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SPORTS | PAGE 7

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# Lake Cowichan Gazette

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

B&E at visitor centre, Page 3

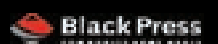
CVRD TO RENT  
COLLECTION  
TRUCK

NEWS | PAGE 3

FUNDRAISER  
TO BRING GIRL  
TO COWICHAN

NEWS | PAGE 6

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## RUBBER MEETS THE PLAYGROUND

Page 2

The new playground at Kin Park - The Duck Pond gets the thumbs up from area children, who have been happy to play on it since its completion. (Sarah Simpson/Gazette)

## 1 dies on Cowichan River at Marie Canyon

BY SARAH SIMPSON

A 56-year-old Vancouver man has died while tubing on the Cowichan River.

On Monday, Aug. 29 just after 6:30 p.m. the Lake Cowichan RCMP were called to help with an incident at Marie Canyon off of Riverbottom Road.

According to Sgt. Chris Manseau, acting senior media relations officer for the B.C. RCMP, witnesses reported the man had been tubing with friends and had planned to get out of the water before the Marie Canyon rapids but he was unable to do so.

"The friends of the deceased lost sight of him, but later located him approximately 500 metres down the river," Manseau said. "When the man was found he was in immediate medical distress, and first aid measures were given immediately."

Paramedics and members of the Lake Cowichan Fire Department also assisted with life saving measures but the man died at the scene, police said.

"The Cowichan River is a very popular spot for tubing and swimming, and the RCMP want to remind those partaking to use caution as sudden changes in the river can cause unfore-

Continued on A11

FROM THE FRONT

# Playground gets new rubberized surface



BY ROBERT BARRON

The playground at Kin Duck Pond in Lake Cowichan, which recently held its grand opening, has received a new rubberized surfacing made from 1,320 recycled scrap tires.

The town's Kinsmen Club received a \$29,578 grant from Tire Stewardship BC last year to go towards the new surfacing for the playground, located on River Road off North Shore Road.

"Kin Duck Pond is a very busy location year-round for residents to gather with friends and family," said Rosemary Sutton, executive director

**The playground at Kin Duck Pond in Lake Cowichan has received a new rubberized surfacing made from recycled scrap tires, thanks to a \$29,578 grant the town's Kinsmen Club received from the Tire Stewardship BC. (Photo courtesy of TSBC)**

of TSBC.

"The new cost effective and environmentally friendly rubberized playground surface made from recycled scrap B.C. tires makes the area safe and accessible for all children to play on as it has a soft surface to land on, and the rubber is non-slip."

Sutton said playground surfaces made from recycled scrap B.C. tires are visually attractive, non-toxic, and durable.

"Due to their semi-porous structure, water can flow through the surface making them low maintenance during all weather conditions and they last for many years," she said.

"Our TSBC team will continue to review opportunities to partner with organizations like the Kinsmen Club of Lake Cowichan that are making environmentally conscientious decisions regarding their renovations and upgrades and want to incorporate

recycled products into their community infrastructure."

Sutton said the playground upgrade using recycled scrap tires is just one of many projects across British Columbia that TSBC is supporting.

In 2022, TSBC awarded 13 B.C. organizations with community grants to be used for rubber surfacing for playgrounds, walkways, parks and gathering spaces. In total, recycled rubber from 14,928 scrap tires will be used for these 2022 community projects.

Since 2009, TSBC has given out more than \$5.8 million in community grants to municipalities, registered non-profit community groups or organizations, schools, and First Nations and Métis settlements.

Grants go towards a variety of projects including rubber surfacing for water parks, fitness areas, and running tracks.



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# CVRD to rent curbside collection truck

BY ROBERT BARRON

After experiencing numerous break downs of its three curbside collection trucks that impacted collection schedules earlier this summer, the Cowichan Valley Regional District is looking to rent a truck for the rest of the year, and add an extra day to its five-day collection schedule to meet the community's needs.

At the committee of the whole meeting on Aug. 31, Ian Morrison, director for Cowichan Lake South/Skutz Falls, said the district seems to be having substantial capital-equipment failures on a number of fronts and that it's a hit-and-miss scenario these days whether collection schedules will be met due to the "almost catastrophic" failures of the curbside collection trucks.

"I don't want to suggest that staff



Ian Morrison, CVRD's director for Cowichan Lake South/Skutz Falls. (File photo)

is doing its best with duct tape and bailing wire, but that seems to be the sense in the community," he said.

"Are we keeping our heads above water in regards to keeping our equip-

ment functioning and on the road, and have we looked at bringing in other equipment to fill the gaps?"

Over just a single week earlier this summer, one of the CVRD's curbside-collection trucks experienced a full engine failure and fire, which resulted in the truck being taken off the road as the engine had to be rebuilt, then a second truck experienced a leaf-spring failure that kept it out of operation until repairs were made, and then the third collection truck experienced a significant hydraulic line failure.

Doug Stevens, the CVRD's manager of solid waste operations, said that when the district acquires the rental truck, at a cost of \$10,000 a month, two trucks will do curbside collection through a six-day week which will allow his department to pull the third truck out of service for an extended

period of time to do the necessary repairs and maintenance, and then put it back into service and then take the next truck and do whatever work is required.

"As you know, our trucks are in very poor condition," he said.

"We've ordered two new collection trucks this year, but it will take between 18 to 22 months before they are delivered."

Morrison asked about other equipment failures and required building work in solid waste operations.

Stevens said he has only been with the CVRD for a short time, but he has assessed and prioritized some of the more necessary repairs and upgrades that are required, and some have already been dealt with.

"We have slipped off a bit, but I think we're on a good trajectory to getting back on track," he said.

# CVRD looks for public input into active transportation plan

GAZETTE

The Cowichan Valley Regional District is seeking public input for the continued development of its Regional Active Transportation Plan.

The CVRD does not currently have an identified regional active transportation network.

Instead, cyclists and pedestrians wishing to use "human-powered" travel within the region are met with inconsistent and often sub-standard active transportation infrastructure.

"While active transportation has been a popular topic in the CVRD for many years, increased awareness of climate change has increased the urgency to make lifestyle changes," said Lori Iannidinardo, chair of the CVRD.

"Having an active transportation plan will help us prioritize future projects and enable our ability to access grant funding programs available through senior levels of government. These grants offer considerable funding to save us money, reduce our

climate impact, and provide us with the simple joys of cycling and walking through our beautiful region."

The CVRD's ATP builds off other local area plans that have been developed for municipalities and territories within CVRD, such as Lake Cowichan First Nation and Cowichan Tribes, including planning projects underway in the City of Duncan and Municipality of North Cowichan.

While these other plans focus on specific local, urban areas, the CVRD's ATP will focus on connections between CVRD's many community village centres and prioritize routes based on feasibility, safety, cost/benefit and public engagement factors.

"The project team has worked with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, who have authority over regional road networks, to establish potential infrastructure improvements that are applicable to our large number of rural, community-connecting roadways," said Brian Farquhar, the CVRD's parks and

trails manager.

"By providing widened shoulders or multi-use pathways, we can improve the safety and comfort of cyclists and pedestrians while creating regional routes that enhance connectivity and reduce our reliance on fuel-powered transportation."

The ATP project team is currently seeking input from residents regarding both enthusiasm for the plan and prioritization of routes.

The draft plan currently prioritizes the completion and improvement of the Cowichan Valley Trail.

The CVT offers an existing north/south connection, a connection west to Lake Cowichan and south to Shawnigan Lake.

However, the CVT also has various connectivity gaps and lacks adequate way-finding in various locations.

Completing and improving this spine-like route is currently ranked as a top priority.

The plan also recommends an eastern route that would build off the CVT and connect the communities

of Chemainus, Crofton, Maple Bay, Duncan, Cowichan Bay, Cobble Hill, Shawnigan Lake, and Mill Bay.

This "closer to the ocean" route would create a scenic option to be enjoyed by both residents and visitors.

The proposed third layer of improvements, referred to as Community Connection and Extension Routes, include further connections of schools, commercial areas, and public facilities.

The project team continues to engage with First Nations leaders so that the advantages of improved roadway shoulders, trails and paths can be shared by all residents of the region.

Public participation in the survey now available at Plan Your Cowichan will strengthen grant applications and ultimately help realize a regional active transportation network that can be enjoyed by residents, visitors, and generations to come.

Residents are encouraged to share input at [www.planyourcowichan.ca/regional-active-transportation-plan](http://www.planyourcowichan.ca/regional-active-transportation-plan).

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## Thieves stopped in the act at Visitor Information Centre

BY SARAH SIMPSON

The quick thinking of area regulars and the fast response from Lake Cowichan RCMP led to the apprehension of two thieves and the return of stolen boxes from the Cowichan Lake Cowichan Visitor Centre recently.

A Visitor Centre staff member, who wished not to be named, confirmed that some fellows who hang out behind the centre and "really keep an eye on things around here" saw "two people coming out from underneath the building with boxes."

The incident occurred before the Visitor Centre opened for the day so the bystanders jumped into action, confronting the alleged intruders and notifying police.

The RCMP were called and "were on top of it," said the staffer.

"I'm not sure what the heck they wanted with old records of no use to anyone but the Chamber," said the staff member. "The boxes were recovered and returned to the Chamber of Commerce. Case closed."



# OPINION

## OUR VIEW

# Gender neutral washrooms are the future

We hope that one day it won't be a big deal. No story will be written, no video produced. Move along folks, nothing to see here.

But in the meantime, it's an encouraging step in the right direction to see the new Cowichan Secondary School go with gender neutral washrooms over the traditional binary male/female toilets.

We can only hope that more public washrooms in all scenarios start to be built in this manner, until we are no longer surprised by the idea.

There's no particularly good reason

that washrooms need to be segregated by gender. Not if we build them thoughtfully, with respect and privacy in mind, as is going to be done at the new Cowichan Secondary. And isn't that something we'd all like to experience in a public restroom?

Traditional public washrooms of any size (that include more than one toilet) would expect men to endure little privacy as they use a bank of open urinals, with additional stalls open at the top and bottom on all sides. In a women's bathroom one can expect to see lines of the same stalls.

Imagine now having some kind of

medical condition and being subject to so little privacy, where everything you do in your stall echoes through the space — your private business amplified by the design specs.

And that's to say nothing of how daunting it can be for those who are trans or non-binary just to simply be able to use the toilet when our very construction excludes rather than includes, forcing an either/or choice on which individuals will be publicly judged.

Women's washrooms are also often the de facto family washroom, for people with younger children that

need some supervision. And the seemingly inevitable line-ups to use the facilities are the stuff of comedy routines.

In the new washrooms in the works at the high school, individual toilets will be completely enclosed with floor to ceiling walls. About time! This takes care of everyone's privacy concerns, and worries about potential embarrassment with different genders using the same toilets.

This new design shouldn't take much adjustment, as this is how bathrooms in people's houses are constructed — gender neutral spaces

enclosed by walls for privacy.

And everyone can stand together at a communal sink.

A number of our Cowichan Valley communities could really use more public bathrooms for people to use when they are out and about. Should new washrooms be on the agenda, gender neutral with added privacy is the way to go.

»We want to hear from you.

Send comments on this editorial to [editor@lakecowichangazette.com](mailto:editor@lakecowichangazette.com). Letters must include daytime phone number and hometown.

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Look who was seen trying to go into the liquor store in Youbou on Aug. 11 at around 8:20 p.m. A Roosevelt Elk makes an unusual customer. (Michele Jedwab photo)

**Got a photo of the goings-on at Cowichan Lake?**

**Send it to the Gazette at: [editor@lakecowichangazette.com](mailto:editor@lakecowichangazette.com)**

## YOUR LETTERS

### NDP may do better with ferries

Joy McPhail and the NDP could do a better job running the ferries than Clark and Campbell. The Liberals under Campbell privatized the ferry system in 2003. Why?

The government is the single shareholder. The CEO made \$488,544, and got benefits etc. that kicked it up to \$563,062. Now you know why Campbell privatized the system.

There are now many people running the ferries private system. But then we as taxpayers have to pick up the tab.

We will also have to pick up the tab for Site C dam. Clarke said it would cost \$6 billion. She poured \$2 or \$3 billion into it prior to losing the election to the NDP. That was so the NDP under Mr. Horgan couldn't stop it. And all the big main contractors are Liberal supporters.

And it is now estimated the cost will be more than \$16 billion.

And now there will be thousands of acres of good farmland under 50 feet of water. People in the know said the dam was not needed and is in a very poor area.

Seems it's all about money. And I guess that's why our taxes are going

out of sight.

If you're a senior it comes out of your savings, if you're working you go for a raise. The president of the U.S. gets \$400,000 annually. Nice comparison. Eh?

**Jack Holliston  
Lake Cowichan**

### Send us your letter

Write 300 words or less on the topic of your choice and email [editor@lakecowichangazette.com](mailto:editor@lakecowichangazette.com)

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Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for clarity, grammar, length — attack the issue, not the individual.

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Lake Cowichan

# Gazette

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Send your items to: editor@lakecowichangazette.com

**Rail the best use of our corridor**

I would like to take this opportunity to correct statements made by Ian Andersen in your Aug. 18 edition. His comment about use of the E&N rail corridor without rails is completely wrong.

If this railway were to be deemed shut down, which it's not, there would be no opportunity to use it for anything else. The corridor would be broken up into many segments which would remove it completely from any other uses. Its best use is as an operating railway, with a variety of passenger trains on it plus freight for revenue.

No passenger service in the world operates without some government subsidy. For the Langford to Victoria portion, that would primarily operate as a commuter service. Courtney to Victoria would be intercity passenger feeding into the Langford hub which, of course, services Qualicum, Parksville, Nanaimo, Nanaimo airport, Ladysmith, Duncan and all points in between to Victoria and back. Freight opportunities are many and varied, which would produce a good revenue stream over and above passenger revenues and subsidies. Likely reducing the subsidies substantially.

In addition, for the benefit of the Mr. Andersens of the world, the corridor already has a large number of kilometres of paths alongside the rails and more to come. No

need to tear up the very valuable infrastructure when there already is complimentary "Rail WITH Trail" along the corridor. Let's not throw out the baby with the bath water when both are important. I realize there are folks who like to bike and hike along trails. Here is an opportunity for all of that and accommodate the rest of us who neither bike nor hike but need transportation other than the car. The rest of the world uses rail extensively, why not Canada? By the way, Rail also addresses many of the environmental issues.

**Jack Peake  
Duncan**

**Rail and trail not mutually exclusive**

I was appreciative of reader Jack Peake's letter to the editor (above). I have very much felt the same, that in this increasingly heated debate over the future of the E&N corridor, it is a false proposition to pit one vision against the other.

It is entirely possible to have a bike trail next to a reinvigorated railway up and down the south island (and hopefully beyond). Both forms of transportation are increasingly important in moving people around as the climate crisis deepens. While I fully support the ongoing transition of fossil fuel-based vehicles to electric ones, that transformation is not going to address congestion

on the Malahat or elsewhere (and arguably things may get worse if more people take to driving vehicles because they are electrified).

With growth on southern Vancouver Island especially in its major urban centres of Victoria, Duncan and Nanaimo projected to grow significantly in the coming decades coupled with worsening climate change impacts, we need viable forms of transportation that are alternatives to cars — we need bikeways and trails, and we need railways. The two are not mutually exclusive.

Combined with an inclusive vision that has as its foundation reconciliation with the First Nations whose lands were illegally taken in the formation of the E&N corridor, we and future generations will be better off with such an integrated, holistic approach.

**Eduardo Sousa  
Duncan**

**Dangerous driving in parking lots**

On several occasions recently I have had several very near misses in some of the local shopping centre parking lots.

I was sitting in my vehicle not moving, but in some cases ready to move, and a vehicle would come from behind my vehicle diagonally across the parking lot, just missing the front passenger side of my vehi-

cle, at a speed too high for parking lots. Mirror and shoulder checks would not have detected most of these vehicles due to their speed and direction of travel.

This type of driving is just stupid and eventually these drivers are going to hit somebody who is just pulling forward to leave the lot or run over someone's child.

**Mike Wilkinson  
Duncan**

**Stop destroying our great Mother Earth**

It is with a heavy heart that I learn of the new logging road Teal Jones is pushing through up near what was known as Helicamp near Fairy Creek. This was the forest of my youth, my Mother Earth, where I would go for my spiritual needs and for meditation. This is a forest of ancient trees, the forest that nurtured me, fed me and gave me a place to be.

Now the NDP government has granted Teal Jones a permit to build a road into the old-growth forest. Look at the map to see the road in the middle creeping through the old-growth — all that beautiful dark green area. All the light green areas are those that have been logged or are second growth. This road is being built in the Granite Creek watershed, with approval given to Teal Jones to build another two kilometers of road towards three planned old growth cut blocks, with one next to the

ridgeline at Fairy Creek. However, as much old-growth the government grants to Teal Jones to destroy, it will never be enough until all the old-growth forest is gone.

My heart cries out in protest. This is a violation of our rights as Indigenous people on unceded land. And now I've been informed that I must ask Teal Jones for permission to access my lands, adding insult to injury.

I would like the public to know that trees cut in the course of roadbuilding are not subject to stumpage fees.

And yet the NDP government says there is no old growth cutting in Fairy Creek. Apparently cutting into the ridgeline doesn't count. It is only a matter of time until it is all gone.

I implore the NDP government and Teal Jones to stop destroying our great Mother Earth, the forest of my culture and tradition.

**Elder Bill Jones  
Pacheedaht First Nation**



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**COLUMN****Vacation possibilities: fly balls, flying teeth**

**M**y family of four went out for lunch the other day to celebrate a special occasion and we sat outside on the patio. Just one other table outside was occupied and they were a bit of a ways apart from us so it was almost like we had the place to ourselves. It meant we could relax a little and while the children still had to use their manners, it didn't necessarily have to be their very best manners.

To pass the time while we waited for our meals, and to distract them from the noticing the slight chill that was in the air, I told the children that the parents would say a word and the kids would have to reply with a rhyming word that was funny.

It descended into potty humour very quickly but hey, I was thinking on my feet and it ended up having us all in stitches.

"Pot" said my husband.

Oh, the fits of giggles when my daughter replied "Snot!"



**Sarah Simpson**  
The bright side

"Smart" I said.

Of course you can guess pretty easily how they replied.

"I'm not playing anymore," declared my eight-year-old. "You're just trying to get us in trouble."

That wasn't the intention at all, but it is kind of funny to know the kids think they'll get in trouble for saying "poop" or "vomit" or "booger".

Nevertheless, it was a fun way to spend 10 minutes. The conversation shifted from our funny rhyming word game (that we'll totally play again) to the possibility of a vacation at some point in the next year or so. We've never had a proper family vacation

for one reason or another but that may be able to change one of these days so we've been dreaming up places to visit.

My best friend lives in Whitehorse so half-jokingly I suggested we go to the Yukon in the winter.

"We could go ice fishing and see the northern lights!" I suggested, intentionally neglecting just how cold it gets up north in the winter.

"You mean the Aurora Borealis?" chirped my son, chuffed with his timely knowledge of random facts. He gets that trait from his father (both the knowledge of random facts and the bravado that comes with them).

"If we're going anywhere, let's go to Dubai," he added, and not surprisingly as he's always had an admiration of the Burj Khalifa.

"Or maybe to Great Wolf Lodge in Arizona," chimed in my six-year-old, whose idea of a family trip is a little more in line with my own. Though if

we were to go to Great Wolf Lodge, it would be the one in Grand Mound, Washington which makes way more sense to me because it's significantly closer than the one in Arizona. I told her as much. Grand Mound is a viable option, though, as we've been talking all summer about heading south to a Mariners game anyway...

Baseball must have been on her mind when the following came out of her mouth.

"I know!" she said. "Let's go to a boxing match! Why can't we go to a boxing match?"

What an odd thing for a six-year-old girl to say.

My child is most definitely a sports fan but... boxing? That's not really a sport we follow in our household so I'm not sure where she got the idea from.

But it's what she said next that's still got me laughing.

"Maybe we'll catch a free tooth!" Her comedic timing is exceptional.

She's currently got her very first wiggly, jiggle, at-this-point-hanging-by-a-thread loose tooth and I suppose she was conflating catching foul balls at a Mariners game with punches being thrown and teeth going flying in boxing, but I'm still not sure why she came up with boxing or the idea that teeth would be launched all over the place for people to catch and even worse, to keep.

So, I apologize in advance to my daughter's Grade 1 teacher this year. Odds are slim we'll catch a fly ball at a Mariners game but if we do, she'll no doubt bring it for show and tell. Odds are even more slim we'll catch a free tooth at a boxing match but if we do, she'll no doubt also bring that to show and tell.

**Sarah Simpson is a reporter with the Cowichan Valley Citizen. She can be reached at Sarah.Simpson@cowichan-valleycitizen.com**

# Campaign underway to bring S. African girl to Cowichan

BY ROBERT BARRON

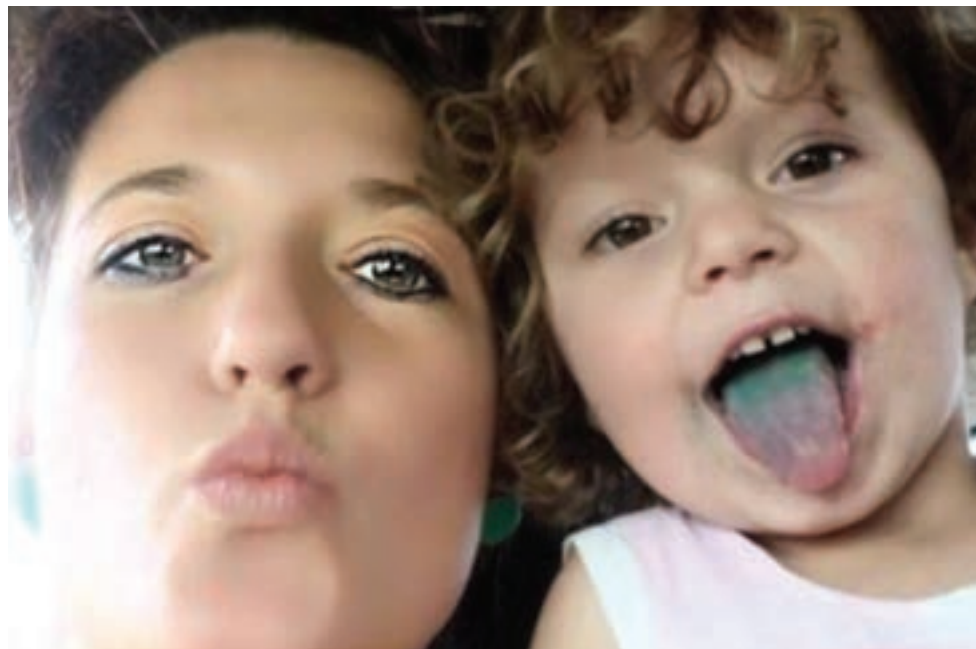
A woman from Shawnigan Lake is looking for help from the community to bring her great niece from South Africa to the Cowichan Valley.

Lisa Pyne-Mercier, who is originally from South Africa, said eight-year-old Ryleigh's life has been in turmoil since her single mother, Jax, died early last year in her remote house in South Africa and Ryleigh spent several days alone in the home with her mom in temperatures that exceeded 40 C before being discovered.

Ryleigh was clinging to life, and she was traumatized, scared, angry, dehydrated, soiled, and crying when her rescuers finally arrived.

She was placed in temporary foster care and Pyne-Mercier said she had great difficulty trying to contact her and feared for her well being.

Pyne-Mercier learned that two weeks after Ryleigh was placed into foster care she was diagnosed with malaria and had a blood transfusion at the hospital.



Pictured is Ryleigh (right) with her late mom Jax. (Photo courtesy of Lisa Pyne-Mercier)

She said, despite the fact Ryleigh was willed to her by her late mother, it has taken more than 18 months, and an exorbitant amount of funds, before the South African courts formally recognized the final will and testament of her mother, and she was granted guardianship and full parental rights to Ryleigh.

"This ordeal has cost our family more than \$200,000 as we worked to navigate the complexities of international law between two countries that hadn't yet experienced a child being willed outside their home country," Pyne-Mercier said.

"Sadly, we're not done yet, and we need your help. We are seeking help to bring Ryleigh to Canada where she can start her new trauma-free life and begin her healing journey into a loving family, as per her late mother's wishes."

Pyne-Mercier said she and her team are planning an exciting "FUN-d-raising" event to help Ryleigh's journey to Canada on Sept. 11 in which a line-up of local, and very talented musicians, including Brian McMahon and Eric Harper, will perform at Queen Margaret's School in Duncan.

Tickets are \$20 each, with children under 12 getting in free. Get them at Eventbrite.

As part of the fundraiser, Pyne-Mercier is asking local businesses to donate an item (product or service) to an online auction to make a resounding difference in the little girl's life, and share this fundraiser with their business networks.

Pyne-Mercier said the online auction will begin on Aug. 30 and run until 6 p.m. on Sept. 11.

"Your generous donation will make the difference Ryleigh needs so that she can start her new life here in Canada; her new home," she said.

"To show you our appreciation, we'd be happy to recognize your establishment on our promotional material and social media."

For more information, people can reach Pyne-Mercier by email at starfishorphan@gmail.com or call 250-589-3144.



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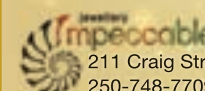
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# Kraken skate into sophomore season



BY SARAH SIMPSON

With the exhibition season now behind the jr. B Lake Cowichan Kraken hockey club, all eyes are on the upcoming regular season.

The Kraken open their sophomore season on the road, Sept. 8, against the Nanaimo Buccaneers and follow that up with a Sept. 10 contest in the Comox Valley when they face the Glacier Kings.

Both games, and all Vancouver Island Junior Hockey League action, are available for subscribers to stream on Hockey TV.

It's not until their home opener on Sept. 16, when the Kraken play host to their expansion partners, the Port Alberni Bombers, that Lake Cowichan fans will see their new favourite team on the ice live. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

The Kraken welcome the Peninsula Panthers on Sept. 18 for the second game of their opening weekend homestand. That game begins at 5:30 p.m.

After a quick trip to Port Alberni on Sept. 21 for a 7 p.m. game, the Kraken round out September at home against the Oceanside Generals (Sept. 25) and cross-Cowichan rivals, the Kerry Park Islanders (Sept. 30). Those games start at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. respectively.

The Kraken played six exhibition games in the pre-season, including a 3-2 victory over Kerry Park in their first meeting of the season. As of press time, the Kraken's pre-season record was 3-2 with the away portion of the home-and-away series against the Islanders left to play. That result was not available by the *Gazette's* press time.

To learn more about the Kraken visit their website at [krakenhockey.ca](http://krakenhockey.ca)

Kraken forward Anthony Wilson kicks the puck to his stick during the second period of his team's win over the Nanaimo Buccaneers in Lake Cowichan last Saturday. Kevin Rothbauer/Gazette)

# Kraken add playmaker

BY SARAH SIMPSON

The Lake Cowichan Kraken have gone south-east to find the player they were looking for.

All the way from the East Hartford, CT and Connecticut Jr Rangers U18 program, forward Andrew White racked up eight goals and 27 assists in just 16 games for the Rangers last season.

His numbers were good enough for White to set the organization's all-time single-season assists record. Led by White, the Rangers won their first ever USPHL U18 division championship.

"White is a high IQ playmaking forward with a great hockey sense and vision for the ice," said a release issued by the Kraken. "This was on display recently as he scored a goal and added two assists in the Kraken's last pre-season game against the Nanaimo Buccaneers. We look forward to watching Andrew continue to develop his skills this season in a Kraken uniform."

Previous signings this summer include: forwards Dayton Vandeppear of Surrey, Vancouver product Charlie Williams, Duncan locals Rees Aebischer and Kyler Smith, and defender Rylan Hildebrand of Sherwood Park, Alta.

# Province provides almost \$625,000 to help homeless in Cowichan Valley

GAZETTE

Doug Routley, MLA for Nanaimo-North Cowichan, said people who are homeless will have more access to support services in North Cowichan as a result of provincial funding.

North Cowichan is receiving \$624,050 to respond to the impacts of homelessness through the "A place to be" project.

This project, in partnership with the Cowichan Valley Regional District, Duncan, Ladysmith, and Lake Cowichan, will provide a safe space for unhoused individuals to seek shelter and comfort during daytime hours, with access to washrooms, healthcare services, and local outreach teams.

"Only by working together with local leaders can we address the needs of unsheltered people in our region," said Routley.

"We have listened closely to local leadership, and the funding we are providing will help further our work

to create more resilient communities."

The province is investing more than \$15 million into projects in 44 B.C. communities as part of the Strengthening Communities' Services Program.

This funding stream supports local governments and modern Treaty Nations in building additional capacity to address the needs of unsheltered people in their communities, while also keeping people safe and healthy.

The projects will include services such as outreach and mental health supports, creating new temporary shelters for people experiencing homelessness, and expanding shelter availability during potential extreme weather events through the program's second intake.

This investment is in addition to the \$76 million provided to local governments and modern Treaty Nations

through this program in 2021.

The Strengthening Communities Services Program is open to all municipalities, regional districts, Islands Trust and modern Treaty Nations in B.C.

It is administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

## Cowichan Lake Community Services

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6:00 P.M.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

121 POINT IDEAL DRIVE,  
LAKE COWICHAN

## Sound Advice: The Acoustic Reflex

Have you ever been annoyed by the loudness of a truck as it passes by? If you want some relief from the loudness, try humming to yourself!

Our auditory system has many moving and interesting parts. One such system is a reflex in the middle ear that immediately responds to loud sounds by dampening them in an attempt to protect the more sensitive structures in the inner ear.

When a loud sound enters the ear, it vibrates the eardrum and the middle ear bones which then transmits the sound to the inner ear, auditory nerve and then up through the brainstem to the auditory cortex in the brain. The first station in the brainstem recognizes the loud sound and sends a signal back down to a tiny muscle in the middle ear (the stapedius muscle). The tendon of the stapedius muscle, which is attached to the last middle ear bone, stiffens thereby reducing the intensity of the vibrations. The reduction in intensity is primarily in the low pitches of sound.

This reflex is a bilateral reflex which means that if only one ear is stimulated, loud sounds are attenuated in both ears. One way to invoke this reflex is to speak. Because of the short distance between the mouth and the ear, one's own voice is considered to be a loud sound by the auditory system and the acoustic reflex is therefore triggered when speaking.



During an initial comprehensive audiological evaluation, it is often important that a test is performed to determine whether the acoustic reflex is present or not and sometimes, if the strength of the reflex lessens with time. These tests can provide clues to the existence of medical conditions that may not otherwise be detected.

The presence or absence of these reflexes, and certain variations thereof, can be used in conjunction with other tests to determine the possible presence of conditions such as nerve hearing loss, conductive hearing loss and lesions or abnormalities of some cranial nerves.

So, the next time you forget your earplugs, hum yourself a tune - it could help to save some of your hearing!



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## COLUMN

# Methods for conserving water in the garden



**Mary Lowther**  
Dig In



**This shovel digs deeply enough to pop most hardpans, allowing access for water and roots.**  
(Mary Lowther photo)

Although stage two watering restrictions are now in effect here, I am already watering at stage four levels because it's better for the garden and easier on the gardener. I have also prepared my sandy soil to better retain water and prevent evaporation. Compost, manure, rotting cover crop and organic fertilizers feeds soil life which then feeds plants, absorbing water like a sponge and acting as a reservoir for future growth.

Hard pan is a layer of hard-packed soil several inches, maybe a foot, below the surface, a layer caused

by heavy traffic, and is impenetrable by roots, preventing plants from accessing water below. To break up hard pan one can drag a heavy tiller through the soil or do it by hand: dig down with a deep shovel or heavy duty fork and pop a small portion of the hard pan. Move over a few inches and pop the next section and

so on. This is a good chore to do in the spring when the soil is softer and easier to dig.

There are many methods to reduce water use and requirements. Plants evaporate water from the soil, so when there are fewer plants there's less loss of ground water. Planting crops farther apart than recommend-

ed allows plants access to more water because they develop more extensive roots. Topping the ground with a mulch of any kind will also keep the soil cooler by reducing evaporation, but I wait until the hot, dry weather to apply the mulch because by then the slugs and sow bugs will have crawled away to more hospitable neighbourhoods and won't return until fall.

Finally, I use soaker hoses connected to a timer set to water during the wee hours of the night. My timer has four outlets so I attach a hose to each outlet that is set to run for half an hour each, so the first one goes from 3 a.m. to 3:30 a.m., the second one from 3:30 a.m. to 4 a.m., etc. They are set to water every second day and if I had to reduce that to every third day, the plants might need a bit of thinning out to accommodate less available water. My beds are three

feet wide and I run a soaker hose down the length of the bed, attaching another one at the end as needed. I haven't labeled the hoses yet but once I get this new garden established I'll have a better idea where the hoses should go so I don't have to re-invent the wheel every summer, as it were.

I bought my first soaker hose 20 years ago, bought the rest over time and found that if I drain them, carefully wind them up in the fall and store them out of the elements, they last for years. Because I'm not watering the whole bed, weeds and plant-eating bugs don't proliferate so there's far less weeding and squishing of bugs too, which should allow the vegans to dine with a clear conscience.

Please contact [mary\\_lowther@yahoo.ca](mailto:mary_lowther@yahoo.ca) with questions and suggestions since I need all the help I can get.



## CVRD News

175 Ingram Street  
Duncan, BC  
250.746.2500



### CVRD REGIONAL REFERENDUM - REGIONAL RECREATION FUNDING SERVICES

For decades, the CVRD and its municipal partners have been trying to find an equitable funding model for recreation services in the Cowichan region. The CVRD Board of Directors is planning to move forward with a new usage-based funding model for nine of its 'regionally significant' recreation facilities, which residents across the region will be voting on during local elections on October 15, 2022. Each electoral area and municipal jurisdiction within the CVRD will be affected differently - for some, the taxes for recreation services will decrease, and for some the taxes will increase. To learn more about the funding model and how it will affect taxes in your area, visit [www.planyourcowichan.ca/recfund](http://www.planyourcowichan.ca/recfund).

The CVRD will also be hosting virtual public information sessions in September on the following dates and times:

#### Tuesday, September 6, 2022

5:00 p.m., Area A - Mill Bay/Malahat  
6:00 p.m., Area B - Shawnigan Lake  
7:00 p.m., Area G - Saltair/Gulf Islands  
8:00 p.m., Area D - Cowichan Bay

#### Thursday, September 8, 2022

5:00 p.m., City of Duncan

6:00 p.m., Area E - Cowichan Station/  
Sahtlam/Glenora

7:00 p.m., Municipality of North Cowichan

#### Tuesday, September 13, 2022

5:00 p.m., Town of Lake Cowichan

6:00 p.m., Area F - Cowichan Lake South/  
Skutz Falls

7:00 p.m., Area I - Youbou/Meade Creek

#### Thursday, September 15

5:00 p.m., Town of Ladysmith

6:00 p.m., Area C - Cobble Hill

7:00 p.m., Area H - North Oyster/Diamond

Learn more about the Regional  
Recreation Funding Referendum on  
Plan Your Cowichan by visiting  
[www.planyourcowichan.ca/recfund](http://www.planyourcowichan.ca/recfund)



### COWICHAN CONNECTIVITY PROJECT - PUBLIC MEETINGS

The CVRD is creating roadmaps to improved internet and cellular connectivity for four of Cowichan's most underserved communities.

If you live, work, or have interests in one of these areas, then we need your help to understand your community's digital aspirations and what's holding you back. Join us for an in-person conversation to explore ways that connectivity can enhance your community, and discuss barriers that need to be overcome to achieve your digital goals.

#### Ditidaht First Nation

Tuesday, September 13 from 5 to 7pm  
Community Hall

#### Cowichan Lake Region

Wednesday, September 14 from  
5 to 7pm Cowichan Lake Rec Centre,  
Curling Lounge

#### Cowichan Station

Thursday, September 15 from 5 to 7pm  
The HUB at Cowichan Station, Heritage Room

#### Thetis & Penelakut Islands

Saturday, September 17 from 2 to 4pm Forbes  
Hall Community Centre, Thetis Island

Visit [planyourcowichan.ca/connect](http://planyourcowichan.ca/connect) to learn more and register for one of the events. Registration may also be done by phone by calling Economic Development Cowichan at **250.746.7880**.





## LAKE FLASHBACK

# Unexpected delivery; school board cost cuts



**Sarah Simpson**  
Reporting

Welcome to *Lake Flashback*. Reporter Sarah Simpson has been combing through old newspapers with the assistance of the Kaatza Station Museum and Archives so we can jog your memory, give you that nostalgic feeling, or just a chuckle, as we take a look at what was making headlines this week around Cowichan Lake in years gone by.

**This week around the Cowichan Lake area...**

## 10 years ago

The Sept. 5, 2012 edition of the *Lake Cowichan Gazette* was chock full of news. Here's one good news story:

"At 6:25 a.m. on the morning of Monday, Aug. 20, Laura Foglia and Steve Boddam welcomed the arrival of their second child, Ashtyn. But wait, there's a twist. This baby wasn't born in a hospital or at home, he came into the world at the Lake Cowichan detachment of the B.C. Ambulance Service.

"We were paged at 6 a.m.' said Jamie Hockin, the lead attending paramedic on shift at the time. 'They said someone was in the parking lot, so we went outside.'

"Foglia's water broke while she was still in her vehicle being assessed by Hockin.

"My partner [Rob Sutton] brought over the gurney and we got her [Foglia] into the ambulance, but we didn't have enough time to transport her to the hospital. A couple of minutes later the baby was born."

This was Hockin's first experience with delivering a child, but he says he didn't have much trouble staying calm.

"Baby Ashtyn was seven pounds 11 ounces, and 19.5 inches long."

What a story!

In other news of the day, Lake Cowichan mayor, Ross Forrest went diving for bottles and cans during the annual Cowichan Lake and River Stewards Cleanup on Saturday, Aug. 25. Forrest spent the day with Roger Hunter, Cowichan Water Board coordinator, and Kenzie Cuthbert, a local professional guide. They spent the morning between the Cuthberts' property and Skutz Falls. 'It was absolutely fantastic,' said Forrest. 'There's no houses, nothing from there to Skutz Falls. It's so peaceful.' The group collected four bags of garbage and recyclables, and didn't finish up their day until around 5 p.m."



**"From left: Dad Steve Boddam, paramedic Jamie Hockin, baby Ashtyn, big brother Lyum, and Mom, Laura Foglia." (Lake Cowichan Gazette/ Sept. 5, 2012)**

## 25 years ago

"Where do I live?" asked Fred Wagner on page 3 of the *Lake News* of Sept. 10, 1997.

Wagner knew where he lived, he just didn't know the proper address. The story was about him living in one house with three addresses!

"Lake Cowichan, Cottonwood Street resident, Fred Wagner only recently learned that he is listed in three different places with three different addresses and only one is the correct one. The important listing however, with B.C. Tel — who supplies 911 with addresses — is wrong and it would appear his neighbour's addresses are also wrong in the phone book."

Oops! That's a mistake that could

have had terrible consequences.

"Wagner, 63-years-old, is very concerned. 'I had a stroke in June and I often have my grandchildren staying with me here,' he said, reiterating what might happen in an emergency if 911 has a wrong address."

In other news of the day, page one of the Sept. 10, 1997 *Lake News* reported that a pilot was rescued after a plane crash on Cowichan Lake.

"A plane crash on Lake Cowichan near Caycuse last Sunday was perhaps among the quietest and most uneventful crashes to have occurred. No one in Caycuse was aware of it — the crash site was abandoned by the time RCMP arrived and no other emergency crews were called out."

This is an odd one.

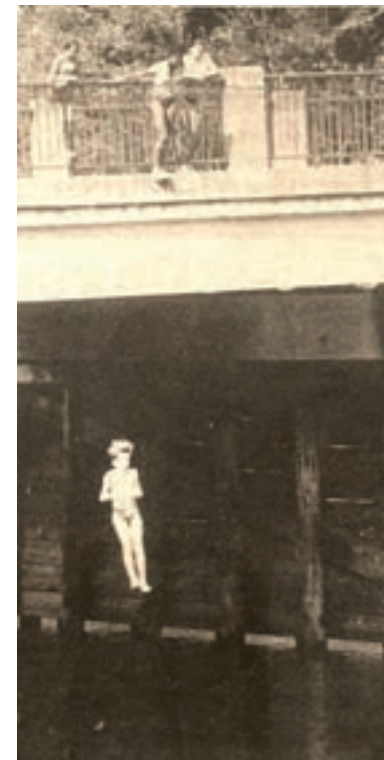
"According to Lake Cowichan

RCMP, the crash, involving a small Republican Sea Bee float plane with only the pilot on board went down in Lake Cowichan at about 6:10 p.m. Thursday evening."

The pilot, Roger D'Amico, and his friend Les Fekete, were flying their planes together and the two connected via radio about D'Amico's mechanical troubles and intention to land on the lake.

"Fekete took up position behind D'Amico's plane which he then observed cartwheeling to the left and crashing into the lake. Fekete immediately landed his plane, swam over to D'Amico who could not swim, and dragged him back to his plane. D'Amico's plane sank very quickly."

The two then flew back to Sidney



**"Splish-splash, children about to take a bath jump off highway bridge in Lake Cowichan at the Big Pool. This activity took place on Monday, the last day of the holidays and it signifies the nose-dive of summer as care-free days for school-age children are over for another season. They were all back to school on Tuesday. What a fall from summer!" (Lake News/Sept. 8, 1982)**

in Fekete's aircraft.  
Wow.

## 40 years ago

The Sept. 8, 1982 edition of the *Lake News* brings us back to the drama in the school system as "lay-offs, cutbacks, even school closures are being discussed this week as school district employees and trustees grapple with the problem of how to meet provincial restraint guidelines.

"The School District 66 board of school trustees is being forced to make \$111,213 worth of cuts from the budget for 1982 and is looking at reducing expenditures by another \$250,000 to \$300,000 in 1983.

In other news, "RCMP use dog to nab boat theft suspects" was an attention-grabbing headline.

"Lake Cowichan RCMP, with the help of a four-footed colleague from Colwood, have nabbed two Victoria men who stole a boat and fishing rod in Youbou. Police were called to Youbou about 6 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 5 when they received a call that a rowboat had been stolen from the shoreline near Ben's Marina. Local residents chased them away, saying that the police were on their way."

The two men made a run for it, but one was caught.

"The other escaped and was apprehended with the help of a tracking dog from Colwood. Both men are facing charges."

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**INDEX IN BRIEF**

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS.....1-8  
 COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS...9-57  
 TRAVEL.....61-76  
 CHILDREN.....80-98  
 EMPLOYMENT.....102-198  
 BUSINESS SERVICES.....203-387  
 PETS & LIVESTOCK.....453-483  
 MERCHANDISE FOR SALE.....503-587  
 REAL ESTATE.....603-969  
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# Death spurs call for more signs on the river

Continued from A1

seen hazards,” Manseau said. “Though important, swimming skills alone aren’t always enough to save a life. Many drowning incidents involve other factors that swimming skills alone cannot prepare an individual for.”

The identity of the victim has not been released by police.

The Lake Cowichan RCMP and BC Coroners Service are investigating.

Meanwhile, commentators on the Citizen’s Facebook page are calling for improved signage along the river’s more dangerous spots.

“Katy.Fulton@gov.bc.ca is on the signage project right now if anyone wants to email her and say it needs to be top priority to have better signage before Marie Canyon,” wrote Stephanie Bonnar, whose own mother died at the same spot while tubing on the river in 2017. “I have been emailing her this summer. This is the third death on the Cowichan River since 2017, not to mention the countless close calls.”

## COLUMN

# Tour Cowichan artists on Sept. 10



Andrea Rondeau

## BEHIND THE SCENES

If you love art, you will want to set aside Saturday, Sept. 10 for the first Cowichan Valley Arts Council Art Studio Tour.

“Seeing a finished piece of art, no matter how fabulous, only tells part of the story,” says a press release for the event. Get a glimpse into the rest on the self-guided tour of 25 studios from Mill Bay to Chemainus.

They are “home to some well-known and award-winning artists, potters, sculptors and photographers. Some of the hillside and waterfront studio settings are as inspiring as the art.”

The studios are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., so you’ll want to plan your time by checking out the map and list of artists ahead of time on the CVAC website (<https://cowichanvalleyartscouncil.ca/>), print out a pdf, or pick up a map at the CVAC gallery.

...



Harold Allanson has a show upcoming at the CVAC gallery in Duncan from Sept. 6 to 20, 2022. (Harold Allanson artwork)

“Grazing cattle, working cowboys in the saddle and panoramic vistas of B.C.’s grassy plains. Those are the images celebrated in an upcoming art show,” promises a press release for a show called B.C.’s Grassland Cowboys at the Cowichan Valley Arts Council’s Annex gallery from Sept. 6 to 20.

On display will be the watercolours of renowned artists Harold Allanson, depicting the working life of B.C.’s farms and ranches.

“Allanson captures the soul of the working ranches he saw while growing up in B.C.’s Interior,” says CVAC.

Allanson is a full-time painter who now lives in Crofton. He has tradi-

tionally made several trips a year to the Chilcotin region, capturing photographs of the branding and calving at Douglas Lake Ranch and the Gang Ranch, the release said.

“His very collectible work is bold and realistic, pushing the limits of the watercolour medium.”

A member of the Federation of Canadian Painters, he most recently won an award of excellence at this year’s Sooke Fine Arts Show.

Allanson will be on site at the show opening Sept. 7 from 4 to 6 p.m. He will also lead a three-day watercolour course for CVAC from Oct. 15-17, on how to capture and compose a vibrant farmer’s market scene.

...

The Cowichan Folk Guild has scheduled their next coffee house for Sept. 10, with headliner Anneda set to perform.

“Anneda is able to call on over two decades of experience as a live performer to put on a rousing show and bring audiences to their feet — more than just an entertainer, she is an artist. She has toured Canada extensively, performing at iconic venues from The Legendary Horseshoe Tavern and The Opera House in Toronto,” said a press release for the event.

“Anneda uses her powerful voice to weave stories of love and loss. She draws from a deep well of personal experience and uses a broad palette to bring a depth of colour and texture to her music. An accomplished story teller, a dexterous guitarist, and an insightful pianist, Anneda is able to combine traditional technique and modern technology to create and share meaningful songs.”

Now that’s an enthusiastic recommendation!

The coffee house is at the United Church Hall in Duncan, 246 Ingram St., and doors open at 7 p.m., with Anneda starting at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 for non-Folk Guild members and \$5 for members.

**PODCAST**



**BERT terHART**

UPDATE: This week’s PODCAST guest on Today in BC is Bert terHart who is paddling and portaging across Canada from BC. Host Peter McCully chatted with terHart in Ottawa.



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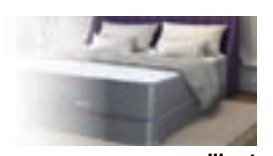
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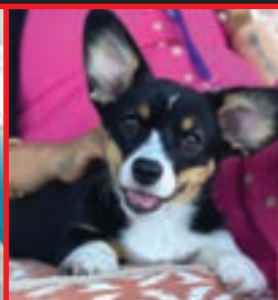


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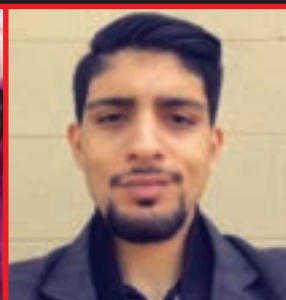
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