

FREE



AM

FRIDAY

Mar. 19, 2021

No. 1197

All Month: April 2

SALMON ARM WEEKEND

> Spring begins Saturday • Spring Break carries on

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Swing into Spring!

Spring Break Scavenger Hunt, March 15 to 27

The Mall at
Piccadilly

Come down to the Mall & find Hidden Spring Pictures in store windows / P.8

piccadillymall.com

MOLEHILLS

Lorne Reimer



Spring is popping

Spring officially starts tomorrow although we've enjoyed the look and feel of Spring for a few weeks now.

Flowers are popping out of the ground, highway and roads are getting an earlier scrub down, Starlight Drive-in is showing movies this weekend, and the driving range at Club Shuswap is ready for play.

There's also an impressive number of interesting new downtown business openings despite the pandemic - Morrows Craft Brewery, Forage General for flowers and coffee, Little B's Pizzeria at the Old Courthouse, Man Woman Clothing and the Blue Moon ever changing pop-up shop inside the former Blue Canoe.

But don't jump into Spring too soon.

You may still need your winter tires, and gardeners should wait until the weather is consistently over 10 C before they start messing with twigs and dirt. Throwing away dead leaves and clippings too early could kill off whole communities of bees and vulnerable and essential critters. ■



> Opening of clinic.

Current Phase 2: Seniors aged 80+ not yet immunized. Indigenous 65+, medical staff, home support, vulnerable populations

• **This week:** March 15-19: 83+, 82+, 81+, 80+, Indigenous 65+

Phases 3 & 4, General Population, April to September

• Distributed in five year increments, starting with ages 79 to 75.

• April-May: 79-75, 74-70, 69-65, 64-60 • Extreme vulnerable 69-16

• July-Sept: 59-55, 54-50, 49-45, 44-40, 39-35, 34-30, 29-25, 24-18

Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca/SII (AZ/SII), Johnson & Johnson

Call only when scheduled to do so - 1-877-750-7747.

Information at gov.bc.ca/BCSeniorsFirst • immunizebc.ca

May the dreams you hold dearest be those which come true, and the kindness you spread keep returning to you.

Don't waste the winter! Injury from skiing, snowboarding, curling, snowshoeing etc? ...sprains, strains, bruises, arthritic flareup?

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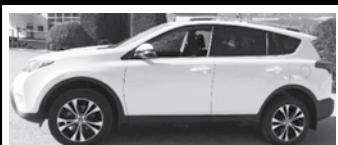
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TotElly on for the summer

Theatre on the Edge (TotE Fest) summer theatre festival is back and is seeking submissions. Organizers are looking for performing artists who like to push boundaries and have a story to tell.

For the past six years TotE Fest has been delighting audiences with its eclectic mix of local and not-so-local theatre. It has quickly become a highlight of the Shuswap summer and a destination stop for performers and audiences alike.

Despite the obstacles of the global pandemic, Theatre on the Edge has been re-imagined to meet the needs of artists and

audiences as a Virtual Festival.

The festival is planning for seven, 15 - 60 minute recorded, theatrical works, along with several 'shorts'.

Every show will include a moderated, virtual talk back session connecting artists with the audiences.

TotE Fest Online is scheduled for July 16 to 18, 2021. The goal is to support theatre artists and the expression of their work. With the support of community sponsors, a financial honourarium will be available.

To download an application form for your submission, go to www.shuswaptheatre.com ■

At the 'Home' MOVIES

> *The Salmar remains closed, so we are offering recommendations for home entertainment and binge watching. Films streaming on various platforms. Email your favourites to friam@shaw.ca*

• Banff Mountain Film Festival

Go to <https://shuswapvsar.org/contact/bff> This year's online festival continues to support Shuswap Search & Rescue Society.

• **The Dig.** Set in 1939, a wealthy widow hires an archaeologist to excavate medieval artifacts on her estate.

• **Malcolm & Marie.** Couple hash out their relationship

after returning from a movie.

• **Judas & the Black Messiah.** An FBI informant who infiltrated the Black Panther Party.

• **I care a Lot.** A con woman who swindles the elderly comes into contact with a woman more cunning than she appears.

• **Nobody.** A man suffering PTSD unwittingly draws the ire of a Russian warlord when he murders a pair of thieves terrorizing his neighbourhood.

• **Godzilla vs Kong.** Who will win when ape takes on the king?

• **Cruella.** This enigmatic villain as played by Emma Stone.

You're INVITED

> **Warm Hearts Lunch,** 12-1, Wednesdays, First United. Hot take-out lunch to those who need it. Donations not required, but gratefully accepted to assist Feeding the Hungry program.

> **Council meeting,** 2:30 to 8 pm, Mar. 22.

> **CSRD,** 9:30 am, Mar. 18

> **Food Conversations series,** 9 pm, every Friday on Voice of the Shuswap (93.7 FM). Repeated following Mondays at 5 pm 8 Thursday 8 pm. Co-hosted by Shuswap Food Action.

> **Classics Weekly** - See library about online book discussions

> **SA Meditation Centre** - Tues/Wed. online 7 to 8:15 pm.

Register at www.kmcfv.ca

> **Essies Place** - Supports and resources for LGBTIQ2SA+ community. essiesplace.ca

■ More You're Invited, P.4

FRIDAY AM

**ARM MEDIA
EST. 1997**

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Lorne Reimer
250.833-1141
friam@shaw.ca

DROP-OFFS

Hucul Printing 471 - 5th St SW
DEADLINES

Wednesday Noon

CIRCULATION

Weekly FriAM: 2,600
All Month (1st Fri) 4,000
FriAM.ca: Worldwide

FESTIVITIES

> **Spring Break** - March 13 to 28. First day of Spring, March 20.

> **CT Scanner replacement /new Mammography Unit** major fundraiser. Visit shuswaphospitalfoundation.org

> **Easter long weekend** - Friday to Monday, April 2 to 5.

ART

> **Piqw,** now to Mar. 27, SA Art Gallery. Local works 6" or smaller any direction. Talk with guest knowledge-keeper, Louis Thomas, on youtube. New works have been added. Final week coming up.

> **Walking at 6000** - April 10 to June 19, SA Art Gallery, featuring paintings by Lisa Figueroa and audio walks by Phil McIntyre-Paul. Lisa who has been hiking in the alpine and documenting the changing flora for years, will be bringing her signature vibrant paintings to the forefront. Phil, the executive director of Shuswap Trail Alliance, will share his thoughts after decades of trail walking experiences. A celebratory opening is planned on the plaza April 10. The pandemic has been a time when many have explored BC's trails for the first time.

> **Courtyard Gallery** - Featured March artist, Heather Funfer.

CONCERTS

> **Shuswap Music Festival** - Registration is now closed. This year's virtual April Festival follows BC's Covid-19 Protocols and the procedures of the BC Performing Arts Festival. At home videos of performances in strings, voice and piano are due for upload to YouTube by April 5. Adjudicators will respond by email. Bands are an exception with performances and adjudication occurring at the schools. More info at www.ShuswapFestival.com.

> **Streaming concerts** - Tickets selling for major rock, pop country, hiphop, opera, jazz, symphony and dance concerts.

> **Theatre on the Edge** - See article on top of page.

THEATRE

> **Love Letters** - Shuswap Theatre. Watch for dates as Covid permits

SPORTS

> **INDOOR TENNIS** - Maximum of two adults per court. Register at clubspark.ca. Non-members send club waiver satcereception@gmail.com

> **MINOR BASEBALL** - Tryouts; registration deadline, Mar. 19.

> **SOCWER** - Registration extended Mar. 20. shuswapsoccer.com

○ **EMAIL EVENTS TO:** friam@shaw.ca

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THIS WEEK

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Savings Account	0.15%	No change
90 Day Cashable	0.25%	No change
1 year	0.82%	No change
2 years	1.00%	No change
3 years	1.20%	No change
4 years	1.45%	Up 0.08%
5 years	1.65%	Up 0.05%

* GIC rates as of Mar. 16, 2021 subject to change without notice.

Certain minimums & conditions may apply



Centenoka Park Mall • 250-832-5000 • admin@mallakey.ca
315-360 Trans Canada Hwy SW, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 1B6



> The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is opening May 1, and now taking donations of building material, household items and tools. On left is Rex Landis, procurement and donations manager and John Rose, store manager. Bottom right, is the seniors residence planned.



Photo submitted

> A.L. Fortune Secondary student Cordell Anker took the top spot in the Canadian Drumline Association's 2021 National Solos Competition in the solo multi-tenor category. Submissions had to made by video.

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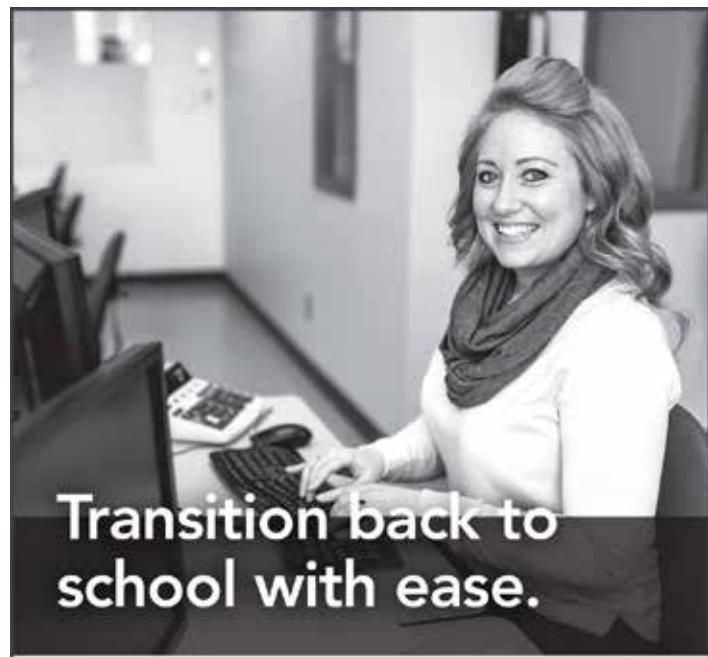
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March 31, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Register for the virtual session:
okanagan.bc.ca/returningtoeducation



MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

 Canadian Mental Health Association

Hudson Thrift Shoppe Fridays are Sale Days! This Friday - 2-for-1 Bag Sale, Mar. 26

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PICTURE FRAMING.
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Penny Pratt has been busy sewing reusable fabric face masks from different fabrics and styles. Masks can be purchased at Shuswap Clothing for \$5 with all money going to the SPCA.

Oak dining rm table pedestal, 59"x44" with leaf, no chairs. \$200. Ph. 250-833-0606

WANTED

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ANONYMOUS

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- Alcoholics Anonymous:** Phoneline 1-855-339-9631
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WE CAN HELP YOU Call Alcoholics Anonymous **1.866.531.7045**

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CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

A shared passion for the Shuswap led Doug and Donna Adams to establish a fund supporting RJ Haney Heritage Village & Museum and another that allows the Foundation to address emerging community needs. Ask us how you can too.



SHUSWAP COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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> Call for submissions - BC Police Act

The Special Committee on reforming the Police Act wants to hear your views on policing and related systemic issues. Visit website leg.bc.ca/cmt/rpa or call 250-356-2933 or toll free 1-877-428-8337.

> Kids Button Contest - button designing contest for ages 4-12, hosted by Inclusive Arts Studio. Winners announced Mar. 19. Inclusive Arts, 81 Hudson Ave. NE.

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Help keep Salmon Arm safe by going out on a four hour patrol on one afternoon or evening each month. We also take part in numerous community events and enjoy socializing together.

For more information and an application, find SACP at: salmonarmcitizenspatrol.ca or Facebook



WEATHER > WEEKLY SYNOPSIS



Weekend Outlook

Showers on Friday. Highs up to 11 on the weekend, mix of sun and clouds. Low to 0.

Normals: +9 to -2

Extremes since 1991:

+15: 2016 • -8.4: 2002

Sunrise 7:06 am • Sunset 7:04

(After the time change)

PASSAGES

LEGACY LIVES ON
shuswaphospitalfoundation.org
shuswafoundation.ca



> David Schindler, one of the world's great ecologists for freshwater and boreal forests, passed away in Golden area. Tribute at thetyee.ca

Bowers Funeral Service
bowersfuneralservice.com

❖ Karen Luanne (Murphy) Offerman, 1959- 2021

❖ Margaret Baile March 12, 2021, at age 91
See next page

❖ David William Schindler March 4, 2021, at age 80

❖ John Vandenberg March 15, 2021, at age 86

Fischers Funeral Service
fischersfuneralservices.com

❖ David Paul Bates March 10, 2021, at age 72

❖ Wesley Wayne Lowes March 10, 2021, at age 77

❖ Douglas Kieth Piggott March 8, 2021, at age 42

> COVID-19 UPDATE

CANADA #22 rank

915,868 cases

22,519 deaths

861,832 recovered

USA #1 rank

30,231,550 cases

549,367 deaths

22,358,469 recovered

WORLD

121,323,048 cases

2,683,455 deaths

97,838,276 recovered

BC

88,929 total cases

1,407 confirmed deaths

82,436 recovered

84 current critical care

249 current hospitalized

4,999 active cases

2,066,441 total tests

INTERIOR REGION

7,873 total cases

16 new cases

339 active cases

110 deaths

7,424 recovered

6 current critical care

15 current hospitalized

2 cases in SA

1 case in Enderby

School District 83

Potential Exposure event

- MV Beatty, Mar. 3,4,5



Feb. 28-Mar. 6

worldometers.info/coronavirus (Mar. 17)

MUSSELS IN AQUARIUMS

Zebra mussels were recently discovered in aquarium plants. BC's Environment ministry has issued an advisory that improperly managed aquarium contents could result in the mussels escaping to a creek, river, pond or lake. The mussels wreak havoc on aquatic ecosystems and drinking water quality. ■

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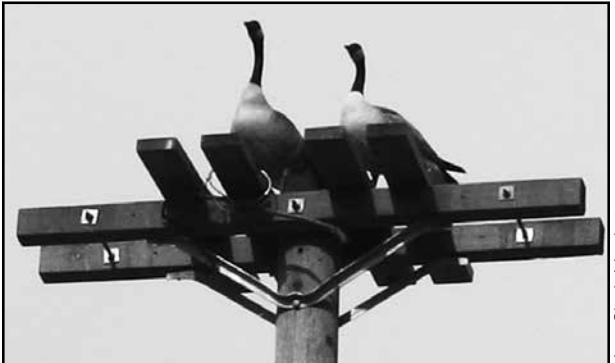
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❖ Margaret Julia Baile (nee Harrison)

April 12, 1929 – Sardis, BC
to March 12, 2021 – Salmon Arm, BC

Margaret Baile, beloved wife of Jake Ootes, of Celista, BC, passed away on March 12, 2021 at the age of 91 at Hillside Village in Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

Marg was born April 12, 1929 in Sardis, BC. She spent her first few years on her parents dairy farm in Chilliwack overlooking the peak of Mount Cheam. The depression dealt a devastating blow to the family when milk prices plummeted and they had to give up their farm. Marg never forgot her farming life and was determined to someday return to that lifestyle. The family moved to the isolated gold-mining town of Bralorne, in the interior of B.C. Several years later they moved to Vancouver. There Marg graduated from John Oliver High School and enrolled in the University of British Columbia from which she graduated with Bachelor Degrees in Arts and Social Work. For many years she worked in social work specializing in foster care and adoptions.

She married Blake Baile, a Canadian military officer, and they moved to posts in Petawawa, London, and Trenton/Bellville, Ontario, and Montreal, Quebec, where Marg continued her social work. They also served two tours in Germany and spent two years in Ismailia, Egypt where Blake commanded the Canadian forces contingent of the United Nations. Their work carried them to the middle eastern countries of Syria and Israel. Following Egypt, their final posting was Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. In 1990 Marg was divorced and eventually married northern magazine publisher and politician, Jake Ootes.

In Yellowknife Marg started and built Arctic Art Gallery, eventually to become the largest fine art gallery in the Northwest Territories. A number of her featured artists went on to become well-known Territorial and Canadian artists. Marg's keen eye and her natural talent to market and promote artists earned national respect. She was appointed to the Board of Governors of the National Art Gallery of Canada, in Ottawa, and served on the board for three years. Marg sold Arctic Art Gallery in 1999 to Arctic Co-ops and her Yellowknife main street store became Northern Images.

In 2005 Marg and Jake retired and moved to Celista, British Columbia. Marg's energies shifted to managing their 160-acre farm and helped to develop an award winning winery, Celista Estate Winery. Marg's passion became her flower gardens --- peonies, tulips, daffodils, irises. Her legacy is the everlasting beauty she created on their property.

Marg and Jake are grateful to the individual North Shuswap caregivers who provided in-home help over the past two years; to the support of the North Shuswap Better At Home Program; to St. David's Church and the North Shuswap Christian Fellowship. For the past five months Marg was a resident at the Good Samaritan Hillside Village in Salmon Arm. Enough words can't describe the superb staff contribution to the care, comfort and well being provided to Marg. A special thanks is extended to family Doctor, Victor De Kock of Kamloops.

Marg was always overjoyed to have visits from her children and grandchildren. In 2017 she was ecstatic to become a great grandmother. Besides her loving husband, Jake, Marg is survived by daughter, Dr. Marcia Baile of Gabriola Island, BC; son, Geoff Baile (Connie) of Vancouver and his children Erin and Alex; Colin Baile (Liz) of Yellowknife, and their son Harrison, daughter Tanis and great-grandson, Jordy; and step-son Luke Ootes of Victoria. She was predeceased by her parents: Rose May (nee Kerr) and Bernard Leslie Harrison; and her sister Marie Orla Harrison.

A Celebration of Life has been held at Bowers Funeral Service in Salmon Arm, BC on Tuesday, March 16. The Memorial service has been streamed online and can be viewed at the attached link: <https://www.bowersfuneralservice.com/obituary/Margaret-Baile>

In lieu of flowers the family requests that a donation be made to the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia.

Online condolences may be sent to Margaret's family through her obituary at www.bowersfuneralservice.com ❖



SPRING UPGRADE

I was leafing through a 2004 copy of *Kit Car* magazine recently (Okay, I was short of reading material.) when I came across this question from a reader.

Normally, the questions are technical and along the lines of "which widget do I need to mate a Ford Focus engine to a Ferrari gearbox?" Amazingly, somebody always knows the answer, but this is very different. It made me laugh and shows you that the world is full of people who will go the extra mile for a smile.

Question from reader, "Desperate Dannii":

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a slowdown in the performance of the flower and jewellery applications that had operated flawlessly under the Boyfriend 5.0 application.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs such as Romance 99, but installed undesirable programs such as Test Cricket 7.4, Sky Sports 3.2 and World Cup Rugby 4.1. Conversation 1.0 no longer runs and HouseClean 2.6 simply crashes the system. I tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do?

Answer from "Kit Car" Q & A Iain Ayre

First, keep in mind that Boyfriend 5.0 was an entertainment package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Try entering the command C:/I

REPAIR GUY
Barry Marshall



THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME and install Tears 6.3. Husband 1.0 should then automatically run

the applications Guilt 3.3 and Flowers 95. But remember, overuse can cause Husband 1.0 to default to background applications such as Grumpy Silence 11 and Beer 6.1. Beer 6.1 is a problematic application that will create snoring loudly WAV files. DO NOT install Mother-in-Law 1.0 or reinstall a previous Boyfriend program. These are not supported applications and will crash Husband 1.0. They could also cause Husband 1.0 to default to the program Girlfriend 9.2 which runs in the background and has been known to introduce potentially serious viruses into the operating system.

Husband 1.0 is an excellent program, but does have a limited memory and can't learn new applications quickly. You could consider buying additional software to enhance its system performance. We recommend Steak'n'Chips 3.0 and Single Malt 4.5, combined with such applications as Boob Job 36D and that old standby Lingerie 6.9, both of which have been known to achieve improved hardware performance.

Thanks to Kit Car Magazine, Dannii and Iain Ayre.

□ Barry Marshall runs Ascot Gas Services and can be reached at BarryMarshall@gmx.com, www.ascot-gas-services.com

HERE TO HELP WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

MEL ARNOLD MP
NORTH OKANAGAN—SHUSWAP

1-3105 29TH STREET
VERNON, BC

MELARNOLD.CA
250-260-5020



Kristal Burgess photo

> Minor Baseball's Bottle Drive was a huge success.

Students primed for financial success

A local partnership with a non-profit company, Launch Financial Education Society (Launch Okanagan), is powering up to help Okanagan College students boost their financial literacy this spring.

Starting this month, OC students will benefit from a free financial literacy program hosted online by Launch Okanagan. The Primer for Life series is an interactive, five-week program that offers students a chance to learn about their relationship with money, consumerism, budgeting, saving and credit.

Xiaochen Yang is enrolled in OC's School of Business Post-Baccalaureate Diploma program in Accounting and while she has always had an interest in numbers, this workshop means something different for her.

"It's important for us as post-secondary students to know how to manage our wealth and educate ourselves on personal finances," says Yang. "This is a chance for us to build another skill and give us an idea of how to wisely deal with our incomes."

The Primer for Life program is geared to young adults in post-secondary and will be delivered virtually, allowing OC students from across the Okanagan region to participate.

"This program was created to provide youth with the financial knowledge and skills they need to feel confident in making financial decisions," says Jennifer Robins, Executive Director of Launch Okanagan. "Workshop sessions are free and there aren't any financial or income restrictions you need to attend – everyone is welcome."

A new financial topic is covered each week and, to accommodate busy academic and work schedules, students can choose from two time slots per week to attend. ■

□ OC students can enrol and view the workshop schedule at www.okanagan.bc.ca/ocprimerforlife.

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Ear to the GROUND

Lexi the paper dog

For 16 years our family dog, Lexi, has been my faithful paper dog. She absolutely loves her job helping me deliver *Friday AM*.

Sadly, it will not be long until the end of her journey. She has cancer of the spleen and other ailments, and we know it will be time once we see that she is suffering. Soon, when she can still comfortably go on short walks I'm going to set a time and date, and Lex and I will take a walk around the big downtown block. Anyone who would like to say goodbye, may just happen to be walking at that time, and give her a little pat on the head and a kind word (she can lipread).

My full tribute to Lexi is online only at FriAM.ca (last page) ■



OFF THE WEB



> Erin Leek's family dog, Jersey, got to celebrate his second birthday with a special cake on St. Patrick's Day.

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Speed bumps are too jarring

I enjoyed the last issue, except the 'bravo' for the massive speed bumps at the foot of Okanagan Ave. My take on it is this: Any good chef or butcher will tell you a sharp knife is safer than a dull knife. However, a killer can be dangerous with either kind. Any good driver will tell you a smooth road is safer than a rough road, but a dangerous driver can get their kicks on either kind.

The new bumps are extreme enough to cause a car or truck to lose contact with the road and/or bottom out at 30 km/h. The jarring to one's neck at any speed is not good for anyone, especially seniors who may have had their necks jarred too many times before.

Lastly, having these hazards on the main access route to a quarter of the town's residences seems like a huge insult to the 99.9 per cent who respect the speed limit. And do they really do anything to make the world a safer place? I doubt it. **Dan Grinder**

Solution for batteries losing charge

Reported problems with batteries not holding charge is a result of less vehicle use during this time of pandemic. The solution is to disconnect the positive terminal and reconnect when you drive again after a month or so of non-useage.

There's a natural draw even when the ignition is off. Seasonal agricultural equipment loses charge and often batteries go dead. If a battery goes flat too many times it will cease to do its job.

A disconnected battery will stay charged many months, especially during cold weather. With today's technology, a disconnect switch on the positive cable coulee should be available for the driver to activate from the operating console. **Nick Parsons**

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City FIXINGS

> Traffic circles are planned for the frontage roads west of the new bridge, and proposed for Broadview St. Where else in town might traffic circles work?

Bravos & Boos

> **BOO TO** still having unsafe water in 39 Indigenous communities in Canada. March 22 is World Water Day.

Web SITINGS

> CSRD YouTube channel A new video is out to provide information for potential fire-fighting recruits.

Club FOCUS

Many Seniors feeling the effects of social isolation are grateful for the two Probus Clubs in Salmon Arm. Probus is a non-political and non-fund raising club of retirees and semi-retirees. Currently, members stays connected through the internet, email and phone calls. Probus is now looking forward to getting together again as Covid restrictions lessen for activities like Dine Out, Happy Hour, book club, art, crafts, bowling and golf. For more information, contact gerrylittle561@hotmail.com.

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WORD SEARCH

Spring Chickens: some of breeds



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HIDDEN GEMS

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- > "Practice as if you are the worst. Play as if you are the best."
- > "You don't have to be good at gardening for gardening to be good for you."
- > "Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush."
- > "If you find it hard to laugh at yourself, I would be happy to do it for you." ~ Groucho Marx
- > "J'accepte la grande aventure d'être moi." Simone de Beauvoir

FUNNY BONE

Some good paraprosdokians, where a phrase or figure of speech contains an unexpected and humorous ending:

- > Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- > Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- > If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- > We never really grow up - we only learn how to act in public.
- > Knowledge, is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- > I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- > In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of an emergency...' I answered 'a doctor.'
- > I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
- > You're never too old to learn something stupid.
- > My parents moved a lot, but I always found them.

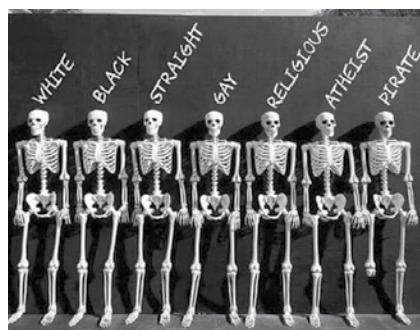
POP QUIZ

> What percentage of Kuwait City's 5 million population comprises expatriates? The world's tallest building is planned in this city. How many floors?
> 70 per cent expatriates • 234 floors, 1,001 metres

PICTURE THIS



> A vandal's ironic list.



> SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:
Clue - it's not the bone tone.

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Gum disease and Covid-19

COVID-19 patients are at least three times more likely to experience complications if they also have gum disease, according to the most recent Journal of Clinical Periodontology. The study of more than 500 patients with COVID-19 found that those with gum disease were 3.5 times more likely to be admitted to intensive care, 4.5 times more likely to need a ventilator, and almost nine times more likely to die compared to those without gum disease. ■



> A six-storey building with commercial space and up to 140 upper apartments received the zoning needed from Salmon Arm council. The complex on 10th Ave. SW across from Piccadilly heard many height concerns from residents at Village 10th & 10th.

MEANWHILE, AT STONEHENGE...



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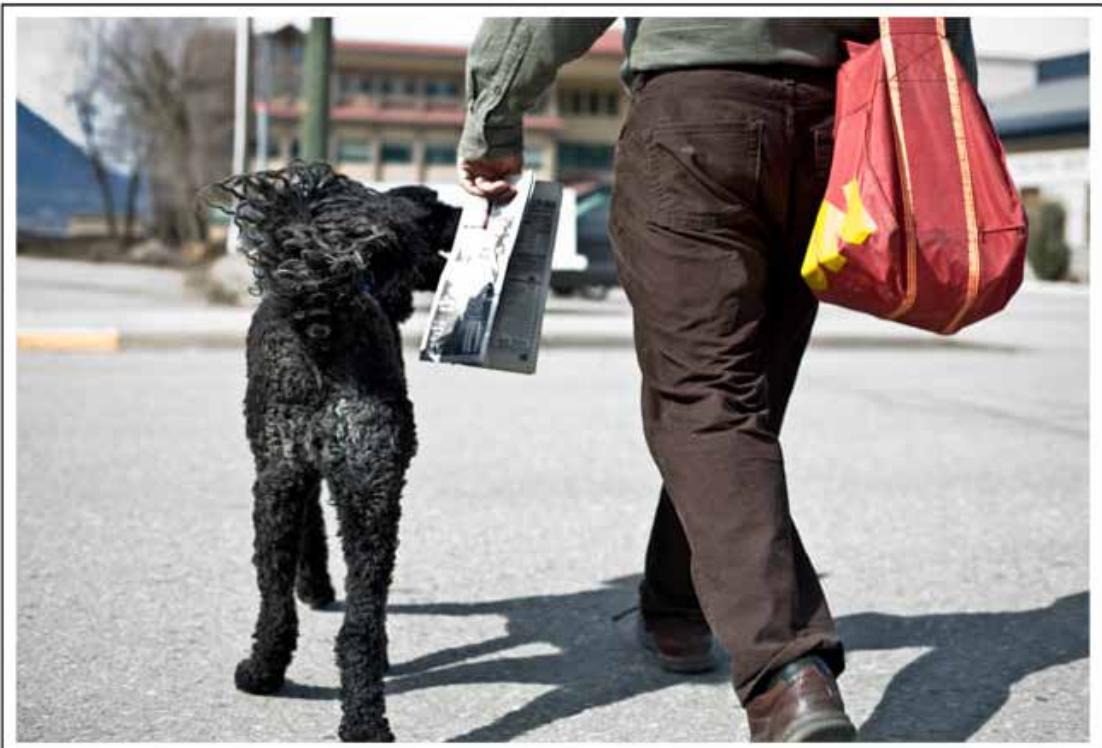
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Lexi the paper dog



Everybody says their dog is the best dog. Well, it's true what they say.. I'd say Lexi the Friday AM delivery dog IS the best!

I'm sorry to say there was no good news at the recent vet check. She's got cancer in her spleen, she's off balance with some brain dysfunction, there's some infection in her mouth, she's deaf, and her running days are drawing to a close. The short version is she's 16 and she's palliative.

Every Thursday night, she'd know there's a load of papers in the back of the car she loves. She'd dream about the next morning and get me up at 4 am to deliver all those papers around town. She knew the route well. Occasionally, I would skip a door because a shop closed down whatever, but she wouldn't have any of it. The big mutt refused to budge until I put a paper in that door. I'd just say, "bug off Lexi.. okay, okay are you happy now?"

The funniest thing related to that is how Lexi and I used to always drop off papers at Starbucks, but one day I got a call from the coffeeshop that they could not carry local papers anymore because they had an exclusive deal with the big dailies. I made a comment about how local papers should be supported, and wouldn't you know it, the CBC picked it up and called me for an interview. Anyway, Lexi must have overheard all this, because later that week, when she saw I wasn't going into Starbucks to deliver, instead of refusing to budge, she went into

position and did a big embarrassing dump right in front of the door of Starbucks. Believe me, I did not ask her to do that. That was totally her call.

She also had a few favourite places where there was always a treat waiting for her. This gutsy hound would even saunter behind the counter of a kindly receptionist and go straight to the drawer where the kibbles are. Right, Jennifer and Noreen? Personally, I would never rifle through the desk of a local financial institution without asking permission first, just so you know.

I knew things weren't going to be the same when I'd have to wake her up Friday mornings instead of her waking me. But even now, she's always eager to get up and get going. For the past two years, she preferred to curl up in the backseat. She'd say, "I'm good, human.." and she'd patiently wait. (It was early mornings before the heat)

Anyway, we don't know when will be the time. We will know when she is suffering. One day when she can still comfortably go on short walks, I'm going to set a time and date and then Lex and I will take a walk around the big downtown block.

Anybody who would like to say goodbye, may wish to just happen to be walking downtown at that time and maybe give her a little pat on the head. Although she can't hear anymore, she can lipread when you say, "you're a good dog, Lexi." In the meantime, love everyday that you and your best friends are alive and well. ■

Here's a photo of Lexi and I producing one of many edition of *Friday AM* from our corporate headquarters in uptown Salmon Arm. I've since expanded operations after realizing the three foot high door was just too inconvenient for the occasional business client who wanted to place an ad. Even Lexi was finding the tiny door to be challenging. That's how the poodle side of her started to come out in her forehead.

We've had very few setbacks since producing this paper over the years, except back in the Christmas edition of 2012 when we decided to spray the entire run with pine scent. It was fine for individual copies, but Lex and I got a little punky from the entire car full of pine scented papers. Live and learn, I always say. ■

