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THE VCC COMMUNITY INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Connections

Vancouver Community College
King Edward Campus - Library
P.O. Box 24620, Station F
Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5T0

Inside



2

Seasons greetings to all: VCC President John Cruickshank sends his wishes to the VCC community.

Holiday and new year hours for various at KEC and City Centre departments.

3

A solid reputation pays off: a look at the Medical Office Careers Department.

4

A tradition continues: Peggy Burnyeat's 1997 Christmas poem.

5

Don't try this at home: one person's attempt at a traditional Christmas meal ends with a bang.

The customers have spoken: VCC Second Cup franchise is "solid gold"

The City Centre Second Cup operation is one of 356 (and growing) Second Cup stores in Canada and the U.S. They independently survey each store on an ongoing basis by means of a questionnaire to customers. Our store was last surveyed two years ago and many recommendations for improvement were made.

This year, we have placed in the top 25% of all Second Cup franchises and have achieved a *Gold Standard Rating* of 56, compared to the system average of 27. This is not easily accomplished and is based on the responses of over 100 customer survey returns.

Jackie Ehlert and I would like to extend congratulations to the hard working staff for their very impressive achievement. They know who they are, so we'll just mention the first names - Patrick, Chuck, Shane, Wendy, Anne, James, Beatrice, Dae, Paul and Cindy. (No, they don't all work at the same time! Some come in as early as 6:00 a.m. and others stay almost til the campus is closed). Congratulations to the whole gang!!

If you haven't had a chance to visit Second Cup at City Centre, the Christmas season is a good time to get acquainted. See you there!

Karen Kelly

To everyone who helped with Connections in '97: thanks a bunch!

In the "couldn't have done it without you" category, special thanks go out to the following folks who helped get Connections out on a regular basis, and contributed to (we hope) making it an enjoyable read for everyone.

- *KEC Duplicating Department Staff Colin Lee, Sandy Summerbee and Ron Weinhardt* for always dropping everything else to accommodate the newsletter when I deliver it to them "just under the wire."
- *Work study students Susan Jin, Jean*

Dong, Gina McDermott and Artur Basiak for providing crucial help by assembling the printed newsletter.

- *Sue Devison and Carey Stoneberg* for word processing assistance.
- *The Graphic Arts and Printing Production Department* at City Centre for printing the cover sheets.
- And, of course, *everyone* who submitted articles, ads or ideas.

See you in '98!

Dale Rasmussen, Editor
(local 7152, email drasmussen@vcc.bc.ca)

Seasons greetings from the President

'Tis the season for giving. I think of the VCC community as a very caring, supportive family, evidenced in the commitment to caring and service to our students.

I hope that the season will afford you time to spend with family and friends and that you will also find time to relax and enjoy. I hope, too, that 1998 will be a good year for you as individuals and also for the college.

Happy holidays!

John Cruickshank

Janice Hansen, Human Rights Coordinator, resigns

It is with enormous regret that we announce the resignation of Janice Hansen from the Human Rights Coordinator's position, effective the first week of February, 1998. She is leaving in order to be at home with her family.

Janice has provided an incredible service to the College over the past three years as Human Rights Coordinator. In addition to providing innumerable solutions and solace to members of the College community, she has established a humane and workable human rights policy, developed educational workshops, and established VCC as a College with high human rights standards. She will be sincerely missed. Best wishes, Janice.

Linda Martin, Vice President,
Education Support Services

Holiday and new year hours

King Edward Campus

Bookstore (871-7333)

December 23 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
January 2 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
January 3 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
January 5 - 8 8:30 am - 8:00 pm
January 9 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Food Services/Cafeteria (871-7387)

December 23 7:00 am - 4:00 pm
January 2 7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Learning Centre (871-7219)

December 17-19 ... 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
December 22, 23 .. Closed
January 2 Closed
January 5 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

KEC Library (871-7326)

December 15-19 ... 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
December 21 Closed
December 22-23 ... 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
January 2 Closed to Public

Media Services (871-7313)

December 15-19 ... 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
December 22-23 ... 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
January 2 Closed to Public

City Centre Campus

Bookstore (443-8363)

December 23 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
January 2 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
January 5 - 8 9:00 am to 7:30 pm
January 9 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
January 12 - 15 10:00 am to 7:30 pm
January 16 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
January 17 8:00 am to 10:30 am
January 19 - 22 10:00 am to 7:30 pm
January 23 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Food Services - Cafeteria (443-8481)

December 23 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
(no hot meal service)
January 2 7:30 am to 9:30 pm

Learning Centre (443-8607)

December 22, 23 .. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
January 2 Closed
January 5 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Library (443-8339)

December 15-18 ... 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
December 19 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
December 21 Closed
December 22-23 ... 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
January 2 Closed to Public

Media Services (443-8365)

December 15-19 ... 7:30 am to 4:15 pm
December 22-23 ... 7:30 am to 4:15 pm
January 2 Closed to Public
January 3 Closed

Second Cup

December 22-23 ... Closed
January 2 5:30 am to 9:30 pm

Please be plain

Continuing Education instructor, Janet Dean, recently returned from the Association of Business Communication (ABC) Conference in Washington, DC where she spoke on "Putting Plain Language into the Business Communication Classroom".

The ABC is an international association of professors and teachers of Business Communication. This was their 62nd annual convention. Janet's presentation was well received and included information on supplemental activities and exercises in plain language, as well as a model for including plain language process in instructional design.

Janet's paper will be available after December 15 from her web site at <http://plainlanguage.com>.

Medical office employees: an important part of every medical team

Did you know that Vancouver Community College's medical office careers training is regarded as exceptional in the medical community?

Our reputation is solid. Our students are professional, confidential and well-trained.

Our standards are high and the medical community knows it. It is not unusual to hear the words, "we only hire Vancouver Community College Grads."

The health industry is continually changing and at a very rapid rate. Our graduates have to be multi-skilled and flexible but most of all they have to have a professional attitude.

Grade 10s learn what schools are best for them

Teens consider futures

Instead of attending their regular classes, thousands of Grade 10 students were considering their futures last week. What will I do after graduation?

What career path should I choose? What school is best for the training and education I'll need?

Raising those questions was the intent of the *Post Secondary Education Showcase* held at Surrey's District Conference Centre.

The showcase brought students together with representatives from more than 20 local, national and international institutions. The goal was to raise awareness of the training and education required for various careers.

continued on page 5

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Towards the end of their nine-month training program, students must also successfully complete a three-week practicum in a hospital department, UBC Faculty of Medicine department, doctor's office, or a clinic.

Sixty students per year enroll in medical office careers. They graduate as Medical Office Assistants, Medical Secretaries or Medical Transcriptionists. Our programs start in September and finish in May.

*Submitted by Irene Lacoursiere,
Department Head, Medical
Office Careers Department*

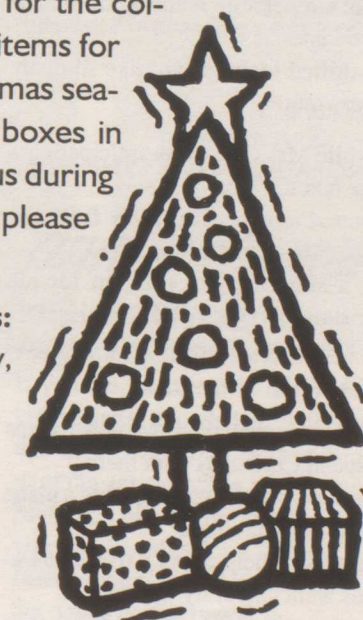
Christmas Food Drive 1997: please give generously

Donation boxes will be set up for the collection of non-perishable food items for people in need over the Christmas season. Look for the Food Bank boxes in various locations around campus during the month of December and please give generously.

Food Bank "wish list" includes:

- canned goods (beans, stew, soups, fruits, vegetables)
- pasta sauces
- pasta noodles
- peanut butter
- powdered milk
- cereals and crackers
- canned and packaged juices
- baby food

For further information or to arrange for additional pick-ups, please call Francine at 7523.



They gathered 'round the Christmas tree to enjoy the fun . . .

Santa's Big Present

The auroral light was dancing across the high dome

Of the north polar compound the Clauses call their home

Mrs Claus was busily preparing for some company

Two weather scientists were expected to make the journey

They wanted to observe atmospheric conditions at the winter solstice

And had very graciously been invited to stay at the Clauses' place

Johnnie and Earl arrived 'ere long with considerable freight

And because of a big snow storm they came on the wrong date

However they were warmly welcomed-soon settled in

At long last their most interesting work could begin

They got temperature readings from their radio balloons

Which drifted high upward like so many silvery moons

Meanwhile Mrs Claus was anticipating a large box to come

She wanted to conceal it away from her husband's attention

It was a snow blower for him for his Christmas present

It soon arrived all gift wrapped by the courier's agent

The Clauses invited their two new friends to spend Christmas with them

The boys were delighted as getting a plane home was a problem

With extras to help-Santa's trip preparations went smoothly indeed

It was a beautiful night for his run as they all wished him good speed

The boys then retrieved Santa's big gift from where it was hidden

Placed it by the Christmas tree exactly where they were bidden

The trio then said their goodnights and retired to get some rest

Before getting up to join the returning Santa for breakfast

Then it was Santa's turn to get some rest before their festive day

Mrs Claus in her kitchen was happily stuffing the turkey

Johnnie on his harmonica was accompanying Earl's rich tenor voice

He sang all the favourite old carols for the little elves-their special choice

After a most tasty lunch and the dishes all done

They gathered 'round the Christmas tree to enjoy the fun

Santa gave his wife a nice warm dressing gown in pretty mauve

With matching slippers and a note saying "From Santa with love"

The two boys received books from Santa's library wrapped up with big bows

Most puzzled by his oversized box-Santa very slowly arose

Then he stepped across to the tree to investigate his big surprise

When the wrappings fell away Mrs Claus could hardly believe her eyes

Instead of Santa's much needed and long awaited snow blower

There stood in all its green glory a super deluxe lawn mower

With a trembling lip Mrs Claus started to explain

But Santa was laughing so hard he could not refrain

Indeed they all laughed so loud and so long-'twas a wondrous joke

It was quite a little while before anyone of them spoke

They all agreed it was the Merriest Christmas they had had ever

They all enjoyed the lawn mower so much they were downhearted never

Teens consider futures (continued)

"It's been a tremendous success," said Sue Harper, the district's career education coordinator, as she quizzed students about their interests and how they plan to reach their goals. "It's really giving them some direction."

Surrey secondary schools were able to register 2,000 of the approximate 3,500 Grade 10 Career and Personal Planning students in Surrey. There were four sessions per day of 250 students and all other students and parents could attend late afternoon and evening sessions.

For Brett Leuritzen, a Grade 10 student from Earl Marriott Secondary, attending the showcase was time well-spent. Unlike many students crowded around the various school displays, Leuritzen has a pretty good idea what trade he wants to pursue: a naval technician.

After speaking with representatives from Vancouver Community College, he was optimistic the training he would require would be within reach.

"It looks like it's easier to get into than I thought," he said.

Dave Niessen, a diesel technician instructor at Vancouver Community College explained that the goal of his program was to "increase the marketability" of students by providing them with a trade that provides a wide array of job opportunities.

Students had the chance to speak with representatives from all over B.C. and Canada, as well as from the United States. Gregg Berg from the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook said he noticed many students didn't know the difference between a college and a university (college courses can be used for university credits, they're not just 'trade schools'), while a representative from Linfield Col-

continued on the next page

Where's Martha Stewart when you need her?

Chestnut calamity turns Christmas kitchen into red-hot war zone

Funny how the birth of your first child can suddenly motivate a young mother to make every Christmas a magical one, full of tasty traditional treats and memories to cherish for years to come. How difficult can it be to roast a turkey stuffed with savory chestnut dressing, a recipe so steeped in tradition it was probably extracted from Charles Dicken's own kitchen? Anyone can follow a recipe, right?

Wrong! I remember carefully choosing each ingredient at the market, weighing the lovely shiny-brown chestnuts to ensure I had exactly the amount the recipe called for. Then after all the excitement of Christmas morning had subsided, the presents all opened, I retreated to the kitchen to begin concocting the much-anticipated chestnut stuffing while my husband showered, the baby all tucked in for her morning nap.

The recipe called for the chestnuts to be scored, which it explained could simply be done by taking a sharp knife and carving an 'X' on the bottom, flat side of each one. As I began, I realized that these nutshells were pretty darn hard and try as I might, the 'X' ended up being daintily engraved rather than "carved" as the recipe described. Looking back on this fiasco, I'm sure this is where it may have all gone wrong.

But as a newly-converted domestic goddess, I stood undaunted, proudly stirring the chestnuts as they began to saute in the sizzling oil when suddenly to my surprise one of those chestnuts leapt from the pan

almost staining my gossamer apron with that nasty oil. Before I could say 'Martha Stewart' the whole pan was alive with airborne chestnuts and all I could think to do was run for cover as the hot oil-coated artillery began to shoot in every direction across the kitchen!

As my husband emerged from the bathroom he found me huddled in the hallway, dodging flying chestnuts that sailed past my head as I peeked around the corner into the kitchen to survey this culinary wonder. Each time a chestnut (and there were many) attacked I screamed and ducked and soon we were retreating even farther down the hallway.

The noise, the noise, the noise as the chestnuts exploded against their unwitting targets!! And a brave man he was too - my husband! He tried to face the onslaught but each time was driven back until finally, the last chestnut was fired, the kitchen now a silent battlefield littered with broken shells and slippery oil.

To this day, more than ten years later, every time I put the Christmas turkey in the oven a smile crosses my face at the memory of that very first Christmas as a family.

Sandra Bishop

(Look for Sandra's Christmas story in the Vancouver Sun on Monday. -Ed.)

Teens consider futures (continued)

lege, located outside Portland Oregon spent his time explaining the differences between U.S. and Canadian colleges, as well as addressing students' queries about crossborder tuition cost.

Some students, however, were feeling somewhat overwhelmed by the glimpse into the future and the multitude of opportunities available.

"It should maybe be for Grades 11 and 12," said Elgin Park student Lindsay Burch.

"It's kind of hard to decide what you want to do in Grade 10."

Her friend, Delaine Gardner, agreed: "It's OK to look and see what's out there, but I don't think we should have to decide yet," she said. "We'll just look at all the choices."

However, both girls said they would be interested in attending a similar showcase next year.

Reprinted from the Nov. 26 Peace Arch News (by Sheila Reynolds, MetroValley News)

announcements

Mexico/Chile and Asia Pacific Awards

If you are interested in developing your international knowledge, skills and abilities as well as forging friendships and working relationships with people from Mexico, Chile or the Asia Pacific region you could qualify for a British Columbia *International Grant* or a British Columbia *Asia Pacific Award*.

Deadlines: faculty/staff: December 1; students: January 15. For application forms with attached information, contact your Department Head or Cecily May at 871-7178 (voicemail), email cmay@vcc.bc.ca.

Bookstore Christmas closures

City Centre Bookstore and KEC Bookstore will close at 1:00 pm on December 23. Both stores will re-open at 10:00 a.m. on January 2, 1998.

We wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

First Nations Education Coordinator

Unfortunately, we are losing Yvonne Hopkins, our First Nations Education Coordinator. Yvonne is returning to work with the Native Education Centre. Best of luck, Yvonne. Keep in touch.

Maija Wiik has kindly agreed to be Acting First Nations Education Coordinator until the end of February, at which time we hope to have the permanent position filled. Maija is working three days per week from December 8 to the end of the year, and then four days per week in January and February 1998.

Linda Martin, Vice President,
Education Support Services

Upcoming

Living as a Hard of Hearing Person Today — Can We Lessen the Struggle?

One-day workshop, Saturday, February 28, 1998, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, at the Plaza 500 Hotel, 500 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver.

Sponsored by Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

This seminar is geared to individuals who are hard of hearing, parents, and professionals in educational, medical and social work settings.

Dr. Michael Harvey and Dr. Roger Freeman, will facilitate discussion centring on strategies for dealing with day to day living in a time of shrinking resources.

What's that jingle you hear? Must be the latest 50/50 winner!

December's 50/50 winner is Rick Irwin from Culinary Arts, who takes home a handy \$696.

This month's draw marks the 50/50 contest's one-year anniversary. To celebrate, we're drawing gifts every Tuesday until Christmas. Everyone who's signed up as a regular 50/50 participant is eligible for these extra prizes.

On the day of the big draw, KEC Receiver Dennis Cumming, who is often mistaken for Santa Claus during the rest of the year, dressed for the part and let out a "Happy Ho Ho!" as he announced the big winners and twisted a few more arms to sign up

(in fact, we will be over \$700 next month!). *Special thanks to Dennis for his promotional efforts — truly a born salesman!*

Make your New Year's resolution early this year, and have fun keeping it: sign up now and join the 50/50 fun. Half of the proceeds go to the winner, and half go to entrance scholarships to help students — the real winners. Contact Jane Westheuser at local 7237.

The 50/50 draw is a project of the VCC Educational Foundation.

And the Tuesday, Dec. 2 winners were:

- calculator - Frank Cosco
- videotape - Susan Atherton
- deluxe portfolio - Dennis Cumming
- t-shirt - Jackie Sandy
- set of three golf balls - Susan Atherton
- appointment book - Joan Minor
- one dozen golf balls - Vicki Montigny
- mug - Malak Jamal
- pen and key chain - Susan Merkeley
- audiotape and pen - Don Davidson



Library holiday hours

Please note the following change in Library hours from December 15 to January 5:

KEC Library

9:00-17:00 December 15-19, 22-23

CC Library Hours

9:00 - 16:30 December 15-18, 22-23

9:00-16:00 December 19

KEC and CC Libraries will be closed Saturday, December 21 and December 24, 1997 to January 4, 1998. Note: The Library will be closed to the public on Friday, January 2. Regular Hours resume January 5, 1998.

continued on the next page

*Note: If you need library videos during the closures, please contact Halina Lesinska at KEC or Tom Lazar at CC.

CC Library getting new carpet

At City Centre Library, preparations for installing a new carpet will begin on December 18. This will mean that some materials or areas of the Library will be temporarily unavailable. The carpet is expected to be fully installed and all furniture, computers and the stacks back in place by or before January 9, 1998. We apologize for this brief inconvenience and thank you for your understanding. And we know you'll cheerfully join us in saying: "Bye-bye old orange carpet!"

Media Services holiday hours

KEC Media Services

7:30 - 16:15 December 15-19, 22-23

CC MEDIA Services

8:00 - 16:00 December 15-19, 22-23

CC and KEC Media Services will be closed Saturday, December 21, and December 24 to January 4, 1998. Regular Hours resume January 5.

All of us at Library and Media Services wish you a happy holiday season!

Library overdue notices

During the current mail strike, students will not receive overdue notices. Faculty will receive overdue notices by campus mail.

All borrowed items are due on the assigned due date. Fines will be charged to faculty, staff, administration and students for all overdue items.

You can check the due date of the items you have borrowed from the library by checking the stamped card in the pocket, or by checking your patron record in the computer catalogue. You can renew items at the check-out counter, or from your home or office computer by dialling into the computer catalogue.

Thank you for your cooperation!

New Videos at City Centre Library

- Beret and Slither Cut
- Barber Cuts
- The Extension Cut
- Finishing Techniques
- The Encyclopedia of Men's Haircutting
- Razor and Metric Cut
- Mind Your Manners
- Mind Your Manners Teacher Introduction:

At Home

At School

In Public

Greetings and Conversation

- Fiat Mode IX Graduate Show
- Perils of Planning: A Travel Agent Survival Guide
- Training Your Staff for Profitable Selling
- Introduction to Successful Cruise Selling
- Local Marketing and Promotional Techniques Made Easy
- Calming the Irate Customer
- Sins of Customer Service
- Handling Complaints and Angry Callers
- On the Brink of Perfection
- Our Eyes Are Our Windows to the World
- Making a Powerful First Impression
- Increasing Telephone Efficiency and Productivity

New videos at KEC Library

- Brief Encounters
- Mosaic Two
- Business of Paradigms
- And You Shall be Heard: Regina vs. Clow

New books at CC Library

- Tab Encyclopedia of Electronics for Technicians and Hobbyists
- A Technical Introduction to Digital Video
- Sheila Lukins USA Cookbook
- Learn 3D Design on the Macintosh
- The Soup Bible
- Accessing Information in a Technological Age
- British Columbia Food Processor's Reference Manual

- Creating a New Future: The Job-Loss Workbook
- Marketing Your Skills: The Job Seeker's Handbook
- Designing with Fabric: The Creative Touch
- A Summer Plague: Polio and its Survivors
- Advanced Nursing Practice: An Integrative Approach
- Dried Flowers: Stylish Arrangements to Decorate Your Home
- The True History of Chocolate
- The Hotel: Backstairs at the World's Most Exclusive Hotel
- European Designer Jewelry

New Books at King Edward Library

- The Disability Lens: An Assessment Tool for Policy and Program Developers and Analysts to Address the Impact of All Initiatives on Persons with Disabilities
- Encyclopedia of Gerontology
- The Nineteenth-Century Symphony
- Maria Montessori: Teacher of Teachers
- You Are Asked to Witness: The Stolo in Canada's Pacific Coast History
- Currents of Change: El Nino's Impact on Climate and Society
- Risk Assessment and Management Handbook for Environmental, Health, and Safety Professionals
- Ready-to-Use Business Forms
- Gerontological Nursing: Current Practice and Research
- Mental Health Issues and Aging: Building on the Strengths of Older Persons
- Application for Employment [braille]
- New Voices: American Composers Talk about Their Music
- Club Cultures: Music, Media, and Sub-cultural Capital
- The Dyslexic's Guide to Academic Achievement
- Punctuation [braille]
- Writing Travel Books and Articles

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

- Published Thursdays
- Bi-weekly January-May and September-November
- Monthly June, July, August and December

Produced by the College Advancement Department,
Vancouver Community College

VANCOUVER
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classifieds

HOUSING



Housing wanted for Inuit student

A request to help a young Inuit woman from the North West Territories to find housing in Vancouver has been made through the VCC First Nations Education Coordinator's office by her Social Services Worker in Gjoa Haven.

This young woman in mid-twenties is deaf and will be attending the VCC Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing starting early January, 1998.

She is looking for a female roommate (possibly another student with a place to share) OR a family that can provide her with room and board.

It would be great if the roommate or anyone else in the family knew sign language. The preferred accommodations would be situated near or within easy access to KEC.

If you want to have more information and/or you have accommodations to offer for this student who is quite excited about her new program and the move to Vancouver, please contact Paul at the Social Services Office in Gjoa Haven. Call collect (867)360-7451 or fax (867)360-6916.

FOR SALE



1981 Blue Chevrolet Chevette, 4 door, automatic, AirCared, one owner, \$1100 obo. Contact Jean at local 7013.

Start a virtual "free store"

Do you have useful items laying around your office, taking up space and gathering dust, because you no longer need them? Let Connections readers know about it. Departments are always on the lookout for such treasures. Advertise them in our "free store." Call the Editor at 7152 or email drasmussen@vcc.bc.ca.

EDITOR, DESIGN AND LAYOUT

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CC: Carey Stoneberg, Word Processing
KEC: Sue Devison, Administration

Cover shells were printed by the VCC Graphic Arts and Printing Production Department.

Please recycle this newsletter


Happy holidays to you!



1997 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE December 11

Please provide your article through email, the I:\common\connect directory or on a PC disk with hardcopy (text-only if non-email). Your submissions are welcome, but please be aware that space limitations may prevent publication. Material may be edited for clarity and length. Deadline for submissions is Thursday of the week prior to publication.