

LOCAL/PROVINCE

CITY DESK PHONE:
562-2441, Local 503



Citizen photo by Chuck Nisbett
World champion gold panner Janet Bruchet displays the trophy she received in the world championship competition near Limoges, France. Mounted on front are the gold flecks she panned. Below are her pan and the pins she was sent by the organizers.

Panning for a crown of gold

by GORDON HOEKSTRA
Citizen staff

Janet Bruchet has never dreamed of the heady days of the Klondike gold rush. She does not have gold fever, nor does she want it. In fact, the 43-year-old had never even had a gold pan in her hands until a few days before the world gold panning championships near Limoges, France, in September.

She was talked into entering the competition but turned out to be a natural, taking top spot in the novice division. Bruchet — the office manager at Peat, Marwick and Thorne in Prince George — was a little bowled over by the intensity of the event and the attention. A Dutch journalist for CNN interviewed her, and the broadcast went across Europe. "It was terrific," said Bruchet, chuckling about the whole scenario. "It was beginner's luck. It'll never happen to me again."

Winning ways

- How do you become the gold panning champion of the world?
- By panning a bucket of sand and gravel that has been salted with six gold flakes in the fastest time without missing a flake.
 - If you miss a flake you are penalized five minutes.
 - One novice was faster than Bruchet but lost five minutes for missing a flake. Bruchet didn't miss any and finished in about nine and a half minutes.
 - Said Bruchet: "It's difficult. Those tiny flecks are hard to see."

But now that she's tapped into her golden talent — so to speak — she has no plans of hitting the hills, gold pan in hand. She's afraid she might get gold fever, and that would be a little much for her. The 450 or so people entered in the world championships were simply gold crazy, she said in an interview this

week. They knew more about the Yukon and Dawson City, than people living there, she figures. They wore all manner of gold jewelry, stuffed their homes with gold, gold paraphernalia and gold literature, she said. And driving with some people they met in a gold-bedecked and gold theme-decorated motorhome was a little embarrassing, she added. "Most of them are true fanatics. They're obsessive about gold." The only downside to the holiday trip was that her companions — Alan Nordling from Whitehorse and Herbert Zieman from Austria, who are gold panners — won no prizes at the championships. But even that had a silver — uh, gold — lining. Once the duo agreed that the gold panning lesson they gave Bruchet a day before the championship was what won it for her, they celebrated her victory as well, said Bruchet. "They started taking credit for teaching me," she said, "and rightly so."

Forest policies have become political football

An analysis
by KEN BERNSOHN
Citizen Staff

NDP forest policies have turned into a political football match thanks to a Price Waterhouse report commissioned by the Forest Alliance of B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt says he will call an election after Oct. 15, "but not so it will take place during Christmas vacation." The release of the report last week lets it be used as "proof" 46,000 jobs will be lost by the B.C. Reform Party and the provincial Liberals. Forest Minister Andrew Petter and Harcourt say the report is fiction. The problem is a simple one: Both sides are trying to forecast the future,

which isn't easy. The report predicts a combination of protecting 12 per cent of the land in B.C. as parks and implementing the Forest Practices Code will cut 46,000 jobs. The report says although 12 per cent of the land will become parks and other protected areas, some of the land is rock, snow or not forest at all, so the harvest may be reduced by six per cent. Thus far more than nine per cent of the province has been designated as parks, a doubling of what had been protected before. The impacts have varied around the province. In some parts of Vancouver Island, there was a direct impact on jobs. In the Prince George area, the Land and

Resource Management Plan working group's recommendations would reduce the harvest about three per cent, and local companies say they can live with this. It's impossible to know the final numbers for the province because groups across the North are still discussing what areas should be set aside from logging. The effects of the Forest Practices Code are just as difficult to predict. Price Waterhouse says the new rules could reduce the harvest by about six per cent of the province's annual allowable cut. However, the immediate effect of the Code has been to increase the number of jobs.

With more than 50,000 people to be trained in the new rules and enforcement required, the forest service and companies have added staff to deal with the new rules, consultants are making money training people. And as one local lawyer who asked not to be named said, "I want to thank the government for the Code. It's going to make me rich!" The Price Waterhouse report doesn't credit the new Crown corporation, Forest Renewal B.C., with creating any jobs. About 500 have been created across the North thus far. Liberal leader Gordon Campbell says the situation stinks. "It doesn't matter whether it's 46,000

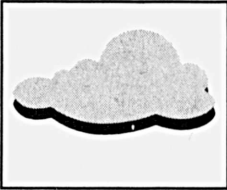
or 23,000. The fact is there's going to be thousands of jobs affected. The government is trying to pretend there won't be," Campbell told The Citizen. As expected, Petter disagrees. "Forest Renewal B.C. is creating another 5,000 to 7,000 jobs. They're not all here yet. We're ramping up, so when any reduction in the harvest is felt — although that doesn't look like a problem in Prince George — the jobs will be there."

B.C. WEATHER OUTLOOK

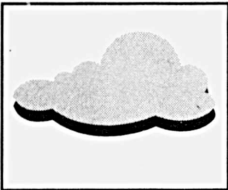
Prince George: Today, mainly cloudy with scattered showers. Uv 1.8. High 10. Saturday, a mix of sun and cloud. Isolated showers. Low 1. High 11.
Cariboo: Today, mainly cloudy with scattered showers. Uv 2.0. High 11. Saturday, a mix of sun and cloud. Isolated showers. Low 1. High 12.
Chilcotin: Today, mainly cloudy with a 40 per cent chance of morning showers. Afternoon sunny periods. High near 11. Uv 2.0. Saturday, a mix of sun and cloud. Low near 0. High near 12.
Bulkley Valley: Today, cloudy with afternoon sunny periods. Isolated showers. Uv 1.6. High 11. Saturday, a mix of sun and cloud. Low 1. High 11.
McGregor: Today, mainly cloudy with a 60 per cent chance of showers. High near 10. Uv 1.9. Saturday, a mix of sun and cloud. 30 per cent chance of showers. Low near 1. High near 11.
Yellowhead: Today, cloudy with showers. High near 9. Uv 1.9. Saturday, mainly cloudy. 40 per cent chance of showers. Low near 4. High near 11.
Williston district: Today, mainly cloudy with scattered showers. Uv 1.6. High 9. Saturday, a mix of sun and cloud. Isolated showers. Low 1. High 9.

Peace River: Today, mainly cloudy with scattered showers. Winds southwesterly 20 km-h. Uv 1.4. High 11. Saturday, a mix of sun and cloud. Winds light. Low 1. High 11.
Vancouver: Today, mainly cloudy. Locally windy. A few showers. High 15. Saturday, a mix of cloud and sun. Chance of showers. Low 7. High 15. Probability of precipitation in per cent 80 today and 40 Saturday.
Victoria: Today, mainly cloudy. Locally windy. Chance of showers. High 16. Saturday, a mix of cloud and sun. Chance of showers. Low 7. High 15. Probability of precipitation in per cent 40 today and 20 Saturday.
Fraser Valley: Today, mainly cloudy. A few showers. High near 16. Saturday, a mix of cloud and sun. Chance of showers. Low near 7. High near 16. Probability of precipitation in per cent 80 today and 40 Saturday.
Whistler: Today, mainly cloudy. A few showers. High near 16. Saturday, a mix of cloud and sun. Chance of showers. Low near 7. High near 16. Probability of precipitation in per cent 80 today and 60 Saturday.
Sunshine Coast: Today, mainly cloudy. Locally windy. A few showers. High near 16.

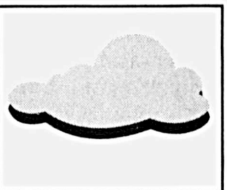
CENTRAL INTERIOR EXTENDED FORECAST



SATURDAY
Low near 1
High near 11
Sunrise: 7:20
Sunset: 6:37



SUNDAY
Low near 3
High near 12
Sunrise: 7:22
Sunset: 6:34



MONDAY
Low near 3
High near 11
Sunrise: 7:24
Sunset: 6:32

POLICE BEAT



Police shoot bear after vehicle incident

Citizen staff

An injured bear was shot and killed by police Wednesday night after being hit by a car near Foothills Boulevard. The bear was hit by a car when it ventured onto Foothills at 9:10 p.m. Bears are still active in the city and conservation officers attended a bear sighting incident near the downtown Thursday afternoon. Bears will be active hunting for food for several more weeks before hibernation, says Murray Smith, a conservation officer with B.C. Environment. "They are primarily into garbage and fruit," said Smith. "If people would take care of it we would have a lot less problems."

Scam alert

City RCMP are alerting city businesses about credit card phone-in orders using stolen numbers. Police say businesses should be on special alert if the caller wants the items sent to Dawson Creek. In one example, the caller gets a credit card number with the expiry date and uses a different name other than the cardholder's. Credit card companies will issue an authorization number if they believe the cardholder is using her own card. Anyone with suspicions is advised to have the caller present the card in person and obtain a signature. **Business owners with questions should contact Const. Susan McKelvie of fraud section at 561-3356.**

Caning rejected

VANCOUVER (CP) — B.C.'s mayors and councillors have defeated a resolution recommending Canada adopt caning as a punishment for criminals. The resolution, presented to the Union of B.C. Municipalities annual convention by the Fort St. John council, prompted heated debate before it

was rejected 167-141 this week. Opponents said corporal punishment was a throwback to the Middle Ages. The resolution said criminals are undeterred by the Canadian justice system but are less inclined to re-offend in Singapore, where caning is used judiciously.

Netaxa Verbrugge from the district of Metchosin said she favors well-reasoned, well-balanced corporal punishment for lawbreakers. "We spend thousands of dollars on counselling and rehabilitation and all we have is more crime and more fear." Added John Wolbers.

Evidence for Bible Truth

Speaker: Paul Billington
SUNDAY - 7:00
Oct. 8th at the college
Small Lecture Theater
CHRISTADEPHIANS