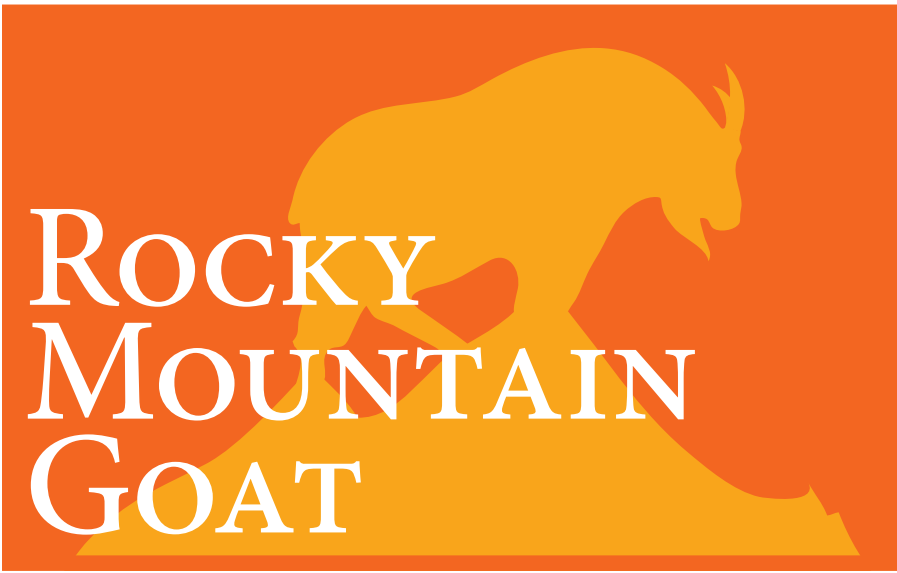




Local stock dog & handler win big P15



Your weekly source of news, views and entertainment

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Beaver River Wildfire



After a long day of attack from BC Wildfire, the south east side of the Beaver Mountain fire near McBride flared up and took off towards King Creek/Nevin Creek. Sources say the fire jumped the creek, but then switched directions and headed back up the mountain. This photo was taken between 10 and 10:30 p.m. Sunday July 21, 2024. For more wildfire photos and information, please see pages 8-9./ANDREA ARNOLD

“There was no notice” Jasper evacuated late Monday evening

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Thousands of evacuees from the Town of Jasper and Jasper National Park wound up in Valemount late Monday night and early Tuesday morning after the area was ordered to evacuate at 10 p.m. MT (9 p.m. PDT), just 90 minutes after the Municipality of Jasper issued an evacuation alert.

Evacuees went west on Highway 16, and eventually crowded into Valemount’s Community Hall, where a welcome centre with water and public washrooms had been established.

Jasper residents Dorothy and David Marquis told The Goat it was the first time they’d been evacuated after living in the town for 40 years.

“This was just crazy. There was no notice,” Dorothy said. “There was a notice that there was a severe thunderstorm in Jasper, that’s all we heard. And then next thing we knew, we were under alert, and then we were out. If you weren’t ready to go, you just left.”

Dorothy said she was only prepared to evacuate because a neighbour who worked for the Municipality of Jasper advised her to pack her car before the evacuation alert was issued. She was particularly frustrated because her husband, David, has mobility issues and would have struggled to leave on shorter notice.

This was the second evacuation that Hunter Chateau, a summer student working at Jasper National Park, has been through. Last year, she had to evacuate her hometown of Grande Prairie, Alberta – this time around, she felt more prepared.

“This one was much more organized. There was actually time, and people actually put in the effort to notify residents,” Chateau said. “From experience with that last one, and having family and friends go through it, I was already packing two days before the evacuation.”

Not everyone was as prepared as Chateau. Teresa and Douglas Wright, who were visiting Jasper National Park from California, were unable to return to their trailer in time to collect their things.

The Wrights had just driven into the Town of Jasper after spending

CONT'D ON P4

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The big one

13-year old fisherman Mateo was just having some fun as he cast out into the Fraser River while enjoying the hot weather with his family. He didn't use any special equipment and within moments he was fighting a monster on the other end of his line. His aunt, local avid fisherman, Katharina McNaughton helped net the 23-27 pound sturgeon, but Mateo did the reeling. They figure it to be about 47 inches long. McNaughton says that puts it at about 12 years old. After a quick photo shoot, the fish was sent on his way with a thank you from Mateo. Specifics of equipment and location are not to be shared as a true fisherman keeps secrets. /SUBMITTED



The western tiger swallowtail has a wingspan that is up to 10 cm. The butterfly is bright yellow with four distinct black-striped markings mainly on its upper wings. The wings are edged in black and the longest black stripes on the butterfly are on the inner parts of the wings nearest to the insect's body. It feeds on the nectar of wild cherry, wild iris, wood lily, clovers, thistles, milkweeds, and lilacs. Look for it in deciduous mixed woodlands, forest edges, along streams and rivers, and in flower gardens. / SANDRA JAMES

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Nature Trust acquires old-growth forest north of McBride

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

The Nature Trust of B.C., a Vancouver-based nonprofit land conservation organization, recently purchased 76.9 hectares of land north of McBride to protect the area’s old-growth forests. The Old Growth Nature Fund – administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada as well as the B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship – contributed about \$370,000 to the purchase, which totalled a little over \$840,000, according to a press release from the Province.

The Nature Trust purchases private property, turning it into land available for public access, according to their website. That land is managed by a Trust employee, who undertakes conservation efforts such as removing invasive plants and prescribed burning.

The Trust has been eyeing the Loos property – comprising three parcels of land about halfway between McBride and Crescent Spur – for years, says Carleton MacNaughton, the Trust’s Interior and Coastal Mainland Conservation Land Manager. The Trust acquires private land throughout the province to conserve at-risk species and ecosystems.

“We try and concentrate on where we can make a big difference for conservation of species at risk, and common species as well, across the landscape,” MacNaughton told The Goat in an interview. “We have to find the best bang for our buck to get that done with limited nonprofit resources.”

While specific plans for the property have yet to be announced, the Trust’s acquisition ensures that the area will be preserved from logging in the future.

The previous owners of the Loos property had supported the Trust for over twenty years before the acquisition, and had expressed a desire to have the land preserved by the Trust, according to MacNaughton. So, when the Province signed the Old Growth Nature Fund agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Trust jumped at the opportunity to apply.

“We were really excited when the Old Growth Nature Fund was announced. We thought, ‘We’ve got just the property in mind,’ a beautiful piece of land in Crescent Spur with some extremely old-growth cedar trees on it, over a thousand years old,” MacNaughton said. “What a perfect spot to try and merge our mission with that of the federal government and the provincial government.”

He added, “It’s so rare to find (ancient forests) intact, and for the most part unlogged. The fact that they still remain is wonderful, and if we can protect that forever, that’s just fantastic.”

MacNaughton said he was unable to put The Goat in contact with the previous landowners due to privacy reasons, but the purchase has given them peace of mind, according to him.

“It was a real win for the vision of those previous landowners too,” he said. “It’s now secured in perpetuity, they don’t have to worry anymore.”

The Loos acquisition is the latest in a string of the Trust’s conservation

efforts near the Fraser River and Robson Valley. In 2022, the Trust acquired the Meteor Lake Wetland, northeast of Prince George, and it recently acquired Cranberry Marsh-West, adjacent to the Cranberry Marsh/Starratt Wildlife Management Area in Valemount.

“I’ve been particularly trying to focus on the Robson Valley over the last few years. It’s such a special spot: the furthest-inland interior temperate rainforest you can get in the world. We’re really excited to get a few acquisitions in the area,” MacNaughton said.

MacNaughton says people who are interested in supporting the Trust can make donations on the organization’s website, naturetrust.bc.ca, and they can contact the Trust to discuss donating land.

MacNaughton hopes to continue his work in the Robson Valley.

“I’m so happy that the Robson Valley and the Omineca region in general is getting the attention that it deserves. It’s such a special place.”



FIRE BAN

Province-wide campfire prohibition has taken effect, with the exception of Haida Gwaii Forest District. For more information, please visit: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfires/prevention/fire-bans-and-restrictions/prince-ge-fire-centre-bans>.

Village follows provincial prohibitions and residents reminded, in addition to avoiding campfires, to remove sources of dry fuel from yards. Branches and yard waste can be disposed of at the transfer station.

Village Updates

The Village of Valemount is happy to announce the upcoming launch of our Clean Air website on July 22, 2024. The new site is dedicated to promoting cleaner air with valuable resources, actionable tips and community initiatives aimed at improving air quality in the valley. To access the new platform, please visit our website at www.valemount.ca, and click on the “Clean Air Website” button on the main page.

The new stop lines painted on Main Street are in preparation for the change in traffic pattern coming in September. Please watch for traffic signs and follow the directions accordingly.



PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

2025 Permissive Tax Exemption Applications

Section 224 of the Community Charter gives Council the authority to exempt certain land and/or improvements from municipal property taxes. Council considers Permissive Tax Exemptions for non-profit organizations that contribute to the well-being of Village residents, make improvements to the quality of life for residents, and/or are an extension of Village Services.

A new application must be completed every year and must be accompanied by all required documentation. The deadline for applications to be received by the Tax Office is **July 31st, 2024**.

To be eligible for a permissive tax exemption, an organization must comply with the guidelines and be approved by Council.

Applications are now available at our office located at 735 Cranberry Lake Road or online www.valemount.ca.

Outstanding Property Taxes

Did you remember to apply for your Home Owners Grant? If you still have outstanding property taxes, please call the Village Office at 250-566-4435.

www.valemount.ca

Valemount Museum Children’s Program

The Valemount Museum is offering a summer program for children between the ages of 6 and 12, with the activities, crafts, games and more. This program runs from July 12th to August 23rd, every Friday from 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

Sign up at the Museum, 1090 Main Street, or email museum@valemount.ca.



Swimming Pool Regulations

There are some things to consider before constructing a swimming pool within the Village of Valemount. First, the conditions for Accessory Buildings in the Zoning Bylaw also apply to outdoor swimming pools, except that a swimming pool cannot be located within any front yard. Also, the swimming pool may not be located closer than 10 metres from your principal building, or property line. Because a swimming pool is treated as an Accessory Building, a building permit may be required before constructing a pool larger than 10 square metres. Both the Building Bylaw and the Zoning Bylaw contain requirements to locate the pool within a fenced yard or be surrounded by a fence or equivalent barrier of not less than 1.83 metres and has a gate closure and a latch.

For more information, please contact the Village of Valemount at 250-566-4435, or via email bylaw@valemount.ca.



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Jasper Evacuation

Cont'd from P1

the afternoon driving through the park when they got the evacuation alert. It caught them off-guard, Teresa said.

“Earlier I had called the visitors centre, and I said, ‘How do we know if there’s a fire? It’s getting awfully smoky over here.’ She said it was smoke coming from Washington, there was one small little fire but they had it under control.”

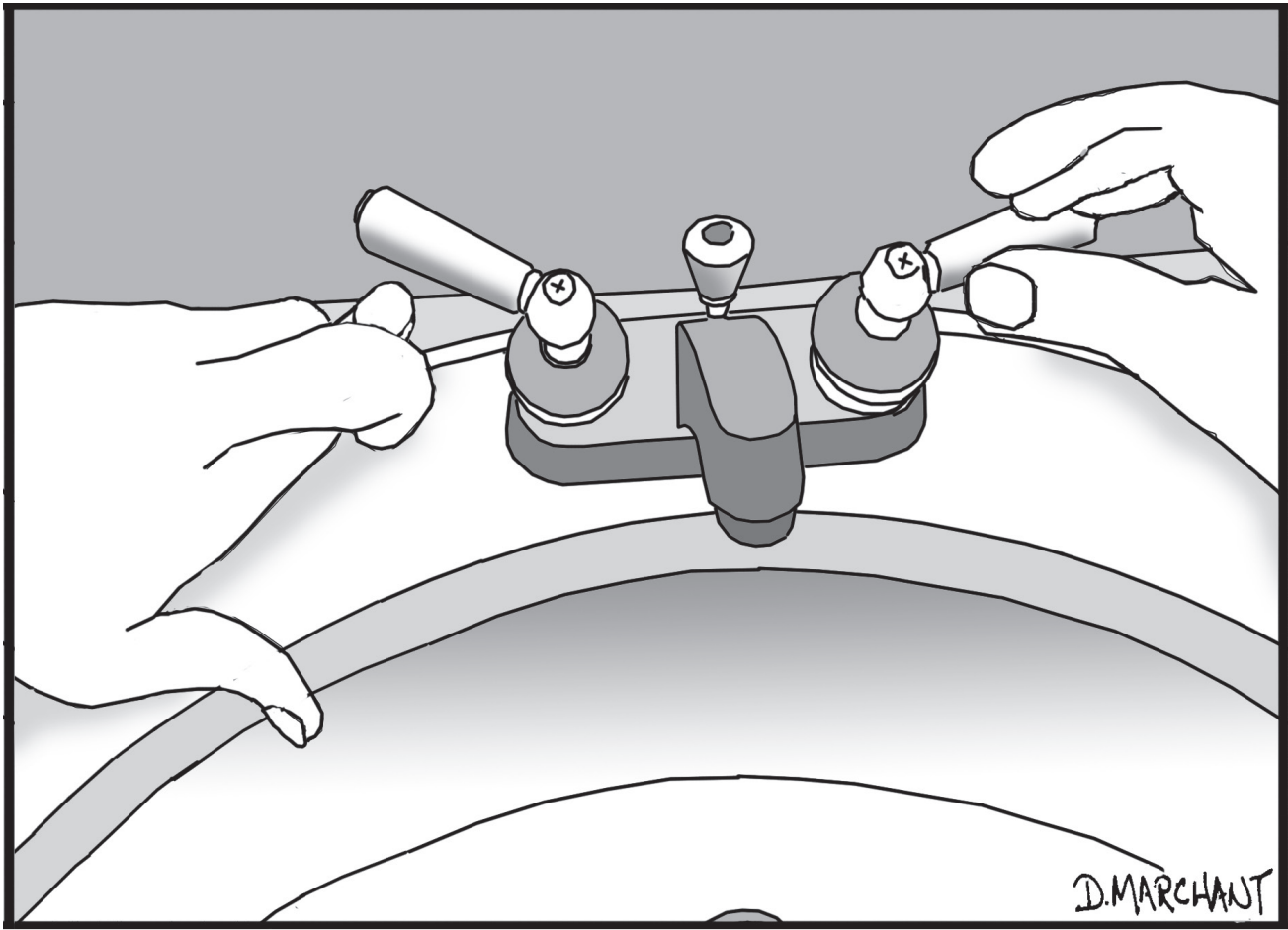
Once they got notice of the evacuation order, the Wrights tried to return to their trailer in Wapiti Campground, but were told they couldn’t drive back into the park. Someone who was managing traffic control at the park advised them to head west.

Word about Valemount’s welcome centre spread through Facebook and the hospitality industry in a hectic game of telephone. Chateau had friends who sent her Facebook posts about the village’s community hall, while the Wrights were instructed to go to the community hall when they tried to book a hotel in town.

“I’m feeling much better now that I’m not in a car following the convoy. I understand that’s what everybody had to do, but it’s nice to be out,” Chateau said. “I’m just praying for everybody to make it out safe, and wishing the firefighters all the best.”



The first of the Jasper evacuees line up at the Emergency Support Services Centre in the Valemount Community Hall. /ABIGAIL POPPLE



I LIKED SUMMER BETTER WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE TO CROSS MY FINGERS EVERY TIME I TURNED ON THE WATER.

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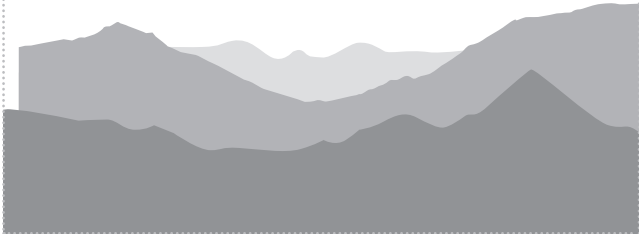
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REGULAR
CONTRIBUTORS:
David Marchant
Sandra James
Leon Lorenz
Rachel Fraser



Spencer Hall
Editor & Owner
goatnewspaper@gmail.com



Laura Keil
Sales & Design
ads@goatnewsmedia.com



Andrea Arnold
Associate Editor & Reporter
ajareporting29@gmail.com



Abigail Popple
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
abigailpopple@protonmail.com



Deanna Mickelow
Feature Sales
dmickelow@gmail.com

Hwy 5 closure kept travelers in Valemount overnight


By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

Hundreds of travelers heading south found themselves in Valemount for an extended period of time last Thursday following a fatal accident that closed a 13.1 kilometre stretch of Highway 5. Travelers who spoke with The Goat were frustrated with the lack of an easily-accessible detour. Cam Wild, who was stopped on his journey from Edmonton to Kamloops along with his wife, was unsure of whether to stay in Valemount and wait out the closure. “We’re debating about whether to just go to Prince George, and then south, but that’s nine hours to Kamloops,” he said. Wild hadn’t checked BC Drive – the website with information on road hazards and closures in B.C. – before leaving

early in the morning, but he wasn’t sure it would have made a difference. “Even when we did check it online, it doesn’t tell you anything other than that the road is shut. It doesn’t say how long it’s been. It says it’s being investigated, but that’s it,” Wild said. Steve Game, on a visit to western Canada from the U.K., was likewise stopped during his road trip to Kamloops. “We left Jasper this morning nice and early and got down to the first roadblock,” Game said. “We turned around, came back here and stocked up on groceries and refueled. We’ll sit here until it’s open.” Neither Wild nor Game responded to a follow-up email asking how long they stayed in Valemount due to the closure. Commercial truck drivers faced their own sets of difficulties from the closure. Hargun Preet, a Saskatchewan-based

truck driver en route to Richmond, decided to stay overnight. According to Preet, the federally-mandated electronic driving logs automatically record the amount of time a truck is driving, and are used to enforce a mandatory eight consecutive hours of rest daily. Extra time spent idling in traffic cut down on the remaining 16 hours allotted to drivers, meaning many truck drivers had to stay in Valemount overnight, he told The Goat. “For other people in traffic, it’s like a six-hour delay. But for me, it’s gonna cost like two days of my weekend here,” he said. Delays caused by vehicle incidents are common in Preet’s experience. “It’s just part of trucking,” he said. “They take too much time to clear the roads. It happens everywhere. In Calgary, where they have bigger highways, the same situation goes on up there, they take

multiple hours to clear the roads.” Pete Pearson, a Valemount Councillor and president of the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway Association – an organization that advocates for various improvements to highway infrastructure – took the incident as a reminder of the importance of safe highways. “As President of the TCYHA I extend our thoughts and prayers to those involved and their families,” he wrote in an email to The Goat. “Today’s very serious incident emphasizes the need for improved transportation infrastructure on our highways. Adding more passing lanes on both Highway 5 and Highway 16 will allow for safer travel for local, tourist and commercial traffic.” “Education and enhanced enforcement don’t seem to be reducing the tragic numbers of lives lost on our highways,” he added.



About Letters to the Editor

The Goat welcomes all letters to the editor and values diverse opinions in our newspaper. Letters should address something that appeared in the newspaper or a current event. Recommended letter length is 400 words or less due to space constraints. Longer letters may be rejected or the author asked to reduce the length. The Goat formats letters and grammar according to Canadian Press style. No substantive changes are made without the author's approval. Letters are reviewed for clarity and libel, but are not fact checked and may contain errors or misleading statements. Letters must be submitted with a phone number for verification purposes and the location of the author, but only the name of the author and location will be published. We may publish anonymous letters when they are in the public interest. Write to us! goatnewspaper@gmail.com. We ALWAYS confirm receipt of letters. If you have not received a reply from us, please call us at 250-566-4606 so we can make sure we receive it. Our letters deadline is Sunday 5pm the week of publication. Letters received after our deadline may still be included if space is available, otherwise they will be bumped to the following week.

Global Thoughts

FGM and the Need for Islamic Scholars

By Gwynne Dyer



Gwynne Dyer is a Canadian-born independent journalist whose column is published in more than 175 papers in 45 countries.

There was a small victory in The Gambia this week, when a proposed law to legalise female genital mutilation (FGM) was defeated by human rights campaigners. It was a quite small victory, however, because the great majority of little girls in The Gambia are still being mutilated by the professional ‘cutters’ who move from village to village. The World Health Organisation estimates that about 230 million women and girls have undergone this traditional procedure, in which at least the clitoris but often also the inner and outer labia are cut away by a knife or razor, usually without anaesthetics, antiseptics or antibiotics. Infections, some of them fatal, are commonplace. Most girls are ‘circumcised’ in this way in Egypt, Sudan and the Horn of Africa, in the Muslim countries of West Africa, and in Indonesia, usually under the age of five. It is less common in the eastern Arab countries (e.g. Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen), and rare in Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, but the victims are overwhelmingly Muslims. So are the perpetrators. This poses a real problem for the anti-FGM campaigners, because most of the people who do this to their girl children are convinced that it is an Islamic practice, or even a religious obligation. It particularly appeals to men who are obsessed about female ‘chastity’,

because it takes the fun out of sex for women, including even masturbation. These attitudes are common even in the farthest reaches of the Islamic world, like the Muslim-minority parts of Russia. When a 2016 report revealed that the practice is widespread in the mountain villages of Karachayevo-Cherkessia, for example, Ismail Berdiyev, the Mufti of North Caucasus, declared: “All women should be cut, so that there is no depravity on earth...” But there’s more to the story than just misogynistic men and weaponised religion. FGM is at least a thousand years older than Islam – it has been found in the mummies of upper-class Egyptian women from 500 BCE – and it is still widespread (over 50%) among both Coptic Christians in Egypt and Orthodox and Protestant Christians in Ethiopia. As Sada Mire, an archaeologist of Somali origin and a survivor of FGM, wrote in ‘The Guardian’ four years ago, “FGM was most likely originally meant as a collective human sacrifice to the gods to avoid a curse from the ancestors.” “These beliefs were strong and deep-rooted enough to survive first Christianity and then Islam – religions which acknowledged its “cultural” value and simply aligned it with their own concepts of chastity and virginity.”

You can’t get much more deeply rooted than that, so it was no real surprise when the (overwhelmingly male) legislators of The Gambia voted to repeal the 2015 law banning FGM in the country. Most Muslim clerics approved, and the fact that 73% of Gambian women and girls have been cut made no difference: older women are the main enforcers of this custom. When the Gambian parliament voted on Monday to maintain the ban on FGM, the members were yielding to the protests of an educated minority at home and of horrified onlookers in other countries. Most Gambians still believe that it is an Islamic religious obligation. So here is what Islamic religious scholars say on the subject. There is no mention of female circumcision in the Holy Quran, and only five hadiths (reports of what Mohammed actually said) refer to it. None of them states that it is a religious duty. Why do the hadiths mention it at all? “It is as if Islam deemed it necessary to regulate this practice which was already performed by the Arabs prior to the advent of Islam,” suggests Egyptian Islamist scholar Dr. Mohamed Selim Al-Awa, founding General Secretary of the International Union of Islamic Scholars. I am no fan of organised religion, but what the world needs now is more and better Islamic scholars.



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Canada

BC Parks doesn't expect damage to park boardwalk due to wildfire

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

BC Wildfire Service has been battling fires in the Ancient Forest/ Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park, home to some of the oldest cedar stands and rarest lichen species in the province since July 12th. As of writing on June 22nd, [TK latest updates]

The fire is unlikely to impact the boardwalk trails within the park, according to a statement BC Parks sent to The Goat last Thursday. "Fire is a natural ecosystem process. It is rare for a fire to occur in the type of forest in this park, but it can happen," the statement reads. "The current fire location is not currently impacting the boardwalk trails at the park."

The park is jointly managed by BC Parks and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. While infrastructure such as the boardwalk and interpretive trail signs are not currently threatened by the fire, if any infrastructure does need to be replaced, BC Parks and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation will

work together to determine the best funding source, according to the statement.

The Goat reached out to Lheidli T'enneh First Nation for comment, but could not arrange an interview by presstime.

Fire in the forest's ancient cedar stands could be devastating, says Darwyn Coxson, a professor in the Ecosystem Science and Management Program at the University of Northern British Columbia. Coxson has been conducting research in the area for roughly 20 years, documenting rare species of lichen and plants. His research on the park's unique biodiversity contributed to the Province's decision to designate the area as a provincial park in 2016.

In an interview with The Goat, Coxson said the forest's iconic cedar stands – some of which include trees that are over 1,000 years old – are not currently threatened by the fire. "Where the fire is currently burning, I'm not as concerned about losses to biodiversity because those species are represented elsewhere (in the park)," Coxson said. "But I am

extremely worried that the fire sits quite close to many of the unique ancient forest stands for species that would be at real risk of being lost. So I'm holding my breath."

According to Coxson, part of what makes the park's ecosystem so unique is that the ancient trees provide a stable place for different lichen species to grow. "Many of the older trees are over a thousand years of age, and with that long site continuity we've seen the accumulation of a lot of rare species, particularly rare lichen species that are usually found in B.C.'s coastal temperate rainforest."

If the forest does suffer wildfire damage, plants can grow anew – but they may not resemble today's iconic old-growth forest, which supports lichen that rely on the cedar stands, Coxson added.

"The areas in the ecosystem that burn will of course recover. A well-defined sequence of species will come in: blueberries, raspberries, a lot of sorrel species," he said. "But the real loss in the Ancient Forest Park would be many of these species that need a really old forest set."

Drones: Illegal during wildfires

By ANDREA ARNOLD

McBride RCMP would like to remind residents that flying a drone during a wildfire could cost you more than a bit of time and battery power.

According to the Government of BC website, the operation of any aircraft not associated with wildfire suppression near a wildfire is illegal. This refers to all aircraft including unmanned aerial vehicles and drones.

All wildfires are considered to be flight restricted areas. This is not only referring to the airspace within the immediate area, but a full five nautical mile (nine and a quarter kilometre) radius from its perimeter.

Individuals interfering with wildfire control efforts in any manner can face penalties up to \$100,000 and/ or one year in jail.

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Simpcw First Nation, Thompson-Nicola Regional District sign Memorandum of Understanding

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Simpcw First Nation and the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) last week, committing representatives from both communities to meet at least twice a year.

Simpcw First Nation drafted and signed a similar MOU with the Village of Valemount in March. In an interview with The Goat, Simpcw First Nation Councillor Tina Donald said these agreements are a valuable tool for strengthening relationships with other governments.

"Through MOUs, we commit to meeting on a regular basis. So if we have a project in the future, this is the time and place that we can sit down and talk," Donald said. "It also gives an avenue to call up someone at TNRD if we have a question. It's creating those relationships and creating a strong bond and partnerships within our territory."

The MOU has been in the works for several months, according to Donald. She hopes the agreement will cement the collaborative relationship that Simpcw First Nation and the TNRD already have, she said.

"We're working together for the benefit of our territory, and for the communities outside," Donald said. "Wanting to work together, that's what Simpcw is all about. It's about creating partnerships."

Lee Onslow – TNRD Director of Electoral Area B, which encompasses Blue River – echoed these sentiments.

Drafting the MOU with Simpcw First Nation was the first step in strengthening their relationship, she said.

"It was really nice to be at the table with Simpcw First Nation and elected officials from TNRD," Onslow told The Goat. "I think as we get to know each other more closely and work closer on initiatives that will benefit all of the residents in the valley, the communication we have from signing this MOU will be a huge benefit to everybody. It opens the avenue of communication in a really thoughtful way."

Onslow said under the MOU, Simpcw First Nation and TNRD can work as a united front when communicating with the Province – including on advocacy for Blue River residents.

"Some of the main things we've spoken about, and have already been working with Simpcw First Nation on, is advocating for Highway 5 safety and more police enforcement," Onslow said. "That combined voice of elected officials will ultimately benefit everybody in the valley. And in Blue River itself, when we talk about healthcare and other initiatives, the voice of Simpcw First Nation will help us get better access to healthcare."

"We are all part of this valley, we are all advocating together for healthcare access within the valley."



TNRD Board Chair Barbara Roden and Simpcw Councillor Alison Green were among the representatives who signed the memorandum of understanding last week. The agreement commits both governments to meeting at least twice a year, and establishes a contact person for each government if they need to communicate in the meantime. /THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT

How to prepare livestock for wildfire season

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

For those who raise livestock, the responsibilities of keeping humans and animals on their property safe during wildfires can be overwhelming. To learn how producers should prepare for wildfires, The Goat spoke with local and regional officials on best practices for people who keep livestock.

Planning Ahead

“Emergency planning for individual farms is the responsibility of the producer,” said Kenna Jonkman, General Manager of Community and Development Services for the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. “Producers are encouraged to have a plan for transportation, housing and feed for their animals as support may not be immediately available during an emergency.”

She added that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has a number of web pages available for producers preparing for wildfire. These include an evacuation preparation checklist, a factsheet on preparing for livestock relocation, and specific guides for pork, beef, and dairy producers.

These resources comprise the first two of the Province’s four “pillars of emergency management,” says the Ministry’s Director of Emergency Management, Graham Knox. While local governments are responsible for handling in-the-moment logistics for evacuations and emergencies, the Province works to support producers in the mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from emergencies, Knox told The Goat.

“We want people to think about the types of hazards and the risks that may affect them and their animals in the area of the province where they live,” he said. “For example, we’re really encouraging farmers and ranchers to FireSmart their property to reduce their risks... And for hazardous materials like diesel, pesticides, and fertilizers, we want to make sure they’ve made the best possible decision on where to store those things on their property and minimize their risk to themselves and the risks to the environment and their animals.”

Knox added that producers can use the aforementioned emergency planning guides to draft a plan unique to their operation’s needs. He encourages producers to familiarize their staff with the plan, and test the plan regularly to ensure it can be implemented as smoothly as possible during an emergency.

Both Jonkman and Knox remind producers to register with Premises ID. This free, mandatory program has producers add any geographic location on their property which has livestock on it – from abattoirs to feedlots – to a province-wide registry of information on animals’ locations, the types of animals on an operation, and how to contact the individuals responsible for those animals.

“We strictly use it for emergency purposes. We share it with partners such as the local authority, First Nation, partner ministries and federal partners only on a need-to-know basis,” Knox said.

While the program was initially designed to help track the spread of disease, it has proven a useful tool for natural disasters, according to Knox.

“The system is an amazing resource for us to plan and prepare. For instance, a local authority with an area highly at risk of wildfire or flooding can request access, and they can make conversations with those producers and understand what their plan is,” Knox said.

Finally, Knox suggests reaching out to other producers to act as a “buddy farm” where producer’s can house one another’s livestock when necessary.

“You want to make these arrangements before an emergency occurs, so that you know exactly where you’re going to take your animals if you have to leave in short order,” he said.

Even the best-laid plans go awry

Knox said producers should also consider the worst-case scenario: leaving animals behind in the event of a rapidly-unfolding disaster. Producers can leave feed and water for their animals before evacuating, and in some cases can set their animals loose – though Knox advises against doing this if it creates a public safety risk, such as large livestock blocking a highway that locals may use as an escape route.

“Another thing folks can do before leaving a property is to leave information at the property line or the gate for first responders,” he said. “Put together a little map of your operation that shows where the key hazards are, where the animals are if you’ve had to leave them behind, and any alternative access for the first responders to get into that property.”

This step can help first responders identify which buildings are the most defensible during a fire, and they may be able to get feed and water to animals as well, he added.

Keeping in touch with local authorities

During and after an emergency, local authorities – municipalities, First Nations, and Regional Districts – should be a producer’s first point of contact, according to Jonkman and Knox.

“For (livestock relocation) costs to be reimbursed, service providers must make arrangements through the local authority’s Emergency Operations Centre (EOC),” said Jonkman. “If a producer requires assistance for activities related to livestock relocation, they should contact the Regional District’s EOC during an evacuation alert or order phase of an emergency to request these services.”

Knox also emphasized the importance of reaching out to a local EOC so producers can qualify for the Province’s Livestock Relocation Policy, which can reimburse costs for housing and transportation.

“You would reach out to your local authority and request assistance through those folks and then they will start making the plans (for relocation), and go over your plan with you,” Knox said. “Then they submit the forms and get that money back – it’s typically not the producers themselves that have to pay.”

“The key thing is that if you move your own animals, you don’t get funded for that. If you’re housing your own animals on another farm you own, you don’t get paid for that. It’s really for any third-party housing or transport you need.”



A herd of cows graze lazily in the sun under a canopy of choke cherry blossoms. The cows help keep the under growth down and provide some nutrients back in to the soil. /ANDREA ARNOLD

Still, Knox emphasizes the importance for planning ahead of time. “The more people that can be prepared, the better they’ll be able to handle the situation mentally, the better outcomes we have for animal welfare, food security, and rural economies,” he said. “Everything people can do to prepare is going to make a big difference for themselves, the animals, their business, and the region.

Note: This article was originally scheduled to be published in the July 18th edition of The Goat, but was moved to the July 25th edition to give sources sufficient time to respond.

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Three helicopters were actively flying back and forth non stop Sunday dousing the flare ups and fire dropping gallons of water. / SANDRA JAMES



Thousands of gallons of fire retardant has been dropped on the Beaver River fire since it was reported on Friday. The planes lay the red sticky substance as a perimeter hoping to prevent or at least slow the blaze's trajectory. /ANDREA ARNOLD



Columns of smoke rise from the Dunster-Croydon fire around noon on Monday. Residents in the area await in a state of evacuation alert uncertainty. / ANDREA ARNOLD



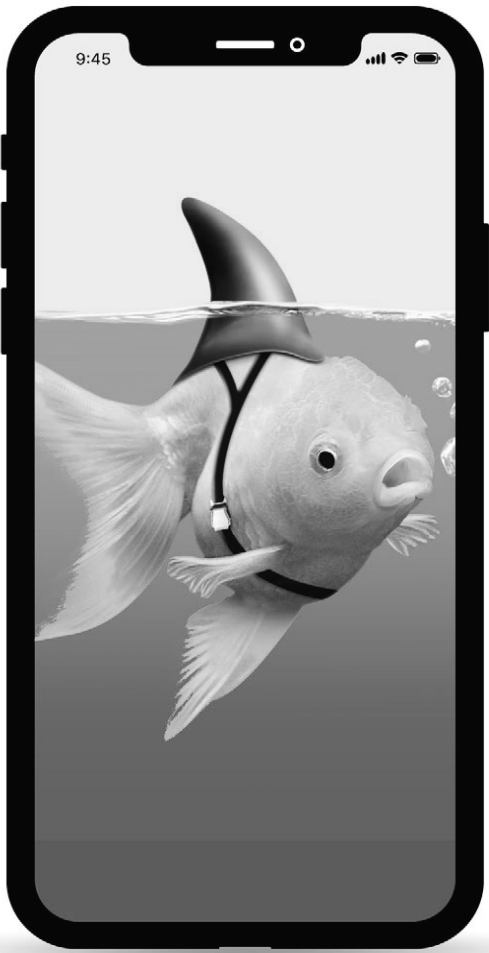
The Wildfire Structure Protection Unit W.A.S.P was on scene at NV Mountainview Chalets & RV Resorts. The fire was quite visible from this location and BC Wildfire Service was checking the fire as well from this vantage point. Heavy equipment could be seen from here on the mountain as crews worked hard on fire suppression. / SANDRA JAMES



Thick smoke does not prevent the skilled helicopter pilots from navigating into the darkness and dumping water onto flames hundreds of feet below./ ANDREA ARNOLD



On the opposite side of the valley above the Horsey Creek area, fires from Hailey Creek and Horsey Creek have combined and appeared to be picking up intensity as the flames travelled up the mountain side. /SANDRA JAMES



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It's official: Dunphy's take over ownership at IGA

By RACHEL FRASER

The new owners of one of Valemount's most essential institutions – the local grocery store – have been working non-stop to serve the community they've committed to. When the Valemount IGA reverted to corporate ownership last fall, it offered Blake and Lenora Dunphy an opportunity. Georgia Main Food Group, the parent company for IGA stores in BC, needed someone to take over who could tackle the issues with stock and staff that had become a chronic community complaint.

Purchasing their own store wasn't on their radar, and they had to Google Valemount because they didn't know where it was, but a former colleague of Blake's thought they'd be a perfect fit. "We had honestly never thought of buying our own store prior to it being offered to us," Lenora said.

Blake has had to adjust his city high-rise preferences, but Lenora has always wanted to live in the mountains. "For me it was a dream!" she said. They gathered their adult children, those children's partners, and a nephew, and came as a family. One son stayed in Edmonton, but daughter Jade and her fiancé Ethan, son Matthew and his girlfriend Jenna, daughter Amber, and nephew Logan, have all relocated and pitched into the new family enterprise.

The change in title won't come with any major shifts in operations since Blake and Lenora took over management. IGA is very community minded already, which reflects the Dunphys' values. The couple enjoy helping out with community events and have had the opportunity to partner with local organizations, supplying



From L-R: Jenna Wilhauk, Jade Dunphy, Blake Dunphy, Matthew Dunphy, Lenora Dunphy, Amber Dunphy, Logan Freeze. / RACHEL FRASER

groceries for events.

Blake says he appreciates the support of the corporate structure, and while they have accountability to the IGA brand, there's also a lot of freedom. "There's not

a lot of oversight, so donations and stuff are my call. Local products, you know, we've had a few in, they don't seem to mind. Vale Coffee is in our store, we had Scooters Pizza for awhile, we have the

Village Greens."

They also offer a 10% discount for local businesses using charge accounts as a means of mutual support. They have been very pleasantly surprised at how diligent account holders have been in keeping their accounts in the black. "People here are really on top of things," Lenora said.

With the sale finalized, the two continue to tackle the twin challenges of keeping the store stocked and staffed.

When they took over management, one of the goals they had set out included a renovation of the back of the store for increased storage. The renovation, which will include a new freezer, a new cooler and a baler to compress their own cardboard, is running a bit behind schedule, but they hope it will be complete by the end of the summer, as it promises to be a "game-changer" in being able to store the volume of product demanded by the community, particularly produce.

They've added a third truck of deliveries every week to the two that were coming previously, but they say sales continue to increase, and it's difficult to keep up. "We didn't expect sales to pick up so quickly," Lenora said, "but I guess we can attribute that to the community being so supportive."

"It's good," Blake said, but staffing continues to be a challenge, and requires them both to work long days keeping stock on the shelves. "We don't want to disappoint anybody."

They are very thankful for the community that Lenora said has been very welcoming and supportive. "It's been very easy to integrate into the community because everybody's been so nice."

PUZZLES



CROSSWORD

Answers on P13

- Across
1. Tee, e.g.

4. Interview

7. One and one

10. Mice catchers

12. Chicken

13. Taken for a ride

14. "Uh-huh"

15. Drink in the pub

16. One may be tight or defensive

17. Falling flakes

19. Alarm

21. IT related

23. Chair

26. Workout target

29. Superabundance

31. To just a slight degree

33. Feasted

34. Race

35. Computer programs, for short

37. Wrapped (up)

39. Release

42. "Uh-uh!"

44. Popular song

46. Knowing about, 2 words

48. Be in the red
49. Unique

50. No longer around

51. Checkers colour

52. Historic time

53. Lawn beads
- Down
1. Diversion

2. Has a remaining balance

3. Course of action

4. "Caught you!"

5. Bookstore section, 2 words

6. "... with a banjo on my ____"

7. From that circumstance or source

8. Pallid

9. Anomalous

11. Kaput

18. Cried

20. Cigar leftover

22. Bulk of the housework

24. Remain

25. Little bit

26. It's often left hanging

27. "Akeelah and the

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
10			11		12			13		
14					15			16		
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34					35			36		
		37		38		39		40	41	
42	43			44		45		46		47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

28. Broke up
30. Create an email
32. Mined metal
36. Priggish
38. Command to Dobbin
40. Tune carrier
41. Sound quality
42. Preceder of easter
43. Power to inspire fear
45. Golf drive locale
47. "What's ____?"

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Solar Homecoming

Sometimes, it's easy to tell why we enjoy one thing and not another, though often the reasons are mysterious, and perhaps irrelevant at that. The sun's homecoming to the realm of Leo gives us permission to skip the investigation. This is a rare instance when incuriousness is a boon. It will be efficient to accept our preferences and attractions as a given and move on to the good part -- the business of catering to or managing them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Acknowledgement is a basic human need, essential to human life. There's a mysterious alchemy at work as you acknowledge others and accept their acknowledgement this week. You'll attract more interest and participation for your projects, and the group will most certainly become much stronger than the sum of its parts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's a sense of being ill-equipped for the challenge at hand. Ignore it. What you really need more of isn't knowledge or resources but faith. Either you already have everything you need to do this, or you'll acquire it, no problem. Step forward and the ground will appear under you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It is often the case that people who possess the quality of being steadfast and constant attract those in need of an anchor for their more whimsical talents. This week will bring a refreshing twist. You are faithful, loyal and constant, and will experience the security of being treated in kind.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Even though there are many at the party, you're not just another guest. You're unique; things wouldn't be the same without you. What you do could be enacted by another but not duplicated. The result would always be different. Your imprint on this experience is unlike any in the history of the universe, and it will never happen again.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your impulse to find out more about the people you meet is your popularity secret today. If you're still not meeting your marks, maybe it's not you. Maybe it's the goal. Maybe it's just not juicy enough to motivate, seduce and persuade you through the low points. Dream juicier.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's a social week with the accompanying challenges. Those who need more togetherness than you can come across as suffocating; those who need more alone time, rejecting. Since each person has their own social needs for togetherness, you'll avoid the pain of mismatched needs by consciously seeking those with a similar social set point to yours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To play in the top leagues, a person must be willing and able to handle the big-league problems. It also

helps to ignore that which doesn't fall in the category. You'll approach normal, everyday problems with grace and certainty, and this is what makes you more capable of handling an ever-expanding life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Certain thoughts make you feel more loving, capable and optimistic. These are the staples to put on rotation in your mind. It's not always easy to do this in every environment, which is why it's important to take your own weather system with you. One way is to record a voice memo of what you'd like to think and play it to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The difference between big problems and small problems isn't always so easy to tell. There are tiny things that represent big problems, and there are big things that, as disastrous as they seem, are not problems at all. If there is no solution, it's not a problem, just a circumstance in which to operate as effectively as possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There have been times you've wanted to amp up your attractive qualities, but now you also see benefit to toning them down. It allows you privacy, ensures no one asks for more than you want to give, and lends the freedom to experiment without an audience. This week, as your attention needs go down, your enjoyment goes up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll trade your money or energy for something you want very much, and the investment you make will give you even more appreciation for this treasure. Also, love will take many forms this week. You'll put effort into getting a certain relationship right, and it will be well worth it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are the bigger person -- but you knew that. The fault is not yours, but you're the one who will make it better. Making it better is not the same as accepting blame. Taking on responsibility is taking on power. Also, there will be a celebration, and you'll play a major role in the fun.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: There's a heightened quality to this year, even though it's technically low in things like challenge, drama and conflict. Perhaps it's the peace itself that lets everything settle, breathe and spool out like a poem -- beautifully written, endlessly interpreted and deeply felt. You'll be around people who make even the most mundane tasks feel magical, filling your life with everyday enchantments. More highlights: memorable events with friends new and old, successful investments and a joyful reunion.

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		3		7	5		6	

Answers on P13

SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember. You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.

The Toughie

Answers on P13

- Across
1. Untrained

4. As far as

8. Haile Selassie follower

13. Before, of yore

14. Gambling mecca

15. Give voice to

16. Order on a test

19. Jamaican fruit

20. Hard work, slangily

21. Pop song that was #1 a very long time

25. Following a consequence

29. UFO crew

30. "Mon ____!"

32. Music maker

33. Prohibits

35. Lachrymose drop

36. Looked clueless

41. Condition in which goods are often sold

42. Box of golf balls

43. Trample

46. Well-balanced

47. Evidence collectors

50. Supplied with gas

52. Womanizer

54. Tore

56. Grps.

57. Harmless ammo

62. Symbol of authority

63. Lost fish

64. Rent

65. Unhappy spectator

66. Online craft store

67. Speech stumbles
- Down

1. Disprove

2. Properly

3. Kane's portrayer

4. Spoon bender

5. Write

6. It can make a molehill out of a mountain

7. ____ and aahs

8. "The Garden of Love" painter

9. Finally!

10. Academy Award

11. "Perfect" number

12. First animal shelter

17. Grafton's " ____ for Lawless"

18. Mrs. sheep

22. Suggestion

23. Any of the Bee Gees

24. Actress Patricia et al.

26. Specialty

27. Hereabout

28. Lacerated

31. Russian range

33. Old west outlaw

34. Three-time Masters champ

36. Catch one's breath

37. Concerning

38. Penthouse feature

39. Game of chance

40. Cinematographer

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										56			
57	58							59	60	61			
62							63				64		
65								66				67	

- Nykivist
44. California county
45. Ending for rubber
47. Turn
48. Baked clay box
49. They are placed inside
51. Last-qrt. month
53. ____ de vivre
55. Denmark citizen
57. Business watchdog for customers (abbr.)
58. Philosopher ____-tzu
59. Abbr. after a general's name, maybe
60. Corp. brands, often
61. Siegfried's partner



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PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	T	O	P			4	A	S	K		7	T	W	O						
10	O	W	L			11	S		H	E	N		13	H	A	D				
14	Y	E	A	H			15	A	L	E		16	E	N	D					
	17	S	N	O	W		18	F	E	A	R		19	S	E	A	20	T		
	21	R	E	M	O	T	22	C	H		23	S	E	A		24	T			
26	A	B	S		27	P	L	E	T		30	H	O	R	A		28	F	E	D
31	T	E	A	R		32	A	P	P		33	S		F	E	D				
34	T	E	A	R		35	A	P	P		36	S		F	E	D				
		37	S	E	W	N			39	E	M		41	T						
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48	O	W	E			49	O	N	E		50	G		51	D	E		52	N	
54	R	E	D			55	A	G	E		56	D		57	E		58	D	E	W

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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19	U	G	L	20	S	W	E	A	21	T	22	S	U	23	N	24	T					
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40	S	T	E	P	O	N	41	S	A	N	E	42	C	S	I	43	I	D	G	E		
44	P	O	W	E	R	E	D	45	D	O	N	46	U	A	N	47	N	48	N	49	N	
50	R	A	C	E	51	D	52	O	R	G	S	53	N	54	N	55	N	56	N	57	N	
58	B	L	A	N	K	59	C	A	R	60	T	R	I	D	G	E	61	L	E	T	62	N
63	B	A	D	G	E	64	N	E	M	O	65	L	E	T	66	N	67	N	68	N	69	N
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Community Events

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Family & Youth

Sprouting Memories with our Families with RVCS - Valemount
Aug 22nd Let's harvest the plants we've been nurturing all summer long. No registration required for this activity for families and their young children. Further harvesting details to come later.

Infant Massage - Valemount
Come learn about the benefits and techniques for infant massage at 99 Gorse Street, RVCS on Wednesdays starting August 28 from 10:30-11:30am. This program is subject to date changes. Registration is required as there are limited spaces available. Ages 0-12 months with an adult only (no siblings). Brought to you by the RVCS Infant Development Program. To register, please contact the office at events@rvcsbc.org 250-566-9107 (Valemount) 250-569-2266 (McBride).

Puzzle Piece Pioneers – McBride
August 29 Come do a puzzle of the world and brush up on your world geography at 942 3rd Avenue, McBride from 1-3pm. Everyone is welcome. Drop in event. Bring your questions or technology you need support with also. 250-569-2266 / events@rvcsbc.org for more info.

Theatre Camp - Valemount
August 14, 15 & 16th Youth ages 10-13 years are invited to come together for Theatre Camp at the Valemount Office 99 Gorse street. Learn the basics of acting through movement, storytelling and roleplaying. Increase emotional awareness, non-verbal communication and flexible thinking. Registration is required by emailing events@rvcsbc.org or calling 250-566-9107. Brought to you by the Child & Youth Mental Health & Family Support Program.

Theatre Camp - McBride
July 31, August 1 & 2 Youth ages 10-13 years are invited to come together for Theatre Camp at the McBride office 942 3rd Ave. Learn the basics of acting through movement, storytelling and roleplaying. Increase emotional awareness, non-verbal communication and flexible thinking. Registration is required by emailing events@rvcsbc.org or calling 250-569-2266. Brought to you by the Child & Youth Mental Health & Family Support Program.

Scavenger Hunt - McBride
Thurs August 15th 12-3pm Join us for an afternoon picnic and Scavenger Hunt at Dominion Creek. Please bring a picnic lunch, water and footwear appropriate for walking. Registration is not required, please arrive on time as we will be convoying from 942 3rd ave to the trailhead. This event is brought to you by the Family Literacy Program and thanks to funding from CALP. Contact 250-569-2266 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more info.

Ongoing family & youth

Family Place Drop In Program - Valemount & McBride
If you have questions, are looking for parenting resources, or just need to chat, you can join us in person 9am-noon every Monday in McBride or Friday in Valemount. Our weekly targeted programming is a great way for kids ages 0-6 (with their caregivers) to play, connect, explore, and learn!
McBride on Mondays
July 29- Painting with marbles and salad spinners
August 5-No drop-in; statutory holiday
August 12- Cooking with tots-Berry fluff salad!
August 19-Water play day
Valemount on Fridays
July 26- Sing along at Centennial Park
August 2-Ice cream at our new location 1444 5th avenue
August 9- Picnic and play at Cranberry Lake
August 16- Yoga and mindfulness day at the park

Valemount Museum Kids Summer Program
Fridays 2-3pm. 1:30pm drop off. July 12th to Aug 23rd. Ages 6-12. Themed activities, crafts, games and more. Sign up at the museum or email museum@valemount.ca

Summer Book Bingo McBride Library
Book Bingo is back in 2024 at the McBride Library, with 9 challenges for you to complete by August 24th. If you complete the challenges, you will be entered into a prize draw for a grab bag of goodies, and you will be awarded 100 house points for your Summer Reading Club house. Pick up your bingo card next time you visit the library, or download it online.

Dungeons & Dragons - McBride Library
For ages 12-18, the classic fantasy storytelling game. Join us on Tuesdays from 3:30-5:00pm at the McBride Library. Bring D&D dice if you have them!

Wacky Wednesdays - McBride Library
Wacky Wednesdays is our old "Fun Fridays" summer program for kids, but on a different day! Kids aged 5-8 are invited to join us on Wednesdays from 1-2pm, and kids aged 9-13 are invited to come along from 3-4pm.

We have three special Science Camp sessions that will be a combined group (starting at 1pm). Please contact us for more details or to register your child. Starts July 3rd! (see Wacky Wednesday Science Specials below for these special events which interrupt regular programming).

Wacky Wednesdays Science Specials at the McBride Library
We are offering three special Science workshops from 1-2pm for kids aged 5-13. Spaces are limited for these three science workshops, so please sign up soon. See details below:
Wed 7 Aug: Magical Science
Discover a magical force that will levitate particles. Scatter light & create illusions that will thrill your audience. Experiment with colourful teas & unusual potions on this magical science adventure.
Wed 14 Aug: Discovery Zone
Join us for an action-packed adventure where you'll explore colour chromatology, investigate why trees are important to engineers & create an

Sunshine Stories - McBride Library
10:30-11am. An early literacy program for children ages 0-5 and caregivers. Songs, rhymes, stories and fun! In partnership with Decoda Literacy. Runs each Thursday until September 5th!

Board Teens - McBride Library
Board Teens is a new program aimed at teens (ages 12-18), who are invited to come play some of the library's many board games every Thursday from 3-5pm. Have a favourite game you like to play? Bring it with you!

Summer Reading Club - Valemount Library
At the Valemount Public Library Ages 6-12. Join us at the library every Wednesday at 1:00pm for crafts & activities during the months of July & August. Start date July 3. To register, call 250-566-4367.

Summer Weekly Challenges - Valemount Library
Complete weekly challenges and enter to win prizes at the Valemount Library! Fun for the whole family to do together.
Week 1 - Play outdoor games in library yard
Week 2 - Have a picnic
Week 3 - Decorate sidewalks with chalk
Week 4 - Go on a bike ride
Week 5 - Build a sandcastle
Week 6 - Go on a nature walk
Week 7 - Look for constellations on a clear night
Week 8 - Find a new recipe and cook it together with your family

Read to Me Club - Valemount Library
Ages 0-5. Come to the Valemount library during the months July and August and receive a reading log. Keep track of your weekly reading for a chance to win prizes.

Teen Summer Reading Bingo - Valemount Library
Ages 13-18 Come to the Valemount Library during the months July and August and receive a bingo sheet. Keep track of your reading for a chance to win prizes.

Summer Reading Club McBride & Valemount Valemount Library - join us at the library every Wednesday at 1pm for crafts and activities at the Valemount Library. Ages 6-12. Register at the library. You will also receive a reading log to Keep track of your reading this summer and enter to win prizes.
McBride Library - Reading logs, stickers and bookmarks are available for kids at the library now, and this year all the family can join in, with a series of weekly challenges! Each participant will be in one of four houses: House of Unicorn, dragon, mer or griffin. Completing your reading logs and weekly challenges will earn house points, and the winning house at the end of the summer will have the medal ceremony party decorated in their honour! Call in at the library for more details.

Pancake Breakfast - Valemount
Pancake breakfast at the Valemount Legion Sundays 8 to 10:30 am. By donation!.

Old time Music & Dancing -Valemount
WED Oldtimers band and music night at the Golden Years Lodge in Valemount 7pm. All welcome! Play music, listen or dance.

Senior/Adult

Northwest Mud Racing Association Mud Races - Valemount
August 3rd & 4th, 2024, Join us at the Canoe River Campgrounds to watch the side by side 200ft mud drags, junior racers, blown alcohol dragsters, and the mega hill n' hole trucks. Ear protection strongly advised. The front gate does have limited supply of ear protection for sale. Saturday Races start at 1pm. Sunday Races start at Noon. Spectator gates open at 11am on Saturday. Sunday they open at 10am. We race till each truck has made or attempted two passes.

Donkeys n Donuts for Seniors – McBride
This popular event will now happen on Friday, August 2nd between 1-3pm. This is a drop in event for seniors/ grandparents only. Due to the nature of the programs,

it is for seniors to connect with animals as a therapeutic session.

Summer Walking Group – McBride
Join us for a walking group on Tuesdays throughout the summer. Whether you're a seasoned walker or just starting out, our group welcomes everyone. Walking is not only great for your physical health but also fantastic way to meet others. This group runs July 2, 9 and 30, and again August 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 2-3pm beginning from 942 3rd Avenue, McBride. Adults/seniors welcome. Contact 250-569-2266 / events@rvcsbc.org for more details.

Soapstone carving workshop - Dunster
August 4 10-5pm Soapstone Carving workshop with Lisa Day (\$40). Limited space. Participants must be 13 years old and older. To register email dunsterstationmuseum@gmail.com

Glass mosaics workshop - Dunster
August 11 10-4pm Glass Mosaics with Rea Chartier (\$20). Limited space. Participants must be 13 years old and older. To register email dunsterstationmuseum@gmail.com

Pine Needle Baskets workshop - Dunster
September 22 10-4pm Pine Needle Baskets with Heather Zahn (\$20). Limited space. Participants must be 13 years old and older. To register email dunsterstationmuseum@gmail.com

Valemount Seed Library
Mon- Thurs is available in our lobby during business hours at RVCS Valemount (99 Gorse St). Office hours: Monday 10am-6pm and Tuesday to Thursday 8am-4pm. Come take free seeds to grow in your garden this summer. By saving seeds, we can maintain genetic diversity, adapt to changing environmental conditions, and save money by not having to purchase new seeds every year. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org.

Free Food Pantry - McBride
Mon-Thurs McBride RVCS (942 3rd Ave) has a FREE FOOD PANTRY that's available to all! Emergency top-up food is accessible to our clients, Family Place Drop In program and anyone who walks through the door. We share and accept donated foods that are safe and fresh for use, this project is made possible thanks to grant funding from United Way of BC, and the residents of the Robson Valley! Contact RVCS at 1-844-324-2004 or email foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org. The local Food Bank is also available: 250-569-3186.

Free Food Farm Stand and Pantry -Valemount
Open Mon- Fri, available for anyone who would like some free, fresh produce. We accept donations of unprocessed fruits and veggies also. The stand is accessible in the front lobby at RVCS Valemount (99 Gorse St) and is available to everyone- just help yourself! Emergency top-up food is accessible to our clients and anyone who walks through the door. This initiative is supported by one-time grant funding through United Way BC. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org.

Ongoing adult/all-age

Coffee House - Valemount
Free Drop-In/Coffee House at the Golden Years Lodge the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month 10 am -2 pm. It's open to everyone regardless of your age. If you currently have mobility issues, call CARE-A-VAN 778-915-8550 for a ride in the accessibility bus.

Fibre Artists - McBride
On Wednesdays the McBride Library host the Fibre Artists' group 10am-12pm: come knit, sew or crochet with us! Beginners welcome. Online option available for anyone who would like to join us that way – call the library for info on 250 569 2411.

Crafty Stitchers - McBride
Sundays 1-3 pm Crafty Stitchers meet downstairs at the Valemount Public Library, all welcome! Call 250-566-4367.

German Conversation Club - McBride
Join us on Wednesday mornings at the McBride Library for a fun German language conversational class with Lilly. All levels and abilities welcome, from beginners to advanced. For further details, call the library on 250 569 2411.

McBride Library Writing Group
Our Writing Group for adults meets every Friday afternoon 1:30-3pm. We tend to chat for the first 30 minutes about what we are working on, then we sit silently for an hour to write. Our writers are working on a range of things – novels, memoirs, poems, short stories, dissertations. Writing something? Come join us!

Tuesday Night Jam - McBride
Now playing in the CN Station Lobby, 6:15-8:30. It is an open jam; musicians, singers, and onlookers welcome. For more information call David at (250) 569-2569.

Adult Summer Reading Bingo - Valemount Library
Come to the Valemount library during the months July and August and receive a bingo sheet. Keep track of your reading for a chance to win prizes.

Farmer's Markets

Valemount Farmers Market
Thursdays at the Visitor Info Centre 4-7pm.

McBride Farmers Market
Fridays 11am-2pm. at the Pavilion in Steve Kolida Park. Make it Bake it Grow it or gently used items. Table space \$10.00/ wk Children under 12 \$2.00/wk. For further information contact Jackie Edwards 250 569 7101

Dunster Farmer's Market
Saturdays at the Dunster Community Hall 11:00 to 1:00. Vendors welcome - no charge for table. Burger Concession. Bedding plants, baking, crafts, odds and ends, etc.. From JULY 6-SEPT 28.

Next Month(s)

Robson Valley Music Festival - Dunster
Aug 16th-18th 2024. A family-friendly celebration of music, art and community, in Dunster BC, the heart of the Robson Valley. Huge line-up of local and international artists. Festival located on River Road. Weekend passes available for pre-purchase. www.rvmf.ca for more info.

Annual Terry Fox Trek
August 24, 2024. Trek up Mount Terry Fox in Valemount, BC in support of cancer research! Three different routes available. Register at terryfox.org/all-events/mt-terry-fox-trek/

Valemount Marina Fishing Derby
Aug 31-Sept 1st 2024 Valemount Marina Association Annual Fishing Derby. Camping available at Griffin Sawmill, Yellowjacket and Horsey Creek.

Fall Bike Fest - Valemount
Sept.13-15 A celebration of all things mountain biking. Shuttles, mini contests and social events. Please watch for the Valemount Bike Facebook page for a release of more information and ticket sales.

Mushroom Festival - Dunster
Robson Valley Mushroom Festival at the Dunster Schoolhouse Sept 27th-29th 2024. Workshops, vendors, mushroom arts and more. Visit www.robsonvalleymushroomfestival.com for more info.

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Focus, concentration and self control while moving sheep are key skills that Bryn has honed through training. /PHOTO ALANA LEACH



Third from the right, Jennifer L'Arrivee stands with Bryn at her feet as they accept first place at the Calgary Stampede World Stock Dog Championships. / PHOTO COURTESY SHOWCHAMPIONS.COM



L'Arrivee acts as an extension of the pen gate as Bryn moves sheep during an open field event. / SUBMITTED

Local stock dog and handler take World Championships

By ANDREA ARNOLD

Seven year old registered border collie Bryn and her handler, McBride resident Jennifer L'Arrivee earned top recognition at the 2024 Calgary Stampede World Stock Dog Championships.

The competition requires 60 canine/human teams to compete twice over two days, each time, completing a pattern around the arena. The handler is given a pattern that they must have the dog complete, while moving a trio of sheep through and around obstacles and then into a pen, gathering points in a race against time.

"I was more nervous before our second trial," said L'Arrivee. "There was a lot at stake, as the scores are cumulative."

She competes in big field trials usually, so the close quarters and proximity of the spectators in an arena is vastly different.

"The building holds about 5000 people," she said. "The crowds didn't bother her (Bryn) at all."

L'Arrivee has been training stock dogs for 30 years. Having grown up raising horses, the transition to dogs was a natural one.

"I love working with, training and building relationships with a working dog as opposed to a pet," said L'Arrivee.

At present, she has five dogs, all border collies, that

she works with. Two are still quite young that are in training, one other competition dog and one that is used exclusively for work.

There are important qualities that make a good competition dog. They need to exhibit tremendous self control as they move the livestock. They can not just be chasing the animals, they need to move with precision and purpose. As she works with a dog, L'Arrivee hones in on their natural ability and adds commands as they move through training.

"Training starts when a dog is 10 months to a year old," she said. "Old farmers say that it takes four years to train a dog. One year for each paw. It takes a long time to learn many different types of terrain, as well as different types of stock."

In the world of stock dogs, two main types of stock are used in competition, cattle and sheep. L'Arrivee only works with sheep.

L'Arrivee said that in order for a dog to be successful as a stock dog, their instinct, or desire to work, has to be first and foremost.

"Secondly, they need to be willing to work with me," she said. "A hard headed dog is not good for competition."

Although the principles of training are pretty similar between trainers, the way they are implemented can be different. For example, many trainers train their dogs to respond to both voice and whistle commands. L'Arrivee

is one of these. Because of the similarities, a dog that has had their training started by one person can be bought or given to another, and the training can continue.

"It may take a little while," said L'Arrivee, "but with a working dog, their instinct to work usually overrides everything else."

L'Arrivee loves to compete. Now that she has retired from teaching at the McBride Secondary School, she hopes to travel and compete in field trials next year. A field presents a whole different set of challenges from the arena. In some cases, the sheep may be almost a mile away from the handler, and the dog must respond to escort them through the course into a pen.

"A key skill for a dog to develop is learning to communicate from a distance," she said. "That training starts very young."

This is her eight time competing at the Calgary Stampede, and her second appearance in the finals.

When she isn't competing or training her own dogs, L'Arrivee has created an online platform to help provide information about training, <https://doreriverbordercollies.com/> She even teaches other handlers through online courses. She started creating the courses three years ago and now has students from the US, Iceland, New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, and Alaska, as well as Canada.

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Lot 8 Glacier Road

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Lot 2 Small River

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In Memory of...



VERA HAUER



Vera Hauer, long time resident of the Robson Valley passes away at the age of 95.

God reached out with His tender hand and guided Mom home to Him on the morning of July 13th, 2024. While she will be deeply missed, it brings us peace knowing that she has been reunited with her loving husband Henry and her youngest son David.

She is survived by her daughter Darleen; sons Dale & Darrell; 4 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, and a great-great granddaughter.

Mom will always be remembered for her devotion to her family - it was her greatest joy and is her legacy.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Tete Jaune Community Club via cheque to PO Box 84 Valemount, BC V0E-2Z0 or via e-transfer to TeteJaunecommunityclub@gmail.com (password: community).

A funeral service will be held at the New Life Centre on Saturday July 27th at 1:00 pm with a reception to follow at the Tete Jaune Community Hall.

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