VOL. 1 · NO. 001

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23 TO 29, 2026

THE KOOTENAY DISPATCH

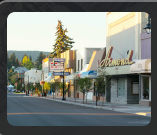
CRANBROOK · KIMBERLEY · FERNIE · SPARWOOD · INVERMERE

ALWAYS FREE TAKE ONE

KOOTENAY ROCKIES · NEW CABINET

DAVIS GETS ORDERS TO SPEED UP MINES

Kootenay Rockies MLA Pete Davis, Minister of State for Mining, is told to speed up mine permits and set fixed approval timelines. Every minister is told to control spending. Details page 4.



CRANBROOK

47% OPEN TO A SMALL TAX BUMP

Page 2



BCHC

TEDESCO PLAYS FOR WHL SCOUTS

Page 7



THIS WEEKEND

160 VENDORS AT WINTER MARKET

Page 9

Cover: Fernie Alpine Resort, file photo. Photo: FJ48, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons. Sources credited inside. Stories are original rewrites.

THE FULL EDITION IS ONLINE

kootenaydispatch.ca

Scan this code or type the address to read the complete issue and local updates.



Downtown Cranbrook. File photo. Photo: waferboard, CC BY 2.0

CRANBROOK COUNCIL · BUDGET 2027

CRANBROOK RESIDENTS SPLIT ON HOSPICE LAND, OPEN TO A SMALL TAX BUMP

BY THE KOOTENAY DISPATCH NEWS DESK

Cranbrook council got the results of its Budget 2027 citizen survey on Monday, Nov. 23, a few weeks before the new council starts building next year's budget.

The city hired Discovery Research to run two surveys between Sept. 8 and Oct. 2. One went by mail to 1,600 households picked at random, and 502 came back, a 31 per cent return. That beats last year, when 419 came back. A second survey open to anyone drew 556 replies, up from 469.

Money first. Forty-seven per cent said they could accept a tax increase in 2027, and most of that group wants it held to 1 or 2 per cent. Sixty per cent want to keep the dedicated 1 per cent road tax. The city's chief financial officer said nine in ten respondents reported that inflation has squeezed their household budget.

On services, residents gave their best marks to fire protection, street lights, trails and parks, and garbage and recycling pickup. Satisfaction was weakest for snow clearing, road upkeep, bylaw work, development services and the city's economic development efforts.

The hospice question is far from settled. Asked about giving the Mount Baker RV Campground to the Cranbrook Kimberley Hospice Society for a 10-bed hospice house, 42 per cent said yes, 48 per cent said no and 10 per cent were unsure. Three sites scored about the same as a home for it: the Slaterville parcel, the campground and the Frost lands.

Residents told the city the RCMP should focus on street-level drug activity, named by 73 per cent, then property crime at 60 per cent. Ninety-seven per cent feel safe in daytime, but 72 per cent said there are places in town they avoid.

The first public budget meeting on the 2027 to 2031 financial plan is Wednesday, Dec. 16, from noon to 4 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall. It will also stream online.

47%

WOULD ACCEPT A 2027 TAX INCREASE

60%

WANT TO KEEP THE 1% ROAD TAX

42 / 48

YES / NO ON GIVING CAMPGROUND LAND TO HOSPICE

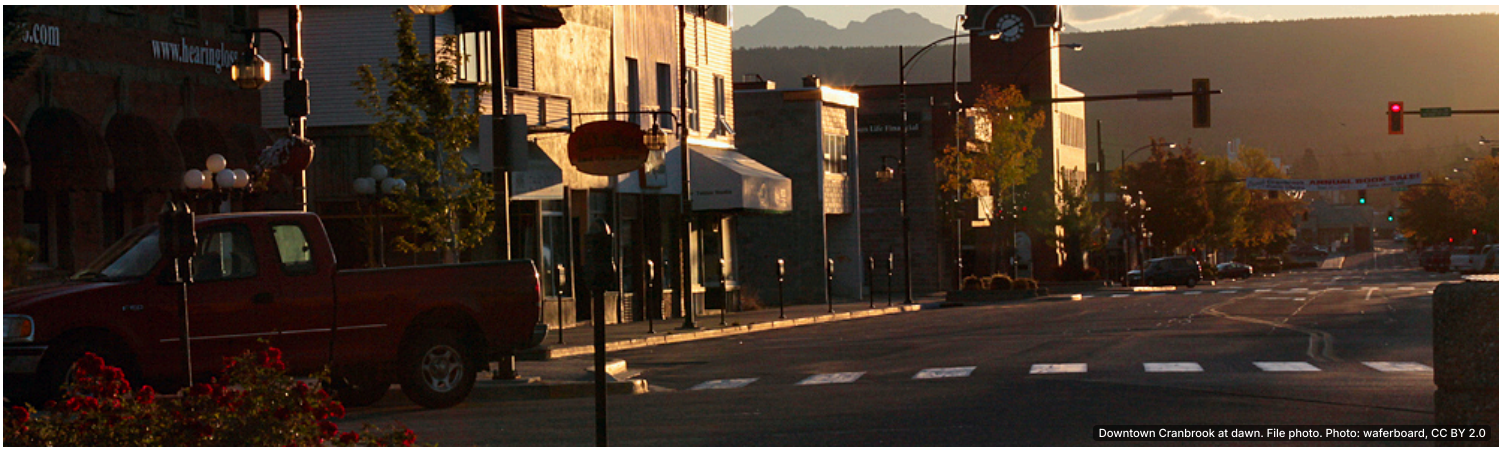
502

MAILED SURVEYS RETURNED, A 31% RATE

BUDGET MEETING DATE

The first public meeting on the 2027 to 2031 financial plan is **Wednesday, Dec. 16, noon to 4 p.m.** in council chambers at City Hall. It streams online too.

Sources: City of Cranbrook (official release and survey report), e-KNOW, Cranbrook Daily Townsman. Rewritten.



Downtown Cranbrook at dawn. File photo. Photo: waferboard, CC BY 2.0

PUBLIC SAFETY · CRANBROOK RCMP

POLICE CALLS CLIMB IN CRANBROOK AS RCMP AND BYLAW TEAM UP ON PATROLS

BY THE KOOTENAY DISPATCH NEWS DESK

Cranbrook RCMP took 2,427 calls from July to September, up from 2,201 the quarter before, Acting Detachment Commander Staff Sgt. Darren Kakuno told council on Nov. 23.

Mental health files rose to 222 from 173. Officers held 138 people in cells, handed out 34 roadside driving prohibitions for impairment, and wrote 74 traffic tickets and 13 warnings.

Officers and city bylaw staff ran 37 joint patrols in the quarter. They targeted spots that keep drawing complaints, including open drug use near Mount Baker Secondary and people camping in building doorways. Police also helped a private landowner clear a large camp that could be seen from Moir Park. With help from local agencies, everyone there left without incident.

In September a search warrant at a Slaterville home turned up suspected drugs and a handgun. One person was charged, and the case is in court.

The detachment is also building a bigger Speed Watch program with ICBC and School District 5 parent councils. ICBC money is covering equipment, volunteer safety vests and road safety materials. Operations NCO Sgt. Stu Hert called safety a job shared by police, bylaw staff, community groups and residents.

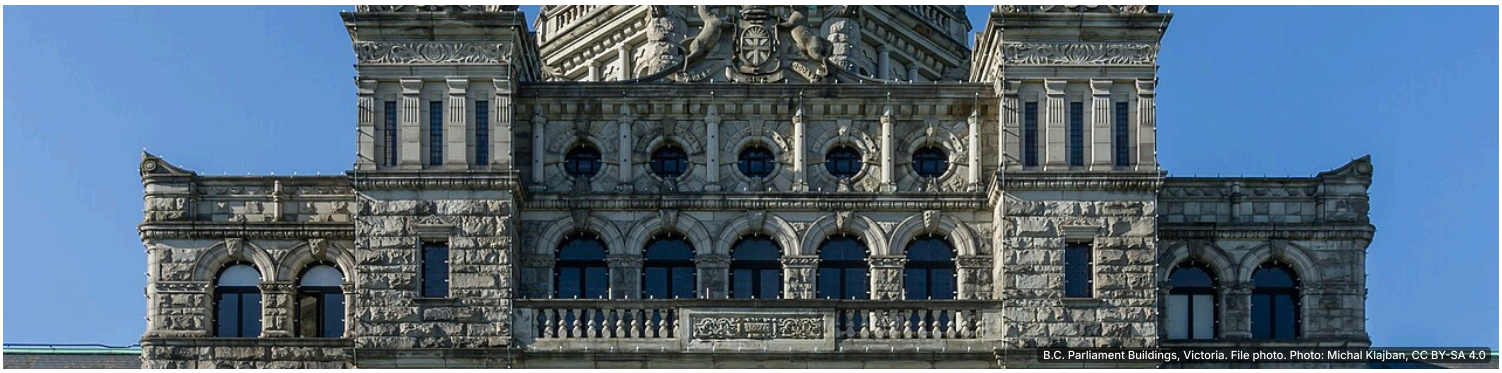
2,427
CALLS TO POLICE, JULY TO SEPT.

222
MENTAL HEALTH FILES, UP FROM 173

37
JOINT PATROLS WITH CITY BYLAW

34
IMPAIRED DRIVING ROADSIDE BANS

Sources: City of Cranbrook (official release), e-KNOW, Cranbrook Daily Townsman. Rewritten.


B.C. Parliament Buildings, Victoria. File photo. Photo: Michal Klajban, CC BY-SA 4.0

KOOTENAY ROCKIES · COLUMBIA RIVER-REVELSTOKE

FASTER MINE PERMITS TOP THE TO-DO LIST FOR KOOTENAY ROCKIES MLA PETE DAVIS

BY THE KOOTENAY DISPATCH NEWS DESK

Premier Lorne Doerkson's mandate letters to his new cabinet went public on Tuesday, Nov. 24, and both East Kootenay area MLAs have a long list of orders.

Kootenay Rockies MLA Pete Davis, now Minister of State for Mining, is told to help speed up mine permitting, set fixed approval timelines and move shovel-ready projects forward. His letter also asks him to draw more mining investment, grow exploration and processing, and back Geoscience BC funding and exploration tax incentives. He is to help build a Future Mining Jobs Blueprint with industry and colleges so more British Columbians can train for mine work.

Columbia River-Revelstoke MLA Scott McInnis is the new Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. His letter tells him to support the Attorney General in repealing DRIPA, the province's Indigenous rights law, with a transition plan that respects constitutional duties to First Nations. He is also to help write an Aboriginal Title Transparency Act, back a Property Rights Defence Act, and rebuild a First Nations equity financing program modelled on Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Every letter is built around five goals the government calls an affordable, prosperous, healthy, safer, and strong and proud B.C.

Sources: Province of B.C. mandate letters and Office of the Premier release (official record), CBC News, Sitka Media, e-KNOW. Rewritten.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY · SMALL GOVERNMENT

EVERY MINISTER TOLD TO CUT WASTE, AND TWO OLD RULES MUST GO FOR EACH NEW ONE

The same letters put spending control on every desk in cabinet, not only at Finance. Each one says restoring fiscal discipline is a central duty of every minister, and that any new spending request goes to Treasury Board with affordability for taxpayers as the test.

Finance Minister Peter Milobar is told to name an independent panel right away to review the true state of the province's books and make its findings public. A second job is a plan to simplify the tax system, due within 180 days.

Red tape gets its own minister. Carson Binda, Minister of State for Red Tape Reduction, is to bring provincial regulatory requirements back to 2017 levels by the end of the term and bring in a rule that removes two regulations for every new one.

Sources: Province of B.C. mandate letters (official record), CBC News, Sitka Media. Rewritten.

EDITORIAL

HOLD THE LINE ON TAXES AND LET THE KOOTENAYS BUILD

EDITORIAL · THE KOOTENAY DISPATCH

Cranbrook residents sent their new council a clear message this week. Nine in ten told the city that inflation has hit their household budget. Fewer than half would accept any tax increase in 2027, and most of those who would want it kept to 1 or 2 per cent.

That is not a call for a bigger budget. It is a call for discipline. When council holds its first public budget meeting on Dec. 16, it should start with the basics residents say need work, road maintenance and snow plowing among them, and protect the services they already rate well, like fire protection, parks and garbage pickup, before it adds anything new.

Victoria is finally speaking the same language. Every mandate letter released on Nov. 24 tells ministers that fiscal discipline is part of their job, that new spending has to pass an affordability test for taxpayers, and that two regulations must go for every new one. The finance minister is to name an independent panel and show the public the real state of the books.

For the East Kootenay, the line that matters most may be in Kootenay Rockies MLA Pete Davis's letter. Faster mine permits with fixed timelines are how this region keeps good paying jobs in the Elk Valley and steady work for trades and suppliers in Cranbrook, Sparwood and Fernie.

The premier's letters say the province is running record deficits. Promises are the easy part. The test is whether red tape actually comes down and spending actually slows. We will be watching both, in Victoria and at City Hall.



Sparwood welcome sign. File photo. Photo: Andybremner2012, CC BY-SA 4.0

> *"We cannot continue to spend beyond our means or leave the consequences of today's decisions to future generations."*
>
> PREMIER LORNE DOERKSON · MANDATE LETTERS · NOV. 24, 2026

9 in 10

CRANBROOK SURVEY RESPONDENTS SAY INFLATION HAS HIT THEIR HOUSEHOLD BUDGET



The Platzl, Kimberley. File photo. Photo: Ken Eckert, CC BY-SA 4.0

This is an Editorial, an opinion piece. Facts in it come from the City of Cranbrook survey release and the Province of B.C. mandate letters, each confirmed in at least three sources listed on pages 2 and 4.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

What leaders said on the record this week. Quotes are exact and come from official releases and letters, each also carried by news outlets listed in the sources.

Premier Lorne Doerkson released a letter to every cabinet minister on Tuesday, setting out what each one must deliver this term. The letters lean hard on spending control and cutting red tape.

"They are about results and accountability, and ensuring our government delivers on the priorities that matter most to British Columbians."

PREMIER LORNE DOERKSON · OFFICE OF THE PREMIER RELEASE · NOV. 24

Every letter carries the same line on money, and ministers are told to keep spending in check.

"... restoring fiscal discipline is a central obligation of every minister."

CABINET MANDATE LETTERS · NOV. 24

The letters also hold cabinet to a two-for-one rule whenever a new regulation is written.

"... eliminate two existing regulatory provisions for every new one ..."

CABINET MANDATE LETTERS · NOV. 24

Cranbrook council got its citizen survey results on Monday, weeks before 2027 budget talks begin.

"The survey gives Council a clear read on what residents value before the budget is built, not after."

KENTON LANE · CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, CITY OF CRANBROOK

Local police brought their third-quarter numbers to council on Monday as calls for service rose. The detachment pointed to patrol work on the street and to prevention programs run with partners such as bylaw staff and school parent councils.

"Our members continue to work hard to respond to the needs of our community, both through frontline policing and proactive initiatives."

SGT. STU HERT · CRANBROOK RCMP

Army avalanche control at Rogers Pass stays in place for now with no end date, and Parks Canada explains why.

"... critical to the Canadian economy."

PARKS CANADA · ON THE TRANS-CANADA AT ROGERS PASS



Kimberley. File photo. Photo: Ken Eckert, CC BY-SA 4.0

EDUCATION · MANDATE LETTER

LETTER GRADES RETURN AND SOGI 123 IS OUT, EDUCATION MINISTER TOLD

BY THE KOOTENAY DISPATCH NEWS DESK

Education and Child Care Minister Lynne Block's letter tells her to bring back letter grades for Grades 4 to 9 along with supervised provincial exams, and to put the focus on reading, math and the basics.

She is also told to repeal SOGI 123, the sexual orientation and gender identity resources used in B.C. schools, and to deal with bullying directly while giving parents more openness and choice. The letter adds daily singing of O Canada and Canadian and B.C. flags in schools.

Sources: Province of B.C. mandate letter (official record), Sitka Media, CBC News, Black Press Media, The Canadian Press via MyKootenayNow. Rewritten.


Invermere. File photo. Photo: User:Matthias Süßen, CC BY-SA 4.0



Representative hockey photo, not the Prospects Game. Photo: K.M. Klemencic, Public domain

KIMBERLEY DYNAMITERS · PROSPECTS GAME

KIMBERLEY'S MILLER TEDESCO PLAYS FOR SCOUTS AT THE BCHC PROSPECTS GAME

BY THE KOOTENAY DISPATCH NEWS DESK

Kimberley Dynamiters forward Miller Tedesco, who grew up playing minor hockey in Nelson, was picked for the British Columbia Hockey Conference Prospects Game on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at Sungod Arena in Delta.

The showcase put 40 of the league's top young players in front of Western Hockey League scouts and staff. Coaches picked two teams, Black and White, from a shared pool drawn from all four BCHC divisions, with 12 forwards, six defencemen and two goalies on each side. Tedesco played for Team Black.

Team White also had an East Kootenay coach on its bench. Chad Scharff, who runs the Fernie Ghostriders, helped out as an assistant.

Sources: BCHC (official), e-KNOW, MyKootenayNow, My Nelson Now, 102.9 Rewind Radio. Rewritten.

SCHEDULE · NOV. 27 TO DEC. 6

EAST KOOTENAY JUNIOR HOCKEY THIS WEEK

FRI NOV. 27

Fernie Ghostriders at **Columbia Valley Rockies** · Eddie Mountain Memorial Arena · 7 p.m. MT BCHC

Cranbrook Bucks at **Spruce Grove Saints** · Thompson Family Arena · 7 p.m. MT BCHL

SAT NOV. 28

Columbia Valley Rockies at **Fernie Ghostriders** · Fernie Memorial Arena · 7 p.m. MT BCHC

Kimberley Dynamiters at **Beaver Valley Nitehawks** · Beaver Valley Arena · 7 p.m. PT BCHC

Cranbrook Bucks at **Sherwood Park Crusaders** · Sherwood Park Arena · 7 p.m. MT BCHL

TUE DEC. 1

Kimberley Dynamiters at **Columbia Valley Rockies** · Eddie Mountain Memorial Arena · 7 p.m. MT BCHC

WED DEC. 2

Brooks Bandits at **Cranbrook Bucks** · Western Financial Place · 7 p.m. MT BCHL

FRI DEC. 4

Nelson Leafs at **Fernie Ghostriders** · Fernie Memorial Arena · 7 p.m. MT BCHC

Osoyoos Coyotes at **Columbia Valley Rockies** · Eddie Mountain Memorial Arena · 7 p.m. MT BCHC

Cranbrook Bucks at **Salmon Arm Silverbacks** · Rogers Rink · 7 p.m. PT BCHL

SAT DEC. 5

Nelson Leafs at **Columbia Valley Rockies** · Eddie Mountain Memorial Arena · 7 p.m. MT BCHC

Osoyoos Coyotes at **Fernie Ghostriders** · Fernie Memorial Arena · 7 p.m. MT BCHC

Cranbrook Bucks at **West Kelowna Warriors** · Royal LePage Place · 7 p.m. PT BCHL

SUN DEC. 6

Osoyoos Coyotes at **Kimberley Dynamiters** · Kimberley Civic Centre · 2 p.m. MT BCHC

Official league schedules: British Columbia Hockey Conference (bchchockey.ca) and BCHL (bchl.ca). Times as listed by the league. Check the league site for changes. No scores printed.

FERNIE · SKI SEASON

FERNIE ALPINE RESORT AIMS TO SPIN THE LIFTS FRIDAY, DEC. 4

Fernie Alpine Resort plans to open for the 2026 to 2027 ski season on Friday, Dec. 4, if conditions allow.

Lift plans depend on snow and operating conditions, so check the resort before you drive up.

Sources: Fernie Alpine Resort (official), The Free Press, e-KNOW. Rewritten.



Downtown Fernie. File photo. Photo: waferboard, CC BY 2.0

EAST KOOTENAY WEATHER · ECCC FORECAST

Issued Wed. Nov. 25, 4:00 PM MST. Cranbrook covers the Kimberley area. Sparwood covers the Elk Valley including Fernie. Invermere covers the Columbia Valley.

No ECCC warnings were in effect for these three forecast areas at issue time.

CRANBROOK

TONIGHT
Low zero
Mainly cloudy. Wind south 20 km/h becoming light this evening. Low zero.

THURSDAY
High plus 4
Periods of rain ending near noon then cloudy with 40 percent chance of showers. Wind becoming south 20 km/h gusting to 40 in the morning. High plus 4. UV index 1 or low.

THURSDAY NIGHT
Temperature steady near plus 3
Cloudy with 40 percent chance of showers. Wind south 20 km/h gusting to 40. Temperature steady near plus 3.

FRIDAY
High 6
Cloudy. High 6.

FRIDAY NIGHT
Low -2
Cloudy periods with 40 percent chance of flurries. Low minus 2.

SATURDAY
High plus 3
A mix of sun and cloud. High plus 3.

SPARWOOD

TONIGHT
Temperature steady near plus 2
Cloudy with 40 percent chance of showers. Wind south 20 km/h gusting to 40. Temperature steady near plus 2.

THURSDAY
Temperature steady near plus 4
Periods of light wet snow mixed with rain changing to rain in the afternoon. Local snowfall amount 2 cm. Wind south 20 km/h gusting to 40. Temperature steady near plus 4.

THURSDAY NIGHT
Temperature steady near plus 4
Cloudy with 60 percent chance of showers. Wind south 20 km/h gusting to 40. Temperature steady near plus 4.

FRIDAY
High plus 5
Cloudy. High plus 5.

FRIDAY NIGHT
Low -2
Cloudy periods. Low minus 2.

SATURDAY
High plus 3
Sunny. High plus 3.

INVERMERE

TONIGHT
Low zero
Mainly cloudy. Wind south 20 km/h becoming light this evening. Low zero.

THURSDAY
High plus 4
Periods of rain ending near noon then cloudy with 40 percent chance of showers. Wind becoming south 20 km/h gusting to 40 in the morning. High plus 4. UV index 1 or low.

THURSDAY NIGHT
Temperature steady near plus 3
Cloudy with 40 percent chance of showers. Wind south 20 km/h gusting to 40. Temperature steady near plus 3.

FRIDAY
High 6
Cloudy. High 6.

FRIDAY NIGHT
Low -2
Cloudy periods with 40 percent chance of flurries. Low minus 2.

SATURDAY
High plus 3
A mix of sun and cloud. High plus 3.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada. Forecast as issued. Check weather.gc.ca and DriveBC for updates.

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY · GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

ARMY GUNS STAY AT ROGERS PASS FOR NOW, WITH NO END DATE SET

BY THE KOOTENAY DISPATCH NEWS DESK

The Canadian Armed Forces will keep doing avalanche control in Rogers Pass until further notice, Parks Canada says. The military had planned to leave the program when its agreement with Parks Canada runs out in August 2027.

Crews fire howitzers in Glacier National Park to bring down unstable snow before it can slide onto a 43-kilometre stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway and the rail line beside it. Traffic is stopped while the guns fire. Parks Canada calls the highway critical to the Canadian economy and says it is working with the military on a transition plan.

For East Kootenay drivers heading west, expect avalanche control closures again this winter and check DriveBC before you go.

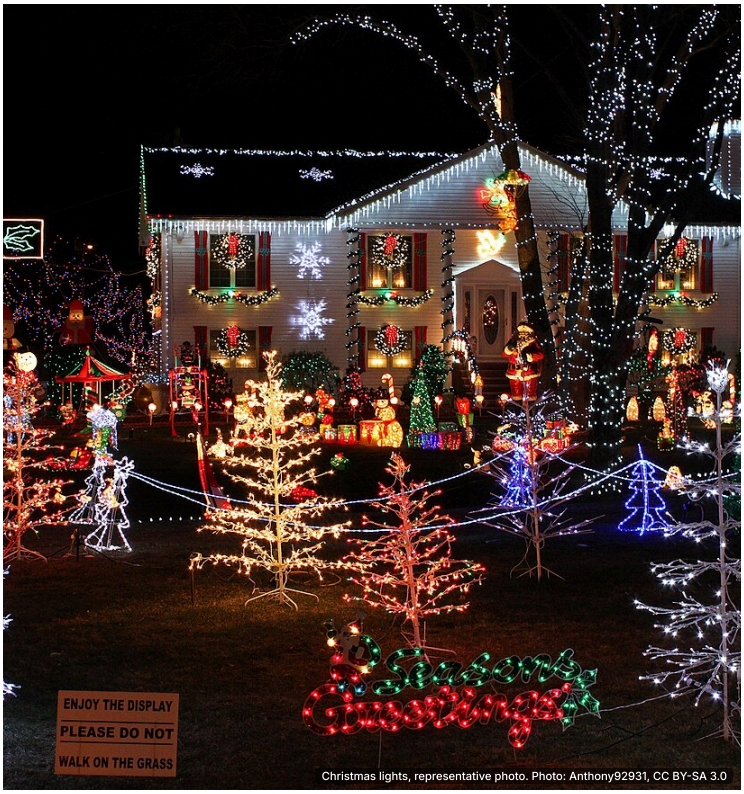


Rogers Pass snowsheds. File photo. Photo: JERRYE AND ROY KLOTZ MD, CC BY-SA 3.0



Winter tire, representative photo. Photo: Z22, CC BY-SA 4.0

Sources: Black Press Media (Cranbrook Daily Townsman), CBC News, Castanet. Rewritten.



Christmas lights, representative photo. Photo: Anthony92931, CC BY-SA 3.0

WINTER MARKET · NOV. 28 AND 29

MORE THAN 160 VENDORS FILL WESTERN FINANCIAL PLACE FOR THE WINTER MARKET

BY THE KOOTENAY DISPATCH NEWS DESK

Western Financial Place hosts the Cranbrook Farmers' Market Winter Market this weekend. Doors are open noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29.

Organizers say more than 160 vendors and groups from around the region have signed up. They ask shoppers to bring cash or food for the Cranbrook Food Bank.

Sources: Cranbrook Farmers' Market (official), Visit Cranbrook, Kootenay Rockies Tourism, e-KNOW. Rewritten.


Representative concert photo. Photo: Propa, CC BY 3.0

KEY CITY THEATRE · SAT. NOV. 28

SYMPHONY OF THE KOOTENAYS BRINGS CHRISTMAS TO KEY CITY THEATRE NOV. 28

BY THE KOOTENAY DISPATCH NEWS DESK

The Christmas concert Echoes of Celebration comes to Key City Theatre this Saturday, Nov. 28, at 7:30 p.m., with Symphony of the Kootenays on stage.

The program moves from Tartini's Sinfonia pastorale to Rutter carols and a fantasia of Christmas favourites.

Sources: Key City Theatre (official), Symphony of the Kootenays (official), e-KNOW. Rewritten.



Food bank donations, representative photo. Photo: US Embassy Canada, CC BY 2.0

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Club results, school events and community notices for the East Kootenay. Email sales@mycurrent.ca or call 250-300-0569.

SUDOKU

Fill every row, column and 3 by 3 box with 1 to 9. Solution on page 12.

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

WORD SEARCH

Words run across, down or on a diagonal.

G	W	M	A	R	K	E	T	K	G	R	U
I	E	K	N	W	S	K	I	I	N	G	I
S	N	K	H	N	L	I	M	O	Y	Y	S
O	C	V	K	O	L	I	B	K	I	F	P
B	P	R	E	I	S	O	Y	C	G	E	A
I	U	E	A	R	M	P	D	G	E	R	R
P	C	D	R	N	M	B	I	O	D	N	W
H	T	H	G	M	B	E	E	C	R	I	O
N	G	D	A	E	I	R	R	R	E	E	O
A	S	S	T	E	T	T	O	E	L	R	D
S	Y	M	P	H	O	N	Y	O	M	E	U
L	B	B	M	I	N	I	N	G	K	Y	Y

BUDGET
CRANBROOK
FERNIE
HOSPICE
INVERMERE
KIMBERLEY
MARKET
MINING
PERMIT
SKIING
SPARWOOD
SYMPHONY

NEWS QUIZ - THIS ISSUE

1. How many of the 1,600 mailed Cranbrook surveys came back?
2. What share of survey respondents want to keep the 1 per cent road tax?
3. Which Kootenay Rockies MLA is the new Minister of State for Mining?
4. To which year's level must provincial regulations be cut by the end of the term?
5. What day does Fernie Alpine Resort plan to open?
6. Where was the BCHC Prospects Game played?
7. How many joint patrols did Cranbrook RCMP and bylaw staff run from July to September?
8. Where is the Winter Market this weekend?

Answers on page 12.

TEEN CULTURE

WHAT THEY ACTUALLY PLAY

A quick guide for East Kootenay parents and grandparents on what teens and tweens are playing, using and saying. Ratings and age rules are checked. The tips are our own advice.



Nintendo Switch 2. Photo: Crisco 1492, CC BY-SA 4.0

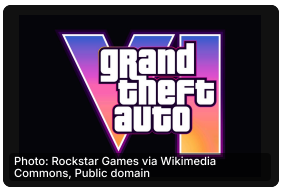


Photo: Rockstar Games via Wikimedia Commons, Public domain



Photo: Official GDC, CC BY 2.0



Photo: Xbox México, CC BY 3.0

BIG GAMES RIGHT NOW

GTA VI · FORTNITE · BLACK OPS 7 · ROBLOX · MINECRAFT · SWITCH 2

GTA VI is out on PS5 and Xbox Series X and S. Talk about it before it goes under the tree. Here is how the ESRB rates the big games this season: **GTA VI** M, Mature 17+. **Fortnite** T, Teen. **Minecraft** E10+, Everyone 10+. Whatever they play, check the chat and spending settings on every console and account.

Ratings: ESRB rating pages, Norton, Common Sense Media, Minecraft.net. GTA VI: ESRB, Take-Two, PlayStation, TODAY. Tips are our own advice.

SLANG DECODER

Cooked In big trouble, or worn out. As in: I forgot to study, I am cooked.

Lock in Focus hard on a task. As in: exams tomorrow, time to lock in.

Rizz Charm, or a knack for flirting. As in: that kid has rizz.

Cap / no cap Cap means a lie, and no cap means no lie. As in: no cap, the homework took an hour.

Axis, Bark, Sandy Springs Pediatrics and Betteroo parent slang guides

HOW TO ASK ABOUT IT

Skip "what is cooked." Try "who do you play with after school" and "does anyone ask you to move the chat."

Ask what they would do if a stranger offered free V-Bucks or a gift link. One calm question beats a lecture.

Listen first. End with "I am glad you told me." Keep the talk under five minutes the first time so they come back.

Our own advice for parents

APPS TEENS USE · MINIMUM AGES AND ONE TIP EACH

YouTube YouTube Kids is made for children under 13. Tip: watch together first.

TikTok 13+. Tip: set a daily time limit together.

Instagram 13+. Tip: review each safety setting together.

Snapchat 13+. Tip: turn off location sharing on the map and check the friend list together.

Discord 13+. Tip: limit who can send direct messages.

Roblox Tip: link a parent account, then set spending and chat limits.

Console parties Xbox and PlayStation. Tip: use family accounts and turn off open chat with strangers.

Switch 2 and Mario Kart World Tip: an easy family race night. Watch online spending on the console.

SCREEN-TIME SETTINGS TO CHECK THIS WEEK

- Turn on a nightly downtime window on phone and tablet accounts
- Cap App Store / Google Play and console spend to a weekly limit you both know
- Review who can message them on Discord, Snapchat and Roblox
- Keep bedroom chargers downstairs on school nights
- Ask which game voice chat stays on after 9 p.m.
- Require approval for new app installs on their device
- Walk through the safety settings on YouTube and TikTok together
- Set a shared rule for phones at the dinner table

Ages: platform terms, MediaSmarts, Westwind School Division, Lethbridge Police Service, CBC Kids News, West Vancouver Schools, Cybertip.ca. Settings list is our own advice.



Photo: Matti Blume, CC BY-SA 4.0

PROTECT YOUR KIDS

GTA VI IS OUT. HERE IS WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

Grand Theft Auto VI went on sale Nov. 19 for PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X and S. Take-Two says it broke entertainment sales records in its first day. The ESRB rates it M for Mature 17+.

If it is under the tree or already in the house, talk about it first. Set console family controls for online play and spending, and decide together whether voice chat with strangers stays off.

Sources: Take-Two Interactive, Polygon, GamesNews, ESRB. Rewritten.

Do this today: Open the console family settings, set a spend limit and turn off voice chat with strangers.

Also this week

Free V-Bucks? Skip the link

Treat any offer of free game money in chat as a trick. Ask which gift links they have seen this week. Buy only through the official Epic or console store.

Stranger chat rules that stick

No sharing full name, school, address or phone. No meeting anyone from online. No moving a chat to a private app without telling a parent. Write the three rules on a fridge card.

Privacy settings on the apps they use

Go through the settings once, then check monthly. Pick the one app they use most and finish its family or teen safety setup together.

Tips are our own advice for parents.

CHECK BACK NEXT WEEK

A new edition every week, with fresh slang, game news and one Protect Your Kids tip. Read it online at kootenaydispatch.ca.

Coming up: only listings confirmed by three or more sources, including the organizer. Confirm with each organizer before you go.

SAT NOV. 28

Noon-6 PM Cranbrook · Cranbrook Farmers' Market Winter Market, Western Financial Place. More than 160 vendors. Bring a cash or food donation for the Cranbrook Food Bank.

7:30 PM Cranbrook · Symphony of the Kootenays, Echoes of Celebration, Key City Theatre. Tartini, Rutter carols and Christmas favourites.

SUN NOV. 29

11 AM-3 PM Cranbrook · Winter Market, day two, Western Financial Place.

FRI DEC. 4

Opening day Fernie · Fernie Alpine Resort opens for the 2026 to 2027 season, conditions permitting.

WED DEC. 16

Noon-4 PM Cranbrook · First public budget meeting on the 2027 to 2031 financial plan, council chambers, City Hall. Also streamed online.

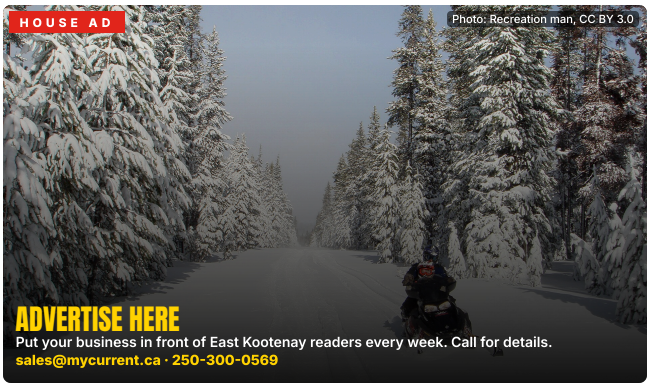
Sources: Cranbrook Farmers' Market, Visit Cranbrook, Kootenay Rockies Tourism, Key City Theatre, Symphony of the Kootenays, Fernie Alpine Resort, City of Cranbrook, e-KNOW, The Free Press, Cranbrook Daily Townsman.

ADVERTISE · CALL FOR DETAILS

Reach readers in Cranbrook, Kimberley, Fernie, Sparwood and Invermere. Call for details.

sales@mycurrent.ca

250-300-0569









THE FULL EDITION

kootenaydispatch.ca

Scan the code on page 2 or type the address.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

Puzzle on page 10

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

NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

Quiz on page 10

1. 502. 2. 60 per cent. 3. Pete Davis. 4. 2017. 5. Friday, Dec. 4. 6. Sungod Arena in Delta. 7. 37. 8. Western Financial Place.