

# local

## Missing man located

Frank Peebles  
Citizen staff

Police and Prince George Search and Rescue mobilized on Wednesday to locate a missing man in the city.

The focus area was on Highway 16 east of town. Wayne Edward Pitman, 45, was last seen on Tuesday night at about 8:45 and by Wednesday morning family and friends were alarmed by his unexplained absence.

There was worry that a medical condition was playing a role in his disappearance and indeed that was the case, searchers discovered.

"Police located Pitman's black Dodge pickup truck off the side of the highway," said Prince George RCMP spokeswoman Const. Lesley Smith. "Prince George RCMP received a call from the Pitman family (on Wednesday) advising he had returned home on foot and was no longer missing. (He) arrived at his house and collapsed in the driveway. EHS was called and he was taken to UHNBC for medical care."

## Youth found in Alta.

A teenager sought by police, and considered a missing person, has been found. Carly May Holdis, 14, was reported missing by her family on Tuesday. It was believed that she was travelling, consensually, in the company of an older man she knew.

Mounties did not confirm or refute this point, but announced on Wednesday afternoon that Holdis had been located, she was in Edmonton, and was in good condition.

Police said she will be returning home soon thanks to help from the Edmonton Police Service and the Ministry of Children and Families. Mounties thanked the public for help in locating Holdis safely.



**FLOWER POWER** — Nine-year-old Courtney Riedel, who has cystic fibrosis, and her mother Melanie show off some of the 526 baskets they sold as part of the Growing Towards A Cure fundraising campaign. The flower project, in its fourth year, raised \$5,000 to be used for research to find a cure for the inherited disease of the secretory glands, which primarily strikes infants and adolescents. Students from Malaspina elementary school helped unload the baskets. Citizen photo by Brent Braaten

## Students give an 'A' to CNC

Sarah Makowsky  
Citizen staff

CNC students are generally satisfied with their learning experience, according to the B.C. Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) survey.

CNC exceeds the provincial average in 19 out of 20 indicators when it comes to students' satisfaction with their programs and skill development. In addition, respondents who had gone on to full-time employment were asked to rate the

usefulness of their training in getting and performing their jobs.

Students ranked CNC above the provincial average in overall satisfaction with studies and their main reason for enrolment being met. "Meeting students' needs is the reason we're here, so it's very gratifying that they have ranked us so high, again," said Randall Heidt, CNC communications manager.

The faculty was ranked higher than average when it came to availability of instructors outside of class time. "Because of the smaller class

sizes at CNC, students really get to know their instructors," said Heidt.

The DACSO survey was conducted in spring 2009 with 629 former students who were contacted nine to 20 months after completing all, or a significant portion of their educational program. In all, 15,856 students were surveyed from 20 different post secondary institutions. The survey was also conducted in Ontario.

Full results are available at: [www.oncampusmacleans.ca/education](http://www.oncampusmacleans.ca/education).

# Progam focuses on fit, not fat

Bernice Trick  
Citizen staff

A specialist from BC Children's Hospital visited Prince George Tuesday to lead a new pilot program designed to help local children avoid obesity.

Dr. Shazhan Amed says the goal of the program called SCOPE (Sustainable Childhood Obesity Prevention through Community Engagement) is to develop a community action plan to improve the health of local children.

Her presentation to community representatives from organizations that work with kids such as YMCA, Northern Health, School District 57 and more, showed "there is enormous strengths in Prince George" to make the program work and also to identify the weak spots.

"An important next step is to get the voice of the broader community, especially the populations that are at high risk of diabetes."

Glenda Newsted, recreation coordinator with the city, who's leading the SCOPE charge in Prince George, noted the a national report card shows that more than 45 per cent of Prince George residents are unhealthy eaters and more than 25 per cent eat unhealthy seven days a week.

"Nationally, one in four are obese or dangerously overweight and there is compelling evidence that teenagers and young adults are developing complications like high blood pressure and diabetes. For the first time in history, this generation will live a shorter time than their parents."

SCOPE is designed to find community solutions ranging from activity programs to fresh produce affordable to all.

The next steps are to find ways to create a baseline measure in order to see accomplishments in the future, develop partnerships, and engage the community to build on the strengths and fill in the gaps.

Prince George was selected as a pilot project site because it's considered both rural and urban, a melting pot in population, and has winter conditions that impact life styles and health.

SCOPE will have a website online shortly to help the community get involved. Watch for further news.

## Would you pay to know the gender of your unborn baby?

Bernice Trick  
Citizen staff

Talk in the Prince George community regarding a possible future cost to parents who want to know the gender of children not yet born prompted The Citizen to ask questions.

Ryan Jabs, B.C. Public Affairs officer in Victoria, explained how it works and what is presently happening.

He said during the second trimester expectant mothers regularly receive ultrasounds which are paid for by the Medical Services Plan.

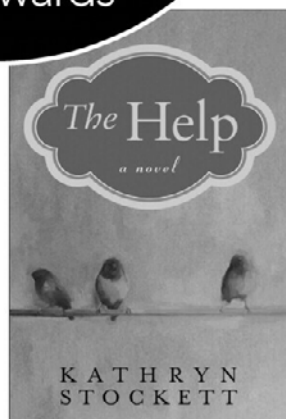
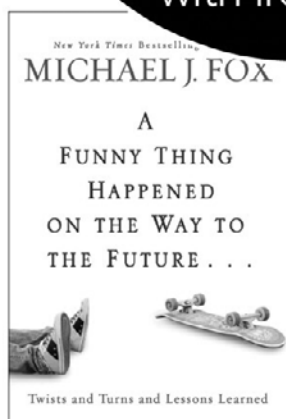
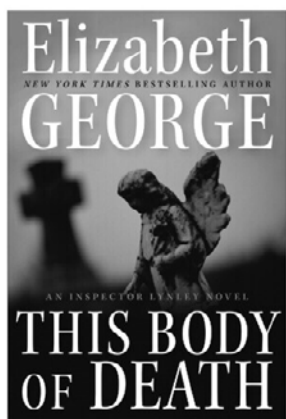
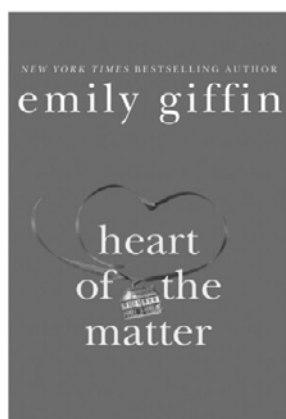
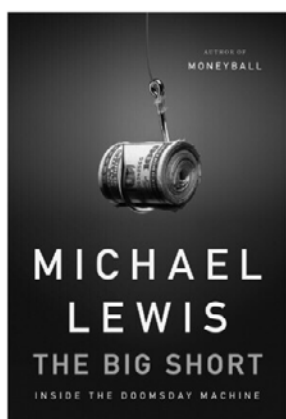
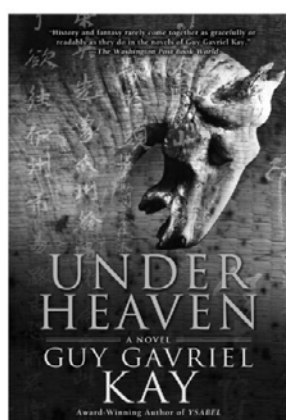
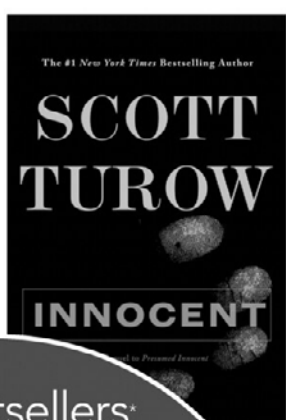
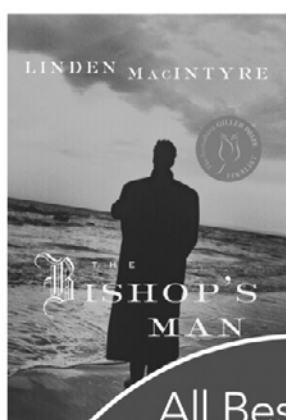
"As part of that procedure, the gender of the fetus is often revealed with no extra work involved, and is noted by the technician on the patient's chart, and given to the doctor. It is then available to patients, upon their request, at no charge."

But sometimes the gender cannot be determined by the standard ultrasound and requires further medical work to inform parents who request that information, said Jabs.

At the request of its doctors at Richmond Hospital, the Vancouver Coastal Authority conducted a pilot project that charged those patients requesting to know the gender if it was not determined by the standard ultrasound.

Nothing has been finalized yet because the ministry is now working with all B.C. health authorities "to ensure a consistent approach to this issue is taken across the province," Jabs said. In any case, fees would only be applied for procedures that are not considered medically necessary, he said.

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