

#14 ISSUE

The Valley Voice

The Voices of the Columbia Valley

POOR FORM, CHAMBER

The volunteers voice their opinions and perception, based on interactions with the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce as an organization.

WOODCARVER TO BE MEMORIALIZED

Rolf Heer, the beloved woodcarver of the Columbia Valley, who passed away from cancer July 2020, will be memorialized in a new park in his memory.

2021 SPRING MELT: FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

RDEK's East Kootenay Emergency Management Program Preparedness Guide

COVER PHOTO TAKEN AND SUBMITTED BY JESSIE BLAKLEY



HOW ARE WE DOING?

The Volunteers of the Columbia Valley Voices Online Magazine are dedicated to providing content that is generated and supported by our valley residents.

We welcome and encourage all communication - we want to know how we're doing!

Send us a note on Facebook or Instagram @thevoicecv

OR

by email to news@thevoiceca.ca

Photo Credit: Allegra Newill



LETTER FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Dear Readers,

We realize this is a heavy hitting issue. Probably the hardest hitting yet. We realize some will be upset, others will cheer. How YOU feel is up to you.

Our promise, as a volunteer-based media outlet, is that we will not be paid off, silenced, bullied or otherwise by any business or organization in this valley. We will protect our right to free speech as devotedly as we protect our core volunteer's identities.

Whether you agree with us or not, it's our values that create the level of integrity we are hoping you come to know and love about us.

Just as we'll publish perhaps unpopular Opinion Editorials because someone truly feels that way, we will also publish our own.

Please take a moment to read, and form your own opinions, about our feature peice. Thank you for reading.

The VVV

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**POPULAR YOUTUBER DREAM HAS
ADMITTED TO USING A CUSTOM-MADE
MOD AFTER CHEATING ALLEGATIONS**

COMMUNITY VIGIL HELD TO REMEMBER AND MOURN 215

Community residents gathered as a vigil was held at the Shuswap Indian Band Administration office on June 3rd at 7:00pm.

The event was held with COVID-19 restrictions in place, limiting ceremony attendance to 50 people with elders, Shuswap members, residential school survivors, and Shuswap Indian Band staff receiving priority. To accommodate the viewing of the ceremony for all of our communities, the vigil was also livestreamed through the Invermere BC Events Facebook page.

The discovery of 215 indigenous children buried in unmarked sites was first made public by the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation in B.C. on May 27. This tragedy has sparked outrage, sadness, and frustration amongst the country. The discovery made is a reality-check of the cultural genocide committed by the Canadian Government. It is possible 130 residential schools can contain the remains of indigenous children.

On June 6th, Cardinal Thomas Collins who is the Roman Catholic archbishop of Toronto advised they are working towards reconciliation with Indigenous people in reference to the abuse suffered. The last residential school closed in 1996 with more than 150,000 first nation children required to attend these state-funded Christian schools to assimilate them into Canadian Society. This included forced conversion of their religion to Christianity and forbi to speak their Indigenous languages.

A national Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support for former students and those affected. People can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-hour national crisis line: 1-866-925-4419.

THE CEREMONY CAN STILL BE VIEWED ONLINE VIA VIDEO.
[**CLICK HERE TO WATCH.**](#)



#REMEMBER215

Columbia Valley Community Foundation Welcomes Five New Board Members

June 1, 2021

As a part of the Columbia Valley Community Foundation (CVCF)'s Annual General Meeting, held virtually for its membership, the CVCF welcomed five new members to its Board of Directors. For our 20th Anniversary year, we are excited to welcome a diverse group of individuals with a wide variety of perspectives and skillsets to our Board. With the departure of three Board Members: Katherine Harmsworth, Kyla Lam, and Shawn Raven, there was the opportunity to welcome new individuals to the organization. All successful Board nominees went through a selection process to ensure alignment - individually and organizationally.

We are pleased to welcome to our 2021 Board of Directors: Ashton Myers (Fairmont Hot Springs, BC), Deb Witherspoon (Windermere, BC), Jenny Manhas (Windermere, BC), Kelsey Eade (Radium Hot Springs, BC), and Lawrie Mack (Invermere, BC). Filling the Executive positions for 2021-2022 we'd like to recognize our Chair, Wendy Booth; Vice-Chair, Lang Ellison; Treasurer, Anne Glassford; and Secretary, Barb Kloos.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to our departing Board Members – Katherine Harmsworth, Kyla Lam, and Shawn Raven for their significant contributions to the organization in their tenure.

More information on our Board of Directors is available on our website at <https://valleyfoundation.ca/board-directors/>.

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CVCF Executive Director

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BELOVED WOODCARVER TO BE MEMORIALIZED IN RADIUM

Rolf Heer, the beloved woodcarver of the Columbia Valley, who passed away from cancer July 2020, will be memorialized in a new park in his memory.



Woodcarver Park - Home of a Thousand Faces
Village of Radium Hot Springs

BASSETT
ASSOCIATES

Rolf donated his property, known as “The Home of a Thousand Faces”, to Radium Hot Springs which will be incorporated into the park. Initial plans show a greenspace, play areas for children, amazing views, and a pavilion shaped wizard hat, which if you ever saw Rolf you know is a nod to his wizard like apparel.

Richard and Valerie Bassett of Bassett Associates Landscape Architecture Inc have been assigned to design the park and have been inspired by Rolf and his playful spirit. So much so they are donating their design services in-kind for the park. The development of the park will be overseen by Rolf’s friends and members of the Radium Hot Springs community. The park will feature a number of Rolf’s wood carvings so his legacy can live on forever. A fundraising campaign has been launched by the Radium Village Arts & Culture Society to help raise \$11 million dollars for the construction of the park.



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VALLEY PROMOTIONS

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VolunteerConnector



2021 SPRING MELT: FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

An East Kootenay Emergency Management Program Preparedness Guide

This seasonal preparedness bulletin will help provide information on how you can prepare in the event we experience spring flooding this year.

There are two unofficial “melt” seasons in the East Kootenay: the low elevation melt and the high elevation melt.

With the warmer temperatures, the snow has been disappearing around our homes and properties. This is the low elevation melt. As temperatures warm up in the early spring our risk of overland flooding increases. Overland flooding occurs because the ground is still frozen and can't absorb the resulting runoff as the snow starts to melt at lower elevations. This year, the risk of overland flooding is low due to low amounts of snow in the lower elevations.

CURRENT SNOW PACK

In the mountains, snow pack is still accumulating. When this high elevation snow melts, it is called the spring freshet. In the East Kootenay, freshet can happen from mid-April into June depending on conditions. According to the BC River Forecast Centre, by April 1st, nearly 95% of the annual BC snow pack has typically accumulated. For most areas, the transition from snow accumulation to melt generally occurs in mid-April and therefore the April 1st snow survey is considered to be the key survey of the year for assessing the impact of snow pack on seasonal water supply and flood risk. In the East Kootenay, our melt is often a bit later due to our elevation. **As of April 1st, our snowpack was 93% of normal.**

It is important to understand, that the amount of snow pack is not as important as the way it melts. If we have a prolonged cooler spring, the melt would happen over a longer period of time, and there would be less risk of seasonal flooding. If we have a sudden hot spell or prolonged heavy rain, the risk of seasonal flooding would increase (even in areas with little or no snowpack).

The EK Emergency Management Program is proactively preparing for spring freshet. We are monitoring weather forecasts, maintaining communication with other emergency personnel, and are prepared in the event of widespread flooding.

6 Things to Remember IN AN EVACUATION



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

These are the numbers to call to report wide scale events (like forest fires or floods).

These are 24 hour Provincial numbers that alert local emergency officials.

If you see, or are experiencing, wide-scale flooding, please report it.

FLOODING

1-800-663-3456

FOREST OR WILDLAND FIRES

Cellphone: *5555

Toll Free: 1-800-663-5555

OTHER

(spills, airplane crashes, landslides, avalanche)

1-800-663-3456

THE EK EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

If a major emergency (such as a forest fire, flood, hazardous materials spill) occurs, the East Kootenay Emergency Management Program (EKEMP) kicks into gear and, in a large-scale event, a Regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) will be activated.

The most important thing to understand about the Emergency Management Program is that it supports the agencies, local authorities, municipalities and First Nations that are responding to an emergency.

For example, in a forest fire situation, the BC Wildfire Service responds to the fire. The EKEMP provides additional support to the BC Wildfire Service. In addition, we coordinate evacuation alerts, orders or rescinds; provide Emergency Social Services; and, provide information to the public and evacuees.

In the case of flooding, the RDEK has two distinct roles:

- 1. SUPPORT** — our EKEMP activates (if required) to support the responding agencies, local authorities, municipalities and First Nations like it would for any major emergency (such as forest fires as outlined above).
- 2. RESPONSE** — as the local government for the rural areas, the RDEK is also the responding agency that is tasked with dealing with wide-scale flooding in rural areas and has a dedicated Flood Response Unit. In a municipality, the municipality is responsible for the “response” within its boundaries and the EKEMP can be requested to provide the emergency management support function.

When Does the RDEK’s Flood Response Unit Respond?

The RDEK’s Flood Response Unit responds to flooding in a rural area when a high water or flood situation poses a threat:

- To human life
- To human health
- To human habitation
- Of significant damage to structures

If you see or are experiencing this type of serious event, please call the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre at **1-800-663-3456**. The Province immediately contacts the appropriate local authority for assessment and determination of next steps.

Property owners are responsible to prepare for, and respond to, localized flooding on their properties (or in their homes).

YOUR ROLE IN FLOODING

In emergency events such as high water or localized flooding, the primary responsibility for protection of property lies with the property owner.

Owners of properties that are historically flood-prone, adjacent to rivers, creeks or streams, or in low-lying areas where water from snow melt can accumulate are encouraged to prepare for the spring melt that is on the way.

Here are a few things you can consider to prepare for possible flooding:

1. CULVERTS AND DITCHES:

- a. Ensure ditches, water courses, and culverts on your property are not obstructed
- b. Culverts adjacent to public roads for driveway access to properties are the responsibility of the property owner to keep clear.
- c. Ditches along public roads & highways are the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. If you see an obstruction in a public road ditch, please call your local contractor. Emcon covers from North of the four corners in Radium (**1-866-353-3136**) and Mainroad East Kootenay Contracting covers the rest of the region (**1-800-665-4929**).

2. BASEMENT AND CRAWLSPACE PUMPS: If you have a sump pump in your basement or crawlspace, test it to ensure it is working properly

3. DOWNSPOUTS AND GUTTERS: Ensure the water from your roof is being directed away from your home

4. SNOW BANKS: Remove any accumulated snow that may melt and pose a threat

5. SANDBAG & MOVE VALUABLES: put down sandbags and move valuables (like tools, vehicles, etc.) to higher ground before flooding becomes an issue to help protect your home and property.

6. BERMS AND WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES: Inspect berms or water control structures for integrity, erosion, etc..

7. INSURANCE: Review of your homeowner’s insurance policy to determine what coverage is included.

8. VALUABLE DOCUMENTS, PHOTOS, ETC.: Ensure important material susceptible to water damage that is stored in a basement or other vulnerable location is raised from the floor or stored in waterproof containers

9. COPY DOCUMENTS: Keep a binder/file of important insurance, medical documents, etc. that can be easily grabbed in the event of an emergency or evacuation.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

A new evacuation notification system has been introduced for the region. Powered by *Voyent Alert!* the new system will keep you informed in case of evacuation orders or alerts during critical events such as wildfires, floods or hazardous materials incidents.

The service is **free** and available to everyone in the East Kootenay including municipalities, rural areas and First Nations. Visitors of the region can also sign up to be alerted in case of an emergency.

how to register: SMS/TEXT OR VOICE DIAL USERS

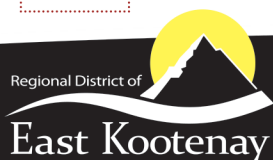
Register online at: <https://ca.voyent-alert.com/vras/register.html>

Choose “My Locations” to pin your locations to receive voice or text based alerts.

MOBILE APP USERS

Download and install the Voyent Alert! app from the Apple App or Google Play stores.

Remember to add at least one location when you register



1-888-478-7335 | www.rdek.bc.ca

EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES

Emergency Support Services (ESS) is a local volunteer based emergency response program, providing basic needs to people affected by an emergency or disaster.

When people are forced from their homes due to an emergency (like flooding) ESS volunteers step in to provide basic needs, such as food, clothing or shelter.

ESS is available for 72 hours immediately following the emergency, allowing affected residents the time to make more long-term arrangements and begin the recovery process.

Depending on the situation/emergency, ESS may also be extended.

For large scale responses, in addition to providing basic needs, ESS may also assist with family reunification, emotional support, and transportation.

The goal of ESS is to help people re-establish themselves as quickly as possible following a disaster.

ESS volunteers provide a critical support service during emergencies and we are so grateful to all those volunteers on our ESS teams around the East Kootenay.

THE STAGES OF EVACUATION

As the authority to order an evacuation can rest with different levels of government (local, provincial, or federal), a three stage evacuation process has been developed and accepted by all levels of government. The process includes:

1 STAGE 1 - Evacuation Alert

Residents are advised of the potential need for evacuation. The alert highlights the nature of the danger and that evacuation may be required at any time. Information will be provided at that time on where to go if the evacuation is ordered. Residents should prepare to evacuate and gather personal supplies necessary for several days.

2 STAGE 2 - Evacuation Order

All persons in the affected area are ordered to leave the area and are provided again with the information required. Once evacuated you are not permitted to return until the order has been rescinded. **If an evacuation order is issued, please get out.**

3 STAGE 3 - Evacuation Rescind

All persons in the affected area are advised that the emergency is under control and the area has been declared habitable and the evacuation order has been rescinded.

In the event of imminent danger to property or life, the emergency responders may go straight to an "Evacuation Order" without an alert. This is called a "Tactical Evacuation".

Once you are evacuated from your property you will not be able to re-enter until the evacuation order is rescinded. Security will be provided to the evacuation area to ensure no one re-enters until the order is rescinded.

If you plan on moving RV trailers or boats, the *Alert Stage* is the time to do that. Once an "Evacuation Order" has been issued there is no time to allow that to happen.



JOIN OUR ESS TEAM

If you care about people, have a desire to help others, and are good in a team environment, please consider joining one of our ESS teams.

We have ESS teams in all three of our subregions and need volunteers. Training is provided and being an ESS volunteer gives you a chance to give back to your community when they need it most. To learn more call Emergency Program Coordinator Anita Charest at 250-420-1917 or email acharest@rdek.bc.ca.

4 WAYS TO GET EMERGENCY INFO

1. LOCAL MEDIA

2. RDEK FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/eastkootenay

3. RDEK EMAIL GROUP – to join, visit:

http://www.rdek.bc.ca/about/email_group_sign_up/

4. RDEK WEBSITE: www.rdek.bc.ca

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

During a flood is not the time to get prepared.

Visit www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC for guides and plans to help you:

- Put together an emergency kit
- Develop a household emergency plan
- Connect with your neighbours



SANDBAGGING BASICS: SOME HELPFUL TIPS

Here are some basic sandbagging tips from Emergency Management BC:

- Construct the sandbag dike on high ground, close to your home or building. Fewer bags will be needed, and the sandbag dike will be less exposed.
- To be effective, a dike must be three times as wide at its base as it is high.
- Sandbags should be turned right side out and filled half full. They need not be tied shut, just laid overlapping each other. Lap the unfilled portion under the next sandbag.
- The open ends of the sandbags should be facing away from the water or uphill so that the moving water will not remove the sand from the bags as readily.
- As individual bags are put in place, press firmly in place.
- Each successive layer should be set back one-half sandbag width on both sides in each additional layer so a completed dike has a triangular cross-section.

GENERAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADVICE

COVID-19 & SANDBAGGING

Sandbagging while following provincial health guidelines that restrict large gatherings may involve wearing protective masks, eye protection, and gloves to provide the best protection for residents. The EKEMP has implemented the following protocols to appropriately sandbag during the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure physical distancing, the EKEMP is advising residents to fill one sand bag at a time without a second person holding the bag upright to align with the physical distancing order. The EKEMP understands the challenges of physical distancing while sandbagging.

- Use gloves to protect hands from chemically-treated sandbags and contaminants in sand and floodwater.
- Avoid touching your eyes and mouth at all times.
- Wash your hands and face as often as possible.
- Use safety glasses and face masks when filling up sandbags.
- Wear work boots (waterproofed if working in floodwater).
- Use waterproof gear if working in floodwater or rain.
- Use protective clothing if exposed to polluted floodwater.
- Use a personal floatation device when working near floodwater.

Come prepared to take precautionary measures to minimize the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19.



Wash and/or sanitize your hands



Cough/sneeze into your elbow, avoid touching your face



Maintain Physical distance (2m or 6 ft)



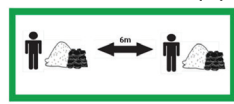
Use sanitizing wipes or gloves to sanitize equipment



Avoid crowds



Avoid contact with common surfaces



Sand will be placed 6m apart to allow for physical distancing

EAST KOOTENAY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PARTNERS:



Building a sandbag dike

It takes two people about one hour to fill and place 100 sandbags, giving you a 1-x-20-foot wall. Make sure you have enough sand, burlap or plastic bags, shovels and time to properly prepare. Contact your local government for information on obtaining sandbags.

BAGS REQUIRED PER 100 LINEAR FEET OF DIKE	
Height above dike	Bags required
1/3 metre	600
2/3 metre	2,000
1 metre	3,400

EKEMP SANDBAG STATIONS & COVID-19

The EKEMP will, as needed, have designated Sandbag Stations for the public to fill sandbags to protect their property during spring freshet. EKEMP Sandbag Stations will follow guidelines set by the Ministry of Health regarding physical distancing.

The EKEMP has developed a process where individuals can fill sandbags in a public environment while following safety guidelines from the Ministry of Health.

- Proper personal protection equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 is advised (gloves, face mask, eye protection).
- Avoid crowding at sandbag locations, line up 2 metres apart, and ensure vehicles are parked at designated parking areas to minimize overcrowding within the Sandbag Station.
- Sand piles will be placed six metres apart to maintain physical distancing for sandbagging at EKEMP Sandbag Stations.
- Bring your own equipment and restrict sharing between persons – the EKEMP is not able to provide a mechanism to clean personal equipment.

Please ensure you are following physical distancing guidelines when filling sandbags.

For current information regarding COVID-19, please visit www.covid-19.bccdc.ca

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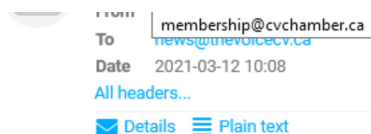
THE VALLEY VOICE VOLUNTEERS

TO START, THIS IS OUR OPINION AND PERCEPTION, BASED ON OUR INTERACTIONS WITH THE COLUMBIA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS AN ORGANIZATION.

We have values to uphold at The Valley Voice. One of those things above all else is anonymity. Our core team of volunteers remains anonymous to provide an un-biased view of our publication and the content within it. We also value uplifting businesses and residents of our communities to make it better for EVERYONE. One of the reasons we offer free advertising and content submissions is so we can provide a platform for our community to have a voice. This week, our volunteers have something to say.

We're a group of volunteers which means our funding is, for a lack of a better term, lacking. Any funds invested into our online magazine is done from the hearts and pockets of our volunteers. When we first reached out March 4, 2021 to the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce on Instagram, we weren't very well received. Our message remained on read for over a week and was never responded to. We were simply asking for help sharing out our new publication so we could try to reach as many people in the Columbia Valley as possible. Unfortunately, we never received a response to our reach out.

When we decided to reach out for a second time on March 9th through Instagram to see if there was any opportunity of us working together. No response came through Instagram that day, or the next. In fact, it wasn't until March 12th (and only because we congratulated them on their AGM in Instagram....) that we received an e-mail from their membership co-ordinator.



Hello!

Firstly, congratulations on your first edition of your publication. I had a read and I really like the concept, the mission and the intention. I really hope it grows into a staple for our valley!

Secondly, I apologise for not replying to your Instagram inquiries promptly, I only just saw them but I have been meaning to reach out to you so thank you for the nudge.

I like the anonymity portion to your publication and I appreciate this choice of direction. We at the Chamber like to support new ventures whether you're a member or otherwise but we are always walking the tight rope of providing our members with value whilst encouraging non-members to join us. Your situation is unique as we don't know who we are working with or helping to promote.

If you were interested in joining us as a member we would love to have you and I think our relationship could grow into something that would be mutually beneficial in the short and long term. However, we would require some details of the person behind the project. We would respect your confidentiality and ensure your identity would remain safe with us.

If this makes you feel uncomfortable, I completely understand and perhaps we could form a professional relationship in another way.

In any case, I just wanted to introduce myself, start a dialog and offer assistance in any way possible within our codes of conduct.

Once again, congratulations! and I look forward to hearing from you.

Here's the part of their e-mail that really grinds our gears:

"I like the anonymity portion to your publication and I appreciate this choice of direction. We at the Chamber like to support new ventures whether you're are a member or otherwise but we are always walking the tight rope of providing our members with value whilst encouraging non-members to join us. Your situation is unique as we don't know who we are working with or helping to promote.

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The above statement is copied word for word from the email we received from the membership coordinator as shown in the image on the previous page.



Okay, let's actually discuss this here, since they have made some bold statements to us. The email said "We at the Chamber like to support new ventures whether you're are a member or otherwise". Our volunteers took a look at the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce's promotional postings across Instagram and Facebook, including stories. Every single business promoted back to May 27th, is a registered member on the Chamber of Commerce website. Those who are not members are rarely featured unless it provides some sort of value to their social media image. Is the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce interested in supporting businesses in the valley or increasing business for members only to bully other businesses to pay for a membership to be acknowledged?

Fine, let's move on. Here's a nice little contradiction for you. At the start of the statement, we've provided above, you'll notice the comment: "I like the anonymity portion to your publication and I appreciate this choice of direction."

That's a solid statement. They should have stopped there. Later in the same email, it says "If you were interested in joining us as a member we would love to have you and I think our relationship could grow into something that would be mutually beneficial in the short and long term. However, we would require some details of the person behind the project."

Hmmmmmm, that's odd. So, you're alright with our volunteers remaining anonymous so long as they don't remain anonymous?! Why do they need to know who is behind the organization? Is there a real reason that ISN'T self-serving? Of COURSE everyone wants to know who we all are, so we protect our identities so that we can keep providing a safe outlet where publication and free speech is not based on monetary investment.

We did have hope when we saw the line "If this makes you feel uncomfortable, I completely understand and perhaps we could form a professional relationship in another way." However, as laid out in this article and based on all subsequent interactions, it's been proven incorrect. To date they still will not respond in a timely manner, promote us, or support us.

Whatever - moving on. Our volunteers responded to their membership co-ordinator letting them know we couldn't afford the cost of a membership. We extended an olive branch and offered to include them and any news they have to share in our publication to HELP THEM get the word out on anything they had coming. WE RECEIVED NO REPLY AT ALL. If they really cared about businesses and organizations in the community who are working to improve the situation for everyone, they would've responded and tried to work something out with us. Instead, no further communication was received. (Can you blame us for thinking it's because we don't pay them?)

AND THEN....

A different representative of the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce reached out. This time it was to offer us their events calendar in place of the one currently listed on our website. We are all for spreading the word and helping everyone we can. But suggesting we change our website and use their system after tossing us to the side is a slap in the face to our volunteers. While not all of the volunteers feel as strongly, the general consensus is that this was bullying and manipulation. We will not stand for it. There may be "benefits" to being a member of the Chamber of Commerce - being supported by the business community should not be one of them.

A Chamber of Commerce should be truly supporting ALL business in their community, not just members. Not just board reps. During a time of economic crisis, shouldn't the Chamber be willing to lift ALL businesses up to success? What would YOU do? Would you do anything you could to see local businesses be successful? Wouldn't you lift them up instead of pushing them to the side?

It's for this reason that we're writing this article. We are frustrated with the elitist mindset that has overtaken the structural integrity of the Chamber of Commerce in the Columbia Valley. If you're not "paying to play" guess what, you're thrown to the side. We do NOT agree with this tactic at all.

Why write this, you ask? The purpose of this article is not to incite a riot or backlash, it was intended to spark a new wave of critical thinking. There's a "not-for-profit" organization who is behaving as a FOR PROFIT acting like they have zero care to actually support and develop businesses in our communities. We should be lifting each other up, not pushing each other to the side just because there isn't enough investment dollars to stroke elitist egos?

Enough is enough.

P.S. AGAIN - THIS IS THE COLLECTIVE OPINION OF MOST OF THE VOLUNTEERS HERE AND WAS COLLECTIVELY WRITTEN. YOU ARE ALL HUMANS WITH MINDS OF YOUR OWN, MAKE THEM UP ON YOUR OWN TOO. SUPPORT, DON'T SUPPORT, WHATEVER YOU FEEL IS BEST. WE HAVE SHARED OUR EXPERIENCE SO THAT THOSE OTHERS OUT THERE THAT HAVE FELT THIS WAY, MAY NOT FEEL ALONE ANYMORE.




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VALLEY PROMOTIONS

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESS FUNDING EXTENDED

The B.C. Government's Small and Medium-Sized Business Recovery grant program is being extended until July 2nd.

This funding supports more than 20,000 businesses through the pandemic and as of June 4th has provided \$290 million in support. The B.C. Government expects that amount to increase to \$430 million once the program closes July 2nd.

As of June 4th, there have been more than 10,000 grants provided to small and medium-sized businesses, more than 41% of them being tourism-related. With restrictions lifting, there is much hope for a light at the end of the tunnel for businesses impacted by the pandemic. The province also provided additional support with their Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant which closed on June 4th. This grant saw over \$130 million provided to accommodation and hospitality businesses.

Business will need to submit all the necessary information required for the grant by July 2nd. Applications are still being received and processed after this date.



SPARWOOD MAN WANTED ON OUTSTANDING WARRANTS

Elk Valley RCMP have put a request to the public for help locating a Sparwood man who is wanted on several outstanding warrants for arrest.

33-year-old Brady Shane Foy is wanted for flight from police, possession of a prohibited weapon, driving while prohibited, assault and failure to comply with a release order.

The RCMP are advising the public to not apprehend Foy should you locate him.

His description is 5ft 9inches, 135lbs, and short brown hair with brown eyes. If you believe you have seen this individual, contact your local policy or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



MINECRAFT SPEED RUNNER CONTROVERSY COMES TO AN END

JOSH GRIEVE

POPULAR YOUTUBER DREAM HAS ADMITTED TO USING A CUSTOM-MADE MOD AFTER CHEATING ALLEGATIONS WERE MADE DUE TO THE SUCCESS OF HIS LATEST MINECRAFT SPEED RUN.



Dream admits to using a server-side mod to increase the overall drop rate of rare items in several of his YouTube videos. These rare items that were attained provided an unfair advantage to complete the speed run, which ultimately caused it to be rejected upon submission.

Dream however denies that the use of the mod was intentional. He claims he found out he'd been using the mod for 6 of his Twitch live streams and had no prior knowledge to them still being activated. The mod itself allowed dream to easily produce content that was engaging yet misleading to his viewers. This all stems from a situation that started in October 2020, when dream submitted the fifth fastest "Any Random Seed Glitchless" run for Minecraft v1.16 to speedrun.com. The site moderators reviewed numerous speed runs on dream's YouTube channel and discovered the drop rate of rare items needed in order to complete the run in the time he did were incredibly high. The estimation was dream's lucky odds were 1 in 177 billion. The exceptional amount of rare items found is what caused the analysis of dream's speed run.

Since October 2020, dream has refuted claims he purposely cheated and tried to pull one over on gamers with his speed runs. Dream went so far as to hire an anonymous astrophysicist to provide a 19-page rebuttal of speedrun.com's report. Despite the rebuttal, the website disagreed with the math provided in relation to the drop rates and stood firm on its denial of the speed run.



Under the Modem

While he was visiting, my father asked for the password to our Wi-Fi.
"It's taped under the modem," I told him.
After three failed attempts to log on, he asked, "Am I spelling this right?
T-A-P-E-D-U-N-D-E-R-T-H-E-M-O-D-E-M?"



Trade Your Kids

I asked my brother-in-law, the father of four boys, "If you had to do it all over again, would you still have kids?"
"Yes," he said. "Just not these four."



Boy or Girl?

I was nine months pregnant and browsing at a garage sale when the homeowner asked me if I knew whether I was having a boy or a girl.
I told her I didn't know.
As I left a few minutes later, she yelled after me, "I hope you get the sex you want!"



Dreams Squashed

I was alone in an elevator when a girl stepped in with a phone pressed to her ear. "I have to go," she told the person on the other end.
"There's a cute guy standing here."
Before I could react, she turned to me and said, "Sorry for lying. I just wanted to end that conversation."

A LITTLE FUN

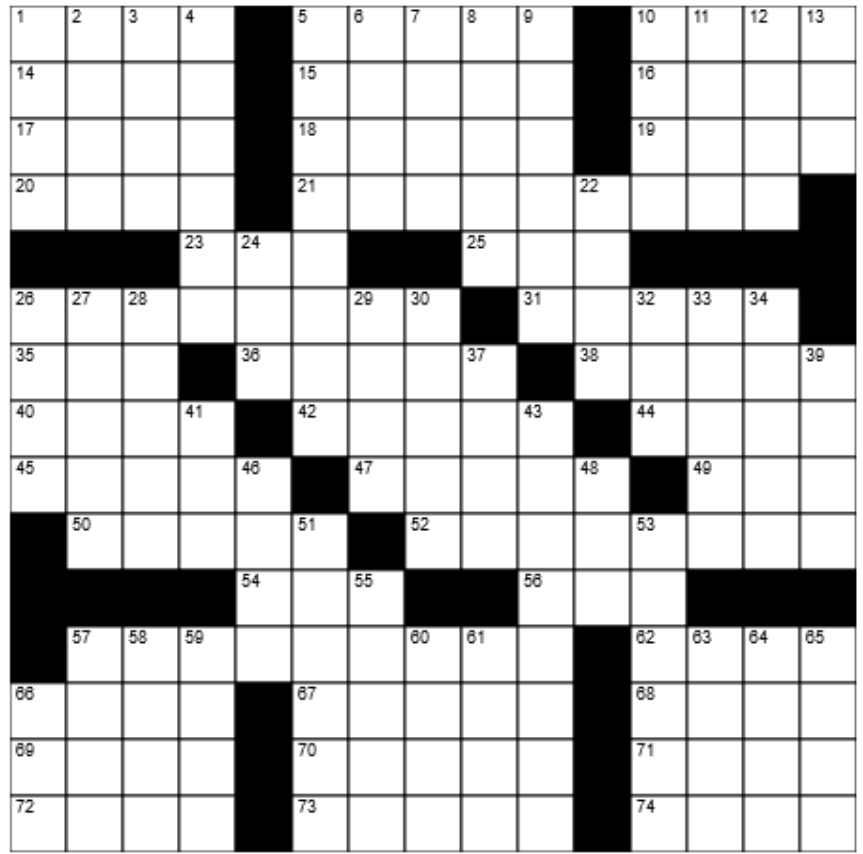
BestCrosswords.com - Puzzle #1 on 6/8/2021

Across

1- Strong criticism; 5- Prices paid; 10- City in Western Nevada; 14- Burt's ex; 15- ___ a time; 16- Hip bones; 17- Seed cover; 18- Stone marker; 19- Ball game; 20- Tablet; 21- Aircraft with one set of wings; 23- End for Siam; 25- Wedding page word; 26- Private feud; 31- Scoff; 35- Clinch; 36- Heat home; 38- Roofing items; 40- Nobelist Wiesel; 42- Frog sound; 44- "Peter Pan" pooch; 45- Bet; 47- Ire; 49- NFL scores; 50- Iota preceder; 52- Stupid; 54- Ram's mate; 56- Sugary suffix; 57- Severity; 62- Word that can precede war, biotic and climax; 66- "That smarts!"; 67- Peace goddess; 68- Salamander; 69- A shivering fit - often a precursor to malaria; 70- Navigation acronym; 71- General ___ chicken; 72- Bristle; 73- Run away with a lover; 74- Greek peak;

Down

1- Flutter; 2- Actress Singer; 3- Natural blue dye; 4- Deprived of life; 5- Skin preparation; 6- Savvy about; 7- Witnessed; 8- Claw; 9- The ear's "stirrup"; 10- Latvia's capital; 11- North Carolina university; 12- Egypt's river; 13- Clod; 22- Time to give up; 24- Religious sch.; 26- Scene; 27- Dazzling display; 28- Sound of a horse; 29- Skater Lipinski; 30- Encompassed about; 32- Ich bin ___ Berliner; 33- Delight; 34- Tears; 37- Othello villain; 39- Cheek; 41- Shoebox letters; 43- Liquid hydrocarbon; 46- Hwys.; 48- Apt. divisions; 51- For a short time; 53- Rough shelter; 55- Matriculate; 57- Enormous; 58- ___ above; 59- Ostrichlike bird; 60- Architect Saarinen; 61- Lose one's cool; 63- Capone foe; 64- Terrible time?; 65- ___ boy!; 66- Western Hemisphere org.;



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



Did you hear how they caught the great produce bandit?
He stopped to take a leek.

GET INVOLVED

There are MANY ways you can get involved with this awesome online publication! We hope to hear from you.

BUSINESS ADS

Any and all businesses, organizations and entrepreneurs are welcome to submit a business ad for free. *Ads must be refreshed every 3 months*

FOR A FULL-PAGE PLACEMENT

Donate a product or service for giveaway through the Valley Voice. Help us give back to the readers and we will help place you. Though, we will likely reserve this to one per issue. Businesses can choose to host more than one giveaway through Valley Voices to obtain additional feature pages.

Business Ad Sizing Rules

IMAGE AND TEXT

If you have a completed ad that you are submitting, use the image and text sizing below, 4.25"x5.5"

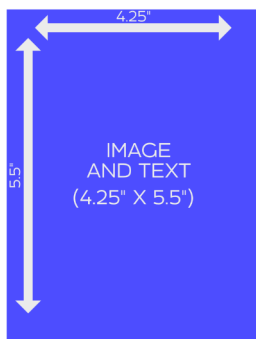
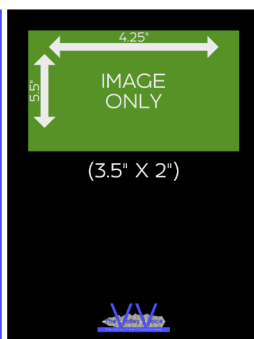


IMAGE ONLY

If you are submitting image with separate word copy, use the image only sizing below, 3.5"x2", with the understanding the copy will be sized to fit the remainder.



FOR A FULL-PAGE FOOD WRITE UP

We will ask you to provide the meal set you want tasted, at no charge, to our public food writer. (One of the front facing volunteer positions through the Valley Voice where anonymity is not always possible.) You will be notified when to expect the critic and they will introduce themselves. Once the meal has been completed, you can expect a full-page review, complete with photography of your food, to appear in a future issue.

TO GET ON THE COVER

This one is really easy... take the best photo. If the best photo has been submitted by a business, it's the business who will be credited on the front page.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

We are still looking for content curators, front-facing liaisons, photographers, and promoters.

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