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Letter to the editor
I agree

... with Councillor Brown. The City does need to identify why its turnover is so high. With so many new staff, and with such sparse records, it is often frustrating getting an objective answer to questions involving city infrastructure.

I hope that a solution can be found...
...without spending \$30,000!

Darch Osborne, Merritt

Call for art
Form, Figure, Faces

Contact the Art Gallery by tomorrow if you'd like to participate in the upcoming Community Art Show: *Form, Figure, Faces*. You don't have to submit the art until the end of the month.

The show will focus on humans, but for those who would rather not, any life form, or just forms work too. This show is for artists 16+ years (they have 2 shows coming in the Spring for youth artists).

Contact art gallery director Jano Howarth at nicolavalleyartsgallery@gmail.com, 315-3437, message 378-6515, or go to www.nicolavalleyartscouncil.com

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- Plan, coordinate & facilitate small to large special events for host organizations.

Contact me for your daily, weekly, or term office needs: **Norma Hall**
Tel: 250.280.1713, Email: nhall10@yahoo.ca

Opinion
Elector Responses re: that \$2+ million

There's a buzz about town, about the Elector Response process to borrow \$2.2 million for phase 2 of the firehall renovation/upgrade. There seems to be 2 camps on the side of those who will/would submit a form, those who would put the question of borrowing such a sum to a referendum. They fall into those who don't mind if their name appears on the form for all to see & those who do.

The process is not a vote per se, on whether or not to upgrade the firehall, but a say (if there are 556 or more forms submitted) on whether or not we're willing to let that go without more public input, explanation & then a real vote: a referendum — which also, btw, has its own costs associated with it.

To those who would submit a form, who may worry that the Fire Chief will see their name on it & rush a little more slowly to their place in case of fire... don't worry: they're professionals!

Community
Merritt Curling Centre events

Jan 12-14: Men's Spiel. Feb 3: Cattleman's Spiel (date to be confirmed). Mar 2-4: Mixed Spiel. March 16-17: Year-end Club Championship Organizers hope to see you out curling! FMI www.merrittcurling.ca or 378-4423.

Mamette Lake ice fishing derby

The NV Fish & Game Club will hold their annual ice fishing derby on Sunday, Jan 14, 8am-2:15pm (last weigh in). There are prizes, and hot dogs will be available, plus free hot chocolate & coffee. Entry fee: \$15 per person, juniors 16 & under are free. 1st prize \$400, 2nd prize \$300, 3rd prize \$200, Biggest Course Fish \$50 & kids prizes. Tickets at Ponderosa, Gun-Fishin' and at the event. FMI contact Ed 378-2547, BJ Moore 280-0304 or nvfish-handgameclub.ca

Chilli Sunday

The Nicola Nordic Ski Club invites you to join them for *Chilli Sunday* Jan. 14, 11am-2pm in Kane Valley. Check out what the Club has to offer. A group lesson will begin at 11am. Bring enough chilli for your group and add it to the communal pot over the fire pit at Parking Lot 2 (approx. 4km up Kane Valley Rd on the left), bring your own dishes, and the club will supply the buns, cookies and hot drinks... and have the fire going. FMI & trail updates www.nicolanordic.ca

Salmonids of the Nicola Watershed: their habitats and health

Wed. Jan 17, 7pm at the NVIT Lecture Theatre, the Nicola Naturalist Society will host Nicola Watershed Stewardship and Fisheries Authority Fisheries Technologist Jessica Urquhart. Working with its member communities & private property owners, the NWSFA undertakes an annual program of stock assessment and fish habitat restoration projects in the Nicola Watershed. NWSFA staff interact with other First Nations and DFO to advocate for the protection and restoration of the Nicola Watershed's fisheries resources. All welcome, membership or donation requested. FMI www.nicolanaturalists.ca

Law Enforcement Charity Hockey

This is the 5th year for this Children's Hospital Foundation fundraiser, Feb 23-25 at the NV Memorial Arena. Teams of Law Enforcement Officers, Protective Services members and First Responders play a recreational weekend of hockey while taking part in a banquet, auction and draws to raise as much as possible for the BC Children's Hospital Foundation. Last year, with support from the community, organizers were able to donate \$18,500. If you can help them with a donation for the silent auction/raffle table please contact Fundraising Coordinator Vida Ferris 378-8685, 250-457-1525 or vidaferis@gmail.com

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NVKinesiology@gmail.com
NVKinesiology.wordpress.com

Nicola Valley Kinesiology

the Arts Council **WHAT'S ON**
Nicola Valley Community Arts Council
Courthouse Art Gallery

Winter Artisan Show The Winter Artisan Show is on Thurs to Sat 12-6pm, until Jan 13th, and we are kicking it up a notch with some Christmas holiday items for sale, on sale! Beautiful festive bargains, all to support our Arts Gallery and community!

Lifestyle: Clothes and Colours A two-week Gallery fundraiser event. Gently used clothes and items for sale! And look for two workshops to add to the fun: "What Colours Am I?" Identify colours that work for you personally... "Collage Your Colours, Textures, and Patterns!" Create a personalized collage... Anyone want to put together a colour themed playlist? Jan 18-25th, Gallery hours. Workshop times TBA (Interested in contributing gently worn clothes for this event? NVAC members call Jano at 250-315-3437 Clothing unsold to be picked up or donated after Jan 25th)

Community Art Show February 1st to Mar 3rd
Calling on Artists! Our theme this year is "Form, Figures, Faces". NVAC members (yearly membership only \$10) are invited to submit an original art piece, on-the-wall or 3D. Adults 16+ Subject: the human form, figure, or face... (Or another creature if humans are not your art thing...) Space is limited, so get in touch about your art, or idea, soon. Call Jano 250-315-3437, or email: nicolavalleyartsgallery@gmail.com

Open Mic Nights Fri, 7-9pm @ Kekuli Cafe

F.M.I. www.nicolavalleyartscouncil.com
NicolaValleyArtsCouncil@gmail.com

MERRITT PICKLEBALL CLUB
Playing M/W/F 8:30-11:00am at old CMS Gym (2975 Clapperton Ave); T/TH 6:30-8:30pm at Merritt Civic Centre (1950 Mamette Ave). It's an easy sport to play, great fun and exercise. Demo paddles and instruction available. FMI call Gary 250-280-0105.

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www.theguardian.com Dec 31/17

Burning wood for power 'misguided'

Using biomass instead of fossil fuels may not be the answer to averting global warming. Wood burning for power may lead to a 6% rise in carbon emissions rather than a reduction of 6% with solar or wind power.

Policies aimed at limiting climate change by boosting the burning of biomass contain critical flaws that could actually damage attempts to avert dangerous levels of global warming in the future. That is the stark view of one of Britain's chief climate experts, Professor John Beddington, who has warned that relying on the cutting down and burning of trees as a replacement for the use of fossil fuels could rebound dangerously.

Beddington, a former UK government chief scientific adviser, said there was now a real risk that increasing wood-burning in order to help European countries, including Britain, reach renewable energy targets could turn out to be misguided. "These policies may even lead to a situation whereby global emissions [of carbon dioxide] accelerate," he states in a blog on *Carbon Brief*, the UK-based website that covers climate and energy issues. He says wind and solar projects should dominate programmes to boost renewable energy generation in Europe... *To be continued*

This isn't a vote for or against the fire-hall renovations, it's a vote about an \$11,500 per month loan payment for the next 25 years. Maybe Phase 2 should be more phased in... Think of what the nearly \$1million in interest over that period could build at the firehall, instead of fattening the profit margin of the bank!

And especially in these times — Tolko gone, pellet plant now officially gone for good, assessment values up & probably some sort of tax increase, and \$30,000 for an employee satisfaction survey!

So if you've been hemming-&-hawing, get the form, read the notes to be sure you're eligible to submit, then get it into City Hall or email to ssmith@merritt.ca by 4:30pm on January 19. —KL

www.theguardian.com Dec 31/17
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Birthday Gift "What would you like for your birthday?" "Nothing would make me happier than a guitar!" "Great, I'll get you nothing then."

3 men are on a boat, they all smoke and they've got 4 cigarettes, but nothing to light them with... They throw one of the cigarettes overboard and the whole boat becomes a cigarette lighter.

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Winter Artisan Sale
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Dec 1 - Jan 13
OPENING RECEPTION Dec 1st, 4-7pm
GALLERY OPEN THURS - SAT 12NOON - 6PM & SUN 12NOON - 4PM

the Arts Council
Nicola Valley Community Arts Council
Courthouse Arts Gallery
1940 Nicola Ave., Merritt, BC V2B 2R6-6111 www.nicolavalleyartscouncil.com
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