

Body of Beecher Bay woman found; foul play not suspected

ROXANNE EGAN-ELLIOTT
Times Colonist

The body of a missing Beecher Bay woman was found Friday, more than a week after she went missing.

RCMP said foul play was not suspected in the death of Raymona Peter, who was last seen alive by her father on the morning of Sept. 30.

Friends, family and neighbours of Peter had been scouring the area where she was last seen in Se'lanew First Nation, hoping to find a clue to her whereabouts.

Her dad, Rick Peter, watched her walk by his bedroom window on Sept. 30, thinking she was going out to look for her whereabouts.

Raymona, who was trying to get into treatment for addiction, had just gotten off the phone with a counsellor, her dad said, and she was hopeful that she could start rehab soon.

"She was in really high spirits," Rick Peter said.

When Raymona didn't return that afternoon, he became worried and started searching for her in dense bush near his



Raymona Peter was last seen around 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 30 leaving her father's home in the Beecher Bay area. RICK PETER

property with the help of neighbours.

After there had been no sign of his daughter for 24 hours, he reported her missing to police.

RCMP and Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue volunteer crews started a ground search the day after Raymona was last seen. Search dogs and marine crews were also brought in to look for any sign of the missing woman.

The search was suspended two days later after a thorough scouring of the area.

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A person rests at a homeless encampment at Strathcona Park in Vancouver. Vancouver city council has unanimously approved an emergency fund of up to \$30 million to help hundreds of homeless residents. DARRYL DYCK, THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver accepts \$30M plan to house and help homeless

The Canadian Press

Vancouver city council has unanimously approved an emergency fund of up to \$30 million to help hundreds of homeless residents.

The money will be used to buy or lease vacant hotels, apartments and single-room occupancy buildings and to provide other services to support as many as 750 people who lack safe shelter.

Many of the potential sites will need renovation, so council also approved plans for the immediate use of a city-owned motel and a hostel on Vancouver's west side.

It's expected that residents of an unsanctioned encampment in Strathcona Park will begin moving to those sites soon.

The decision approving the emergency fund

and opening the two temporary pandemic shelters followed a nearly 12-hour council meeting Thursday and submissions from 34 speakers.

Mayor Kennedy Stewart issued a statement thanking council for supporting his COVID-19 housing action plan, calling it the fastest way to get people back into safe housing with the wrap-around services needed to stabilize their lives.

But Stewart says the housing plan is not a "silver bullet."

"We still need far more investments in housing, mental health services and safe supply from our partners in the provincial and federal governments to truly deliver for our neighbours who need it most," the statement says.

Stewart says he will not stop fighting for those investments.

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Man, 27, arrested in fire and theft at Campbell River Walmart store

Campbell River RCMP have arrested a 27-year-old man in connection with arson and theft at the city's Walmart on Oct. 1.

Investigators believe the fire was set to divert attention from the theft of thousands of dollars worth of electronics, including phones and iPads.

The arrested man could face charges including arson/danger for human life, theft over

\$5,000 and mischief over \$5,000.

Police advised the public to be wary of electronics for sale at prices that are too good to be true.

Police said the fire — which broke out in the paper product aisle — has cost the company millions of dollars, including the cost of having to shut one of Campbell River's largest retailers through the Thanksgiving

long weekend.

A reopening date has not been set.

"We're doing everything we can to reopen the store," a Walmart spokesperson said. "We need to ensure the store is safe and up to the standards Campbell River customers expect."

Staff evacuated quickly after noticing the blaze about 10 p.m. — Times Colonist

Driver nabbed doing more than 100 km/h over speed limit on Pat Bay Highway

Saanich police caught a driver going 185 kilometres per hour — well over twice the posted speed limit of 80 — on the Patricia Bay Highway Thursday night.

The speeder was slapped with a \$483 fine, a seven-day vehicle impound, and towing and storage costs of at least \$210.

The driver was pulled over

about 6 p.m., when the highway was fairly busy.

A motorcycle officer saw the vehicle coming up at high speed as he headed south near the Royal Oak off-ramp. The vehicle zipped past, and it took the officer until Vanalman Avenue to pull the driver over.

"I think that's the fastest I've

seen on the Pat Bay," said media

spokesman Const. Markus Anastasiades.

"And certainly with this officer, he said it's one of the fastest speeds he's ever captured a vehicle doing."

Anastasiades said the situation was "incredibly dangerous." — Times Colonist

Graffiti suspects identified in Campbell River

Campbell River RCMP say two suspects in a graffiti incident have been identified after their pictures were released to the media.

Police had recently received still images from surveillance videos of a male and a female who appeared to be in their late teens.

The graffiti was discovered Aug. 10 at a business in the 2100-block of Island Highway South.

Const. Maury Tyre said that graffiti cost the city and businesses thousands of dollars over the summer.

— Times Colonist

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