



LIFE & ARTS - GARRY MARSHALL REMEMBERED - PAGE B4

FUNNY GUY

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AGRICULTURE

Ruined by rain

Kelowna cherry grower says his crop has suffered up to 80% damage due to wet weather this summer

By **ANDREA PEACOCK**
The Daily Courier

The past month of cool, rainy weather has not only been unfavourable for wannabe beachgoers, but has also caused serious damage to local crops.

Thunderstorms like the one on Tuesday night are bad news for cherry crops, particularly this late in the season, said Sukhpaul Bal, local cherry grower and president of the BC Cherry Association.

"When the cherries are getting close to maturity, they've got sugar and water in them, and when it rains, the fruit absorbs that water and it has nowhere else to go, and the skin tears and splits because it's absorbed too much," he said. "It's not just the one storm. It's been a constant battle this season. I'm so used to it now that a rain shower or storm doesn't surprise me."

The battle has not been an easy one for Bal, who has seen significant destruction in his orchard this season.

"We've had up to 80 per cent damage," he said. "For the first time in a long time, we've had to



GARY NYLANDER/The Daily Courier

Sukhpaul Bal of Hillcrest Farm Market, a Kelowna cherry grower and president of the BC Cherry Association, holds up Skeena cherries that have split due to rainy weather.

abandon some blocks because it costs too much money to get the pickers in there when 80 per cent of it just goes out the door to the juice bin."

Bal is holding out hope for the season's last round of cherries.

"We're hoping the later varieties stay around the 10 to 20 per cent damage range or less," he said. "It's just one of those seasons that we'll have to forget and move on, and hopefully too many people don't suffer too badly."

Bal expects to wrap up his cherry season at Hillcrest Farm Market in mid-August.

"Normally we would go to Aug. 25-30, but that early spring pushed everything forward," he said.

The cool weather is expected to end this week, with higher temperatures on the way, said Arnel Castellan, meteorologist with Environment Canada.

"The average temperature for the last little while in Kelowna was just over 24 C, and typically it's closer to 28 C for July," he said.

In addition, only two days have reached 30 C or higher so far this month, when typically there are well over 10 days exceeding 30 C,

said Castellan.

"The last six or seven weeks have been a series of cold upper lows," he said. "The trend is now shifting to what is a more traditional pattern that is much drier and warmer."

The predicted high for today is 30 C with a low of 13 C, and Friday's high is forecast at 29 C with a low of 14 C and a 30 per cent chance of showers.

"The rest of the summer is supposed to be warmer than normal," said Castellan. "There's hope after all."

See also STORM/page A2

CRIME

Kelowna ranked No. 2 in Canada

Only Saskatoon's crime rate was worse last year

By **ANDREA PEACOCK**
The Daily Courier

Kelowna has the second highest crime rate in Canada, according to a recent report from Statistics Canada.

Kelowna's 2015 crime rate is listed as 8,170 per 100,000 people, up 10 per cent from 2014.

First on the list is Saskatoon, with a crime rate of 8,427 per 100,000 people, up two per cent from 2014.

Third is Regina, with a crime rate of 8,146 per 100,000 people, up three per cent from 2014.

Abbotsford and Vancouver round out the top five cities, with crime rates of 7,452 and 7,407, respectively.

The crime rate measures the volume of police-reported crime relative to population size.

The national crime rate rose three per cent to 5,198 per 100,000 people in 2015 — the first increase in 12 years.

The crime rate in B.C. also rose three per cent to 7,844 per 100,000 people.

Almost 1.9 million Criminal Code incidents — excluding traffic offences — were reported by police last year, about 70,000 more than in 2014, Statistics Canada said Wednesday.

Continued on page A2

INSIDE

Canada	A4
Classified	B6, B7
Comics	B8
Crossword	B5
Horoscope	B5
Life & Arts	B4
Lotteries	A2
Obituaries	B6
Opinion	A6, A7
Sports	B1-3
Weather	B8
World	A5

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— Lorraine Hansberry

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GAS WATCH

Lowest price in the Kelowna area as of 5 p.m. yesterday, via gasbuddy.com.

115.9 at several stations

GAMING

Pokemon Go players led astray

Toronto comedian taken to task for video on subway tracks while New Jersey woman ends up stuck in a tree

By **News Services**

TORONTO — A comedian who hopped on Toronto's subway tracks to make a video "warning" of Pokemon Go dangers is now on the receiving end of a lecture himself. The YouTube video, called Pokemon Go Problems, shows Mark Correia walking into various objects, falling over and walking on the subway tracks at Toronto's Union Station, all while looking at his cellphone and evidently playing the popular mobile game.

Pokemon Go officially launched in Canada on Sunday. The video game sends players on a quest to find superimposed animated characters on a map-like interface

using the camera on their smartphones.

"With comedy, you try to take as many precautions as you can and hope that it pays off," said Correia, 20.

Correia said he waited until right after a train left the station before going on the tracks, and was only down there for "like, five seconds." He said he was more worried about getting caught than getting killed on the subway tracks.

But Correia should have been worried, according to the Toronto Transit Commission. Spokesman Brad Ross said Correia could have been killed or seriously injured. If Correia had tripped, he could have touched the third rail and been electrocuted, Ross said.

"Trains at Union Station come in on a curve, so there's no line of sight," he said. "So the (subway) operator wouldn't see somebody on the track until the very last second."

Ross said that "at the minimum" the stunt could have delayed thousands of subway riders.

"The chief concern of all of this



The Canadian Press

A Pokemon appears on a smartphone playing Pokemon Go Tuesday in downtown Toronto. Sunday marked the official release of the app-based mobile Pokemon game in Canada.

is that it could send the wrong message to people who think that there are Pokemon down at track level," he said. "There are not."

However, Correia said he doesn't

think people will try to replicate the video. He said the video was supposed to be a warning to people, that they shouldn't get too invested in Pokemon Go or other video games.

"I really don't think this would be an endorsement to anybody. I look like a complete idiot doing it," he said. "I make myself look stupid."

Ross said the TTC is investigating the incident.

Meanwhile, authorities say a New Jersey woman trying to catch Pokemon in a cemetery ended up stuck in a tree and had to call 911 to rescue her.

Firefighters in Clarksboro say the woman climbed a tree Tuesday night while playing Pokemon Go on her smartphone inside the Eglington Cemetery.

She called 911, and the East Greenwich Township Fire and Rescue arrived to get her down with a ladder.

Chief Rob Gould told WCAU-TV that "she was a bit embarrassed at that point." Fire officials didn't release her name to spare her additional embarrassment.

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