

#21 ISSUE

The Valley Voice

The Voices of the Columbia Valley

BIKER GANG WAR IN CRANBROOK

Five people were hospitalized with stab wounds after the gang war broke out.

B.C. GOVERNMENT UPS MINIMUM WORKING AGE

This change will come into effect on October 15th, 2021.

BC STATE OF EMERGENCY IS BACK

British Columbia was placed under a state of emergency in support of the ongoing wildfire situation running rampant across the province.

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

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Photo Credit: Jen Bewski

LETTER FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Dear Readers,

Have we mentioned how much we love it when you send us content? Our purpose behind this project is to show all the amazing sights, people, and businesses the Columbia Valley has to offer. We can't do that without your support!

We're looking for people who have amazing photos from around the Valley. Did you go on a hike and take some great scenic shots? Or maybe you have pictures of some of the wildlife habitating around our communities? Even if it's you and your friends having a blast on the lake! We want to share it!

Send us your photos to news@thevoicecv.ca or visit our website thevoicecv.ca to send us over your content and photos. We want to feature everybody we can and show our communities and beyond what we have to offer.

We look forward to seeing what you send in!

The VVV

PS: Hey, businesses, you know what this means? If you send us photos of YOUR TEAM doing awesome things in and around the Columbia Valley, we'll run them with your business deets. Another awesome way to increase your visibility for free!



Photo Credit: Syd Danis

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GAMER'S CORNER: DEAD SPACE IS GETTING THE NEXT-GEN TREATMENT



EmergencyInfoBC.ca

**Your source for wildfire evacuation
and recovery information**

BRITISH COLUMBIA IS BACK UNDER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY MANDATE

AS OF JULY 21ST AT 12:00AM, THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA WAS PLACED UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN SUPPORT OF THE ONGOING WILDFIRE SITUATION RUNNING RAMPANT ACROSS THE PROVINCE.

The announcement was made by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General after receiving recommendations from the BC Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC.

Calling the state of emergency provides more support to federal, provincial, and local governments to protect the public.

In a quote reported by myeastkootenaynow.com,

“Public safety is always our first priority, and as wildfire activity is expected to increase, this is a progressive step in our wildfire response to make sure British Columbia has access to extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act,” Farnworth said.

“In a briefing last night, I received word that we’ll be facing a few days of very difficult weather in the Interior. This declaration will address the potential of a mass evacuation scenario and provide our government with the means to secure the accommodation spaces necessary to house our citizens, if necessary.”

EMERGENCYINFOBC.CA

As of July 20th, the province reported a total of 299 wildfires currently active in B.C. Alongside these wildfires are 40 evacuation orders and 69 evacuation alerts. More than 3000+ firefighters and resource staff are currently working hard to fight the wildfires across the province. As the wildfires continue to rage, more area restrictions are also put in place such as an area around Mineral Creek. The area restriction is from Panorama north end to Mount Katherine south end. Ben Able lake access has also been closed along with Toby Creek Road to traffic. This is in response to the 58 hectare sized wildfire currently active in Mineral Creek about 25 kilometers southwest of Invermere.

As reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, here are the current notable fires in the region:

Three other wildfires of note are burning in the region, the largest fire is the 2,665-hectare Cultus Creek wildfire, west of Kootenay Lake.

Although, the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) said the fire will not be considered a fire of note by the end of the day on Monday.

The Evacuation Order has been downgraded to an Alert for properties between Midge Creek and Next Creek.

Signage has been posted to alert the public that Midge Creek Park is closed.

No firefighting equipment is on the scene of the blaze.

"Firefighters completed objectives around the Tye Beach cabins the afternoon of Sunday, July 25. Some equipment remains on-site in the event the need arises to return and protect structures. BCWS personnel will continue to monitor this fire, which remains very active," said BCWS officials.

Across the lake, the Akokli Creek wildfire continues to burn and has grown to about 1,912 hectares.

Crews are responding to the blaze with 41 firefighters, four pieces of heavy equipment and three helicopters.

"Firefighters are mopping up and reinforcing along the fire guard from the Akokli Creek drainage to the western aspect, where the fire has come close to the containment line. A heavy equipment guard has been constructed from the Akokli Creek drainage," explained BCWF officials. "The fire currently remains within the containment lines. Due to increased fire behaviour in the early evening and into the night, crews will remain on-site to monitor the fire and action it where it is safe to do so."

The Bill Nye Mountain fire, about seven kilometers southeast of Wasa is estimated to be about 1,107 hectares in size.

Nearby properties are on an Evacuation Alert, while a handful of select properties are on Evacuation Order.

28 firefighters are responding to the fire with three pieces of heavy equipment and two helicopters.

A planned burn was scheduled for Sunday, and it only partially went through because of the day's conditions.

"Due to increased fire activity in the north part of the area, planned ignitions were halted. Ground crews will monitor and mop up the strengthen the anchor point on the south and southwest flanks. Crews will continue to line locate for heavy equipment to establish machine guards to protect structures along the west flank. Helicopters will continue bucketing to support ground crews. Aerial monitoring of the fire is ongoing. Heavy equipment is constructing a machine guard along the west and north flank and around structures," explained BCWS officials.

EMERGENCYINFOBC.CA



IF YOU'RE IN THE SKY...



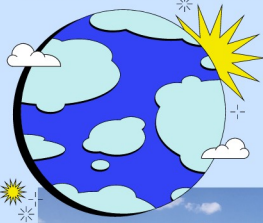
WE CAN'T FLY.

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.

SUMMER CAMPS

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VALLEY PROMOTIONS

An aerial photograph of a wildfire. Thick, dark smoke billows from the fire, partially obscuring the landscape. A power transmission tower stands prominently in the middle ground, with power lines stretching across the scene. The fire is concentrated in a central area, with bright orange and yellow flames visible. The surrounding terrain is covered in dry, yellowish-brown vegetation, typical of a high-risk wildfire area.

CITY OF FERNIE RECEIVES FUNDING FOR JOBS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK

The Columbia Basin Economic Recovery Initiative has awarded the City of Fernie \$127,000.00 to employ eight people to create “shaded fuel brakes” in the community.

One of these will be built on 4.2 hectares near St. Margaret’s Cemetery and another one to be built on 1.6 hectares near Mount Fernie Provincial Park.

Both of these areas have been identified as high priorities for fuel treatment in the City of Fernie Wildfire Protection Plan. The program they are planning for these areas is expected to improve public safety, fire suppression abilities, while supporting improved wildlife habitat. The project is expected to begin this fall.

Mayor Ange Qualizza said, “This is wonderful news, especially as we face a Provincial State of Emergency this wildfire season. I want to congratulate Chief Ruitter, the team, and recognize the community champions that have helped advance the FireSmart program locally for over six years now.”

Fire Chief Ted Ruitter added, “We want to thank the province and the Trust for funding this important project. This fuel management initiative is an excellent addition to our FireSmart program, helps protect our community, and provides valuable local employment.”



PHASE 2 WATER RESTRICTION HITS CRANBROOK

THE ONGOING HEATWAVE DOESN'T LOOK TO BE LETTING UP ANYTIME SOON AND WITH NO RAINFALL IN SIGHT.

Expect water restrictions to come down from your local municipalities soon, Cranbrook will be implementing phase 2 of their water restrictions. Residents are being asked to reduce their water usage by following the below restrictions:

If you live in an even-numbered property, you can water your property on Thursdays and Sundays. If you live in an odd-numbered property, you can water your property on Tuesdays and Saturdays. During these days, watering can occur between the hours of 4:00am-11:00am and 7:00pm-11:00pm. There is no watering allowed on Wednesdays and Fridays.

While the city is still implementing a water restriction on residents, the Public Works Manager with the City of Cranbrook commented on seeing a slight reduction in usage over the past week. However, there is still more that needs to be done as the water from the City's two Watersheds is depleting.

The Phillips Reservoir will be monitored daily by city staff as it is below its regular level.

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

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VALLEY PROMOTIONS

**THE DISTRICT OF INVERMERE
PRESENTS**

**GIANT
LAWN GAMES
IN THE PARK**

POTHOLE PARK 1PM-3PM

**WEDNESDAY JULY 28TH
2021 (NEW DATE).**

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& LADDERS, CONNECT 4,
KERPLUNK, CORNHOLE & MORE!**

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250 342-3780 (home) or 250 341-5630 (cell)

Thank you,

Donna Scheffer
Co-Coordinator Virtual Run
2021 Terry Fox Run: One Day. Your Way.

BIKER GANG WAR IN CRANBROOK



On July 23rd at approximately 7pm, Cranbrook RCMP attended a local gas station on Cranbrook Street North after a report of multiple people fighting.

Front line officers immediately flooded the area and separated the two groups when they then identified one to be a rival outlaw motorcycle gang from Alberta. Five people were hospitalized with stab wounds after the gang war broke out with one of the gangs being escorted out of town by the RCMP.

Officers attended East Kootenay Regional Hospital and placed it under temporary lockdown while the injured parties were being treated. Their injuries have been reported as non-life threatening. No arrests have been made at this time and the investigation is ongoing by the Cranbrook RCMP General Investigation Section, with support from the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia.

The gangs involved in this incident have not been identified nor additional details regarding where they are based. RCMP is asking anyone who may have witnessed this incident to contact them at 250-489-3471.

CRANBROOK RECEIVING SUPPORT TOWARDS DRUG OVERDOSES

The provincial government has provided the City of Cranbrook funding towards a community action team to assist with the overdose crisis.

The province has provided a total of \$2.5 million in funding across the province with 36 teams in total. These teams are out there saving lives by distributing naloxone and providing peer support along with overdose prevention services. These support teams will be established in the Central Coast Regional District and Cranbrook.

Existing teams will receive funding to continue supporting drug overdose prevention in their communities.

“More than ever, people who use substances need services in their community, along with systems supports,” said Melinda Markey, executive director, Community Action Initiative.

“This investment recognizes that local involvement, especially when led by people with lived experience, helps people access the care and support they need and builds a strong, supportive community.”

Established in February 2018, the community action teams were created in response to the ongoing drug poisoning crisis with chemicals such as fentanyl.

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INVERMERE PRESENTS



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DOWNTOWN INVERMERE
6:30^{PM}-8^{PM}

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THE CLANDESTINE SONG BAND AUG 5
HAMBURGERS ON WONDERBREAD AUG 12

SMARTY PANTS AUG 19

FAIRWATER 54 AUG 26

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VALLEY PROMOTIONS

STORY WALK DISPLAY LOCATIONS NEAR YOU!



WHAT IS STORY WALK?

StoryWalk® combines literacy, physical activity and outdoor fun for all ages. Frank's Facebook Fiasco provides an opportunity to learn about self-regulation, peer pressure, and safer use of digital devices. Each story page includes activities for all ages (yes even you adults!)

TIME & LOCATION

July 2-Kimberley-Rotary Park-10-430

July 21-Invermere-Rotary Park-10-430

July 22-Radium-Library-11-3

July 23-Golden-Kinsmen/Clown Park-10-430

July 24-Invermere-Library-10-2

July 26-Kimberley-Rotary Park-10-430

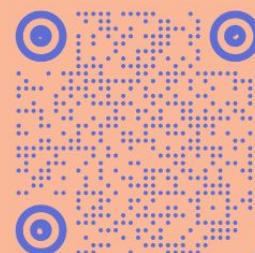
August 4-Invermere Pothole Park-10-430

August 5-Golden Spray Park-10-430

August 13-Kimberley-Rotary Park-10-430



- Take home a copy of the book and other FREE giveaways
- Story walk is a FREE self-guided family activity
- Please follow current social distancing guidelines



Kootenay Gambling Support on Facebook will have up-to-date information & any schedule changes

ACTIVITY GOAL: HEALTH PROMOTION AS PREVENTION

This activity is brought to you by contractors of British Columbia Gambling Support. By promoting critical thinking, self-regulation, and healthy behaviours folks are less likely to develop dependencies with things like gambling, gaming and social media.

Contact: Michelle Shewell 778 963 0808

B.C. GOVERNMENT INCREASES MINIMUM WORKING AGE

The province of British Columbia was the only one in Canada that allowed children 12 and older to be employed.

However, the provincial government has now adjusted the general working age from 12 to 16 years old to protect youth from certain workplace environments. This doesn't mean youth between 12-16 can't work, it just means there's only certain jobs they can be involved with.

Youth aged 14 and 15 can participate in "light work" as defined below, provided parental permission is provided.

- Lifeguarding
- Caddying
- Light Farming
- Yard Work
- Retail Work
- Food Service

Youth under the age of 14 can work in businesses and farms owned by an immediate family member, provided the appropriate safety criteria is met. The province is also looking to define the term "hazardous work" for employed youth between 16 and 18 years of age. This change will come into effect on October 15th, 2021 which will give employers and youth working outside of these conditions enough time to adjust.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN WATER SAMPLING BUT CAN'T MAKE OUR TUESDAY MORNING TIMES?

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SUMMER RAFFLE

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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

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

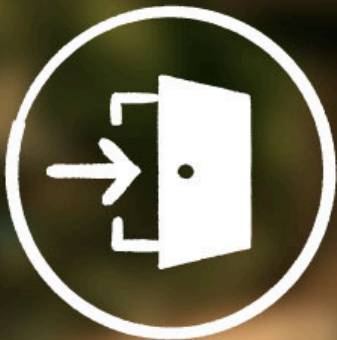
Do you want to win a paddleboard, made right here in the Columbia Valley? What about a rafting tour for 2 on the Kootenay River? Draw is Aug. 14!

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!

Stay safe and cool when air quality is poor



Reduce time spent outdoors



Exercise indoors



Keep air cleaner inside



Keep windows closed, without overheating



Seek medical care if you feel unwell



Pay attention to air quality reports

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



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DEAD SPACE IS GETTING THE NEXT-GEN TREATMENT

DURING EA PLAY LIVE 2021, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT DEAD SPACE WILL BE GETTING A REMAKE BY EA MOTIVE.

The game is set for release on the PS5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. No official release date was provided however there was a teaser trailer revealed that shows off the in-engine look at the mood and tone being captured with the remake.

This is going to be a great remake. The developers will not be porting from one platform to another, they will be completely rebuilding Dead Space from the ground up in the Frostbite engine. The developers will be taking advantage of updated technology around advanced SSDs, 3D audio, and more of the new tech that comes with the latest console generation. Fans from the Dead Space community will also be helping bring the game to life by offering feedback on the development and modernization of the original Dead Space game.

Dead Space is an amazing survival horror game and a great start for those new to the genre. The gamer follows Isaac Clarke, you're an engineer who is sent to repair a massive starship. Once you get there, you realize the crew have met a disturbing fate of an alien infection that has taken them over. You're then sent on a journey to figure out what exactly happened and try to find your partner who is somewhere on the ship.

JOSH GRIEVE

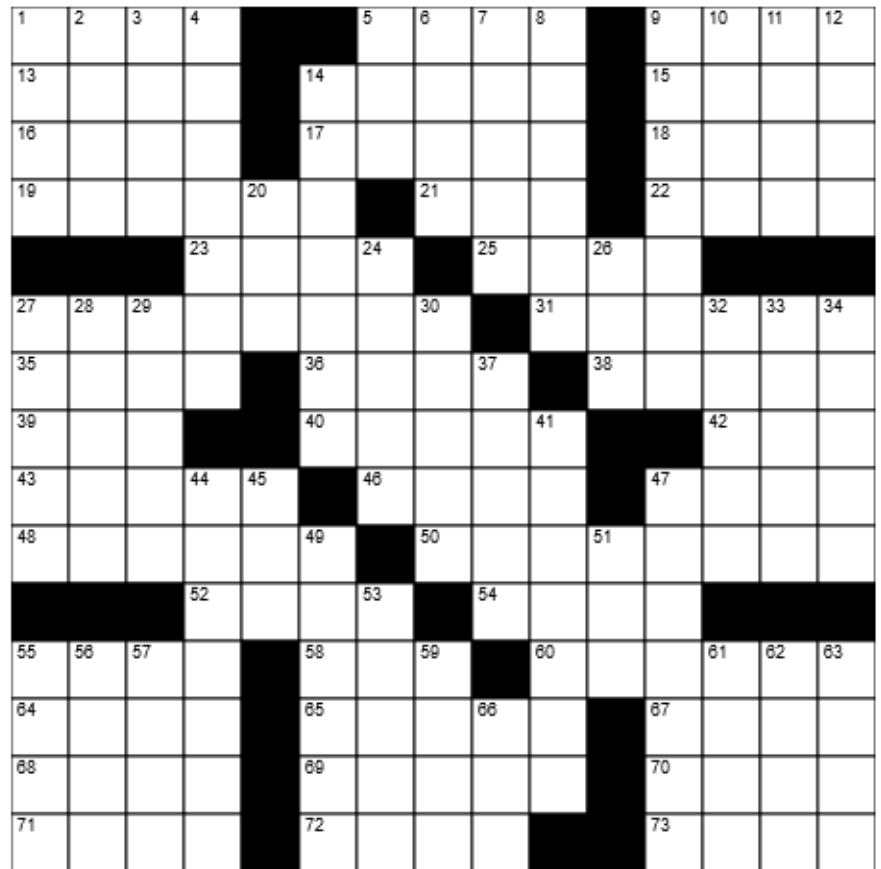
A LITTLE FUN

Across

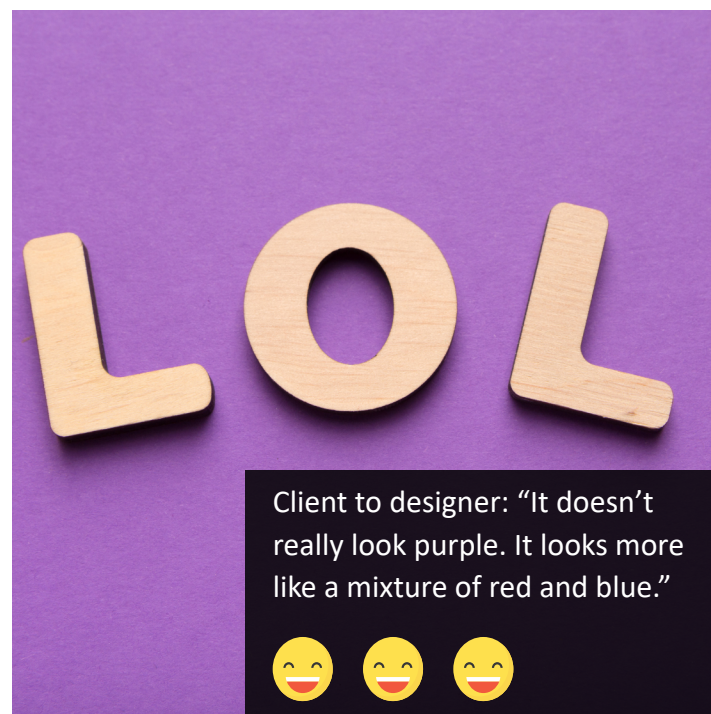
1- Lab gel; 5- Between ports; 9- Will-____-wisp; 13- Goad; 14- Paradises; 15- Cool!; 16- Bound; 17- Adlai's running mate; 18- Dash; 19- Kind of garage; 21- Hit sign; 22- Rick's love in "Casablanca"; 23- Passing notice; 25- About; 27- Cure-alls; 31- Shred; 35- Ill-mannered one; 36- Split; 38- Analyze a sentence; 39- Go off course; 40- Clan symbol; 42- Mule's sire; 43- Lost; 46- Defense grp. since 1949; 47- Nice notion; 48- Labyrinthine; 50- Deeply respectful; 52- Egyptian goddess of fertility; 54- Cutty ____; 55- Jazz phrase; 58- Stand in; 60- Hunting dog; 64- Yours, in Tours; 65- Experiment; 67- "A Jug of Wine..." poet; 68- Apply powder to oneself; 69- Delight; 70- Slight; 71- Actress Sommer; 72- Wall St. letters; 73- Electric fish;

Down

1- Mercury or Saturn; 2- Sheepish look; 3- Author James; 4- British soldier; 5- Commercials; 6- Goes down; 7- Diciembre follower; 8- Classify; 9- The tiniest bit; 10- Blab; 11- Lukas of "Witness"; 12- Gas burner or Sicilian volcano; 14- Most strange; 20- 1970 Jackson 5 hit; 24- Claw; 26- Plant juice; 27- Make one's case; 28- Trunk line; 29- Suckle; 30- Lute of India; 32- Commerce; 33- Ruhr city; 34- Adjust to zero; 37- French beans?; 41- Ambulatory; 44- Building; 45- Small batteries; 47- Annoying; 49- Pay attention; 51- Important time; 53- Bad-tempered; 55- Appraise, charge per unit; 56- Romance lang.; 57- People in general; 59- Prejudice; 61- "Peter Pan" pirate; 62- British nobleman; 63- Very, in Versailles; 66- Packed away;



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Client to designer: "It doesn't really look purple. It looks more like a mixture of red and blue."





Teeth Impression

As the dentist labored over my teeth, he tried to make small talk. "What do you do?" he asked.

"I'm a comedian," I answered.

"Interesting." After a pause, he said, "Let's get an impression—"

"It's more observational humor, actually," I interrupted. "I don't do impressions."

The dentist continued, "—of your teeth."



Never Will

I was working from home, interviewing a famous neurologist for an article, when my 3-year-old announced she had to go potty and waddled into the bathroom. After some loud moans, she yelled, "I did it, Mom! I pooped in the toilet! I pooped on the floor too! But I'll clean it! Oh, I stepped in it!"

There was an uncomfortable silence as I realized the doctor had heard every word. "Ha ha," I laughed nervously. "Do you have kids?" "No," he said, "and I never will."



None For Me

One day, my physician father treated himself to a plate of raw oysters and offered to share them with me.

Just as I was about to dig in, he picked up an oyster, examined it, and commented, "They remind me of infected tonsils." And that's the story of how he ended up eating the entire plate of oysters himself.



Knowing Your French

During a high school visit to France, I stayed with a French family. One night, I was unsure what the meat on my dinner plate was, so I pointed to it and asked in my best 11th-grade French: "Qui est-ce?"

The family's expressions told me I needed some tutoring. Instead of asking "What is it?" as I had intended, I'd asked "Who is it?"

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*

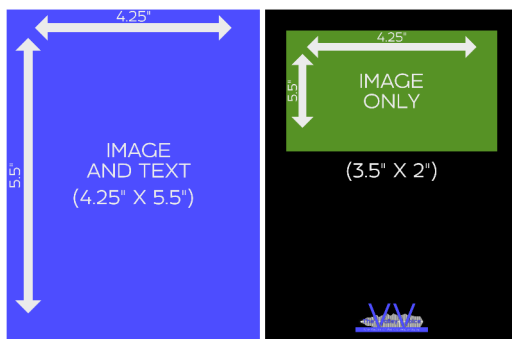
FOR A FULL-PAGE PLACEMENT

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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