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DAY BEFORE ST PATRICK'S DAY - MARCH 16, 2026 #4209
News, opinion, community events since 1996! Box 2199, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8
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Fake money
Merritt RCMP are wanting the public and local business owners to be aware that they are seeing an increase in fraudulent currency usage within the city, specifically with counterfeit \$100 and \$50 Canadian currency notes.

Community Empower, protect and connect

The province of BC is sponsoring their Empower, Protect + Connect program each Wed evening beginning March 18 to June 10, 6-8pm (12 sessions), at the Civic Ctr — registration is free! The 12-wk program offers weekly 2-hour sessions that include: 1 hr Self-Defence Training, focusing on real-life scenarios and practical safety techniques. And 1 hr Counselling & Empowerment Workshop, offering trauma-informed support, strategies for personal growth, and community connection.

Over the last several weeks, reports of fraudulent bank notes has increased. Police say that these fake bills are so well done that many people are innocently using them, not aware that they are in possession of fake currency.

Business owners are unknowingly accepting fake bills, and that becomes a problem for them when they go to the bank to complete a deposit.

The program is for anyone aged 15 + affected by or at risk of gender-based violence. It is free to attend, but registration is required as participants are expected to attend most/all sessions. Register by calling 250-315-1050, stopping by the Civic Centre, or online from the link at: www.merritt.ca/empower/

"I realize that right now some of the media out there is saturated with reports of fake Canadian currency. The amount of fake cash circulating in Merritt these days is high. The Merritt RCMP are trying to highlight the fact that this is impacting local businesses and are trying to get the word out to them specifically. Be diligent with the authenticity of your cash, learn some of the common ways to check the validity of your money and report any occurrences of fake cash", says Cst. Blake Chursinoff of the Merritt RCMP.

Spanish Conversation Club

Looking to practice your Spanish in a relaxed and friendly environment? Join the Spanish Conversation Club. Practice real conversations, meet new people in the community. Merritt Library, Fri March 20, 12noon-1:30pm, free though limited seating available. FMI or to reserve a spot, email spanishmeetandgreet@gmail.com

The Bank of Canada offers a simple, easy way to remember how to identify fake currency. Feel, look, tilt and flip; for more info: www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes/counterfeit-prevention/

Public hearing for new cannabis store
One Plant has applied to the City of Merritt to open a retail cannabis store in #108 in the Railyard Mall, already zoned a permitted Principal Use in C6 Zone. A public hearing will be held Tues March 24, 6pm in Council Chamber. Speak in person by signing up at the meeting, or by providing a written submission to the Corporate Officer at info@merritt.ca prior to noon, March 20. This location would be One Plant's first in BC.

Rear view MMMirror - 1996

Drugs-R-Us (part 2)

Later, same day ...
16kms north of Merritt, around 8:45, Const. Torbohm pulls over a vehicle, and has to walk through a large cloud of smoke from the car to get to the waiting driver. By the time his head re-appeared out of the smoke, the world had changed in some *indefinable* way for Constable Torbohm. Witnesses report he was whistling "Puff, The Magic Dragon," as he stood at the side of the highway trying to remember which car was his, caught like a startled deer in the technicolor flash from his cruiser. He shook off the buzz & proceeded with the bust, walking up to the driver's window, pointing his pencil at the driver, and saying in an authoritative voice - "Dake my may, weiner!" Two hundred & 27 grams of Marijuana was found in the car, along with 3 young gentlemen (19-ish) from Calgary, Edmonton & Abbotsford. At the station, the booking officer said the trio would face a joint charge of possession.

Torbohm reportedly exploded into unseemly laughter, and left the shop muttering "... a joint charge!" and then starting to laugh all over again. (Hey ... policing's a dirty job but somebody's gotta ha-ha-handle it.)

—Gordon Cockle, Merritt Morning Mirror, March 15, 1996 #146

I went to the orchestra to hear Beethoven. He wasn't even there. Turns out it was just some sort of Beethoven cover band.

"Is this gluten free?" "No, it costs money, sir."
A flight attendant was stationed at the departure gate to check tickets. A man approached the gate, and stopped in front of her as she extended her hand for the ticket. He opened his trench coat wide and flashed her. "Sir, I need to see your ticket, not your stub."

Dad, when I grow up, I want to be a musician. Son, you can't do both.

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

<p>Aries March 21 - April 19</p> <p>At the Equinox, your thinking will be clearer. Until then, conserve your fire, and resist reacting too soon. Hold your ground, you'll create space for an opportunity that truly deserves your energy.</p>	<p>Taurus April 20 - May 20</p> <p>This week, your intuitive awareness is a quiet guiding force. By listening beneath the surface, you can gently untangle an emotionally complex situation and restore harmony.</p>	<p>Gemini May 21 - June 20</p> <p>This week, your agility is a gift. You didn't arrive on Earth for an extended holiday. You came to explore, question, and connect. Trust your adaptability. Momentum is returning.</p>	<p>Cancer June 21 - July 22</p> <p>This week, space opens for honest dialogue. By acknowledging the complexities, you can guide everyone towards shared understanding - and a workable way forward.</p>
<p>Leo July 23 - Aug 22</p> <p>This week, you don't need to mirror anyone's behaviour. Choose the response that feels true to you. And let that be the light that inspires you onwards.</p>	<p>Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22</p> <p>This week clarity returns. You can't direct every scene. But you can choose how you respond. Organize what's in your control, look how well-prepared you are. Get ready to shine!</p>	<p>Libra Sept 23 - Oct 22</p> <p>This week sensitivity is key in sorting out a difficult situation. Staying present might take effort, but it creates opportunities. Demands are being made on you, but they bring rewards.</p>	<p>Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 21</p> <p>Look beneath the surface of what's being offered. This is a moment to define success on your terms. What looks like second place might offer greater freedom & peace of mind.</p>
<p>Sagittarius Nov 22 - Dec 21</p> <p>A habit deserves a second look. Don't assume something is right just because it's familiar. You can make a transformative change. Reflection might become the wisest step forward.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19</p> <p>You're at your strongest when you act deliberately rather than reactively. Create space to think, and decide on your own terms. Release yourself, you'll quietly regain control.</p>	<p>Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 18</p> <p>This week, by staying centred rather than resistant, you'll rediscover your ability to enjoy yourself - gently, authentically, and without apology. You'll find balance.</p>	<p>Pisces Feb 19 - Mar 20</p> <p>This week, discernment is your superpower. Some tasks can be done simply - without finishing touches. Ease your standards a bit, and you can protect your energy & inspiration.</p>

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No Fixed Address: The White Cart Memorial

Film Screening & Panel Discussion

a powerful and intimate documentary that sheds light on a deeply overlooked aspect of the homelessness crisis: people's grief following the death of someone they care about.

Date: Tuesday, March 31st
Time: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Location: NVIT, 4155 Belshaw St, Merritt, BC- Lecture Theatre

Sign up by scanning the QR code or visit the Front Desk at the NVIT who can assist you with registration. Seats are limited, be sure to grab your spot early. Tickets are FREE.

NVIT, ASK, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, BC Centre for Palliative Care

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