



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Winter Hours: Monday - Saturday, 10 - 5
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History Bites

The New Year's Resolution sees its beginnings all the way back to 153 B.C. with Janus, a mythical king of early Rome was placed at the head of the calendar. With two faces, Janus could look back on past events and forward to the future. Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions and many Romans looked for forgiveness from their enemies and also exchanged gifts before the beginning of each year.

For those cultures utilizing a 365-day solar calendar, January 1 became the beginning of the New Year in 46 B.C., when Julius Caesar developed a calendar that would more accurately reflect the seasons than had the previous calendars. In honour of Janus, the god of beginnings and the guardian of doors and entrances, the Romans named the first month of the year after him. As he was always depicted with two faces, one on the front of his head and one on the back, he could look backward and forward at the same time. At midnight on December 31, the Romans imagined Janus looking back at the old year and forward to the new. The Romans began a tradition of exchanging gifts on New Year's Eve by giving one another branches from sacred trees for good fortune. Later, nuts or coins imprinted with the god Janus became more common New Year's gifts.



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Fairmont Reads

Book Babe

My five year old son is in danger of chewing off all of his cute little fingernails, down past the quick. Until we finish this book, there isn't much I can do about it! We are reading *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, a collection of five novels where each page has my boys completely enthralled (girl child, aged three, couldn't give a troll's mossy behind). It's delightful fantasy featuring the aforementioned troll, ogres, faeries and goblins, one Griffin, as well as several other mind-bending, kind and not so kind, critters. Big and small.

The Grace family: a newly divorced single mother and her three children, nine year old twins, Jared and Simon and their thirteen year old sister Mallory, move into, what everyone believes to be, a crazy old aunts, ancestral home. Despite the children's initial disdain, the decrepit old house and the vast estate upon which it sits, provides endless mystery and adventure for the curious, albeit frightened, siblings.

Our narrator, troubled twin Jared, along with his hyper-intelligent twin brother and athletic older sister discover many secrets, secrets meant to remain so, held for generations amidst the cobwebs and dust of the delapidated old manor. While investigating noises in the wall, Jared discovers a secret library, a disgruntled house brownie named Thimbletack, and the much coveted Field Guide. In the worn and faded pages of this book, written by aforementioned crazy old aunt's brother, lay all the information and knowledge required to understand, battle and conquer the various fantastical factions they encounter. It is to the children's peril that Jared ignores the grim warnings of the disagreeable brownie against keeping the unusual guide.

The stories are fast paced and the authors, Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black, keep enough tension brewing to keep all three of us peeking from under the covers. Also, they are generous with the beautifully drawn illustrations. These come in handy when one has no clue what a disgruntled house brownie named Thimbletack might look like.

Hey! You there... Yes, you! Have you read a good book! Sure you have... Write a review! We want to know what Fairmont is reading! Contact me for submission info: info@frgazette.com



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A Restaurant Review

Always Hungry

Seasons greetings and a happy 2008 to all my hungry friends out there in the valley. Last year brought a lot to my plate and I hope you enjoyed reading my column as much as I did writing it.

January finds your favorite restaurant critic emerging from a (three day) turkey coma to produce the token "Look Back at 2007" edition in the hopes that it may guide you to a decent table. Here goes:

Most Child Friendly: Skookum Inn

Best Patio: The clubhouse at Coy's Par Three Golf Course.

Best Service: Fire Valley

Rookie of the Year: The Sunflower Café

Best Sandwich: Blue Dog Café

Best "On The Run": Smoking Waters Café

Best Atmosphere: Hoodoo Lounge & Grill

Most Disappointing: The Bears Paw Lounge

Worst Bathroom: The Farside Inn

Worst Nachos: Angus McToogles

As a final note, the Best Overall Award definitely goes to **The Hoodoo Lounge & Grill**. The wait times can be ugly on busy nights but sit tight, have a drink and trust me, the food is lovely. And if you are going to **Angus McToogles**, stick with the Steak & Mushroom pie. Imagine that - don't order a Mexican dish at a Scottish Bar & Grill. Wow, am I ever good.

Be Aware! Drive Safely!

Gazette Online

It may not be pretty, but it's there. Check out The Fairmont Range Gazette online for updates on community information as well as find every issue, past and present. Come and visit at www.frgazette.com.



Happy Birthday!
Missus Stange!
January 29th

Music & Entertainment

George J. Blisner

Welcome to an exciting New Year of music in the valley! 2007 ended with some very special music, fundraising musicians, joy and sadness. The private Christmas party bands I mentioned last month put on some very special shows (yes, I got to play with most of them; and yes, I crashed a lot of parties in the name of journalism, of course.) *The Swillbillies* hosted two parties at **The Fairmont Hot Springs Lodge** which rocked the hallowed halls and they will be back in the New Year. *Pulse*, from Kimberley, played to a smiling, toe tapping crowd at **The Hoodoos Lounge & Grill** and will do the same there, New Years Eve again with an added female voice. *BCDC* blew every ear drum at **Bud's Bar** in Invermere and had the crowd moshing to their unque and lively covers of *ACDC*.

The Annual Foodbank Fundraiser at **The Lakeside Pub** was a great success. The local musicians, music lovers and management raised a record sum over \$2000. All the musicians out-did themselves and were rewarded with a lot of smiling appreciation from the full crowd. Congrats to the organizers (yeah, I got play but was a little "late".)

As for the rest of this month's music, **The Sportsman's Lounge**, down at Riverside, has its renowned *Thursday Night Jam* with *John Cronin & Friends*. Saturday night there's live music with *Dano*. Keep an eye out at **The Hoodoos Lounge & Grill** where they will be featuring Canada's hottest and most entertaining band, *McCuaig*, in the near future. Watch for more musical postings the rest of the month. Good music to all this January and Happy New Year.

As for the sadness. A very special caring and giving local mother suffered a devastating loss. My condolences to you, Georgie. All the musicians in town promise to fill your soul with sweet glorious sound to help you through your heart-achiest pain.



Top Ten... or So

If you haven't got thinking about them already, here is a list of the most popular New Years Resolutions to get you started:

- Spend more time with family
- Make time for fitness.
- Lose weight... no, really.
- Quit smoking.
- Enjoy life more.
- Quit drinking.
- Get out of debt.
- Learn something new.
- Help others.
- Get organized.

Hmmmmmm. I'm about 8 out of 10!

How about you? What are you vowing to do, or not to do, for these interminable first weeks of 2008? We'd all love to know! Write info@frgazette.com with your resolutions for 2008.

