

Treatment fails offender

Previous success story given conditional sentence for pushing teenage boy

By CAM FORTEMS
Daily News Staff Reporter

A man with a history of mental illness who was held up as a success story to a forum of local lawyers was arrested Tuesday for striking a 13-year-old boy.

David Hindle pleaded guilty Wednesday in provincial court to assault.

Crown lawyer Catriona Elliott said RCMP was called several times by neighbours to a report of a domestic dispute.

After returning once, inside they found a 13-year-old boy crying. He told them Hindle pushed him after he said "yay" when Hindle announced he was leaving the boy's mother.

The boy fell into a corner of a wall, causing redness on an arm.

Defence lawyer Rob Bruneau said Hindle told him he grabbed the boy in anger and he slipped and fell. Hindle also reported a change in medication before the assault.

Hindle is considered unemployable, has post-traumatic stress disorder and a head injury. He has several convictions for assault on his record.

Bruneau said a physician recently brought Hindle to a forum of Crown and defence lawyers as an example of the beneficial effects of mental health intervention.

"Mr. Hindle turned his life around," Bruneau said. "Unfortunately this happened."

Hindle told Judge Stephen Harrison: "I put a lot of effort into changing my life.

"I feel horrible I pushed him. I'm looking to fix things and get back to where I was."

Harrison gave Hindle a six-month conditional sentence, including three months of house arrest. He is able to leave his home for a brief period for personal business as well as to attend counselling.

Hindle is also subject to an order that he follow a doctor's orders with regard to treatment. If not, he must inform the doctor and probation officials.

He must also not drink alcohol and is banned from possessing weapons.

Police not linking photo incident to 'bad Santa'

A white beard and a red truck do not necessarily make a "bad Santa."

Kamloops RCMP Staff Sgt. Grant Learned said Thursday a recent resurgence of alleged sightings of a suspected Santa look-alike who was wanted two years ago in connection with an attempted abduction have not gone anywhere.

It started with a woman who saw a man taking photos of her home from the road. He then took off in a truck.

"We are looking into the initial report about a man with a white beard associated with a red truck taking pictures of a residence. But certainly we caution people from making any links beyond that event," Learned said.

"We do have some active leads on this one. We've got some very good leads."

A posting on Facebook showed up after the sighting prompted a Google search and news stories from 2011 that referred to a "bad Santa" character who had tried to pick up a 20-year-old woman and offered a ride to a school boy.

The Facebook item was copied to various pages and other people added comments about possible sightings.

Learned said the photograph incident is being looked at and it could have been as innocent as someone who liked the front door. Tips on that are being investigated.

But the previous search for a bearded culprit prompted a rash of possible sightings in 2011 that never went anywhere.

And the original complaint involved a man driving a gold Dodge Dakota pickup with some distinguishing features that later was reported as a smaller red pickup.

At that time, there were "sightings" in parking lots, school zones and other parts of the city; nothing came of it.

"The whole phenomenon of the bad Santa has gained a pulse of its own. We've never identified an individual. This was a description provided by a person who filed a complaint. The vehicle was never located, never been further information that has surfaced on it," said Learned.

"We put out the information to caution the public, but it never went anywhere."

In this case, the police are not issuing a community warning or making public appeals for information.

GRANT REWARDS AREAS' CLIMATE CHANGE EFFORTS

The City of Kamloops is more than \$200,000 richer after getting a grant from the provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program.

The \$204,146, is from a program that requires communities to sign a Climate Action Charter and report on progress toward climate goals.

The grants are the equivalent of 100 per cent of the carbon tax paid by communities. So far, 95 per cent of communities in B.C. have signed the charter.

Other Climate Action Revenue Incentive grants in the region include the Thompson-Nicola Regional District for \$15,753; Clearwater for \$4,148; Chase for \$2,803 and Barriere for \$1,516.

ABORIGINAL AWARENESS



SCAN the dancer photo with your smartphone Layar app to watch a video of them in action.

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SOPHIE VON Dehn, 12, left, is paired with Colleen Lucier of Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services, learning a Metis jig in the gymnasium at Lloyd George elementary school Thursday. The school is celebrating Aboriginal Awareness Week. At back of photo is Darryl Laboucan of the Aboriginal Friendship Centre and student Poul Burnell, 13.

Artist's penny mosaics bound for border

By JASON HEWLETT
Daily News Staff Reporter

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then what can one say about a picture made from a thousand pennies?

Or, in the case of the mosaics created by Kamloops artist Bill Frymire, two pictures made from some 8,150 pennies.

"I've been doing these mosaics out of tiles for years now and I'm always looking for new materials, something that looks a little different," Frymire told The Daily News.

The mosaics — one of the Queen, the other of former U.S. president Abraham Lincoln — make two sides of the same 170-pound aluminium and copper coin crafted out of Canadian and U.S. pennies.

Frymire's creation will be part of an exhibit at the Peace Arch Border Crossing

in Blaine, Wash., that runs May 1 to Oct. 1.

He was inspired by a picture he saw on the Internet of a bathroom floor tiled with pennies. Frymire thought the variation in tone that the pennies created would make a great mosaic.

Each year he submits a piece to Revision, an annual Vancouver art exhibit. Organizers decided not to hold Revision this year, but suggested artists apply for the exhibit at the Peace Arch.

"It was a sculpture thing, so I thought 'what can I do?'" said Frymire, adding he usually creates work designed to mount on a wall.

Then he remembered the penny bathroom floor, and the idea of a penny made out of pennies was born, he said.

"Because it was on the border, I thought I'd do one side out of American pennies and one side out of Canadian pennies," he said.



BILL FRYMIRE
Queen made of pennies

This required Frymire to collect a lot of pennies — about 20,000 or so. His mother-in-law lives in Seattle and contributed 5,000 U.S. pennies to the project. The oldest penny of the bunch is from 1914.

Each penny was washed, sleeved and photographed so

it could be rendered in a computer.

A graphic artist, Frymire designed the mosaics in the computer first, sorting through the 20,000 pennies to find the ones that would create the best image for the mosaics.

"The computer treats each penny like a pixel. If you need a bright pixel, you pick a bright penny," he said.

"The computer can tell you which penny will go where."

Once applied, Frymire will cover the mosaics with an Epoxy. He said this protects the pennies and prevents people from prying them off with a screwdriver.

Frymire enjoys creating art like this, saying there's something satisfying about crafting a work that will exist long after he is gone.

The mosaics are for sale at \$5,000 per side or \$9,500 for the whole piece, he said.

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