

#19 ISSUE

The Valley Voice

The Voices of the Columbia Valley

B.C. STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN LIFTED

The B.C. Government has seen a reduction of COVID-19 cases in the past few weeks as the province has moved to Phase Three of the deconfinement plan as of July 1st.

\$25,300 IN FINES HANDLED OUT FOR CAMPFIRES IN B.C.

Within the span of 4 days, between July 1st - July 4th, the Conservation Officer Service dished out \$25,300 in fines to people who didn't follow the campfire ban.

SWIMMER'S ITCH IN EAST KOOTENAY LAKE

When going lake swimming, be cautious of posted signage and warnings.

COVER PHOTO TAKEN AND SUBMITTED BY CHERI HANN



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: Syd Danis

LETTER FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Dear Readers,

How have you been enjoying this crazy weather?

Our team of volunteers has been taking some time to sit back and listen to the communities in the valley. With the province opening up and tourists flocking into our communities, this is a time to remember we need to be nice to one another. People have different levels of sensitivities, opinions, thoughts, and each of them unique.

The province lifted the mask mandate and the average cases across the province continue to go down. This is a time to focus on ourselves and what we are doing as people and not what everyone else around us is doing. You wear or not wear your mask as you see fit, and leave others to make their choices for themselves.

Live your days with kindness in your heart and understanding that not everyone is the same. It's our differences that make us who we are.

The VVV

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GAMER'S CORNER: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HOP ON A FAD

BRITISH COLUMBIA STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN LIFTED

THE B.C. GOVERNMENT HAS SEEN A REDUCTION OF COVID-19 CASES IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS AS THE PROVINCE HAS MOVED TO PHASE THREE OF THE DECONFINEMENT PLAN AS OF JULY 1ST.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bonnie Henry announced the state of emergency that has been in place since March 18, 2020 has been lifted. However, police officials still have the authority to issue fines for health related matters.

On July 1st, bingo halls, casinos, and nightclubs re-opened with reduced capacities and specific regulations. Alcohol is permitted to be served until midnight in restaurants, bars, and stores. While there is no limit to how many people can sit at the same table in a restaurant setting, indoor gatherings are still limited to 50% of the rooms capacity.

The criteria for step 3 is for at least 70% of the population aged 18 and over are vaccinated with the first dose. There also needs to be low case counts and a decline in COVID-19 hospitalizations. While the mask mandate has been lifted with step 3, they are still recommended in indoor public spaces for people aged 12 and older who have not received both vaccinations.



STEP	Criteria	PHO Guidance	Personal Gatherings	Organized Gatherings	Travel	Sports & Activities	Businesses	Offices & Workplaces
1 MAY 25	C: stable H: stable D1: 60%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 10 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 10 people Outdoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people	Recreational travel within your zone Non-essential travel between zones restricted	Low-intensity indoor fitness classes Outdoor local team games and practices for all ages – no spectators	Indoor & outdoor dining – up to 6 people Liquor service - 10PM Existing WorkSafeBC Safety Plans remain in place	Start gradual return to workplaces and offices Existing Safety Plans remain in place
2 JUNE 15 <small>(Earliest date)</small>	C: declining H: declining D1: 65%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 50 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household Playdates	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people Sector consultations on next steps on indoor and outdoor gatherings	BC recreational travel BC Transit and BC Ferries – increased services as needed	High-intensity indoor fitness classes - reduced capacity Indoor team games for all ages – no spectators Spectators for outdoor sports – up to 50 people	Liquor service – midnight Banquet halls reopen – limited capacity, Safety Plans Sector consultations on next steps on easing of restrictions	Continue return to work Small in-person meetings
3 JULY 1 <small>(Earliest date)</small>	C: low H: declining D1: 70%	Masks – recommended Careful social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Return to usual on indoor and outdoor personal gatherings Sleepovers	Increased capacity, indoor and outdoor gatherings – Safety Plan Fairs & festivals with Safety Plan	Canada recreational travel	All indoor fitness classes – increased capacity Limited spectators for indoor sports	Dining – no group limit Bingo halls, casinos and nightclubs – limited capacity Operate based on new Safety Plans	Seminars and bigger meetings Operate based on new Safety Plans
4 SEPT 7 <small>(Earliest date)</small>	C: low H: low D1: 70%+	Masks – personal choice Normal social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Normal social contact	Increased capacity on large organized gatherings (i.e. concerts)	Canada recreational travel	Increased indoor and outdoor spectators Return of normal sport competitions – Safety Plans	Continue to operate based on new Safety Plans	Fully re-opened offices and workplaces

C: C-19 case counts H: C-19 hospitalizations D1: minimum % of people 18+ with dose 1

Here are some of the new things you can do in Step 3 of the B.C. Government Restart Plan:

Personal Gatherings:

- Return to normal for indoor and outdoor personal gatherings
- Sleepovers

Organized Gatherings:

- Indoor organized gatherings 50 people or 50% capacity, whichever is greater
- Outdoor organized gatherings 5,000 people or 50% capacity, whichever is greater
- No capacity limits or restrictions on religious gatherings and worship services
- Fairs, festivals and trade shows return to normal with a communicable disease plan

Businesses:

Restaurants, bars, pubs and nightclubs

- No group limits for indoor and outdoor dining, events allowed
- Return to normal liquor service hours
- No socializing between tables, no dancing

Casinos

- Reduced capacity
- Gaming stations can operate at approximately 50% capacity across the sector

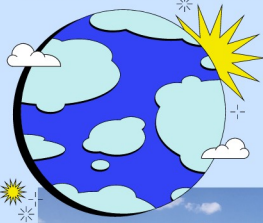
Sports and exercise:

- All indoor fitness classes allowed, normal capacity
- Gyms and recreation facilities, normal capacity
- Outdoor spectators 5,000 people or 50% capacity, whichever is greater
- Indoor spectators 50 people or 50% capacity, whichever is greater

The earliest possible start date to move to Step 4 of the B.C. Government restart plan is September 7th.

SUMMER CAMPS

FREE SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS AGED 8-12



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VALLEY PROMOTIONS



IF YOU'RE IN THE SKY...



WE CAN'T FLY.

When you fly a UAV or drone near or over a **#BCwildfire**, you're breaking the law and endangering firefighting personnel.

The restricted airspace includes a radius of five nautical miles around the fire and to an altitude of 3,000 feet above ground level. Transport Canada and the BC Wildfire Service explicitly prohibit the use of UAVs or drones of any size near a wildfire.

\$25,300 IN FINES HANDED OUT FOR CAMPFIRES IN B.C.

Within the span of 4 days, between July 1st - July 4th, the Conservation Officer Service dished out \$25,300 in fines to people who didn't follow the campfire ban.

In total, 22 tickets were issued with a fine of \$1,150 a piece. The tickets were mainly issued in the Kootenays and South Coast. Despite there being a fire ban, Baynes Lake Fire Department needed to respond to a campfire on Canada Day evening while a beach along Kooacanusa was put out by young adults once firefighters arrived on scene.

Conservation officers will continue to do regular checks and patrols while the strict fire ban is in place. With the number of wildfires raging through the province, be responsible and follow the rules and regulations.



**THE DISTRICT OF INVERMERE
PRESENTS**

**GIANT
LAWN GAMES
IN THE PARK**

POTHOLE PARK 1PM-3PM

TUESDAY

**JULY 6th, 20th & 27th
2021**

**JENGA, DOMINOES, CHESS, SNAKES
& LADDERS, CONNECT 4,
KERPLUNK, CORNHOLE & MORE!**

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

RADIUM SPLASHPARK UNDERWAY



WHY I LIVE IN RADIUM, A LOCAL FACEBOOK PAGE, SHARED THE BELOW IMAGES OF THE NEWLY STARTED SPLASHPARK IN RADIUM.

The progress you're looking at is a mere 5 days and yet so much progress can be seen. We look forward to seeing the final product, and the kids of the valley enjoying it!

lake windermere ambassadors
healthy waters for healthy communities

SIP & SPLASH

July 14 to 19

Will your business be crowned the Big Splash?
Join us to find out!

On a hot summer's day nothing is more refreshing than a cold drink. Now you have an excuse to try all the best-iced drinks in town and vote on your favorite. Participating businesses will provide a feature Sip & Splash beverage between July 14th and 19th for you to try, a portion of the proceeds from these beverages will go toward our programming. There are three titles at stake:

1. Big Splash - Biggest Fundraiser
2. Cannon Ball - Best Drink with a Lake Windermere Theme
3. Peoples Choice - As voted by you!

Thank you to the incredible local business support from:

Arrowhead Brewing Company
Back Alley Grill
Beginnings Breakfast
Blue Dog Cafe
Cafe Allium
Circle Cafe + Market
Columbia River Cafe
Eagle Ranch Resort
Edible Acres
Fuze

Hungry Rooster Food Truck
Invermere Bakery
Station Pub
Stolen Church Gelato & Coffee
Sweet Mountain Shaved Ice
Ullr Bar

Don't forget to get out to each of these businesses and try their Sip & Splash beverages!

Courtesy of the [Lake Windermere Ambassadors Summer Newsletter](#).
We recommend jumping on their email list so you don't miss anything awesome.

lake windermere ambassadors **SUMMER RAFFLE**

WIN A Purcell Paddle Co. PADDLEBOARD Worth \$750!

Package includes: Inflatable SUP, plus pump, paddle and bag!
Courtesy of Syndicate Boardshop

2nd Prize Worth \$200!

2-person rafting tour on the Kootenay River
Courtesy of Kootenay River Runners

Tickets and more info at lakeambassadors.ca/raffle
1 ticket: \$10 3 tickets: \$20

All proceed go to supporting Lake Windermere Ambassadors' mission of keeping a healthy Lake Windermere!

BC GAMING LICENSE #128633 | KNOW YOUR LIMIT, PLAY WITHIN IT

SYNDICATE BOARDSHOP INVERMERE BC KOOTENAY

THE LAKE WINDERMERE AMBASSADORS' SUMMER RAFFLE IS HERE!!!

Do you want to win a paddleboard, made right here in the Columbia Valley? What about a rafting tour for 2 on the Kootenay River? Draw is Aug. 14!

Enter the Lake Windermere Ambassadors' Summer Raffle for a chance to win these awesome prizes! Huge thanks to Syndicate Boardshop (the exclusive supplier of Purcell Paddle Co. SUPs and Invermere's one-stop shop for all things board) and Kootenay River Runners (the gnarliest paddlers in the Valley) for their support!

Buy tickets now at lakeambassadors.ca/raffle to support the Lake Windermere Ambassadors in our lake monitoring and education programs.

These are vital to keep Lake Windermere healthy for future generations to enjoy!



Have an adventure.

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VALLEY PROMOTIONS

GET PAID TO LIVE CLEANER (WELL, SORT OF)

The Provincial Government has announced they are removing provincial sales tax for e-bikes and e-trikes as incentive to switch to an electric bicycle.

This is a plan to ease commuting traffic and make a positive impact on the environment. The PST exemption is meant to help build a greener, more versatile economy as part of the bigger CleanBC program.

There has already been \$16.7 Million dollars dedicated by the B.C. government towards 45 different projects that improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. These improvements include rail trails, highway crossings, multi-use pathways, shoulder widening on highways, and more.

“As we reopen our communities to social gatherings and travel, helping British Columbians reconnect is important,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. “As our economy continues to recover, removing the PST on e-bikes makes it easier for people to choose cleaner, healthier ways to move around.”

“The removal of PST from e-bikes encourages a healthy and sustainable way to get around to a number of segments of the population, including seniors, people with mobility limitations, those who live in hilly communities and those who want to ride further distances,” said Erin O’Melinn, executive director of HUB Cycling. “We appreciate the B.C. government taking this step to combat climate change and provide a more resilient form of transportation.”



East Kootenay Housing Needs Assessment **SURVEY NOW OPEN**

open until **JULY 23, 2021**



engage.rdek.bc.ca

RURAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY (RDEK) NEEDS YOU!

RDEK is completing a Housing Needs Assessment to better understand housing challenges across Electoral Areas A, B, C, E, F, and G. That's why they are hosting this survey. Your participation will help them create a more complete picture of the housing situation in our communities.

As we grow and change, the data and information you provide today will help address the housing needs and demands across the East Kootenay.

The survey is open until July 23rd and you can take it here: <http://ow.ly/gLCG50For1A>

For more info, visit <https://engage.rdek.bc.ca/housing>

ELK VALLEY REGIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESIDENT FEEDBACK NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN.

The RDEK adopts park management plans to establish objectives and strategies for the long-term management of our parks. They are currently working on a management plan for the Elk Valley Regional Park, which is intended to provide strategic direction and guidance for the RDEK, community associations and stewards of the park for the next 15-20 years.

Your vision for the future operations of the park is an important piece of the puzzle.

To help gather resident feedback, comments are being taken on the draft Management Plan until 4:30pm on August 9.

To review the plan and leave your comments, visit: <https://engage.rdek.bc.ca/elkvalleypark>

Elk Valley Regional Park
Draft Management Plan
COMMENT PERIOD OPEN
open until **AUGUST 9, 2021**

Regional District of
East Kootenay

engage.rdek.bc.ca

GOVERNMENT MAKING CHILD CARE MORE ACCESSIBLE

The Provincial and Federal government has partnered up to implement a \$10 per day child care system for parents across the province.

It was announced that the Government of Canada will invest \$3.2 Billion dollars over the next five years in efforts to make child care more accessible and affordable.

Under this new partnership, each level of government will be committed to providing an average parent fee of \$10 per day for regulated child care spaces for children under six years of age. The plan for the B.C. Government by the end of 2022 is for parents to see a 50% decrease in their average parental fees. According to the province, there will be 30,000 new regulated early learning and child care spaces created over the next five years for children under six.

“For years, many parents in BC struggled to find child care. When they could find it, costs were sometimes too much to bear. The progress we’ve already made to fund new spaces and save families money has been life-changing.” “This agreement with British Columbia is a big step forward in establishing Canada-wide child care that will make life more affordable for families, get women back into the workforce, and drive economic growth, while giving every child in Canada, no matter where they live, the chance to achieve their potential.” said Horgan.





Summer Reading Club 2021 with the Invermere Library

Help us Crack the Case this summer
with games, crafts, mysteries & of
course, reading!!

One week registration at a time!

All 5-year olds MUST be finished Kindergarten

Register for one of these in-person sessions today!
Stop by or call/email us at **250-342-6416**
publiclibrary@invermere.net

Wednesday, **July 7**
11:15 am-12:30 pm
CANAL FLATS Lions Park
For ages 5-12

Thursday, July 8
2:00-3:30 pm
INVERMERE Library yard
for ages 9-12

Wednesday, **July 14**
11:15 am-12:30 pm
EDGEWATER Community Park
for ages 5-12

Friday, July 9
2:00-3:30 pm
INVERMERE Library yard
for ages 5-8

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FAMILY NIGHT - SUNDAY JULY 11
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VALLEY PROMOTIONS

BE CAREFUL, REPORTS OF SWIMMER'S ITCH IN EAST KOOTENAY LAKE

When going lake swimming, be cautious of posted signage and warnings.

Reports are increasing of Swimmer's Itch coming from people who are swimming in Surveyors Lake in Kikomun Creek Provincial Park.

As defined by the CDC, Swimmer's itch, also called cercarial dermatitis, appears as a skin rash caused by an allergic reaction to certain microscopic parasites that infect some birds and mammals. These parasites are released from infected snails into fresh and salt water (such as lakes, ponds, and oceans).

Resident public health doctor with Interior Health, Dr. Siu-Kae Yeong advised the parasites can be avoided by entering the water at a deeper point, such as a dock. Once you've swam, dry off and shower as soon as possible to clear off and parasites and prevent further reactions. Symptoms can include a tingling sensation after coming out of the water accompanied by red spots and itching.

Common remedies to reduce the itchiness is calamine lotion, taking a bath with baking soda, or with oatmeal! Signs have now been placed near Surveyors Lake to caution visitors of the parasite presence.





END THE MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA

THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC THE MAJOR CONCERN WAS THE MENTAL HEALTH OF CANADIANS.

With lockdowns, shutdowns, being separated from loved ones for extended periods of time, all these can have a negative impact on a person's mental health. In order for us to recover and truly grow from this pandemic, those who were negatively impacted need to be supported.

The Provincial Government is taking strides towards increasing student mental health programs across the province with \$45,000 provided to the Stigma-Free Society. This funding is crucial to B.C.'s restart plan as it impacts the mental health of young people in our province. The funding will provide mental health toolkits for grades 4-12 and offer mental wellness plans that follow the provincial curriculum.

As of this date, 55,000 students and teachers have taken part of a Stigma-Free Program and have access to the online toolkit. The goal is the society is to reach another 10,000 students within the next 18 months with a focus on rural communities.

Any schools interested in accessing the mental health toolkits can contact the society directly and arrange a presentation.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HOP ON A FAD

GAMER PAYS \$600 FOR SKYRIM

A game like Super Mario 64 is iconic. It came out before the digital age and physical copies can only be played on a Nintendo64. A sealed copy of Super Mario 64 recently sold at auction for an astounding \$1.5 million and now collectors are looking for the “next big thing” in gaming collectibles.

On the same day as the historic \$1.5 million sale of Super Mario 64, Heritage Auctions also saw a sealed copy of Skyrim sell for \$600! "Purely the apotheosis of role-playing games, Skyrim is a game that one could never possibly tire of," The official description on Heritage Auctions reads. "Fans sink countless hours in the land of Tamriel, and the love for this game runs deep. We've yet to offer a sealed copy until now, so we would imagine this will be a tough lot to claim!" The game itself boasts a Wata score of 9.2 A+ which marks it as “exceptional condition”. The Super Mario 64 game which sold at auction was graded a 9.8 A++ condition.

It's ridiculous to see a game like Skyrim, sealed or not, being purchased for \$600. The game came out in 2011, can be played on a number of different platforms (and for free with an Xbox Game Pass subscription), and I'm pretty sure you can find a sealed copy still somewhere that's affordable. What this may do now is start driving up the price of more recent iconic games such as Mass Effect or Dragon Age.

Previous games sold include a sealed copy of Tomb Raider which was purchased for \$144,000 and a sealed copy of Red Dead Redemption which went for \$284.

JOSH GRIEVE



VolunteerConnector.org is **FREE** to use and has many exciting features that will make volunteer recruitment and management easier for you.



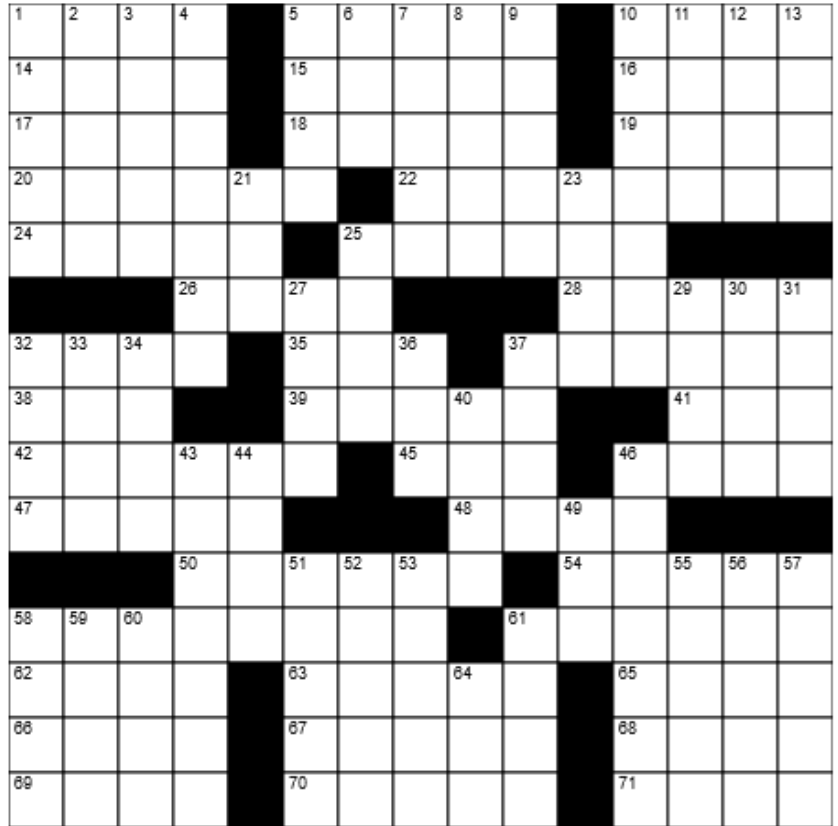
VolunteerConnector

A LITTLE FUN

BestCrosswords.com - Puzzle #1 on 7/13/2021

Across

1- Leaf tool; 5- Prospect; 10- ___ Crunch; 14- Ancient Greek coin; 15- Hitching post?; 16- Double curve; 17- Delhi wrap; 18- Incline; 19- Manitoba Indigenous People; 20- Criticize severely; 22- Strong inclination; 24- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 25- Attack; 26- Switchblade; 28- Mock, annoy; 32- H.S. exam; 35- McCartney title; 37- Navy builder; 38- Amazement; 39- Each partner; 41- ___ the land of the free...; 42- Ringlike formation; 45- Metal container; 46- ___ sapiens; 47- Quick and nimble; 48- Final Four org.; 50- Invertebrate creature; 54- Some beans; 58- Offhand; 61- King of pop; 62- Clasp for a door; 63- Hiding place; 65- Masked critter; 66- Comics canine; 67- Japanese three-line verse; 68- Second hand, took advantage of; 69- Fleshy fruit; 70- President Garfield's middle name; 71- Dick Tracy's love;



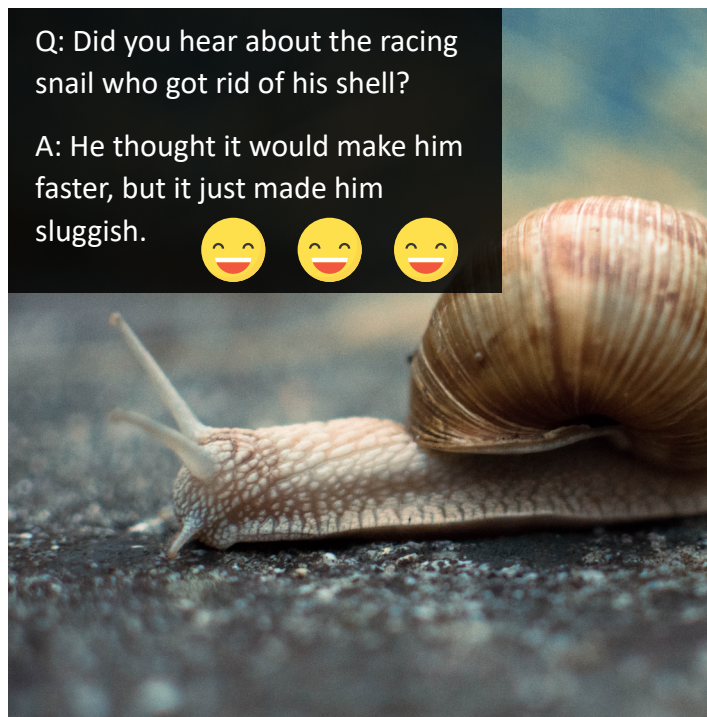
Down

1- Martini's partner; 2- Bahamanian island; 3- Sacred text of Islam; 4- Snob; 5- Still life subject; 6- Laid up; 7- Halts; 8- Ribbons; 9- Concert venue; 10- Spiral-shaped passage of the inner ear; 11- Pearl Mosque city; 12- Hammer head; 13- Nair rival; 21- So there!; 23- Quote; 25- Tel ___; 27- Got it; 29- Peek follower; 30- Appear; 31- Architect Saarinen; 32- Tailless rodent; 33- Gulp from a flask; 34- Ethereal: Prefix; 36- VCR button; 37- Match up; 40- Tirade; 43- Sailing vessel; 44- Grant temporary use of; 46- Butch, e.g.; 49- According to; 51- Figure skater Cohen; 52- Cornerstone abbr.; 53- Committee head; 55- Bullwinkle, e.g.; 56- Healing plants; 57- Transmits; 58- Hit the mall; 59- Put aboard; 60- Bhutan's continent; 61- Buddy; 64- Jamaican popular music;

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

Q: Did you hear about the racing snail who got rid of his shell?

A: He thought it would make him faster, but it just made him sluggish.





Birthdays to Grow

I asked the kids in my nursery school class what they needed in order to grow up nice and strong.

One little girl answered, "Birthdays!"



Drinking and Driving

A few of us were discussing the perils of drinking and driving when my five-year-old granddaughter threw in her two cents.

"I can see why it would be dangerous to drink and drive," she said. "The straw could go up your nose."



Full-Time

I was in a small store in a nearby town one evening. Wanting to find out when it opened the next morning, I stopped a teenage staffer on her way out and asked, "What are your hours?"

Her reply: "Right now, six to nine because I'm in school. But next month it will be full-time."



No Thanks

My 35-year-old son and I had just finished our meal when I realized I'd left my wallet in my truck. As I headed out the door, I told the waitress what had happened.

"But don't worry," I said with a grin. "I'm leaving my son for collateral."

She looked at him. He winked at her.

She turned back to me. "What else you got?"

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*

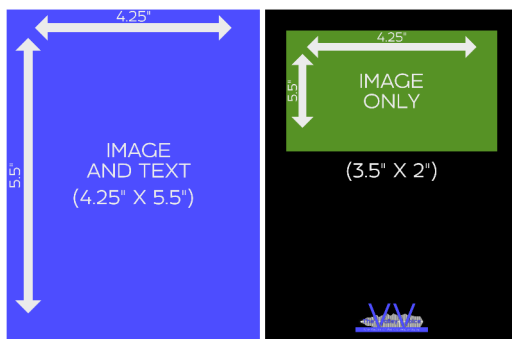
FOR A FULL-PAGE PLACEMENT

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.

Want to get involved?

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