FULL TEXT

Avast, me hearties! Esquimalt's Buccaneer Days start today

Workers prepare the midway rides for Esquimalt's Buccaneer Days, which begin today in Bullen Park. The fun goes from noon until 11 p.m., highlighted by a seniors' barbecue. On Saturday, events begin at 7:30 a.m. with a Lions pancake breakfast, and roll on well into the night with music and dancing, with the traditional buccaneer parade starting at 10 a.m. On Sunday, events run from 9 am. to 6 p.m., with a sky-diving contest at 3 p.m. And, yes, there will be sword-fighting demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday. DARREN STONE, TIMES COLONIST

Nail gun fired in fracas

Man wounded

Tempers flared on a construction site in Colwood on Thursday, leading one worker to shoot another with a nail gun.

West Shore RCMP were called to a construction site in the 300 block of Wale Road for reports that a man had a nail in his abdomen.

Investigators believe the two men were fighting and one of them pointed a nail gun at the other and fired, said West Shore RCMP spokesman Const. Matt Baker. The victim was taken to hospital to be treated for the puncture wound.

"A matter like this shows how dangerous weapons of opportunity can be," Baker said. "All parties are co-operating with investigators, and the investigation is ongoing."

A 35-year-old Langford man is facing charges of assault with a weapon. — Times Colonist

Helicopter lifts out tourist after Sombrio cliff plunge

With no cell service, friends hiked out to get help

JEFF BELL
Times Colonist

A woman hiking the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail with friends had to be plucked by a helicopter from an area near Sombrio Beach on Wednesday after falling down a cliff.

The 25-year-old woman, a tourist from Quebec, suffered numerous serious but non-life-threatening injuries, including broken bones, during the fall, which happened about 4 p.m.

"There is no cellphone coverage there, and so two of her friends hiked out," said Vickie Weber of Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue. They got to their vehicle and drove into Port Renfrew to call 911.

She said the pair managed to make the call about 5:30 p.m. B.C. Ambulance was alerted and, in turn, contacted search and rescue.

Members responded quickly after being alerted, Weber said.

"Because of the nature of the injuries and the location where it was and with darkness approaching, we requested the assistance of 442 Rescue Squadron," she said.

The search-and-rescue team went down the cliff and provided first aid until she could be lifted out via helicopter.

Weber said the woman and one of her friends were lifted from the scene, placed in rescue baskets and hoisted to the waiting helicopter. The injured woman was taken to hospital in Victoria.

The search team members had to do substantial rope work to manoeuvre colleagues up and down the cliff, Weber said. She said the volunteers didn't get out of the area until well after midnight.

The hikers reacted well to the situation, she said. "I think they did exactly what they could."

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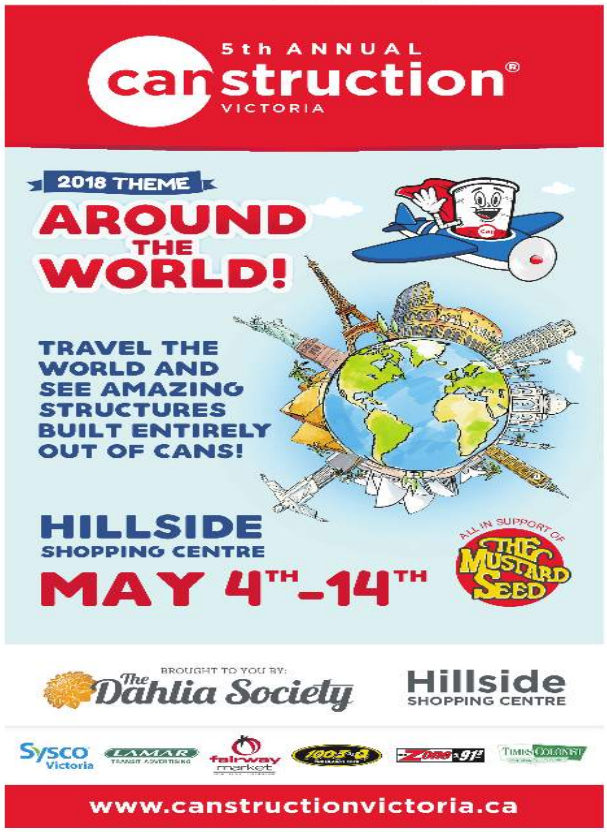

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