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Neighbours upset about pickleball noise

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McAllister businesses getting a break from city fees

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Soccer club pleased city will replace Trasolini turf field

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TRICITY THURSDAY | JANUARY 27 | 2022

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### Last days for Lights at Lafarge

- + Poirier Forum opens for booster shots
- + COVID-19 tests for SD43 staff, teachers



### SHOE BUSINESS



Port Moody's Tye Engmann has become a go-to source for Hollywood stars and NBA basketball players on the lookout for collectible vintage Air Jordan sneakers that can fetch prices up to \$25,000. For the story, see page 32. MARIO BARTEL/THE TRI-CITY NEWS

### TRANS MOUNTAIN

# Sinkholes a 'risk,' admits pipeline company

Concerns about relocation of drill site after sinkholes on Mary Hill Bypass

DIANE STRANDBERG  
dstrandberg@tricitynews.com



Will digging a new pipeline in Coquitlam cause sinkholes along the Mary Hill bypass?

The Highway 7B route is a crucial link between Highway 1, to Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Maple Ridge, and handles thousands of vehicles a day,

which back up by the hundreds in each direction at major intersections during rush hour.

But a sinkhole that caused traffic delays eastbound on the Mary Hill Bypass in early December during the dig from Surrey has come under scrutiny by local environmentalists, the mayor of Coquitlam as well as the Ministry of Transportation.

And while Trans Mountain has sensors to detect settling in the area of its pipeline dig and hasn't found evidence of further settling on the route since

SEE COQ. MAYOR PAGE 3



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SHOE BUSINESS

## Meet Port Moody's sneaker tycoon to the stars

A pair of original Air Jordans can be worth \$25,000

MARIO BARTEL  
mbartel@tricitynews.com



When Hollywood comedian Kevin Hart or Phoenix Suns basketball player Devin Booker want to secure a special pair of Air Jordan sneakers, it's a Port Moody man who hooks them up.

Tye Engmann has been buying and selling collectible kicks for the past five or six years. In fact, he's become so good at it, he bailed out of his second year at Simon Fraser University's Beedie School of Business for the school of hard walks.

Engmann, 20, specializes in vintage Nike Air Jordans. The iconic basketball shoes were first produced for NBA superstar Michael Jordan in 1984 then released to the public in April 1985. They were an immediate sensation.

Fans who wanted to feel a bit of their hero's magic wrapped around their toes lined up for hours to get the



Tye Engmann got so busy buying and selling vintage Air Jordan sneakers he left SFU's Beedie School of Business. **MARIO BARTEL/THE TRI-CITY NEWS**

latest shipments. Muggings, assaults and even a murder to get the shoes became the fodder of media crime blotters.

Some schools banned them outright to curtail the potential for violence.

New Air Jordans have been released yearly since,

along with several special editions commemorating milestones in Jordan's career, historical occasions like the Running of the Bulls in Spain, the player's relationship with filmmaker Spike Lee who once served as a pitcher for the brand as well as collaborations with

various designers.

But Engmann said it's the original old-school Jordans that elevate his heart rate and boost his bank account.

He said they're the most collectible not only because so many have disappeared into waste bins over the years, but they were also the

best quality.

Engmann said a pair of Jordan 1 Chicago sneakers from 1985 can be worth up to \$25,000 if they're in brand new condition. Other variations like a limited run of that shoe with a black sole when the manufacturer ran out of red rubber, or an iteration with a special strap that was added when Michael Jordan was recovering from an ankle injury are even more rare.

Engmann discovered his passion for sneakers when he was young. He said he coveted a pair of white and black Adidas NMD low-tops that featured some Japanese writing on the sides.

"I just wore them because I liked them," Engmann said of the shoes that he eventually bought off a reseller because all the usual retailers were sold out. "They were actually really comfortable."

The unique look of the footwear sparked his interest in sneaker design, the little touches like the colour of the midsole that distinguished one model from another. He started playing with dyes to put his own flair on the shoes, learning about the

materials to use and techniques to follow from watching videos on YouTube.

Friends noticed, asked him if he could dye their sneakers too.

Sensing a business opportunity that could earn him the money to further his own sneaker collection without always going to his parents for a handout, Engmann started charging for his dye jobs and scouring online for unique finds. He targeted Jordans because Michael Jordan is his favourite player. He mined websites and blogs to learn all he could about the shoes.

"You have to understand the history of the shoes to appreciate them," he said.

When Engmann scored his first pair of vintage Jordans, he posted a photo on his Instagram account. His Inbox filled with notifications, some with offers to buy them for much more than he paid.


Engmann said he held onto those sneakers for two or three years. In the interim, he connected with other collectors to buy and sell other

SEE **MICHAEL JORDAN**, PAGE 33

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SHOE BUSINESS

# Michael Jordan documentary reignited market for his shoes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

pairs. It was, he said, a pretty “niche” market.

Then, in 2020, Netflix debuted *The Last Dance*, its 10-part documentary series about Michael Jordan’s career.

The show introduced the superstar to a whole new generation who’d never

seen him play and reminded those who had of the impact he made on basketball. It also reignited interest in the shoes that bear Jordan’s name.

“There was a real surge in people becoming interested in vintage shoes,” said Engmann, who decided to dive into the growing marketplace with both feet.

Most of Engmann’s days are spent on the computer, scouring blogs and various online marketplaces around the world like Grailed for footwear treasures that may have been squirrelled away in closets or attics for years. Japan was a hotbed of sneaker culture for a time, but has since cooled.

Engmann has set up a

small studio to take photos of sneakers he’s putting up for sale on his website or posting to his social media accounts and he’s started dabbling in making YouTube videos to grow his audience even more.

He’s also preparing to go to Sneaker Con events like one that’s scheduled to take place in Vancouver in March

after several such shows were cancelled by COVID-19 public health restrictions.

Engmann’s growing expertise and ability to secure rare finds has caught the attention of celebrity collectors like Hart, Booker and another pro basketballer, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander of the Oklahoma Thunder.

“They’re really cool,

they’re respectful,” said Engmann of his high-profile clients.

But finding a pair of vintage Jordans that will fit a pro basketball player’s giant size 14 — or more — feet can be particularly challenging.

“The hunt is so much fun,” Engmann said.

• See the shoes at [instagram.com/curatedvan](https://www.instagram.com/curatedvan).

EXPRESS SWEEP



Coquitlam Express forward Ray Hamlin scores his third goal of the game to lead the team to a 6-5 win over the Chilliwack Chiefs, last Friday at the Poirier Sport and Leisure Complex. Meteo Dixon also scored three times, then repeated the feat Saturday in Coquitlam’s 6-4 victory over the Chiefs. Ryan Tattle, Ian Devlin and Kahlil Fontana also scored while Express goalie Carter Woodside stopped 40 shots. Coquitlam hosts Chilliwack again tomorrow (Friday) at 7 p.m. and the Cowichan Valley Capitals on Sunday at 3 p.m. **MARIO BARTEL/THE TRICITY NEWS**



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HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY

## Riverside Rapids ruck back toward normalcy

Most of the players are new to the sport

MARIO BARTEL  
mbartel@tricitynews.com



There's no gentle easing into rugby. The sport's learning curve is built on bloody noses and hard shoulders into the mid-section.

Which is why the coach of the Riverside Rapids senior boys team thinks a tough ruck is the perfect jolt toward normalcy for his young athletes who've been isolated on the sidelines for the past two years because of COVID-19 public health restrictions.

Evidently, some of his charges see things the same way.

Only four players on Riverside Secondary School's first rugby team since 2019 have played the sport before.

The rest are like Cole Jacobsen, a Grade 10 player taking his first crack at the sport; they're looking for connection after two years



Riverside Rapids defenders work to bring down a Burnaby Central ball carrier in their recent Fraser North AAA senior boys rugby match at the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex. Riverside won, 21-10. **MARIO BARTEL/THE TRI-CITY NEWS**

of being disconnected from much of their extra-curricular opportunities.

"Finding a good group where everyone is dedicated to the same thing is so im-

portant," said Jacobsen, who previously played basketball. Or Luca Prante, a Grade

10 exchange student from Germany where rugby is a niche sport, who thought

coming out for the team would be a good way to make friends in his new environs.

He said at first he was nervous, but at 6'2" tall, he knew he had the size and strength to be able to compete physically even though his previous sporting experiences were in sailing, soccer, volleyball and basketball.

"It's not as tough as I thought," Prante said, with a smile.

Rapids coach Darren Mackenzie said the 30 or so young men who answered his initial call for rugby try-outs in January were "shadows of themselves," lacking confidence and belief in their own abilities without the feedback and affirmation school sports can give them.

Physically, they were also paying the price for two years of relatively few opportunities to scratch their competitive itch.

Whipping them into game shape, Mackenzie said, has been no small challenge.

Aside from rugby's physical requirements of speed,

SEE **TEAM FINDS**, PAGE 43

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Fraser North playoffs begin today in AAA senior girls high school soccer with the Centennial Centaurs leading the charge toward earning a berth in provincials in early June. Centennial forward Kaitlyn Johnson knocks a Riverside Rapids defender off the ball in a recent match at the school's new turf field. The Centaurs won, 9-0, to retain its undefeated status. **MARIO BARTEL/THE TRI-CITY NEWS**

# Team finds rapid success

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42

strength and stamina, the sport requires quick decision making, usually under duress of a hulking defender bearing down to knock them over or strip them of the ball.

"It's about trying to teach them to be winners, how to work as a team and how to work hard," Mackenzie said of the goal he sets for each of the two or three practices he's been conducting every week.

Eli Silveira, a senior who's played soccer and volleyball but never rugby, said it was tough to get his stamina back after two years of relative inactivity, but he relishes the sport's physicality.

Josh Granville, a Grade 11 student who's played rugby at the club level and for Team BC, said the sport teaches life lessons that extend beyond the pitch, like the value of performing with heart and perseverance.

As one of the side's few ex-



A Burnaby Central Wildcats ball carrier tries to escape the clutches of Riverside Rapids tacklers in their recent Fraser North AAA match. **MARIO BARTEL/THE TRI-CITY NEWS**

perienced players, he said he tries to pass on those lessons in the scrum.

"A real bond has developed," he said.

Mackenzie said the Rapids' indomitable spirit was apparent in their 27-22 upset of the Terry Fox Ravens in the season-opener for both sides.

And it has carried on for two subsequent victories, putting the team atop the

Fraser North standings.

Mackenzie said the victory over the crosstown rivals showed Riverside's players just what they are capable of if they push themselves beyond their own perceived limitations.

"At first they didn't believe they can do it," he said. "They've essentially been locked away for two years and psychologically they were drained."

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## Coquitlam

The holiday season alights at Lafarge Lake on Saturday

PAGE 7

## Port Coquitlam

Sip and Shop pops up in downtown to help youth

PAGE 9

## Port Moody

Station Museum is going to fill in its trench

PAGE 11

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THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 24 | 2022

## CLIMATE CHALLENGES



Karleen Gioia, Chris Cook and Christopher Pinske, of the Tri-Cities Off Road Cycling Association (TORCA), say they've had to adapt their construction and maintenance of local trails to cope with the challenges of extreme weather events triggered by climate change. See the story on Page 38. MARIO BARTEL/THE TRI-CITY NEWS

There's more at [tricitynews.com](http://tricitynews.com)

### Three-year strike is finally over

- + Express forward is an all-star
- + Coquitlam landlord must pay up



## TRANSLINK

# Transit issues in Tri-Cities get a big voice

## PoCo Mayor Brad West is new chair of Mayor's Council

DIANE STRANDBERG  
[dstrandberg@tricitynews.com](mailto:dstrandberg@tricitynews.com)



Port Coquitlam Mayor Brad West says he'll be advocating for more transit for the Tri-Cities now that he's the new chair of the Mayor's Council.

West was acclaimed to lead TransLink's governance body made up of Metro Vancouver's mayors after he was nominated by Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim.

West, the first mayor from the Tri-Cities to take on the role, replaces former New Westminster mayor Jonathan Cote. He told the

*Tri-City News* he expects to raise Port Coquitlam transportation issues during his one-year term because he understands the problems unique to the city even as he works on greater concerns for the entire region.

"Part of my job will be to tell that story and connect the dots about why this is important."

West, who's known for being outspoken on issues close to him, acknowledged it will take more than a news release and letter to get the region's transportation needs noticed among the many demands for federal and provincial funding.

TransLink needs \$21 billion to fund its 10-year plan for busing and SkyTrain that was approved in June.

SEE PRIORITIES, PAGE 5



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CLIMATE CHALLENGES

## Mountain bikers adapt to extreme weather

Trail builders and riders making changes to account for climate change

MARIO BARTEL  
mbartel@tricitynews.com



Extended droughts that dry out trails, atmospheric rivers that wash them away and intense windstorms that blow down trees are among the climate change challenges facing the local mountain biking community.

So members of the Tri-Cities Off Road Cycling Association (TORCA) are adapting the way they build and maintain trails, as well as how they ride them.

Karaleen Gioia, a director of the group that comprises more than 750 members, said a typical trail on Burke Mountain that 10 years ago was little more than a dirt path — snaking through the towering trees — must now be armoured with logs and rocks, bridged with hand-built wooden spans to allow for drainage in heavy rains, and contoured with little rolling hills to slow riders who could otherwise speed erosion.



“It’s not just getting out and shredding the trails anymore,” Gioia said. “Climate change is another factor to consider.”

Drought followed by big rainstorms can be especially damaging to trails.

Gioia said the former strips all the moisture from the ground that binds the trail beds, threatening their structural integrity, while the latter results in washouts as rainfall in unprecedented volumes is forced to travel in

unfamiliar places.

Having both in quick succession can be disastrous.

“The result is that more work is required to make trails sustainable,” Gioia said. “More labour up front means less work in the long

run.”

Most of that labour is supplied by a corps of dedicated volunteers over the course of several organized “trail days” throughout the year, as well as individual privateer efforts to stay on top of

Building bridges to allow water to run off after heavy rains and little rolling hills to slow riders where they might cause erosion are among the adaptations local mountain bikers like (from right) Karaleen Gioia, Christopher Pinski and Chris Cook have made in trail construction to account for the effects of climate change. **MARIO BARTEL/THE TRI-CITY NEWS**

repairs.

“We’re pretty proactive.”

Gioia said most local mountain bikers are tuned into the privileged position they enjoy with so many

SEE WORK, PAGE 39

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CLIMATE CHALLENGES

# Work benefits all trail users

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

trails so close to home. Many file trail reports to document any problems or areas of concern they identify as they roll up or down the mountains.

Gioia said keeping the trails in good shape benefits all users, including hikers, dog walkers and trail runners. That's been especially important since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic that sent more people outdoors for their recreational pursuits as activity helped reduce their stress and kept them healthier.

Gioia said education of proper trail use etiquette and trail building technique is an ongoing process. TORCA liaises frequently with other user groups, as well as land managers, to devise solutions to problems as they arise.

"We're learning as we go," she said.

In fact, a report conducted for Parks Canada by the Calgary-based Miistakis Institute that looked at the ecological impacts of mountain biking said that's the case for most user groups, as there's been very little

empirical research.

"Specific effects associated with mountain biking activity and infrastructure characteristic of the other types of use have emerged as a considerable gap in the research literature," concluded the review.

Gioia said land managers and user groups are gaining a greater appreciation that bolstering trails will help keep mountain biking viable even as weather extremes intensify.

"It makes it enjoyable for all the users," she said.

## RAISING FUNDS

TORCA is holding its annual raffle to raise money for the construction and maintenance of its trail network as well as supporting a cycling program for Indigenous youth.

The prize for the early bird draw that will be awarded Nov. 27 is a Knolly Tyaughton hardtail mountain bike, while a Knolly Chilcotin will go to the winner of the main draw on Dec. 18. For more information, as well as a link to buy tickets online, go to TORCA's website at torca.ca.

BCHL



Coquitlam Express forward Reilley Kotai and Langley Rivermen's Deven Nagra keep their eyes on a bouncing puck in the second period of their BC Hockey League game, Friday at the Poirier Sport and Leisure Complex. The Express won 5-3 then followed that up Saturday with a 2-1 win over the Vernon Vipers. Coquitlam plays the Surrey Eagles in Surrey on Friday, then hosts the Chilliwack Chiefs Saturday at 7 p.m. **MARIO BARTEL/THE TRI-CITY NEWS**



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WORLD CUP

# Viewing parties hosted at PCCC

It's not quite like having a black and white TV rolled into your classroom to watch hockey's Summit Series between Canada and Russia in 1972, but soccer fans can gather together at the Port Coquitlam Community Centre to cheer Canada at the men's World Cup in Qatar.

TVs will be set up in the centre's concession area for Canada's match against

Croatia on Sunday, at 8 a.m., and next Thursday (Dec. 1), 7 a.m., for the match against Morocco.

Canada is participating in soccer's biggest spectacle for the first time in 36 years.

"It is an exciting time for soccer in this community and this country," said PoCo Mayor Brad West in a news release.

"Get in the spirit and show your support."



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COQUITLAM CUP

## Ravens ready for playoff run

Terry Fox will play Notre Dame in the first round

MARIO BARTEL  
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The Terry Fox Ravens will host the Notre Dame Jugglers tomorrow (Friday) at 2:30 p.m. at Percy Perry Stadium in the first round of the Varsity AAA BC Secondary School Football Association playoffs.

The Ravens defeated Centennial Centaurs 42-6 in last Friday's Coquitlam Cup to finish the regular season with a 5-1 record, good for second place in the Central division.

But the win at rainy and blustery Centennial field was as much about this week's game as extending the winning streak over their crosstown rivals to 10 games.

Ravens coach Tom Kudaba said afterward it was important his charges find their groove and maintain the momentum of a third consecutive win since suffering their only setback of the season, 21-15 to St. Thomas More on Oct. 14.

Key to that is the return to form of senior starting quar-

terback Owen Sieben, who missed the bulk of the season with a grade three separation of his right shoulder.

Last Friday, Sieben took about 20 snaps before giving way to junior pivot Zach Golab, who's filled in while the Ravens' starter healed.

Kudaba said even as Golab completed 395 of his 59 passing attempts in his relief duties, Terry Fox is a different team with Sieben at the helm.

"He's a leader. We know we can run and with Owen back we can throw those bombs as well."

Much of the Ravens' running game is built around 5'4" spark plug Xyon Fleary who finished the regular season with 899 rushing yards on 122 carries. He also scored 14 touchdowns.

What Fleary lacks in size, he more than makes up for with speed, agility and determination, Kudaba said.

"I didn't think he was going to be as good as he's been for us this year."

But with so many positives on the Ravens' side heading into the post season, Kudaba remains cautious.

"All we've done is we've guaranteed ourselves another week of football."

Above, Terry Fox Ravens ball carrier Tristan Lindsay tries to escape the clutches of Centennial Centaurs defensive back Gael Tshibanda in the fourth quarter of their Coquitlam Bowl varsity football game, last Friday at Centennial field. The Ravens won, 42-6. Right, Terry Fox Ravens fullback Kado Kimura dives to try to recover a fumble in the first quarter. MARIO BARTEL/ THE TRI-CITY NEWS



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