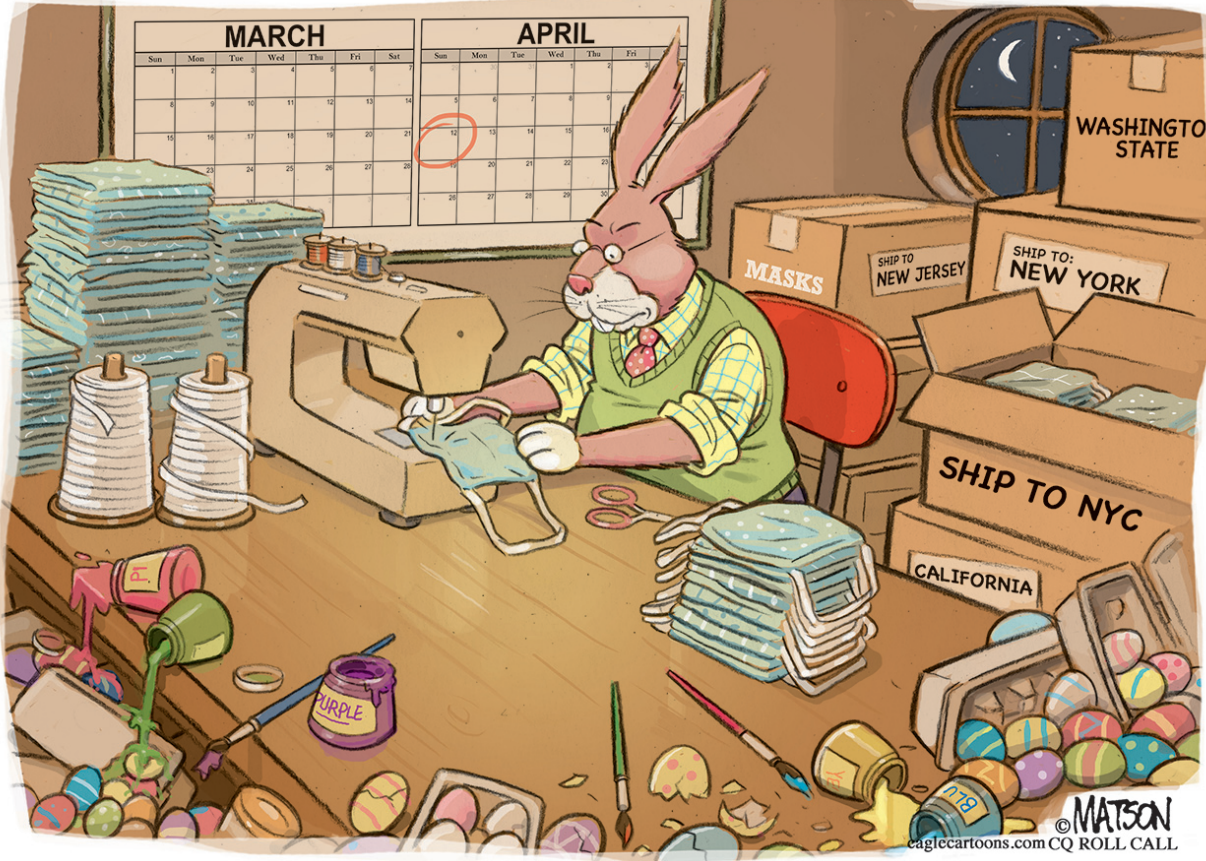


VOICES



("Yes, egghunters. The broken and partial eggs count!")

LETTERS

www.TribMailbox.com

Cathy's right, replace that leaky line!

To Roslyn and Ronald Rate Payers

I worked for city of Roslyn water department from 1985 until I retired in 2015, I was manager of the city's public water system for most of that time. I want to back up Cathy Cook's letter to the editor last week.

In 1992, Roslyn put in a new water system and in 1998 built the water plant using USDA Rural Development Funds.

In 2011, Roslyn did a rate study using the FCS Group, costing \$50,000. Rates went up. A large portion of the rate increase was to replace the 110-year-old gravity pipeline bringing water to our towns. Roslyn's water rates increased from \$30 to \$60 per customer per month, collecting \$50,000 a month in water revenue, but they never applied for a loan. For seven years, Roslyn has been charging customers for principal and interest on a loan they never took.

In 2019, the City did another FCS rate study which

cost \$20,000, planning another water rate increase.

2020 FCS Group Study Capital Spending	
YEAR	Borrowing
2020	\$309,904.00
2021	\$1,650,983.00
2022	\$25,000.00
2023	\$1,030,118.00
2024	\$25,878.00
2025	\$1,732,507.00
TOTAL	\$4,774,390.00

Funded by cash from rates and new debt service for \$4.78 million in capital improvements, water rates of \$100.79 per customer per month will be required by 2025.

Still no application has been submitted to USDA. ASK WHY?

In July 2020, I prodded the Mayor and council to apply for USDA Rural Development Funds and was told by councilman Missel that USDA didn't have funds. I found this hard to believe, so I called

Marty Canasty, USDA Loan Specialist in the Yakima office, she informed me that USDA has funds, but since Roslyn has a median household income of \$60K, Roslyn will only qualify for USDA Market Rate Funding at 1.875% for a 40-year term loan. Build a 100+ year life pipeline and pay it off in 40 years. This is a great deal and the city should jump on it.

Debt divided by customers if Roslyn's 734 and Ronald's ~108 customers total 842.

A \$2,000,000 loan at 1.875% for 40 years = \$5,926 per month ÷ 842 = \$7 per month per customer.

Rates increased \$30 per Roslyn's customer per month = \$22,020

1.875% is the lowest interest rate ever. Replacement of the major portions of the 1910 transmission line is possible using existing rate payer funds, which were raised for that purpose.

Joe Peck – Roslyn



Take a 'Trib' Around the World!

LOCATION: Hawaii • WHO: Dan & Debbie Renshaw



FUN IN THE SUN. In February, Cle Elum's Dan and Debbie Renshaw took the *N.K.C. Tribune* along on a trip to Hawaii. Mainly, the couple stayed on the Kona side of the Island of Hawaii. They visited several beaches in the south – one called Pebble Beach known for its black sand and volcanic black pebbles that make up the whole beach. Also, Hapuna Beach to the north – which is a very beautiful sandy stretch. Dan and Debbie drove to the northeast side of the island to visit the famous Tex Drive-In where they each had a malasada (a Portuguese donut made fresh every couple hours and filled with whatever fruit flavored jelly filling you could imagine). They spent a of couple days strolling in downtown Kailua-Kona. Unfortunately, they said it was sad to see so many businesses shuttered because of Covid restrictions – businesses that may never come back again.

How to submit a 'Trib Around the World'
To submit an entry, visit our website at:
www.nkctribune.com/taw

OR Mail to: NKC Tribune, 'Take a Trib Around the World', P.O. Box 308, Cle Elum, WA 98922 **OR Email:** a high resolution image to: tribune@nkctribune.com. Please include: names of persons in photo (left to right, front to back), location where photo was taken and a brief description of the trip and place(s). If you would like your print returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

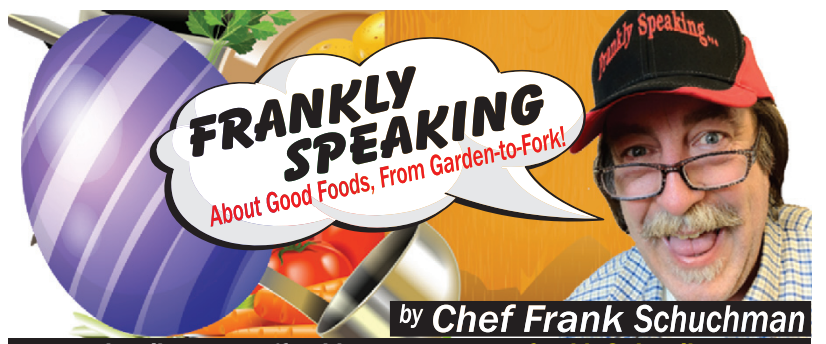
The opinions expressed on the Voices Page are those of the writers and not necessarily the viewpoint of the Tribune or its staff.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Northern Kittitas County Tribune welcomes points of view that are well-reasoned. We do not publish views that are hateful or preposterous. Anonymous letters, or ones signed on behalf of others, not accepted. We will consider letters to the editor or guest editorials for publication if they are submitted with a name, city and state (for print) and phone number or email address (for our contact purposes only, not published.) We reserve the right to edit all letters and editorial pieces. Digitally formatted letters of 300 words or less are preferred. Submissions by the same person/topic may be limited to one letter per 30 days. Deadline for submitting letters is MONDAY, 5:00 P.M.

Mail to: Letters Northern Kittitas County Tribune P.O. Box 308 Cle Elum, WA 98922

e-mail to: tribune@nkctribune.com



www.nkctribune.com/frankly frankly@nkctribune.com

Roslyn's own Frank Schuchman with over 40 years experience as an executive chef is an enthusiastic "foodie" and organic gardener. Bonus materials online.

Hello spring! Who is that poking their heads around the corner?

Frankly, I know many of us are chomping at the bit to get out into our gardens again after such a strange winter (especially all of February). Last Sunday was quite the snow/wind storm in Roslyn I think we got almost 6 inches in the backyard! Alas, it is still not time to plant anything yet, "the snow is still on Peoh".

Divide and Conquer or Harvest?

After spending a lot of time in Roslyn backyards when I was young, I learned a lot about growing veggies and identifying plants. In the spring it was especially interesting to figure out what was popping it's head out. "I think that's a ..." then mom would say, "that's a crocus!" or dad would chuckle and say "that's an onion, we must have missed one last fall". Today, I still find an onion or two (or potatoes) that were missed in September (and it is just fine to let them keep growing).

However, there are a number of veggies that show up in spring (hardy perennials) but are hard to identify until they really get growing. Two pesky plants (that can take over a garden) are horseradish and rhubarb. They start out by poking up just a couple of inches and really take off once the frosty mornings end. Before you know it, you have a huge bush of both. This is about the time I start getting asked "when can you move it (rhubarb or horseradish), I've heard that they need to be divided or moved every so often. How often?"

The short answer is yes, you should move both types of plants every so often. Horseradish is easy, when you harvest it, you are indeed moving it around some. Rhubarb is much different, it should be moved (not far) every 10 years or so. Yes, 10 years is actually only half it's lifespan.

Timing the Harvesting of Horseradish

"When do you harvest horseradish" is a very common question. It is so hardy that if you have a ton of it, you can pull it up any darn time you want to make some horseradish sauce. But the best times are in the very late fall (December, before the real snow storms hit) or now, early spring. "Early spring" definition: once the killing frosts end (we stop scraping ice off the morning windshields) as temperatures rarely drop below 28 degrees any longer.

Also, during this ending (fall) and starting (spring) as seasons begin, the plants are dormant which will allow you to cut, move and pull them apart without hurting them. It will also promote vigorous new growth.



You can see several tips or heads of horseradish (called crowns) poking their heads through the matted leaves of winter. Some have sprouted small serrated leaves and are firmly entrenched in the soil. This is how you identify horseradish, if you had some in the backyard last year, look for these "nubs" right now in the spring.



Long taproots can grow several feet down into the soil. This was the smallest of the crowns in the pic above. It had one long taproot that we cut off after digging over 1 foot down in the soil. The other crowns pictured have multiple roots growing in large clusters just below the top of the soil.

Harvesting and Moving Around

When I want to harvest I randomly take every other crown and their respected roots below. When roots break off I usually just leave them to continue growing. Others, like the stringy tipped tiny roots (too small to shred up in the kitchen) I just tuck them in and around the other crowns in my garden, 3-6 inches under the moist soil. These roots will continue to produce new plants all summer long, making way for new harvests next year.

Rhubarb

Spring is an optimal time to move and divide rhubarb too. Like horseradish, a dormant phase is in late fall/winter and early spring (now). Rhubarb has a long and wonderful life, it can last literally for generations (like mine) in Upper County backyards. See my spring pics.



These are young leaves, barely 1-2 inches tall, emerging this week in Roslyn. The crown you are seeing with multiple heads poking out is actually about the size of a soccer ball just below the soil surface! The original plant has to be over 40 years old and has been divided many many times. A general rule of thumb is to divide rhubarb every 5 years if you want new young plants in multiple locations. Every 10 years, if you want larger, taller production, divide in 15 years if you want jumbo rhubarb. To maintain a healthy plant I try to divide every 10 years, but remember, new or newly divided rhubarb needs at least 1 year to recover from planting and a second year to produce it's first usable stalks. Depending on our winters, it could take 2-4 years for rhubarb to re-establish itself.

VOICES

LETTERS

www.TribMailbox.com

No shame, no stigma,
no ill feelings at all

After being reluctant to receive services from HopeSource, Aaron decided it was time to visit the Upper County Food Bank.

"I thought I could do it all by myself, but I worried about what people would think of me. Later I realized that kind of thinking was very detrimental to my growth," he said.

Now, five years later, Aaron said he is so grateful to have HopeSource in his life.

He uses the food bank to supplement his grocery budget and that helps him to allocate resources to other costs of living.

For several years he adhered to a vegan diet and with the help of HopeSource staff was able to get all the essentials to maintain a healthy, vegan life.

"When I walk in each week, everyone knows my name and face even when I don't recall theirs," he said.

"I am very grateful and blessed to have HopeSource in my life and pray others can use it without ill feelings or shame."

Sam Punttenney – HopeSource Ellensburg

Being a hero and helping
someone who is impaired
get a safe ride home

For many of us, the holidays mean coming home. With all the joys of being reunited with family and friends, you might also be figuring out how to avoid certain topics of conversation with people you love but don't always agree with. It's okay if you change the subject when Uncle Ron starts telling you about his most recent alien encounter, but one topic that can't be ignored if it shows up is impaired driving.

If you're at a gathering where someone intends to drive impaired, the greatest gift you can give them this holiday season is an alternative to driving. Impaired drivers make up a small portion of drivers on our roads (in a Washington study of nighttime drivers, only two percent of drivers had a BAC over .05), but impaired driving was a factor in 60 percent of all traffic fatalities last year.

Most of us agree that it's unacceptable to drive impaired by alcohol or other drugs, and most of us, when in a situation to intervene, take action to prevent impaired driving. That might look like giving someone a ride, ordering a cab or ride share, letting them sleep on your couch, or even calling 911 if your offers go unaccepted. It might feel uncomfortable to come between an impaired friend and their car, but it's a heroic act that can save lives. And we can always use more heroes.

Eveline Roy – Target Zero Manager for Region 12 (Kittitas, Okanogan, Chelan and Douglas Counties)

A walk through Tahoma National Cemetery

Dear Kittitas,

A very long time ago when I was just a boy of nine, my father was gone for good, and I found myself daily, being directed and ordered, and most of all protected, by the older boys and men of my little town of White Center, Washington. I shall never forget their shouts of encouragements, praise, and sometimes physical pain delivered by the older military veterans of my neighborhood. I can still hear their voices even today yelling, "Fight back harder," "Sing," or "Run run run," or "Swim faster, swim faster," and the baseball field bleachers lined with soldiers, Marines, and sailors screaming, "Get a hit kid." They were my brothers and fathers that I never had, of my safety, of my future, and long career.

Ever so slowly as time allowed and the years past, these men would disappear from my life forever. So many times throughout the years I wanted to speak to all of them of gratitude and respect, but time and distance of the military, and life, would have me gone for several years, completely losing all contact.

Even now as an old man of 78, I can still re-

member their names and voices.

Yesterday I attended a military funeral in Covington Washington where all military veterans are allowed to be buried. Walking between numerous headstones of 158 acres, my heart and eyes exploded with absolute joy of finding mostly all the young and old men of my forgotten childhood home, buried beneath my feet.

Between sobs, tears, embarrassment, and pleasant pain, I screamed out with laughter, "I'm back. Remember me." Almost at once a chorus line of combat veterans of my neighborhood screamed out. "What the hell kept you so long kid?" "Where you been?" "Got a smoke?" "What happened to your long hair?" "Let's play catch." "Remember boy 'Always fight back.'" I did.

As I was driving away, unable to quit crying, I could hear clearly the old songs of WW2, Korea, and Vietnam, being sang in falsetto, far underground, by the heroes of my childhood and of my county. One very distinct voice yelled out, "Hey kid, come on back, but not too soon. We need a great pitcher."

I am finally home.

Ronald Arthur Slater – Cle Elum

Editorial

People
helping people

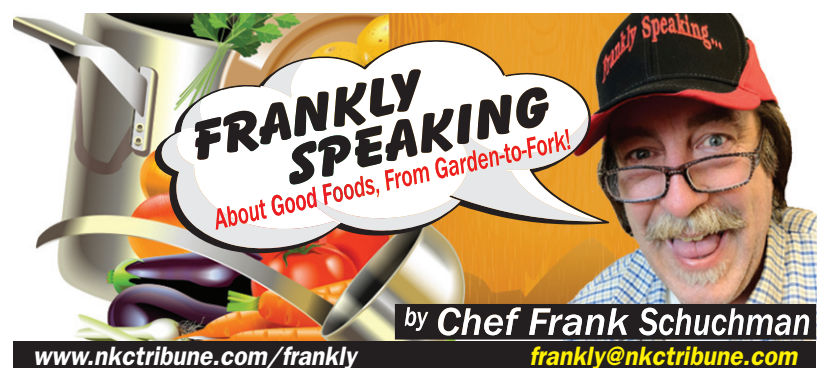
by Jim Fossett

Cle Elum's Jeff Osiadacz has been wanting to get some attention for the group of residents (who prefer anonymity) that pitched in to buy a local person a \$3,000-plus mobility scooter. Osiadacz helped unload the gift and took photos of the two who gifted this wonderful Christmas present. Osiadacz also spent the better part of two weeks trying to get those photos off his phone and e-mailed to me at the *NKC Tribune*. I couldn't help him over the phone, even after several attempts, but he stuck with it. Last Thursday he walked into the office and we both figured out how to get them into my computer. He said, "This is really something. I know the person who got the scooter, so I know how much it helped. You could call the story *People helping people*."

On another note, a day or two earlier, I found out about a group of local ladies (who also prefer anonymity) elf-ing various folks in the Upper County with Christmas bags chock full of treats, mementoes, and other thoughtful touches of love, including little potted evergreens, and ornaments for a Christmas tree.

Short story short: despite the woeful climate of our challenging era, Upper County hearts pump on.

The thoughtfulness and happy generosity of these people simply ... feels good.



Roslyn's own Frank Schuchman with over 40 years experience as an executive chef is an enthusiastic "foodie" and organic gardener. Bonus materials online.

A Very Merry Polenta, Bagna and
Tinsel Christmas, My Friends!

Frankly, tomorrow is Christmas Eve and I am excited. I always get that way around Christmas, I guess it was how I was raised, lots of fond memories to look back on (and many more new ones to create). Snow, there's always snow on my Christmas and after the past 2 weeks of snow there should be no shortage on Saturday. Let's go for a walk...down memory lane.

Growing Up Big & Small

Growing up I was fortunate enough to have Christmas in both Seattle and in Roslyn. Seattle it seemed had the presents, it was mom and dad's house, so everyone sent them there. It was pretty much always an all-American Christmas; dad hung lights on the house, mom decorated the tree in the living room then really holidayed out the rest of the house. Christmas dinner was big enough for the 4 of us.

But Christmas just wasn't complete until we made it to Roslyn and the grandparent's house. It was the home mom grew up in and it felt more like home to us too. The West Side had the hustle and bustle of "city" but everything about being here, just said "slow down".

Their Christmas tree had ornaments older than my parents on it. The lights were bulbs, actual screw in colored bulbs not some weakling little twinkle lights. And I don't know how he did it, but my grandfather (Papa) somehow put them away so they never tangled. The tree was always real and from "the woods" if you asked where he bought it.

Tinseltown

Tinsel, hung on the tip of every branch, not the cheesy FDA approved plastic or mylar (think shiny balloons) strips we get anymore, but back in my day, it was the real deal and pretty much poison. Tinsel in the early days was toxic lead-based and the potential for some ding-dong head kid to eat some and get sick was real. Ah, but how it did hang so nicely on the tree...until 1972 when it was abolished by the FDA and now this flimsy stuff never hangs down, just kind of floats and looks funky ... but safe.

I'm not sure how the friends and relatives made it through the snow, but the house was always filled to the brim with people at Christmas, talking, laughing and singing, lots of singing. If you follow my column, I'm sure you have read about my younger days. As kids we would yell downstairs at the adults (instead of the other way around) to not sing so loud, because we couldn't get to sleep.

The foot-pumped roll-player piano pounded out the keys as the lyrics scrolled along and everyone sang making the living room turn into a Karaoke lounge. They might have sang off key but they got all of the lyrics right to the raucous "Darktown Strutters Ball" and then melancholy on "Moon River". And just when it got quiet a guitar case snapped opened and/or mom's accordion pumped out yet another Christmas classic. As we fell asleep some adult called out "we need more Tom & Jerry's!"

The Kitchen

Was and still is, the social room of the house. The phrase "grandma knew best" really rang true here in Roslyn. I didn't know what went in the pot roast (or pie crusts) she (Nana) just made them taste better than everyone else's. Don't laugh but us kids simply were not allowed in the kitchen (and neither were the dads). Well not 100% true, dads were called upon to run to the store for something or "bring up another bottle of wine from the basement" (a lot of homemade wine in Roslyn basements).

The kitchen is where Tupperware was king, so many things arrived in them and so many left in something called "it should fit in here". From serving spoons to casserole dishes, they all seemed to always be instantly identified, "oh, that's your Auntie Carol's" and they were returned "next time we see them" which was probably the next weekend.

Christmastime was when my favorite foods came through the backdoor. There was always polenta with spaghetti sauce, "Dutch Crunch" and butter, Kielbasa and homemade sauerkraut (cabbage from Wapato), plus pepperoni ends and "Easter Cheese" for us kids (Torchetti's too). The Bagna Cauda was usually on until late and the next-day-breakfasts were epic (everything, hash browns, sausages, eggs...all cooked in the Bagna oil). **Chef Frank Note:** keep reading my column if you want these strange sounding foods identified (or just live in Upper County for a while, you'll see).

These Days

These past couple of Covid Christmases have kind of thrown a monkey wrench into our lives, but it's nothing we can't handle. This year we still have a nice layer of snow outside, driving around I see locals have their lights up and others with decorated trees in their windows. Downtown Roslyn and Cle Elum businesses have decked themselves out once again, good job everyone!

Keep your eyes open on Christmas day, you just might see me walking around town in the snow. Which is one of my many cherished memories: when my son was very little he would hold my hand as we walked in the snowy woods around Roslyn.

How in Heaven on Earth do we overcome stress?

by Chaplain Mary Ann Adams
Guest Columnist

UPPER COUNTY – Stress comes in different forms to everyone. Everyone reacts differently to stress.

As different as one individual is to the next, each person has a myriad of responses to circumstances that life presents.

These responses are birthed out of how we were raised, family genetics, circumstances, relationships, how we have been and are being treated, and even how we expect to be treated, as well as many other individual factors.

I would like to address stress in different forms in a series of articles that I will entitle: "How in Heaven on Earth do we overcome _____?"

Please feel free to write to the *Tribune* with any suggestions of words that you would like to fill in that blank with, and I will do my best to address these issues.

I would firstly like to lay a foundation in addressing that everyone is different, as I stated above.

In a society of "opinions" the world has become not a safe place to share your

thoughts and opinions if they are different from others. This is one of the first ingredients to stress. The absence of safety to be you.

Responses to this vary from becoming a bully and arrogantly saying that you don't care in various narratives and blasting people, to being hurt and feeling like a victim, and everything in between.

It is possible to handle stress with ease and be successful. Many of you have this down. I am going to address those who struggle. I believe we are going to drop some keys to help people's lives go a bit smoother, more peaceable.

Truth is, humanity was made to have a voice, to form thoughts, opinions that help and build. The intention of our inner self is to have value, give value and create, then to oversee growth and progress. A lot of anger and frustration come when what is seen is counterproductive to that. So, the struggle is real. Your frustration is valid.

How we handle it is a whole other world. What can we do to see things work out? When the answer is "nothing," something inside implodes, and on occasion, or perhaps more

than that, explodes. Those around us have a reaction to us and it's off to the races of more devaluation.

So, for today, it is my suggestion that you stop, sit down, and take a breath. You have value, you matter, you may have been misunderstood and/or been overlooked, but stop, breathe in that you have value. The revaluation starts with you. Clear the air in your head.

This is enough for today.

Later, we will endeavor to discuss how to tackle problems and help your loved ones. But for today, let's begin by turning our intent, yes, just our intent, to restoring our value to ourselves.

There may be many things that stand in the way of that, but today, we take ONE step, and this one step is enough. We make up our mind that our intent and direction is to restore our value to ourselves.

There may be many of you out there that could address these issues better than I, but because of love I have chosen to begin the conversation.

Northern Kittitas County, you are loved, you are valued, you are uniquely created and sought after.



VOICES



Citizen Commentary

Time to come together

by Joyce Heritage
of Cle Elum

Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, we are Americans, and we should be able to agree that our democracy is precious. I want to be clear that technically, the United States is a democratic republic, but the principles of our democracy should be strong. Americans should be fighting to preserve it, not tear it apart. Our representatives should be working together to make it better not to tear it apart.

Ukraine and democracy

I am writing this in light of the Ukrainian battle to keep their democracy. In light of their struggles, I am hopeful that Americans will come together to recognize what we have to lose. As you watch the unprovoked and illegal Russian war against the legal democratic country of Ukraine, please consider what we do have to lose. It is time to come together.

Prior to the Ukrainian war, I was not sure there was anything that could bring Americans together. In the past five or six years, maybe 12 or 13 years, we have become very polarized. Democrats and Republicans are unable to agree on anything. It is pathetic that our governing bodies cannot do our country's work. Our representatives on both sides are not working together as they are supposed to do. Our representatives are so worried about the re-election process that they either are not able to or simply will not do their jobs.

It is time that we open lines of communication with each other. Call me an optimist, but I strongly believe there are many things that all Americans can agree on in principle. It is our representatives' duty, their job, to figure out the logistics. I'm not suggesting that we can all agree on how to do things, but the principle of what needs to be done.

Work for the people, not for re-election

First and foremost, I want our government to work and that means our representatives are working for us. The Republican and the Democratic representatives work for all the Americans in their districts or states. One problem that we have is that our representatives are so worried about reelection that they will not cross the aisle and do what needs to be done. If they are too concerned about re-election, then term limits may be the answer.

Gun rights and responsibilities

I believe our children should be safe from gun violence in schools and in their homes – and that does not mean that I want to take away guns, it means I want guns kept out of the hands of dan-

gerous and irresponsible people. This means that there should be a system where a person who may have lost their gun privileges is able to get them back or if threatened with the loss of their gun rights, they are able to have a hearing before a judge to make a determination about their rights to own or possess a gun. I believe Americans should be allowed to have guns. Why is it so difficult for our representatives to figure this out?

Voting rights

I believe that every American citizen is entitled to vote. I am okay with some identification when a person signs up to vote but I am against making it difficult for certain people to vote. We should be expanding voting systems not removing them. No one should have to stand in a line for hours to vote. It is important to realize that states govern their election processes, but the federal government should make sure Americans are not being refused this right in any way. I am against suppressing the vote of any person. You may not agree, but I believe ex-felons who have served their time and are not in prison should be allowed to vote.

Everyone pay their share

I believe all persons should pay a fair share in taxes. I believe that the rich are not paying their fair share. I believe that corporations should pay taxes. It is not fair that Microsoft, Amazon, and other corporations pay nothing or almost nothing when they are making billions.

Campaign advertising and pork in bills

I believe that campaign advertising of ALL kinds needs to be examined before publication by a non-partisan government agency. False and misleading advertising must be stopped. The misleading advertising might be difficult unless the bills that are voted upon are not used as tables to serve up the pork. Pork and non-related things should not be allowed to be added onto bills. A politician may have voted yea or nay on a particular bill because of something added in – and then another challenger can claim that they voted no for something or yea for something to make them look bad. Stop the pork and then we can make the misleading advertising stop too.

Limit politician benefits to their terms of service

I do not think that our congressmen and senators should get a lifetime of benefits. As well, their healthcare insurance should be the same as Medicare. If they are limiting Medicare, they will be limiting their own healthcare. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. I think it is shameful that elderly people are not

covered for dental, vision and hearing related issues. Are our representatives covered for these things, you bet!

Too much power held by too few in Congress

I am not an expert or even a novice about congressional and senate rules, but it is obvious to me that the rules are not working. There is something wrong with a system where one person, whether it be Nancy Pelosi, Mitch McConnell, Chuck Schumer, or any other one person from preventing a vote or a discussion on any issue. Any representative or senator should be allowed to put forth something for a vote.

We can agree

I'm sure there are things we can agree on related to immigration, foreign aid, wasteful spending, taxation, and many other things. I am interested in hearing your thoughts. So, not only am I interested in your comments about what things we can agree on, but I want to put forth some thoughts on how we got here and hear your thoughts. How did we become so polarized?

TV news

Back when I was young, when there were not hundreds of TV stations and 24-hour news cycles, our news reporters reported on the news. We had 30 to 60 minutes of local news followed by 30 minutes of national news and then another 30 minutes of local news. Americans could believe the news that was put in front of them. We did not contemplate fake news. At the end of each newscast, both in local and national news, there would be a four or five-minute commentary by the newscaster giving his or her thoughts on what the news meant to Americans. The TV screen would say 'commentary.'

The difference today is that the news and the commentary are so mixed up that most Americans have a hard time differentiating between what is news and what is someone's opinion – and NOT news. If a person is not carefully considering this, it would be easy for a lay person to believe the commentary and not the news. I want to challenge Americans, not Democrats and not Republicans, but Americans to look at the cable news programs they watch and carefully consider what is news, what is true, and then compare it with what is commentary.

Let's communicate

So, consider this an invitation to open the lines of communication. I believe the division between Americans based on affiliation with a political party can be lessened if we learn to communicate – which means listening as much as talking.



Roslyn's own Frank Schuchman with over 40 years experience as an executive chef is an enthusiastic foodie" and organic gardener. Bonus materials online.



Frankly, as a young chef I remember walking into a kitchen dry storage area where they kept canned goods and cooking supplies. I found huge bottles of green food coloring, not the tiny plastic teardrop shaped squeeze bottles, but jumbo 16 oz bulk bottles! I wondered what the heck these were needed for, then in a forehead slap moment I knew...Saint Patrick's Day. (Saint Paddy's Day, never Saint Patty's day. Paddy is short for Patrick, Patty is short for Patricia.)

Over the course of many years in many kitchens, yes I have used my share of green coloring on Saint Pats, bartenders hands at the end of the day wore the colors too as did their customers lips. We all love to put on a little green when it comes to March 17th and why not?

The holiday of course began as an homage to the death of Saint Patrick and Christianity coming to Ireland. But like so many holidays in the US, we tend to go a bit overboard with enthusiasm so historical accuracy sometimes suffers, but oh well (right about now, someone shouts "Kiss Me I'm Irish!").

Shamrocks!

Many Saint Pats events will have a shamrock or two somewhere and it is the "unofficial" flower of Ireland. True, the shamrock is a real thing and the name does come from a Gaelic word meaning "little clover" but history credits it way before Saint Patrick was to have used it as a teaching tool. The three-leafed clover representing the Christian Trinity was being used but there are many different three-leafed plants around Ireland, meaning many of these are also considered shamrocks.

Four-Leafed Clover?

Well, being so rare and almost impossible to find one (only a weird genetic clover mutation will cause it) they are definitely considered good, no great luck! Alas, it wasn't Saint Patrick that started this tradition either, it goes much further back to the Druids and their belief that it was not only super lucky, but no evil spirit would dare bother you.

'Real' Traditions ;)

Well, we also realize that corned beef and cabbage is totally an American-Irish creation and Lucky Charms® are not on the National Food list in Ireland. But there is one thing we can all agree on and that the existence of Leprechauns. Truly these little guys that have the red beards, tall buckled top hats and green trousers are totally real and are always around on Saint Patrick's Day!

I think we know, that wherever there is an Irish person, there are leprechauns, that's just a stone cold fact. They love trees and a good forest, so Upper County is a natural draw to them, keep your eyes open, for if you see one, you might be able to capture it. We all know what that means, we get his pot of gold and/or three wishes! Whoo-Hoo!

Leprechauns are great gold keepers and have superb hiding spots (like ends of rainbows). Tip: if you find any fairies you will find leprechauns, they keep the gold for the often frivolous spending fairies. However it is not recommended that you trust any Leprechaun for they are sneaky and mischievous at all times. Ouch! What was that?

Pinch Me!

Not wearing green on Saint Patrick's Day? You all know what happens, you get pinched. Who started this pain-induced tradition? Leprechauns of course did, you get a pinch for not wearing green, the "green of Ireland" is the respect they are wanting from you. So if you get pinched, it was a Leprechaun (or sometimes they get help from us mortals).

Trapping: 'Catch Me If You Can!'

It is virtually impossible to trap one for his gold, but you can try. **Chef Tip:** favorite foods are local mushrooms (Italians, Croatians, etc., Be Careful!), most nuts and things found in the forest. Being Irish, they love potatoes. Local wildflowers are a treat and their fave foodie flower are dandelions, mine too. Several Leprechauns have told me they would stop by if a pint of Guinness just happened to be left outside. **Traps:** choose your bait from above. Types of traps can be quite small or very large and you need to hide them well or Leprechauns get quite suspicious. **Fact:** there is no right or wrong way to build a trap.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day

The Leprechaun is a beloved and cherished symbol of Ireland's rich, proud history. He is a trickster but also a renowned worldwide symbol of good luck, something we could all use a little bit more of these days. So keep your eyes open, set your traps, or not, and enjoy a Happy Saint Patrick's Day no matter what you believe.



THAT'S RIGHT, A PINT O'GREEN!
Chefs Note: if you really must have a "green" beer, add 1-2 drops (3 drops for shamrock, 5 drops for forest green color) to a pint glass, then pour the beer into it, never drops in the bottle. Mixing blue and yellow food coloring make green right? Wrong it comes out turquoise.

N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Frank Schuchman
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