



SPORTS - WHITECAPS WIN CANADIAN TITLE - B1

## CHAMPS

MULCAIR BRINGING HIS CAMPAIGN TO THE OKANAGAN

CITY A3

27 C

Thursday, August 27, 2015

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GARY NYLANDER/The Daily Courier

The Tam family from Vancouver, from left, Yishu, Jason, Chamael, 4, and Haniel, 2, play in the sand at Hot Sands Beach in City Park on Wednesday morning. Environment Canada has issued an air quality statement for today and Thursday because of the smoke.

## New school superintendent still being paid by old district

Kevin Kaardal, who will take over at the Central Okanagan school district in January, left his Burnaby job by mutual agreement

By RON SEYMOUR  
The Daily Courier

The new superintendent of Central Okanagan schools could still draw a partial salary from his former employers when he takes up his new job in Kelowna next year.

Kevin Kaardal has a severance agreement with the Burnaby School District that stipulates he is to be paid his full salary and benefits until January 2017, unless he gets a job with another public organization in B.C.

Kaardal will become superintendent of Central Okanagan schools in 2016, taking over from Hugh Gloster, who is retiring at the end of December.

Longtime Kelowna school trustee and former board chairman Rolli Cacchioni said Wednesday he couldn't reveal Kaardal's salary, citing employee confidentiality provisions. "So I can't tell you whether that top-up provision from Burnaby's end will apply or not," Cacchioni said.

But Cacchioni stressed Kaardal was hired after what he described as an "extremely thorough, extremely professional" recruitment process.

Many applications were submitted for the position, Cacchioni said, and school board officials interviewed the five top candidates, including Kaardal, in June.

Also involved in the interview process were representatives from the Central Okanagan Teachers Association, the professional group representing principals, and other so-called employee "partner groups" within School District 23.

Throughout the interview process, local education officials were aware that Kaardal had left his position suddenly as superintendent with the Burnaby school district in late January after just two years on the job, Cacchioni said.

"I wouldn't say it was a mysterious departure," Cacchioni said. "In my experience, these kinds of things are not all that uncommon at the managerial level."

The board's decision to hire Kaardal was unanimous, Cacchioni said. "We are confident he is the person to lead the school district going forward."

Burnaby board chairman Ron Burton told the

Continued on page A4

## Smoke driving out tourists

By ANDREA PEACOCK  
The Daily Courier

Heavy smoke sweeping in from the Washington fires is causing some tourists to blow off their Okanagan vacations, say local business people.

"Business has slowed down quite a bit because of the air quality and the smoke has cooled down the lake quite a bit," said Rylie Gallagher, owner of Kelowna Wibit Water Park.

He said business has decreased by a third to a half in the last few days.

"This was expected to be one of our last strong weeks," he said.

"We're going to take a bit of a hit with the smoke."

Gallagher said he hopes Labour Day weekend will bring an influx of customers. Nancy Cameron, Tourism Kelowna

CEO, said local hotels have taken a hit as well.

"I have received some feedback from some businesses that have had some cancellations," said Cameron, adding she did not know the extent of the cancellations. "Generally, it's people who have a concern about the air quality."

The Delta Grand in Kelowna is one of the hotels that has seen the effects of the smoke on visitors.

"We have had a few people cancelling and a few shortening their stays a bit," said Daniel Gibby, general manager of the Delta.

The Delta's current occupancy rate is 85 per cent, down from 96 per cent. Gibby expects this rate to climb again for the long weekend.

"Typically cancellations are from people reading the news about the fires, but

for the most part it's been pretty good," said Gibby.

Todd's RV and Camping in Peachland receives calls daily asking how long the smoke will last, but it has not resulted in cancellations, said manager Barb Fritsch.

"Some people coming from Alberta are saying it's not as bad here as it is there."

Fritsch said their occupancy rate is currently at 85 per cent.

"We're doing good," she said.

The concentration of fine particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometres, a standard measurement of air quality, was 50 micrograms per cubic metre at 1 p.m. Wednesday, compared to 40 micrograms per cubic metre at noon on Tuesday.

On Wednesday morning, the concentration was higher at 117 micrograms.

Continued on page A4

## Men chase down jewelry robber

By RON SEYMOUR  
The Daily Courier

The armed robbery of a downtown Kelowna jewelry store was thwarted when brave passers-by tackled one of the fleeing thieves.

Three men, including Gavin Hamilton of the Kelowna Rockets, chased down the suspect seconds after he'd robbed the Turtle Island Gallery in Cannery Lane next to Prospera Place.

Hamilton was getting out of his car in the arena parking lot just after 5 p.m. when he heard a woman from the store yelling that she'd been robbed.

"I just looked up and there was a guy running between a couple cars. So then I started chasing after him, along with a couple other guys, and we were yelling at him to drop his backpack," Hamilton, the Rockets' vice-president of business development said this morning in an interview in his office.

Hamilton and the other two men held the suspect, who was struggling to get free. "Somebody behind us said, 'You might as well let him go, so nobody gets hurt,'" Hamilton said.

The three men released the suspect, who then ran off. Inside the backpack, Hamilton found the items stolen from the



GARY NYLANDER/The Daily Courier

The Turtle Island Gallery in Cannery Lane was closed Wednesday after a robbery on Tuesday. Three passers-by briefly tackled one of the robbers.

store, along with weapons that included knives.

The dramatic incident was witnessed by many people in the parking lot, many of whom were parents of hockey players attending the Rockets' rookie camp.

"It would have been nice to hold him down until the police got there, but by the same token you never know what they might have in the backpack, which was some weapons," Hamilton said. "You think about it afterwards, if he'd got one

of them out, it could have been a different story."

"We probably wouldn't have been able to hold it down much longer anyway, because he was a pretty good-sized guy and he was struggling, pretty aggressive the whole time," Hamilton said.

Police say two men had entered Cannery Lane, brandished a weapon, and shouted: "We are taking all your gold."

One of the men took the store employee to the back of the shop, while the other loaded up the backpack with merchandise. The two men then fled out the door, one running off to a nearby parked car and the other being chased across the parking lot by Hamilton and the other two men, whom Hamilton didn't know.

Hamilton said he reacted instinctively when he ran after the man. "You just react when you hear somebody screaming, and you see you have a chance to catch a guy . . . people do what they do."

The jewelry store was closed Wednesday.

Police say the one of the suspects, held by Hamilton and the others, was about 40 years old, with a large build, and a dark complexion. He was wearing a bright orange safety vest.

The other suspect is about 45 years old with a thin build and scruffy face.

### INDEX

Bliss	B5-6
Canada	A6
Classified	B5-7
Comics	B8
Life & Arts	B4
Obituaries	B5
Opinion	A10
Sports	B1-3
Weather	A2
World	A7.12

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### Wise words

I base most of my fashion taste on what doesn't itch.

— Gilda Radner



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