

The Valley Voice

The Voices of the Columbia Valley

Jen Bewski
PHOTO CREDIT

INSIDE THIS EDITION

SLEDGE SKATE OF HOPE COMES TO INVERMERE

Tyler McGregor, a Paralympian and World Sledge Hockey champion is using Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope as inspiration for the 2023 Sledge Skate of Hope.

BEAUTIFUL PLACES OF THE WORLD

We know winter might not be totally gone yet, but we wanted to pick up everyone's spirits with some fantastic spring time locations to visit and enjoy.

GAMER'S CORNER - ELDEN RING

Once in a while, a game comes along that effortlessly combines gameplay, a wonder filled world, incredible tone-setting music, and nique and stunning art direction.

MANSSION OF EVIL - NETFLIX'S WEDNESDAY

'Wednesday' review: Netflix Addams Family spinoff is Dark, Spooky and all sorts of kooky.



The Voice of the Columbia Valley

Your voice, your valley, your magazine

LETTER FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Happy New Year!

Please accept our apologies - we were both delayed on this issue, and we were unfortunately not able to coordinate the commemorative issue we wanted too - we just don't have enough volunteer support right now.

We have great content for you this edition, and thank everyone who submitted.

We hope to continue bringing great content in the coming months, but of course that all depends on you.

If you have anything to submit, we need it. Things like photos, articles, opinion pieces, letters, poems, short stories, etc.

Every little helps, and in our case, can go a long way.

Send it in anytime, we would love to publish your work.

The VV



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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_official](https://www.instagram.com/thevoicecv_official)

OR

by email to news@thevoicecv.ca

SUBMIT CONTENT

This only works if we all do. Your content is what DRIVES this publication. We need it all because we need you.

NEXT EDITION AUGUST 3, 2022.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE AUGUST 2, 2022.

WE NEED

BUSINESS ADS

Any and all businesses, organizations and entrepreneurs are welcome to submit a business ad for free. *Ads must be refreshed periodically. Once an ad is out of date or stale, we will remove it.*

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Any and all are welcome and encouraged to submit their photos. Credit given when requested. Great way to get your art out to more eyes.

PERSONAL INTEREST

Got something to say? Expert in something? Know how to handle a season with skill? Send it in! We'll edit it only if requested. We'd LOVE to publish your brilliant works.

NEWS

Did you hear about it or see it? We could use your help! Snap a photo and send a blurb/article and we'll make sure it get included.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

We are always looking for content curators, liaisons, photographers, and promoters.

Want to get involved?

Email us at news@thevoicecv.ca

VISIT US ONLINE
thevoicecv.ca


VISIT US ON SOCIAL
[@thevoicecv](https://www.instagram.com/thevoicecv)

SLEDGE SKATE OF HOPE

TO RAISE
MONEY FOR
THE TERRY FOX
FOUNDATION

THREE-TIME PARALYMPIAN
TYLER MCGREGOR
WILL SKATE 42KM ON
LAKE WINDERMERE WHITEWAY
MONDAY, JANUARY 23rd,

SUPPORT THE JOURNEY

 @tylermcgregor8





SLEDGE SKATE OF HOPE COMES TO INVERMERE

Tyler McGregor, a Paralympian and World Sledge Hockey champion is using Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope as inspiration for the 2023 Sledge Skate of Hope. Terry Fox's quote "It has to keep going without me" is the first thing you will see on the sledgeskateofhope.com home page, Tyler's 2023 goal is to skate his sled 42 km in each of the Canadian provinces to raise \$100,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation, continuing to do just that and keeping Terry's wish alive. This is Tyler's 2nd Sledge of Hope with the first being in 2021 in which he skated for 25km and raised \$31, 329 in Ontario's Blue Mountains.

The Sledge Skate of Hope honours Terry Fox's legacy and help raise funds for cancer research to find a cure. Tyler is doing the sledge skate for all those in the hospitals fighting for their lives.

For the 2023 Sledge Skate of Hope, Tyler's Is kicked off the journey in Halifax, January 3rd. With some rescheduling due to the unpredictable Canadian weather, Invermere has moved up to the 3rd leg on January 23rd and will be 8:00am at the Whiteway.

In addition to raising funds for the Terry Fox Foundation, Tyler is a Captain on Team Canada's Para hockey team with a lengthy list of accomplishments which include two Paralympic silver medals, a bronze, two World Championship golds and four silver. His determination to continue in the sport had him back on ice in 2011 after being diagnosed with cancer and having amputation in 2010. His first Team Canada national medal came at age 18 with a World Silver. That same determination has him expanding his 2021 Sledge Skate of hope from 1 province to 10 and increasing his fundraising goal from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Tyler McGregor is an amazing Canadian representative in sport on the national stage and is channeling that into his work on bringing awareness not only to his cancer research fund raising but providing future inspiration to others either fighting or recovering and showing that you can stay involved in sport and give back to help others.

The link to the site where you can read more about Tyler's journey and the Skate of hope, check out sledgeskateofhope.com. Donation tab for supporting the Sledge Skate of Hope and helping Tyler reach his goal is also found on the website. Funds raised go to the Terry Fox Foundation.

Another option is donating through the Windermere Valley Rockies U18 hockey team as they are working hard at fundraising in the community so they can provide a cheque on behalf of the team to Tyler on January 23rd for Sledge Skate of Hope. They are accepting the donations via email to wwu18manager@gmail.com. They will also be skating alongside Tyler on the Whiteway as he completes his BC sledge skate.

To follow the Sledge Skate of Hope journey across the provinces follow Tyler on Instagram under handle [@tylermcgregor8](https://www.instagram.com/tylermcgregor8).

To hear more in Tyler's own voice, check out his launch video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUWGT87pt4w>

To support Tyler McGregor as he achieves his British Columbia 42km leg you can find him bright and early 8:00 am at the Whiteway on Monday, January 23, 2023. Watch for posts through various local social media accounts.

Jen Bewski

Local Writer



Did you know: one in five seniors say they experience emotional distress and have difficulty coping day to day.

Many feel they aren't getting the support they need to live happier, more fulfilling lives.

Contact our NavCare Specialists!
778-526-5143

Kimberley Cranbrook Highland
Dance Association Presents:

Robbie Burns Night

January 21st, 2023

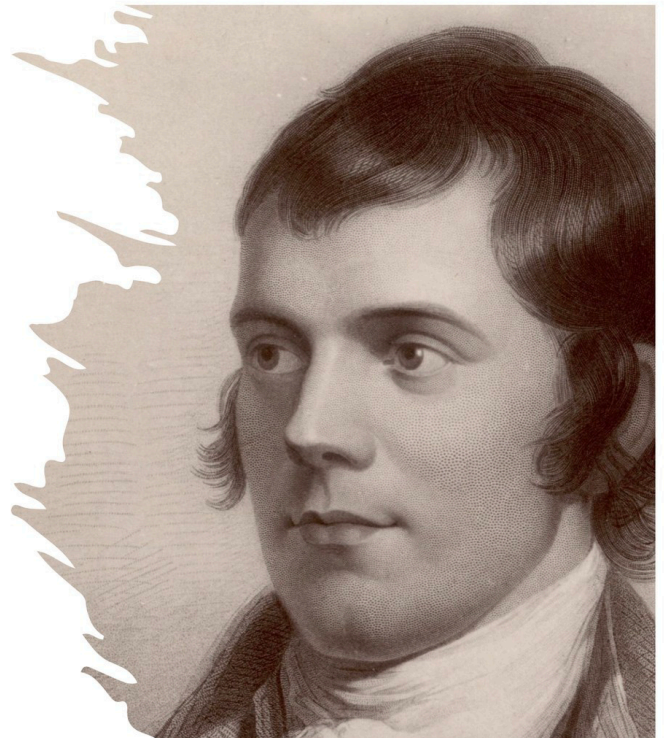
Cranbrook Curling Club
177 2nd St, N. Cranbrook, B.C.

Doors open at 5pm
Entertainment starts at 6pm
(featuring KCHDA dancers and the Kimberley Pipe Band)
Dinner at 6:30pm (including haggis)

* cash bar, raffle table and 50/50

Adults \$40 (13+)
Children \$25 (7-12)
(6 and under are free)

Tickets are available at Tomi Jane's Boutique in
Cranbrook (300 1st Ave S)
and Kimberley (250 Spokane St)



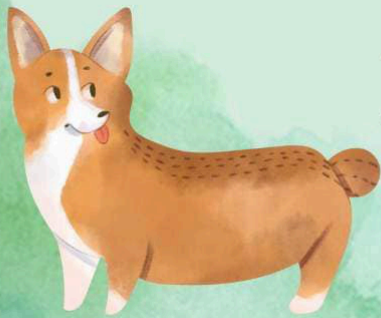
VALLEY PROMOTIONS

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Booking link



BREAKING

NEWS

CHANGES COMING FOR HOW CITY PROVIDES PUBLIC NOTICES

City of Cranbrook council passed three readings Monday night to Public Notice Bylaw 4099, 2023, which allows a council to determine alternative methods of public notice.

Currently, the city is not in compliance with certain notification requirements under the Local Government Act as there are only two newspaper publications which only publish once a week, reported Santana Patten of Engineering and Development Services.

“Adopting a Public Notice Bylaw will bring the city in compliance with the statutory requirements for public notice, will prepare for a time when there might not be a newspaper at all, and allow the city to use the other available channels. Expanding the locations of the public notification will likely reach a further audience and those who do not utilize conventional news streams,” Patten stated.

Section 94.2 of the Community Charter was updated in February 2022 to allow for a council to determine, by bylaw, alternative notice requirements. Section 94.2 provides local governments the authority to adopt a public notice bylaw if they choose not to use the default notice provisions.

Ktunaxa Ready

Local governments that adopt a public notice bylaw must then publish notice by all the methods specified in the bylaw, and are still required to post a notice at the public notice posting places, the city staff report said.

The notice requirements suggested are minimum requirements and are not intended to limit council’s discretion to direct staff to provide additional notices, utilizing different or additional methods or repeating notice, as may be deemed appropriate by council, Patten outlined in the report.

Council unanimously passed the first three readings of Public Notice Bylaw 4099, 2023. Coun. Wes Graham was absent from the meeting.

Read the full article [HERE](#).

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE SALES DOWN 23% IN KOOTENAYS IN 2022

The number of homes sold in the Kootenay-Boundary last year dropped 23 per cent over 2021, but a representative of a realtors group says it was still “a fairly good year.”

“Like other regions in the province, in the Kootenays we had a strong start to 2022 but with rising interest rates, market activity started to decline from the peak in April,” said Bruce Seitz of the Association of Interior Realtors. “Market conditions remained tight due to low inventory.”

In 2022, a total of 3,066 homes changed hands in the Kootenays. Average prices remained flat but stayed above the \$500,000 mark for most of the year. By December, they had dropped to \$445,000, the lowest they had been in over a year.

Read full article [HERE](#).



BREAKING

NEWS

3 HOSPITALS GET NEW RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT

Displaced Ukrainian families who left Europe for Cranbrook celebrated their holiday season with a community dinner featuring cultural dishes, Christmas carols and traditional garb on Sunday (Jan. 8) evening at Christ Church Anglican.

The event, organized directly by the families, served both as an expression of gratitude to the Cranbrook community, which has stepped up in countless ways to support the Shelter for Ukrainians Society, while also doubling as the monthly vigil in solidarity with Ukraine against Russia's military invasion.

The evening also celebrated Ukrainian Orthodox Christmas, which is marked on Jan. 7 according to the Julian calendar (as opposed to the Gregorian calendar, which marks the date on Dec. 25).

Tetiana Sokolenko, who came to Cranbrook as a student a few years before the war broke out, said the families wished to do something to thank the community and people involved with the Shelter for Ukrainians Society.

"We decided it'd be a great thing to create a holiday, something special for our directors, for Canadian volunteers and everyone who has been participating to help Ukrainians," said Sokolenko. "So we did it as a secret from all the directors."

Read full article [HERE](#).

ELEVATION DISCS' GENEROUS DONATION

Elevation Discs has generously donated 30 of their flexible vulcanized rubber discs to the Chain Rattlers for their school program events and their other community outreach programs for disc golf. The discs donated include the new Ecoflex Koi, Ecoflex Interceptor and the Binx.

The Ecoflex line of rubber discs are made from recycled rubber that didn't meet quality control standards for saleable products.

Thanks Austin and Macy



SANDY ZEZNIK NAMED CRANBROOK'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

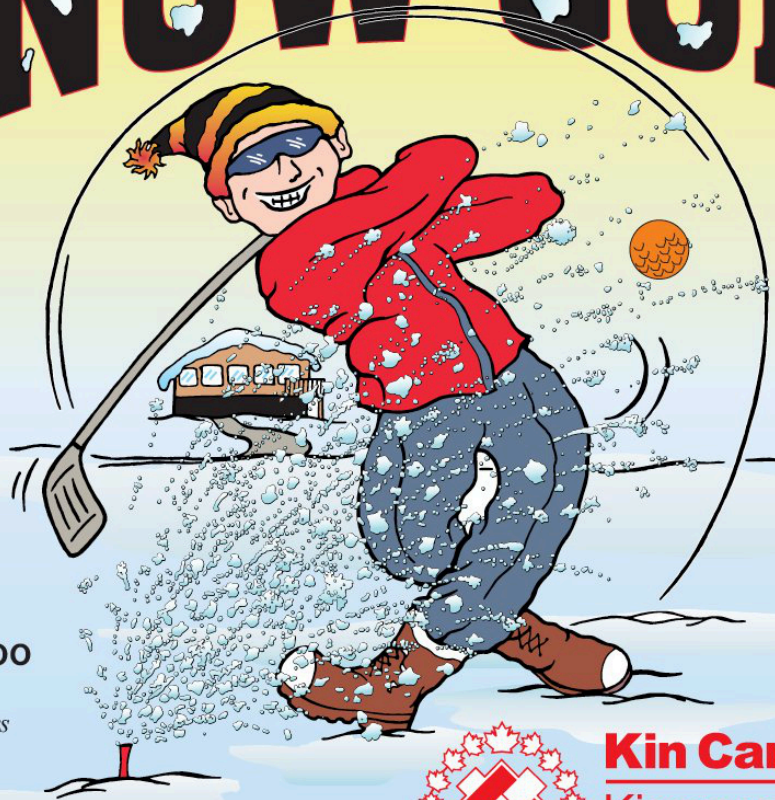
This one should be filed under the 'didn't this happen already?' category. Because it should have happened - a few times.

The Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce Jan. 3 revealed Sandy Zeznik is its 49th annual Citizen of the Year Award recipient.

Read full article [HERE](#).



22ND ANNUAL SNOW GOLF



\$35.00

*Must be 19 years
or Older*

Registration from 11:00 am until noon



Kin Canada
Kinsmen Club
of Windermere Valley

ON THE LAKE at KINSMEN BEACH
JANUARY 14 - 2023



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**SHOTGUN START AT NOON - SCRAMBLE GOLF FORMAT
PRIZES AND A GREAT TIME FOR EVERYONE!**

VALLEY PROMOTIONS

Invermere Snowflake Festival

JANUARY 20TH, 2023

KINSMEN BEACH

5:30PM-8:30PM

ICE CARVING & SCULPTURE BY COLD CREATIVE

LIVE MUSIC FEATURING L8

ICE SKATING

FIREPITS

CURLING BONSPIEL ON THE LAKE

FIREWORKS 8PM



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Supported by the Province of British Columbia

Beautiful Places of the World

We know winter might not be totally gone yet, but we wanted to pick up everyone's spirits with some fantastic spring time locations to visit and enjoy.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles has always been a crucible for new ideas in the arts, design and lifestyle, and with one third of California's population living in the metropolitan area's 4,850 square miles, this sprawling, glamorous, change-obsessed place is something to behold. Come spring, you can spend your days immersing yourself in the culture, enjoying attractions, including the Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Avenue of Stars and strolling through Santa Monica, all with reliably pleasant weather and diminished

crowds. Then return to home bases like the posh and private Peninsula Beverly Hills, the glamorous Maybourne, the zen Nobu Ryokan and more Indagare favorites.

Location: Los Angeles, California

Best time to visit: Feb-Oct

How to reach: Direct flights from most major cities



CARTAGENA

With an old town surrounded by colonial-era fortifications built by the Spanish (and a Miami-esque skyline as well), Cartagena is both a stunning time capsule on the shores of the Caribbean Sea and a contemporary mecca for sun-seekers. Blessed with abundant tropical fruits and fresh fish, cuisine in Cartagena is often a delicious fusion of Caribbean, Mediterranean and international influences, and the slew of new modern restaurants have brought the food scene to the next level. And with world-class music, a strong cultural focus on film and literature (Nobel Prize-winning Colombian author Gabriel Garcia Marquez kept a home here) and chic shops and hotels like Casa San Agustin and Sofitel Legend Santa Clara Hotel, the lure of this seaside city is undeniable.

Cartagena was always a desirable conquest for pirates and enemies of the Spanish Crown; and for this reason, the defense of the city from these threats was a question of priority for its inhabitants from the first decades of the existence of the city. Once the primitive nucleus of Cartagena and the outlying district of Getsemani were fortified, there was a

need to erect a structure on San Lazaro Hill that would prevent an enemy attack from its peak, since the hill dominated the walls and the only entrance to the city, the Media Luna Entrance in Getsemani. In addition, this hill was the intermediate point between the city and the nearby Popa Peak, where some heavy guns and canons were installed between 1769 and 1780 to cross fire with the castle and make an enemy attack more difficult from the large beach of Playon Grande in Pie de la Popa.

Location: Cartagena, capital of Bolívar departamento, northern Colombia, at the northern end of Cartagena Bay.

Best time to visit: December to April. The city's tropical climate means that, although temperatures tend to stay around the mid-80s year-round

How to reach: Cartagena Rafael Nunez Airport
All flights to Cartagena land at Cartagena Rafael Nunez Airport. The airport code is CTG, and it can also be referred to as Rafael Nunez or Rafael Núñez Intl.



MACHU PICCHU, PERU

No matter how many photos you've seen of Machu Picchu, nothing comes close to the real thing. You can get to the citadel in under a day, but consider a five-day trek for the full Inca trail experience. The route takes you along panoramic mountain passes, ancient walls, and winding rivers before you can finally set your well-deserved sights on this ancient wonder of the world.

This 15th-century Inca citadel, cradled between two Andean mountain peaks, comprises expertly constructed agricultural terraces soaring out of the mist. April marks the end of the rainy season—and right before peak season kicks off—so there will be fewer tourists than usual. Rest your feet at Panorama B&B in Machu Picchu Pueblo, which is the gateway town for more treks to the Inca ruins.

Location: Machu Picchu, also spelled Machupijchu, site of ancient Inca ruins located about 50 miles (80 km) northwest of Cuzco, Peru, in the Cordillera de Vilcabamba of the Andes Mountains.

Best time to visit: One of the best times to visit Machu Picchu is April and May; the rainy season has passed, the mountains are emerald

How to reach:

1. First, you need to get to Cusco.
2. Then, from Cusco, you can choose to ride the train or trek. Most travelers enjoy the comfortable train ride to the Machu Picchu Station in Aguas Calientes.
3. Finally, take a short bus ride from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu for your tour.



SHRED KELLY



SPRING 2023

- FEBRUARY 16** COMMUNITY HALL - PENDER ISLAND BC
- FEBRUARY 17** MATEDA - SALT SPRING ISLAND BC
- FEBRUARY 18** THE WAVERLEY HOTEL - CUMBERLAND BC
- MARCH 18** TBC - FERNIE BC
- MARCH 31** ALTITUNES - BIG WHITE BC
- APRIL 1** MINERS HALL - ROSSLAND BC
- APRIL 6** MELISSA'S MISSTEAK - BANFF AB
- APRIL 7** THE ROCKWATER - GOLDEN BC
- APRIL 8** ULLR BAR - INVERMERE BC

FACTOR  Canada

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Location Cranbrook B.C.

CREEKSIDE FARMS

Paint & Sip Sunday, January 15th @ 2PM !

711 Kootenay Street N. Cranbrook

(Upstairs in the lounge)

Please put name, date of event and contact info in message section of e-transfer



E-transfer to artbyniftynor@gmail.com to reserve spot
\$40 includes all supplies and a snack.
(Drinks available to purchase cash only)

VALLEY PROMOTIONS



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 to never give up.

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- excerpt from the
 Youth Salmon
 Warriors Statement

ColumbiaRiverSalmon.ca

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2023 CALENDAR FUNDRAISER FOR ICAN




2023 MONTHLY CALENDAR
 ICAN

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 THE ICAN SHLETER

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Spring Time Poetry

A Light Exists in Spring Emily Dickinson

A Light exists in Spring
Not present on the Year
At any other period -
When March is scarcely here

A Color stands abroad
On Solitary Fields
That Science cannot overtake
But Human Nature feels.

It waits upon the Lawn,
It shows the furthest Tree
Upon the furthest Slope you know
It almost speaks to you.

Then as Horizons step
Or Noons report away
Without the Formula of sound
It passes and we stay -

A quality of loss
Affecting our Content
As Trade had suddenly encroached
Upon a Sacrament.

Lines Written in Early Spring By William Wordsworth

Part I

Throughout the afternoon I watched them there,
Snow-fairies falling, falling from the sky,
Whirling fantastic in the misty air,
Contending fierce for space supremacy.
And they flew down a mightier force at night,
As though in heaven there was revolt and riot,
And they, frail things had taken panic flight
Down to the calm earth seeking peace and quiet.
I went to bed and rose at early dawn
To see them huddled together in a heap,
Each merged into the other upon the lawn,
Worn out by the sharp struggle, fast asleep.
The sun shone brightly on them half the day,
By night they stealthily had stol'n away.

Part II

And suddenly my thoughts then turned to you
Who came to me upon a winter's night,
When snow-sprites round my attic window flew,
Your hair disheveled, eyes aglow with light.
My heart was like the weather when you came,
The wanton winds were blowing loud and long;
But you, with joy and passion all aflame,
You danced and sang a lilting summer song.
I made room for you in my little bed,
Took covers from the closet fresh and warm,
A downful pillow for your scented head,
And lay down with you resting in my arm.
You went with Dawn. You left me ere the day,
The lonely actor of a dreamy play.



FAMILY SUPPORT
Institute of **BC**
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- Providing emotional support
- Guiding you to community resources
- Attending meetings with you; taking notes; debriefing afterwards
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Come learn more about FSI's model of support, their projects or even how to become a Resource Parent yourself!

FSI SUPPORTS AND SERVICES ARE FREE TO ANY FAMILY.

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WEDNESDAY
JAN 25
6:30PM

[Click here to register](#)

bpostmus@fsibc.com
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Open to Families
Support Staff
Educators in the
East Kootenay/
Columbia Valley.



FAMILY SUPPORT
Institute of **BC**
families supporting families

Toll Free: 1 800 441 5403
Email: fsi@fsibc.com
www.familysupportbc.com

Family Support Institute of BC (FSI) is a provincial not-for-profit society committed to supporting families who have a family member with a disability.

FSI is unique in Canada and the only grass roots family to family organization that has a broad volunteer base.

FSI SUPPORTS AND SERVICES ARE FREE TO ANY FAMILY.

VALLEY PROMOTIONS



Wall Hanging Art for Seniors!

January 18th, 2023
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
@ the Radium Library

Learn how to make a decorative wall hanging out of yarn!
Call 250-347-2434 to RSVP.



Radium Hot Springs Public Library

4863 Stanley St
Radium Hot Springs, British Columbia V0A 1M0 |
250-347-2434

<https://radium.bc.libraries.coop/>

GERMAN 'HEFEZOPF'

This German Hefezopf is perfect for Springtime baking: as it's still cold enough outside to enjoy being next to a warm oven, while the birds sing outside in the sunshine. I especially like seasonal baking for a special occasion. And the Easter Weekend is a very good one!

Ingredients

For the dough:

- 250ml cream
- 550g flour
- 1 sachet dried instant yeast (7g)
- 80g sugar
- 1 tbsp vanilla sugar
- a pinch of salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 egg white

For the filling:

- 200g ground almonds
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 50g cassonnade
- 3 tbsp rum (or water)
- 2 tbsp water
- 1 egg

apricot jam or quince jelly, to brush
pearl sugar, to decorate



Sourced German 'Hefezopf' traditional Easter cake ★ Anne's Kitchen [Anne's Kitchen \(anneskitchen.lu\)](http://anneskitchen.lu)

Directions

Prep: 25mins

- Resting time: 30mins
- Baking time: 35 mins
- Makes 2 loaves of 30cm

Heat the cream in a saucepan or microwave until it's warm to the touch but not too hot to burn yourself.

Put the flour, yeast, sugar, vanilla sugar and salt into a bowl and give it a stir. Add the cream and knead with the kneading attachment of a stand-alone mixer. Add the egg and egg white after a few seconds, then knead for 5 minutes.

Shape the dough into a ball and cover the bowl with a teatowel. Leave the dough to rise in a warm place for 1 hour.

Meanwhile, prepare the filling by mixing all the filling ingredients together in a bowl.

After 1 hour, turn the dough onto a flour-dusted work surface and roll into a rectangle approximately 40x35cm.

Spread the filling over the rectangle. Roll up the dough starting at the long side. Cut into two logs, then cut each log lengthwise into two, so that the filling is open.

Take two cut-open pieces and lay them on a baking tray lined with baking paper, twist them so that they look like a braid. Repeat with the remaining dough and put the second loaf next to the other on the same baking tray.

Cover the baking tray with a teatowel and leave to rest for another 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 160°C fan.

After 30 minutes, remove the teatowel and bake the loaves for 35 minutes.

Meanwhile, melt the apricot jam or quince jelly.

As soon as the loaves come out of the oven, brush the hot loaves with the melted jam or jelly and sprinkle with pearl sugar. Transfer onto a wire rack and leave to cool completely before serving.

RASPBERRY PEACH CHAMPAGNE COCKTAIL

Peach vodka, fresh raspberry syrup and champagne are combined to make this gorgeous Mother's Day Raspberry Peach Champagne Cocktail. Sweet, bubbly and full of fresh, fruity flavors, this is the perfect cocktail to serve at a Mother's Day brunch or any special occasion.

Ingredients

For the Raspberry Syrup (makes 1 1/4 cups/300ml) :

- 1 cup (200g) white sugar
- 1 cup (240ml) water
- 1 cup (125g) raspberries
- 10 dashes peach bitters (optional)
- For the Champagne Cocktail:
-
- 1 oz peach vodka (see notes if you don't have peach vodka)
- 3/4 cup (180ml) raspberry syrup
- 1 bottle of chilled champagne
- Raspberries to serve

Instructions

To make the raspberry syrup:

Put the sugar, water and raspberries in a small saucepan and bring to a boil on a medium heat.

One boiling, reduce to a simmer and simmer for 10 minutes. Stirring occasionally.

Remove from the heat and add the bitters, stir. Transfer to a jar or bottle and leave to cool. Can be stored in a sealed jar/bottle for up to 2 weeks in the fridge

To make the cocktail:

Set out 4 champagne coupe glasses (if using flutes, please see note)

Add 1/4 oz peach vodka to each glass
Add 1.5 oz/3 tbsp/45ml raspberry syrup to each glass

Top up with champagne

Add fresh raspberries to each glass

Serve straight away



Sourced at tipsygiraffe.com Raspberry Peach Champagne Cocktail - A Mother's Day Cocktail | A Tipsy [Ciraffe](https://www.ciraffe.com)



Cranbrook Radio Club Society

We are a not for profit society located in Cranbrook BC

About The Club

The club was designed to mentor new radio operators, on proper procedures for communication. Also to work with the community in case of an emergency like fire, flood or environmental emergency.

Join Now

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Facebook Page

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For more info Call

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Field Of Scope

- Mentorship and Training
- Financially viable projects
- Community Oriented
- Public Safety

Club Benefits

- Participation
- Networking with public
- Helping our community
- Enjoying the Hobby

Gamer's Corner

Elden Ring



Once in a while, a game comes along that effortlessly combines near flawless gameplay, a wonder filled world, incredible tone-setting music, and unique and stunning art direction.

This year that game is from Software's Elden Ring, this dark fantasy action RPG that channels the best aspects of the studio's last decade of work into one enormous package. This insanely ambitious open world captivated my curiosity, it stumped me with its puzzles, secrets, and mysteries. The game has served up unbelievably satisfying moments as I experienced one of the most extraordinary

adventures of all time. From my initial start into the world to the final moments, every step of the journey is a note in a personalized grand journey that kept me coming back for more. This trek through a dark and twisted fantasy is an endless exploration, continually serving up sensational sights that only get more enthralling and fantastic as the voyage goes on.

STORY

- -Elden Ring has a dark fantasy setting that takes place in the "Lands Between".
- Features many characters and lore hinted at in past Dark Souls games.
- But it's still primarily about combat, not talking to NPCs.

The Elden Ring world is full of discovery, and while a clear path forward exists is not always the most obvious, There are several online walkthroughs to help you plan your journey. Roaming the lands unfettered without a particular goal in mind often yields surprises, though more often than not those surprises will kill you if you're not prepared. Elden Ring is not a theme park-style open world where each ride is bolstered by breadcrumbs, so they won't be missed. There are significant areas, bosses, dungeons, and other huge revelations that can be passed by, making these finds even more delightful. Even after over 2 days of gameplay, I know that I've missed plenty cool sights. Instead of crying over what I haven't found, yet, I'm inspired to keep exploring. The grandiose world is chock-full of characters, quests, and various dungeon crawls ranging from tiny catacombs to massive multilayered tombs. While the journey starts with little caves, mines, and other smaller dungeons, these experiences become more complex and insanely harder to clear. Two-room affairs eventually become intricate teleport puzzles or scenarios where you discover unusual ways to interact with the environment, like learning to use traps for traversal or sniffing out secret walls.

Veterans of Software games will find themselves at home in Elden Ring quickly. The combat fundamentals are as strong as ever, while still meaning to be completely infuriating. You need to manage your stamina,

picking your moment to strike or dodge. Blindly attacking will leave you tired and vulnerable in the path of enemies who hit hard, slicing your health bar to nothing in just a few strikes. You want to make sure you are ready and blocking their attack or not in the path of their weapon at all.

Leveling up works pretty much the same way as it did in Dark Souls, tasking you to battle your way from checkpoint to checkpoint and spend your hard-earned experience points to level up as you do. The only difference is that experience points are now called Runes, rather than Souls, and the checkpoints are now called sites of grace, instead of bonfires.

Your character is incredibly customizable, which I found highly rewarding. You can attach various skills and scaling mechanics across the board, allowing you to truly create your own vision of a traveling hero. Re specialization and alterations allow you to finely tweak your creation without worrying too much about experimentation along the way as you arm yourself with everything from explosive pots to potent perfumes to complement your ever-growing arsenal. Combat will vary greatly from player to player and build to build, but the precise dance of melee combat is more refined and diverse than ever.

You can now even bring summonable monsters to battles, Pokemon style, called Spirit ashes. Underneath all of Elden Ring's lore and world design, there's a simple joy to smashing enemies with a big sword underneath or cutting them to pieces with your Whips of doom.



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Mansion of Evil

Netflix's Wednesday



'Wednesday' review: Netflix Addams Family spinoff is Dark, Spooky and all sorts of kooky.

There is only one thing to keep in mind before watching Netflix's Addams Family, it's to expect the unexpected. Yes, the look - pigtails, pale skin, pinstripes - is similar to the '90s classic. Yes, she remains po-faced and prickly. Yes, it's still set in a creepy mansion. But dip a toe beyond the first few episodes, and you'll find a very different Wednesday to the one we've come to know.

It all starts with a long car journey. Our queen of mean is in serious trouble after setting killer piranhas on some school bullies, costing them their lives. As a result, she's being packed off to Nevermore academy in the mountains.

Nevermore Academy is the alma mater of her mother, Morticia (Catherine Zeta-Jones), and father, Gomez (Luis Guzmán). Its curriculum is designed for outcasts, creeps and monsters, and the student body is filled with cliques of vampires, werewolves and sirens. But even they're freaked out by Wednesday's cadaver-white skin and all-black uniform. "Wednesday always looks half-dead," explains Gomez. "Please excuse Wednesday. She's allergic to color," adds Morticia. The school's suspiciously cheerful Principal Weems (Gwendoline Christie) has no intention of going easy on Wednesday.

Ortega kills as the prodigal teen who'd rather hang out in a crypt than a club. She embodies Wednesday with her flat affectation and utter disdain for her peers and life. Her goth inspired, zombie-like moves at the school dance to the tune of the Cramps' "Goo Goo Muck" – with a deadly straight face, nonetheless created one of the top television most iconic moments of the year.

The black hearted heroine is sadistic, fearless and full of awesome sardonic one-liners. When describing how she's plagued by visions, Wednesday says, "They come on without warning and feel like electroshock therapy, but without the satisfying after burn." She doesn't have an Insta or TikTok account because she finds "social media to be a soul-sucking void of meaningless affirmation." And when her flamboyantly perky new roomie Enid (Emma Myers) gives her a tour of the school's social scene, Wednesday makes it clear that she's not interested in "tribal adolescent clichés." (You will love Myers' performance and character by the time the series is done.) Wednesday puts her inherent distrust of humankind to use when a mysterious creature with ties to the school starts killing off students and townsfolk. Like a gothic Nancy Drew, she relies on her powers of deduction – and the occasional torture session – to solve the mystery.

Christina Ricci, who played Wednesday in the 1991 film "The Addams Family" and its 1993 sequel, "Addams Family Values," is Nevermore's academy "normie" teacher, Ms. Thornhill. She doesn't have morphing skills or powers like the others. Her passion for teaching botany is what brought her to the school? You get the feeling pretty quickly she is not exactly what she seems.

Gimmicky callbacks to the films and the 1964 TV series are rare and strategically deployed in this iteration of the franchise. Two snaps of the finger unlock the door to a secret

society's lair, and Lurch's catchphrase, "You rang?," only surfaces once and with perfect timing.

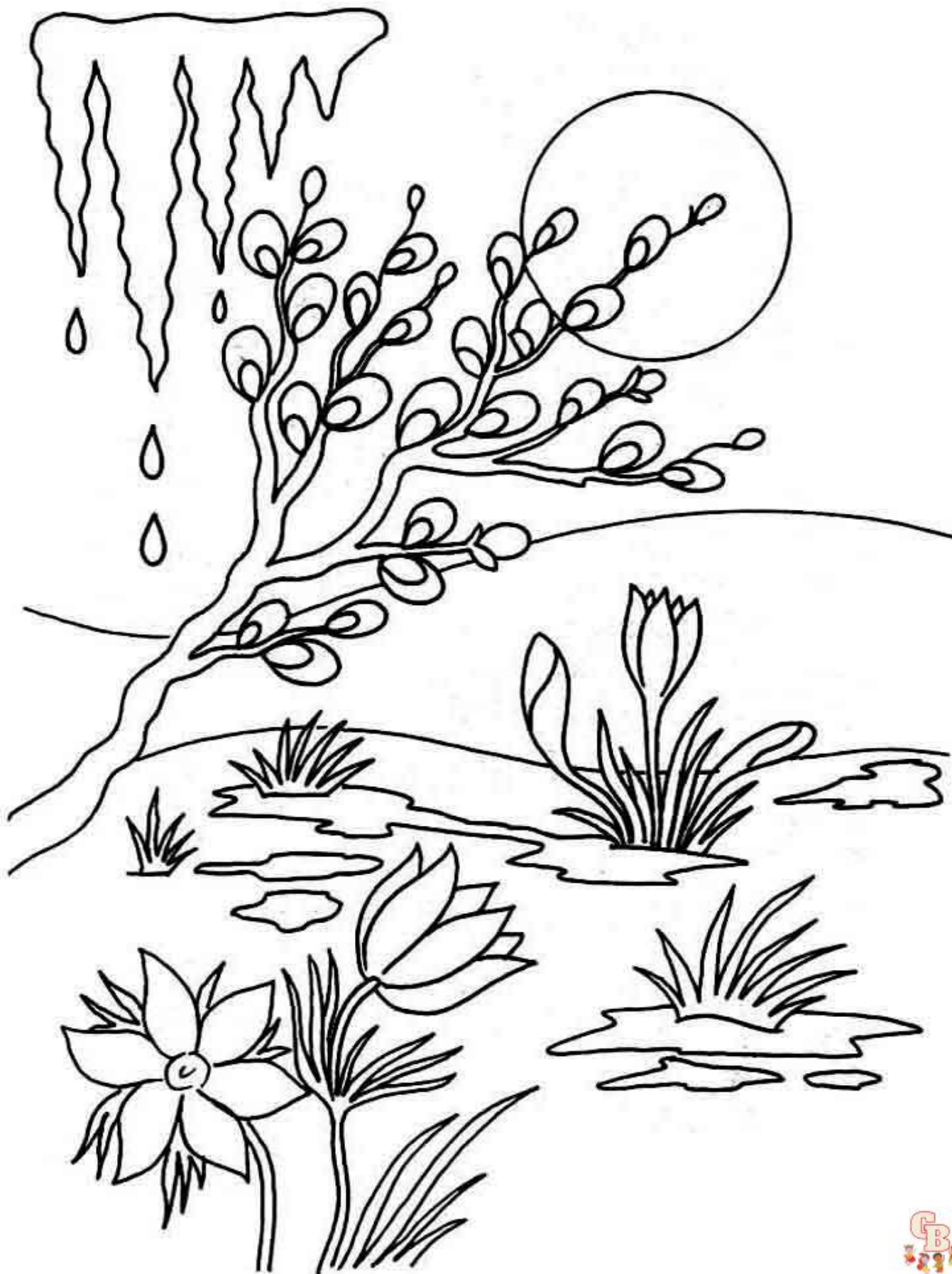
Thing, the creepy little hand with the loyalty and tenacity of a mastiff is the Watson to Wednesday's Sherlock. Thing's Expressions of shame, alarm and dejection are a full-bodied performance thanks to the wonders of CGI. Wednesday interrogates Thing when she discovers it hiding in her dorm room on the first day of school. "Mother and Father sent you to spy on me, didn't they?" He signals "no" with the wag of a digit. "I'm not above breaking a few fingers," she warns. Thing quakes, then quickly explains in sign language that it's there for her own good. "Oh, Thing, you poor, naive appendage," she says mockingly.

As much as Wednesday is an absorbing murder mystery, it's also very much a coming-of-age story. The series puts a modern twist on a classic character, portraying even more of Wednesday's quirks and nuances. Ortega is an absolute delight in the role, channeling Wednesday's deadpan humor and morbid interest in death effortlessly.

Burton's preferences and style are all over this irresistibly quirky, sardonic series. Nevermore Academy is a beautifully ghoulish place, replete with gargoyles and spires, while the small historic town of Jericho outside draws tourists in with a cheesy re-creation of a Pilgrim village. The mix of witch-burning artifacts and kitsch fudge stands is a Burton playground.

There's always a fine line when messing with a beloved pop culture institution like "The Addams Family," but "Wednesday" is brilliant on every level. Its namesake doesn't have to worry about her reputation being sullied.

Not like she'd ever care what we think anyway.



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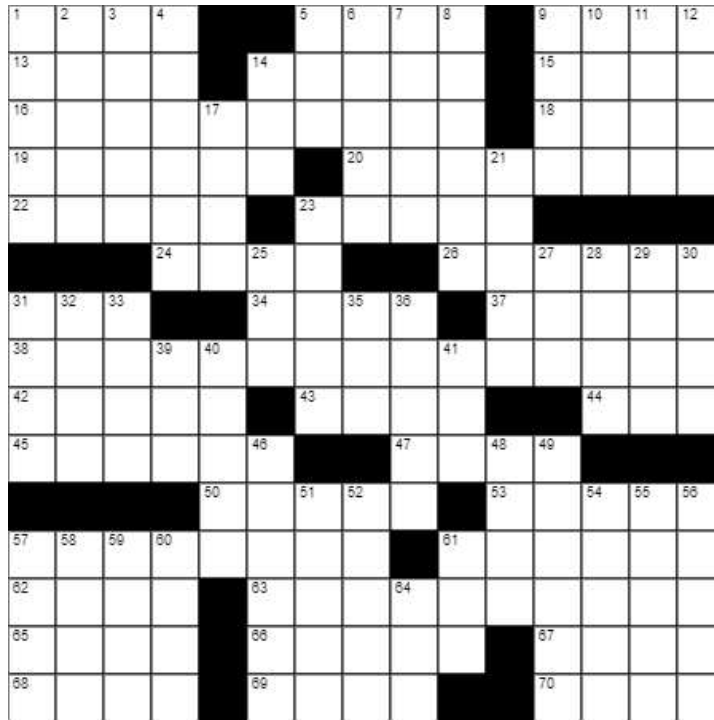
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Early Spring

A LITTLE FUN

Across

1- Swindle; 5- Sincere; 9- Settled down; 13- Killer whale; 14- Gal's guy; 15- Ballot choice; 16- Sequence; 18- Are you ___ out?; 19- Body art; 20- Particular time; 22- Loose coil of yarn; 23- Eight Days ___; 24- Footfall; 26- Surrender by deed; 31- First name in Notre Dame football; 34- Earthbound bird; 37- Towering; 38- One recording the past; 42- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 43- Remove from text; 44- Nationality suffix; 45- Assaults; 47- Prophetic sign; 50- Equip; 53- Constructed; 57- Rulers; 61- Stevedore; 62- One with no capacity for veracity; 63- Laugh loudly; 65- Pass over; 66- Collect; 67- Bok ___; 68- Hawaiian goose; 69- Sharp to the taste; 70- Seemingly forever;



Down

1- Out of ___; 2- Frog sound; 3- Sharp; 4- Predaceous insect; 5- Stutz contemporary; 6- Arm joint; 7- Wonderland girl; 8- Cavalryman; 9- Thrifty competitor; 10- Burt's ex; 11- Langston Hughes poem; 12- Small gull; 14- To's partner; 17- "___ you dare!"; 21- Pack leader; 23- Garden pest; 25- Be human; 27- Cleaning implement; 28- "___ Walked Into My Life" (song from "Mame"); 29- Canonized Fr. women; 30- Bronte heroine; 31- Gregory Peck role of 1956; 32- Travel on; 33- Warts and all; 35- Fair-hiring abbr.; 36- Beaming; 39- Driving peg; 40- External; 41- "Everybody Hurts" band; 46- Winter vehicle; 48- Black, in poetry; 49- Subtlety; 51- Stage play; 52- Academy award; 54- Boise's state; 55- Admit; 56- Low cards; 57- North Carolina university; 58- Jester; 59- Physical suffering; 60- Romain de Tiroff, familiarly; 61- Fleur-de-___; 64- DDE's predecessor;

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