

#27 ISSUE

The Valley Voice

The Voices of the Columbia Valley

OVERDOSES RUNNING RAMPANT IN BC

The number one cause of death for BC residents aged 19 to 39 years old is drug toxicity.

PROVINCIAL STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED

The province has been under a State of Emergency since around the start of summer time in efforts to combat the ever-raging wildfires throughout the province.

COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO RISE

The global pandemic has yet to cease and we continue to see a rise of cases across the East Kootenays with 230 cases reported last week alone.

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,

As we near the end of summer and the kids are heading back to school, our communities are getting back to the sounds of quiet and taking things at a slower pace. At the same time, our province is under a mask mandate and our country is getting closer to a complete lockdown. Regardless of whether you are for or against the COVID-19 vaccine, cases continue to rise in our communities both locally and provincially. People are getting sick and some are not so lucky to make it through once infected.

Whether you choose to receive the vaccine or not, be kind to others. Educate with knowledge, science and love and not hate. Our communities and the people within it are full of love and kindness.

This needs to remain the staple of what makes the Columbia Valley the great place it is. Stay safe.

The VVV

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FRONTIER UPDATE**



OVERDOSES RUNNING RAMPANT IN BC

THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF DEATH FOR BC RESIDENTS AGED 19 TO 39 YEARS OLD IS DRUG TOXICITY.

BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE OF THIS YEAR AT LEAST 1,011 BC RESIDENTS HAVE DIED FROM SUSPECTED ILLICIT DRUG TOXICITY AND THE NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE.

159 people in British Columbia died from drug toxicity in June alone which marks the ninth month in a row the province has seen over 150 deaths in a month. As of this writing, 381 people between 19 and 39 years old have been killed due to overdosing from toxic drugs. Nine of those people are from the East Kootenays.

To give you an idea of how much of an increase this is, the first six months of 2020 saw 757 people in the province die from drug toxicity. A report released by the BCCS states that fentanyl is the major cause of drug toxicity deaths across the province with it being detected in 85% of deaths this year.

In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, the chief coroner of BC Coroners Service, Lisa Lapointe, had the following statement to share regarding the alarming increase of drug toxicity deaths,

“The deaths of more than 1,000 British Columbians in the first six months of 2021 is a tragic reminder that the toxic illicit drug supply remains a significant ongoing threat to public health and safety in communities throughout our province. The data released today highlights the immensity of this public health emergency and the need for a wide-scale response. This includes removing barriers to safe supply, ensuring timely access to evidence-based affordable treatment and providing those experiencing problematic substance use with compassionate and viable options to reduce risks and save lives.”

IF YOU SUSPECT THAT YOURSELF OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS EXPERIENCING AN OVERDOSE, CALL 9-1-1 RIGHT AWAY AND FOLLOW [SAVE ME](#) PROTOCOL WHILE WAITING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS. ANYONE WHO IS IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE SUPPORT CAN VIEW ALL SUPPORT CENTRES IN THE PROVINCE [HERE](#)



August 31st was International Overdose Awareness Day which is when the report by the BCCS was released. An event was held to mark the day and honour those who lost their lives from drug toxicity. The event took place on August 31st from 12pm to 4pm and was hosted by the East Kootenay Network of People Who Use Drugs (EKNPUD) along with ANKORS. The event is a remembrance ceremony of sorts for those who have been impacted by substance use and those who have died because of it.

The rise of drug toxicity deaths across the province is alarming. Overdose alerts are issued as closed to our communities as Cranbrook. These numbers have continued to steadily rise over the years and the impact of the global pandemic did nothing to help the problem. In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, Executive Director and Project Coordinator for EKNPUD, Patrick Evans, provided the following statement on discussing the problem, changing policies to create safer streams for those addicted to substances, and finding solutions that save lives,

“We’re in the middle of an ongoing drug poisoning crisis and we’re here to raise awareness in the community to start a conversation about solutions to this crisis. It’s a memorial because we’ve lost a lot of members of our organization as well as community members to preventable deaths. My drug of choice is criminalized, so luckily I’m on a safe supply. Luckily I have access to opioid agonist therapy and that keeps me able and functional, a lot of people don’t have the privilege or ability to access those services and they’re forced to access the street supply.”

The event featured drug checking by ANKORS for those who wish to test their drugs and ensure there was no toxicity found. Naloxone training was also provided along with community resources and a memorial service for the lives lost to substance use and drug toxicity. This event and the grants/initiatives being provided by the province are in efforts to raise awareness for substance use and drug toxicity. The government also provides safe resources for substance users to try and prevent them from utilizing the illegal drug market which is where the majority of drug toxicity deaths arise.

IF YOU SUSPECT THAT YOURSELF OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS EXPERIENCING AN OVERDOSE, CALL 9-1-1 RIGHT AWAY AND FOLLOW [SAVE ME](#) PROTOCOL WHILE WAITING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS. ANYONE WHO IS IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE SUPPORT CAN VIEW ALL SUUPORT CENTRES IN THE PROVINCE [HERE](#)

CORRECTION



Radium Hot Springs Rotary Club

GARAGE SALE

Saturday,
September 11th

(Not the 4th) 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

CANFOR Quonset Hut, 4729 Forsters Lndg Rd.,
Just passed The Peaks.

Call 250-688-1561. Masks required.

Proceeds will go towards sponsoring Rotary projects.

Many thanks for your support!



BC Rivers Day

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH

PADDLE FROM INVERMERE TO RADIUM
10AM | ATHALMER BOAT LAUNCH

Register at www.lakeambassadors.ca/bc-rivers-day/

Join us for a celebration of our waterways
and paddle through the ecologically
significant Columbia Wetlands!

Fun prizes generously provided by Living
Lakes Canada and the Lake Blitz program to
draw attention to climate impacts on
Canada's water bodies.



lake windermere
ambassadors



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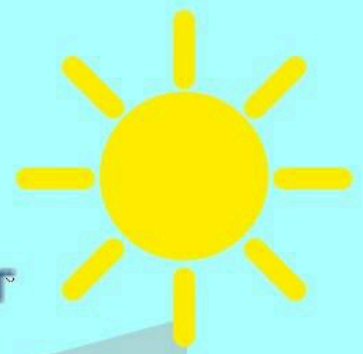
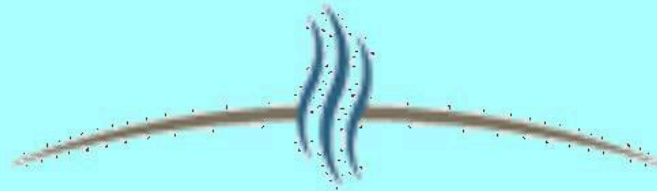
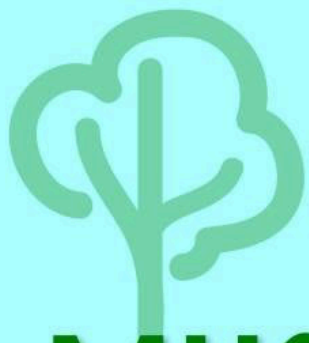
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VALLEY PROMOTIONS



FAIRMONT
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MUSIC IN THE PARK



DEAN RAY

August 7, 8, 9, 10 and 20 to 26

September 3, 4, 5 (long weekend)

Usually 4 pm to 8 pm (subject to adjustment)



SMARTY PANTS

August 7, 14, 21, 28 & September 4

2:30 pm to 4:30 pm



FELICIA McMINN

September 10, 11, 12

Performance Times to be Confirmed

Follow Us On Instagram, Facebook & Twitter For Updates

www.FairmontHotSprings.com



COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO RISE

The global pandemic has yet to cease and we continue to see a rise of cases across the East Kootenays with 230 cases reported last week alone.

Cranbrook continues to see the highest number of cases in the East Kootenays with 69 cases reported last week and Creston reporting 53 new cases in the same week. In Elk Valley, 42 new cases have been reported, 38 new cases in and around the area of Golden, 18 new cases reported in the area of Kimberley, and 10 new case in the area of Windermere.

In recent weeks, the highest number of new COVID-19 cases to come from the province have come out of the Interior Health region with the highest saturation being in the Okanagan area. Currently, there are 50 people being treated for COVID-19 in the Interior Health region with 36 of them in intensive care which brings the total number of infections in the region to 2,299. The forecast by the federal government also shows that the country may be in for a very difficult fall should cases not see a downward trend.

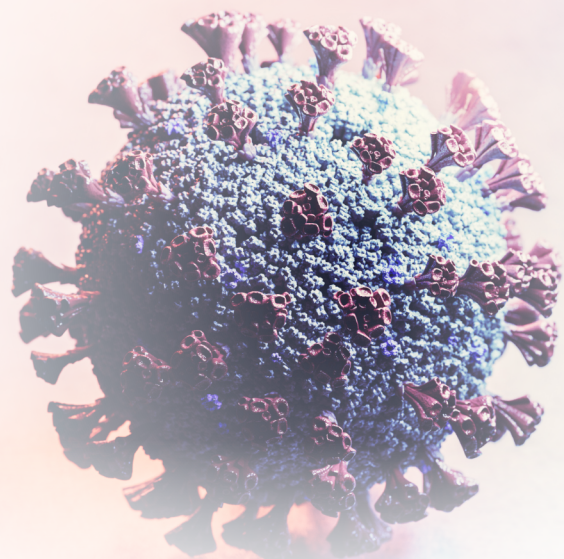
The latest modeling data presented by Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam shows an alarming trend of approximately four times the amount of daily cases the country is currently experiencing, starting in October. The short-term data shows the country's case count continues to rise by 5,000 cases a day and is steadily increasing. The only way to soften the blow and hopefully not engage another country-wide shutdown is for citizens to receive the vaccinations.

In response to the rise of COVID-19 many have looked to alternate solutions to treat and fight off COVID-19. However, it is highly recommended to only utilize approved treatments for COVID-19. Health Canada is urging Canadians to not use human or veterinary grade ivermectin to prevent or treat the COVID-19 virus. This warning came in response to reports that many people began utilizing the anti-parasitic drug in efforts to fight off the virus. It's been reported by livestock supply stores in the East Kootenays that they have either sold out or have had to implement screening questions for customers to ensure they were utilizing ivermectin appropriately. One store has mentioned they have stopped selling it entirely to prevent humans from purchasing it for their own use.

In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, Health Canada officials released the following statement on utilizing ivermectin for COVID-19,

"There is no evidence that ivermectin in either formulation is safe or effective when used for those purposes. The human version of ivermectin is authorized for sale in Canada only for the treatment of parasitic worm infections in people. Health Canada is closely monitoring all potential therapeutic treatments for COVID-19, including treatments being studied in international clinical trials. To date, Health Canada has not received any drug submission or clinical trial application for ivermectin for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. Should a manufacturer provide a submission to Health Canada related to the use of ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19, Health Canada would conduct a scientific evaluation of the evidence to determine the drug's quality, safety and effectiveness."

Officials from Health Canada have said ivermectin can cause serious health problems such as vomiting, diarrhea, low blood pressure, dizziness, seizures, coma, and even death, especially at high doses. Those who have purchased ivermectin for preventative measures or treatment of COVID-19 are urged to stop and dispose of the contents immediately. Any health concerns or side effects from taking ivermectin can be reported to a health care professional or Health Canada.



SEPTEMBER STORY TIME

with the Invermere Library

Fridays at 10:30 am

Join us for stories, songs & a take-home craft!

Please bring your own blanket to sit on
and stay 6ft apart from other families.

Weather permitting.

Sept. 3: Serenity Farms

4825 The Dell Road, Windermere

Sept. 10, 17 & 24: Library Front Lawn



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Password: Fearless

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April Williams
call or text: (250) 341-1572
website: www.marykay.ca/awilliams2

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[facebook.com/groups/aprilsvipinkzone](https://www.facebook.com/groups/aprilsvipinkzone)



On Instagram as: Aprils Pink Bubble

Made with PosterMyWall.com



VALLEY PROMOTIONS

BEARS, OH MY!

While you're taking in the last days of summer and enjoying the crisp start to fall, keep your eyes out while on trails and in the backcountry this month. A change in temperatures this summer may bring an increase of bear sightings in our community.

In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, Community Coordinator for Cranbrook and Kimberley WildSafe BC, Danica Roussy, is predicting a higher number of bear encounters in Cranbrook and Kimberley this September. The heat and extreme drought we experienced this summer brings a high potential for more bears to be spotted around these areas this month.

"Many communities in B.C. are reporting an increase in conflicts. Historically, September is the month where you see the most conflict in terms of bears, and this is an annual, recurring thing. We are expecting more conflict to arise earlier this year. Bears are highly dependent on berries from late summer to fall to help prepare for winter. Due to fires, their crops might have been burned, or the berries may have dried up. Bears need to consume around 20,000 calories during this time of year. Bears are used to feeding on these berries, but they might not be there. You might see them coming into city limits looking for alternatives, like apples."

The rise in bear sightings will come as the bears begin to hunt for food sources such as fruit trees and bird feeders. Bears can also become used to living in human environments which leads to them posing a grave danger to people, especially if they are food-motivated. Any residents who have spotted a bear are highly encouraged to report it immediately to the Conservation Officer Service RAPP line.

For a realtime map of potential and actual bear sightings, make sure to check out the [W.A.R.P. \(Wildlife Alert Reporting Program\)](#) provided by [WildSafeBC](#) (shown below is the most recent map as of Sept 7, showing sightings in the last week.)

The screenshot shows the W.A.R.P. (Wildlife Alert Reporting Program) interface. At the top, there is a logo for WildSafe BC and the text "W.A.R.P. Wildlife Alert Reporting Program Public Beta". There are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, a language selection dropdown, and a user profile icon labeled "Hello, Guest User". The main area is a map of the Kootenay region in British Columbia, showing numerous bear sightings marked with colorful icons. The map includes labels for various locations and parks. On the right side, there is a "Query Filters & Options" panel with fields for Start Date (2021-08-31 10:40:38), End Date (2021-09-07 10:40:38), City / Locality, Species, Attractants, Encounter Type, Outcome, and Group / Agency. There are also checkboxes for "Show Resolved Locations", "Show Approximate Locations", and "Show With Media References", along with a "Clustering" checkbox. Below the filters is a "Query Results" panel showing a list of 1415 items, with the first few entries being bear sightings with details like location and time.



6th Annual BC Goes Wild September 2021



What: BC Goes Wild

Where: Radius - Radium, BC

When: September 26th 2021

Who: Everyone - Family Friendly

Event Details:

11:00am Open / 14:00pm End of day

11:30am Scavenger Hunt

12:30pm Picnic, snacks and questions

13.15pm WildSafe Ranger Presentation (Kids)

13:15pm Bear Spray Clinic (Adults)

Learn more by contacting your local
WildSafeBC Community Coordinator at:

radiuminvermere@wildsafebc.com



Keeping wildlife wild and communities safe

www.wildsafebc.com

BC is Wildlife Country



Stay safe and help keep wildlife wild.



Avoid surprise encounters. Make noise by clapping your hands and using your voice. Watch for scat and other signs of wildlife. Avoid walking alone, carry bear spray and know how to use it.



Keep pets on a leash in wildlife country. Not only can dogs displace wildlife, dogs that chase after bears can bring them back to their owners or be killed. Wolves and coyotes can perceive dogs as a potential threat or prey.



Keep a safe distance. View and photograph wildlife from a safe and respectful distance of at least 100m for bears and at least 30m for other large non-predatory animals. If you cause an animal to move, you are too close.



Respect wild animals. Never feed wildlife and always keep attractants secure and out of reach. Feeding wildlife can lead to conflicts and tragic consequences.

If you encounter a bear:



Stay calm, do not yell or run. Speak in a low voice. If you have bear spray, pull it out and remove the safety.



Move away slowly. If the bear charges, stand your ground and discharge the bear spray.



Leave the area slowly and report the encounter.



Bear attacks are rare but be prepared. Learn more about bears, bear spray and other wildlife safety at www.wildsafebc.com



Learn more about
BC wildlife and safety at
wildsafebc.com

Report all conflicts with wildlife to the
BC Conservation Officer Service:



1.877.952.7277

PROVINCIAL STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED

THE PROVINCE HAS BEEN UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY SINCE AROUND THE START OF SUMMER TIME IN EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE EVER-RAGING WILDFIRES THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.



With firefighters from around the country continuing to put in efforts to stop the spread of wildfires, the B.C. government has made another extension to the province-wide state of emergency. This extension goes until at least September 14th, 2021 with a high chance of it being extended should the wildfire situation not ease up.

A wildfire was reported on Monday, September 6th and was responded to by firefighters with the BC Wildfire Service. The wildfire sparked in the Peavine Creek area which is southwest of Cranbrook. The fire is said to have broke out on Sunday and believed to be related to human interaction and is currently estimated to be 0.6 hectares in size. It's important as residents and visitors to the province that you take the utmost care in disposing of anything flammable. Whether it be a cigarette butt, a flammable substance, or an item that can hold a flame, do not dispose of it outside near dry areas. This can easily spark a wildfire and cause massive damage not only to our environment but our properties and lives.

As of August 31st, 233 wildfires were reported to be burning in the province with 21 evacuation orders currently impacting approximately 3,754 properties in British Columbia. Provincial officials are closely monitoring the wildfires and have noted a downwards trend, however, conditions can change and lead to severe fire behaviour rather rapidly. This means the chance of evacuations is high and can be imminent. If you are in an area that is close to wildfires, make sure you are prepared in the event of an imminent evacuation order.

CANFOR DONATIONS AFTER LABOUR CUTS

AFTER CANFOR ANNOUNCED THEY WILL BE CUTTING THE MAJORITY OF THEIR SAWMILLS ACROSS THE PROVINCE, THEY'VE NOW COMMITTED TO DONATE \$100,000 TO THE CANADIAN RED CROSS' BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRES APPEAL TO SUPPORT THE ONGOING EFFORTS COMBATING WILDFIRES IN B.C.



In a statement reported by e-know.ca, President and CEO Don Kayne had the following comments,

“As a forestry company headquartered in BC, we are committed to supporting our communities, our workers, their families and their neighbours. With so many people facing a difficult time, we are pleased to be able to make this donation to support the tremendous work of the Canadian Red Cross. On behalf of Canfor, I want to say thank you to the firefighters, first responders, volunteers and individuals who are working tirelessly to keep people safe.”

This generous donation comes after many have lost their jobs across the province due to instability of the lumber market. The wildfires rampaging across the province has impacted tens of thousands of residents across British Columbia. The funds being provided will be put towards immediate relief-efforts for families impacted by the wildfires and long-term recovery with preparedness for future events.

This contribution is part of Canfor's “Good Things Come From Trees” program which is dedicated to providing support to organizations that provide benefits to communities where Canfor operates. B.C. residents who have been severely impacted by the wildfires or have been displaced under an evacuation order for 10+ straight days may be eligible for financial assistance.

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



VolunteerConnector



No Man's Sky Frontier Update

As I am writing this article, I've literally just discovered this news. No Man's Sky is literally my number one game of all time, hands down.

Whenever someone asks me what my favourite, number one game of all time is, I will always say No Man's Sky. NOW!? I just can't even begin to express how much I love this game. As a gamer and massive fan, I am squeeing inside really loud.

Hello Games has announced the latest FREE update for No Man's Sky, Frontier, which adds a whole new layer of content to the game that is sure to please many players of the game. This update provides a procedural universe with new planets, structures, and NPCs to interact, explore, and even run! Oh, there's also nebulas, MASSIVELY expanded base building, improved combat and graphics, and much more. Hello Games' goal with No Man's Sky was for players to feel like they are stepping into the cover of a science fiction book and with this latest update, we sure as hell are.

You know those Mos Eisley type structures in Star Wars? GUESS WHAT!? Yeah, you can now have your own settlement in that style in No Man's Sky. *cue happy tears here*

The game will also have NPC-populated settlements which will allow players to embark and find new communities and NPCs who may need their assistance. Many of the residents of these settlements will have their own problems that the player can choose to help them with. On top of this, you can also now have budding adventures and become the Overseer of a settlement! This provides a wide range of brand new in-game options for players once they become an Overseer!

The game itself is already a beast. It contains RPG, Survival, Combat, FPS, Base-building elements and much, much more. To add these elements to the game literally gives players everything they could ever want from this game. What else really could Hello Games pull out now? The game is a masterpiece.

JOSH GRIEVE

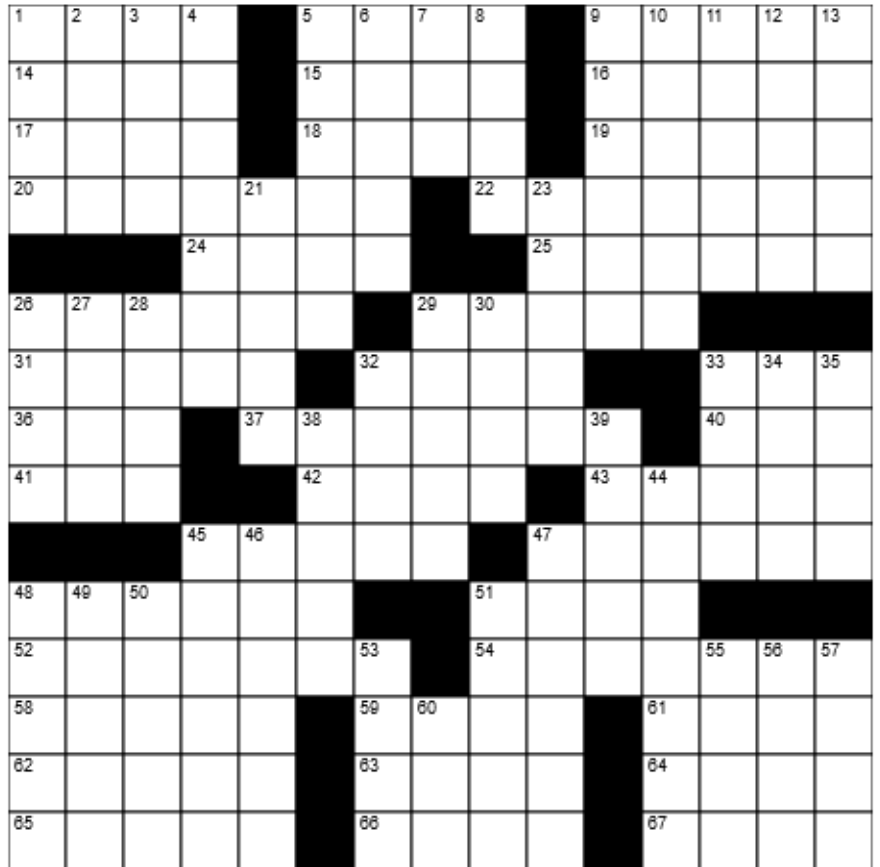
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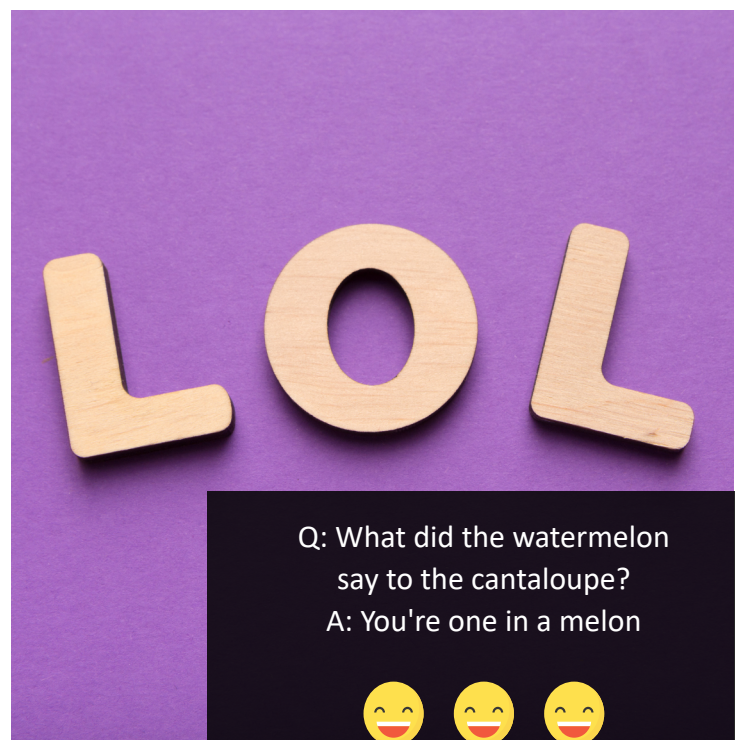
1- Somewhat; 5- Bit of kindling; 9- Acute; 14- Centrepiece of the human face; 15- Screen; 16- Law of Moses; 17- Capital of the Ukraine; 18- Quantity of paper; 19- Low life?; 20- Intoxicating liquor; 22- Steinbeck's birthplace; 24- Watch over; 25- Narrate; 26- Tranquil; 29- Small pulpy fruit; 31- More remote; 32- ____ contendere; 33- First name in horror films; 36- Flyers' org.; 37- Put into a list or an inventory; 40- Greek nickname; 41- Fair-hiring abbr.; 42- Exile isle; 43- Melody; 45- Viscounts' superiors; 47- Go back on one's word; 48- Perfumes; 51- Lab fluids; 52- Windpipe; 54- Out of control; 58- Pave over; 59- Christmas song; 61- "So be it"; 62- Buddy; 63- Like some orders; 64- Wife of a rajah; 65- Brightest star in Cygnus; 66- Full of unresolved questions; 67- Looked at;

Down

1- "Puppy Love" singer; 2- Labor; 3- Wait ____!; 4- Follower; 5- Seat occupied by a sovereign; 6- Brandish; 7- Highest mountain in Crete; 8- Precious stones; 9- Less fresh; 10- Sermon; 11- Sports area; 12- Capital of Morocco; 13- Facet; 21- Artist Rousseau; 23- ____ con pollo; 26- Cosecant's reciprocal; 27- Reflected sound; 28- Stir up; 29- Explosive weapons; 30- Charles Lamb's nom de plume; 32- Dudley Do-Right's love; 33- Emit coherent light; 34- Not a dup.; 35- Pleasing; 38- Pithy; 39- Very hard mineral; 44- Unconscious; 45- Coop up; 46- Pulsating; 47- For sure?; 48- Fine fiddle; 49- ____ de menthe; 50- Kind of kitchen; 51- Ledge; 53- Against; 55- If ____ be so bold...; 56- Actress Russo; 57- Geraint's lady; 60- Bumbler;



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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!"



Milk Production

When I told my son where milk comes from, he asked, "Mama, how do the cows sit on those little bottles?"



Tater-Totter Playground

While passing by a park, my son Zach shouted, "Look, Mom! A tater-totter!"



Galaxy Fixed

One night when my son Patrick was 2 years old, he looked up at a half moon and said, "Moon broken." The next time there was a full moon in the sky, he looked up and said, "Moon fixed now."

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*

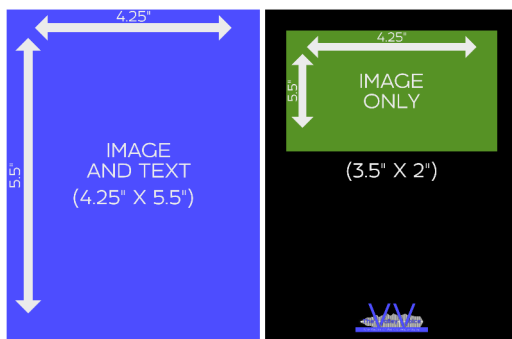
FOR A FULL-PAGE PLACEMENT

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?

Email us at news@thevoicecv.ca

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