

# TIMES COLONIST



Friday, April 27, 2018

Victoria, British Columbia

High 20. Low 9. Details, D8

## BUSINESS



**New Zealand's big guns in town**

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## DRIVING



**STEVE WALLACE**  
Advice from a Texas visit: If police stop you, keep your hands on the wheel

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## TV SCENE

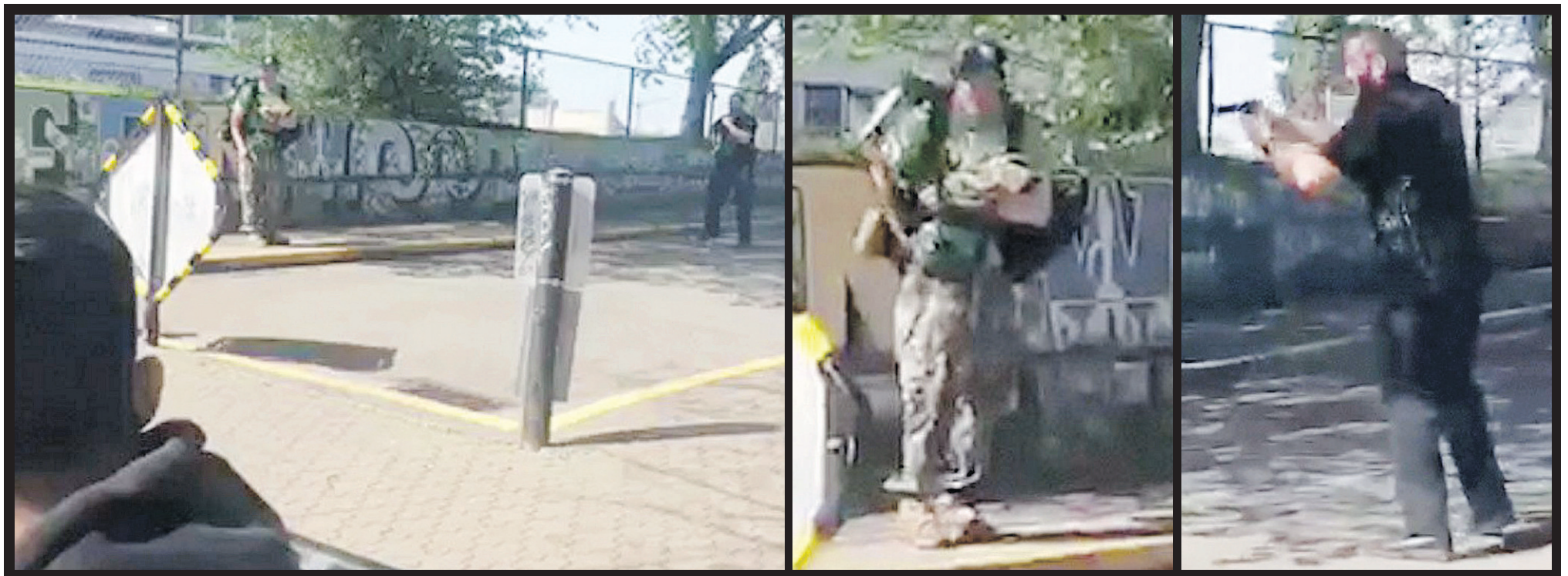


Mike Holmes Sr., Mike Holmes Jr. and Sarah Richardson star in *Homes to Win*

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**B.C. seeks court support in effort to protect province from oil spills >B1**

# Man wields knife, officer draws gun in tense takedown near Vic High



A man who threatened a teacher with a knife was arrested at gunpoint by Victoria police near Victoria High School. Cellphone video shot by a Vic High student shows police confronting a man. The man reaches behind his back, which prompts the officer with the gun to yell "on the ground now" and "hands out of your pocket."

## Arrest a day after school liaisons cut

KATIE DeROSA  
Times Colonist

An armed man was arrested at gunpoint Thursday morning near Victoria High School, one day after the Victoria Police Department announced that it is cutting the school liaison officer program.

Police were called to Fernwood Square at the intersection of Gladstone Avenue and Fernwood Road just before 11 a.m. after a teacher was threatened by a man with a knife, said Police Chief Del Manak.

The teacher had asked the man to move after she spotted him consuming drugs on the stairs leading into the high school grounds.

The teacher was not injured.

> See **TAKEDOWN**, page A2

## Province unveils blueprint for pot shops >A3

# Victoria, Saanich unite to craft question on amalgamation

Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps says an Oct. 20 ballot question could read something like: 'Do you support spending time and resources to explore the costs and benefits of the amalgamation of Saanich and Victoria through a citizens assembly and technical analysis?'

BILL CLEVERLEY  
Times Colonist

Victoria and Saanich councils will hold a joint committee meeting to craft a question on amalgamation to be put on ballots for the Oct. 20 municipal elections.

As their Saanich counterparts did Monday, Victoria councillors on Thursday unanimously endorsed holding the meeting.

Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps and Saanich Mayor Richard Atwell recommended their councils hold the meeting after having met with B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs officials to discuss what steps would be needed to set the stage for amalgamation discussions.

The idea is to kick-start a citizens assembly process to explore the pros and cons of a possible amalgamation.

"It's not pro-amalgamation. It's not anti-amalgamation. It's to deliberate about shared values,

shared histories, shared goals, challenges, differences and to come up with recommendations on how to best proceed," Helps said. "I strongly feel this is the way to go."

The first step in that process, Helps said, is to hold the joint meeting and decide on a ballot question both municipalities can place on their ballots.

In their joint report, Atwell and Helps said the advice they received from ministry staff is that any process leading to amalgamation should include these elements:

- Must be thorough and objective from start to finish.
- Public engagement is key.
- It's the role of local government with experienced consultants to design, host and steward the process.
- An independent technical analysis should be done in tandem to analyze costs and benefits.

Helps said a ballot question

could read something like: "Do you support spending time and resources to explore the costs and benefits of the amalgamation of Saanich and Victoria through a citizens assembly and technical analysis?"

Coun. Marianne Alto said the process does not anticipate any outcome. "I think this is a very sensible way forward. It's easy. It's transparent. It's very clear on what it is that we're hoping to do," Alto said.

Councillors Pam Madoff and Charlayne Thornton-Joe said it's important that an exploration of costs and benefits is not limited to finances.

"I would feel more comfortable if it was costs, benefits and drawbacks or something [like that]," Thornton-Joe said. "There are pros and cons, and we need to explore all of them."

Coun. Jeremy Loveday said having the same question on the ballot for both Victoria and

Saanich is key to the process.

"I do think that we received a very strong mandate from our constituents to move forward with these kinds of discussions and I think a citizens assembly is a good format to have a citizen-led process that then guides whoever is the council at the time to make these decisions moving forward," Loveday said.

When Saanich councillors discussed the issue on Monday, they also emphasized that the process they were endorsing was meant to seek information, and did not presuppose support for amalgamation.

Citing advice from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Atwell said: "They were very clear on the fact that a clear mandate from residents was essential to doing anything and that this [input] was not going to just take place once, it was likely to take place several times."

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B BUSINESS, STOCKS, COMICS  
C LIFE, DIVERSIONS, ARTS  
D SPORTS E, F DRIVING

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