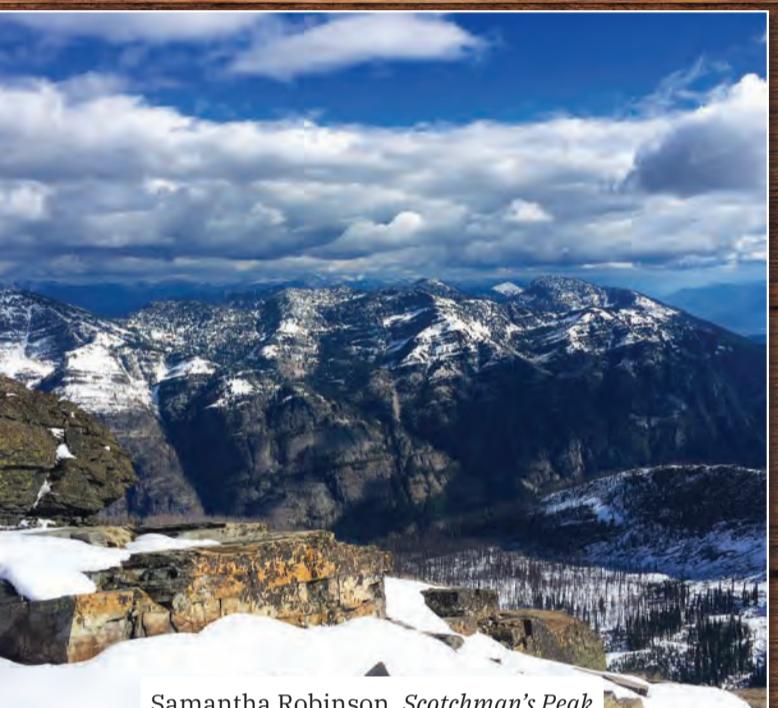
WINTER Seasonal Scrapbook

get your **NICKEL'S WORTH**

Welcome to the first of our Seasonal Scrapbooks for 2026, featuring photos and poems submitted by our wonderful readers... some old, some new! Our Spring Scrapbook will be out May 29th, so please send us any spring photos and poems you have.



Karen Grove, Snowy Trees, Blue Sky

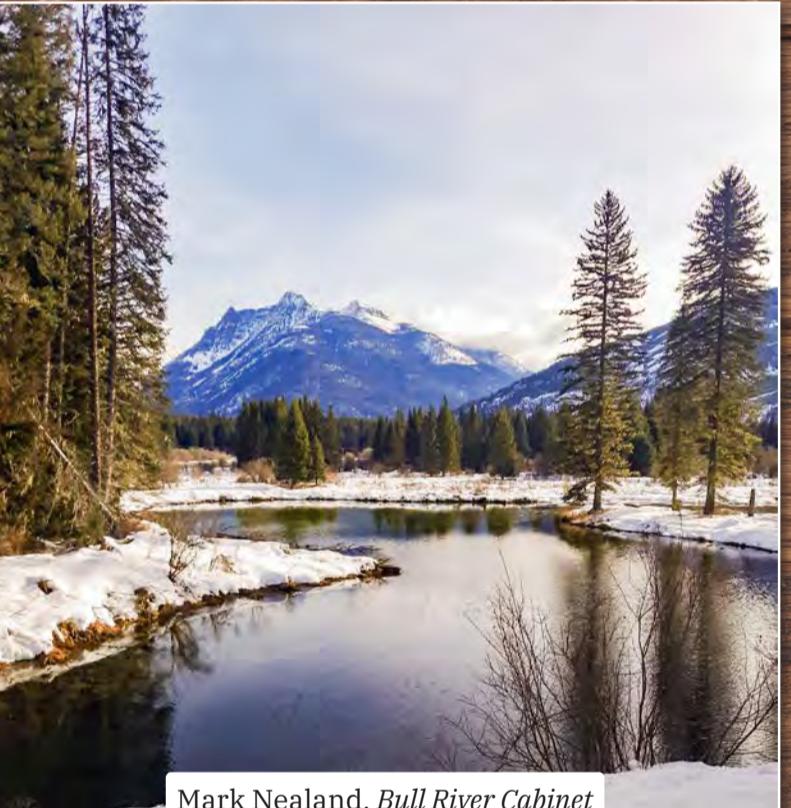


Samantha Robinson, Scotchman's Peak

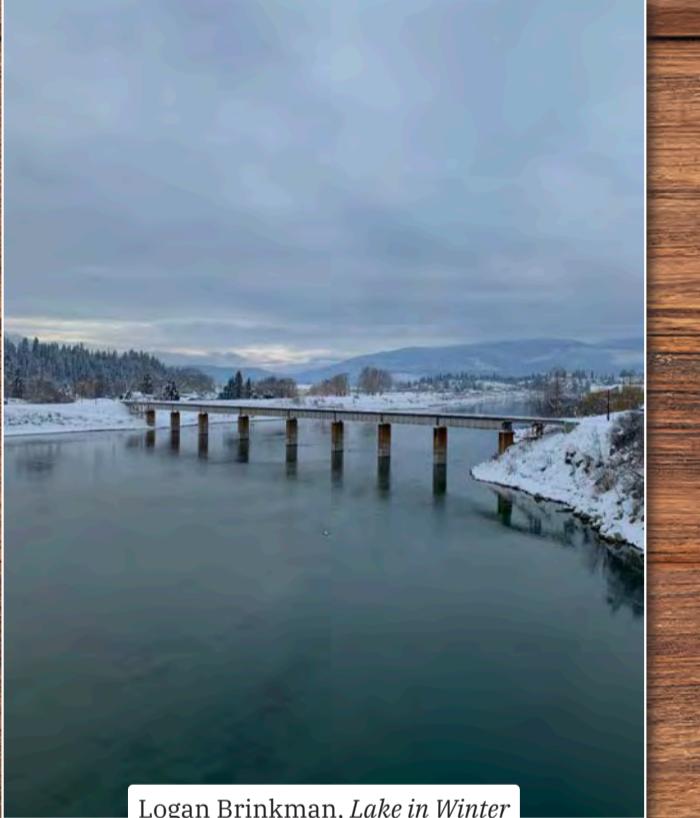
Winter Snow

— Brooke Crabb, age 9
Snow softly falling on the trees
So glad apparel makes it shine
Swirling in the breeze
Coating the big red pine

Snowmen made, we rush inside
to warm our toes by the fire
waiting for the Christmastide
"May we have hot chocolate?" we inquire



Mark Nealand, Bull River Cabinet



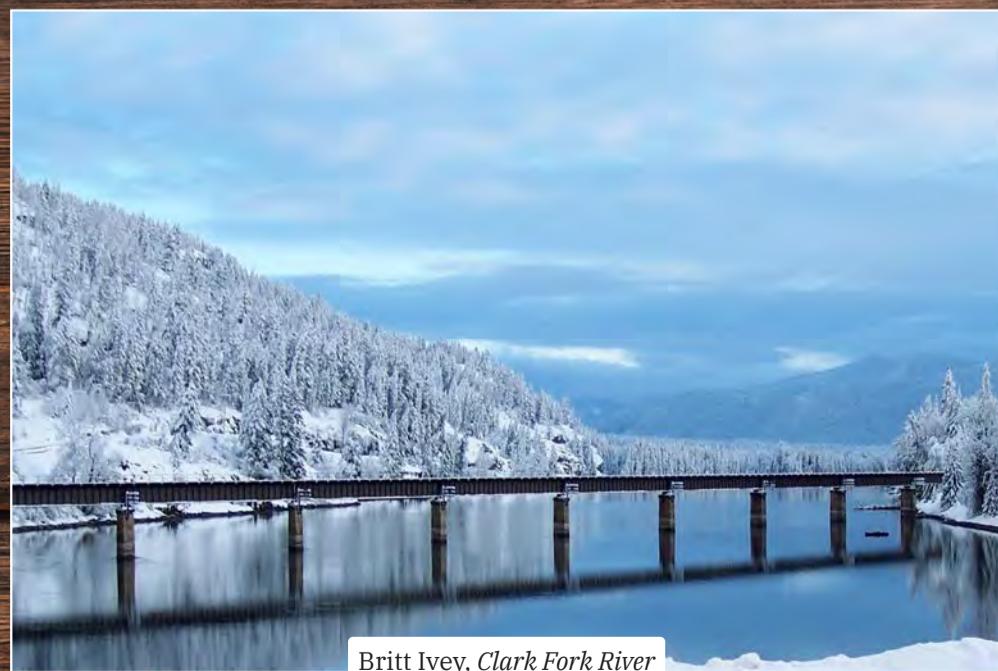
Logan Brinkman, Lake in Winter



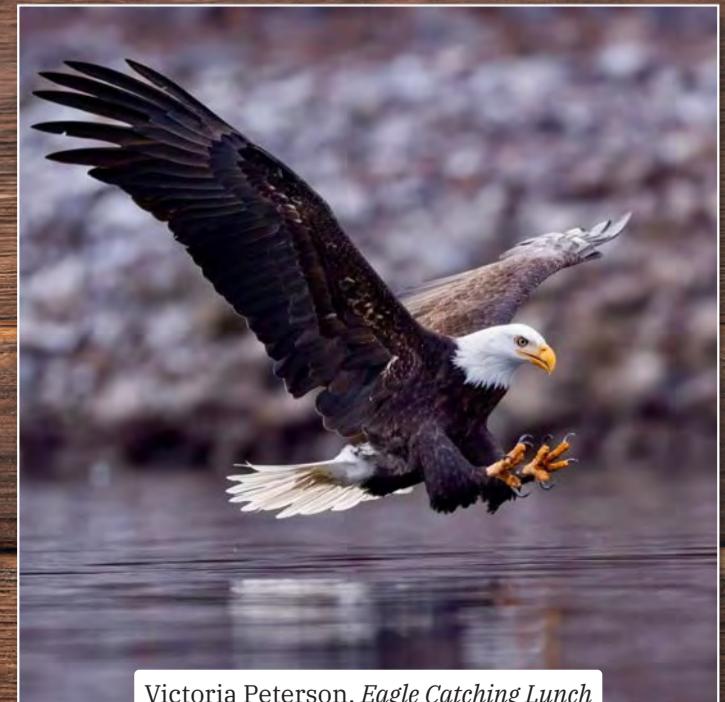
Donna Childs, Winter 1

Snow Forest

— Diana Frome
Soft and pure, a fresh blanket of white
glows all around under the heavenly light.
A warm glow is cast, fooling my eyes,
as the evergreens whisper in the blue lit skies.
Tangled and mangled or tall and straight
with a powdery load giving more weight.
On a snow covered path, but not my own feet,
oh what is this! A four legged animal I hope I do meet.
Darting and hopping to and fro.
Atop the twigs and then below.
I catch a quick glimpse on the snow covered ground,
but off he goes without making a sound.



Britt Ivey, Clark Fork River



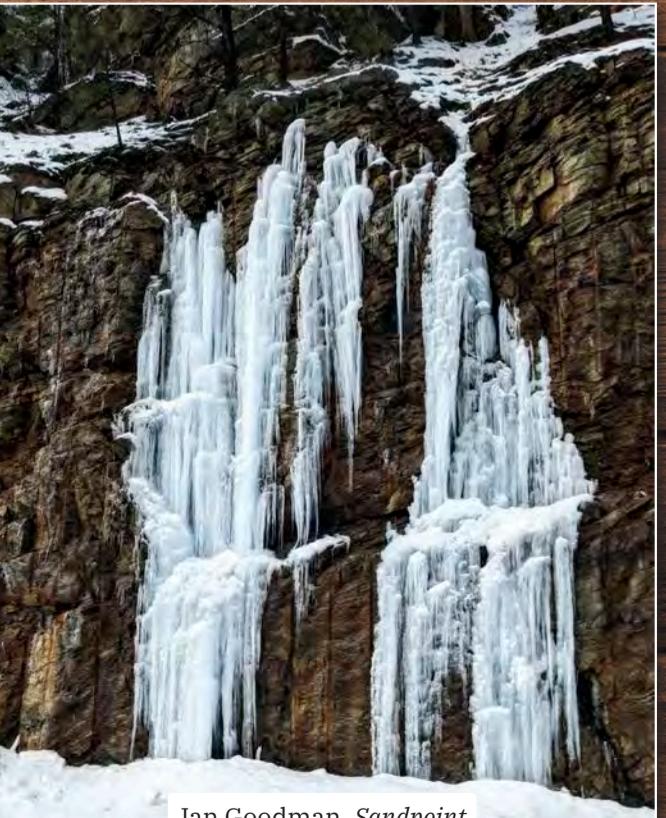
Victoria Peterson, Eagle Catching Lunch



Dan Thomas, Ice Fishing at Dawn



Rey's Photography, Snowy Bridge



Jan Goodman, Sandpoint

Winter

— Marilyn Giuliani
There's a stillness in the air this night
As lady Winter appears
adorned in diamond crystals of purest white.
Following her stroll she transforms earth
Blankets of white veil hill and vale
Trees and mountains are dressing her frosted apparel.
Soon paw prints and footprints begin to surface
Dotting the landscape with wondering
discovery and a purpose
Welcoming a playground for frolicking and sledding.
As winter promises there'll still be more coming.

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A Sweet, Seasonal Spice Cake

— Culinary.net via Family Features —



Pumpkin spice may be all the rage this time of year, but don't forget another fruit that's sure to please: sweet, delicious apples. For an ooey-gooey breakfast, office snack or potluck dessert, turn to this Apple Spice Cake that looks and tastes like it's made for the season. Visit Culinary.net to discover more recipe inspiration.

Apple Spice Cake

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

2 apples

3 tablespoons brown sugar

1 tablespoon cinnamon

1 tablespoon flour (optional)

1 box spice cake mix

1 stick (1/2 cup) butter, melted

4 eggs

1 cup milk

Glaze:

1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

2-3 tablespoons milk

1 cup chopped pecans

1. Heat oven to 350 F.

2. Peel, core and chop apples into bite-sized pieces. In bowl, mix apples with brown sugar, cinnamon and flour, if desired, which helps keep apples from sinking to bottom. Set aside.

3. In large mixing bowl, mix spice cake mix, butter, eggs and milk. Mix in apples and pour into 9-by-13-inch pan. Bake 30-35 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

4. Let cool.

5. To make glaze: Mix powdered sugar and milk; pour over cooled cake.

6. Top with pecans.

Source: Culinary.net



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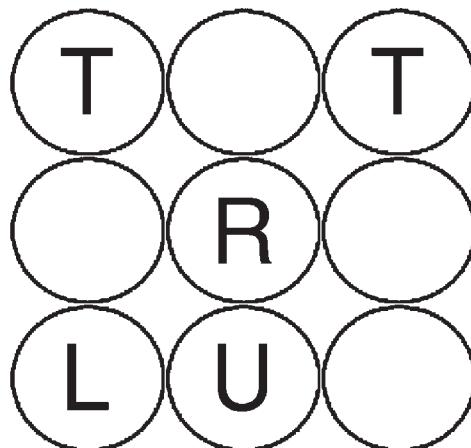
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Why You Should Buy Your 2026 Hunting/Fishing License Now, Not Later

— Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game —

Take advantage of every fishing and hunting day this year, with nearly a dozen hunting and fishing opportunities popping off during the first few months of the year.

A lot of sportsmen see the cold, bitter months of January and February as the so-called "off-season." It's easy to see why — you step foot outside and instantly need a defroster for your lungs.

But with a little bit of mental preparation, the right gear, and (most importantly) an up-to-date hunting and/or fishing license, you can take advantage of every day the calendar gives you and beat that cabin fever, with nearly a dozen hook-and-bullet opportunities around the state.

It's quick, painless, and above all else gives you peace of mind that all is squared away when your favorite season later in the year sneaks up on you. Here, in no particular order, are eight reasons to buy your 2026 licenses and ensure a full year of hunting and fishing.

Fancy up those winter meals with small game

Whether or not you're still recovering from a long, fall big game hunt, going after small game with a .22 long rifle or shotgun is an excellent way to stay active and fill your freezer or saucapot with some tasty mountain critter morsels.

Getting that 2026 hunting license allows you to keep targeting red (pine) squirrels, cottontail rabbits, and snowshoe hares all the way through March 31. The best part? It doesn't require long packouts, is relatively inexpensive, and keeps those legs limber for when spring rolls around.

Up your upland game late into the season

If squirrels or hares don't excite you, there's still plenty of time and reason to go after some of Idaho's upland birds, specifically chukar, gray (Hungarian) partridge, California quail, and (in some places) forest grouse. If your dogs are itching to get out into the foothills and flush some birds this winter, you, your shotgun, and your 2026 hunting license can expect little traffic and potentially good success.

Just be mindful of where you're hunting. This time of year is critical big game wintering time, and many of the same lowland places you might drum up upland birds are also the wintering grounds of deer and elk. Give those animals a wide berth so they aren't expending precious calories getting away from you.

Ice fishing

No matter where you live in the state, chances are good you're no more than a quick car ride from a prime ice fishing destination. Ice fishing can be a hoot — whether solo, with friends, with kids, or all of the above. At this point in the year, many of Idaho's ice fisheries have been hardening up from long periods of cold temperatures. Those cold temps can definitely deter some folks from walking out onto a frozen lake and drilling a hole to fish through. But with the right gear and relatively inexpensive equipment, you can be taking part in one of the most leisurely activities of the entire year.

Before you load up the station wagon with family and fishing gear, be sure to check your destination's ice fishing conditions. If all looks safe, here are some of the best tips, as shared by Fish and Game staff, to help you catch fish through the ice.

Steelhead fans rejoice

Idaho's spring steelhead season kicked off Jan. 1

— and no, we're not talking about hockey. If you're into standing on (or in) a frigid riverbank during winter in hopes of landing one of the most sought-after fish in the state, you're in luck. It's also a good time to row a driftboat because rowing keeps you warmer than a boat heater. Steelhead fishing is a fun and challenging way to keep your angling prowess sharpened when the mercury plummets. Be sure to check out the current steelhead fishing rules and regulations before you go out.

The waterfowl season's only at halftime

You don't need to have a big, extravagant holiday like Thanksgiving or Christmas on the horizon to goad you into goose or duck hunting. In fact, Idaho's waterfowl season is merely half over (or half beginning, depending on how you look at it).

Most duck and Canada goose seasons are open during at least part of January, while white-fronted geese run into February, and as late as March for light geese in parts of the state. See the migratory game bird hunting seasons and rules booklet, as closure dates vary depending on species and location.

Don't rule out winter stream fishing

Sure, the passerby and maybe even fellow anglers might look at you crazy for standing out on a river, risking frostbite, just to catch a few rainbow trout and whitefish. But truth is, winter can be an amazing time to hook fish and observe some incredible natural scenery on quiet waters.

Winter is when many fly anglers sneak out to popular rivers to catch fish in the same stretches of water that are filled with anglers during peak season. They know the fish are still there and willing to take a fly (or lure if you're not a fly angler) and have a whole stretch of the river to yourself.

There are many benefits and strategies when it comes to winter stream fishing, which you can read about here in this story.

Burbot. That's right. Burbot.

What's a burbot, you might ask? It might not be the coverfish of Field and Stream magazine, but the experience and prized table fare make burbot the Kootenai River's beloved celebrity.

There's a whole history to these deep-water creatures — which is highly worth the read — but the burbot are not your average sportfish. When you hit up your buddy to fish the Kootenai River in mid-winter, you might get a resounding "no" before you can even put a period on your sentence. But the moment you tell them there's a freshwater member of the cod family that tastes like lobster living down there, get ready for their tune to change.

Hunting predators

Mountain lion and wolf hunting seasons are open during winter depending on location. Be sure to check out the big game hunting seasons and rules before heading out. Many hunters also enjoy the challenges of predator hunting during winter, and coyote pelts are in prime condition.

Get it all(almost) with a Sportsman's Package

If you're someone that likes to have their bases covered, then the resident Sportsman's Package option is the way to go. At only \$124.25 for Price Locked buyers — or \$144.60 if you're not — you get nearly all the hunting and fishing opportunities Idaho has to offer on one consolidated ticket.

The Sportsman's Package includes a resident adult hunting and fishing license, plus tags for deer and elk (receipts are issued this early in the year and can be redeemed for tags later this summer), bear, mountain lion, wolf, turkey, salmon, and steelhead. Archery and muzzleloader are validated on the license. (You still need a migratory bird permit and federal waterfowl stamp for those species).



LOOK! A set of 3 like-new beautifully matched pieces of furniture, stained dark oak

- 7 ft. corner cabinet with glass insets on the doors
- 6 ft. entertainment center
- 6 ft. storage unit with drawers and shelves

ALL FOR \$300!

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- Brown leather electric recliner - **\$100**

Call **208-818-0253** if interested

Furniture & Appliances



SOLID OAK CLAW FOOT table, pro refinished with 4 chairs, \$495. 208-777-0693

CHARCUTERIE/ CUTTING boards. Exotic Asian hardwoods. Three rectangular 14"x24", 1-3/8" thickness, large, \$180-\$220 each. 208-264-5771, Hope, ID, 9am

COLDSPOT CHEST freezer, works great! 40.5"Wx36.5"H, \$200 OBO. 503-949-3832, St. Maries, ID



CLOSEOUTS AND 1-Only's on sale at our cost until they are gone. Highway 95 between Kathleen and Dalton, Cda. 208-667-1394, wildwest rusticfurniture.com

DINING TABLE WITH 6 padded chairs and leaf, excellent condition. 61" Lx42" W, leaf 42" W. New cost is \$1600! Leaf and top of table covered since purchase. Dark to medium wood. \$650. 509-508-7883, Rathdrum, ID

LOVELY FLORAL 3-SEAT sofa, excellent condition. Green, wine, gold on beige background, 96" long, \$350. 509-508-7883

MATCHING PAIR WHITE LG front load washer and dryer. Nothing wrong; went stainless instead, \$200. We'll deliver. Call 208-660-0790 for more information



WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE stainless steel refrigerator, runs and works great! Upgraded to a larger size and don't need it. 66.25" H, 32.75" W, 33.62" D, 21.7 cubic feet, LED interior lighting, frameless glass shelves, adjustable storage bins, \$450. More photos online at nickels worth.com, Athol area, 808-386-8159

SELECT COMFORT ILE Sleep Number king size bed with adjustable base, dual side independently adjustable, \$1950. 5 cubic foot chest freezer, \$160. 7000 watt Champion generator, \$700. 208-755-6656

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EarthTalk®

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine



Does replacing an EV's battery for \$15-25k when it wears out in less than eight years jeopardize the emissions reduction gains we get from ditching the gas-guzzler?

Credit: Pexels.com.

Dear EarthTalk: I've been hearing a lot of negative things about electric vehicles lately. Is the bloom off the rose?

- H.J. Columbia, MD

It has been a tough run for electric vehicles (EVs) in recent months, with lots of bad press about everything from shorter ranges in cold weather to consumer frustration with getting stranded to the huge carbon footprint of the newfangled cars when factoring in life cycle assessments that include manufacturing. Whether or not these problems are enough to reduce sales in 2024 for the first time in the modern history of EVs is anybody's guess.

Perhaps EV's biggest Achilles heel is the precious metal mining involved. According to Hesham Bakbakhi, an expert in the central heating and renewable energy industry, the manufacture of a single Tesla Model Y battery requires moving some 250 tons of soil to obtain the needed metals (lithium, nickel, manganese and cobalt), not counting hundreds more pounds of aluminum, steel, graphite and plastic that are needed. "The Caterpillar 994A is used for earthmoving to obtain the essential minerals. It consumes 264 gallons of diesel in 12 hours," says Bakbakhi. "Finally, you get a 'zero emissions' car."

According to the International Energy Agency, manufacturing EVs requires six times the minerals and metals as an internal combustion engine vehicle. To add insult to injury, most of the minerals

Tesla uses to manufacture these batteries come from China or Africa. "Much of the labor for extracting the minerals in Africa is done by children," adds Bakbakhi. "If we buy electric cars, it's China who profits most."

A 2019 study by Ernst & Young found that it takes 65,000-80,000 miles of driving (5-7 years) to offset the carbon footprint of purchasing a new EV. But according to Carl Medlock of Seattle's Medlock and Sons, one of the few independent Tesla repair shops in the country, you'll have to replace that EV battery every eight years or so—at a cost of \$15,000-\$25,000! And you would be starting the whole carbon footprint cycle all over again. Indeed, many EVs that aren't even that old are heading for the scrapyard instead of onto a second life on the road. None of this is good news for consumers or the environment.

Perhaps this is why you can score a used EV surprisingly cheap. Rental car company Hertz announced recently that it is selling off some 20,000 EVs from its rental fleet with prices starting at only \$20,000 for a high-mileage but well-maintained Tesla Model 3. Hertz is also unloading Chevy Bolt EUVs starting at around \$22,500 and Tesla Model Ys for \$33,000. Hertz says it's time to sell these cars to better balance its supply and expected demand for EVs, but analysts point to the company needing to scrap lower-margin rentals and reduce damage expenses associated with EVs, which are much more expensive to fix after an accident or breakdown than their internal combustion counterparts. But one can't also wonder whether the battery replacement cost of high-mileage EVs has a bit to do with Hertz's big sell-off now.

Nevertheless, most environmentalists remain bullish on the transition to EVs and view these bumps in the road as opportunities to learn and improve so that someday in the not-to-distant future, we can get most of the gas-guzzling cars and trucks off the American road and power our EVs with clean, renewable energy.

CONTACTS: Minerals used in electric cars compared to conventional cars, <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/minerals-used-in-electric-cars-compared-to-conventional-cars>; Why Tesla's woes signal trouble for the electric car industry, <https://www.kuow.org/stories/why-tesla-s-woes-signal-trouble-for-the-electric-car-industry>.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

EarthTalk®

Dear EarthTalk: How big a role has corruption played in slowing the global fight to combat climate change, and what's being done to increase transparency?

- Horace Wilson, Miami, FL

Climate change is a pressing problem worldwide, and yet corruption continues to obstruct significant progress. Corruption is defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. Powerful industries, and the people they fund, often spread misinformation and lobby at meetings with world leaders to obstruct policy decisions. Governmental bribery and fraud lead to the misuse of money meant for climate protection. All these forms of corruption cost billions of dollars and potentially thousands of lives.

Some of the largest backers of climate corruption are large fossil fuel companies. A study by Transparency International (TI) in January 2024 found that seven major Big Oil companies had a total lobbying budget of 64 million Euros, and attended more than 1,000 meetings with the European Commission, mostly concerned with Green Deal policies. Big Oil networks hold power by hiring former government officials and funding large events and research institutions. Lobbying and bribery lead to weak environmental policies, and corruption feeds the illegal trade of animals and other wildlife crimes.

Climate change and fraud have a reciprocal relationship. Studies show that climate-induced disasters can lead to greater corruption. After a natural disaster, a country will often receive money and other resources, which officials could deliberately misuse. Exacerbated

by the quick response that disaster relief requires, less thorough oversight over funds can result in wasted money, worsening the effects on communities.

TI's Corruption Perception Index (2024) and the ND-GAIN measurement of climate readiness were analyzed together and showed a correlation, where countries with worse corruption had worse climate readiness, especially pronounced in developing areas such as East Asia, South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. In these countries, environmental defenders also face a higher risk of being murdered.

The interplay of corruption and climate change can seem overwhelming, but there are groups and people fighting for protection. As Drs. Gvantsa Gverdtsiteli and Roberto Kukutschka stated for TI, "Making sure that as many impacted people as possible are involved in climate projects and weeding out undue influence is key to their success." The National Whistleblower Center protects and rewards whistleblowers who expose corruption via legal assistance, policy promotion and public education. For those who need help against corruption, the Targeting Natural Resource Corruption Consortium provides resources. TI's work includes a Climate and Corruption Atlas, which tracks and analyzes corruption cases across the world. On the local level, groups should seek to engage communities in disaster relief to better tailor the funding solutions, as well as increase public availability of both climate and financial data.

Contact: National Whistleblower Center – <https://www.whistleblowers.org>

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Pets



BERNESE MOUNTAIN Dog: 2 year old male would be excellent for stud services. AKC registered and up to date on shots. Call for information, 208-984-9228

(5) AKC FEMALE Pomeranian puppies. Have their 2nd shots and are ready to go, \$1500. 208-699-4177

IF YOU THINK YOUR PET lights up your day, in spite of the darkness of these days, your soul finds rest in the promises of God. RLW



FREE PUPPIES. Catahoula/heeler, 9 weeks, fully weaned, 1st shots. Athol, ID, 208-659-7476

AKC LABRADOR Retriever puppies ready February 10th. Health guarantee, microchipped, \$800. Online photos at nickelsworth.com. 208-215-6155, Osburn, ID

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD Border Collie mix, males only. Blue merles, medium long hair, first shots, \$200 each. 208-964-2508



AKC LABRADOR PUPPIES, black males available, ready for forever homes. 14 weeks old, parents on site; very smart, great dispositions beautiful Labs. Up to date on shots and wormer, \$500. 208-610-1184

FREE YOUNG ADULT Aussie, red tri or merle, needs fenced yard. 208-582-2802

CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES available: 2 adorable hairy Chihuahua puppies available. 1 black male and 1 brown female, \$500 each firm. They will be small, under 5 lbs. as adults. Call or text 509-416-3392 for more info. Tri-Cities



MIX BASSET PUP, LAST 1! \$200. Male, white/ brown. 208-208-8821

BEAUTIFUL DEER Chihuahua puppies, \$600. 208-627-9424

AKC REGISTERED WEST Highland white Terrier puppies. Vet check, first shots, dewormed, ready last week of February, \$800 each. 208-217-8246



(6) KITTENS! BORN 12/1/25, available 1/26/26. 2 gray long hair, 2 seal point (1 long, 1 short hair), 2 creamy apricots. Dad is Ragdoll, mom is polydactyl, so are some of the kittens! Eating wet and dry food, litter training started. Mom and dad on site. \$500. Additional pics online, nickels worth.com. 509-924-3485

SILVER VALLEY CAT Wranglers: Several nice adult cats plus kittens available now. We are always in need of foster homes and volunteers. Text or call 208-446-7131. Facebook.com/Silver ValleyCatWranglers



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GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies. 2 males, 1 female ready to go January 16th, \$300; photo online at nickelsworth.com. Call/ text 208-640-2098 for more information, Post Falls

HEELER PUPPIES, TWO males and three females. Eight weeks old, had first shots, dewormed, ready to go. \$200, 360-827-2898, Naples



LAB PUPPIES: Chocolate males available now to go to new homes. Up to date on first shots and dewormer. \$450; photos online at nickels worth.com. 208-582-6455

F1B MINI COCKAPOOS, jet black color. Up to date on vaccines and dewormed, pre-spoiled. \$1100, delivery options available. For more information, 208-935-5919

BLACK SHEEP SPORTING Goods. Home of the lowest prices on all things outdoors. In the Silver Lake Mall, 200 W. Hanley, CdA. 208-667-7831; www.BlackSheepIdaho.com



be a good fit for a home with cats. She also has a little too much interest in chickens, so a chicken-free household is a must. An accomplished escape artist, Chilli would benefit from a secure yard or an invisible fence. While she does like to wander, she reliably comes back when called—especially if there's a tasty treat waiting for her! Chilli is an active, fun-loving dog who would thrive with an owner ready to give her space to run, play, and explore. If you're looking for an adventurous and affectionate companion, Chilli might be your perfect match!



Dedicated to serving the animals of northern Idaho.



TEDDY BEAR CAVAPOOS! Both parents AKC. Raised in my home. Apricot or black. Playful cuddle buddies. Will be 8-10 lbs. Vet checked, shot, wormed. \$1500. 208-770-7786. Additional pictures online at nickelsworth.com

PUG PUPPIES: PUREBRED Pugs available. If interested contact 509-728-3246

PUREBRED GERMAN Shepherd puppies! Black/ tan and sable. Used to kids and cats. Ready to go Feb. 7: perfect Valentine's gift! 208-620-0495

SHIH TZU/ HAVANESE puppies! Healthy, happy, smart, and fun! These little dogs will give you lots of love and joy! Mother is half Shih Tzu, half Havane. Father is part Chihuahua and other breeds. \$600. Three females and one male. Call or text 509-207-9279



FLOKI IS A TWO YEAR neutered male purebred Catahoula leopard dog. He

came in to rescue as a puppy, was adopted and then returned and now has been here over a year! He is a beautiful dog. Kind and very smart. He's very typical of his breed. He is housebroken, obedient and quiet. Read all about him and see more photos at petfinder.com—search for Second Chance Pet Rescue, Hayden, ID, or call 208-666-6025, Second Chance Pets CdA

(3) FEMALE FRENCH Bulldog puppies, 6 weeks old, full AKC registration, located in Richland, WA. They will be vaccinated and dewormed and ready in two weeks. \$2500. For more info, call 509-274-0860

AKC YORKIE PUPPIES: AKC Yorkshire Terrier Pups. 6 weeks. Great markings, intelligent, and quick learners. Have first shots and ready for new family to love them. 509-985-7438

Pets of the Week: Chilli and Dash

—Better Together Animal Alliance—



Meet Dash! Dash is an 8-year-old sweetheart with beautiful, striking green eyes. She can be a little shy

at first, but if given time and allowed to approach on her own terms, she quickly shows her affectionate side—rubbing up against your legs and enjoying attention. Dash is quite talkative and isn't shy about letting you know how she feels! She's friendly, enjoys interactive play, and has experience around both other cats and dogs. A proper, slow introduction is recommended to set everyone up for success. Come by and spend some time getting to know this lovely girl today!

Animal Care Center: 208-265-7297, 870 Kootenai Cut-off Road, Ponderay, ID, 83852. Hours: Monday-Saturday noon-4:30pm. Thrift Store: 208-263-0706, 9am-6pm daily, donations: 8am to 4:30pm daily.

Learn more at www.BetterTogetherAnimalAlliance.org



FRENCH BULLDOG puppies available. If interested, contact 509-728-3246

POMERANIANS: (2) MALE Pomeranians available for their forever homes. First rounds of vaccines and wormed. Super playful and energetic. Parents on site. \$300. Located in Granger, WA. Call/ text 509-830-5239 or 509-830-5136

I HAVE FOUR FEMALE and two male Pugs ready for their forever homes! We are asking \$500. They are playful, friendly and loving pets! Please contact us at 541-561-8815

AKC FRENCH BULLDOG puppies: AKC registered French Bulldogs looking for their forever homes! Available 1/1/26, will go home with their first round of vaccinations and check-ups. 1 female and 3 males born on 11/14/25. We have loved getting to know these sweet puppies and having them as a part of our family for the past couple of months! Asking \$4500. If you have any questions or want more pics (I have plenty), please message me at 406-691-9055. I live in Provo, Utah, but my parents live in western Montana, so if you are in either of those areas, we could make arrangements for meetups

FOUR FRENCHIES AND two Pugs: Four Frenchies, two Pugs, and also three Pug/Frenchie mixes. They have their shots and dewormers. For more info, call 509-578-9099



CZECH SHEPHERDS, THE best combination of intelligent working dog and very affectionate and loyal companion. They crave family time with their human pack! These 8 week old Czech Shepherds are ready for their forever homes, \$1000. 208-952-4589, Sagle, ID

Lost & Found

PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE. Visit our website at www.nickelsworth.com. Classifieds start at \$11.00 for 15 words (10 cents per additional word). We also have options for extended coverage in central Washington

LOST! Large, unusual key on silver rifle cartridge keyring at Super 1 Hayden parking lot. Reward.

208-687-9262 after 5pm

Pets

(3) FEMALE HEELER mixes, 11 weeks old. 2 white with speckles/ smooth haired, and 1 long haired/ white and black. Have been around kids and cats. Shots and wormed. Mom Heeler/ mini Aussie. Dad Heeler/ Sheltie. \$275, 208-304-2228, Priest River, ID



JUST IN TIME FOR Valentine's Day: AKC German Shepherd Rottweiler puppies. Tails and dewclaws removed, will have first shots and vet health check done, \$1800. Accepting deposits now. 208-217-4320

YORKIE PUPPY LOOKING for a new home. Male born 8/31/2025; he has all his shots and dewormed. Very playful and likes to cuddle. Great around other dogs. For more info: 509-380-1577



PUPPIES! MOM IS purebred Newfoundland, dad is Great Pyrenees Anatolian Shepherd. Asking \$450. Additional pics online at nickelsworth.com. Text or call 208-682-5954, Sandpoint, ID

SECOND CHANCE PETS, Inc. All dogs spayed or neutered. Hank 2 year black Lab, very friendly, medium size, short coat; Floki, 1.5 year purebred male Catahoula, gorgeous, black and rust coat, one-person dog; Eb, 2 year male black German Shepherd, great friendly dog! Delilah, 11 month female black Lab mix. Henry, 1 year male purebred Bloodhound, 102 lbs., magnificent dog! Hooch, 1 year male purebred Australian Cattle dog (Blue Heeler), docked tail, super friendly; Freckles, 7 month female purebred Bluetick Coonhound; friendly, social, wonderful family dog option; Hazel, 4 year female smooth coat black/ white Border Collie, super smart; Mittzi, 1 year female Black Lab/ Whippet mix, super athletic and well behaved. You can search for Second Chance Pet Rescue, Hayden, ID on petfinder.com, or email idahocoondog@yahoo.com for information



BERNESE MOUNTAIN Dog puppies, 6 weeks old. Call for pricing, 208-984-9228



2020 20' TRIFECTA LE series tri-pontoon boat, excellent condition and well maintained. 115HP Mercury motor with 52 hours. Includes bimini top, Bluetooth stereo, seagrass flooring, cover, and double axle trailer. One person owned and selling because of retirement. Additional pics online at nickelsworth.com. Ready for summer fun! Asking price \$45,000. Please reach out to Deb for a showing, 208-819-8827, Post Falls

SHOSHONE PET RESCUE! Darrin, young male black Shepherd/ Husky; Justice, senior male German Shepherd; Jean Luc, senior male Pomeranian; TukTuk, young medium sized mixed breed male; Corky, 2 year Shepherd mix male puppy; Russo, 7 month male Husky mix puppy; Tipsy, 6 month female Lab/ Pitbull/ Hound mix puppy; Rosie Charlotte (RC), 1 year female Chihuahua; Tooney, 1 year female Lab/ Golden Retriever; Oreo, 1 year male Australian Cattle dog/ Blue Heeler/ Shepherd; JB (Rooster), 1-2 year male German Shepherd; Sylvie, 3 year female chocolate Lab. More info at www.spr.petfinder.com or call 208-512-3401



ENGLISH CREAM GOLDEN Retriever puppies ready Feb. 1st. Will have first shots, AKC registered limited. Raised around kids; great family dogs! \$700. 208-315-1111

TRICOLOR BEAGLE Puppies: They are current on their shots and wormings and ready for their new homes. \$750. We can meet you halfway for delivery. Please call Donny or Jackie for more info, 509-941-9977



DO YOUR RESEARCH! Make sure you are really ready for a new pet before bringing one home! Also consider adopting a pet from a shelter: They are full to bursting with many pets just waiting for a family to take them home and love them!

BOXER MALE: FOUR YEAR old male Boxer. Not neutered, great for stud. Great with kids, lovely, playful and loyal. \$550 OBO, cash only. In Yakima, WA. Serious inquiries only please. Call or text 509-969-5788

Pets of the Week: Cranberry and Zecora

—Companions Animal Center—



Cranberry is basically a puppy (a two-year-old puppy) in a grown-up body—she's bouncy, wiggly, zoomie-prone, and will absolutely try to follow you into every room like a furry little shadow. She's high-energy and would love a home where she can stretch her legs, run around, and maybe star in her own action movie. She'll need some patience and training, but

she's eager to learn and even more eager to love.



Zecora is a friendly, sweet girl. Even though she is 11-years-old, you never know it! She loves playing with toys and would love to have someone to cuddle with and a nice warm bed to sleep. Zecora is on a special diet for her skin and digestive health.



Companions Animal Center is located at 10275 N Atlas Rd, Hayden, ID. We are open to the public Tuesday-Saturday noon-6pm, Sunday noon-4pm, and closed Mondays. Visit www.companionsanimalcenter.org or call 208-772-4019 for more information.

Community Calendar

Musical: "Dream Roles and Miscasts," Friday-Sunday, Feb. 13th-15th, presented by Aspire Community Theater, at the Kroc Center, 1765 W Golf Course Rd. CdA. Every performer has a character they'd love to play or a song they ache to sing. Sometimes those roles and songs aren't within a performer's reach—either the character is written for the opposite gender, or the performer is typecast another way. Dream Roles and Miscasts is going to shake that concept up!

Theater: "The Hobbit," various showtimes, Feb. 13th-22nd, at TAC at the Lake, 22910 Appleway Ave., Liberty Lake, WA. See one of the world's most beloved classic stories come to life! Please visit:



AKC SILVER LAB puppies. Ready for training and forever homes. All shots up to date. 509-851-4066

MALE PUPPY NEEDS NEW home. He is half Pocket Bully and half Frenchie. Located in Othello, WA. 509-331-8431 for more info

WE HERE AT OceanBlue-Bullies strive to produce the healthiest top quality Frenchies in the US. They come with such great personalities that we have placed many in special needs homes as emotional support animals and service dogs. We provide all of the training and interaction with each pup as they grow. For more info, please feel free to text or call us at 503-583-5091

www.facebook.com/TACatthelake for more info and for their LinkTree ticket website

Kids' Musical: "Aladdin Jr., 3pm and 6pm Saturday and 3pm Sunday, Feb. 14th-15th, at Mountain Lakes Bible Church, 2215 N 7th., CdA. Performed by CYT North Idaho (younger cast). For tickets, visit: <https://www.cytnorthidaho.org/Shows/>

CPR/AED First Aid Class, Saturday, February 21st, 9am-1pm, at Spirit Lake Fire Station, 32182 6th Avenue. For adults and children, learn how to help save lives with basic first aid skills. Email admin@spirit-lakefire.com or call Ann at 208-623-5800 to reserve a spot.

Courtesy of Coeur d'Alene Insider. For more extensive calendar, visit: www.cdainsider.com/calendar

Your Tomorrow Matters.

IF YOU NEED HELP RIGHT NOW, PLEASE CALL THE NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE:

988

OR

TEXT "MT" TO 741-741

Pets of the Week: Bambina and Eb

—Second Chance Pet Rescue—



Hello everybody!! I'm Bambina, a 5 yr old spayed female Domestic Short-hair calico kitty who was surrendered by my owner due to cat allergies. She has always been an indoor kitty, with supervised outdoor time in an enclosed backyard. She is very friendly, personable and seems well adjusted. She has always been an "only child" and would need a slow introduction to any new siblings.

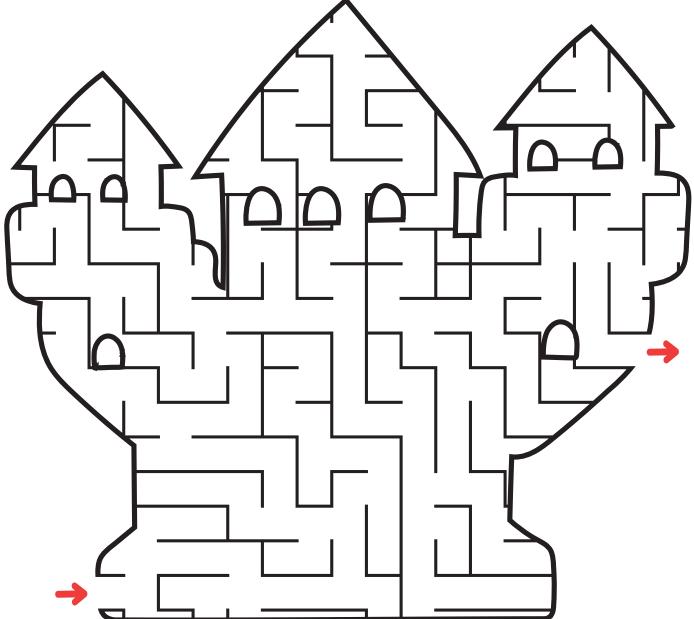


Hello everyone, I'm Eb, a 3 year old neutered male black German Shepherd. I am looking for a family to call my own after I was left behind in shelter in Southern Utah. My time was up, and this Rescue stepped in and saved my life. I've been here for several months now and still haven't found the right people! Could that be you? Apply today!

Please email idahocoondog@yahoo.com or search for Second Chance Pet Rescue, Hayden ID on www.petfinder.com for more info and an adoption application.

NW Jr

FUN STUFF FOR KIDS TO DO!



How did the princess know
how heavy the dragon was?
It came with scales.

Who won the
princess race?
Rapunzel, by a hair.

What did the frog prince
order with his hamburger?
French flies.

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very nice original car. Flat-
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fluid drive gyromatic trans-
mission, one family owned
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\$14,500 OBO. 208-755-6656

1973 CHEVY NOVA SS
hatchback, great project car!
Clean title, garaged/ covered,
missing minor items: back
bumper, backseat. \$6000,
text 208-952-1688, Post Falls,
ID

Think Inside the Bowl Quick ideas for busy season meals

— Family Features —

When life gets hectic, eating well can get pushed to the bottom of your to-do list. A go-to meal option due to their simplicity, versatility and nutritional benefits, rice bowls provide a convenient and satisfying solution for parents, students and busy professionals juggling multiple responsibilities.

During busy season, they can be prepared quickly and are easy to customize to suit different taste preferences and dietary needs. Typically offering a balanced mix of carbohydrates, protein and vegetables, they ensure you and your loved ones get a wholesome meal without spending hours in the kitchen.

For example, this Rice and Beans Burrito Bowl offers a burst of Southwestern flavor in just 10 minutes. Featuring the zesty and natural flavors of Minute's Cilantro & Lime Jasmine Rice Cups, it's a canvas for creativity complete with juicy pinto beans, crisp corn and a vibrant mix of salsa. Ready in 1 minute, the BPA-free microwaveable cups are perfectly portioned and can be enjoyed as a meal right out of the container when crunched for time.

To customize your culinary creation, simply adjust the heat to your liking with a sprinkle of ancho chili powder or add a touch of creaminess with a generous helping of guacamole, dollop of sour cream or sprinkle of shredded cheese. To further transform your meal into a festive feast, pair your bowl with grilled chicken, tofu or a fresh green salad.

Or for a Korean twist, consider this Quick Bibimbap. Derived from the Korean terms "bibim," which refers to mixing multiple ingredients, and "bap," meaning rice, it starts with jasmine rice and is topped with kimchi, carrots, sauteed spinach, bean sprouts and a fried egg.

The dish, which is prepped and ready in 20 minutes, can be further customized with sauteed mushrooms, tofu, seared beef, pickled cucumbers and more, but sweet, buttery Minute Instant Jasmine Rice provides the fragrant, fluffy base. Ready in 5 minutes and known for its distinctive aromatic scent, it's precooked then dried with nothing added but convenience so you can get a tasty meal made quickly.

Visit MinutRice.com to find more meal ideas to conquer busy season.



Rice and Beans Burrito Bowl

Prep time: 8 minutes

Cook time: 2 minutes

Servings: 1

1 Minute Cilantro & Lime Jasmine Rice Cup
1/4 cup canned pinto beans, drained and rinsed
1/4 cup fresh or canned corn
1/4 cup prepared salsa

1/2 teaspoon ancho chili powder (optional)

1 cup shredded lettuce

1 tablespoon sour cream

1/2 avocado, sliced (optional)

1/2 tablespoon cilantro, chopped (optional)

tortilla chips

Heat rice according to package directions.

In medium, microwave-safe bowl, combine beans, corn, salsa and chili powder, if desired.

Microwave on high 1 minute.

Mix in rice. Place lettuce in bowl and top with rice and beans mixture. Garnish with sour cream, avocado and chopped cilantro, if desired.

Serve with tortilla chips.



Quick Bibimbap

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 4

- 2 cups Minute Instant Jasmine Rice
- 1/4 cup canola oil, divided
- 8 cups baby spinach
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 teaspoons soy sauce
- 4 teaspoons rice wine vinegar
- 1 cup bean sprouts
- 1 cup matchstick carrots
- 1 cup prepared kimchi, chopped
- 4 eggs, fried
- 4 teaspoons Sriracha
- 4 teaspoons sesame seeds, toasted

Prepare rice according to package directions.

In large skillet over medium heat, heat 2 tablespoons oil. Sauté spinach, garlic, ginger, salt and pepper 3-5 minutes, or until spinach is wilted. Transfer to bowl and keep warm.

Wipe out skillet. Heat remaining oil over medium-high heat. Stir-fry rice 3-5 minutes, or until slightly crisp. Stir in soy sauce and vinegar.

Divide rice among four bowls. Top each serving with bean sprouts, carrots, kimchi and one fried egg. Drizzle with Sriracha and sprinkle with sesame seeds.

Source: Minute Rice



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WordPlay

by Barbara Nimke

"Begins With AN"

Here are 28 words which begin with letters "an". Search for them diagonally, forward, backward, up and down, an' see how many you can find.

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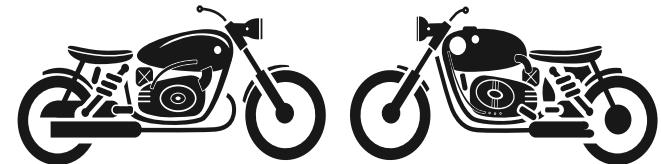
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SHOW YOUR COMMUNITY LOVE!

The Nickel's Worth wants to showcase those who are doing good in our community, so we're going to dedicate a section in our February 12th issue to do just that! We're asking our readers to share their stories of kindness big and small, whether it's a major organization, someone lending a hand, or anything in between. Please send your stories (200 words or less) to articles@nickelsworth.com or PO Box 2048, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816 by February 9th to be included. Please call 208-667-2408 if you have any questions. We'd love to help you share your story of community service!

Stories will be printed at the discretion of the Nickel's Worth, and may be edited to fit available space.

Motorcycles & ATVs

1964 HONDA TRAIL 90
CT200 motor bike, complete, not running, \$500 firm. 208-916-5249

(2) HONDA XL175 PROJECT bikes, \$960. 2009 Polaris 500 X2 Sportsman 4-wheeler, nice condition, \$6200. 1986 Honda Fat Cat TR200, runs good, \$3600. Racing go-kart with Yamaha IT100 engine, \$2000. 1963 Honda Trail 55 project, \$2000. Rokon Scout, runs good, \$5400. Credit cards accepted. 208-762-5651

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1979 CHRYSLER SNO Runner Sno-Rabbit, original Running Survivor snow bike, \$4250. Brand new 21 MPH ebike pit bike, \$650. Good running XR50R kids off-road 4-stroke dirt bike, \$950. Nice 100cc mini-bike, \$550. Nice 200cc mini-bike, \$860. Accepting credit cards, 208-755-6656

1964 ROKON (Nethercutt) Trail-Breaker 2WD motorcycle, original survivor, runs well, \$6500. Two 3-wheel e-bikes, nice condition, \$950 each. Three Honda Trail 90 parts bikes, \$750 for all. Three 1970s Suzuki TS125 parts/project enduros, \$1650. Rokon Scout, runs good, \$5400. Credit cards accepted. 208-762-5651

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1990 HONDA XR200R, \$2350. 2002 Honda XR50R, excellent condition, \$1180. 1984 Yamaha Tri-Zinger 60 3-wheeler, \$1650; 40cc 4-stroke pocket bike, \$400. Honda eu2000i inverter generator, \$800. 2007 Harley Softail Chopper, nice condition, \$7700. 2003 Road King, nice condition, \$9750. Accepting credit cards, 208-762-5651

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Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

RIDDLE SEARCH – EXPRESS YOURSELF

Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: How should you speak to a giant?

ANNOUNCE
ANSWER
ARGUE
ASK
CHAT
DISCUSS
EXPLAIN
GAB
GOSSIP
MENTION
MUMBLE
RANT
RAVE
REMARK
RESPOND
SAY
SPEAK
STATE
SUGGEST
TELL
YELL

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

Riddle answer: _____

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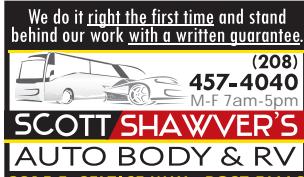
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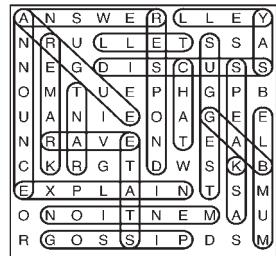
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Answer



Riddle Answer:
Use big words.

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by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Name the Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher, known as "The Heater From Van Meter," who had his No. 19 retired by the Cleveland Indians in 1956.
2. What U.S. city was awarded the 1976 Winter Olympics but then had to back out after voters rejected using state tax revenues to support the Games in a 1972 referendum?
3. Florida-based sports radio personality and podcaster Jon Weiner is better known by what professional name?
4. How old was Julia Hawkins when she became the first female runner in her age category to record a time in the 100-meter sprint when she ran at the 2021 Louisiana Senior Games?
5. What Hockey Hall of Famer for the Chicago Blackhawks had a brief, uncredited cameo in the 1992 comedy movie "Wayne's World"?
6. In November 1988, which Canadian boxer did Sugar Ray LEOnard defeat to win the WBC light heavyweight championship?
7. On Nov. 13, 1934, the St. Louis Eagles' Ralph "Scotty" Bowman became the first player in NHL history to do what?

Answers
1. Bob Feller
2. Denver
3. Stugotz
4. 105 (her time was 1:02.95). goal.
5. Stan Mikita
6. Donny Lalonde
7. Score a penalty shot



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In person: 107 N. 5th Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

By phone: 208-667-0651 or 208-667-2408 (display)

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SALUTE TO VETERANS, every Veteran's Day in the Nickel's Worth. If you or someone you know has served, send us a picture, name, rank and branch of service at any time—we'll save it for the next issue!

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- Offer classes for starting seeds indoors and successful transplanting.
- Be sure to include children. They love to garden!
- Attend local events and show your support by volunteering.
- Share your seed swap events and use #SeedSwapDay to post on social media.

National Seed Swap Day History

The first annual Washington Gardener Magazine Seed Exchange was held in Washington, DC, on January 26, 2006. Kathy Jentz, the editor/publisher of the magazine had the last Saturday of January named an official holiday and National Seed Swap Day was born. After that event's success, seed swaps in other cities across the nation have joined in celebrating the day each year on (or around) the last Saturday in January.

Submitted by guest columnist Kathy Jentz

Seed Swap FAQ

Q. How do I harvest seeds for a seed swap?

A. Collect fully ripe seeds of an individual plant lay them out to dry on a plate and expose them to the air for several days. The length of time will vary depending on the seed, but 2-3 days should be sufficient for most seeds. Place them in a labeled jar or envelope so you can easily identify the seeds. When you're ready to swap, place seeds in individually labeled envelopes.

Q. Should I provide planting and growing information with the seeds?

A. Information such as when to plant, types of soil that worked best for you, sun vs. shade plant, and germination info are helpful to others. If you can provide these details, please do. However, not every gardener keeps track of this information.

Q. Are seed swaps a good way to start gardening?

A. Yes. While most people swap seeds to add variety to their gardens, gardeners also enjoy spreading their love of flowers and vegetables to new gardeners.

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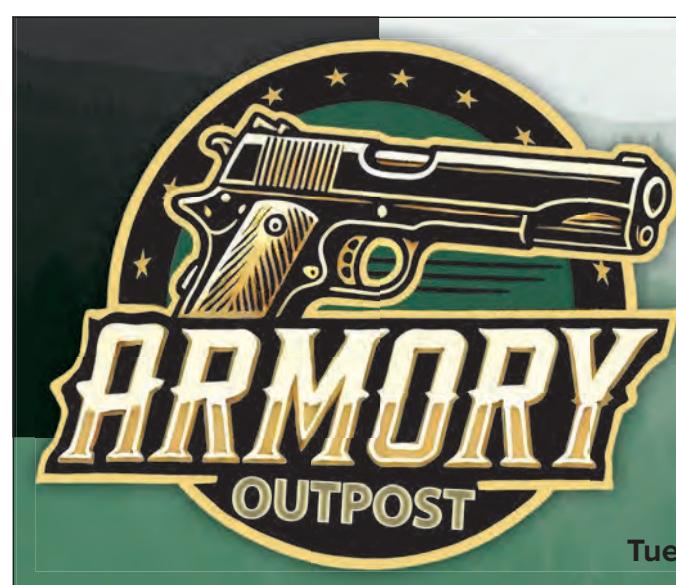
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Break Out The Neoprene: Winter stream fishing is a perfect opportunity to stay outdoors and catch fish

—Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game—

Keep those off-season fishing mechanics sharp by getting out on your local stream or river this winter.

Ask just about anyone if standing in two feet of 33-degree water while snow somehow finds its way down the back of their base layer sounds like their idea of a good time, and you'll probably get a resounding no. This time of year, it's tempting for anglers to stash the rods and hang up the waders 'til next spring. And that turnkey fireplace beside the 55-inch flat screen doesn't make the decision any easier.

But for those willing to don their thickest neoprene waders, set up shop on an icy riverbank for a few hours, and fuss with frozen guides, there are still several opportunities to sharpen one's angling skills, take in Idaho's beautiful winterscape, and hook a few fish.

The benefits and strategy of winter stream fishing

There are several benefits to fishing rivers and streams during the coldest part of the year. For starters, you may have the whole stretch of river bank to yourself. For a handful of folks, fishing plays second fiddle to other winter hobbies like fly tying, skiing, or making a pot of chili in the slow cooker. It shouldn't be too difficult to find a nice stretch of river where you won't have to worry about summer crowds.

Seek out slow, deep water where trout and whitefish will most likely be holding, expending as little energy as possible. Look for slow pockets or pools where water is barely flowing.

Slow and hungry

Just because fish are moving slower in the winter doesn't mean they're not still looking for an easy meal. Insect hatches are sparse in winter, but that doesn't mean they still aren't around as a food source for slow-moving fish. Fish can be frustratingly picky this time of year, so presentation and food size is vital.

As a general rule of thumb, use smaller bait and flies than you would in spring and summer.

The same goes for tippet. River flows in winter slow down dramatically and tend to be lower and clearer. That means it's even easier for fish to see right through a poorly-executed presentation. It might be wise to downsize your tippet from what you usually run in the spring and summer, such as a 4X to a 5X.

Technique, technique, technique

Once you got your rig set up, it's good to try different techniques that you might not have tried before in the warmer months.

Dead drifting is critical in winter because trout won't chase a fly in cold water. To dead drift, simply let the slow-moving current carry the fly either on the surface (dry fly) or just beneath the surface in the upper column of water (bait, nymphs, midges). If you see dimples on the water, it may be fish feeding on drifting insects, which will likely be tiny midges or mayflies.

Occasionally stream fish will rise for dry flies, such as small midges or olive mayflies, during the winter. But it isn't too common. Instead, save yourself a few extra grams of weight and keep that box of dry flies at home. A small midge Emerger or a tiny olive mayfly Emerger will be the only surface flies you need.

If fishing for trout or steelhead, try swinging a fly by keeping the fly in the upper part of the water column. Steelhead and trout will often feed upwards, so a well-placed fly swinging across the upper portion of the water just may catch their eye.

If the fish aren't going for small flies like midges and stoneflies, it may not hurt to lob a streamer out there to test the waters, so to speak. Streamers can look like a big, easy meal when presented slowly, but don't expect trout to vigorously chase them like they do in summer.

Hit the snooze

The only thing sweeter than netting a jumbo fish in the middle of winter is netting a jumbo fish in the middle of winter after 8 hours of uninterrupted sleep. Unplug the alarm clock. Disable your phone's sleep reminder. Brew that extra pot of bold roast, and slam that extra waffle. Winter fishing means one thing to many anglers: sleeping in. This time of year, fish will be right there with you, figuratively speaking.

With most winter fisheries, fish won't be getting after it until mid- to late-morning. Unlike peak summer conditions, fish will be most active during mid-afternoon on sunny days, and even longer into the afternoon on cloudy days.

It's easy to see how excited one might be about submerging their southern hemisphere in icy water all for the hopes of catching a fish, but rest easy (and long) knowing that those fish will still be waiting for you when you hit your local river or stream later in the morning.

Where to start

Now that you're well-rested and know what to try on fish, here's where to find them. See Fish and Game's Fishing Planner to learn more about each location.

Boise River: Don't overlook this river during late season because low winter flows actually make it more accessible and wader-friendly than during summer. It has healthy populations of rainbow trout, whitefish, and brown trout. But don't expect gullible fish; these fish have seen almost every trick in the book from anglers.

South Fork of the Boise River: This popular stretch below Anderson Ranch Dam doesn't get any less popular during winter. Water coming out of the reservoir provides stable conditions and thousands of trout per mile make it a destination for late season anglers. Trout and whitefish tend to be above-average in size.

Payette River (Banks to Horseshoe Bend): This section of the Payette River supports a tremendously diverse fishery, including mountain whitefish. Whitefish will readily take a well-presented bait, fly or lure, they're scrappy when hooked, and they're tasty, yet admittedly, a little bony. Anglers have many access points along this stretch of river.

Big Wood River: This river has long been popular during winter for catch-and-release trout fishing. It rarely freezes, and if you fish it on the right day, you can catch trout on dry flies. Bring your midge and baetis patterns.

Malad River: This spring-fed stream is a fun winter fishing spot because it's easily accessible from the Hagerman area and has lots of trout. Bring your light tackle because they tend to run small, but they're plentiful and feisty.

Lower Lochsa and Selway rivers: All provide good opportunities to catch whitefish during winter, and also have catch-and-release trout fishing.

St. Joe River: This river provides winter fishing opportunities for cutthroat trout and whitefish.

North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River: Lower section also has fishing for whitefish and cutthroat trout and is accessible during winter.

Snake River below American Falls: This section of the Snake has produced some excellent trophy trout fishing in recent years. The relatively mild climate and dam release keeps this fishing accessible and productive during winter.

Snake River (Tilden to Shelley): This section is slated to get nearly 40,000 rainbow trout stocked in November. Several thousand fish will be released near Tilden, Blackfoot, Firth and Shelley.

Portneuf River: Upper section is your best bet, and Fish and Game provides several access areas so you can get to the river.

South Fork of the Snake River: This has year-round trout fishing and there's no limit on rainbow trout. There's also lots of opportunity to catch whitefish during winter.

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