

#36 ISSUE

The Valley Voice

The Voices of the Columbia Valley

It's BEARY SEASON

Sparwood discusses solutions on the influx of bear sightings in town.

RUNNING OUT LOCALS

The state of available and affordable housing in the valley is causing many to leave and seek residence elsewhere.

ALCOHOL AND FENTANYL SEIZED

More than \$100,00 in alcohol seized in Revelstoke.

COVER PHOTO: 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



"Congratulations to Firefighter Ryan Bodnarchuk on the successful completion of his probation period and probationary examinations."

Photo Credit:
[Cranbrook Professional Fire Fighters Local 1253](#)

LETTER FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Dear Readers,

There are so many amazing programs, initiatives, and community support throughout our communities right now. Between government funding for programs in need, local businesses running fundraisers, and non-profit groups working to help support individuals and businesses, there are so many opportunities for the people of the valley.

Our volunteers do everything we can to include what we find across the communities in the Columbia Valley - but we're just people, like you! If there's something really amazing you want highlighted, featured, or put a spotlight on, please let us know.. Whether that's an event, a shout out for an individual or business, or a feature on a free community supportive program, we want to share it all. We need your help collecting all of the amazing and positive things going on in our communities so don't miss a beat.

Thank you to all those who read, share, submit and support - you make what we do worth while. Let's keep making this publication the best it can be.

The VVV

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FANS SHOULD MATTER**

RUNNING OUT LOCALS

**THE STATE OF AVAILABLE
AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
IN THE VALLEY IS CAUSING
MANY TO LEAVE AND SEEK
RESIDENCE ELSEWHERE.**

It's not news there is a housing crisis across the Columbia Valley. Between the lack of available housing, short-term rental market, and how expensive it can be to find a suitable living arrangement, many Columbia Valley residents are forced to leave the area to live elsewhere.

These concerns have been voice by the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM), specifically in the direction of the short-term rental market that has impacted the local housing availability in communities across the province. Officials with the UBCM have filed 13 requests to the B.C. government in efforts to establish regulations surrounding the short-term rental industry, similar to regulations held by the ride-hailing/sharing industries.

Municipalities at this time have the power to regulate short-term rentals, though it's difficult to put regulations in place without accurate and complete data which is something not readily available to municipal governments. In order for regulations to be effective for everyone, it needs to be based off the data gathered from that specific community, similar to the feedback called on by both Invermere and Village of Radium Hot Springs have recently.

In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, co-chair of the Joint UBCM and Mayor of Whistler, Jack Crompton had the following comments on the short-term rental market,

“The short-term rental accommodation industry has grown exponentially over the last decade and it’s largely unregulated. One of the consequences of that growth is that it has limited the supply of long-term rental homes. The lack of regulation means that it’s a pretty lucrative choice and one that drives us away from housing residents in communities, which is really important in British Columbia at this time. Our hope is that this regulation will temper the enthusiasm to convert long-term rental homes into short-term rentals. The goal is not to drive short-term rentals out of the province, but it is to come up with a rational solution so that a community’s needs can be addressed and promoted.”

The UBCM is calling for specific regulations from the provincial government including:

Regulatory framework province-wide for platform accountability and ensuring the information is validated for online accommodation platforms and short-term rentals.

All online accommodation platforms should be required to provide their data through a central provincial interface made available to municipal governments.

Requirements for short-term rentals on accommodation platforms to publish their business license or permit information directly with municipalities to prevent false information.

PST and MRDT collection at point of booking the short-term rental

Adjustments to the Municipal and Regional District Tax to offset impacts to housing and neighbourhoods from short-term rental licensing.

In efforts to help regulate short-term rentals in the Village of Radium Hot Springs, short-term rental licensing has been in effect with a \$10,000 fine handed out to violators of the regulation. You can apply [HERE](#) for a short-term rental license with fees of \$250 for new applications, \$150 for renewals, and \$100 for change of ownership.

It remains to be seen how the provincial government will respond to UBCM though regulations surrounding short-term rentals would be very welcomed by British Columbians.

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Ascension Wellness

Ignite Your Life Weekend Virtual Workshop

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](#) 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.



Sholeh Fabbri
Former Executive Producer of ET Canada



Marlo Ellis



Susan Clarke



Kate Horn



Kelly Kaur



Amanda Joy



Jocelyn Hastie



Louise Amuir



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BOXING CLUB HELPS COMMUNITY

\$15,500 HAS BEEN RAISED TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY IN CRANBROOK.

Cranbrook Eagles Boxing Club has raised \$15,500 to support people in their community, despite provincial regulations reducing the capacity size of their venues. A portion of the funds are being dedicated towards directly impacting several people in need with the rest up for discussion as to its designation.

In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, Coach Tom White commented on the reduced capacity and how the funds raised will help support Cranbrook,

“This year we had to do a very scaled-down version by about a third of what normally have. We raised between \$30-\$40,000 consistently for the last six to seven years. This year, because the attendance was cut in half and we had to deal with the vaccination protocols, we had 130 people versus 330 people. We still managed to raise about \$18,000 and after some expenses, we’re going to be dolling out about \$15,500. There are some people in the community that have some health issues they’re dealing with. We’re going to help them out with their expenses. We’ll have a kind of committee meeting with our members and we’ll decide where the rest of the money is handed out.”

Fate was definitely on the side of Cranbrook Eagles Boxing Club as this event was close to being canceled, until Dr. Paul Kahlke volunteered last-minute to help support the fundraiser.

IT'S BEARY SEASON

SPARWOOD DISCUSSES SOLUTIONS ON THE INFLUX OF BEAR SIGHTINGS IN TOWN.

Mayor of Sparwood, David Wilks, has noted 2021 as a bad year for bear activity and the District Council is working on possible solutions to keep both their people and wildlife safe. With the summer 2021 season bringing hot and dry weather conditions, berry crops saw damage which impacts the bears food source.

Due to the lack of food available to bears, they've started to find their way into communities to find food. Fruit trees found around local communities provide a food source for bears which is lucrative and attractive for them to visit.

In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, Mayor Wilks had the following comments on the bear situation over the past year in Sparwood,

"The COs (Conservation Officers) have had to put down 14 bears so far this year. It's been a real struggle for us. There just wasn't the production of berries that there normally is. As a result, they become driven to find food, and the first thing they're trying to sense is fruit. Once they're driving into town, they find another food source, which is garbage. Once they get familiarized with it, they don't want to leave. Unfortunately for the COs, it puts them into a very difficult position. It's sad to hear from the COs that there is really only one option for them, and that is to shoot them."



Relocating the bears also proves a challenge since it requires manpower which local Conservation Officers don't have access to, and even so, the bears would likely find their way back to the site in search for food.

There are things we can do to help secure the well-being of bears in our community. Here is what you can do to prevent the attraction of bears to your community:

Place your garbage at the curb only in the morning of the designated collection day.

Keep all of your garbage within a secure enclosure.

Remove bird feeders or keep them high on a cable where bears can't reach it.

If you have fruit trees, pick the fruit as soon as they are ripe and remove any fallen fruit.

Keep any of your pets food, refrigerators, and freezers inside.

Clean barbecues after every use.

Put away all petroleum and rubber products as these attract bears.

In the event you experience a bear wandering around your neighbourhood or trash bin, make sure to give the bear lots of space and keep your pets inside. Should you witness the bear eating, let it finish as that is its first priority. Get yourself to a safe vantage point and make loud noises while waving your arms, letting the bear know they are not welcome. Once the bear has left, remove any attractants from the area and keep in mind it will likely return to check the source of food.

Reports of wildlife can be made to the BC Conservation Office 24/7 at 1-877-952-7277.



"LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAYS" DECORATING CONTEST & TOUR

All District of Invermere residents, businesses & organizations are invited to participate and light up the town in anticipation of the Holiday season. Join us decking your homes and businesses with lights and holiday decor. Then take the Light up the Holidays Decorating Tour to view displays!

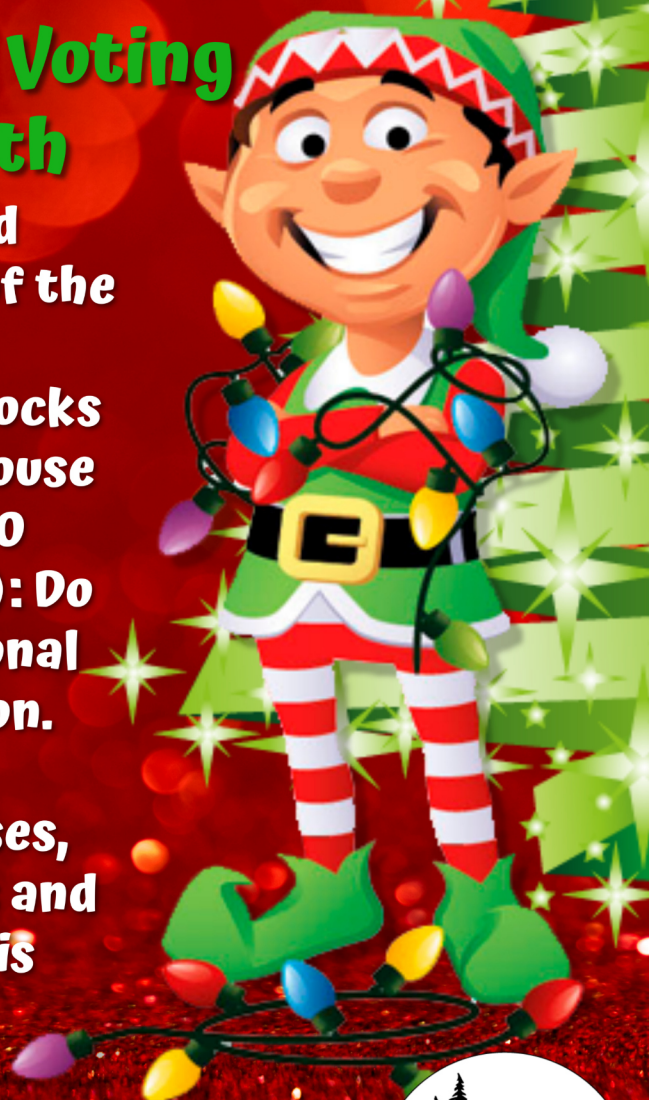
Tour & General Public Voting December 6th-20th

A winner will be chosen and awarded cash prizes for each of the following categories:

1. **Best Decorated:** Knock our socks off with the best decorated house in Invermere. Top prize \$100
2. **Clark Griswold (Most lights):** Do your best impression of National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. Prize \$75
3. **Best Commercial:** Businesses, organizations, churches, clubs and school groups may enter this category. Prize \$50

\$10 Entry.

**Register on [eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) until Nov 25th!
Visit Invermere BC Events on Facebook
for full details!**



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BOOSTER DOSES COMING TO THE PROVINCE

Invitations will be sent to those most at-risk first in the province.

British Columbia is moving forward with its COVID-19 immunization plan with invitations to senior citizens and at-risk residents to register for a COVID-19 booster shot before the holiday season. The province will be expanding the plan to include all residents of the provinces aged 12 and older starting January 2022.

Booking for a booster can be done through the Get Vaccinated System and administration of these doses is underway for priority groups, such as long-term care and assisted living facilities. Those in shelters or at high risk of congregating in high-risk settings will also receive an invitation to get their booster dosage.

Invitations will continue to rollout based on risk and age, similar to the first and second doses of the vaccine. Invitations will start from oldest to youngest and follow from there based on risk and priority. The booster dose can be administered between six to eight months from receiving the second dose of the vaccine.

In a statement reported by the [Columbia Valley Pioneer](#), Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer released the following statement on the booster dose,

“Our vaccines are highly effective. However, we are starting to see a gradual decline in protection over time. As a result, we are taking the proactive step of expanding boosters to everyone in our province. We’re starting with the people who need them most to continue to do all we can to keep people in B.C. safe from this virus and its variants.”

Children between the ages of five and eleven are still awaiting approval from Health Canada for vaccination. This program will involve a separate supply of vaccines designated and designed for children which will be delivered alongside the booster program. Parents who wish to register their children in advance can do so [here](#).

VALLEY SHARES

ELIZABETH LAKE IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Cranbrook Public Works are hard at work on trail improvements to Elizabeth Lake. City of Cranbrook staff are removing wooden rails along the walkways and replacing the wood chips with crushed gravel. The improvements being made will create a similar look aesthetically to the Isadore Canyon trail and is expected to make maintenance of the trails easier for city staff.

WEATHER RESPONSE SHELTERS

Those in need have options for warm shelter this winter.

With the winter season fast approaching, the provincial government has opened temporary and emergency shelters across the province, including a location in Cranbrook.

Community Connections Society of Southeast BC in Cranbrook is the only location in the East Kootenay that will have available shelter spaces for those in need and will be available to those 19 years of age and older.

The temporary shelters will be open during the winter season every night with meals being provided to those in need. In addition, when an extreme weather alert is issued, extreme weather response shelters will be made available overnight. These shelters generally are set to open come November 1st, though additional provincial funding permitted the shelters to open as early as October 1st for communities experiencing extreme weather.

You can visit [HERE](#) to view a complete map of shelters available across the province.



COORDINATED EFFORTS LEAD TO SUCCESS

Emergency crews responded to a vehicle going over an embankment near Wardner on November 4th. An individual was trapped in the vehicle approximately 80 feet down the embankment where RDEK Fire Services, BCEHS, Cranbrook Highway Rescue3, and RCMP responded to the incident. The individual was rescued from the vehicle with the Jaws of Life utilized for the extraction. They were then raised towards the highway utilizing the rope rescue system and transported to the hospital by BCEHS.

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE DISTRICT OF INVERMERE

Sat November 6th- Ski Swap at CVC

Sat November 20th- Wild & Scenic Film Festival CVC

Thursday November 25th- Downtown Late-Night Shopping

Friday November 26th& Sat 27th- Holly Jolly Market at CVC

Sat December 4th- Santa Claus Parade?!!

Sunday December 12th- Breakfast with Santa in the morning and Comedian Mike Delmont at the CVC in the evening (TBA)

Sat December 18th- Christmas Activity? TBA

Sat December 25th- Christmas!



ALCOHOL AND FENTANYL SEIZED

MORE THAN \$100,000 IN ALCOHOL SEIZED IN REVELSTOKE.

A suspicious vehicle was spotted in Revelstoke when police noticed seats behind the driver of the vehicle removed and full of boxes with a blanket on top. When checked by members of BC Highway Patrol's Traffic Safety Unit, approximately \$11,000 in cash was found along with liquor stacked from the floor to the ceiling.

The occupants of the van, a man and woman from Calgary, were found on police databases with prior criminal activity in the Lower Mainland. The suspects were arrested on site and upon searching the minivan, \$100,000 worth of alcohol, \$11,000 in Canadian currency, and small quantities of what is suspected to be Fentanyl were found in the vehicle. RCMP also believes this is not the first time the suspects have taken large quantities of alcohol across the province.

In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com, Inspector Dale Carr, Officer in Charge of BCHP's Special Traffic Operations had the following comments on the seizure,

"The mandate of BCHP's TSU-PDS is to conduct high-volume traffic safety enforcement and, often, intelligence-led policing results in the interruption, interdiction and apprehension of traveling criminals. Frequently, investigators will find wanted persons, stolen property, drugs, weapons, cash and other contraband. By removing these individuals from our highways and disrupting their activity, we prevent this type of criminal behaviour from continuing and it is one of many ways we are making our highways safer together."

It's believed by the RCMP the suspects intended to avoid the liquor tax of the province and re-sell the liquor to private purchasers or illegally run casinos in the Lower Mainland. Both suspects have been released pending further investigation.

Write On!

Writing Group at the Invermere Library



Thursday, November 25 at 6:00 pm

Meet with other aspiring writers, try short writing exercises, share your work and receive feedback.

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FANS SHOULD MATTER



In a statement released in [Square Enix's annual report](#), President Yosuke Matsuda made the following comments on the game's success, "We overcame a variety of unexpected difficulties in the final phase of the game's development, including needing to transition to work-from-home due to the pandemic. We were able to surmount these challenges and release the game, but it has unfortunately not proven as successful as we would have liked,"

Crystal Dynamics has since removed the paid XP boosters with an apology to players for not listening sooner, though the damage is already done. With the game constantly on sale and also part of the Xbox Game Pass collection, many have the chance to play the game for little to no cost and understand exactly why gamers are frustrated with the game.

JOSH GRIEVE



Fire Resume

Who wouldn't be inspired to hire this young man? If his cover letter is to be believed, he's eager to light a fire under the most recalcitrant colleague: "I am a motivated, self-igniting person."



Charming Shutdown

My seatmate on a flight was a woman. Ever the charmer, I asked, "Does the airline charge you extra for sitting next to good-looking men?"
"Yes," she said, "but I wasn't willing to pay."



Precision of Language

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."



Interview Pressure

After interviewing a candidate for an open position, I got a thank-you e-mail, stating, "It was a pressure meeting you."

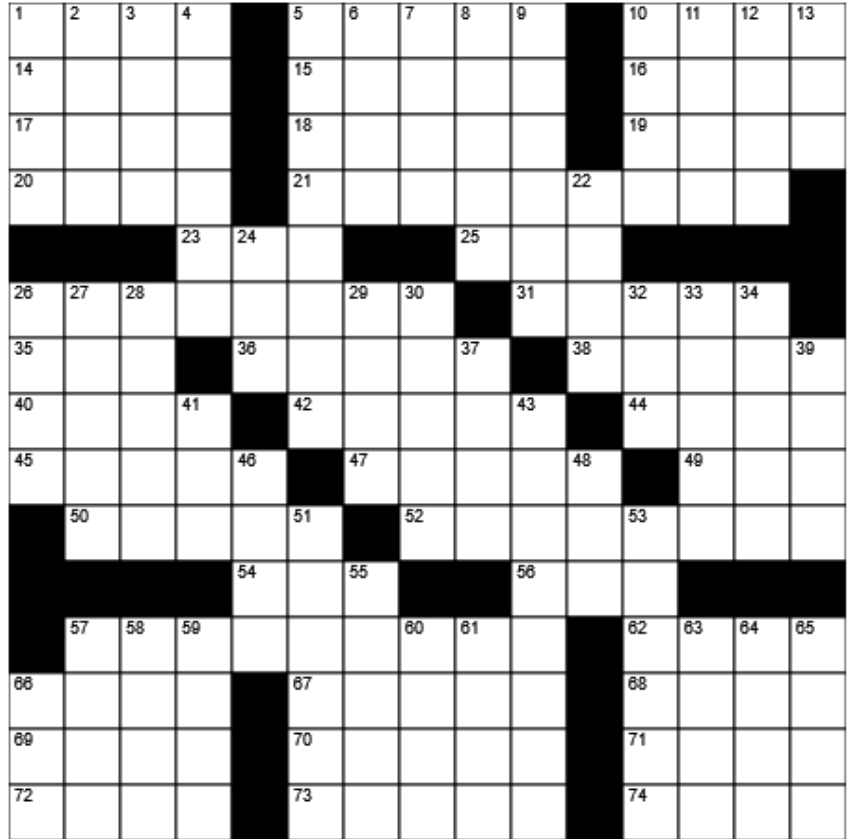
A LITTLE FUN

Across

1- Honolulu's island; 5- Piece of music written for a solo instrument; 10- Letter after theta; 14- This can be guilty or not guilty; 15- Connoisseur; 16- Cease; 17- Confer; 18- Run in the wash; 19- Gimlet garnish; 20- Actress Ward; 21- Pseudo-intellectual speech; 23- Furrow; 25- Sucker; 26- Republic in S Asia; 31- Coming down; 35- ___ Saud; 36- Actress Barkin; 38- Circa; 40- Composition in verse; 42- Goad; 44- Open ___ night; 45- Chou ___; 47- Yellow-fever mosquito; 49- Part of the Holy Trinity; 50- Give a seat?; 52- Ceremonial robe; 54- Sis's sib; 56- ___ kwon do; 57- Uncompounded; 62- "Give that ___ cigar!"; 66- Toward the mouth; 67- Maker of Pong; 68- Portent; 69- Take a meal; 70- Claw; 71- Public disturbance; 72- Witnessed; 73- Exactly; 74- Cravings;

Down

1- Chooses; 2- Winglike parts; 3- Hades; 4- Naked-faced Amazon monkey; 5- Fortify; 6- Baby powder; 7- Optic layer; 8- Exploits; 9- Make beloved; 10- Land in water; 11- Elevator man; 12- Voluminous volume; 13- Copycat; 22- Movie-rating org.; 24- Put into service; 26- Hollow cylinder; 27- Dry as ___; 28- Mournful sound; 29- Pond organism; 30- Israeli desert region; 32- Notebook maker; 33- Din; 34- Klondike territory; 37- Network point; 39- Portable shelter; 41- Fannie ___; 43- Young bird; 46- SDI concern; 48- RR stop; 51- Picks up the check; 53- Recollection; 55- Available; 57- HOMES part; 58- Alley; 59- Elysium of Genesis; 60- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 61- "East of Eden" brother; 63- Gallic girlfriend; 64- Light gas; 65- Farm dwellers; 66- Takes too much;



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



Q: What word is always spelled incorrectly?

A: Incorrectly!



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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*

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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

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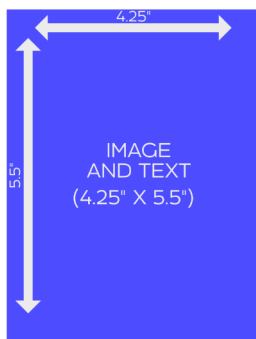
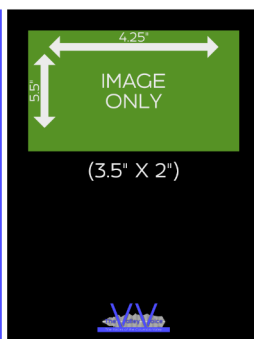


IMAGE ONLY

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

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