

VOL.2 ISSUE 3

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March 2018





Richmond and Delta begin their conference final playoff 7 p.m. Mar. 1 at Minoru Arenas.



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Photo by Chung Chow

An instructor at Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Wilson School of Design, Victor Martinez is also a transportation design researcher who once helped design Fiats and Alfa Romeos.



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He's a Kwantlen instructor, by design

By LORRAINE GRAVES @LGsentinel

Victor Martinez is a designer, but don't look to him for couture fashion or even off the rack.

Originally educated in Mexico, Martinez took his first degree in industrial design and, with a grant tucked under his arm, headed for Italy to do a Master's degree in automotive design.

Upon graduation there, he worked for an independent company designing everything from plebeian Fiats to upscale Alfa Romeos.

Design, to Martinez, is much more than just how the car looks from the outside.

Asserting that good design is not flashy, he says we often don't notice it: "What makes it good design is it's so natural, so intuitive, so logical that you use without thinking. With bad design, you hit yourself or things are simply ugly."

Returning to Mexico, Martinez opened his own design shop and helped a university friend out by teaching a university class, then one class turned into two then three and eventually a full-time position teaching while doing research.

From there, Martinez did a PhD in sustainable design at the University of Northumbria in the United Kingdom. He was hired directly out of university by the Wilson School of Design where,



Photo by Chung Chow

Richmond's Victor Martinez, an instructor in the Wilson School of Design at the Richmond campus of Kwantlen Polytechnic University, started his career designing Italian automobiles in Milan.

a transportation design researcher.

He says people don't always know what designers do.

"Normally, people think of a design-

a mistake," he says.

is important. There's ergonomics and on top of being an instructor, he is also er as this creative guy or person who contact with the user. For example,

just makes beautiful things but that's when you are driving your car, you may have your hand in the lever for "We care about beauty but function the gears and at the same time, your

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SAT. & SUN. MARCH 3 & 4

Pacific Judo International,

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SAT., MARCH 3

Richmond Seedy Saturday

Thompson CC

SAT., MARCH 17 10:00AM-1:00PM

Kids Only Swap Meet

Thompson Community Centre

SAT., MARCH 31

Easter Egg-stravagana

South Arm CC 9:30am-12:30pm Hamilton CC 10:00-11:30am Steveston CC 10:00am-12:00pm Thompson CC 10:00am-12:00pm City Centre CC 11:00am-1:00pm

SUN., APRIL 1 10:00-11:30AM

Easter Egg-stravagana

West Richmond CC

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Learning about the power of compassion, empathy

By LORRAINE GRAVES @LGsentinel

Yuy Felicella remembers the day his life changed.

After telling him about living with depression, her black days, community worker Liz Moss said, "Do you feel black?"

"I will never forget it. It was like the sky parted and I looked up and I just said, 'yeah,""

Now educating school children, health professionals and the general public while working as a community liaison officer for Downtown Eastside Connections. Felicella talks of his teach- hit me." ing method.

to attach a story to it. You have to have more understanding instead of just a judgement call."

Felicella's story started ordinarily enough. He grew up in Steveston, went to St. Paul's and James McKinney for elementary school, then to Boyd and London for junior secondary school.

"I played West Richmond soccer for 15 years. I played baseball. I was just an everyday average day kid—middle class—growing up in Richmond. I wasn't like a person you'd think would do drugs. The

last place anybody every thought dirty ones he'd been using. The they'd see me was the Downtown Fastside."

But, by adolescence, he couldn't stop the pain from years of verbal and physical abuse.

"When you're dealing with pain you just want to get rid of it as fast as possible," Felicella says.

"The first drug I ever smoked was pot It was the answer for me at 12. And then at 16 it was cocaine. And then, right after it was heroin. Obviously for me, the weed wasn't stopping the pain; coke wasn't stopping any pain. When I found heroin the answer

For decades, living on the "I think with addiction, you have streets, stealing to support a \$300-to-\$400-a-day habit, heroin was the answer, and the only answer, to Felicella's pain, until the day he had that fateful conversation with worker Liz Moss at Vancouver Coastal Health's Insite, safe injection, Centre in the Downtown Eastside.

Her compassion reached his heart and started Felicella on the path to a new life, away from self-hatred, street drug use, and most of all, away from pain.

Felicella was given clean, safe drugs to substitute the expensive,

street drugs were dirty not only in their lack of medicinal purity but in their sterility. Once again, practical compassion saved not only Felicella's life but his leg.

"I had life-threatening osteomyelitis from dirty drugs. Four or five times they wanted to amputate my left leg so now I walk with a limp but at CTCT in Downtown East Side (The Community Transitional Care Team, a residential acute care clinic in the Downtown East Side), you could use while living at the facility while you got antibiotics. One of the reasons I have a left leg is their accepting me, reducing harm, not looking and judging."

According to one substance user's mom, infections from illegal drugs continue to be a big

She says hallways at St. Paul's Hospital are filled each morning with injection drug users sitting in chairs receiving their scheduled daily intravenous antibiotic treatments to deal with the aftermath—horrendous skin lesions, systemic infections—of dirty drugs.

Pharmaceutical grade drugs See Page 5



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COMPASSION

From Page 4

have to pass rigorous health and cleanliness standards. Street drugs don't. Dirty drugs cost taxpayers many health dollars. Clean, legal drugs save money.

After the fateful day Liz Moss reached out to Felicella, the day her compassion hit home and the day when there were useful options in place for him, Felicella opted for opiate assistive therapy where clean, safe drugs are provided by the health care system to help people stabilize their physical and mental health.

"What opiate assistive therapies do is they address the physical need to stabilize the person using substances," he says. "Once the physical dependence gets addressed, so the person isn't so hell bent on getting drugs, they can start piecing their life back together."

And piece it back together, he did.

"I was on opiate assistance therapy which addressed my physical dependency. It actually frees up the mind on learning new ways to cope. I started to talk about it with people."

And how did that learning to cope come about?

"We all come to a point in our life where we have to trim off a little bit of the pain. Don't try to look at it all. Just try to look at what you can do. Just trim it off bit by bit and when you can't handle it, stay on your opioid assistance therapy."

Today, with a job, home and two children to bring even more joy into his life, Felicella works at a clinic that offers free drop-in treatment services for those with substance use and other issues.

It offers opioid substitution therapy as well as providing take-home naloxone kits, peer support, and the services of on-site nurses, social workers, financial liaison, and community workers.

Physicians and pharmacists are also

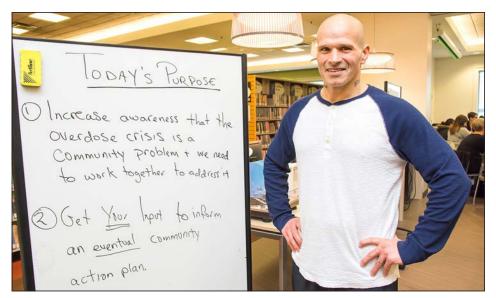


Photo by Chung Chow

"It's not a criminal issue. It's not a moral issue. It's a medical issue that needs to be treated with compassion and empathy," says community liaison worker, Guy Felicella.

available to give clients medication for middle class life is no armour against conditions such as HIV, hepatitis C, and psychiatric illnesses.

Felicella also freelances as a speaker hope. in elementary and high schools, teaching children and teachers alike that a

drug addiction. He speaks of his journey, teaching compassion, teaching

Felicella speaks of the need for on-









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History is an excellent teaching aide

By LORRAINE GRAVES @LGsentinel

verything has a past," says Kwan-Ltlen Polytechnic University historian Eryk Martin.

the recounting of boring history and

fact. I try to get my students to look beyond that"

He asks students to engage in history with assignments like a photo project where they make up a fictional character, write a series of letters and use historical photos.

encourages students to use "the amazing collection at Richmond city ar-

chives," adding the "archives hold the white person's." voice of these people for history to read in the future."

He also speaks of the B.C. Packers collection of photos that connects Richmond to Alert Bay, Prince Rupert and all the other communities along the coast.

"Archives are not just an important place for historians to research history, they are also, places to find the voices of peoples left out of the historical record," he says.

One student's assignment featured photos of confiscated fishing boats in Steveston during the Second World War.

In the archives, his students also found letters of defence.

People were writing protest letters to speak against confiscation of their neighbours' or their own property.

"It's very important for students and historians to listen to and read these documents," says Martin.

When teaching his students, Martin

says he tries to get them to have a historical consciousness. It helps to explain, and gives us critical tools to see, where these things come from."

He offers the example of racist fliers recently distributed through Rich-"Many people think history is just mond accusing a specific immigrant group of making our city unaffordable.

> "This sentiment hasn't emerged out of nowhere," says Martin. "There is a long history, stretching back, of anti-Chinese, anti-Indian sentiment Look at the Exclusion Act, the race riots of 1907. the Vancouver race riots, in which people from white communities gathered under banners that B.C. and Canada are to be a



He says all Canadians need to know more about our history such as the fact that Shaughnessy had Ku Klux Klan (KKK) clubhouses and many connections in the city.

Martin cites the recent Canada 150 celebrations: "Here we have a history largely shaped by the political prerogative of the government that attempts to tell a story of the Canadian past as largely one of a history of tolerance."

In echoes of Kristallnacht, when Germans smashed the shop window of German citizens of Jewish ancestry on Nov. 9, 1938, Martin speaks of our local past.

"There was a time when people went into Chinatown and Japan town to smash businesses. In 1905, these acts were pushed by the Asiatic Exclusion League that was putting pressure on politicians to exclude Asian immigrants from B.C."

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HISTORY

From Page 6

Martin then shows his student anti-Asian posters from 2016, two years ago, that say Chinese immigrants are going to take over, are going to make white people a minority.

It is part of a lingering pattern, he says, of racism in B.C.

According to Martin, we can use history to explain the barriers in our communities today especially when we look at historical realities like the head tax and the systemic racism that has pushed segregation.

deep segregation."

In his course, Martin says he looks at "the barriers between people, a community's policies of the past that kept people separate from one another."

Martin cites the Indian act, the Canadian government's reserve system and residential schools.

"Those things were all done to fos-

ter a very clear policy of racial segregation," he says.

At the end of the course, Martin asks his students about the recent racist posters: now knowing about the background and the history behind the sentiment.

"How are you going to speak back against this poster?" he asks them.

Through his course, he hopes his students learn how history, even the history we aren't aware of, affects us today. He also hopes they develop a love of archives.

"Archives hold the voice of these people for history to read in the future. We would never hear these voices if "The history of Canada is one of we just opened up a text or watched Canadian TV," he says.

> Our rosy view of Canadians as historically tolerant, he says is "done with a series of silences, so that we forget."

> Whether we recognize it or not, he says: "The past is still with us. Its echoes, its legacies are still with us todav."

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Photo
courtesy TWU
Hyne-Ju
Huizenga
completed
her degree by
attending one
night class
per week
at Trinity
Western.

TWU grad inspires others

By **DON FENNELL** @DFSentinel

yne-Ju Huizenga has never let time stop her from pursuing her dreams.

Back in 1984, she was pursuing a Bachelor's degree in education at Simon Fraser University. But then came other priorities, including children and work.

Now, at 51, the mother of 12 has rekindled her passion for education.

"Whether you're at school or not, we are always learning" says Huizenga, who just retired from being a restaurant manager to focus on new commitments.

Armed with Bachelor and Master degrees in Leadership, earned by taking a class one night a week in Trinity Western University's adult degree completion program in Richmond, she is now working on a PhD in management through Minneapolis-based Walden University.

Her ultimate goal is to become a tenured professor for TWU's Master of Arts in Leadership program.

Currently a part-time instructor, while also carrying out some other responsibilities at the Richmond

campus, Huizenga is anxious to help others take the next step in completing their degrees. She will be helping to host an information session March 8 from 6:30 p.m. at 7:45 p.m. at the university.

Huizenga is grateful for the support of her family, including two children still at home who step up to help with errands and housework.

"I love to read, write, and read some more," she says. "My husband probably thinks I have the most boring habits ever. But as I describe it to my family, they have their sports and games and mommy has her studies."

A thirst for learning, and achieving is clearly a family trait. Her mom, who had three children, was a school teacher. The oldest of Huizenga's children are, in order of age, a police offer; a banker; and an employee of the year (at Rogers Communications). Two others won scholarships to the University of B.C. and are studying psychology and marine biology.

"I have encouraged them to choose whatever bachelor's degree program and whatever PhD program they are interested in, but as a mother's wish, I have asked that they take TWU's one

year Master of Arts in Leadership program," she says. "My son in Edmonton is considering doing this and may take the online version that TWU has just started offering."

TWU Richmond believes education should be accessible, flexible, and relevant. Providing degree completion programs in the daytime for international students and evenings for busy working adults, in various daytime and weekend modules. Since opening its doors on Minoru Boulevard in late 2015, TWU's Richmond campus has grown to now serve over 400 students pursuing BA in Leadership, MA in Leadership and MBA degrees.

TWU Richmond was established for that very purpose, says Trinity Western University vice-provost Phillip Laird.

"It provides learners with an urban learning setting close to downtown Vancouver. The Richmond site complements TWU Langley's rural university context and provides an international, adult, and graduate learning environment to inspire the hearts and minds of future generations of learners."

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Teacher inspires students to learn

By **DON FENNELL** @DFSentinel

The kids from the 5-C (an affectionate student-spawned term for the No. 5 and Cambie roads area) are engaged in a lesson. This time, however, the basketball court is the classroom.

For teacher and coach Brian Meier, though, the platform for learning isn't as important as the methods he employs.

"I try not to simply tell my athletes what to do, but question them as to why they think we should or should not do something," explains Meier, who is proud to be teaching at Cambie Secondary School, and also coaching the senior boys' basketball team.

"Learning needs to be something that each athlete or student needs to own if it is going to stick with them. We reach our ultimate success by working together, using the strengths of each individual to create a successful venture."

Not everyone (on a team) is going to be the leading scorer, but everyone can find a role to contribute, he says, adding the classroom is no different.

"Meshing our talents together is what teamwork is all about," explains Meier. "Life is no different. When we all work towards a common goal, and use the strengths of all involved, success will follow."

Meier is excited to be overseeing the school's Recreation Leadership program which launched 12 years ago. It was the vision of Paula Charlton who is now vice-principal at Hugh McRoberts Secondary.

"I have continued most of what Charlton initiated and have slowly added some ideas of my own," Meier explains. "As times goes on, the program will slowly evolve and take on the shape of what is to come."



Photo by Chung Chow

Cambie teacher and coach Brian Meier believes students learn best when they can take a lead role.

is a thriving entity both within the school and its surrounding community. The students are required to volunteer a set number of hours within the school and community each term, but also take on active roles in each.

Some key events the leadership students oversee are a 24-hour Wake-A-Thon in which they raise money for various charities; Terry Fox Run; and ACT (Acceptance, Community and Tolerance) Day on Feb. 28. Students also organize an annual conference for incoming Grade 7 students, and athletic tournaments. Some of the Grade 12s have even taken the initiative to

facility, create playlists for those with Alzheimers, raised money for food to make care packages for the homeless, and organize free sports programs for youth.

dents try to connect is by working directly with the incoming Grade 8s, setting a positive tone for their high school experience.

"The example set by the Leadership students as active members visible in the school environment they can pursue avenues they have is one that sets the tone for the incoming Grade 8s," Meier says. "The Grade 8s see the Grade 11 and 12 mentors involved, and hopefully are more likely to take a chance and get

Currently, the leadership program collect used iPods to a seniors care involved as well. I truly think we will see some incredible success stories coming from this group of stu-

> In general, Meier thinks educators need to teach more skills that are Meier says another way the stu-transferable to life outside of high school. He says most teachers do a great job of teaching skills, but not always how they apply beyond the classroom. The leadership program, for example, allows students to work in a variety of settings "so a passion for."

> > "I see myself as a mentor and advisor," Meier says. "I feel that my job

> > > See Page 11

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TEACHER

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is not to tell, but to guide students in a positive direction. Ultimately, I hope that the students acquire a skill set that allows them to feel comfortable taking risks. I also hope that the students take with them a confidence that they can be successful taking charge in a variety of situations, working with a variety of different people."

Meier says the most satisfying part of being a teacher and coach is seeing the success of students and student athletes.

"There really isn't a whole lot more rewarding than working with someone who is challenging themselves to be better," he says. "I emphasize with both my athletes and my students that on the path to success, there will be obstacles. However, we need these moments to re-evaluate what we were doing, and why we are

doing it. We need these moments to appreciate success and to give it value. Ultimately, the moments where we are not as successful are the turning point moments where we learn the most. Trust the process."

Teacher and coach are synonymous in Meier's mind. As a coach, he is a teacher of the game. He tries not to simply tell his athletes what to do, but question them as why or why not they should do something. Learning, he says, needs to be something each student athlete needs to own if the lessons are going to stick.

"On the basketball court not everyone will be the leading scorer, but all players can find a role to contribute that is invaluable," Meier says. "The classroom is the same. And life is no different. When we all work together towards a common goal, and use the strengths of all involved, success will follow."

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca



A random lottery draw will take place at Thompson on March 8 at 6:00pm.

A family representative must be present, and prepared to register the child at this time.

For more information, please visit www.terranovanatureschool.com



Thompson Community Centre 5151 Granville Ave. Richmond 604-238-8422





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RICHMOND SENTINEL

KWANTLEN

From Page 3

fingers you can reach all the buttons in the centre console."

He says it's something people wouldn't notice but, "I spent years working on that—you have no idea how many hours we spent on the centre console, so it is intuitive and kind to the users."

The school of design has a decades-old history, beginning in 1981 when Kwantlen opened. Interior, graphic and fashion design were the first programs. Now, the school has seven different design programs ranging from fashion to industrial.

When asked who goes into indus-

trial design, Martinez tells the story of they are working on," he says. his admissions process for his first degree in Mexico.

The interview panel said to the assembled group of hopefuls, "I'm sure ory. each of you has a drawer in your house with disassembled electrical appliances and broken toys, like a treasure chest for your next project that you could put together," he recalls.

"I've had that since I was six years old and I've always had a drawing of my next crazy gadget"

Typical of Canadian culture, it is not your resumé or references from powerful people but your faculty interview, where the professors see the person you are, that determines your start at the Wilson School of Design.

"With the interview, we can identify if that person would be good for our program," he says. Beforehand the instructors tell the students to bring anything that describes their passion.

"Students come with sculpture, YouTube channels, crafts, even apps

Once students are admitted, the program is hands on, with few mathematical formulae or lectures on the-

"What we have done with the program is focus on the design process. We like to call them information synthesizers. We want to make them critical thinkers."

A prospective student need not be working in exactly the same area as the professors.

"If a student comes and wants to work on something where I'm not an expert, they have to contact an expert, formulate intelligent questions and use that information to inform their next steps."

It's something the Wilson School of Design prides itself on.

"We are continuously growing our network of experts," he says. "Good design goes unnoticed. That makes it just perfect."

•lgraves@richmondsentinel.ca



COMMUNITY COMMENT









DEAR RICHMOND CONSTITUENTS,

Andrea Paquette, aka Bipolar Babe, created the bipolar babe project in 2009. She is now President of the Stigma Free Society which she founded in 2010. Please come hear her speak on Friday, March 2 in Richmond. Call 604-775-0891 for time and place.

The charity's interactive and impactful website www.stigmafreezone.com gives people a place to connect, and find valuable information and support. Andrea is passionate about educating today's youth on societal stigmas, especially mental illness stigma, that negatively affects people's perceptions of themselves and others. She shares her personal story of struggle and triumph since her bipolar diagnosis in 2005.

She is an award winning mental health activist, educator, facilitator, author and speaker. It is through her story that she is able to share her personal views and educated opinions with the community on mental health and stigma.

In seven years, Andrea has presented her story to hundreds of schools, workplaces, community organizations and events reaching thousands of people. Her message of stomping out stigma and mental health awareness is engaging, entertaining, enlightening and eye opening.

Andrea launched the STIGMA-FREE ZONE movement in British Columbia in partnership with co-founder Dave Richardson.

Andrea consistently shares her encouraging message that "no matter what our challenges, we can all live extraordinary lives."

Take the stigma-free pledge today at www.stigmafreezone.com

Linda Reid, MLA

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Library serves up online education

By **DON FENNELL** @DFSentinel

The world is changing, and with it the way we access information.

Ever responsive, the Richmond Public Library is changing too.

Lynda.com is an example of an online educational service accessible through the library. All you need to get started is your library card.

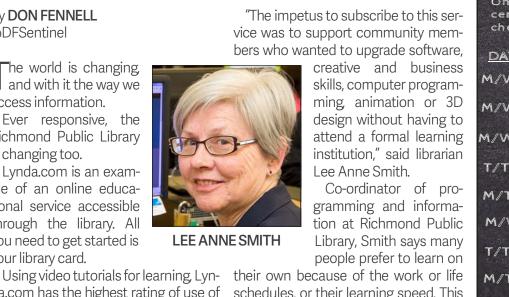
da.com has the highest rating of use of all the library's subscription services. The number of videos viewed has almost doubled in the two years since the library started its subscription in 2015.

schedules, or their learning speed. This services, she adds, is perfect for personalized learning.

"Because library card holders can See Page 21



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RICHMOND SENTINEL

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McMath coach gets

By **DON FENNELL** @DFSentinel

Max Pecarsky knows the value of "I was a very average student bean education. It provided him cause I wasn't very serious about with a degree from UBC and a career as a kinesiologist.

proving fruitful.

Just 24 years old, Pecarsky is already enjoying coaching success. With the veteran presence of Tony Wong-Hen and enthusiastic Ricky the one-time McMath Wildcat player has led his alma matar to the provincial senior high school AAA boys' to 10 in Langley.

Runners-up to Burnaby's Byrne Creek Bulldogs at last week's Lower Mainland playdowns, McMath topped the Richmond league with a add the city playoff title.

"It's pretty surreal to be this young and to have the opportunity to coach this team to a provincial run," says Pecarsky."Me and Ricky are the same age and grew up playing basketball together. We have learned a lot over our relatively short time playing and coaching, and I am proud of our team for working hard this year and giving themselves an opportunity to put up a provincial banner."

But Pecarsky says the job is far from complete.

"I have a lot to learn in the coaching world. I see a lot of older coaches be looked up to. (But) if you are studious in an academic setting, you can be the same in a basketball setting. A lot of the boys on the team do well in school, and for some of them, it translates onto the basketball court."

Drawing on his own experiences as a student and player, Pecarsky says both discipline and basketball IQ are

essential to winning. It's a process that he has been expounding all sea-

school. I thought basketball was everything, and the only thing. Not only A passion for basketball, and learn- did I later realize that it was wrong ing the intricacies of the game, is also for me to think that way, I paid the consequences by getting a harsh reality check when I entered post-secondary education. My study habits weren't up to standard."

Pecarsky adjusted, and learned at Hernandez rounding out the staff, the same time that he didn't have to sacrifice his love of basketball to gain even more.

"I definitely tell the players I coach basketball championships March 7 that academics should always come first, no matter how frustrating it may be," he says. "You have to be disciplined on the court and in the school."

He also proudly extols the virtues 10-0 record and then proceeded to of sport, extending well beyond simply winning and losing and providing life lessons that individuals may apply to their future lives.

> "Every time our team loses a game, I always try to bring out as many positives as possible," he says. "Regardless of how successful the team is, the goal is for them to have fun while doing it. This is probably the biggest challenge with the teams that I have coached, because it's hard for kids to have fun while losing and be optimistic about a loss. It's our job as coaches to help the kids see these positives, learn, and move on from a loss."

Off the court, Pecarsky finds great still going and they are definitely to fulfillment as a kinesiologist for JR Rehab Services. He mainly works in a gym or pool setting with clients who have been injured at their jobs.

> "The thing I enjoy most is helping people get back to their normal lives. I see a lot of clients who have lost a lot, and to see them progress, albeit

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Max-imum effort



Photo by Chung Chow

McMath coach Max Pecarsky stresses the importance of discipline on and off the basketball court.

WILDCATS

From Page 14

slowly, really brings a lot of joy, purpose and value to my own life."

Pecarsky's biggest inspiration has always been his dad, Steve.

"He was someone I could always look up to in how to be a better man," he explains. "He pushed me pretty hard growing up to try to be my best. He has worked very hard to give me a privileged life and I definitely wouldn't be the man I am today without him giving me as much as he has."

Pecarsky's lifelong love of athletics began early. He started out playing a bit of soccer and engaging in some martial arts, learning through the latter the importance of discipline which he says is the biggest key in youth sports "because it adds structure."

Infatuated by the Vancouver Grizzlies, he was in Grade 3 when he

joined the Richmond Youth Basketball League. From there, the love affair with basketball has only escalated.

"The thing I enjoy most about basketball is the competitive nature," says Pecarsky, who lists Jason Belonio, his coach when he played at McMath, as his greatest basketball influence.

"I started coaching because I really wanted to be around basketball, and to pass on my passion to younger players."

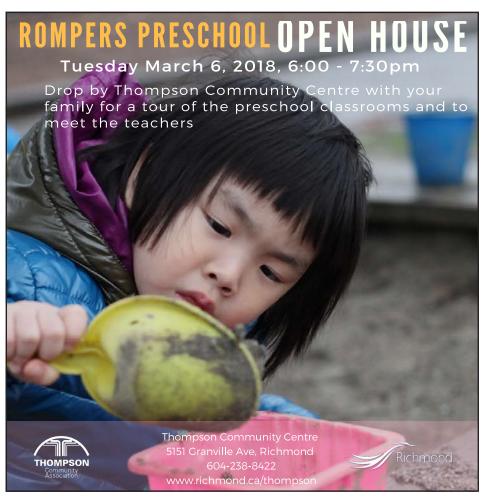
Steve Nash, the two-time NBA allstar from Victoria, was also a big influence, Pecarsky says.

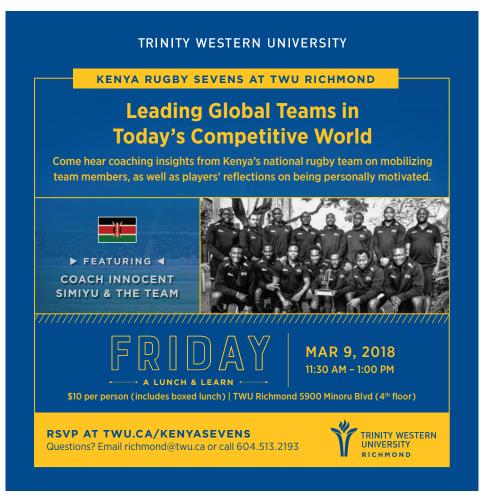
"He played the game the right way and was someone I strove to be like."

Coaching colleague Wong-Hen says Pecarsky is extremely personable and loved by his players.

"He's forthright and honest, and has a passion for basketball and coaching," explains Wong-Hen. "And he's extremely bright and intuitive."

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca





16 | EDUCATION March 2018 RICHMOND SENTINEL



feedback on Vancouver Coastal Health services for older adults in Richmond.

The population of the City of Richmond is increasing at a rapid pace – with the fastest growing group being adults 75 and older.

As we age, our need grows for better care and more timely health services. To make improvements to our current programs, and to plan for future older adult services, Vancouver Coastal Health - Richmond wants to hear from the community.

This spring, we are hosting two public forums where we will share information about existing community health services for seniors, as well as changes and improvements made over the past year. More importantly, we want to hear from you about what you think we need to include in future planning for seniors care.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- Adult Day Program and Respite Services
- Residential Care Services
- A New Community Health Access Centre

Your feedback and ideas are important to us. Please consider attending one of the Keeping Seniors Well forums to continue the community dialogue that began last year on the topic of Primary Care:

DATES: Wednesday, March 7th or Tuesday, March 13th Both dates will provide the same information and opportunity for input

TIME: 6:30 to 8 p.m.

PLACE: Ralph Fisher Auditorium, Richmond Hospital. Free parking in the gravel lot accessed from Westminster Hwy.

To register or for more information, e-mail Vancouver Coastal Health Community Engagement at ce@vch.ca or call 604-714-3779.

COMPASSION

From Page 5

going care and support, so that people leaving substance abuse can lead healthier lives.

drugs, the first 3 months are just such a battle in itself. What happens to your clients when they finish your treatment? We need a transitional facility where people can go and live afterwards, learning life skills, jobs, get jobs through this, find housing, all these things."

A house in Richmond's Woodwards district is home to a transition house for women, women who are putting they are clean and sober. Many more such ordinary-looking houses, where people can build on the healthy lives they've started, are needed.

Felicella says that until society changes its attitude, the costs associated with street drug use will and adults he speaks with to learn? continue and middle class kids will containunexpectedlethaladditiveslike Fentanyl. People do what it takes to find the hundreds of dollars every day to get the drugs they need to numb

their pain.

Felicella teaches that anyone who has had a break-in or a theft from their car has been touched by the high price of illegal street drugs.

"Substance abuse not only impacts the person using it," says Felicella. He "If you can just get away from street speaks of the kids from good homes ending up in the Downtown Eastside, of the families devastated by overdoses, and of the need for practical compassion: "You can't save a dead addict."

> Today, Felicella sees an additional benefit in his new life: "I have two beautiful children. Without all the help, without the opiate assistive therapy. my son wouldn't have been born my daughter wouldn't have been born."

He cautions against teaching with their lives back together now that a one-size-fits-all approach: "We're all unique individuals, what may work for some may not work for others."

> But he says that, for him, opiate assistive therapy was vital, that and Liz Moss's kindness.

> What does he want the students

"Show a bit more compassion and continue to overdose on drugs that empathy towards people who are really struggling. That's what really wins it over in the end," Felicella says, "I would not be here today without it."

•lgraves@richmondsentinel.ca

High school scholarship applications being accepted

ooking for cash to fund your dreams our scholarships has different criteria Lof a higher education?

The Richmond Community Foundation is now accepting high school scholarship applications for local students who are graduating this year.

The foundation offers scholarship in the areas of academics, performing arts and the trades.

And while grades are one factor in selecting winners, community involvement, extracurricular activity and financial need are also taken into account.

it never hurts to apply," said foundation executive director Ed Gavsie. "Each of

and our scholarship committee goes through each application to find the best fit. The winners always come from diverse backgrounds."

Last year, the foundation received The application deadline is March 12. 100 applications and awarded 25 scholarships worth a combined \$25,500.

> "There are so many deserving Richmond students. And every year, our goal is to support as many of them as possible, wherever their education leads them."

Scholarship applications can be "Our message to students is simple: completed online at rcrg.com/Foundation

-Martin van den Hemel

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In their own words...

Our vanishing farmland



Carol Day
City Councillor

In the last few years, Council has worked together on environmental issues and we've seen some successes. After significant public consultation, Council helped save the Garden City Lands so that current and future generations will be able to enjoy this natural ecosystem as parkland and as an agricultural demonstration project.

Now, a current issue Council is tackling includes ways to save one of Richmond's most precious resources: our farmland.

The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) was created in 1973 to protect farmland across the province for food production for current and future generations. The ALR includes just five per cent of all land in BC. The City of Richmond has 4,993 hectares of land within the ALR.

Land in the ALR is classified into categories based on how well it is suited to farming.

Richmond soil falls into the high-capacity categories. This means we're blessed with prime farmland.

Yet, since 1973, and mostly prior to the 1990s, Richmond farmland has been impacted by non-

farming uses. Some of these include residential development, shopping centres, industrial parks, churches, golf courses, private schools, and soil fill operations.

Now we're seeing what is left of our precious farmland being paved over with sprawling megamansions and estates with tennis courts and pools.

In May 2017, the City engaged in a public consultation about the size of mansions on farmland and proposed that the size of mansions be limited, with a review to take place in six months.

As part of this six-month review, Council has just completed a second round of public engagement regarding the size of houses on farmland. This has included listening to several organizations representing farmers, and hearing what residents and others have to say on Farmland Housing Regulations. Three public open houses and LetsTalkRichmond.ca, all provided an opportunity for feedback where people could learn about the options and tell us what they think.

What I've been hearing from residents and farmers is that mega-mansions on farmland are taking too much high-capacity farmland out of production.

I'm also hearing that some residents think the City should not limit the size of houses on farmland because larger houses are required by multigenerational farmers.

I'd like to clarify any misinformation. Richmond Bylaw 9706 (p.4) is clear: Council



will consider on a case-by-case basis, the need to accommodate a variety of cultural and intergenerational family needs and farm situations.

For farming families wishing to build homes exceeding the bylaw maximums based on their property size, they should present to Council that the site has been or can be used for agricultural production and verify the family has been farming in Richmond or elsewhere. If they're a new farmer, they will need to demonstrate they are, or will be, capable of farming. We ask that they also demonstrate there is a need for a larger farm house to accommodate workers on the site. Council will consider all this information in making a decision through a required rezoning application.

In the last year alone Richmond has seen up to 50 farms losing farm status due to many reasons, according to City data. This can't continue.

BC produces only 45 per cent of our food. Here in Richmond, we need to save what little is left of our precious high-capacity farmland soil to grow food.

City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee

4:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 27 Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

Development Permit Panel

3:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 28 Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

General Purposes Committee 4:00 p.m. Monday, March 5 *Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall*

Finance Committee

Immediately following General Purposes Committee meeting Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

Planning Committee

4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

Council Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monday, March 12 Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

Community Safety Committee

4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 13 Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

Development Permit Panel

3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 14 Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall



(b)





Watch City Council meetings live or on demand, Visit www.richmond.ca to link to live streaming or watch archived video.

Council Meeting

Live Streaming

www.richmond.ca



For meeting agendas and reports visit www.richmond.ca. Agenda and reports are usually posted the Friday prior to meetings.

Farmers say restrictions have gone far enough

But two councillors say mega farm mansions should become exception, not rule

By MARTIN VAN DEN HEMEL @MartinvandenH

Nore than a dozen local farmers and landownlers gathered at a No. 6 Road property to dispel some myths about the ongoing farmland housing issue while expressing concerns that special-interest groups may be pressuring politicians to enact more severe restrictions than are unwarranted.

"There are two sides to this issue, but we are not combatants," said Humraj Kallu, who was born into the farming industry, following in the footsteps of his father who started in the 1960s.

Kallu spoke on behalf of the Richmond Farmland

Owners Association: "Both sides appreciate the value of farming in the Lower Mainland and recognize its benefits to Richmond's food security and its local to understand the realities of the farming industry. economy."

Among the myths the group is trying to dispel is that larger farm homes decrease the amount of available land for farming.

"This is quite simply not true," he said.

The current city policy addresses this issue, he noted, and was adjusted last May by city hall following consultation with the farming community in response to a spate of mega-mansions that were constructed on farmland, capturing the attention of than the Richmond Farmland Owners Association. locals and garnering media headlines.

"The current policy restricts the size of the farm home plate, regardless of the size of the home," he explained, referring to the limited area on which a farm owner is permitted to build a house, along with space for driveways, tennis courts and swimming pools. These together must fit within the farm's home plate dimensions.

The city's new restrictions follow the provincial guidelines and in certain instances are more restrictive than the province's, Kallu said.

Changing the size of the house—which on ALR land is restricted to two-and-a-half storeys—will not increase the availability of farmland, he said.

Another myth: Larger homes will lead to farmland degradation.

"Farmers are required to implement stringent ecological safeguards and at the end of the day, it would be disastrous for farmers to damage the very land that they rely on to make a living," he said.

"Ultimately, the people arguing on the other side of this issue are good citizens and are standing up for what they believe to be necessary to ensure the

future of agriculture in Richmond."

While this is a noble endeavour, Kallu said they fail

"We understand why people have a tendency to leap to conclusions regarding farm homes. They see large homes sitting on agricultural land and assume that it is either damaging the soil or is simply too lavish."

Richmond Coun. Harold Steves said the current six-month review was planned when the original changes were implemented last May.

He said he hasn't been lobbied by anybody other

Steves said he remains concerned about the size of the houses being placed on farmland and suggested that farmers should be required to apply to both the city and Agricultural Land Commission should they wish to build a home beyond the provincial guideline maximum of about 5,500 square feet.

To build a larger home, the farmers would have to prove there's enough work on the farm to warrant the increase.

From his perspective, Steves believes farmers just want to build larger homes because of the resulting increase in value to their property.

"They're just in it for the money, and you can quote me on that," Steves told The Richmond Sentinel.

Coun. Carol Dav isn't satisfied with last year's changes either.

She agreed with Steves, and said farmers wanting a larger home should be required to get approval.

Day insisted that larger homes result in less farmable land. While the province allows a certain square footage for the farm's home plate, that doesn't mean

See Page 19







Are you a non-profit looking to market yourself in the community?

Got services you'd like locals to know about?





Photo by Chung Chow

Humraj Kallu spoke on behalf of the Richmond Farmland Owners Association at a press conference on Friday, Feb. 16.

FARMERS

From Page 18

some of that home plate area can't be used to grow crops, she explained.

Kallu said images of numerous opulent mega mansions have fueled the most recent round of public backlash, but he noted these homes were approved prior to last May's new policies.

Under the new rules, none of these homes would have been approved on even the largest tracts of farmland, he noted

He questioned the wisdom of implementing further changes before having the opportunity to measure the full impact of May's restrictions.

Building large farm homes is pragmatic both from an economic and practical perspective, he said.

A large home on farmland acts as a purchasing incentive for new generation farmers, who are often nurses or teachers with full-time jobs who either farm for extra income, or who lease out the land at affordable rates.

"The ability to lease farmland for a token amount is unique to Richmond," he said. "It allows for a young, vibrant farming community."

Large homes also serve a practical purpose for farmers, providing housing to those who work on the farm on a day-to-day basis.

The new farm home policies were developed in a consultative fashion, he said, with city council working alongside pioneering local farming families, local community groups and the Richmond Farmland Owners Association.

"These regulations were evidence based, pragmatic, practical and (ensure) farming in Richmond would continue for generations to come," he said.

Since those new regulations came into effect, 11 farm home applications have been submitted to the city, with a reduction in farm home size of 32 per cent, he said.

"This is clear evidence that the current bylaws are working," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the farmland owners, the association said farmers feel targeted by "individuals who unfortunately do not understand the realities of farming in our community."

The result is economic uncertainly in the local farming community, he said, and places long-term sustainability at risk.

"We are deeply concerned that non-farmers are exerting political pressure to tell farmers how to best run their households and their agriculture businesses."

•martinv@richmondsentinel.ca



Education Week is an annual celebration hosted by the Richmond School District. It is a time to celebrate teaching excellence and student achievement while highlighting individual, classroom, school and district accomplishments.

Please join us at one of our signature events:

FEBRUARY 25 (2:00 - 4:00 P.M.)

Meet the Board at the Richmond

Public Library

FEBRUARY 27 (4:15 - 6:00 P.M.) Science Jam at Aberdeen Centre

MARCH 1 (11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.) Fine Arts Fair at Aberdeen Centre

MARCH 2 (7:00 - 10:00 P.M.)

Notorious at McRoberts Secondary



A complete schedule is available online at edweek.sd38.bc.ca

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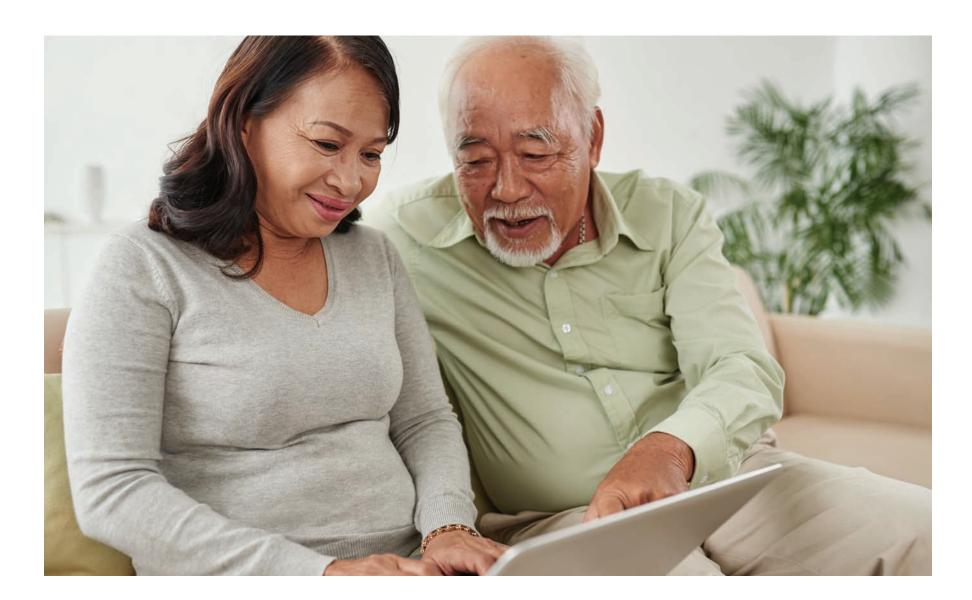








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Shape your community

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LetsTalkRichmond.ca







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LIBRARY

From Page 13

access this service for free, this resource is a valuable tool for anyone interested in learning skills with 3D animation, education, audio and music, programming and web, business, photography, design, marketing, and computer software."

Lynda.com offers many great features, including access for the whole community. The video-based service and videos are curated so are of a high quality, and easy to search and use. The formats are broken into bite-sized segments, allowing each individual user to stop and resume without having to start again from the beginning. The service is also continually adding new vid-

The library has just added another online service called eLanguage. The vendor is Pronuciator.

"This product offers Richmond a language learning resource that again

supports self-paced learning," Smith says.

Mobile friendly, eLanguage offers the opportunity to learn 80 languages. It incorporates film, music and radio in many languages and provides live instructional sessions with teachers with minimal technical requirements.

"People can learn English with over 50 home languages," Smith says. "This is very important to new immigrants."

Other subscription services that Richmond Public Library offers include e-newspapers (featuring hundreds of newspapers from around the world), e-magazines (200 magazines can be read on computer) and e-movies and music (a streaming service for a wide range of films, television and music).

Library staff is available to help people get connected.

"We have one-on-one learning sessions at all branches that you can bring your device to," Smith says. "And staff can help troubleshoot problems or refer you to more technical support."

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca











LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Come to the Hiring Fair

Friday, March 2, 2018 from1:00 - 4:00PM

Where: RMCS No.3 Road Office 220-4351 No.3 Rd., Richmond, BC

meet local employers



Visit us at www.rmcs.bc.ca

- To Register email Ashok@rmcs.bc.ca, Rosa@rmcs.bc.ca or Veronique@rmcs.bc.ca, call -604-248-0433 -
- Complementary transportation assistance is available
- Explore new opportunities and Please bring your Permanent Resident Card for all workshops and events

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11th ANNUAL SUMMER SOFTBALL SLAM



BENEFITING THE RICHMOND COMMUNITY

July 14 & 15, 2018

King George Park

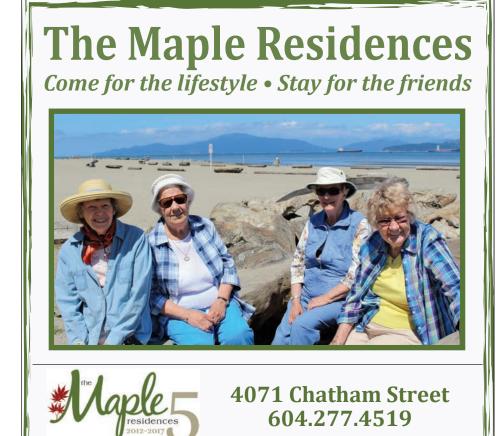
4111 Jacombs Road, Richmond, BC (Off No. 5 Road & Cambie)

Early Bird Registration Before June 8, 2018: \$375 per team After June 8, 2018: \$500.00 per team

To register contact Summit Customs Brokers

604-278-3551 summityvr@summitcb.com

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Classifieds FREE Richmond classifieds to advertise your lost & found items, volunteer opportunities, pets, sale items, events and free stuff!

To post your FREE classified please email us at classifieds@richmondsentinel.ca. Deadline: Thursday, March 8 for the Mid-March issue (25 words max.)

Reunion

RICHMOND SECONDARY SCHOOL would like to invite all former students and staff to celebrate the 90th RHS reunion Sat. Apr. 21 from 12-6 pm. If you would like to share time or mementos, contact Beth McKenzie ('74) at bethgibson54@gmail.com or rss.alumniassoc@gmail.com

Donations

IF YOU HAVE SPARE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD, cash, or time, then look no further than our Richmond Food Bank. Hungry people in our community need your donations. For more information or to donate, phone 604-271-5609 or email info@richmondfoodbank.org

Info

SPACE AVAILABLE. Steveston United Church. 3720 Broadway Street, Richmond, BC, Call: 604-277-0508 Email: office@stevestonunitedchurch.ca

Study

RICHMOND'S ARTHRITIS RESEARCH CANADA (ARC) is recruiting patients for a scientific study. Contact Johnathan Tam at 604-207-4027 or email supra.activity@arthritisresearch.ca.

Services

ARE YOU OFFERING A FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC? Please forward the information to classifieds@ richmondsentinel.ca so we can get the word out.

Contest

2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRAD CONTEST. There's plenty up for grabs for the Grads of 2018 in Richmond. The Richmond Sentinel's Dry Grad video contest will determine which school wins local bragging rights. Each school is allowed to submit as many as three 30- to 45-second videos with an anti-drug or anti-drinking-driving theme, which must be emailed to The Richmond Sentinel by April 1. E-mail entries to martinv@ richmondsentinel.ca The Grand Prize is a fullpage photo of the winning school's grad class. For info, e-mail Managing Editor Martin van den Hemel at martinv@richmondsentinel.ca.

Pick up a copy of The Richmond Sentinel from the following locations: SENTINEL

- Richmond City Hall
- Richmond Public Libraries
- Richmond School District Office
- Minoru Aquatic Centre
- Richmond Hospital
- Lansdowne Centre
- IGA Save-On-Foods

And at these community centres:

- •Cambie •City Centre •Hamilton •South Arm
- Steveston •Thompson •West Richmond

MID-FEBRUARY ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

Across

- 4 theobromacacao
- 8 stvalentinesday
- 10 heartfelt
- 11 cardiac
- 14 eros
- 15 heartattack
- 17 romantic
- 20 inlove
- 22 romancenovel

Down

1 sweetheart

- 2 heartbroken
- 3 love
- 5 beautifuldreamer
- 6 aphrodite
- 7 valentine
- 9 redroses
- 11 cupid
- 12 cuddle
- 13 chocolates
- 16 scarlet
- 18 smooch
- 19 wine
- 21 lent

SUDOKU

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

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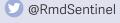
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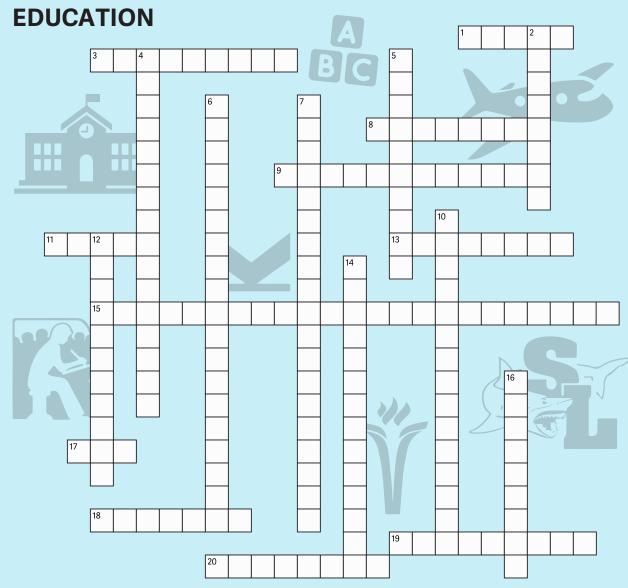


/TheRichmondSentinel

Visit our website at richmondsentinel.ca

richmondsentinel.ca March 2018 23

Fun & Games



SUDOKU B

The goal of Sudoku is to fill a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

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

ACROSS

- 1 French for school
- 3 Before kindergarten
- 8 BCIT Campus in Richmond
- 9 Not really a children's garden
- 11 Personal teacher

- 13 Instruction
- 15 Community HS having 90th
- 17 Final post-grad degree
- 18 English for docere
- 19 Opposite of education
- 20 Last minute studying

DOWN

- 2 Acquiring information
- 4. Educational Inst, age 5-12
- 5 Type of post secondary institution
- 6 A Richmond university
- 7 School closest to YVR
- 10 Two HS combined
- 12 Richmond School District No.
- 14 Another Richmond university
- 16 Headmaster/mistress in Canada

Answers will be posted in the next issue in Mid-March



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at Aberdeen Centre FEB 26 - MAR 4





Photography Contest Display

with Vancouver International Photography Festival

FEB 26 - MAR 4 · MALL HOURS · 1/F HALLWAY 20 photos by secondary students will be selected by The Vancouver International Photography Festival and displayed at Aberdeen Centre during Education Week.

Fine Arts Fair

MAR 2 (FRI), 12:30PM - 2:30PM, CENTRAL ATRIUM A total of 60 students from grades 8 through 12 will share their work from the Steveston London performing arts and

fine arts programs; including the choir and jazz band, drama club, dance club, art club and art careers students.

The 15[™] Annual Science Jam

FEB 27 • TUE • 4:15PM - 6:00PM CENTRAL ATRIUM • 1/F HALLWAYS • 2/F HALLWAYS

The biggest non-competitive Science Fair in B.C. involves over 600 students from 13 Richmond schools displaying their projects about exploring the science curriculum and environmental sustainability. Science World will also give a live science presentation that families and kids are sure to enjo

Student Rolling Art Boards

FEB 26 - MAR 4 · MALL HOURS · 1/F HALLWAY

An Education Week tradition that showcases artistic talent from Richmond elementary schools. Over 30 art boards from 16 different schools will be on display throughout the week.

4151 HAZELBRIDGE WAY • RICHMOND • TEL 604.270.1234 SHOPPING HOURS: MON - WED 11AM - 7PM • THU - SAT 11AM - 9PM • SUN & HOLIDAYS 11AM - 7PM



