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This Week in The

Mail

SPORTS



Rasmussen named Super Coach
See B2

NEWS



The Madness Returns
See B16

COMMUNITY



Fun at the Verdant Valley Fair
See B3

INDEX

- Births.....A4
- Real Estate.....A6 & 7
- Read All About It.....A8
- Sports.....B1-4
- Horoscope.....B3
- T.V. Guide.....B5 & 6
- Employment.....B7-10
- Church.....B11
- Entertainment.....B11
- Classifieds.....B12 & 13
- Business Directory.....B14
- Blanket Classifieds.....B15
- Garage Sales.....B15

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Summer Daze in Hussar



A rider from the Professional Bull Riding circuit loses his grip on the bucking bull at Hussar Summer Daze. The rodeo was a great success with hundreds of spectators stopping by to witness the action. Vince Northman was awarded the 2006 Professional Bull Riding Hussar Rodeo championship. The rodeo showcased many other activities including a parade, Gymkhana events, a garage sale, mixed slo-pitch tournament, sheep riding, a fishing derby and bull fighting.

mailphoto by Dan Leahul

Big Valley School evacuated

Big Valley School had some tense moments last Wednesday, as a rotten egg odour forced the students and staff to evacuate the facility.

Just before 10 a.m. on June 14th, staff at the Big Valley School noticed a rotten egg smell inside and outside the school. Local authorities were notified and 109 students from Grades 1 through 9, plus 12 staff members, were evacuated from the school.

"It was (unnerving), a little bit, but it was something we were prepared for," said Principal Dean Stevens. "Our emergency plan has something in it for this

situation, and we just followed it to a tee and it worked out very well."

Two students complaining of nausea and irritated eyes were taken to hospital in Stettler for monitoring and were later released.

All local authorities were notified of the incident including Emergency Management Alberta, the David Thompson Health Region along with municipal and school authorities. The Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) staff arrived at the site shortly after the complaint was received and began air monitoring with assistance

from local industry.

Equipment on site found no detectable levels of hydrogen sulphide. Staff and students returned to school and normal operations resumed at approximately 1:15 p.m.

As is the normal practice, EUB staff will conduct an investigation into the incident. Stevens says he has not been given a time line as to when the EUB will report back on findings.

The EUB ensures that the discovery, development, and delivery of Alberta's energy resources and utility services take place in a manner that is fair and in the public interest.

Merchant takes peddler problem to council

Dan Leahul
The Drumheller Mail

Hawkers and peddlers are becoming a growing problem for downtown businesses and they are now looking for the Town of Drumheller to help.

Kim Pliva, co-owner of Country Traditions, has met with CAO Ray Romanetz and recently gave a presentation to town council at their regular meeting on Monday, June 19th, to discuss the review of bylaw that is in place in order to get peddlers out of the downtown core.

"Myself and many of the downtown merchants that are part of the Downtown Drumheller Group have noticed over the years the amount of peddlers that are on the sidewalks downtown in front of the retail businesses, so we have asked the city to review the bylaw," said Pliva.

According to Pliva downtown peddlers have been a

problem for her since she opened her business in the summer of 1999.

"They will come, I'm assuming from Calgary, and are definitely not from Drumheller," she said. "They are out of town people which is the first bothersome thing to the Drumheller merchants. Because we all live here, we buy our groceries here, we buy our gas here and we support our town."

Pliva also added that the peddlers use aggressive sales techniques, approaching people when they get out of their car or even coming into the businesses themselves and asking customers to purchase something.

"They park a van and a load of people get out ranging from 18 - 25 years old, and they get out with a cardboard box on their shoulder with a variety of items in it. Then they disperse and go all up and down 3rd Avenue and

Continued on A3
...see Peddler problem



Daughter's name lent to life saving AIDS project

Patrick Kolafa
The Drumheller Mail

A young woman who passed away suddenly will forever be attached to a program that is dedicated to helping some of society's most vulnerable.

Fred Makowecki lost his 18 year old daughter Morgan Jayne on May 4th, 2006 to a rare liver disease.

"I can't explain the grief I feel about losing my daughter... I have a son and a wonderful wife, and I am grateful for that, and a great family, and I live in a great community, but there is a hole where my daughter was," said Fred.

Now Morgan Jayne's name will forever be attached to a project that is helping slow the number of children dying of AIDS in Honduras.

While contacting family and friends Fred came into contact with an old friend that helped him almost two decades ago adopt Morgan Jayne. At the time Valerie Nelson was the head of the Private Adoption Society of Alberta and helped the Makowecki family in their adoption proceedings. While they stayed in contact for many years, they lost touch. It was this tragedy that brought them together again.

"After Morgan Jayne died I searched around and there she was in Honduras," said Fred.

Nelson has been working through Familias Saludables (Healthy Families)



A project to curb the spread of AIDS in infants in Honduras has been named after Morgan Jayne Makowecki, who passed away in early May.

lies) on the small island community of Roatan off the coast of Honduras. It has the second highest rate of HIV/AIDS per capita in the Western Hemisphere. Familias Saludables is a program run under the auspices of the Dawn Land Foundation.

One of programs that it runs is an AIDS reduction

project that supplies infant formula to children. Often children born to mothers that have AIDS are not immediately affected. It is often the babies' exposure to breast milk that transmits the disease.

photo submitted

In an e-mail, from Nelson to Makowecki, one short

I think that had Morgan lived, she would have been doing something like this.

Fred Makowecki

line stuck out:

"We've never had a name for the project, and now I know why... It's now the Morgan Jayne project."

On May 18th in a ceremony in Roatan which included the mayor and other dignitaries, the program officially adopted the name.

"When she (Morgan Jayne) went to school we jokingly called her the lawyer... When someone was in need she was always there whether it was appropriate or not," said Fred.

"I see this as an extension of her spirit, that there are children in need and I feel it is her doing it because it is what she would have done. I think that had Morgan lived, she would have been doing something like this."

Fred is proud that his daughter's name can be attached to program that is making such a difference. The Project has been running for four years, and has seen great successes. The infant mortality rate has dropped from more than 30 children per year to just three. The program also supplies some clothing, blankets and vitamins for the families.

He also believes in the altruism of Valerie Nelson. She explains to him via e-mail that her and her husband Klaus

Continued on A3
...see Morgan Jayne

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O. Sheddy, Editor and Publisher

Letters to the Editor are most welcome. They should be brief and to the point. We reserve the right to edit letters for legality, clarity and taste. Letters must bear the name, address and phone number of the writer. Anonymous letters will be discarded.

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Verdant Valley Fair

Jason Wipf enjoys the festivities at the Verdant Valley Fair last weekend. There were many events for children and parents including a parade, face painting, treasure hunt, UFA History in Motion Trailer, an

animal display, an air bouncer, art, crafts and baking displays, antiques, spinning and knitting by Nadine, music by Del Adie and a beef barbecue to close the event.

mailphoto by Dan Leahul

Council looks at peddler problem

...continued from front

Centre Street in front of all the businesses," she said. "They bother our customers when they are trying to park their cars and come into our stores to ask us if we would like to buy something and they ask our customers if they would like to buy something from them.

"We pay our business license, we have our stationary location and to have someone on the sidewalk that is sort of a front line in front of our door, that is something that we don't want."

Another problem according to Pliva is that many of these peddlers actually do own a business license and can sell on a sidewalk, which is a public space.

"The fee for a business license is quite high and if they have a business license for a period of time then they must be making money," she said. "That means that people must be buying the products from them and we think, wow, if that person would have come downtown with a little money, it's too bad they didn't shop in

my store."

Ideally, Pliva would like to see the Town of Drumheller completely ban hawkers and peddlers from selling anywhere in the downtown area. Something that the town solicitor, with CAO Ray Romanetz, are looking into to see if it is unconstitutional. Pliva's second option is that she would like the town to take a closer look at the bylaw for clarification to see if anything could be done to protect local merchants from peddlers.

"Ask yourself, do you want to buy that teddy bear or that wall clock, etc. out of a box from a guy on the street or do you want to come into a reputable business that is a long standing town supporter and will be there if you have any concerns or questions about the product you bought," she said.

Presently, the Town of Drumheller is working with the town solicitor to see what can be done about the hawkers and peddlers in the downtown core.

BJ Services thanks Town



BJ Services officials thanked the Town of Drumheller, Mayor Paul Ainscough and CAO Ray Romanetz at a company open house on June 7th. The multi-faceted oil field service company opened their office in Drumheller recently and is operating at full capacity with 75 personnel. "This is a huge success story for us," said Blair Albers, Director of Operations for the Canadian Region, "and we are very pleased to be here." Mr. Albers added that he was very pleased with the cooperation received from the town's departments saying, "they went out of their way to expedite approvals and permits," for the new facility. (l to r) Blair Albers, region manager, Mayor Paul Ainscough, Town CAO Ray Romanetz and Douglass Hotchkiss, assistant district manager.

mailphoto by O. R. Sheddy

"He who does not read is no better than he who can not read" —unknown

The Drumheller Mail

Morgan Jayne

... continued from front

are completely dedicated to this program for life.

They are working on a shoe-string budget and receive grants for testing kits, some Antiretroviral and transportation to the other island communities. Everyone working for the foundation is a volunteer.

Fred has gotten behind the project and has spoke to his church and community groups and many are supportive of the project. Fred has also offered to do presentations for churches, schools or community groups that are interested in learning more about the project.

The Dawn Land Foundation is a charitable organization and is able to issue tax receipts. One hundred per cent of donations made to the program go towards helping the children in need.

Cash donations can be made to:

The Dawn Land Children's Health Care Foundation
C/O Kate McDonnell
17905 98A Avenue
Edmonton Alberta
T5T 3L3

Those wishing to make donations of items such as formula, vitamins or even baby clothes can ship them to:

Attn: Valerie Nelson
C/O Jackson Shipping
5353 West Tyson Avenue
Tampa Florida
33611-3225.

For more information on the program contact Fred Makowecki at 823-8082, 820-2386 or 823-3833.

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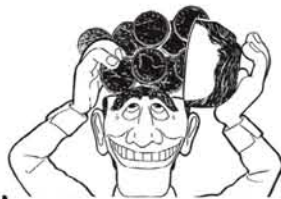
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