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PRINCE
 GEORGE

THURSDAY
 January 30, 2020

Citizen



Weekend sports
 action - page 13

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THERE WAS A WEDDING SATURDAY....



... AND THEN A HOCKEY GAME BROKE OUT



Citizen photos by James Doyle

Top, newlyweds Chris and Amanda Holmes acknowledge the cheering crowd after getting married at centre ice at CN Centre on Saturday during the first intermission of the Prince George Cougars Vegas Night game. Above, during the game, goaltender Taylor Gauthier made a stop with Cougars defenceman Jack Sander and Kamloops Blazers forward Josh Pillar crashing the net. Gauthier was the difference all night as the Cougars won 3-1, despite being outshot 38-16. Gauthier was named the WHL goaltender of the week for his efforts.

‘Forest industry is in chaos’

Citizen staff

Doug Donaldson will continue to be the provincial New Democrats' point man on dealing with B.C.'s struggling forest sector.

As part of a minor cabinet shuffle last week, Premier John Horgan opted to keep the MLA for Stikine as his Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development.

John Rustad, the Opposition B.C. Liberals' critic for the portfolio, expressed disappointment.

"Quite frankly, I was very surprised," said Rustad, the MLA for Nechako Lakes. "The forest industry is in chaos around the province."

Specifically, Rustad said that Donaldson has failed to help reduce costs for loggers and lumber producers and to find a way to resolve the long-running United Steelworkers' strike against Western Forest Products on Vancouver Island.

"It is a really sad situation for forestry in the province and you've got a minister who's done nothing to solve these issues and I'm disappointed that there wasn't a thought that they should be looking to change out that portfolio."

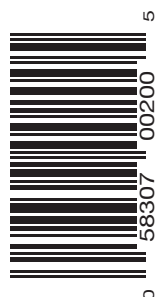
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He said loggers are facing unnecessary delays in securing permits and noted that Structurlam Mass Timber Corp., the Penticton-based maker of engineered wood products that has become something of an NDP poster child for what it sees as the future of B.C.'s forest sector, has opened a plant in Arkansas.

"The reality is really very simple," Rustad said. "You've got the large players and even small players in the province of British Columbia that are looking to invest anywhere but B.C.," Rustad said. "They're investing in Alberta, they're investing in Saskatchewan, they're investing in the United States."

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