

Sue Buettgen Oral History

Wed, 7/29 10:52AM • 44:05

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, students, kids, computer, learning, teacher, home, working, watch, fun, worry, happen, screencastify, school, hear, masks, family, parents, difficult, talking

SPEAKERS

Jack Nord, Susan Buettgen

Susan Buettgen

Hi! If my phone ever cuts out tell me I'll move sometimes it's kinda weird. Yeah, it's spotty here to

Jack Nord

the time is 12pm or 12am and 12pm.

Susan Buettgen

How about noon? Let's say noon. [laughs]

Jack Nord

The date is May 16 2020. And just as a reminder, any answers you provide will be included in a publicly accessible archive. So please do not share any information that you would not like to be publicly available. And then we'll get into the background questions. So what is your name and if you're comfortable, do you mind sharing your age and ethnicity?

Susan Buettgen

Susan Buettgen and it's really Susan as heritage backgrounds my family is generally Irish and German and English thrown in the mix. I suppose if you were looking at a form I would have to check caucasian.

Jack Nord

In general, where do you live? In general, where do you live? One second. You're cutting out let me go by the window. Can you hear me? Can you hear me now? Okay.

Susan Buettgen

I live in South Minneapolis

Jack Nord

No, that's perfect.

Susan Buettgen

Um,

Jack Nord

when you first learned about COVID-19 What were your initial thoughts about it? And however your thoughts changed since then.

Susan Buettgen

Well, it was kind of interesting because I heard a lot on the radio You know, Sarah had telling a lot of stories about actually people that weren't teaching English or teaching classes in China at the time and how they were stuck inside. And that was back in January, I think. And, and really, I had a lot of students that were looking up and very stressed out about it and worried. They heard a lot about it. And at first I wasn't, you know, first I didn't realize how bad it was going to be. And I thought, but then, you know, I thought more like flu virus, were okay. But then when I started hearing that, you know, they were not allowed to go outside. And, you know, then I'm like, how this is a little more serious. So I guess it was some stories that I was hearing about Americans that were teaching in China, and they were sharing their stories about you know, being a number of them stayed and they were actually teaching their students through zoom and through different things face to face, even though they were like kids teaching kindergarten English, you know, little kids, but they Were using computers to teach them and they were staying there. So that was interesting.

Jack Nord

What thoughts have concerned you the most about COVID-19?

Susan Buettgen

Oh, I didn't ask the second half about what I think about it. Now I'll kind of do both of those. Now, I really think it's a serious thing, I think. For sure. I think we just watched last night's show about the New York, Brooklyn, men and women that are doctors and nurses and ambulance drivers. And it was really eye opening even more just how serious it is. And, you know, people do need to take it seriously. Maybe not for them, but for other people that around them that could get set. And that I think it's it's one that eventually we'll find a vaccine for. I feel that, you know, maybe we'll take a shot like we do the flu shot every year and help. But I think it's, you know, it's something that happens in our world where we get new viruses and we have to figure out how to deal with them. But this one was a lot more spirit than a lot of others. And so I'm hoping people can Seriously, I'm, you know, we need the funding to help with that we need people to, you know, try to stay away from people if they can and treat it safe. And I'd say the most concerning thing for me is, you know, what's happening with my students and my families and my family, and our people being safe? What will happen if they do get sick? how's that gonna affect them? Are they going to be part of that 20% that needs a hospital, are they going to be part of that? percent that needs an ICU. I'm proud of our state for trying to slow it down and long enough where we can get enough. We can't get enough respirators and things that they need. And now we did we had like 230 and now we have over 2000 and with close to 4000, that was already. So I think, I think we've been doing well with that and listening scientists need to do. So. You know, I guess it's mostly surname because, you know, I think people are patient, especially in that

Jack Nord

And then we can get into the employment questions. So what is your job? And what do you do on a day to day basis.

Susan Buettgen

Sixth grade science teacher, I've been a science teacher for years. And before that I worked at nature centers, museums, always in education. I'm in the backyard. So I on a day to day basis, I teach 120 6th graders, physical science, so we're doing physics and chemistry. But I always try to work nature into it too. And the environmental add into it as well as we try to get outside the weekend. To tie it ties to the real world. And so it's a lot of hands on experiments. I have a very diverse group of students, pretty much all ethnicities pretty much you know, within our state, and lots of languages better Focus on lots of different abilities as far as kids with disabilities. So it's a really wonderful mix in a whole range of abilities, which I love. And this working to make that a fun learning community is really proud of. So. So that's what I do on a daily basis, usually. Now on an issue basis, I'm in front of a computer at home, which I don't like. It's really hard not to see the students and I say, that's the saddest thing about it all. They really want to do well. I mean, I've never met a kid who doesn't want to do a good job they do they want to do well, they want to please you they want to please themselves and want to be parents. They want to do good. This is very difficult for a lot of them. Even students that are normally functioning at a very high level. Now being isolated, it's very difficult for them to stay motivated to not feel lonely to not feel like you know, get it all done when they see it. It seems like a lot when we're not guiding them through everything day by day. I mean, they don't do eight hours of school. work, they are guided into communities and they're, they're guided is a class and they're guided how to get started and, and, you know, even though they do work independently and with groups a lot, where they're getting going, and we're there when they need us. And so now it's really difficult even though they can use the technology and reach me anytime they want. It's amazing how even though we've had every kid with a computer, how they didn't do that they're unable to do things independently. But usually, their partner would go, oh, click that button, or we'd be like, oh, here, I'm gonna help you That night, you know, and now they're on their own. And for a lot of them, they don't have a parent sitting next to them. There are a lot of parents that are working, particularly students that either single parents or they are an immigrant family, you know, there's still a lot of people that are working and so kids don't have backup, even though their parents would love to be there and give them backup. They can't. So you know, we've we've heard from a lot of parents who don't even have parents that are there. It's really difficult for them. They're not a sixth grade science teacher, they're not a sixth grade math teacher, you know that. And so it can be, it can be really difficult for them to look at the list and go Okay, now, I didn't know. And so it's, you know, everybody I think wants to do their best, but it's very difficult. Well, most everybody has internet Wi Fi hotspots. Internet, computer, a lot of places don't have that. They don't have a computer or internet or computer.

Jack Nord

And you know, even college students are struggling with this. And a lot of college students don't have access to internet. So the campus library actually had to buy computers and give them out to students that could check them out. And it's in

Susan Buettgen

the libraries, everybody, everybody wants to help. I mean, that's what's really cool is you're really seeing people wanting to help wanting to do what they can to help out rewind and really get this done. So that's been really cool. But I know like families that only have one computer, they got four kids, they're each trying to do four hours of homework a day, it's impossible. You know, at least at least in our school, every kid does have a computer. It's still very difficult

Jack Nord

as the curriculum changed for students because of this.

Susan Buettgen

And we're definitely not getting to as much. Again, we've had to cut way back to what we can expect of them. Just because so what they have to do in the morning, they're supposed to buy time, but really counting if they log in at all, because we have kids that are at a daycare, their parents are first responders or whatever, they're at the daycare, or they have to work. And so they're not even starting to get help until three, four o'clock. So, but they have to log into this and call the hub and that's where they will take the attendance like if they log in there and look at their schedule for the day. That's all there. assignments are listed, and they get kind of present. You know, they're not asking. And then they look at this list and it might say, science, go to google classroom, do this, this map, go to google classroom, go to Moodle and do these assignments, look at this video. So there's a list of what has to get done. Sometimes it can be really daunting. So we've definitely cut back the amount that they're doing. Definitely, like I tried to do fun science videos for them. So like, totally buckets a lot to talk about centripetal force, you know, pop into pop popcorn to talk about conduction, and they are preferred convection, you know, so I'm trying to do things in a fun way, which we did, we wouldn't do some, I mean, a lot of fun faces on at school, but you can't do it now. Unless you show them with a video. And then you can encourage them, you know, you've got this try at home what you're going to know and try it at home. But, you know, it's not like replicating the experiment for them for sure. Or having them do a hands on themselves. It's just not. So yeah, we've definitely cut down what they're doing. In fact, these last three weeks we've cut down where every course because they not only have their five, you know, reading math, social studies, language arts and science, but now they have homework and choir and band and bass. And, you know, tech ed, and you know, all those exploratory classes and art. So they have, they have like, eight classes, but they have assignments in. So we've, we've cut it back to every class, two assignments a week, 15 minutes each, you know, otherwise, we decide we're going to lose them. And we'd rather have them learn something than nothing. So but I think I've done pretty good with with my spam, I mean, everything that people are doing the standard pay for servers, reaching their standards, getting to everything they want to for sure. So so I think I've reached a touched on everything I wanted to touch on, but it's definitely not the same.

Jack Nord

Actually, in college labs are doing like for labs, we're doing the same thing. You know, before it was extraordinarily hands on. And now it's just like, okay, watch a video, or we were doing on the different soil horizons. And they were like, you know, if you want to you can go outside and dig a hole and look at the soil horizons, right? You know, but a lot of people don't do that. So you have to watch a video to really understand.

Susan Buettgen

And then for us, like there's things I'd love to have them go outside and try or do or look for, like I really started off the very first week we did this. I really started with observations what's happening and they really liked that. Sorry, puppies in the neighbor's dog. But, but they're 11 and 12. I can't say go outside and go do this. They I'm not exactly sure where they all live. If it's safe to do that, to start with, if they can do that if they're not, you know, some a lot of my kids that are sixth graders are at home alone watching for other little siblings. You know, they can't go outside and do something. So there. There's so many kids that are helping their family and in our alone and can't, can't go do that. I have one girl, she's just the brightest students. She's a sixth grader, but she, she came, like two weeks to our country before the fall happened before school was done two or three weeks. So she was just reading friends and her family. You know, they weren't in the health care industry, so they're not home. So she's home alone. And she doesn't really have a lot of friends yet because she was just meeting them all. So she can't just wander outside. It's so hard for so many that and then I have one set. Both parents are home they're taken outside their inbox, they're doing try experiments. You know, it's a it's a range of what they're able to do. But, but the one thing is they all want to try and they want to do well. I mean, that is so fair. Nobody's just like Forget it. I'm playing beautiful, lovely students but Keith did have a little bit of trouble this year and he said I know I'm a little behind but I'm gonna work to catch up and I'm so sorry I gave you any trouble this year like it made me cry it was you know he's a lovely person and always has grown up and dealing with that but he was so introspective and so wanting to do well and and you know, was given it as all you know, but it's just such a different, different thing when you're on your own trying to do this. What do you do email them or call or, you know, chat or whatever, then I'm constantly just, and most of those have been about how to do the work most of us has been. What do you do when I got a new puppy? Tomorrow's my birthday. Don't forget, tomorrow's my birthday. Like they want you to remember they're there. They want you to talk to them. They messed up. They were for a lot of kids. You know, for a lot of kids, no matter Their ability to matter what their economic level, the level ground. They miss that. They miss talking, and students and communities so it's really hard.

Jack Nord

What do you worry most about two students in the transition?

Susan Buettgen

For one thing, do they have enough food? recipes? They don't have enough food. I worry they're alone and suffer. Some of them are alone with HIV free access to a computer. What are you watching? What are you doing? Who are you talking to? I worry that there's a lot of young people watching other young people, their little siblings and you know, how's that going? I worry, they're going to get sick. I worry their parents are going to get sick. You know, I worry that a couple of them are playing basketball with their buddies like what are you doing? Do I worry when so Login. When they log in, they're logging in at three in the morning, why are you up to three in the morning, you know who's watching you? So, you know, but I just worried about their safety. And I'm not worried about them being too far behind. There's some that will get farther behind or behind, because they're just not doing as much. I think particularly in areas like that, you know, that it builds so much off of it. But, you know, we can we can deal with that we can do that. I worry more about Do they have enough to eat? Are they in a safe place? What's happening? You know, and and are their families safe are they say, and during this time, too, there's a

lot of research that's showing you where they're first responders, if anybody's being hurt at all, we're the ones that often see it and report it. So they've they found an uptick in different places in emergency rooms of kids that were hurt by abuse or something and, and because there was nobody that reports because we're home 100% then the academic

Jack Nord

transition from learning to online learning for you

Susan Buettgen

really loved being in front of kids and being with kids and working with them and watching them work together and getting them to be a community. And I'm not much to sit in front of a computer, I hate it. I hate it in front of a computer. And so, but that has been fun learning some cool technologies and, and got stuff on YouTube now. You know, I've learned a lot of you know more about how to do some different technologies and that kind of thing. So that's, that's always fun. You know, I'm using them in a fun way to have kids Connect. So, so that's that's fun. But overall, it isn't fun to sit in front of a computer and not be able to grab them and pat him on the shoulder and hug him and take a morning every every day and Say goodbye and get excited when they get so excited when they learn something new and

Jack Nord

you experience any technical difficulties in the transition from in class learning to online learning.

Susan Buettgen

We were really good that 13th of March, our district actually sent kids home tours early and we were the tech people were like all over us as a computer working What do you need? You need a new female students that don't have a record? Do you know how to do this? Are you logged into the hub? are you connected? Are your your calendar connected like so we just worked and then the next Monday, we were just solidly working with our our media specialists and our tech person to get everybody ready. And then, you know, I'm lucky I live in a place that has internet but There has been a couple times, which is unusual that we've lost power. And I don't think it has anything to do with this. But there's been, I don't know, like five or six times when the power of go out. My staff is working the other teacher. She's working in one room, I'm working on the other, and the power goes out news Internet, and then you're like, oh, okay, so I guess we're just gonna go see how the garden is growing right now. Or, you know, we're gonna, we're gonna go, you know, because we can't do anything. It's all on computer. So we have to wait till it comes back up. So it hasn't been a long time every time. But it's that's been weird. But other than that, not really. I would say not on our end. But we've had a lot of students that didn't know how to do something that they did. For example, just getting on the computer and logging into the hub. They have a username and password they use all the time but they didn't know or having, like even a Google meet, where you you put your calendar where it says Google meet like, join us meet like you click the words. Well, a lot of students don't know those words. It's not intuitive. Just blue words. And sometimes they're not even blue, they're a different color. So that's the kind of thing we're, especially students that are English language learners, or kids that have some disabilities, but really a lot of different kids. They just, they didn't understand the ins and outs of how to get places. And we didn't know that. Because when you're working with a group, and you have a community to help each other, and which is good, they're supposed to help each other. They weren't

doing an answer for somebody they were getting into where they were supposed to start. So then we're like, oh, okay, it isn't intuitive to know how to do a google mean. We don't really do a lot of those kids at all. But so and it isn't intuitive to know that when you see a slideshow, you click the blue words and get to brainpop you have to say click on these words and or show them so it's been really fun to do like screencastify and do videos. And you can literally show them the screen and they can watch this video and and they can they can see how to do stuff because it was a kid that didn't know how to do stuff or And that was weird. So I think um, and then we have had a lot of training like almost every day and they put trainings up about how to use zoom or how to use screencastify. Or how to add captions to screencastify. Or, you know, all these little, you know how to use flipgrid. And, you know, all this stuff that teachers can use if they want. And then, if you're gonna use it,

Jack Nord

do you believe that students are getting the education they deserve from online learning?

Susan Buettgen

That's a tricky question. I'm glad they're learning something and have something to do and feel like they're still trying and working. And I think they're learning something. But no, I think they do much better when they're with us and when they're with each other. I mean, there's research lots of research that says students learn best with their peers, and they learn best from their peers. So our whole goal and as a teacher, a positive teacher is, you create the thing you get them going and they help each other They work together, because that's the way they learn best. So, no, I don't think it's what they deserve. You know, but nobody deserves a pandemic, either anywhere in the world. So sometimes you just do what you got to do. But I do feel like we've created some things that are fun. I think we've reached out, and I don't think anyone has fallen through the cracks on my team, or at my school, I've been really proud that, that, you know, administration's reaching out to families, if they need something, they're trying to find it for them. If they, you know, everything from food to daycare to, you know, a new computer or to, you know, hotspot, I mean, they're really working on that angle, too. And then we're really working to make sure that we've talked to every kid that they you know how to do it with me, we can, we can check in with them. I mean, I told kids, you know, call my phone numbers right here. As you can get through in the Google meet, we'll figure it out, you know, so I do think we're doing the best we can and I feel like they feel like They're loved and cared for and that we're here. And they're not alone. You know, everybody's trying for them. So I do feel good about that. But no, I think they'd much rather, over and over and over kids and kids have had a hard time at school or like, I miss school. I wish I was at school, you know, when can we go back to school? You know, so I can't wait to get back to

Jack Nord

it has been positive or negative.

Susan Buettgen

I think they, like I said, I think they've really tried really, really hard. I think for a lot of them. It's overwhelming. Because again, they get up, they pull up this calendar, and they have a list of all these assignments. And it's daunting, and so they kind of look and they pick and choose just like, you know, just like we would do. Oh yeah, I know. That's hard for me. I'm going to do this instead, or I'm going to

do this look instead. So but to get them to go back, and if they start getting behind, then they have the rest of this list in this list. And so it can be very daunting. And then then the other part of it is you don't know what's happened. Like, there's a couple of kids, you know, periodically, we'll hear from them in a while. And you're wondering, okay, are they okay? Are they are they sick? Or did they leave, like I have a student leave and move to Missouri because their family couldn't deal with this here. They needed to be with families to get support and help. So you know, then you wonder what's going on with them. And are they okay, but, but I think, I think overall, they, there's a few minutes that I like this, this is really good. You know, I'm getting this done. And I know I have one student that just has a hard time in groups. It's loud at school, you know, because we're all busy and, and they started out doing really well at home and just really focused, really getting everything done within the grammar guide and then that was, that was it was all really hard. So, you know, you don't know what's going on with them as much and how to help them. And so at the beginning, we're like, oh, this is kind of fun. But by now they're all like, even now it's almost summer and they're like, well, I wish we could go to school. Why aren't we? Well, there's a really cool song that a teacher said, it's called, I Miss my School. You can look it up. It's on YouTube. He's a Bloomington teacher, elementary teacher. But it's a great song. You don't listen to us because I think everyone sends my kids and grownups alike. It's called I Miss my School. Look it up and listen to it, it'll make you cry.

Jack Nord

So this is when something this question kind of relates back to things we've experienced in college, and that teachers have had to consider um, do you think that for some students, their home life has affected their ability to learn school,

Susan Buettgen

but I think it absolutely is a greater impact now. Absolutely. And like I said, there's been, you know, when they're if they're famous situations that were already tense? Well, they're amplified a million times over now. So absolutely, I think so. And then like I said, they're responsible for kids at home. So a lot of them, excuse me. So they can use their work to like help, you know, their second third grade brother and sister do theirs, or they help make dinner or they help with laundry or cleaning. Because there might be the only the oldest kid at home, you know, or helping, everybody's helping. So absolutely, they don't have enough time. And, and plus their kids, so they can get themselves out trapped to, you know, they can sit and play fortnight for four hours, I'll shoot it into my map or, you know, watch YouTube videos forever when they should be doing something else. So, yeah, I think it's greatly affected their learning. They don't have us there, you know, guiding them, getting them through the day, but that's our mission. Our mission is to get them to be good to me. You haven't learned to be good friends and human and learn, learn different subjects. And they don't have that happening now, even though again, parents want the best, they want it to go, Well, they want them to learn. I haven't met one yet. That was like, you know, we should just forget this. It's very difficult for a lot of them, and they're really hard, but they want them to learn.

Jack Nord

So going forward, how do you think this will affect students in the years to come?

Susan Buettgen

I have no idea. But here's my prediction. prediction, I think, come fall, we'll probably start on computers. And I think when we come back, they'll have to do some kind of spill, social distancing. So maybe they'll, they'll have come on one day, and that's been wrote. So we'll be doing online, in person here and I think it's going to be a lot of for teachers, a lot of work, and a lot of work for parents and kids, but I think we're going to have a combination of online and in person. And, you know, I have no idea really making that up. But I think it's going to be a long time yet. Until we can really feel like people are safe. I don't think we can just throw our hands up. Let's just go play Forget about it. Cuz I think there's too many people in jeopardy to do that. I think we have to think about our neighbor and the person sitting next to us, and we need to help each other. And we need help too, from our leaders. They need to, you know, one political one, if we can bail out big companies and things, we can bail out, the average person, we can help each other, get through this, and then we can, you know, get back. And I think a lot of places in the world are doing that, too. They're really reaching out and trying to help, you know, financially help people. So they can get through this because this was nobody's fault. Nobody wanted this. This is the last anybody would want. So let's help each other and then we'll get through it. But I think it's gonna be a long time before we're back to what we would call normal. If ever I think this was one of those things that I mean, I think about your grandma. And, you know, she was through the Great Depression. She was born in 1931. So she was born in the Great Depression. That was earlier than World War Two. And she had, you know, the wars. And there were a lot of things that she dealt with that were very difficult, but she never forgot. She never ate potato soup. She hated it wouldn't touch it, because that's all they ate when she was growing up, because that's all they had. She wouldn't do it. And we're like, it's kind of like it. Like No, never. It's never gonna happen too much already. So she like food. She like cooking, but yeah, so I think this is gonna be one of the things in their life that they're never gonna forget. They're gonna hopefully remember that we all work together and help each other and make sure people were saved. The best that we Do you that's what you'd hope they take from others that we got to watch out for each other and, and help each other and not give up and that, you know, it was a trying time. But you know, they're not going to forget it and it's going to impact them for a long time. I do think academically for a number of them, they're going to be a little further behind than they were because they were already behind. But I hope that you know that, that as far as your family's ability to make it in the world that that doesn't hurt too much. I think it's Yeah, they're gonna be for a long time. It's going to be around a long time.

Jack Nord

So, will this change the way you teach when you return to in class learning?

Susan Buettgen

Oh, yeah. I mean, I feel like I'm Monkeys are ready that really likes to think about kids. And, you know, helping them succeed all the time. And that seeing them as good people, no matter what, and that they can do it no matter what. But I do think I always take stuff for granted, you know, and I to feel like I just took it for granted a little bit and that I could have reached a few more I could have been a little more patience. I could have got a little, you know what I mean? That, that I could have gotten to know a kid a little bit more. You know, even though I try to do it a lot. You always feel like, yeah, there was maybe a little more are appreciated a little more. I guess that's all. Just remember to take those hands on things for granted. Because I like to teach anyways hands on learning and they desperately miss it and they desperately need it. I'll never, never not do it. It's always fun.

Jack Nord

So that ends all my teacher questions. And then I just have some additional ones. Um, how has COVID-19 affected your households day to day activities or your ability to communicate with family members?

Susan Buettgen

You know, got us ready she thought come in she did shopping beforehand, we had everything we needed. It was shocking how how organized and ready she was when I wasn't really even thinking about it much yet. And she's like, Oh, this is going to be bad. And, and then we have our one daughter lives with us. Anyway, Kylie, and then Stephanie came back and her boyfriend's here too. So we have five people for dogs and a cat all live in here. And it's been really fun too. But and I think we, you know, again, I think Beverly had a good attitude and everybody did about, you know, take it, you know, we just have to understand there's five of us here and we have to, you know, be patient with each other and just have a good time but we've had a lot of fun hang hung a sheet up and Watch giant, you know, big screen movies on, you know, on the wall and we've played games and we've cooked food together. And, you know, we've taken our pictures in the woods and we played lots of cards. And so I think we're having fun too. But the day is Stephanie and I are up, we're on the computer, she's in one room, I'm in the other room. We are both living rooms or have a teacher in them. So the other people are creeping around, making sure they're not getting in some kind of, you know, Google meet by accident in the background and they're quiet well, Steffi does a lot of really talking to kids. today. She works with students that have on the autism spectrum, and they need a lot of one on one talking to help and so she's got students on her computer all the time talking to her. So everybody else has been around quiet. When the days end, you know, in school day ends, then we oftentimes have to film a little video and get it ready for the next day. Put it on later because you can't really put your next step on too early because the kids don't get to it till later. We'll be out confused. So you have to wait till later in the evening to put down the next day stuff. Otherwise, no matter what they're going to get confused. So then making dinner shopping and crazy worrying about who's sick, my family members, you know, we got ants that are working in two different places to tomorrow working at senior centers as well. So, you know, that's scary. I worry about you because you had asthma when you were little I worry about Maddie. You know, if you get sick, is that something like that going to kind of act it and make it worse? You know, I worry about people all the time. I worry about your mom being there by herself, even though she kind of likes that sometimes. But it still gets lonely and you know, I worry about everybody. Or, you know, friends and family and I worry, Emily got sick and Kylie's not working right now. But she's got a hopefully she'll get to get back to her preschool job and is that going to happen? And when it does that she's going to be okay. I mean We sold masks, we pulled up fabric we had. And we do have a number of masks that we made. So I got those when we go out. When shopping, we've had stuff delivered, which is crazy in itself to do instacart It's amazing. And it takes a really long time, and then get it delivered. Scrub stuff down my bleach solution before I ever came in the house. I mean, it's been a huge process to make sure that you're safe or a safe zone. We've done everything that we're supposed to do. But now, I was gonna go back to work after work, you know, and then then you sort of know what's gonna happen. So, you know, we're all doing the best we can and you're looking for work and what's been happening with that. I mean, every time I hear that you went back to Auclair. I'm always worried that what's going on with you? Are you going to be able to be safer, uses that constant

worry when you can't do anything about it. And we can do everything we can to try to wear masks and then try to keep separate. And is that enough? You know, so yeah. It's hoping worse. And then I worry that, you know, there's, there's people all over the world that are having to deal with this and they don't have the resources we have. And there's people in my own city that don't have the resources I have. They're not sitting in this beautiful backyard, talking to you and having a food in the fridge. So it's very nice. I'm worried the cup is empty all the time, but there's nothing on the shelves back the person that did deliver food, like I hate when they send me to that one. I'd rather go to the diner. Okay, they're a mile apart. Why is that stopped in mind, isn't it because it's an area where there's a lot lower income. So I think

Jack Nord

one of the biggest issues where we are is the price of meat because you know, the the Portland sensor on here closed down, and they partially reopen, then the price skyrocketed. And because for that short period of time, there wasn't a need in those pork plants, you know, farmers were having to go out and you know, get rid of pigs. And it's been a massive struggle around here. And, you know, Grace's family has been you know vying for to try to promote local people and you know, community and it's been a struggle.

Susan Buettgen

We got some beads from and they they do the processing right there and then we found another place that does chickens and we've got chickens coming to so then they've been currently been non stop looking for another extra freezer, put it in when it gets here because it's like, oh my gosh, where we're going to put it. But But here, if you walked into our club down the street from us, there would be no no meat. I mean So it might be more expensive there, but it's there. I mean, you can't there are a number of times when there's literally no chicken there. There's no hamburger there. I was there the last time I did go to the store, which was in March. And in March, the guy was just putting some hamburger out, there was like, five. And I said, Thank you. I took one and the guy goes, so he had like, 85%, or I think it was like, 80% we have like 85 or 90%. goes, we're lucky we got less fat, you know, the higher mean, and he's like, this is all we got, you know, it's like, Are you kidding?

Jack Nord

Huh? So how, as you kind of started talking about your local community, um, what have you seen in your local community because of COVID-19. How has it changed? You know, how are people acting?

Susan Buettgen

Well, definitely, you're seeing a lot more People with masks. Again, my neighborhood is a little different than another neighborhood because I do think you know, we're middle middle class here. And you know that that area so, but I think people are very concerned people have family that live in other areas are very concerned. And a lot of people wear a mask. We had a dance party that the Saturday before Easter and stepping in cold put big circles, like six circles in the street, the damage that come from other blacks, and that would be their yard. And everybody stayed in their own yard and we had a person bring out a boombox like dance music, but everybody was on their own their own front yard. Or also they came from a different Street. They were in a circle. So everybody was social distance, and it was hilarious. It was so much fun. But everybody was waving and cheering and you can see that

everybody was okay. And that was a big thing. But then we danced there just dancing fun, and it was a lot of fun. So that was pretty, pretty cool. But I think I mean, it seems like there's been a lot of people that are doing really sweet things, but I mean, if you just walk anywhere and go anywhere, and there's a lot of signs in Windows be safe and a lot of rainbows and windows, you know, all that that kids are doing as far as you know that they've seen that to keep people inspired and that I know in Minneapolis, downtown, they're, they're doing the seven o'clock they're clapping and cheering for all the frontline people that are working to nurses, doctors and emergency people. So that's kind of cool. A lot of the teachers are doing parades. Like Hale school, they pray that they have kids in this neighborhood. So they're taking cars and driving through and doing parades and honking and waving at kids and Steffi did that for her seniors yesterday. She went in some cold drove and she went in all the time and they took her out and drove past all the seniors houses and cheered him on how their horns and I know down the street, we have a woman who I think she just turned 88 and all of her friends and people from our church pulled up in cars of this giant parade honking and waving with So I think people are trying to find ways to do a lot of things, you know, people helping people that don't have money or can't get out to the stores, people shopping for them. You know, so we're trying to share stuff and people needed that kind of thing. We grew a lot of plants. And we're giving the neighbors are given seeds because people can seems like there's a lot of that going on, that people are being supportive of each other.

Jack Nord

So this is my last question. Knowing what you know now, what do you think that individuals communities and governments need to keep in mind for the future

Susan Buettgen

we just have to have people that lead us that are kind that are willing to help everyone we just have to this is our world's too complicated to not have to not have people that are going to really watch out for everyone and and listen to scientists and experts. It isn't rocket science could be but it's not that there are people understand what happens in the world. I mean, your mom decides as she went to school to for forestry and different things, we have to understand that there is a level of science and technology that you got to believe. And we got to support and help each other. We just got people that are gonna help and not be bigoted and not be me. That's what I think. We can do that we got it and the things are gonna happen but communities that help each other and watch out for each other are going to make it you know, and we're going to help the environment. That is one thing for the environments kind of one with this with everybody seen inside not driving cars. There's a lot better But maybe maybe that's what we learned is that maybe we don't have to drive around so much, or we can carpool more, or we do stay home more. And, you know, maybe we'll learn some good things out of this too, that will help you. So they're not to mention the medical piece of that other but it was, it's alive, but we got to have people in charge. You know, I, as far as school goes, I kind of don't always like the fact that they have computers and take them home, because there's a whole negative aspects of the things they do and see on the computer. But it sort of helps to have them because it was a lot harder for places where they didn't have them. Yeah. Awesome.

Jack Nord

I agree. Well, that's it. Thank you for the interview, and I'll stay on and talk to you after I get done.

Susan Buettgen

So okay, and if you think of something you forgot to ask or something wasn't clear to Call me back.

Jack Nord

Awesome. We'll do and I are ending it now.