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FOOD & DRINK

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TUESDAY

NEWS IN BRIEF

LOCAL

RNC searching for missing boy

St. John's—The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary is asking for the public's assistance in locating a 13-year-old Mount Pearl boy who has been missing since Saturday.



Justin Joseph Wiseman is 5-foot-4 in height and weighs 115 pounds. He has hazel eyes and short brown hair.

When last seen, Justin was wearing a beige dress-style shirt with black squares on it, baggy black jeans, white high-top sneakers and a black baseball cap.

Anyone with any information on Justin's whereabouts is asked to contact the RNC at 729-8000.

NATIONAL

Charest promotes methane alternative

Quebec—Despite concerns by environmental groups, Premier Jean Charest said setting up methane terminals in Quebec presents a good opportunity for the province.

"There's a good potential for economic development," Charest told a utility business lunch Monday.

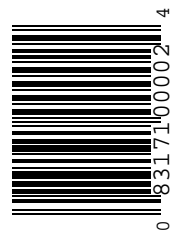
Methane terminals allow Quebec to "diversify the energy menu" and offer an alternative source of supply of natural gas for Quebec and eastern Ontario.

Two projects are already on the table and both have raised the concerns of local residents.

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No Supplements

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CRAB DISPUTE

Government shut down

Fisheries minister stays firm on raw materials sharing

BY TERRY ROBERTS
The Telegram

Thousands of provincial government workers were told to stay home, a government building was illegally occupied and police in riot gear were on standby Monday as unrest continued over a plan to restructure the troubled crab fishery.

It was a day that also saw a session of the legislature cancelled as protesters used vehicles and crab pots to block access to Confederation Building.

"(Premier) Danny Williams kept us out of Confederation Building (by closing the public gallery). It's our turn to keep him out today," Jim Chidley, a fisherman from Renew, said Monday morning.

The day of protest culminated with a massive anti-government rally that drew an estimated 3,000 angry harvesters and their supporters. Hundreds of them later occupied the Petten Building, headquarters for the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, a sit-in that ended only after a court injunction.

The injunction — the fourth in recent days against the Fish, Food and Allied Workers' union (FFAW) — was approved by the Newfoundland Supreme Court at about 7:30 p.m. and ordered protesters not to obstruct the entrances to the Confederation Complex and the Petten Building.

It was the latest high-profile pressure tactic spearheaded by the union following weeks of protests that included blockades of Placentia Bay and St. John's harbour, and ongoing disruptions of proceedings at the House of Assembly.

"We don't get enough weeks now (to qualify for employment insurance benefits). Under this plan, we definitely won't get enough," said plantworker Jessie Squires of Old Perlican.

See INJUNCTION, page A2



Crab fisherman Gene Pittman of Placentia waves the pink, white and green flag at protest rally at Confederation Building in St. John's Monday.

JOE GIBBONS/THE TELEGRAM

HEALTH

Nurse practitioners underutilized

BY DEANA STOKES SULLIVAN
The Telegram

When 16 nurses successfully completed a nurse practitioners' program in St. John's in December 2004, their graduation ceremonies were overshadowed by the disappointing news that only four had landed jobs.

Madge Applin, a nurse practitioner herself and manager of legislation and regulation for the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative (CNPI), said Monday, the situation remains rather grim because six of last year's graduates from the Health Care Corp.

of St. John's, Centre for Nursing Studies are still seeking work.

"There are only three employed in full-time permanent positions," Applin said.

She said some of the graduates are working in temporary nurse practitioner positions.

The fact that there are six nurse practitioners in this province, with advanced skills and training, who are unemployed is certainly "not a wise use of a valuable resource," Applin said, especially in light of a Decima public opinion poll last year that indicated some five million Canadians

over age 18 were not able to find a family physician.

"Nurse practitioners are well prepared, well educated, well trained and could be part of the solution to providing good access to quality primary health-care services as part of a primary health-care team," Applin said.

The CNPI is an \$8.9-million project, funded by Health Canada under the Primary Health Care Transition Fund, established to reduce waiting times and improve access to health care.

See MEDICAL, page A2

• SPECIAL REPORT •

A tale of two species

Mediterranean monk seals may be critically endangered, but they don't get the same spotlight as Canadian harp seals

BY ROB ANTLE
The Telegram—Hyannis, Mass.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has spent, on average, less than \$25,000 US a year over the past decade and a half on efforts to save critically endangered Mediterranean monk seals.

There are believed to be fewer than 500 Mediterranean monk seals left in existence.

By contrast, IFAW has run a high-profile annual campaign against the Canadian harp seal hunt for the past 35 years. IFAW claims the hunt is inhumane, and threatens the survival of the species.



A.J. Cady

lobbies politicians, especially in Europe, as part of a worldwide PR blitz against the hunt.

The harp seal population is estimated at five million.

IFAW officials deflected questions

about the financial aspects of the fund's harp seal campaign.

But A.J. Cady — IFAW's acting seal campaign manager, and the fund's director of online campaigns and marketing — defended the group's involvement with monk seal conservation.

"Historically, IFAW has done a tremendous amount of work on that issue," Cady said in an interview in Hyannis, Mass. "There's a sailboat over there that was purchased by us. There's a patrol boat that was purchased by us."



The 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies the Mediterranean monk seal as "critically endangered."

IUCN — the World Conservation Union — is an organization whose members include 77 states, 114 government agencies, and more than 800 non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

IFAW communications manager Chris Cutter said the fund constantly has to make "strategic" choices on where to focus its efforts.

See 'IFAW', page A4

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Then and Now



COURTESY OF CITY OF ST. JOHN'S ARCHIVES

Photograph at left is of New Gower Street at Buchanan Street in the early 1960s. Photo on right is the area today. The older photo shows the Dominion Market and Abbas Barber Shop. Copies of Then photos can be purchased from the City of St. John's Archives (telephone 576-8167). Photo



TEXT BY JEAN EDWARDS STACEY/PHOTO BY GARY HEBBARD/THE TELEGRAM

shown is number 11.01.212. Copies of Now photos can be purchased from the Telegram (telephone 364-2323, extension 309).

jes@thetelegram.com

LOCAL BRIEFS

STEPHENVILLE

Man drowns in weekend boating accident

A 35-year-old Stephenville man is dead as the result of a drowning in the area of Port au Port West during the weekend.

A 25-year-old resident of Port au Port, who was in a boat with the victim when it overturned, managed to make it safely to shore.

Police said the two men were aboard a small, non-powered row boat on Saturday evening about 80 metres offshore when the boat overturned and both ended up in the frigid water.

There were no flotation devices available in or on the craft, police said.

However, when the younger man made it to shore, he called for help.

The RCMP, along with search and rescue personnel and local residents, mounted an unsuccessful search for the second man.

The search was called off shortly after midnight as it was difficult for the vessels to safely navigate the area.

On Sunday, search and rescue personnel and local fishermen, along with aircraft, searched the water and shoreline throughout the day with no success.

At about 8 a.m. Monday, the body of a man was found by a local resident on the shoreline about one kilometre from where the boat had overturned.

The identity of the body has been confirmed as the missing man and his remains were transported to hospital where an autopsy will be performed by the medical examiner's office.

Police said the identity of the deceased is being withheld at the request of the family.

HAPPY VALLEY-GOOSE BAY

Man charged with impaired driving

A 19-year-old man from Nain is facing charges of impaired driving following an incident in Happy Valley-Goose Bay Saturday.

Goose Bay RCMP received a complaint of a stolen vehicle from a local resident.

Police located the car, and found the driver intoxicated.

The car was returned to its owner.

The teenager will appear in court June 15 to answer to the charges.

Incident results in sex charges

A 33-year-old man has been charged with sexual assault, assault and breach of probation after an incident in Happy Valley-Goose Bay Saturday.

Early in the morning, RCMP received a complaint of sexual assault, and an investigation into the incident resulted in the man's arrest. The man was scheduled to make an appearance in court Monday.

IFAW ponders increasing monk seal efforts

Continued from page A1

"We can get picked apart on whatever, but we have to make strategic decisions based on the entire world, as well — do we take money out of (conservation work) for elephants and focus on big cats? Should we put money in bush meat? Do we have money for seal stuff? So we have to look at the entire portfolio of things we think we can affect, as well, and where we think we have a chance to kind of really make changes."

And monk seals may not be one of those areas?

"It is, but the size and scope of the Canadian hunt is the reason that we pay attention to it," Cutter said. "It's not that one's important and one's not."

IFAW officials later appeared to take exception to the line of questioning, writing in an e-mail: "You asked why we don't do more on monk seals. The question is, as I understand it, a criticism of IFAW as a hypocritical organization. Doing a lot on harp seals in Canada (which are not endangered) but not much on monk seals which are highly endangered."

In response to those questions, IFAW provided an internal document on the species, and the fund's involvement in helping save it.

The document outlined a number of investments IFAW has made in monk seal conservation over the years.

Those include:

- \$50,000 US for telemetric research by Dr. Peter Reijnders in Greece in 1988.
- \$135,000 US in funding for MOM — the lead Greek monk seal conservation group — for boats, vehicles and operational costs in 1990 and 1992.
- \$10,000 US for MOM operational costs in 1997.
- \$30,000 US for MOM in 2000; another \$45,000 US in 2002; \$60,000 US in 2003; and \$50,000 US in 2004.

The fund's total expenditures on monk seal conservation over the past 16 years: \$380,000 US.



COURTESY OF PAUL MASSICOT — WWW.ANIMALINFO.ORG

The Mediterranean monk seal (pictured) is listed as "critically endangered" on the 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. There are believed to be fewer than 500 Mediterranean monk seals left in existence.

IFAW's annual worldwide revenues in 2004 were \$77.6 million US, according to the fund's annual report.

IFAW — through its affiliate, the Guelph, Ont.-based International Marine Mammal Association — helped provide funding that allowed the launch of the Monachus Guardian, a publication dedicated to monk seal conservation.

But in the wake of a downturn in donations following 9/11, IFAW axed its financial support for the journal as a cost-cutting measure.

It did not subsequently reinstate funding.

William Johnson, editor of the Monachus Guardian, said via e-mail that monk seals are "seriously threatened by many of the forces confronting the sea as a whole, including overfishing, mass tourism, unplanned coastal development, pollution."

He said grassroots groups are

working in a number of Mediterranean countries on conservation programs for the species and its habitat.

That work, he said, includes the establishment, design and management of marine protected areas.

"The Monachus Guardian continues to provide a voice for these projects on the international front, and we also work on joint fundraising initiatives," Johnson said via e-mail.

"At the present time, however, it has to be said that monk seal conservation in most key countries — Turkey and Greece, especially — is facing a serious shortfall in funding."

MOM — the acronym stands for the Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal — is one of those grassroots groups.

IFAW has supported the Greek organization at "several times at key



THE SEAL WARS

CHARITY

Easter Seals relay ready to roll

This year's Easter Seals 24 Hour Relay is set to be a "colourful and zany" event while raising money for children with physical disabilities, organizers say.

The relay will take place at the Torbay Recreation Centre June 25 and 26.

The Easter Seal Society officially launched the relay, now in its second year, from the steps of St. John's City Hall Monday morning.

Teams of 12 to 24 people will gather at the centre, with one person from each team competing on the track at any given time, for a full 24 hours.

Teams pay a \$1,200 registration fee, which can be acquired through a sponsor or by fundraising.

"You can fundraise yourself, whether it's doing pool tournaments or keg parties or walkathons — whatever you want to do and however you want to do it," Stephanie O'Brien, relay co-ordinator said.

Choose a team theme

Teams also choose a theme for their camp.

"If you're sponsored by a restaurant you can go in under that, or you can do what my family's doing — we're having a Christmas theme and bringing down a Christmas tree and dressing up as Mr. and Mrs. Claus," O'Brien said with a laugh.

"The Easter Seals parents — they call themselves the Seals team — last year they went down in garbage bags with flippers on their hands and went 'arf, arf, arf' all night."

Off-track attractions

Throughout the 24 hours, there will be contests and other attractions going on along the sidelines, including an open mike event sponsored by O'Reilly's pub, and a cab pull, sponsored by Newfound Cabs.

O'Brien said other attractions will include sumo suits, a Tarzan call contest and a king and queen of the relay contest.

Labatt's will be providing beer, McDonald's will be serving breakfast, and Mr. Sub will be in charge of lunch for the teams.

O'Brien said she expects the relay to be even more successful this year than it was last year.

"I believe we had 10 teams last year, and this year we're looking at about 50," she said.

Labatt and Money Mart are the event's national sponsors, while local sponsors are The Telegram, Steele Communications and North Atlantic Refining.

Anyone wishing to enter a team in the relay can do so by calling O'Brien at 754-1399.

ENVIRONMENT

Watershed policy defended

BY CORY HURLEY

Transcontinental Media—Corner Brook

Corner Brook city councillor Alton Whelan is playing politics with the issue of activity in the city's watershed area, says fellow Coun. Neville Greeley.

And allowing Thomas Resources to continue exploring a site within the watershed to assess the potential of developing a garnet and kyanite quarry there will keep the city out of court, Greeley said Monday in response to a request by Whelan for a plebiscite to gauge public opinion on activity in the watershed area.

Greeley said council is protecting the city's water supply and calls it unfortunate when other councillors play politics with an issue such as this.

"There's nothing you can do about politics, but people will use whatever item or whatever issue that they feel is politically expedient at times, and that's not right," Greeley said. "In this particular situation, it is unfortunately to the detriment of the citizens."

"It seems that it has become more of a got-to-win-at-all-costs approach as opposed to letting the process unfold and making an informed decision once we have all the facts."

In 2002, Thomas Resources was approved in principle to assess mineral resources within the watershed area. Approval for the extraction of a four-tonne sample was given at Wednesday's council meeting.

After the meeting, Whelan made a notice of a motion to have the question placed on the ballot during September's municipal election — his second attempt to have a plebiscite.

Greeley doesn't think a plebiscite is necessary.

"As a council, we have spent countless hours and days on this particular proposal. I believe the citizens of Corner Brook have elected their representatives and trust they will make the best decision for the citizens," he said.

Greeley said stopping the process could be detrimental to the city.

"Under our own legislation, which permitted that type of an activity, we agreed in principle to a process," Greeley said. "If they met the regulations and requirements of all the regulatory bodies — health, environment, wildlife, forestry, mines and energy, government services and lands — we wouldn't turn them down on a whim."

Council has the right to end to the process after any stage if it proves detrimental to the water supply.

"We have advice from our own solicitor, advising us to not interfere with the process," Greeley said.

"If we interfere with the process that we've committed to, in essence what we are doing is breaching a contract. ... Keeping on pushing this issue would leave Corner Brook and the citizens of Corner Brook open and on the hook for any damages that would be awarded by the courts in a civil suit."

The Western Star