

OPINION

news

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OUR VIEW

B.C.'s need for speed recognized

The government's decision to raise the maximum speed limits on a number of B.C. roads, including some right here in the Central Okanagan, got a lot of media play yesterday.

Given that the top speed limit on the roads that allow the fastest moving vehicles—the Coquihalla Highway and the Okanagan Connector—only went up by 10 kilometres per hour, and, in reality, simply recognize the speed most drivers

currently drive at, it's puzzling why so much attention.

Statistics released by the government show serious road accidents due to speed are down on the stretches where speed limits are going up, thanks, in part, to better technology, education and law enforcement.

Victoria's move to make our fast-paced world a little faster simply recognizes that on roads like the Coquihalla, drivers are already routinely surpassing the posted limit by five to 10 kilo-

metres per hour anyway.

What is more interesting are the increases on some of the other highways in the province.

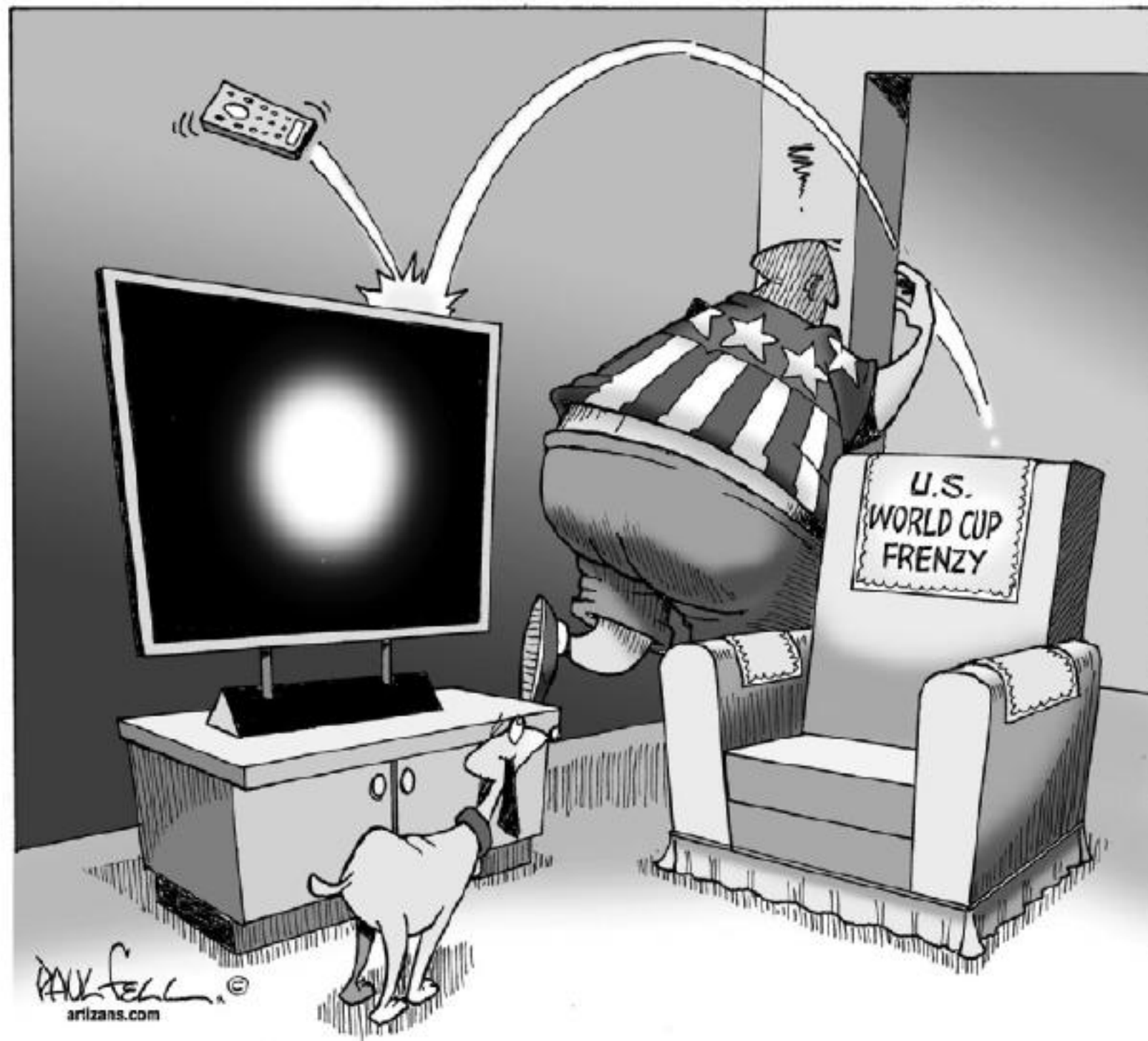
Locally, a 32-kilometre stretch of Highway 33, from Gallagher Road to McCulloch Road, is getting a speed bump of 10 kilometres per hour, pushing the limit there to 100 kilometres per hour.

While it has had improvements made to it, Highway 33 is not always the best road to push the pedal to the metal.

Even Victoria's jury is out on that one as it is delaying the increase pending engineering reports to tell if such an increase is safe.

Of course, that's the kind of information one would expect the government to have on hand prior to its speed-related announcement.

But, nonetheless, pushing the speed limit up by a few kilometres an hour on roads easily engineered to allow even faster speeds is really no big deal.



Sound off

TUESDAY'S QUESTION:

Will you fly, wave or wear the Canadian flag on Canada Day?

YES	92%
NO	8%
UNDECIDED	0%

THURSDAY'S QUESTION:

Is 120 kilometres per hour fast enough for the speed limit on sections of the Coquihalla Highway and Okanagan Connector?

To register your opinion on the Sound Off question, go to www.kelownacapnews.com or call 250-979-7303. Results will be tabulated until 2 p.m. Monday.

Who to blame for innocent child's injury causing mishap

I'm camping with my family in a lovely campground in Deception Pass, Washington. The peace and tranquillity is broken only by the periodic fly by of naval jets. It's quite comical, actually.



ACHIEVING JUSTICE

Paul Hergott

our little travel trailer, crying. Twenty-six year old step-sister, Nikki, comforted her while averting her eyes from the gash.

My immediate thought was of taking her for stitches. It has been too many years since my last first aid

training. I puzzled through the options and settled on keeping the cut clean and the finger straight, because stitches didn't seem necessary to hold the flesh together.

I wrapped that finger with a bulbous mass of dressing, using materials we had brought with us to change

the dressing for Bob, the three-month-old boil on my right butt cheek. Yes, we named him. Too much information?

After the medical emergency was taken care of, little Morgan's legal rights took centre stage. Morgan was injured; I am a personal injury lawyer. The ghastly injury must not go uncompensated.

Some of you might be wanting to "blame the victim." The 10 year old ought to have taken more care with that viciously sharp knife? Come on. If anyone is to blame, it's not the little princess who wears pink every chance she gets and was trying to make a pretty wood carving for her daddy.

Some of you might be wanting to "blame the other victim." The parents who failed to properly train Morgan in the use of the knife, and then failed to properly supervise her. Yes, I agree. To some degree, her mother is definitely at fault.

Who is most at fault, though? Of course, it's the plump, jolly moron who put a dangerously sharp knife into the hands of a 10-year-old 'little princess.' A recipe for disaster.

If I was referring to Santa Claus, it would be high time that he get his due. How often does he, effectively, get away with murder? All those drum sets, annoying talking dolls, stupid board games, gym passes, vacuum cleaners, the list goes on.

No, it wasn't Santa this time. The plump, jolly culprit was me.

Is there a lawsuit brewing? The gash is healing nicely and will be forgotten within another day or two. Had she been left with a permanent injury, she would have until her 21st birthday to decide whether or not to bring a lawsuit.

In most circumstances, a child has up to two years after her 19th birthday to commence a lawsuit pertaining to injuries suffered while she was a child. For some claims, such as child sexual abuse, the deadline is extended indefinitely.

If the negligent parent had liability

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