

## VALLEY IN BRIEF

## Drunk beating victim not talking to cops

He may be bloodied and beaten, but he's not telling police whodunit. The 22-year-old needed stitches to close a head wound after someone punched him in the head at 2 a.m. Sunday. He'd been kicked out of a Vernon bar and got mouthy with one or two people at 30th Street and 25th Avenue.

A friend flagged down an officer and told him the man was on the ground, bleeding from his head. He was lying on his back, semi-conscious and drunk when the officer found him.

He threatened to punch out the ambulance attendants and RCMP officers dealing with him. He's not talking about what happened, so police are looking for witnesses.

"He's being less than co-operative," spokesman Gord Molendyk said Monday.

## Globe-trotting cyclist in Kelowna

A man riding around the world to promote mental health will hold a community ride tonight in Kelowna.

Michael Schratte is on the B.C. leg of his Ride Don't Hide journey, which has taken him through six continents and 32 countries over the last 444 days.

The two-kilometre community ride-along is scheduled to get underway at 6 p.m. at the corner of Richter Street and Rowcliffe Avenue, followed by a welcome reception at Kelowna Cycle.

The Vancouver school teacher was last in Kelowna on Sept. 15 to receive the inaugural Nancy Hall Public Policy Leadership Award recognizing individuals who have influenced mental health policy from the Canadian Mental Health Association, B.C. Division.

Schratter has raised more than \$46,000 toward his fundraising goal of \$100,000 to support youth mental health programs.

## Chopper to pluck cars from ravine

Up in the sky. It's a helicopter. It's a car.

If you spot a helicopter with cars dangling from it this morning, it's not a publicity stunt, said Rae Stewart, waste reduction co-ordinator with the Central Okanagan Regional District.

A local helicopter crew will be pulling several old abandoned vehicles from a Lake Country ravine 11 kilometres up Beaver Lake Road to officially kick off Waste Reduction Week.

Not only is this initiative part of the regional district's crackdown on illegal dumping, but it also helps protect Lake Country's drinking water, said Stewart. "The old abandoned vehicles are located above the district's water intake, which creates a potential hazard of contaminants getting into the district's water system."

Locally-based Valhalla Helicopters is providing the extraction service at a reduced rate and the hauling company, Paul Haul, will take the abandoned vehicles to a local scrap yard.

"Residents don't need a helicopter to be part of Waste Reduction Week, but we can do our part by reporting illegal dumping in the community to the regional waste reduction office at 250-469-6250," said Stewart. For more details, go online to [www.regionaldistrict.com](http://www.regionaldistrict.com).

## Spinathon raises \$4K for charity

The second annual Tour d'Okanagan Spinathon ended like the first — in a tie-breaker race. The final result of a 10-second spin-off between the Pinnacle Elite Athlete and Rally4Life Advocate teams ended with Pinnacle taking the trophy.

The Saturday event at the CNC was a fundraiser for the Rally4Life Foundation.

While attendance was lower than organizers had anticipated, "the outpouring of support from the public, sponsors, VIPs and riders ensured that over \$4,000 was raised for valuable safe water and orphan projects around the world," said Mark Jennings-Bates who established the Rally4Life Foundation.

Rally4Life led early in the stationary-bike competition, but "an heroic ride by Pinnacle rider Jonathan Rowe led to a tie right at the finish line," said Jennings-Bates.

— The Daily Courier

## VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Parent wins pesticide fight

By J.P. SQUIRE  
The Daily Courier

It took more than 10 years but Kerry Bokenfohr is now celebrating the Vernon School District's decision to stop using pesticides to control dandelions and other "cosmetic pests" on school properties.

"It's taken a long time but we are very happy," said Bokenfohr, a parent of two school-aged children, on Monday.

When the Vernon resident was pregnant with her now-10-year-old daughter, she would meet a group of moms at different playgrounds around Vernon.

"We began to notice there were signs everywhere notifying us that pesticides had been applied. We began to ask questions, organized a group (Parents for Healthy Playspaces), attended school board and city meetings, and essentially were ignored," she said, in spite of collecting a 1,000-name petition about eight years ago.

In 2009, someone suggested they try West Coast Environmental Law, which offers legal-aid services

to those involved in an environmental conflict.

Parents received a \$2,928 grant from WCEL's Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund and hired lawyer Richard Overstall to help them develop a legal strategy.

Until 2009, the district controlled pests under a pest management plan that allowed it to spray Par III Turf Herbicide Solution and other pesticides.

Overstall discovered concerned parents had few options under the province's Integrated Pest Management Act, but a section of the School Act offered hope: "If a decision of an employee of a board significantly affects the education, health or safety of a student, the parent of the student or the student may ... appeal that decision to the board."

So in July 2009, Overstall filed an appeal of the district maintenance supervisor's use of Par III.

After some initial confusion about what was involved in an appeal, parents received a district letter in November 2009 offering a one-year moratorium on pesticide

## WARNING LABEL

Reminiscent of a TV pharmaceutical drug commercial, the Par III pesticide label advises:

"This product may cause severe irritation to the eyes, and irritation to the skin and mucous membranes. Symptoms of overexposure to this product may include coughing, burning, dizziness or temporary loss of muscle co-ordination, muscle weakness, loss of appetite, weight loss, vomiting, decreased heart rate, shortness of breath, excitement, tenseness, depression, incontinence, cyanosis, muscle spasms, exhaustion and loss of voice. Other possible effects of overexposure include fatigue, muscle weakness or nausea."

use on school grounds while a sub-committee appointed by the school district re-examined the pesticide use policy.

Parents agreed to suspend their appeal and Bokenfohr was appoint-

ed as the parents' representative on the sub-committee which ultimately recommended amending the school district policies to eliminate cosmetic pesticide use.

On June 21, trustees amended the policy, but the new policy was only publicly released last week when it was posted on the district's website. The policy also represents a dramatic scaling back of the use of pesticides at schools for other purposes.

On its website, West Coast Environmental Law says it "believes that the law is society's most powerful tool in protecting B.C.'s environment. Most importantly, the law is a tool that can be used by anyone, anywhere to protect his or her community and to become a champion for the environment."

For 20 years, WCEL's Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund has allowed individuals and community groups to hire lawyers and experts to help them protect the environment in negotiations, mediation, in court or before government tribunals. The fund is currently dispersing \$200,000 a year.



J.P. SQUIRE/The Daily Courier

Leanne Appleton, clinical operations director of the province's hospital on wheels, explains the functions of the hospital unit, a 26-metre-long highway trailer with two 10-metre slide-outs that provide 1,100-square-feet of medical treatment space.

## Mobile hospital making the rounds

By J.P. SQUIRE  
The Daily Courier

Kelowna got its first glimpse of a new temporary hospital on Monday, one that it shares with the rest of the province and is one of only two in North America.

The mobile medical unit or MMU is a \$5-million legacy from the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. More than 100 specially trained staff from around the province provided 24/7 medical care in the Whistler athletes village to rave reviews by the International Olympic Committee, said Leanne Appleton, clinical operations director.

"It's a really important asset to British Columbians in case the six health authorities lose capacity (for medical treatment) whether there's fires, floods or power outages," said Appleton.

"We have a skilled team that is able to deploy it basically within eight to 24 hours, depending on the distance that we have to travel within B.C."

It is on call 24/7, available immediately to provide medical services in an emergency or after a disaster. It can temporarily replace

an emergency room if a B.C. hospital's department is damaged, closed or evacuated.

The provincial health services authority is also exploring the possibility of providing mobile medical training through medical schools like UBC and its Kelowna campus, and to provide medical support at major sporting, cultural, political or other events, like the Abbotsford Air Show in August.

The mobile hospital is currently touring interior hospitals in Kamloops, Kelowna and Penticton, spreading the word about its availability, and giving physicians and nurses tours.

"We've had very, very positive feedback from the clinicians in particular," said Appleton.

The MMU has six staff, four team members responsible for its operation and two professional drivers. It relies on local doctors and nurses to provide the care, although discussions are underway to establish a special team that would accompany the MMU to a remote or rural area that doesn't have a large pool of doctors and nurses to draw from.

The 1,100-square-foot MMU is state-of-the-art and self-contained with its own power, oxygen, water

and waste systems, heating and air conditioning.

Two highway tractors each have 100 kilowatt diesel generators, enough to power a small town or provide light and heat to a 100-bed tent (from a third trailer) if there are multiple casualties. The tractors also have sleeping units for the six staff.

A pickup that accompanies the other three units hauls an oxygen concentrator that can fill tanks or supply a hospital. The four units can be driven anywhere an 18-wheeler can go, plus they can be transported by BC Ferries, on a barge or in a C5 Galaxy cargo plane.

The 19-metre-long hospital trailer — with its two slide-outs — has 10 treatment beds for minor injuries and an operating room, plus an ultrasound, X-ray machine, ventilators, high-acuity monitors and emergency resuscitators.

X-ray images can be downloaded into a digital processing unit and specialists at a primary care hospital hundreds of kilometres away can provide an assessment through a satellite uplink.

A supply trailer — a NASCAR race trailer — holds all of the wheeled equipment. The supply trailer has two decks with wheel-

chairs, stretchers and other equipment on the upper level, enough medical supplies for the first 72 hours of deployment, a kitchen, toilet, shower and a "man cave" where manager of deployment and logistics Robin Gardner have enough tools to fix almost anything.

Also on the MMU team, Maj. Peter Hennecke, the clinical operations and training consultant, is still attached to the Canadian Forces Trauma Training Centre. He developed and implemented the trauma training program for the Olympic medical team.

Trauma surgeon Dr. Ross Brown, regional medical director for Vancouver Coastal Health, managed the Whistler clinic during the Olympics and is now the MMU's medical lead consultant.

Appleton was previously operations director at Vancouver General, responsible for managing operating rooms and post-anesthetic recovery. She was involved from the MMU's construction in Chicago to Whistler to its new role.

The only other MMU is located in the Carolinas in the U.S. The six health authorities in B.C. share the \$850,000 annual cost of running the MMU.

## Rental car GPS leads police to drug stash

By Daily Courier Staff

A man caught with a large collection of illegal drugs should have returned his rented car on time.

An officer arrested the 27-year-old more than a week after he was supposed to bring back the 2011 Cadillac. Police knew where the car was because its OnStar navigation system pointed

them to a spot near 35th Street and Centennial Drive in Vernon.

A dog was sitting in the Cadillac when the officer found it. As he waited for the manager of the rental company, the suspect walked up to the car.

In his satchel, he carried over 70 grams of crack cocaine, some powder cocaine, heroin, and 11 Oxycodone pills — opioids used to re-

lieve pain. He also had a large knife, four cell-phones, cash and the car keys.

The Salmon Arm man had rented the luxury car in his own name and was supposed to return it to Budget-Rent-a-Car in Vernon on Oct. 4.

When he failed to return it, the manager called RCMP last Thursday.

The suspect faces a judge this Thursday.