

Home and family

Coming events

Support groups

PARENT WITH TEENS: (Practicing toughlove) Parents With Teens will meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the YMCA. This support group of concerned parents will listen. Are situations moving out of control with you and your teenager? We work together to reach constructive solutions to moments of crisis. For more information phone 563-1214.

PARENTS: The Parents in Crisis self help group continues to meet weekly, offering support and education to parents who are experiencing some stress in parenting. The cost-free support group is open and anonymous. Assistance with transportation and babysitting is available. For more information phone 563-1214.

ALCOHOLICS: Prince George Native Pentecost Church will hold Alcoholics Victorious at 3 p.m. Saturday at 150 Quebec St. For more information phone 561-1220 or 963-3327.

OVEREATERS: Overeaters Anonymous meets at 7:30 Monday at the Salvation Army Citadel, 777 Ospika Blvd. Use lower front entrance. No dues or weigh ins. Newcomers welcome. For more information phone 561-9370 or 564-2957.

STEPPING STONES: Stepping Stones, for anyone who has been divorced, separated or widowed will hold a caring and sharing meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church in the conference room, 1088 Freeman St. Everyone welcome. For more information phone Don at 962-7926.

Miscellaneous

40'S/50'S: Single's group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at the sheltered picnic area at Fort George Park. This is a social group for singles wishing to participate in various events, dinners, dancing, sporting events, theatre and more. Come join us and meet new friends. For more information phone Peter at 563-0086, Susan at 562-2426, or Shirley at 562-963.

METIS ASSOCIATION: The Nechako Fraser Junction Metis Association will not be holding monthly meeting throughout the summer months. Meetings will resume in September. For more information you can continue to phone the office at 564-1167.

Clubs

TOASTMASTERS: The Cari-

Coming Events is a free service provided by the Prince George Citizen to non-profit, volunteer groups. Announcements will be published once for each event. Information must be submitted by noon two days before the announcement is to appear. It must be brought to newsroom librarian Sharon Grams in typed, computer-printed or legibly hand-printed form. Blank Coming Events forms are available at the Citizen library.

boo Toastmasters Club will meet every Monday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Elks Club, 1116 6th Ave. Guests are welcome. For more information phone Josephine at 563-4499 or Judy at 563-5496.

STROKE RECOVERY: The Prince George Stroke Recovery Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. (except holidays) at the Legion Senior's Activity Centre (Club 43), 1335 7th Ave. For more information phone Luella Novak at 963-9848.

Specials

HIT TO PASS: The Prince George Auto Racing Association will hold its Hit to Pass for all ladies and men Sept. 5, 6, and 7. This extravaganza wraps up the year with all funds raised during the weekend to go towards helping various local charities. Special guest from Alberta, Deborah Kully, clinical co-ordinator from the stuttering institute will be there to answer any questions you may have. For those interested in buying video's of the weekend phone Ian Schiller at 564-9591. For more information phone Cecile at 563-1795, or Margery at 564-1262.

HORSE SHOES/BARBEQUE: The Hart Pioneer Centre Association will hold a horse shoes and barbeque get together, Sunday at 10 a.m. at 6986 Hart Highway. Cost \$2 entry fee for horseshoes. Homemade crafts on sale. Bannock and beans, hamburger and hotdogs. For more information phone Sandra at 962-6712.

CAMP PUNTCHESAKUT: The Anglican Church will hold its summer camp for children ages 8-17 at Camp Puntchesakut. Six camps with various dates and prices from July 1 to Aug. 22, 40 km west of Quesnel. For more information phone Heather at 564-7894 or St. Michaels at 564-4511.

FUNDRAISER: The Christian Life Centre will hold a fundraiser bake sale Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 270 Dominion St. Bannock burgers, glassware, lamps, books, drapes and much more.

DUCK RACE: The Prince George Child Development Centre will hold its third annual great northern duck race, Aug. 3 at 2

p.m. at Cottonwood Island Park. Five thousand wooden ducks will be released into the Nechako River. One of five fabulous prizes will be awarded to the first five ducks to cross the finish line. Cost \$3 per duck or buy a corporate flock for \$250. For more information about this event and where tickets can be obtained phone 563-7168.

BIBLE SCHOOL: The First Baptist Church will hold its vacation Bible school between July 27-31, at the corner of 5th Ave. and Gillett St. Children who will be four years old before December up to those entering Grade 7 are invited to attend. The program activities will include Bible lessons, stories, games, singing, crafts and refreshments. The registration fee is \$4 per child. Register at the church on July 25 at 10 a.m. to noon during our Fun Fair. For more information phone 564-4522.

FUN FAIR: The First Baptist

Church will hold a fun fair for children and families Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at the corner of 5th and Gillett St. Everyone welcome to be a part of the fun. Games, snacks and registration for our VBS. Fun fair is free. For more information phone 564-4522.

DANCE: The BC Old Time Fiddlers will hold a dance Saturday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at St. Mary's Hall. Tickets on sale at Spruceland News or at St. Mary's Hall during the contest on the 25th. For more information phone Doris at 563-6349.

Volunteers

VOLUNTEERS: The Senior Outreach Program will hold a meeting for volunteer visitors Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the Senior Activity Centre, 425 Brunswick St. All are welcome. Anyone interested in visiting and assisting a senior, once a week, please phone Joan Wood at 564-5888.

VOLUNTEERS: The SPCA is looking for volunteers to man its food booth during the exhibition. If you are interested in helping, please phone 562-5511 or Dee at 962-8070.

Adoption trends studied

GUELPH, Ont. (CP) — The parents of giggling 19-month-old Sam Verdone — one of thousands of babies adopted in recent years by Western families — can't imagine life without the son they adopted last year from Guatemala.

The Verdones aren't alone — the shortage of adoptable babies has led more and more Canadians to scour countries all over the world for infants.

The dramatic increase in international adoptions is being studied by two University of Guelph professors surveying adoption trends from 1981 to 1990.

Michael Sobol and Kerry Daly, who are preparing to release their study next spring, found that the number of infants placed for adoption in Canada dropped dramatically, from 3,599 in 1981 to 1,688 in 1990.

They attribute the drop in overall adoptions primarily to the fact that more single women under 25 are choosing to keep their babies and to an increase in support for single mothers.

The researchers found no evidence to support the public perception that abortion is the cause of the drop in babies available for adoption.

The shortage of babies is one of the reasons many families look beyond Canada to adopt. Others

never try locally and begin their search on the international front.

Kay and John Verdone of Guelph talked about adoption for five years. They already had two children of their own but knew their family was not complete.

When health problems made it impossible for Kay to become pregnant again, the Verdones decided they were ready to start the long adoption process and decided to adopt a Latin American baby.

Before bringing Sam home, Kay and John travelled to Guatemala to learn as much as they could about his heritage. They already knew a lot of the bad things — about the country's terrible human rights record and the poverty that Kay said means 60 per cent of the children die before the age of four.

Adoption is no longer shrouded in secrecy.

The Verdones received a message from Sam's biological mother through their lawyer last year. She had heard on television about the sale of Third World babies for body parts and wanted to know if Sam was alive.

The Verdones invited a visitor from Guatemala to take pictures of Sam and his Guelph siblings to reassure his mother.

"We also told her to tell Sam's mother that when he's 20 she can see him," Kay said.

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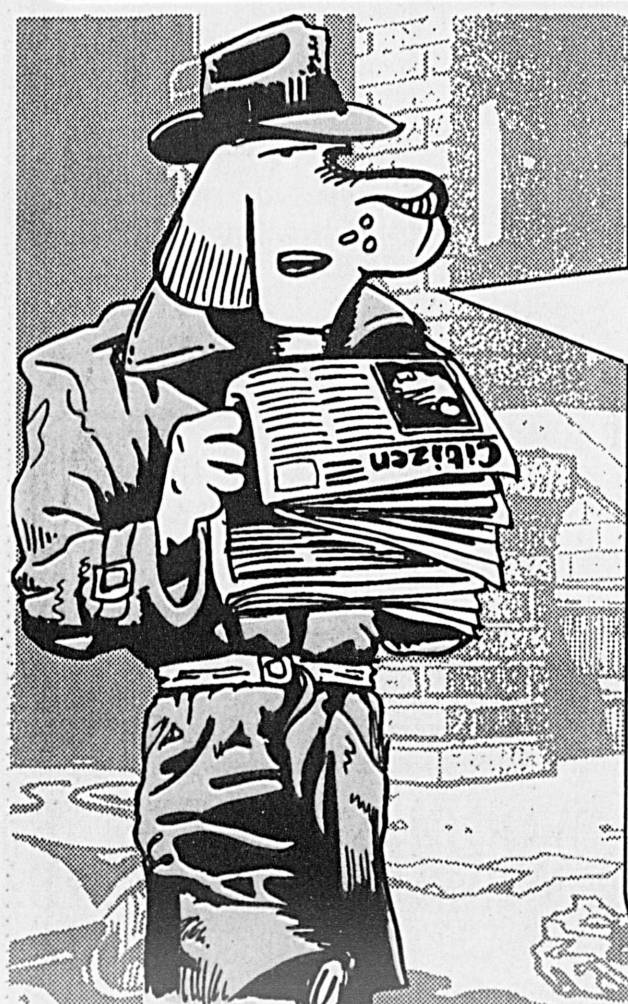
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