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SECOND FRONT

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POLICE BEAT



Census worker found

A 53-year-old census worker reported missing near Vanderhoof Wednesday morning was found safe less than an hour later by Search and Rescue volunteers.

At 12:20 a.m., RCMP received a report that a woman who was doing work for Statistics Canada's 2001 census in a rural area southeast of Vanderhoof was missing. She had left around 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday and was scheduled to meet her husband later that evening, police said.

Because the search area involved a large mass of land, police requested help from search and rescue. Less than an hour later, the search team located the missing woman in a remote area on Tadik Lake Road, where her vehicle had become stuck.

Drug charges laid

Three Prince George residents face drug charges after RCMP searched a home in the 2100 block of Victoria Street Tuesday night.

While executing a search warrant, police discovered a quantity of marijuana and drug-trafficking paraphernalia.

One adult female and two male youths were arrested at the scene and are expected to be charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Name released

RCMP have released the name of a Williams Lake man who was killed in a single-vehicle accident south of Quesnel Sunday.

Ryan Keith Schonke died after his vehicle careened off Highway 97 around 2:30 a.m., and into a ditch before slamming into a driveway. The vehicle then burst into flames. Police said they believe Schonke may have dozed off at the wheel.

Man robbed in alley

RCMP are investigating a report of a robbery in the alley near Dominion Street and Fifth Avenue Tuesday.

The male complainant said he was in the area between noon and 12:45 p.m. when he was tackled from behind and pushed to the ground by an unidentified suspect.

The suspect took \$200 from the man's wallet, then returned the wallet, police said.

The complainant couldn't provide a description of the suspect but police said they have located a witness to the incident.

No injuries were reported.

Thief hits business

An intruder broke into a business in the 1800 block of Ogilvie Street Wednesday morning, and left the shop in disarray.

The suspect broke in through the rear door of Canada West Belting Products, ransacking the business before stealing office equipment, RCMP said.

UNBC research equipment unveiled

by BERNICE TRICK
Citizen staff

Three new pieces of equipment to enhance research — especially in northern B.C. — were unveiled at UNBC Wednesday.

The equipment, provided by a partnership between industry and the federal and provincial governments, is designed to provide new information to address key issues for the long-term health of northern B.C.'s economy, said Dr. Charles Jago, UNBC president.

The unveiling included:

- An industrial computerized tomography scanner that works like a cat-scan in a hospital to provide researchers with information about trees, soil, mineral structures and the inside of plants.

The scanner, the first of its kind in Canada, will give researchers views of wood grains, log density, effects of insects and soil structures.

Its cost of \$3.2 million is shared by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF) and Forintek, a private company which focuses on technological advancement in the Canadian wood-products industry.

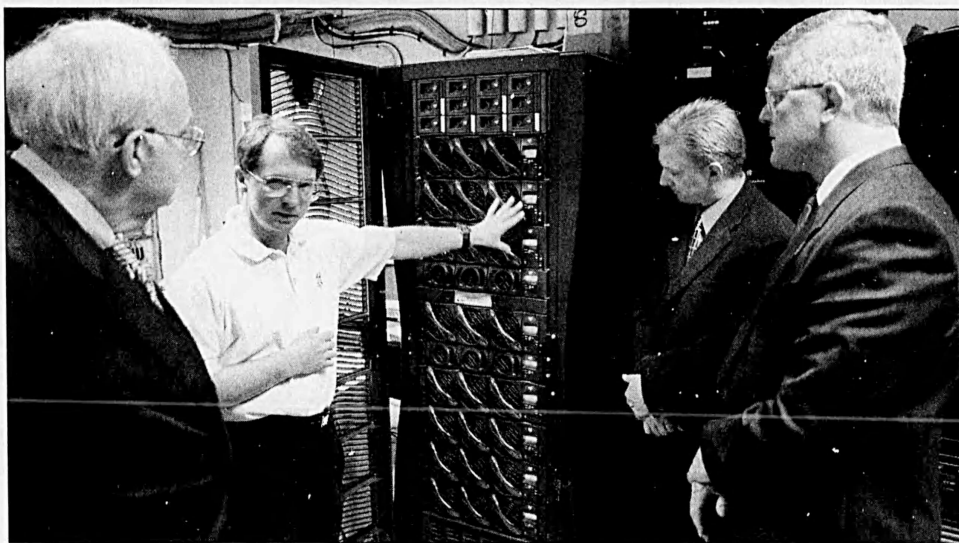
- A \$1.4-million high-performance computing lab, opened at UNBC in January.

The lab, with 10 work stations, is geared for researchers to expand their knowledge about atmospheric science, forestry resource planning and molecular modeling.

The equipment, the first of its kind in B.C., allows researchers to build three-dimensional moving model images they can move in all directions and even spin at a fast rate.

During the event, researchers in the lab showed how they use the computers — all linked to a refrigerator-sized, multi-process high-performance computer — to do landscape modeling, study the Prince George airshed, and examine connections between air and water temperatures and water flows.

- A new Centre for Environmental Disturbance Assessment Research (CEDAR) will look at how removal of natural resources impacts on animal habitats in behavioural, physiological and molecular levels.



Citizen photo by Dave Milne

Dr. Patrick Mann, director of UNBC information technology services explains the features of the \$1.4-million high performance computer to Dr. David Strangway, left, president and CEO of the Canadian Foundation for Innovation; Dan St.Germaln from SGI, the computer manufacturer; and Dr. Max Blouw, UNBC's VP of research. The computer is actually 28 extremely high-speed processors which can work individually or as one monster computer.

To be able to assess all these factors in one place is unique to Canada, but it's critical for northern B.C. because extracting resources is the base of the

economy, Jago said.

CEDAR is a \$412,000 program supported by CFI, BCKDF and equipment suppliers.

"We pride ourselves on being a research-intensive small university," but not without support of government and private industry, said Jago.

Faculty duo join research program

UNBC is on the leading edge of a Canada-wide program to boost research.

Faculty members Dr. Joselito Arocena and Dr. Greg Halseth are among the first of an eventual 2,000 to be appointed as Canada Research Chairs.

Speaking of the federal government's Canada Research Chair program, executive director Rene Durocher said the program, established last year to attract and retain leading scholars for developing world-class research centres at universities, "is so huge, so big, it's almost un-Canadian."

Durocher said the plan is to invest more than \$1.5 billion into research with 2,000 research chairs being appointed at universities across Canada.

He praised UNBC for its intensive research programs and said, on behalf of the Canada Research Chair Secretariat, he



AROCENA



HALSETH

was delighted to recognize UNBC's first two chairs.

Each will be funded \$100,000 a year for the next five years, and UNBC is eligible to receive funding for up to seven research chairs over the next five years, said Dr. Max Blouw, vice president of research.

Arocena is a specialist in soil science and conducts research on mineral transformation for plant productivity and environmental issues. He said he believes he can assess minerals to determine long-term sustainability of forests.

Halseth's research aims to identify trends at work in reshaping the economies of rural Canada by examining single industry towns where restructuring is changing all aspects of community life. His studies include the Mackenzie and Tumbler Ridge areas.

Chamber hosting all-candidates forum tonight

The Prince George Chamber of Commerce is hosting a three-hour all-candidates forum at the College of New Caledonia tonight at 7.

Close to 20 candidates are expected to have a chance to speak at the forum in the college atrium.

Each candidate will be given two minutes to introduce themselves and their platform. Another hour will be dedicated to questions to candidates.

Questions from the audience are expected to begin at 9 p.m.

Seven candidates have agreed to participate in a forum hosted Friday morning by students at Cedars Christian School, the second such event to be held at the school since Mike Hoyer took over as principal nearly two years ago.

"I think it's important for students to put names, faces and issues together," Hoyer said. "They're the next generation of leaders — we have to prepare them."

Hoyer expects about 120 Grade 7-12 students will attend the event, which begins at 10:30 a.m. The

public is also invited.

Confirmed candidates from the Prince George North riding are Pat Bell of the Liberal party, Unity B.C.'s David Low, Western Reform candidate Lisa Maskell, Independent Fred McLeod, Robert Griumrud of the Marijuana Party and Hilary Crowley of the Green party. Prince George-Omineca candidate Ed John will also participate.

Each candidate will have four minutes to speak. A question-and-answer period follows.

Where the candidates are today

Prince George North

Pat Bell (Liberal): Door knocking, all-candidates forum.
Hilary Crowley (Green): Touring FMC plant, all-candidates forum.

Robert Grimsrud (Marijuana): Not available.
Bryan Llewellyn (NDP): Door-knocking in Prince George; visit to Lakeland Mills, all-candidates forum.

David Low (Unity): Not available.
Lisa Maskell (W. Reform): Not available.
Fred McLeod (Ind.): All-candidates forum.

Prince George-Omineca:

Will DeWolf (Marijuana Party): Media luncheon, all-candidates forum.

Ed John (NDP): Door-knocking in Prince George, media luncheon, all-candidates forum.

Eldon Matte (Unity): Campaigning, all-candidates' forum.

Paul Nettleton (Liberal): Canvassing in Prince George, all-candidates forum.

David Usher (Green Party): Noon: informal meeting with other candidates at Fortune Palace Restaurant. 7 p.m.: all-candidates forum at CNC.

Prince George-Mount Robson

Lelani Arris (Green): Campaigning, all-candidates debate.
Shirley Bond (Liberal): Working at campaign office, canvassing in Prince George, all-candidates forum.

-Andrej DeWolf (Marijuana Party): All-candidates forum.

-Erle Martz (Reform B.C.): All-candidates debate, campaigning in Prince George.

-Todd Whitcombe (NDP): Door-knocking in Prince George, all-candidates forum.

-Bob Zayonc (Unity B.C.): Media interview, all-candidates forum.

Suspended sentence for beating drinking pal

A man who beat and robbed his elderly drinking buddy for \$12 was given a two-year suspended sentence Wednesday.

Judge Vince Hogan ordered Steven Richard Roy, 28, to live with his sister near Quesnel during the term of the order and to avoid alcohol, which Roy acknowledged has damaged his life.

"I'd just like to say I've spent the past 13 months thinking about how my life is going and what problems I have. The number one problem with me is drinking," Roy said.

Roy could face jail time if he breaches the conditions placed on him.

Hogan denounced the attack on the senior citizen as "repugnant." The vic-

COURT DOCKET



tim was "a senior citizen who liked to drink and with goodwill buys Mr. Roy beer and shares his money. As a result, Mr. Roy pounds him into a bloody mess," the judge said.

On Jan. 27, 2000, the victim, who lived in an apartment building in the 2400 block of Upland Street, cashed his \$700 pension cheque, court heard. After paying his \$400 rent, the man decided to celebrate, Crown counsel Carl Gustafson said. He bought two dozen beer and invited Roy, a neighbor whom

he had met the previous week, to his apartment for drinks, court was told. After the two men had finished all the beer in an hour, the victim bought another two dozen beer and the two continued to drink. As the night progressed, Roy borrowed \$200 from the man, then asked for more money, court heard.

When the man refused, Roy pummeled the man in the face and stole his remaining \$12, Gustafson said, noting the man suffered severe bruising to his neck and face.

In April, Roy finished serving six months for stabbing a Hixon gas station owner the previous April over a stolen magazine. Co-accused David Kevin Johnson was found guilty of assault and sentenced to six months in jail.



REAPS Promoting a

White Elephant Curbside Exchange Day May 5, 2001



This is a city wide event calling on all spring cleaners to place their unwanted treasures at curbside for pick up by anyone passing by. It is a form of recycling that is like a garage sale without the price tags. Residents are asked to place their unwanted articles at

the curb by 9 a.m. and to remove any items that are still by the curb at 3 p.m. Large appliances cannot be placed at curbside, but a sign advertising their availability can be. For info call REAPS 561-7327. You may call Salvation Army at 563-7475 or Big Brothers & Big Sisters at 563-7410 to arrange a pick up of any remaining items.

Further, EnviroRecycling is offering to the first 100 callers a free pick up of your recyclables on May 5th. To register please call 962-9046 before May 5th.



Grand Opening - Saturday May 5th

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