

#24 ISSUE

The Valley Voice

The Voices of the Columbia Valley

LOW AIR QUALITY IN B.C.

With numerous wildfires raging across our province, B.C. air quality has been on the decline.

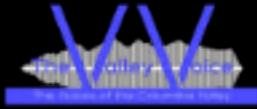
FREE TRANSIT FOR KIDS

The provincial government continues to make efforts towards life being more affordable for families across the province.

FEDERAL ELECTION SEPTEMBER 20TH

Canadians are being asked to head to the polls on September 20th to cast their vote in a federal election.

COVER PHOTO CREDIT: SYD DANIS



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



LETTER FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Dear Readers,

Our country is heading into a federal election, and we know what that means, opinions are going to start flying. Everyone is welcome and entitled to their own choices and opinions, that's what makes each of us unique. What's important to remember is people are allowed to think differently than us, this promotes critical and constructive thinking. If we all thought the same, there'd be no critical thinking left in the world.

Remember to respect the opinions and thoughts of others, even if you don't necessarily agree with them. Each political party has their own agenda, thoughts, and ideas on which direction the country should be heading in, especially with the fourth wave coming in. What matters most is letting your voice be heard, make your choice this year and vote in the 2021 federal election.

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**GAMER'S CORNER: DROP THE COAL
FOR OIL**

FEDERAL ELECTION SEPTEMBER 20TH



CANADIANS ARE BEING ASKED TO HEAD TO THE POLLS ON SEPTEMBER 20TH TO CAST THEIR VOTE IN A FEDERAL ELECTION.

On Sunday morning, Governor General Mary Simon had a meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and agreed to dissolve parliament at the request of the liberal leader.

The election is the 44th federal general election and comes as the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic sweeps its way across the provinces.

Once parliament is dissolved, 36 days is the minimum timeline for an election campaign to be held with the option to extend to 50 days. Opposition party leaders are calling the decision of a snap election by Prime Minister Trudeau reckless and does nothing but harm to Canadians.

In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, Trudeau says,

“When Canadians needed our support during the global COVID-19 pandemic, we had their backs. We ensured they could continue to pay their bills, keep food on the table, and stay on their company’s payroll. Now it’s time to hear their voices. Because the decisions that the government makes right now will define the future our kids grow up in – and Canadians deserve to have their say in shaping it. Together, we need to choose how we finish the fight against COVID-19, get the job done on vaccines, and build back a better tomorrow. That’s why we need this election.”

Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam has stated, as reported by cbc.ca, that due to the high vaccination rate of Canadians, a federal election can be conducted safely with the appropriate health and safety protocols in place. With new daily cases of COVID-19 rising across the country and a fourth wave underway, the safety of Canadians is what’s most important. Elections Canada stated Sunday their analytics suggest between two to three million Canadians may choose to vote by mail-in ballot instead of going out to the polls this election.

The Liberal party holds 155 seats in the House of Commons at the time of dissolution. The Conservative party currently holds 119 seats, the New Democrats Party holds 24 seats, the Bloc Quebecois holds 32 seats, the Green Party two seats, and five seats are held by independents. The public polling numbers are currently favouring the Liberal government. After the surplus of funds given towards the country and its people during the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s no surprise the Liberal party remains the popular vote heading into the election. The Liberal party is currently capturing 35.6% of the public support where the Conservative party holds 28.8%, and the NDP receiving 19.3%. Based on the amount of public support the Liberal party currently has, they are in the level to receive 170 seats needed to form a majority government.

REGISTER TO VOTE OR TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES IN YOUR RIDING, VISIT WWW.ELECTIONS.CA



The Conservative party has taken the stance of arguing that Canadians cannot afford to trust the Liberal government with the post-pandemic economic recovery of the country. In a quote taken from [cbc.ca](https://www.cbc.ca), Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole says, "This election is not about the next week, the month, or the next year. It's about the next four years. It's about who will deliver the economic recovery Canada needs. It's about who will take action to protect Canadians from spiraling living costs, from rising taxes, from poorer services." The Conservative Party leader will also be using his short time to re-introduce himself to Canadians and with a climate plan that includes carbon pricing for consumers. The NDP are focusing their campaign towards the generous aid programs they pushed for during the pandemic. The hope is their support of the Canadian people will resonate at the ballot box.

Prime Minister Trudeau kicked off his election campaign in Montreal which is a key battleground for the Liberal party. Conservative leader Erin O'Toole held his first campaign event online during a virtual town-hall style meeting with British Columbia residents. NDP leader Jasmeet Singh was involved in Montreal's Pride parade and an event Monday morning in Toronto.

For Canadians voting in the September 20th election, you must be registered with Elections Canada at your current address. You can utilize their online voter registration service to make sure you're able to cast your vote. Voter information cards are being mailed out to all registered voters and will be received around September 10th, which is the first day for advance polling.

In the Kootenay-Columbia region, we will have a number of options to choose from when we head to the polls on September 20th. There are currently four candidates looking for the spot as the riding's MP. The Conservative candidate Rob Morrison will be looking to secure another term while Wayne Stetski from the NDP party will look to take the riding. Robin Goldsbury will be running for the Liberal Party and Rana Nelson will be the Green Party's candidate.

REGISTER TO VOTE OR TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES IN YOUR RIDING, VISIT [WWW.ELECTIONS.CA](https://www.elections.ca)

BC Bears



American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)

- Shoulder hump absent
- Short claws dark in colour
- Taller ears
- Face has a straight profile
- Fur colour can be white, black, various shades of brown and bluish-grey

Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

- Shoulder hump
- Long claws light in colour
- Rounded ears
- Face has a dish-shaped profile
- Fur colour can be dark brown (almost black), various shades of brown, blonde and silvery (grizzled)

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FREE TRANSIT FOR KIDS

The provincial government continues to make efforts towards life being more affordable for families across the province.

Starting on September 1st, 2021, children 12 and under can ride any BC Transit or TransLink service for free. Once the program is launched it's estimated approximately 370,000 children will be able to take part and ride for free on September 1st. The switch saves families anywhere from \$400-700+ every year.

To build awareness of the province's new campaign, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure released an official logo and slogan of "Get on Board - Kids 12 and Under Ride Free." Both TransLink and BC Transit will be incorporating the branding into their upcoming marketing materials to help raise awareness for the program.

As reported by e-know.ca, BC Transit has released a set of rules in line with the new program and released the following statement,

* Unaccompanied children aged six to 12 will be able to ride buses and HandyDART for free, without requiring a fare product or identification.

* BC Transit will require children aged five and under to be accompanied by a person 12 or older.

"Providing safe, reliable and affordable public transportation is our top priority, and we support this program to help families get around more affordably. This is a great opportunity to grow young ridership, create lifelong transit users and further reduce congestion on our roads," said Erinn Pinkerton, president and CEO, BC Transit.



POP-UP STORY TIME

FRIDAYS AT 10:30 AM

For preschool age and their families to listen to stories, sing songs and pick up a craft kit!

Please bring your own blanket so we can space out and maintain social distancing.

August 6: Pineridge Park

**August 13: Wilder Memorial Park
in Fairmont (the Meadows)**

August 20: Spiderweb Park

**August 27: Library Yard
with special guest author, Rhiannon Wallace!**



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RECYCLING IN KIMBERLEY

The City of Kimberley is going to see their curbside get a little bit more blue as recycling carts are being delivered to homes over the next two weeks.

The city is getting prepared for their curbside recycling program which is expected to get started on August 31st.

City contractors will be delivering the 240-litre carts to homes across Kimberley with all carts expected to be delivered by August 21st. The carts will be placed at the end of each driveway and residents are asked to store them off the street until collection day. To prevent theft of the recycling carts, they've each been tagged with tracking numbers that correspond to each households. For information on your collection schedule and routes, there will be information guides placed inside the carts.

In a statement reported by e-know.ca, Nik Morissette, Manager of Roads and Solid Waste for the City of Kimberley said,

"We ask residents to review the information on materials they can recycle in the cart and familiarize themselves with what they shouldn't be putting inside. It is very important to avoid cart contamination that can be a safety issue for collection staff and that will reduce our ability to effectively recycle appropriate materials."





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ECE PROGRAMS GET FUNDING



THE PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE JOINED FORCES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF THE CANADA-BRITISH COLUMBIA EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE AGREEMENT.

The agreement was announced on July 8, 2021 by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier of British Columbia John Horgan. The agreement is dedicated towards significantly improving early learning and childcare for children across the province. The federal government, as part of this agreement, will invest \$3.2 billion over the next five years to improving regulated early learning and childcare for children under the age of 6 in British Columbia.

In a quote from myeastkooetnaynow.com, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Ahmed Hussen says,

“Early childhood educators are the heart of our childcare system and we can’t improve access to affordable, quality and inclusive child care for B.C. families without them. This additional investment from the Government of Canada will build on the progress we’ve already made through our Childcare BC plan to create an inclusive universal childcare system with a well-supported early learning and childcare workforce.”

Ensuring early childhood educators are supported and have the appropriate tools are essential. Provincial officials say the funding will help improve access to early childhood education training programs and provide bursaries to hundreds of students with incentives going to early learning professionals who join the sector and upgrade their skills. A one-time investment of \$48.8 million will be put towards early childhood educator recruitment and retention efforts.

FREE DIGITAL BOOTCAMP FROM B.C. GOVERNMENT

The provincial government is providing support to small and medium-sized businesses through an online digital marketing bootcamp.

3,400 additional spots are being opened to businesses across the province who want to take part and learn how they can market their business online. This digital bootcamp will reach nearly 6,000 small and medium-sized businesses across the province who want to increase their digital marketing skills. These skills help businesses access other markets, connect with consumers from around the world, and continue to drive their businesses forward.

The provincial government values the cost of each spot at \$6,000 each which is being provided to businesses right now free of charge. The bootcamp is an eight-week course which covers 40 different topics led by industry leaders. Provincial officials have stated 30% of the available spots will be reserved for Indigenous, people of colour, and rural businesses as the province believes they have been more affected by the pandemic.

In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation says,

“When the pandemic hit, online ecommerce surged in B.C. and around the globe. This meant that businesses of every size had to get online quickly to make sales and connect with their customers. To support businesses throughout B.C. to pivot and adapt, we launched the Digital Marketing Bootcamp. Given its popularity, we are expanding the program and investing more funds. This will allow the program to help thousands more B.C. businesses develop their online marketing skills to expand their reach and connect with people in B.C. and beyond.”

“Government must continue to ensure that Indigenous, Black and people of colour have every opportunity to advance their careers and their businesses,” Kahlon said. “Our government is focused on an inclusive society that will have positive, long-lasting impacts on communities throughout B.C.”

The digital bootcamp is available to businesses who have 1-149 employees on staff and will be available until March 31, 2022.



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HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN RADIIUM



Alongside six other communities in the province, Radium Hot Springs was chosen to receive funding from the provincial government to develop a housing needs report on the town.

The provincial government will be providing the Town of Radium Hot Springs with \$15,000 to facilitate the housing needs assessment. The town is receiving this funding as part of the fourth intake of the Housing Needs Report Program. This is dedicated towards supporting municipal governments to analyze and collect their housing related data and needs from their communities.

In a quote from myeastkootenaynow.com, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Josie Osborne released this statement,

“Local governments and First Nations know their communities best, and they are essential partners in addressing the housing crisis. This funding enables them to determine specifically the kind of homes people in their regions need, so they can use this information to support their planning and decision-making. Understanding the specific housing needs in communities is part of working together to continue to build and support healthy and resilient communities throughout B.C., now and into the future. The lack of affordable housing and the need for additional supportive housing options are common to many B.C. communities, but the specific needs vary considerably from one place to the next,” said Brian Frenkel, president, UBCM. “The Housing Needs Report Program is designed to strengthen the data available to inform local decision-making to ensure that new developments, whether market-based or supportive, address the needs of communities today and tomorrow.”

The municipal governments who have been selected to receive this funding are required to provide their first housing needs report by April 2022. A report needs to also be submitted every five years thereafter.

KEEPING CARE HOMES SAFE

The provincial government has announced that all health-care workers who are stationed in care homes need to be fully vaccinated from COVID-19 by October 12th, 2021.



It was identified in the early stages of the pandemic that those who were living in long-term care and seniors' assisted living facilities were at much higher risk of receiving COVID-19. Not only that but much more vulnerable to the symptoms and effects of the virus. In response to this, the Ministry of Health released the below statement and quote as reported by e-know.ca.

The new provincial health officer (PHO) order will:

- * Require employers to provide information collected from all staff in long-term care and seniors assisted living facilities to the PHO, to allow public health to confirm vaccination status of staff.
- * Until Oct. 12, require all unvaccinated staff to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) and be tested regularly for COVID-19.
- * All staff will be required to be vaccinated by Oct. 12.
- * Volunteers and personal service providers entering long-term care settings must be fully vaccinated.

"We've made vaccination a top priority for long-term care and assisted living, with the vaccine campaign starting in December 2020. We saw an immediate and dramatic impact on COVID-19 cases in those living and working in these settings, showing the value of vaccination. However, in some situations, we are continuing to see COVID-19 cases in long-term care homes," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. "We must take every precaution to protect our most vulnerable, and that means every person who works in long-term care and seniors' assisted living must be fully vaccinated."

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VALLEY PROMOTIONS



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VALLEY PROMOTIONS



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Low Air Quality IN B.C.

With numerous wildfires raging across our province, B.C. air quality has been on the decline.

Breathing in too much smoke can come with both short-term and long-term health effects. The more you are exposed to smoke inhalation, the worse it could be for your physical health. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Fatemeh Sabet has warned of the risks breathing in too much smoke can bring and how you can avoid it if you have to be outside.

As reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, Dr. Fatemeh Sabet says,

“Some of the short-term effects can be local irritation like sore throat, eye irritation, runny nose, a mild cough and phlegm, sometimes you can get wheezy breathing and a headache,” explained Dr. Sabet. “Long term effects of exposure to air pollution can include new and worsening heart and lung conditions.”

In the report, Dr. Sabet continues to explain how treating short-term effects of smoke inhalation can be simple. By moving to an area with improved air quality you’re already allowing your body to breath non-polluted air. It’s the long-term impact of smoke inhalation that becomes much more harder to treat, which is why prevention of smoke inhalation is so important.

When it comes to avoiding smoke inhalation, Dr. Sabet gives a number of ways,

“Take it easy on smoky days, the days when air quality is not good, because the harder you breathe the more smoke you inhale. Try to stay indoors and keep windows closed, change your air filters or use a portable air filter,” explained Sabet. “If you need to be outdoors for work or another reason, you should use an N95 mask.”



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Downtown Invermere

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Godzilla vs. Kong



Aug 23rd
Raya



Aug 30th
Tom & Jerry



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Viewer Discretion is Advised.

May contain content that is not suitable for some audiences.

Physical distancing is required.





DROP THE COAL FOR OIL

IMAGINE A GAME, WHERE YOU HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT IMPACT YOUR MORALITY FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY TO SURVIVE.

That's the gist of Frostpunk, a game that puts you in control of a civilization on the brink of extinction. 11 Bit Studios, the developer behind the popular simulation survival game, have announced Frostpunk 2 will be coming to PC!

Frostpunk 2 is planning to expand upon the foundations built upon in the first game, which is set 30 years after. Instead of simply trying to survive frosted temperatures no human could withstand, players will now need to establish an oil extraction industry to fuel the demands of their citizens. All while ruling over your people and making decisions that will make you question your own integrity and morals.

In a statement reported on [ign.com](https://www.ign.com),

"What players should expect is a wide universe of choices, freedom to shape the society and the city however they see fit - and reap the consequences," said Frostpunk 2's co-director, Jakub Stokalski, in a press release. "Frostpunk 2 builds on the conflicts of its predecessor - survival vs human values, life vs the arctic frost. But most importantly, it adds a new layer that is present in many aspects of the game - be it politics, be it society, be it technological progress - the conflict between humans and their nature".

A new cinematic trailer has been released to promote the sequel with no release date yet announced. The game will be made available on Steam, GOG, and the Epic Games Store.

JOSH GRIEVE

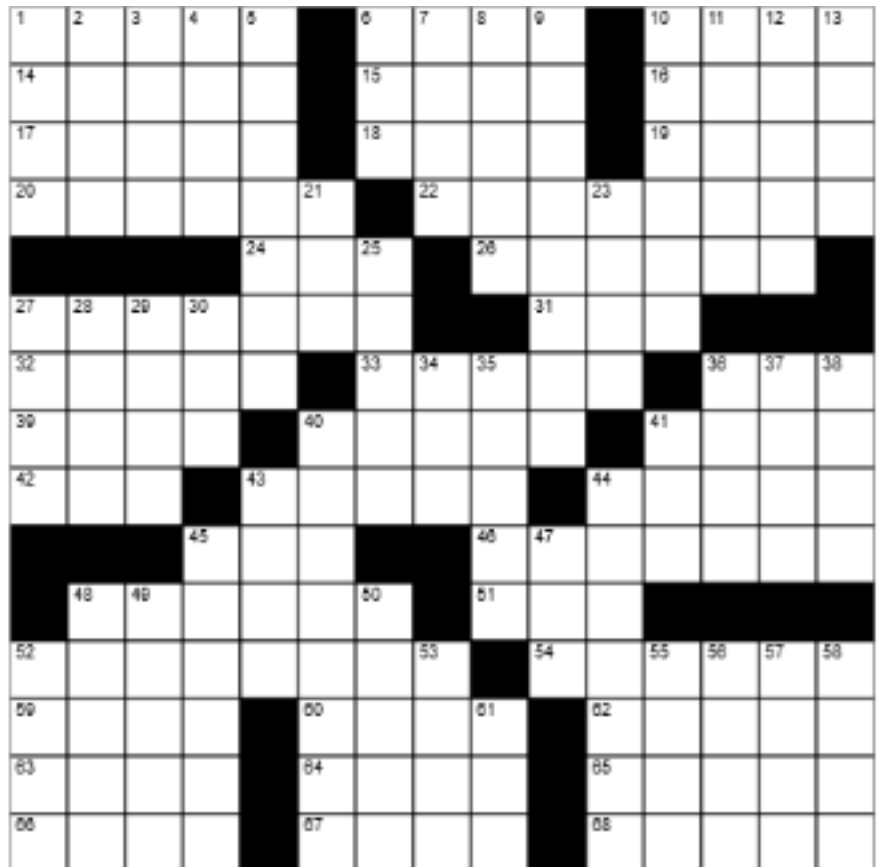
A LITTLE FUN

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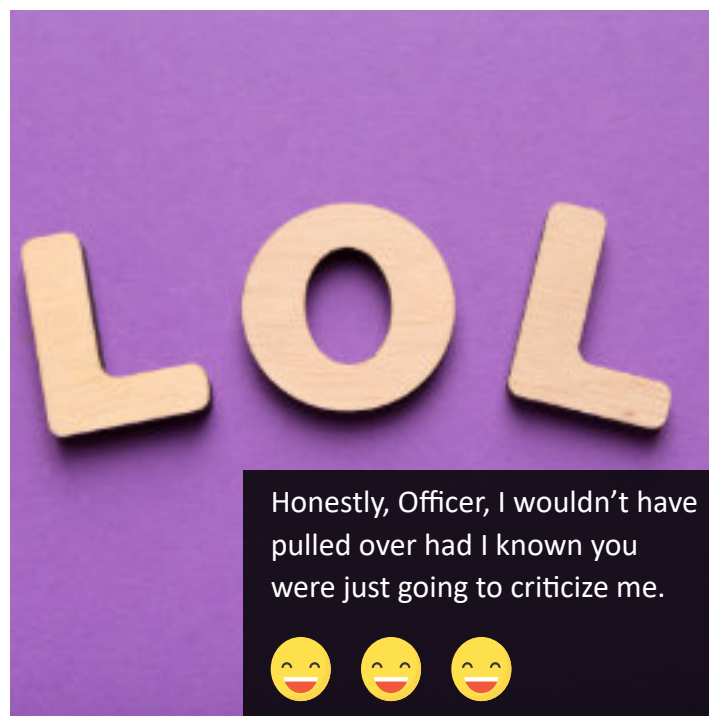
1- Son of Abraham; 6- Nile biters; 10- Just okay; 14- Very, to Verdi; 15- Hit the mall; 16- Stumble; 17- I don't give ___ I; 18- Foreign Legion cap; 19- "Is sol" rebuttal; 20- Nautical; 22- Wingless; 24- And so on: Abbr.; 26- Pines; 27- Reasonable; 31- Pan-broil; 32- Lott of Mississippi; 33- Make sense; 36- Fireplace shelf; 39- Writing table; 40- Disney mermaid; 41- 100 centavos; 42- Drunkard; 43- Battery terminal; 44- Western Australia's capital; 45- Pig; 46- Ramble; 48- Goober; 51- Equivalent wd.; 52- Inn guest; 54- Christian festival; 59- Mite; 60- Once more; 62- Monte ___; 63- Tied up; 64- Accent; 65- Walt Disney's middle name; 66- Actress Sofer; 67- Son of Aphrodite; 68- Expiate;

Down

1- Shi'ite leader; 2- Pop; 3- Chemical used on trees; 4- Longfellow's bell town; 5- Link; 6- Question; 7- Queens stadium; 8- Opium flower; 9- Malicious; 10- Like some nights; 11- The Hunter; 12- Nasal cavity; 13- Chooses; 21- Greek H; 23- Tombstone lawman; 25- Mild cigar; 27- Old Fords; 28- Black-and-white cookie; 29- Adventurous exploit; 30- Cuttlefish excretion; 34- Accomplished; 35- Considers; 36- Cattle group; 37- Bone: Prefix; 38- 1922 Physics Nobel; 40- Of angular form; 41- Writing instrument; 43- Outstanding; 44- Cure-all; 45- Capital of Cuba; 47- CBS logo; 48- Establish as the truth; 49- Taken in; 50- Choir member; 52- Echelon; 53- City in Western Nevada; 55- Cure, in a way; 56- Tom, Dick and Harry, e.g.; 57- Gusto; 58- Wine choice; 61- Basketball Hall of Famer Unseld;



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Popeye

When I enlisted in my teens, I took up smoking cigars to make myself look more mature.

Did it work? Well, one time, as I proudly puffed away at our NCO club, an older sergeant growled, "Hey, kid, your candy bar's on fire."



Pregnant Firefighter

"Give me a sentence about a public servant," the teacher instructed her second-grade student.

"The fireman came down the ladder pregnant," he answered.

"Umm ... Do you know what pregnant means?"

"Yes," said the boy. "It means carrying a child."



Interview Pressure

After interviewing a candidate for an open position, I got a thank-you e-mail.

It read - "It was a pressure meeting you."



Poor Choice of Words

A doctor sent this note to our medical clinic:

"Patient needs a referral for your office from me. I saw her for her ankle and would like you to run over it."

GET INVOLVED

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

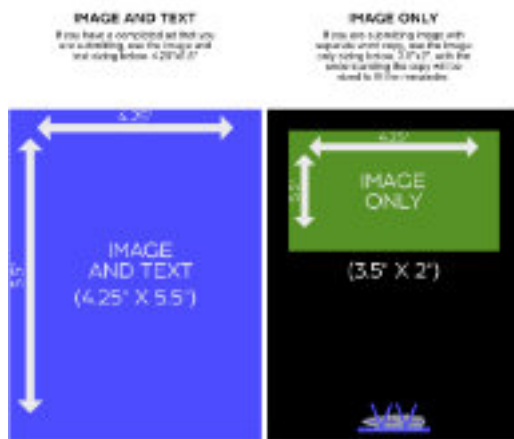
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Business Ad Sizing Rules



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.

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