



CITIZEN PHOTO BY BRENT BRAATEN

Emergency aid

Paramedics Rob Pritchard and Scott Rocks pile food into an ambulance Friday at the eighth annual Red And White Hunger Fight at the Save-On Foods in Parkwood. Paramedics and ambulances will be at the at Save-On-Food locations, collecting food for St. Vincent de Paul Society. Look for paramedics Saturday at Spruceland from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 12 at Hart Highway from 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and Dec. 13 at College Heights from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grewal talks Doherty

Citizen staff

T.J. Grewal has finally said why he is supporting Todd Doherty for the federal Conservatives' Cariboo-Prince George nomination.

Grewal told The Citizen on Wednesday night that he was supporting Doherty but refused to make a public statement except through a news release. The statement was issued Friday morning but was dated Dec. 2, which was Tuesday.



GREWAL

"He has strong family ties not only in Prince George, but in Williams Lake as well, he has experience working with all levels of government," Grewal said in the release "He is approachable, will listen to the needs of this riding, and I believe he will work hard on your behalf."

Grewal, a Prince George businessman, saw his own hopes for the nomination dashed when Conservative headquarters barred him from being a candidate because he was one week shy of the six-month-member mark – a requirement in the Conservative constitution that has been waived in some cases. He was a member as recently as 2012.

Grewal has said he has signed up as many as 1,500 new members to the Conservative Party this year.

Grewal said he is "very grateful for the support this region has shown me in my efforts to seek the nomination."

Members from Quesnel and Williams Lake will vote Dec. 12 while Prince George and Vanderhoof voters can mark their ballot on Dec. 13.

Nick Fedorkiw and Shari Green are also in the running.

Weather system upgraded

Frank PEEBLES Citizen staff
fpeebles@pgcitizen.ca

The weather data system that malfunctioned last week at the Prince George Airport (YXS) has not only been repaired, it's been enhanced.

The Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) is owned and maintained by the federal agency in charge of operating Canada's civil air navigation service – NAV Canada.

"The AWOS records critical information for the safety of flight including ceiling height, sky condition, altimeter setting, wind direction and speed, temperature and dew point," said Prince George Airport spokesperson Lindsay Cotter.

On Nov. 26, a key part in the AWOS machinery malfunctioned. At the same time, the weather turned poor so the data the AWOS provided would have been needed for the coming and going of aircraft. It forced the closure of the airport for flight activity for

about 24 hours, which also meant the repair professionals had to drive to YXS or wait for good weather when pilots and ground crews could safely navigate without instruments.

In addition to all the passenger disruptions and inconvenience to people who use air services in general, the airport itself had some income lost (most flights, though, were made up later).

YXS boss John Gibson said NAV Canada went above and beyond to fix the problem, and took additional steps knowing the Canada Winter Games were just around the corner, with dozens more flights already scheduled during that period.

"NAV Canada has been very responsive," Gibson said from Ottawa where he is chairing meetings of the Canadian Airports Council. "They will be installing some redundancies so there's a backup system, and during the Canada Winter Games there will be a tech on site to make sure anything that might happen has immediate service. I got that confirmed

here in Ottawa this morning."

With thousands of athletes, officials, contingents of family and supporters, entertainers, media, dignitaries, and many more people representing millions of incoming dollars all flowing through YXS in February, the airport is essential work to the success of the Games.

The mild early winter is no consolation when considering all the variables of weather and technology, said Gibson, so having such direct NAV Canada service is appreciated by his entire YXS team.

"We've had lower than normal winter costs, probably a month's worth of snow removal saved, so that was on the positive side. But you can get hit between the eyes at almost any time, so that quiet November is nothing we can rely on for our bottom line until the winter season is good and finished," Gibson said. "Certainly during the Canada Winter Games we are going to be at full readiness, and I'm thankful NAV Canada has stepped up for us on the AWOS issue."

Charges detailed after Thursday arrest

Mark NIELSEN Citizen staff
mnielsen@pgcitizen.ca

A 24-year-old man suspected of breaking into a home and stealing two vehicles on Thursday morning is facing five charges. Travis Inias Basil, who has an extensive criminal

record, has been charged with one count each of theft over \$5,000, theft of a motor vehicle, mischief, theft \$5,000 or under and possession of stolen property under \$5,000. In a press release issued Thursday following his arrest, Prince George RCMP said they were called at 6 a.m. to a

break and enter at a McQueen Avenue home, off Tabor Boulevard in the Highglen area, where they determined that a sport utility vehicle as well as electronics, credit cards and the vehicle's keys, were stolen. Then, at 7:43 a.m., a report that a minivan had been stolen from a home

on Jarvis Street in the Lakewood neighbourhood was called in. Less than a half hour later, at 8:08 a.m., the sport utility vehicle was located with significant front-end damage on Chingee Avenue, off Tabor in the Lakewood area. At about 11:25 a.m., a general duty officer spotted

the minivan at a gas station on 20th Avenue near Victoria Street and the lone occupant was arrested without incident. Court records indicate Basil had been released from jail on Wednesday after being in custody since Oct. 16 on a charge of breaching his probation.

Sentence effectively house arrest

—from page 1

In 2008, Payne was given a conditional discharge after he was found masturbating in his car while following some women.

Although he attended every class of a sex offender treatment program, Payne received low grades for the effort he

put into the work, Brecknell noted.

Payne has suffered from depression for about 15 years that has required medication, Brecknell said, and noted that in the months leading up to the offence, he began to ignore the physical activities he had been engaging in and, instead, spent more and more time

watching pornography on the internet.

Payne must also stay away from the business while on the conditional sentence, effectively house arrest, although he can still go to work, and cannot have access to an internet connection during both the conditional sentence and the probation term.

Brighten up the season

Citizen staff

Have you seen a Christmas light display so exceptional it deserves a spot in The Citizen?

Simply send the address of the home

or business where the display can be found to page2@pgcitizen.ca.

You're also invited to include one photograph of the display. The photos may be used in online and print photo galleries.

The Citizen will also use the addresses to create a map – online at pgcitizen.ca and in print – so people can get a better look.

The deadline to submit your address is Dec. 12.

News Tip? 562-2441, local 2759

FOR ALL YOUR
LIFTING & HOISTING
NEEDS

- PG's largest fleet of knuckle boom crane trucks
- Everything from industrial lifts to hot tubs over houses
- Competitive rates

CAN-CRANE
SPECIALISTS

24 hour on call service

250-640-5060

info@cancrane.com • www.cancrane.com

A division of Central Interior Piping Ltd.

Don't put your life on our line.

This winter, prevent a senseless tragedy by steering clear of train tracks. Not only is riding a snowmobile on a railroad's right of way illegal, but you may also be too focused on having a good time to hear a train coming.

all aboard for **safety**

cn.ca/ridesafely