

#30 ISSUE

The Valley Voice

The Voices of the Columbia Valley

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY

September 30th, 2021 marks the first Truth and Reconciliation Day. A federal holiday put in place by the Federal Government on June 3, 2021.

CRANBROOK DOWNTOWN PLAN

The City of Cranbrook is getting ready for a downtown revamp.

UNSUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

At the headwaters of the Columbia River in the Rocky Mountain Trench you will find Canal Flats; A village resilient, despite the ever-changing global climate.

COVER PHOTO: JEN BEWSKI

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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,

Thursday marks the first ever Truth and Reconciliation day, a federal holiday to honour the lives lost, impacted, and the cultural genocide from Indian Residential Schools. With many businesses and municipalities taking the time to observe the day, it's also a day for us as people to reflect and show our support towards Indigenous communities.

There are different ways you can observe and show your support for Indigenous communities. Wear orange, the day also coincides with Orange Shirt Day. Support local Indigenous artisans and their traditional craft. You could also take time to educate yourself on Indigenous history and culture. The more knowledge you have the better.

Be considerate, kind, and take this time to reflect on the atrocities committed towards Indigenous communities and what it means to our life today.

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TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY

SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2021 MARKS THE FIRST TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY. A FEDERAL HOLIDAY PUT IN PLACE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 3, 2021.

This day is to honour and pay tribute to the children whose remains were found at Indian Residential Schools and those who survived the horrible cultural genocide. The new federal statutory holiday was put through with legislative amendments made by Parliament and received Royal Assent as Bill C-5 on June 3, 2021.

The remains of more than 1,800 children have been found, so far, in unmarked graves underneath former residential school sites across the country. These findings left the country in a state of mourning with the communities impacted looking for answers. Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau has pledged to take "concrete action" towards supporting the Indigenous communities in the search of missing children at residential schools. The Canadian Government in 2009 was previously requested by Indigenous communities to search the graves with a funding price tag of \$1.5 million, which was denied, after a formal apology regarding residential schools was provided by the government in 2008.

In 2015, the residential school systems were determined to be a “cultural genocide” by the truth and reconciliation commission. Those on this commission collected thousands of hours worth of testimony from residential school survivors. The truth and reconciliation commission existed from 2008 to 2015 providing a platform for those directly impacted by the Indian Residential Schools policy to share their stories and experiences. The statements, documents, and other materials gathered by this commission, along with its library and collections, are the foundation of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Ongoing learning and research is the key focus of the centre to educate those on the tragedy of Indian Residential Schools. These recent unmarked graves being found across the nation have sparked further outrage from communities across the country, and the world. Indigenous leaders are calling for an independent investigation, including possible criminal charges against both the Canadian Government and the Catholic church

Truth and Reconciliation day also coincides with Orange Shirt Day which is an Indigenous-led grassroots day of tribute to honour the children who survived the residential schools while remembering those who did not survive. Orange Shirt Day is inspired by the experience of Phyllis Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc from the Stswecem’c Xgat’em First Nation. On her first day of attending residential schools, she was dressed in a brand new orange shirt which was immediately taken away from her. The orange shirt has now become a symbol of culture being stripped away along with the freedom and self-esteem of Indigenous children across generations.

On September 30th, Truth and Reconciliation day, it’s encouraged to wear orange and raise awareness for the tragic legacy of Indian Residential Schools and honour the survivors. The City of Cranbrook will be closing all non-essential services in honour of the federal holiday. Services such as recycling and garbage collection will continue to operate as scheduled.

In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, the City of Cranbrook Mayor, Lee Pratt, released the following statement on recognizing the national holiday,

“Recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by the City of Cranbrook is another important step forward in our ongoing commitment to further grow our relationship with our Ktunaxa Nation neighbors. We stand with the Ktunaxa Nation not only on this day, but each day as we work toward a better future together.”

Members of the City of Cranbrook and Ktunaxa Nation met to discuss the option of holding a joint community event to commemorate the first Truth and Reconciliation Day. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was decided to not hold the event this year.



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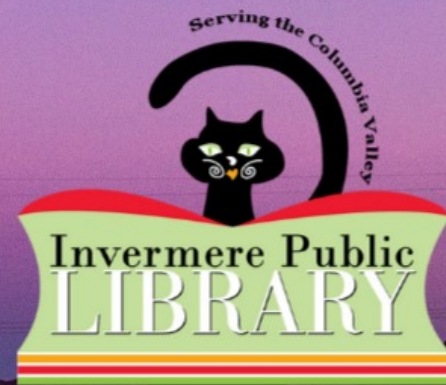
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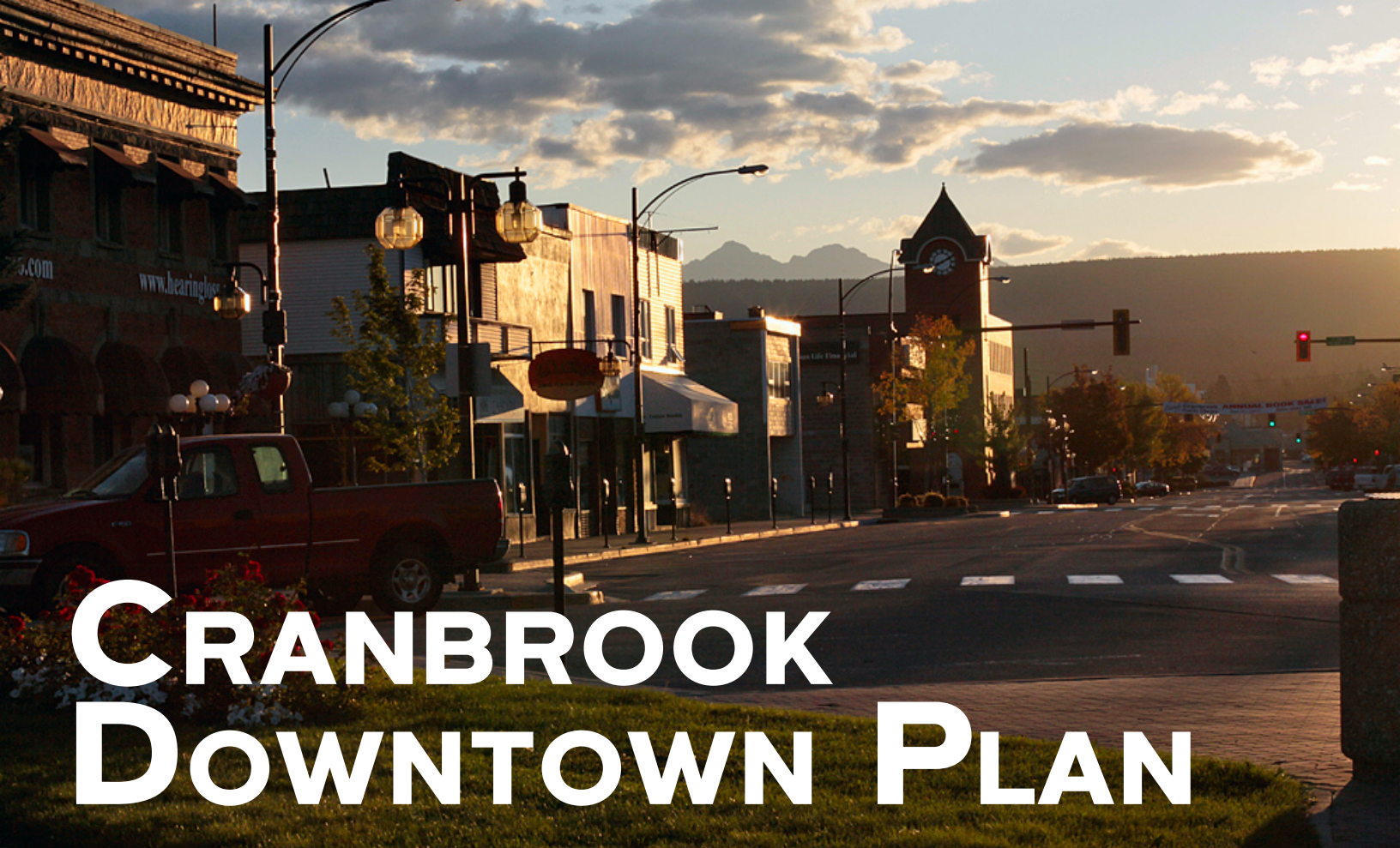
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CRANBROOK DOWNTOWN PLAN

THE CITY OF CRANBROOK IS GETTING READY FOR A DOWNTOWN REVAMP.

As part of the City of Cranbrook's Strategic Plan for 2020-2024, they are reviewing the downtown community and will be forming a Downtown Revitalization Master Plan. City officials will be soon looking for feedback from residents and stakeholders to help shape this plan into something that's effective for the community.

While reviewing the downtown community, city officials highlight the importance of parking and redevelopment opportunities which all will feed into developing the Downtown Revitalization Master Plan. When discussing the revitalization of a downtown community on a scale the size of the City of Cranbrook, staff highlight how critical the regeneration process. Specifically, retaining the original charm of Cranbrook's downtown community and what is working while improving areas that need to be refreshed.

In a statement released by myeastkootenaynow.com, the City of Cranbrook's Manager of Planning, Rob Veg, had the following comments on the plan,

"This process will allow the City to take a comprehensive look at the downtown from a land use, infrastructure, social and cultural perspectives with a goal to develop a vision and plan on how the City wants downtown to look and feel moving into the future."

City of Cranbrook officials mention that revitalizing the downtown community will take time and planning, along with the appropriate research, analysis of current conditions, and understanding what the vision is for the downtown community for the future. The plan will incorporate accurate analysis and recommendations from the community and stakeholders while taking into account economy, housing, population, and land use.

There has been no word on when these engagement sessions with residents or other feedback opportunities will be available.

Village of Radium Hot Springs

ZONING BYLAW UPDATE

The Village of Radium Hot Springs is in the process of updating its Zoning Bylaw and we want to hear from you!

We encourage you to participate in the upcoming opportunities to share your thoughts on key zoning issues within our community and how we can make the bylaw more user friendly.

What Is A Zoning Bylaw?

A Zoning Bylaw is a set of specific rules that regulate how land can be used and what can be built. The Zoning Bylaw is made up of two parts – the zoning map and regulations. The map divides the community into different zones and the regulations identify what uses are permitted in each zone, as well as the rules that buildings and structures must adhere to such as height, setbacks, and density.

How To Get Involved

Online Survey

An online survey is open from September 21st to October 11th to collect feedback from community members.

To participate, visit:

[ca.research.net/r/
RadiumZoningBylawSurvey](https://ca.research.net/r/RadiumZoningBylawSurvey)



Virtual Community Workshop

Join us from the comfort of your own home for a brief presentation about the Zoning Bylaw update process, live polling questions, and a question/discussion period.

Where? Online event (Zoom)

When? October 5th at 7 p.m.

Register at:

radiumzoningbylaw.eventbrite.ca

Invermere Youth Mural

Youth grade 6 & up, come on out to help with the new Invermere youth art mural across from the Post office!

**10 people per time slot - 1 hour slots
6ft apart all covid protocols in place**

Sept 25th - 12-1pm, 1-2pm, 2-3pm, 3-4pm

Sept 27-29 - after school

3:30-4:30pm, 4:30-5:30pm, 5:30-6:30pm Clean up

Sept 30th - 12-1pm, 1-2pm, 2-3pm, 3-4pm



Youth art submissions



Submissions by Kate Hale and Neina Flight

Contact Angela Miller at 250-341-5216 or columbiavalleyyouthnetwork@hotmail.com to book your time or Black star studios at 250-342-6663 or drop into their store.



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SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG WOMEN

College of the Rockies will be supporting youth education in Kenya.

In partnership with the British Columbia Institute of Technology and Lakeland College, College of the Rockies has been selected to support the Young Africa Works in Kenya: Youth Employability Through Technical and Vocation Education and Training program. The \$1.8 million project is focused towards increasing opportunities of employment for young women in Kenya. College of the Rockies and their Canadian partners will support technical and vocational education at four Kenya institutions.

24 training programs will be introduced with the assistance of Canadian institutions between August 2021 and September 2024. The training programs are developed towards producing work-ready graduates while expanding industry engagement and strengthen gender equality and inclusion efforts.

This initiative was created from a partnership between Colleges and Institutes Canada and the Mastercard Foundation as part of a five-year initiative. The end result aims to increase the youth workforce in the manufacturing, affordable housing, universal health coverage, and food security sectors in Kenya. The initiative also works towards establishing policies and procedures that will ensure safe learning environments while providing gender equality to those involved.

In a statement reported by [e-know.ca](https://www.e-know.ca), College of the Rockies President and CEO, Paul Vogt, had the following comments,

“We have a long history of supporting educational needs in East Africa and look forward to continuing this work alongside BCIT and Lakeland College. Education is key to growing industry in Africa and to creating sustainable careers for young African women and men and we’re excited to play a role in creating these opportunities.”

The participation in this initiative by the College of the Rockies will enable trades instructors and other staff members to share expertise and knowledge with Kenyan partners. At the same time, enhancing their own intercultural competencies and global awareness.

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PAID SICK LEAVE: YES OR NO?

Have your voice heard on permanent paid sick leave.

The B.C. government is reaching out to its residents asking for their thoughts on three possible options they are looking to implement in regards to permanent paid sick leave. The first phase of the consultation, which is where the provincial government reaches out to the public for feedback, will shape the options being provided.

Between August 5th and September 14th, workers and employers have completed over 26,000 surveys sharing their thoughts on permanent sick leave in the province. The options provided on the survey involve how many days should be covered by paid leave. Those who take part in the survey will have the option to choose whether paid leave should cover a minimum of three, five, or ten days to choose from.

The end result of the survey is to create a program that allows workers to take the time they need away from work. Whether that be to recover from an injury or sickness, without having to worry about losing their pay.

In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, Minister of Labour, Harry Bains, had the following comments,

“Thousands of workers and employers have completed surveys to give us valuable information on their current sick-leave benefits, if any, and what is needed. Informed by those surveys, we are inviting British Columbians to once again have their say. One of the most critical lessons from the pandemic has been the importance of people staying home when they are sick. No one should have to choose between going to work sick or losing wages. Paid sick leave is good for businesses, good for workers and good for our communities.”

The new paid sick leave program is expected to be launched for January 1, 2022 and the survey of residents is being held until October 15th. Anyone who wants to have their voice heard can find the survey here <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/paidsickleave/>



Ignite Your Life Weekend Virtual Workshop

Ignite Your Life



- Create Lasting Change -

We invite you to join us for the 2nd Annual Ignite Your Life Womens' Workshop which will be held virtually this year on November 13th & 14th.

Join us, and the amazing lineup of speakers, as we embark on a road of Growth, Evolution, and Healing. If you are interested in finding out more about this event check us out on Facebook at [Igniteyourlifebc](https://www.facebook.com/igniteyourlifebc) or contact us at (250) 341-1118.

Proceeds from ticket sales will go towards a bursary at David Thompson High School entitled the Rise & Shine Bursary, which will support young women who have shown strength and resilience in the face of adversity.



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VALLEY PROMOTIONS



UNSUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AT THE HEADWATERS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH YOU WILL FIND CANAL FLATS; A VILLAGE RESILIENT, DESPITE THE EVER-CHANGING GLOBAL CLIMATE.

In 2015, the village's 100-year-old sawmill shut down which many had assumed would bring an end to the small village town. However, a group of entrepreneurs working with the Kutnaxa people banded together for a plan to bring the village back to life.

Once the sawmill closed down in 2015, BC entrepreneur, Brian Fehr, purchased approximately 1,000 acres of land to co-found what is known as the Columbia Lake Technology Center (CLTC). This "innovation hub" is described as a brave experiment being aimed to attract technology and manufacturing businesses to Canal Flats. The CLTC opened its door on June 12, 2018 and continues to remain a part of the village today.

Another company who owns a large portion of the Columbia Lake Technology Center is Australian based company, Iris Energy, who Brian Fehr is also a strategic shareholder of. On July 21, 2021 they announced a collaboration to develop a "high-tech bitcoin and data centre operation" within the abandoned lumber mill in Canal Flats. Along with this announcement, a generous contribution of \$500,000 was provided to four Ktunaxa First Nations communities, intended to show monetary good will.

If you live in Canal Flats, this may not be news to you, as leading up to the actualization of these developments, the representatives advised the local community that these propositions and changes will bring more jobs into the local economy. We'll put a pin in that for a moment and discuss Bitcoin and Bitcoin Mining in general.

It's a fact that British Columbia utilizes green energy and renewable resources to provide power. This is part of what makes bitcoin mining so enticing in rural communities across the province, it's cheap and less of an environmental impact than most areas of the world. Though, just because you can doesn't mean you should.

In a quote given to the [University of British Columbia](#), Werner Antweiler, an economics professor at the University of British Columbia shares insights behind the economic impact of Bitcoin Mining in rural communities.

"We really want to create jobs and create economic activity and benefit communities, and it's far from clear that is the case with bitcoin operations because they employ very few people, and basically all the benefits go to those companies."

Bitcoin mining brings little to no economic benefit to the community it's being mined in yet drains ample renewable energy from the province, the same energy that's needed to meet climate change goals. Mining bitcoin consumes a ridiculous amount of energy, a single bitcoin transaction consumes the equivalent of approximately 53 days of average household power usage. The bitcoin network, as a whole uses close to 115 terawatt per hour of energy per year, meaning bitcoin mining alone uses more energy per year than most of the countries in the world. Keep in mind how much of our renewable energy is being used for a product that is not in general use or circulation. Not to mention Bitcoin being recently declared illegal for use and mining in China, one of the worlds largest crypto-currency markets. This effectively plummeted the value of Bitcoin, which in turn loses profits for those in the industry, including Iris Energy.

Co-Founder of Iris Energy, Daniel Roberts, commented on the impact Bitcoin Mining operations has on the environment. Here is his statement as reported on [Bloomberg](#),

"I don't think it's up to any individual to decide where energy should be used. It's a market-based decision where Bitcoin, by virtue of the attraction and adoption its gained, is commanding that level of energy to secure it, to secure people's savings."



In a time where people are asked to limit their use of power between certain hours of the day or can't use their heaters/air-conditioners during temperature snaps because of a lack of available power, why should bitcoin mining operations get the priority? People need access to energy for their quality of life. They have a right to be able to access that power.

The price of Bitcoin continues to decline, recently dropping from \$45,000 to \$40,000 per bitcoin. Crypto-currency also dropped under \$30,000 in July. The crypto-currency and crypto-mining market is extremely volatile with no definitive long-term ROI and a very high risk to those financially involved. Which begs the questions, if these operations are so volatile, is it wise or even recommended to waste community energy and resources on something that benefits so few?

The community of Canal Flats has a rich history, a healthy community, and people who want to see improvement to their quality of life. That's why there are many, both silent and vocal, who oppose this project and the people who run it. CLTC takes great strides to present themselves in a certain light; as champions for the economy and people of Canal Flats. Which makes it even more baffling as to why CLTC insists on a Bitcoin Mining operation over more sustainable, environmentally friendly operations. With the field of technology growing exponentially with innovation sparking left, right and center, why is a resource sucking, low-employment opportunity project like bitcoin their go-to? Why did they choose to invest in a volatile, lottery-based, solution that *may* bring some sort of economic stimuli to the Village of Canal Flats rather than something that would create jobs, respect the land and environment, and position them as leaders in tech?

Bitcoin Mining only benefits those who are directly involved - the few employees and the ones making all the money. Should the Canadian government follow China's example, what will happen to the bitcoin op and the people of Canal Flats?



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



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Report all conflicts with wildlife to the
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BRING A TORCH

DARKEST DUNGEON IS A ROGUE-RPG YOU SHOULDN'T SLEEP ON.

Xbox Game Pass has provided gamers with the opportunity to access games they most likely would not have played otherwise. In today's day where games are released while still in development or even worse, released with bugs (looking at you CD Projekt RED), it's difficult to spend \$50-\$70 on a video game you're not familiar with. Personally, I've been able to completely open my gaming tastes with the amount of options available through Xbox Game Pass. One of those games is Darkest Dungeon.

A rogue-RPG that brings the dungeon crawling experience to a new level, Darkest Dungeon allows you to recruit followers and bring a party of 4 with you on quests. Each quest is tiered based on the area level and can only be completed with characters tiered on the same level. When you bring these characters out on a quest with you, the opportunities are endless, and treasures are plentiful. However, there are many dangers present including turn-based battles and traps.

Before you head off on your journey, the opportunity to purchase items that will help you on your quest is available (provided you made enough gold in previous runs). These items can make or break that run and once your characters die, they're dead for good. While you can always recruit new characters after a dungeon run, any efforts you've put into upgrading and levelling up that character go into the trash. Trust me, I've experienced this heartbreak on more than one occasion.

Outside of the looting and dungeon crawling madness, the game also has a very interesting dynamic with the characters stress levels. The darker a dungeon is or the more hurt a character gets, their stress level begins to increase. Slowly driving the character into madness and inflicting ailments that could be detrimental to your party. Thankfully, ailments and stress levels can be cured through different activities when you're outside of questing. You can also upgrade your characters abilities, weapons, armor, and equip them with a variety of different trinkets.

Overall, the game is a classic dungeon crawler with rogue-RPG elements that make this a game you want to beat. Even though it is a rogue-RPG, there are still quest milestones to complete that will give you that sense of accomplishment in beating the game.

JOSH GRIEVE

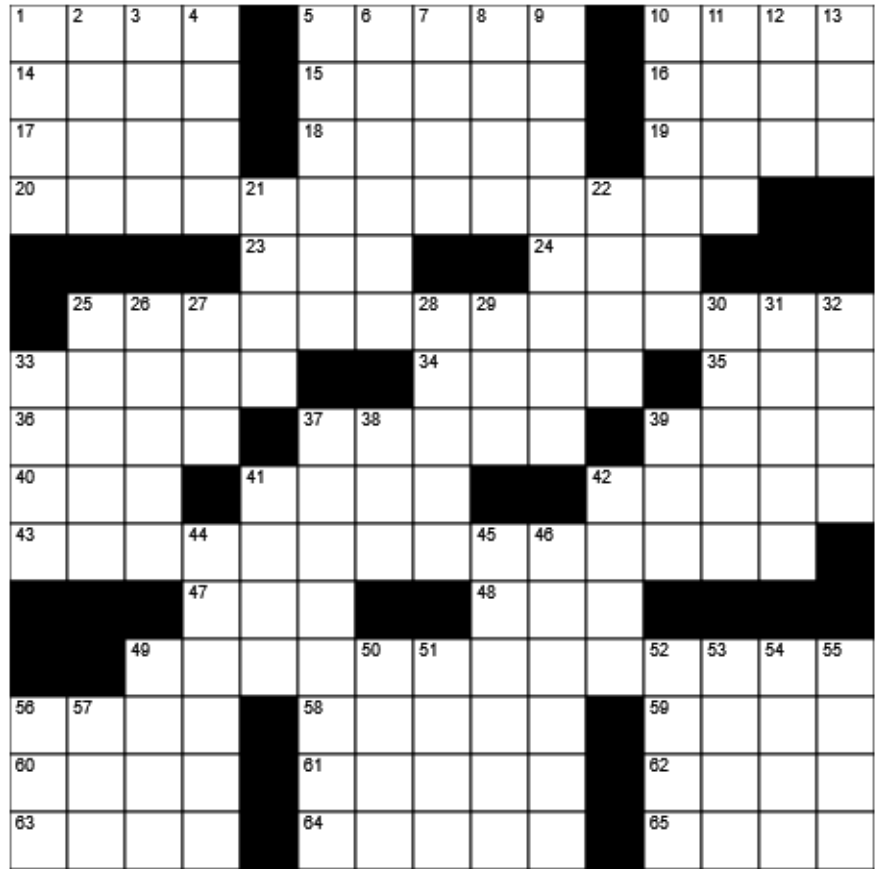
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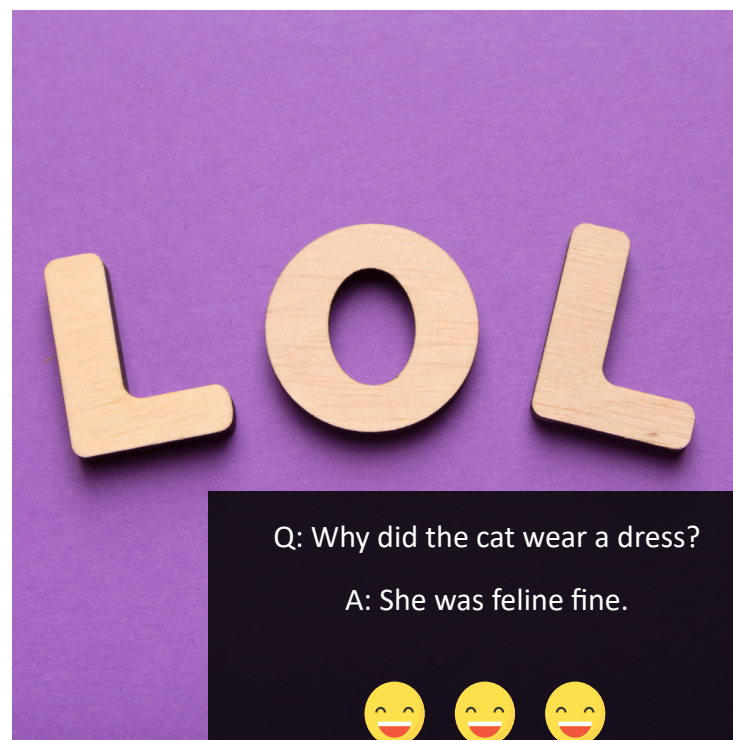
1- ___ accompli; 5- Low life?; 10- Legal rights org.; 14- What's ___ you?; 15- "The Highwayman" poet; 16- Clench; 17- Hawk; 18- Welcome; 19- Electric fish; 20- Portable communicator; 23- Paris possessive; 24- Hall or Byrnes; 25- Comprehensible; 33- Scoff; 34- "Trinity" author; 35- Fam. member; 36- Singer Turner; 37- Terra ___; 39- Shootout; 40- Greek goddess of rashness and divine punishment; 41- Damage, so to speak; 42- Style; 43- Obligation; 47- Unsafe?; 48- Chemical ending; 49- Unparalleled; 56- Oboe, e.g.; 58- Winged; 59- I could ___ horse!; 60- Yard tunneler; 61- Beam; 62- Radiograph; 63- Clairvoyant; 64- In shape; 65- Uses a shuttle;

Down

1- Money-related: Abbr.; 2- To ___ (perfectly); 3- ___ never work!; 4- Damage done; 5- Person who fishes; 6- Bog; 7- Observer; 8- Page; 9- Weakness; 10- To-do list; 11- Manitoba Indigenous People; 12- Abner's adjective; 13- FedEx rival; 21- Manipulator; 22- Vegas line; 25- Put together; 26- Hawaiian state birds; 27- Narc's org.; 28- All, musically; 29- Singer Garfunkel; 30- Main impact; 31- Guarded; 32- Vogue rival; 33- Toronto paper; 37- Stand in opposition; 38- CIA forerunner; 39- Agnus ___; 41- ___ d'etat; 42- High level of satisfaction; 44- Meditate; 45- Firefly, e.g.; 46- Truly; 49- River to the Ubangi; 50- Ticklish doll; 51- First son of Adam and Eve; 52- Immediately following; 53- Skater Lipinski; 54- Coup d' ___; 55- 24 hour periods; 56- Apt. divisions; 57- Fair-hiring abbr.;



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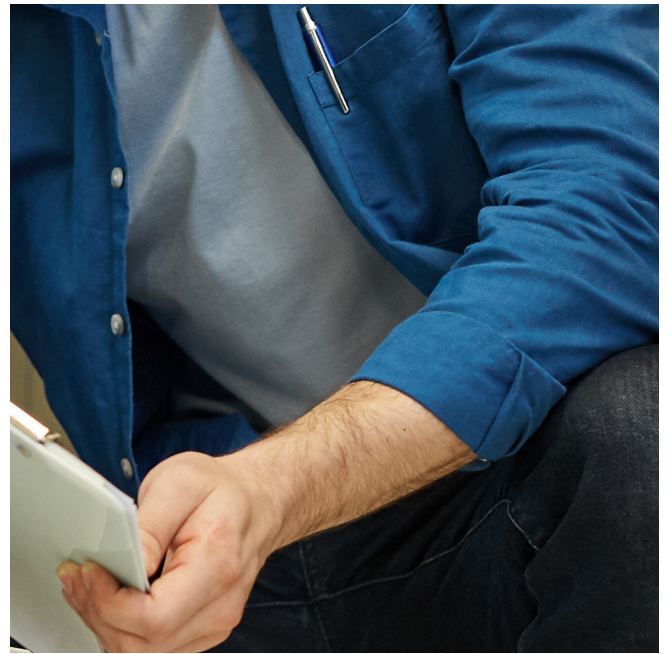




Time Goes By

A turtle is crossing the road when he's mugged by two snails. When the police show up, they ask him what happened.

The shaken turtle replies, "I don't know. It all happened so fast."



Just Don't

I quit my job working for Nike.
I just couldn't do it anymore.



Teachers Pest

Math teacher: If I have three bottles in one hand and two in the other hand, what do I have?

Student: A drinking problem.



They're Good

I tried to organize a hide-and-seek tournament, but it was a complete failure.
Good players are hard to find.

GET INVOLVED

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

BUSINESS ADS

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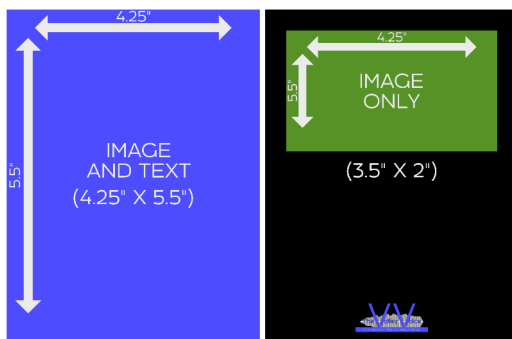
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Business Ad Sizing Rules

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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