# THE BULLETIN

### **APRIL 2023**

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LET'S HAVE A BIG
WELCOME TO OUR NEW
CLUB MEMBERS. 13 IN
MARCH.

Ryan McLeod
Judy Einboden
Kareem Jacobs
John Muir
Rodney Wilson
Eric Madeson
Kassandra Wilford and Tony Joe
Kirby
Dina and Donald Perez
Thomas Salley
Lisa Lyde and Justin Long

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE CLUB!

#### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

POT LUCK 4-15,23

Well, the March tailgate is behind us now. The weather could have been better, but isn't that almost always the case for the March tailgate? Thanks to all of you who helped out. Special thanks to Brett Ward. Brett, we couldn't have done it without you!

We have many new members (see the list below left) Most joined at the tailgate. So, if you see someone you don't know at the club, please make sure to welcome them and make them feel at home.

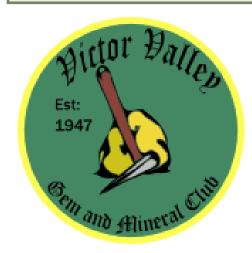
We are going to try a short term experiment in May. The shop will be open every Thursday in May from 2 to 8PM. We will see who shows up, and if the day or hours need adjustment, but if all goes well, we hope to keep this going permanently.

Finally, please help keep the clubhouse clean. Pick up something on the floor, take out a bag of trash on your way out to your car, or wipe down a table. This will keep the place looking great between our monthly, all volunteer clean ups.

Have a suggestion to make the club even better? Let me know or drop a note in the suggestion box.

See you at the club!

Dave Duncan





### FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

Tough Trail To The Tri-Color! This past months field trip on Saturday March 11th was the annual field trip, in conjunction with the 47th Annual Tailgate, to the old Hillis marble quarry for it's beautiful brecciated dolomitic marble in shades of green, black, pink, and white. After the morning meetup, which included a couple of new members and members from the Yucaipa Valley Gem And Mineral Society, Hi Desert Rockhounds, and The Apple Valley Gold Diggers, we made our way to the site. A photo of the group is to the right. After a short trip on well maintained dirt roads we reached the 4WD "so called" spur road to the quarry. This part of the trip was a rocky ruckus with washouts from the recent rains keeping the drivers on their toes. Alt-

Collecting at the site

hough only a little over 2 miles to the site, it takes about 20 minutes to actually get there. Upon arrival everyone was eager to see what this site had to

offer, this being the first trip to the location for those attending. Hillsides were scouted, boulders were broken down to manageable pieces, overburden was searched, and many quality pieces were found; some right in the road itself! With the hill immediately above the parking area being covered with car sized boulders of choice material and quarrying areas on either side of it, it didn't take long for everyone to get a bucket full of choice material.

While this location has it's challenges... ahem the road!.... It's a good collecting location with tons of easily obtainable material that jumps right into your bucket. This site was a winner and all who attended would agree; just look at those smiles! A special thanks to President Dave Duncan who made this trip possible with the generous loan of his 4WD so I could lead this fun trip! Scott Gray.

April's field trip will be to the Yermo area for agate, agatized palm root and bog, jasper, and possibly even some petrified wood. This is a easy to reach location that can be accessed by any vehicle type and has plenty of easy to collect material spread over a vast area. Meet up will be at the Eddieworld gas station at the southern end of the parking lot, immediately east of the gas pumps where ample parking is available. Eddieworld is located at: 36017 Calico Rd. Yermo, Ca 92398. Look for the big milkshake, you can't miss it! APRIL 22,2023, 10:AM

Yermo, California, is also the site of the Early Man Archeology site, which is currently closed. Also nearby is the 36 acre Liberty Statue Park. More in May's issue after the trip.



## Haven't paid your 2023 Dues?

If you have, our club thanks you for your support.

For those of you who haven't had a chance yet, please be aware that we will soon be creating our new email list that will only include current members.

So, in order to keep getting newsletters, announcements and reminders in your inbox, please stop by with your cash or check. We would love to see you.

Otherwise you can send your check to our club house at:

VVGMC 15056-B 7<sup>Th</sup> Street Victorville, CA 92395

Dues for 2023 are \$35 for individuals and \$45 for couples. Children under 18 are still \$10.



MEMBERS, BE SURE TO SEE THE NEW CLUB TEE SHIRT DESIGN ON PAGE 10



### A Celebration Of Life for Douglas Stener Arnold

Born: September 25, 1950 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Death: January 12, 2023 Apple Valley, California

To be held at the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club 15056b 7th St. Victorville, CA 92395 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. Parking is limited

Doug Arnold. Doug was a master of everything lapidary. Learning from the best, his father. Married 46 years to the love of his life, Sara Montoya Arnold. Doug worked for years with newspapers, and also worked on Newsletters, and as Liasson to the CFMS for the VVGMC.



This year at the "tailgate" Jake ran across a pile of 1950's & 60's Gem & Mineral magazines for \$10.00. This ad from Feb, 1959 features the Victor Valley Gem shop in "Star Route" Hesperia. Ca. They made the machines shown. Tumblers, slab polishers and the Victor Sphere Machine.

### **EDUCATION ANNIE NELSON**

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Annie Nelson, your 2nd VP in charge of education. I'd like to know what you're interested in learning. Can you please send 3 dates & times that work best for you. Learning can come from You Tube, guest lecturers, going on an outing (such as a museum) or anything else you can dream up. I want to serve you as a club member. Please send your times & ideas to Jake who will compile the information for me to work with. Thanks so much. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Annie Nelson

## BIRTHDAYS

#### APRIL BIRTHDAYS.... Best wishes to you all!

Cory Beck Lia Hamilton Jake Morrison Justin Morrison Lisa Leyde **Thomas Salley** 



### **APRIL BIRTHSTONE** DIAMOND



The diamond is the traditional birthstone of April and holds significant meaning for those born in that month, thought to provide the wearer with better relationships and an increase in inner strength. Wearing diamonds is purported to bring other benefits such as balance, clarity and abundance.

### California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates March 4-5 to March 18, 2023

#### April 22-23, 2023 - Thousand Oaks, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club

Borchard Park, 190 N. Reino Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA

Hours: Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM Jewelry, Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Rocks, Hobby Supplies, Exhibits,

Demonstrations, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Plant Sales and Youth Activities

Free Admission and Free Parking

Contact: conejogemandmineral@gmail.com, mrmikerh@gmail.com

Website: https://cgamc.org

#### April 29-30, 2023 – Santa Cruz, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Hours: Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM, Sunday 10 QAM - 4 pM

The show features displays, fun activities, and loads of rocks, minerals, crystals, gems, jewelry, and lapidary arts for sale.

Browse the bargains and pick up some great gifts. That's April 29th and 30th at the Civic in downtown Santa Cruz.

Contact: scruzmgs@gmail.com

Website: http://www.scrockngem.org

#### May 5-6, 2023 - Yucaipa

Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Yucaipa Blvd at Adams Street, Yucaipa, CA 92399

Hours: Friday 6 PM – 10 PM, Saturday Noon to 10 PM

Our annual show will have 15 dealers, kids activities, geode cracker, club store, and great raffle. Held in conjunction with city's Yucaipa Music and Arts Festival which will include artisan and other vendors, kids rides, music, food and beer/wine garden. Attendance and parking are free. Festival and show is held along Yucaipa Blvd. This is a great event for everyone in the family.

Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com Website: https://www.yvgms.org/

#### May 6-7, 2023 - Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 West Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536

Hours: Saturday & Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

We will have lots of vendors, displays and activities for individuals and families. We look forward to seeing you there.

Admission and Parking are free. Contact: marylandoriole@gmail.com









#### **BOARD MEMBERS.....**

President. / Dave Duncan, PH: 831-406-0214 / EMAIL: president@vvgmc.org

Vice President / Membership. Steve Rucker / EMAIL: vp@vvgmc. Org

Vice President II / Education. Annie Nelson

Recording Secretary / Janet Fletcher / EMAIL: recording secretary@vvgmc org

Treasurer / Cory Beck treasurer@vvgmc.org

**Board Member** / 2Year term - Lorie Cunningham, Pam Trozera

**Board Member /** 1 year term - Mark Lantz

**Board Member** / Lia Hamilton

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....**

CFMS / This position is now open to a charged up person, willing to dig into the California Federation of Mineral Societies & coordinate between the CFMS and the club for events, shows, and be a representative of the club.

Wagon Master / Scott Gray

**Librarian /** Lorie Cunningham, Dave Duncan

Newsletter / Jake Brouwer / EMAIL: jakelsdg@verizon.net

Photography / Ross Quinn

Sunshine / Lorie Cunningham

Tailgate Chairman: Mark Lantz / email marklantz53@gmail.com

Webmaster / Tech / Jim Fosse, PH: 760-245-8644 / EMAIL: info@vvgmc.org



Janet Fletcher Chris Koch Mary Lou Fletcher Dwayna Barron

Mark Lantz

Dave Duncan Lia Hamilton Garland Graves **Blaine Witte** 

Steve Rucker

FLOATING INSTRUCTOR Blaine Witte. ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS Beca McNeil, Ross Quinn and Lorie Cunningham.



The following article was written by club member, instructor, hiker, and club photographer, Ross Quinn. All photos by Ross. **TRAIL TO VERDE.** 

Annie and I went out early Thursday to help set up and to carry supplies out to the Tailgate site. We did not have a vehicle adequate for the road into the old Verde Marble Quarry (4-wheel drive with high clearance is needed), which needed scouting to assess the road conditions after the recent rains. I decided to take a walk up the hill behind the Tailgate site, to see the condition of that road. On the way up, and back down, I was treated to a series of wonderful views across the fastness of the Mojave desert. Looking south and southwest, the snowy forms of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains were beautifully present in the morning



air. Looking to the north and northwest there were peeks of the snowy Tehachapi Mountains past vast desert stretches, with the mountains becoming more visible the higher I walked. I hope you like the photos of these views. And of the Tailgate itself, which seemed to recede in both size and importance the higher I walked. Nature truly rules up in the mountains!

As I walked higher, I realized that staying off the very steep and eroded road was the best way up. The rain had eroded the



road further, and even its solid bedrock parts were very treacherous due to a coating of fine, very slippery sand and grainy soil. So I stayed on the ridge just to the right (south) side of the road. This turned out to be the best choice for another reason: especially after going about half way up, the ground was literally littered with rocks: Shards of marble, some blue, a few yellow, others white, and green. And there were some agates, and jaspers, soft granites and andesite and hardened ash rocks, some with a purplish color, were scattered among the basaltic outcrops. The volcanic hill provided a rich mix of rocks, and complex geology. I hope the pictures of the rocks prove the

point!

Another benefit of staying off the road was seeing up close the beginning of a spring bloom, another beauty provided by the rains. As I walked higher, the flowers became more profuse, along with the grasses, especially on sheltered north and east facing slopes. I am a flower nut, and cannot resist dense displays of the purple and yellow and pink wildflowers: I hope you enjoy their portraits as much as I did when taking them! And if anybody knows their names, please write us all a note for the next news letter. But remember, this is just the beginning of the bloom, which, with some luck, will end up being a super bloom. And as Nature's show is fleeting, get out in the desert as often as you can in the next few weeks.



The last picture was taken Friday afternoon, when I finally hitched a ride out to the quarry: As we left it began to rain, and the storm moved in, in earnest. Such an intense, and generalized rain is rare in our desert, and made me worry even more about the state of the roads. But with VVGMC president Dave Duncan at the wheel, we had no problems, despite sand and rocks, and some erosion in the washes. We got out briefly at the quarry, picked up a few pieces of marble, and got thoroughly soaked! I managed to squeeze off a couple of pictures, in pretty heavy rain: If you look at the leaden sky, you'll see a couple of rain drops on my lens. I thought about how desperately we all needed this year's rains. Most of the yuccas' leaves were browsed down, and some killed, by bighorn sheep,

desperate for moisture. And some fish hook cacti were completely eaten from the ground up, almost certainly by mice or voles, leaving only their hardened and dead web of fish hook thorns as evidence of their previous life. I cannot imaging the thirst that drove these animals, and their will to survive.

Happy Vernal Equinox, and Happy Spring, to ALL! -Ross Quinn, member, VVGMC

The 47th VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB'S TAILGATE SHOW, appears to have a success! Most everyone I talked to was having a good time be they customers or vendors. I personally met with venders, and took some photos of their set-ups. Having attended many of these shows, I saw old familiar faces and also quite a bunch of new ones. Friday was a mixed bag of weather, from sunny skies and winds, not strong enough to topple a table, but ruin a few tarp tension bars, and as the day went on the clouds crept in. I was talking with Steve Rucker about 2:15pm and he said, "it won't be long now." and he predicted



3:00pm. By 2:45 vendors were covering their precious goods, and tightening up the ropes. And then all heck broke out. Saturday weather from early in the morning looked promising and so it was. Beautiful sunny skies and the customers were coming to the area in droves. There were lots of RV camps on the way out to the site, and many folks stopped by to look around. Sunday was busy too. See you next year!

































15 photos taken at the tailgate March 12, 2023. L-R Sherry Parton, gem trees, Unknown, Stina Smith, Annie Rock Art, Janet, Mary Lou & Stina shopping, Prime Cut Rocks, Searchers Anaheim, John, John Cline, Christopher Anthony & wife, The Jade Lady, Hi Desert Gold Diggers, John Scofield, Chris Koch, and Mara of Mara's Creations. Thank you all!! Photos by the Editor Jake Browner

#### RODMAN PETROGLYPH'S & SURPRISE TANK TOUR: Dateline, March 25, 2023, by Jake Brouwer, Editor

As mentioned at the March 18, 2023, General Meeting, a site-seeing trip was put together by Janet Flecher to tour the Rodman Mountains Petroglyph site, and Surprise Tank. An email followed up by President Dave Duncan asking you to let him know if you were coming.

I anxiously awaited the day, and what a day it was. We all met at the Super Market / Hardware store in Lucerne, Ca. Five vehicles went on the trip. Members that came were Dave Duncan, Janet and Mary Lou Flecher along with Chloe. John Muir, Kareem Jacobs, Alison Coleman, Gina Grimm, Sue and George Sutton, Ryan Mcleod, and Jake Brouwer.

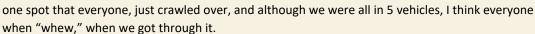


The weather was a bit chilly at first, 45 degrees. Skies were bright and clear.



Respect the land.

We caravanned out of Lucerne, up to the road leading up to Rodman. Scenery was great, desert plants, mountains looming above us on the left. As we climbed higher into the mountains, cacti became larger and more prevalent. We had mix of roads, paved, gravel and finally dirt, & with all that comes with that, bumps, craters, washouts and then there was that



Finally, we arrived. Past the interpretive sign, we saw the basalt and granite covered hills. Trip leader, Janet gathered us, and told us what to expect. Things to do and not do in such a sacred site. Not to pick up any rocks or vegetation. What we brought in, we were to take out, Leaving nothing behind but our footprints.

We walked, over to the area, looking up at the basalt walls we started to see the petro-glyphs. Ryan, Kareem, Alison and a few others climbed up to some to take close up photos. We all thought they were pretty special, when Janet said, "you haven't seen anything yet." After about 40 minutes, we got back to our vehicles and took off not far down the road, and found the entry way to the canyon leading to Surprise Tank. We hiked up the basalt canyon and soon it narrowed and



the cliffs around us up rose to a point when it became darker in parts. Then we started seeing an amazing amount of petroglyphs. Some as high as the cliffs themselves, and some so very close to the ground, that the artist would have to be on their belly's.

We saw petroglyphs of a beehive, snakes, sheep's head with horn, full sheep, symbols for rain, mountains, a human figure with long fingers, the sun, the moon and many variations that are left to interpretation by the viewer.

After a few hours we gathered again at the vehicles, took a group photo. Alison Coleman staged the shot and then jumped back into the line up of members. It was then time to leave.

Dave had brought with him a sketch map of where we could find bug-eye or birds eye rhyolite, and Alison related that she knew the spot. Some the members headed back to the shop, while Dave, John, Ryan, Karem, Jake, Alison and Gina, ventured off and found the Rhyolite site. When we stepped off the dirt road, Alison gave a, "yahoo, got one!" She showed a nice piece to the rest, and







we all took off looking for more. Everyone found at least one piece, but the day was getting short so we headed home noting the spot for future trips.





Happy Easter to you all. April's General meeting will be on April 15th, 2023. Expecting the usual potluck luncheon, with the club buying birthday cakes for all those with April Birthdays. Please bring an entrée or side dish. Eating will commence shortly after the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The General Meeting will start shortly after tables are cleaned up. Try to make it, as in these meetings we discuss state of affairs for the club, planning, and other news. Afterwards there is the raffle for rocks, and minerals. Tickets are only \$1.00 or 6 tickets for \$5.00. The club house was pretty busy last month with a few people buying lots of tickets and winning multiple times. Remember all proceeds go into the clubs coffers to support various projects, that we all share in. Then the silent auction starts



after raffle. Lately there have been some very neat items to bid on. Many donated by club members, others from the club's rock storage. The silent auction, like the raffle, provide much welcomed money for the club.

**Editors message:** I would like to personally like to thank the following members for what they do for the club, by contributing to the newsletter, through their various positions, and also members, who go above and beyond with articles, and or photos.

<u>Scott Gray, Wagon Master.</u> Talk about above and beyond, Scott has taken to the reins of Wagon Master with a passion. Not only leading great field trips, but also providing information on our finds, and knowledge of the areas in his FIELD REPORTS and more recently BOOK REPORTS.



Ross Quinn, Club Photographer. Ross loves nature and photography. In this month's issue Ross has submitted a very nice article to go with his photography that lets us see what some of us (that did not go) could not see. In past issues Ross has given some great photos of flora and fauna.

<u>Pam Trozera, Board Member.</u> March's issue, article on Rock Tumbling and photos.

<u>Sara Arnold. Past President.</u> Numerous past issue photographs and article. **Stephen Reynolds, new member.** 

This issue page 10, nice photo of the hill above the "tailgate." held March 11-13, 2023.

Thank you, also to other members that have sent photos into the club that did not make the newsletter. Note that we are holding quite a few, that we hope to consider for a new project coming in the near future, once board approved. That is reworking the website. Some will be considered for future newsletters as well. We would love to see more photos, and articles. If you ever thought about writing in any form, even poetry, here's your chance to try, and if you need help I would do that. We could really use photos of unusual rocks and minerals to. Something you found, something you purchased, something you traded. Tell us a story about what you have, to share. Come on, lets hear about YOU too. We welcome all club members to participate. PS, if anyone knows flowers, try identifying some on the pages that are not identified, and Jake will pay your shop fee for a day! First to email will win. Shop fees are \$5.00 for the day.

# Benitoite: California's State Gemstone



Benitoite was discovered in 1906 by J.M. Couch at the now well known Benitoite Mine in San Benitoite Gem Mine. They thought it might be Sapphire but in 1907, George D. Louderback a Professor at University of Berkeley said it was a new mineral and named it after the River, County and Mountains. Benitoite.

Benitoite fluoresces a bright deep sky blue under short wave ultraviolet light and x-rays. it is one of the most beautiful fluorescent minerals. At the tips of many benitoite crystals, the blue daylight color of the crystal sometimes gives way to white.

This was shown at the tailgate by a collector who wishes to remain anonymous.

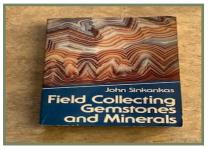
## FROM THE BOOK CORNER

By Scott Gray: Books You Should Know About: The 2nd In A Series About Good Books On A Great Subject!

Field Collecting Gemstones And Minerals is a reprint of the John Sinkakas classic Gemstones And Minerals: How And Where To Find Them and has also been printed under the title Prospecting For Gems And Minerals. Whichever copy of this you manage to find the contents are the same: a essential manual for all rockhounds.

Have you ever wondered what a skarn is? How about a pegmatite? Confused on the best way to clean iron stained quartz? The answers to these and many more hobby related questions are in Sinkakas's Gemstones. Sinkakas, who was a retired Captain in the navy, became interested in gemstones and minerals while still serving our country. Sinkakas was also a master in the lapidary arts with some of his stones gracing displays in museums across the country. With an extensive knowledge of American gemstone occurrences, particularly in California where he resided, you will not find another author who is more adept at simplifying the complex subject of geology.

Gemstones is exactly as the title suggests: a comprehensive field guide to collecting. With Chapters on tools, recognizing the geologic features of various deposits, cleaning and marketing your finds, mining techniques, and many other subjects. How do you properly assess the best place to dig for specimens in a mine dump? It's here. Retrieving quartz crystals from a miralitic cavity? It's here. How to follow mineralization in a pillow basalts? Yep, it's here. While some of the information is admittedly dated (instructions on using dynamite and blasting caps ) most of it is extremely valuable and not in any other of the rockhounding books I've come across, and I've come across quite a few! Get used to seeing Sinkakas name; his library of work is extensive and it's essential. This



book, more than any other, increased my knowledge in field collecting and the quantity and quality of my finds. Field Collecting Gemstones And Minerals can be found on Amazon and other online used book sources and if your lucky nabbed for about 20 bucks. Get it!



The above photo was provided to us by Steve Jones, a VVGMC member who was anxious to contribute. We appreciate your help Steve! The view is of the hill with Verde Antique and Tri-color marble at top.

The board has approved the design which is titled the <u>Bucket Brigade</u> showing a woman rockhound with bucket, and pick in hand, with a desert background, club name and Est. 1947. Nice job Steve!

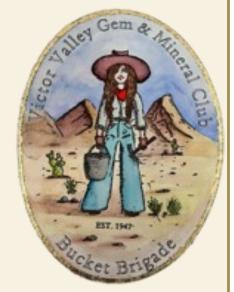
The design is shown below. It will be available to club members first and what is left over will be presented the upcoming tailgate at Stoddard Wells March 10, 11, & 12, 2023..

The design is large on the back of a quality tee shirt, in an off white color that matches the theme of the design. The design is repeated on the front left breast area.

All shirts will be \$25.00. Payable in <u>CASH</u> or <u>CHECK</u> made payable to VVGMC. No credit cards

Sizes are:
SMALL
MEDIUM
LARGE
XTRA LARGE
DOUBLE XL
TRIPLE XL

Please note that smaller sizes are in limited supply and a total of 200 Shirts have been made.



Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club was founded in 1947, as a 501/C4 non profit education club. Visitors are always welcome.

Our objective and purpose is to disseminate knowledge of minerology & earth sciences. To encourage study in those subjects though various programs. To arrange field trips for exploration, study, and collection of specimens. The preparations, publication, and distribution of articles pertaining to these fields. The encouragement of interest of young people & fostering of classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts.

SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS—NOON—5 PM SHOP DAY: SUNDAYS - NOON - 5PM

#### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS**

INSTRUCTORS MEETING- 1st TUESDAY 2:30 pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - 1st Tuesday 4:30

GENERAL MEETING -March 15, 12:00 - 2:00 pm,
with Pot Luck, Education, Silent auction &
Raffle. Shop work resumes 2:00 -5:00 pm.
CLUB CLEAN UP DAY, Saturday, April 8, 2023 10:00

#### THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER...

Published by the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral club and is distributed free of charge electronically to the members by email. Views expressed by authors in the articles appearing in THE BULLETIN do not necessarily reflect those of the VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLU.B The editor publishes content as presented with minor changes for continuity.

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Articles and pictures are due by the 23rd - 27th May

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