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For Further Information
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MIDWEEK EDITION - JANUARY 28, 2026 #4190

News, opinion, community events since 1996! Box 2199, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8

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Please recycle

Congrats, Merritt Centennials!

The Centennials are on a 7-game winning streak after their wins over Princeton Posse and Chase Heat, here at home last weekend.

They are now within 7 points of the Kelowna Chiefs — which are in third place in KIJHL's Bill Ohlhausen Division. And their ongoing 10-game point streak has put them at the top of the KIJHL latest 'power rankings', for the week ending Jan. 25.

Next home game is Friday Jan 30, against the Sicamous Eagles, 7pm at the NV Memorial Arena — and they'll be celebrating their dads! Then they head to Revelstoke on Saturday night, to play against the Grizzlies.

BC mining boom

Last year, 2025, was historic with a record-breaking \$751 million in exploration spending. And the prov gvt is taking steps to improve the permitting process for mineral exploration with new fixed permitting timelines.

Beginning April 1, exploration permits will be processed within 40 to 140 days, depending on the complexity of the proposed activity. If timelines are not reached, the application will be escalated to the chief permitting officer for a decision within 14 days. The ministry will receive a budget lift of \$1 million to provide extra staff to support this initiative, and a further \$2 million to support the Mineral Claims Consultation Framework (MCCF).

Last year was BC's strongest exploration year on record. Exploration spending grew 36% over 2024, for one of the strongest single-year jumps on record, and by nearly 64% over the long-term average from 2016-24. Exploration drilling totalled almost one million metres, an approximate increase of more than 300,000 metres from 2024.

BC is a global mining and critical minerals hub, with approx. 1,000 mining and mineral exploration & development companies headquartered in the region, 40,000 employees, including 4,100 employed in mineral exploration at 18 operating mines, 2 world-class smelters and 280 mineral exploration projects.

By 2040, new and expanded critical minerals projects could represent an investment opportunity of \$44 billion.

BC's rich geology produces or has good potential to produce 22 of Canada's 34 critical minerals.

Community

SD58 'Potential School Closure' mtgs

Potential School Closure meetings continue: Lower Nicola, Nooaitch and Shackan Bands Jan 28 5pm, Rocky Pines Community Ctre. Upper Nicola Band Jan 29 5pm, N' kwala School Gym. Coldwater Indian Band Feb 2 5pm, Coldwater School Gym. FMI www.nssd.ca/school-closure-process

Family Literacy Week: Unplug & play

Family Literacy Week is Jan 24-31 and raises awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in literacy-related activities as a family. For all the details, visit literacymerritt.com or facebook.com/LMNVS.

Budget open house

The City of Merritt will host an Open House on Thurs, Jan 29, in the afternoon 12noon-2pm (presentation at 12:30pm) and in the evening 6-8pm (presentation at 6:30pm). Learn about the proposed changes to the municipal budget for the coming 5 years — get informed, ask questions, and provide feedback on how public funds are allocated to services and projects that impact the community.

Winter whirlwind

The Merritt Stock Car Association's 2nd annual winter races event will be held January 31 at the Merritt Speedway, off Hwy 8 at the west end of Shulus. Pit meeting is at 12noon, racing starts at 1pm. \$5 spectator entry. There's an intermission autograph session, spectator fire pits, concession, hot drinks by donation. FMI Facebook.com/merrittspeedway.ca

2026 Thunderbird Rally

Round 1 of the 2026 BC TSD Rally Championship, the rally will be about 850km long, Merritt to Vernon, and back. Roads will be about 40% clear pavement, 60% snow-covered pavement and gravel. Registration starts Friday Jan 20, 7-9pm at Best Western Plus Hotel, rally HQ. First car out is at 10:31am on Saturday, Jan 31. End of day 1, dinner & scoring, Vernon at 8:00pm. First car out Sunday at 8:30am, back in Merritt for dinner, scoring & awards presentation. For good observation spots, go to rallybc.ca/archives/2026

Tobogganing Races

Feb. 7th, 2026. Registration forms can be found the Merritt Library & Breathe Bikes or register online @ eventbrite. (\$12 per entry). Early registration includes free lunch. FMI, text Cecilia 250-315-0022 or email gcdyck@hotmail.com

Int'l Women's Day nominations

If you have any amazing women in your life that you would like to recognize, please let the NV Inter'l Women's Day committee know! Every year on March 8, they celebrate the women in our community who are working hard to create and support positive changes, and a healthy community. Please nominate those women who have positively influenced your life, the lives around you, or the community. The deadline for nominations is February 13, 12noon, email: nvwomeninaction@gmail.com. Include contact info for you and your nominee and the reasons for nominating, 1 per person.

BC Family Day weekend events

On Saturday, Feb 14, bring the family to celebrate BC Family Day weekend, and take part in the City of Merritt's free activities. **Free family party & games activities:** Soccer, floor hockey, facepainting, ski ball, air hockey, face painting, crafts, and other games. Concession, cash only. Civic Centre East & West Auditorium, 10:30am-12:30pm **Free family swim:** concession cash only, by the Girl Guides. Nicola Valley Aquatic Centre, 1-5pm.

Heritage Week open house

The Nicola Valley Museum and Archives is hosting Heritage Week at the museum, with an open house on Thursday, February 19th from 4pm-7pm. This year's theme is 'Stir The Pot' and it is about celebrating food as a means of culture. There will be displays, refreshments, and old recipes available!

The father of five children

had won a toy at a raffle. He called his kids together to ask which one should have the present. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to mother? Who does everything she says?" Five small voices answered in unison. "Okay, dad, you get the toy."

I lost 30 pounds on my last vacation. I went to a casino in England.

I have a pen that can write underwater... It can write other words too.

At the thieves convention, there was a standing ovation for the guy who specialized in stealing boat parts. He took a bow.

I found a cheap boat with no motor. It was on sail.

Patient: Doctor whenever I cough it sounds like this 'pawn, bishop, queen. Doctor: Sounds like you have a chess infection.

Black's

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