

A WAYWARD brown pelican, discovered more than 1,000 kilometres from home, is recovering from frostbite and hypothermia at a wildlife rehabilitation facility in Burnaby.

SOURCE: cbc.ca/bc



BROWN PELICANS normally winter between California and Colombia, but staff believe this bird was blown to White Rock by last week's winter storm.

SOURCE: cbc.ca/bc



Premier positive on treaties

Details of two new arrangements set to be unveiled

B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell says he doesn't think the removal of farmland from the agricultural land reserve is an obstacle to a treaty with the Tsawwassen First Nation.

"I think it's pretty clear that

we've used an awful lot of land for economic development purposes," Campbell said yesterday. "The Tsawwassen are saying they'd like to have some, too, please. I think that makes sense."

The wraps are being taken off two new B.C. treaty agreements this week, bringing to three the number of deals with the B.C. and feder-

al governments.

A treaty involving the Maa-nulth, five First Nations from the Port Alberni area on the west coast of Vancouver Island, will be signed tomorrow in Victoria.

"If you look at the potential for three initial treaties — one in the north, one on the coast of Vancouver Island and one in the urban centre in British

first of its kind

► The Tsawwassen deal, which is being signed today on the reserve south of Vancouver, is considered a breakthrough treaty because it is the first in a metropolitan area.

Columbia — that all shows a broad foundation of progress that we can build on, that we

can make I think future commitments on," Campbell said.

"Which will be positive for British Columbia, positive for the country, and again, positive for First Nations as we close the gaps for health, for education and for economic development."

Campbell said he expects it will take about a year to ratify the agreements. CANADIAN PRESS

Missing snowboarder turns up safe and sound

Massive search at Grouse Mountain proves unnecessary



JEFF HODSON
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A missing Grouse Mountain snowboarder was found alive and well yesterday morning — at work.

More than 30 search-and-rescue volunteers scoured the area around Lynn Headwaters early yesterday after staff of the ski hill reported an "overdue" vehicle in their parking lot.

The vehicle had its steering wheel lock in place. When North Vancouver RCMP opened the car, they found the man's street shoes and snowboard bag.

"They were ominous signs," said Tim Jones, search manager for North Shore Rescue (NSR). "He had not called his girlfriend, his cell-phone was not functioning."

A full-scale air-and-ground search was instigated, Jones said.

An RCMP helicopter and a

private helicopter were called in, while more than 30 volunteers from NSR and the Greater Vancouver Regional District, as well as Coquitlam and Lions Bay Search and Rescue, scoured the mountain for the missing snowboarder.

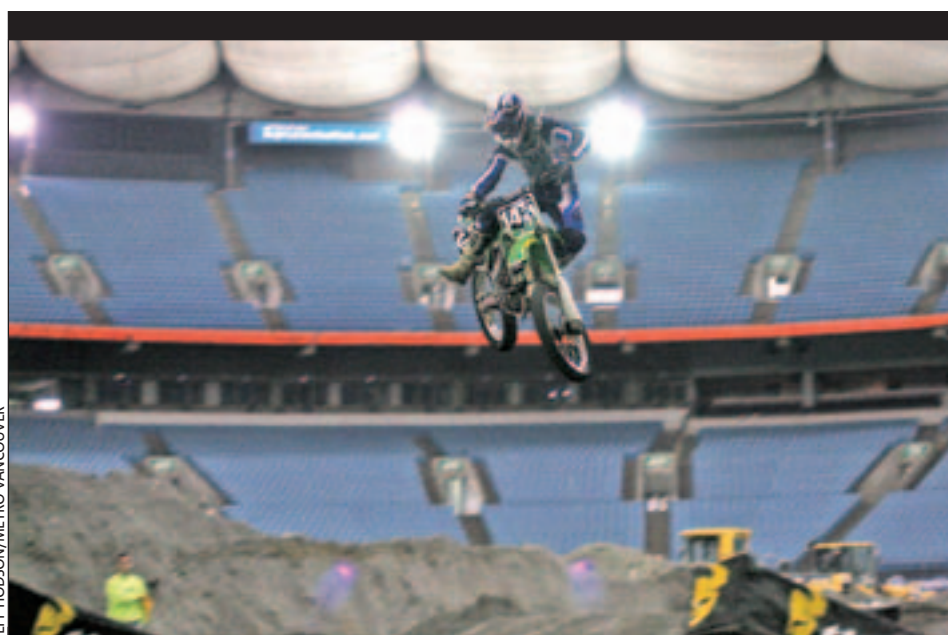
The hunt ended around 8 a.m., when the missing 27-year-old called his girlfriend to tell her he was at work. He'd lost his keys and decided to leave the car at the ski hill.

The man told searchers that he had informed a Grouse Mountain employee when he left the hill. However, none of the employees had any record of it. He also told searchers that he didn't call his girlfriend or roommate because his phone was dead and he couldn't remember the numbers.

However, Jones said, the 8 a.m. call to his girlfriend was made on his cellphone.

He said people should think about the consequences of their actions.

"People need to leave a note in their car or phone someone," Jones said. "We cannot not respond."



LET 'ER RIP Brock Hoyer, 19, of Williams Lake flies off a dirt ramp in B.C. Place yesterday. The Amp'd Mobile World Supercross GP hits the stadium Saturday. Ricky Carmichael, hailed as the greatest motocross racer of all time, will be among those racing. It is his last season.

Bike racks found to block trolley lights

By SARAH RIPPLINGER
for Metro Vancouver

Cyclists can't use bike racks at night on 151 new TransLink trolleys and buses for now, spokesperson Drew Snider said.

"When the bike rack is deployed and a bike is put on it a transit supervisor noticed that it may obscure the

headlights, which would make it illegal to drive the buses after dark."

Snider added that he has not received any complaints from commuters since the problem was discovered a couple of weeks ago.

Ten per cent of the 1,500 TransLink vehicles are affected.

The design of the new 16

trolleys in Vancouver, 64 diesel buses in Burnaby, and 71 compressed natural gas buses in Port Coquitlam is such that placing bikes on the front racks obscures the headlights.

The vehicles, built by New Flyer in Winnipeg, are under review by the provincial regulator. New Flyer is expected to pay for any repairs.

Local filmmaker holds flashy premiere

Despite the clouds, Vancouver residents saw some stars last night as local filmmaker Silvio Pollio held a Hollywood-style premiere at the Rio Theatre on Broadway Avenue for his film *Shut Up And Shoot*.

Among the stars at the Vancouver debut were Debra Wilson of *Mad TV* fame and *Deal Or No Deal* model Kimberly Estrada.

The action comedy satire, which stars Pollio as a naive and murderous movie star, was filmed in Los Angeles and Vancouver.

The film follows a naïve movie star on a murderous rampage through Hollywood,



Stars of the action comedy satire *Shut Up And Shoot* attend the Vancouver premiere of the film at the Rio Theatre last night.

launched at the behest of a sleazy producer.

Tom Sizemore, Daniel Baldwin, Gary Busey and Joe Cortese round out the cast,

which also featured local radio personalities Danger from CFOX, Barbara Beam from *The Beat 94.5* and Kuljeet Kaila from *Z95.3*. METRO VANCOUVER

West Van police told not to ticket Canucks players: Report

The latest allegation against the embattled West Vancouver Police Department involves the Vancouver Canucks.

Officers were told not to issue traffic tickets to the hockey players, according to a Global TV report last night.

When one of the police officers did issue a ticket to a Canucks player he was told to retract it. Allegedly, when he refused, the officer was harassed to the point where he decided to leave the force.

On Monday, police chief Scott Armstrong was fired.

The following day it was announced that a constable was suspended without pay over an allegation of misappropriating funds intended for victims of crime and some other officers are being investigated for using a city towing company for personal benefit.

An internal investigation was also launched after officers were accused of discharging confiscated fireworks on Halloween.

METRO VANCOUVER

Victim's wife to make plea for help

ASSAULT The wife of a man who was brutally assaulted at a Burnaby credit union will make a plea today for the public's assistance in tracking down his assailants.

At 3 a.m. on Nov. 20, Anthony Andreola, 48, stopped on his way to work at the Van City Credit Union, located in the 1900 Block of Ross-er Avenue in Burnaby.

There, two men attacked him, viciously and randomly. The father of two lay on the ground for more than three hours bleeding.

The attack left Andreola with possibly permanent brain damage and facing a long road to recovery.

METRO VANCOUVER

NEWS IN BRIEF

- **AUDIT** NDP Leader Carole James called on the Medical Services Commission (MSC) yesterday for an audit into additional for-profit health-care centres in B.C. The MSC can investigate under the newly enacted sections of Bill 92, the Medicare Protection Amendment Act.
- **INQUEST** A Coroner's Inquest has been called into the death of Kevin St. Arnaud, the B.C. Coroners Service announced yesterday. The Vanderhoof man died in December 2004 as a result of a police shooting.
- **AGRICULTURE** A grapevine disease that is killing European vineyards has been discovered in Osoyoos, B.C., confirmed the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, CBC News reports. It is the first time the disease, named bois noir, has been detected in Canada.
- **PAROLE** A former RCMP officer convicted of killing a prisoner in Southern Alberta has been granted full parole in B.C. after serving less than four months in prison, CBC News reports. Michael Ferguson, a 19-year RCMP veteran, was convicted of manslaughter in 2004. He was serving a four-year sentence at a minimum-security facility near Victoria.
- **TRANSIT** TransLink is increasing the frequency of its East-West routes, the authority announced yesterday. Beginning Dec. 18 an additional #41 Joyce Station/UBC bus will operate during the peak morning period. In addition, the #84 VCC-Clark Station/UBC and the #49 Metrotown Station/UBC routes will increase frequency during peak periods.
- **BUSES** Three bus lines in Vancouver and Richmond have been diverted for Canada Line construction. Beginning Dec. 18, the #17 UBC/Oak will no longer travel on Broadway Avenue between Oak and Cambie streets. Two Richmond routes, the #488 and #492, are also affected. The changes will be posted on each bus and will last approximately two years.
- **SAFETY** The Vancouver chapter of the Guardian Angels has begun patrolling the streets after three months of training, *cknw.com* reports. Members, who want to help maintain order, are identifiable by their red berets.

METRO VANCOUVER NEWS SERVICES

A REEL FIRE turned real at a Maple Ridge movie set. Crews returning from a break at about 11 p.m. on Wednesday night said they were confused because they had been working with fake fires all day. SOURCE: news1130.com



LOCAL BUSINESS people are urging the city to add 50 new hybrid cabs to city streets. They want to use wrap advertising to offset the higher price of the hybrids, left. Metro Vancouver

PEOPLE IN UNIFORMS claiming to be from B.C. Animal Rescue Control have been going door-to-door trying to steal dogs from their owners in Surrey and Mission. The B.C. SPCA is warning there is no such organization. SOURCE: news1130.com

Afghan minister in town

Says Canadian troops are needed to create stability



Afghanistan's development minister has a message for Canadians worried about where their aid money is going as they watch the slow pace of reconstruction: "Our journey is long and the road is bumpy, so we request them to be patient," said Rural Rehabilitation and Development Minister Mohammad Ehsan Zia, who visited Vancouver yesterday. He emphasized the need for international troops to



Afghanistan's Development Minister Mohammad Ehsan Zia in downtown Vancouver yesterday. He was visiting Canada to talk about reconstruction efforts in his country.

create the stability necessary for development. "We do not feel proud of the presence of Canadian soldiers on our soil for security," he said. "As a nation, we want to take charge of our own affairs, but we need help at this time." He said his ministry is working directly with local communities on reconstruction projects like building schools and roads, and financing small businesses. "This has been possible because of Canadian assistance being channeled through the government of Afghanistan, and people see their government making progress," said Zia. Zia said he sympathized with Canadians who are trying to grasp the situation on the ground with limited information. He pointed out that his country was destroyed over two decades of war and said the foundations for development are only now being laid. But there is progress, he insisted, even in volatile Kandahar province where Canadian soldiers are fighting and dying.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- **SYMBOLS** Surrey city council is considering chopping the beaver out of the city's logo, *news1130.com* reports. Council discussed going with a flashier symbol, but members of the public showed up to defend the industrious rodent.
- **WARNING** Coquitlam RCMP are warning parents to be on the lookout after two men approached children outside two elementary schools, *cknw.com* reports. One man asked the children if they had seen his dog, "Buster."
- **BLASTING** Construction crews working on the Canada Line are blasting to remove rock below Granville Street, *cknw.com* reports.

METRO VANCOUVER NEWS SERVICES

Businesses lack China strategy: Report

Only 17 per cent have plans in place, local think-tank says

By JARED FERRIE
Metro Vancouver

Canada's government and business sector are failing to tap into China's rising economy, according to a Vancouver-based think-tank. Only 17 per cent of Canadian businesses have a China strategy, the Asia Pacific

Foundation reported yesterday. Meanwhile, the Tory government is sending mixed messages to Chinese firms wanting to invest in Canada. "The current government has not got a clear overall China strategy in terms of trade and human rights — how to balance the two," said Foundation spokesman Kenny Zhang. The federal government is pushing its Pacific Gateway Strategy, aimed at increasing trade with China. At the same

time the Conservatives have been vocal about human rights concerns, and are considering restricting investment by Chinese state-owned firms in Canada. Zhang said very few companies are involved in human rights violations like forced labour. But he admitted that it's hard to identify which companies are engaging in such activities. Of the state-owned firms surveyed, 46 per cent expressed interest in investing in Canada.

Black bears a troubling presence in North Shore

By SARAH RIPPLINGER
for Metro Vancouver

Five black bears have been destroyed and another 13 relocated this year after residents in the North Shore. All the bears that were destroyed were "deemed to pose a moderate to high risk to public safety," according to conservation manager Lance Sundquist. North Shore Black Bear Network spokesman, Tony Webb, said that people who leave their garbage outdoors are deciding "the fate of the bears in the area." He added that warmer temperatures have also kept the bears from going into hibernation. Norman Haug, 60, said he's noticed more bears around his residence on Skyline Drive in the last two years. "I had a mother and two cubs walk through my yard



about a week ago and the week before that a big male was wondering down our street," Haug said. Smells from fruit trees, open garbage cans, barbecues and birdseed could be to blame for the frequent sightings. "At least once a month I see them (bears) around," Haug said. Kim, 44, who asked that her last name not be used, also lives at the foot of Grouse Mountain. She reinforced that it's people, not the bears, who are to blame. "We're inhabiting their territory and when people start putting their garbage out the night before for garbage pickup," Kim said, more bears come into the area looking for food. "The bears are being punished for trying to adapt," Kim said, adding, "I think that that's really unfortunate."



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