NFL playoffs have teams excited

BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

The look of excitement and the eagerness in his voice gave Tom Coughlin away. It's playoff time, and he loves it that his New York Giants are back in contention after missing out the last two years.

Just as spirited is Denver cornerback Champ Bailey. And Pittsburgh nose tackle Casey Hampton.

Their teams start down the path to Indianapolis on Sunday when the Giants host the Falcons, and the Broncos host the Pittsburgh Steelers. The playoffs begin Saturday with Cincinnati at Houston and Detroit at New Orleans.

"The energy and the excitement are even stronger than yesterday and that's the way I think it works. I think it goes along," Coughlin said.

When told he looked particularly animated this week, Coughlin threw up his hands and replied with a smile: "How can you say that?"

The NFC East champions went 9-7, one game worse than visiting Atlanta's record as a wild card out of the NFC South. Denver was a mere 8-8 in the AFC West, but that was good enough to win the division in a tiebreaker over Oakland and San Diego.

It's the Broncos' first trip to the post-season since losing in the 2005 AFC title game — to the Steelers. Bailey remembers that defeat, and that Pittsburgh went on to win the Super Bowl. But he isn't harping on the past too much; the present is too invigorating.

Many doubt the Broncos are equipped to do so against a Steelers team that was 12-4.

Watching at home this weekend are the top seeds, defending Super Bowl champion Green Bay in the NFC, and New England in the AFC. Also on byes this weekend are No. 2 seeds San Francisco in the NFC and Baltimore in the AFC.

Paterno's replacement hired

The Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa.

Penn State has hired New England Patriots offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien as its head coach, the first change in leadership for the storied football program in nearly a half-century.

The announcement caps a turbulent two-month period that began with the firing of Hall of Famer Joe Paterno on Nov. 9 in the aftermath of child sex abuse charges against retired assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

Not only is O'Brien replacing Division I's winningest coach, but he must also guide a program shrouded in uncertainty. Besides the criminal investigation into Sandusky, the NCAA has launched its own inquiry.

The 42-year-old O'Brien was set to be formally announced at a news conference Saturday morning.

Penn State hadn't hired a head football coach in 46 seasons. In between, the 85-year-old Paterno won 409 games and was elected to the Hall of Fame.

"I am thrilled to be the head coach of the Penn State football program," O'Brien said in a statement. "As head coach of this special football program, it is my responsibility to ensure that this program represents the highest level of character, respect and integrity in everything we do."

O'Brien has no apparent ties to Penn State and a proud program tarnished by a scandal that also led to the departure of President Graham Spanier.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Medicine Hat
The Gas City

Stay informed go to **www.medicinehat.ca**

8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
SPECIAL SERVICES
Electric Outages 403.529.8260
Gas Emergency 403.529.8191
Water and Sewer Emergency 403.502.8042
** After Hours Special Services
403-526-2828

41073107•01/07/12

SPECIAL EVENTS/COMPETITION ASSISTANCE GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Community Development Department offers grants to amateur teams, organizations, groups agencies and individuals to attend or host competitions/events. Grant monies of up to $3,000 per project may be available.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 4:30 PM TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2012

Grant Guidelines & Applications can be picked up at City Hall, 3rd Floor, Community Development or on-line at www.medicinehat.ca under "Grants"

For further information, please contact the Recreation & Leisure Department at 529-8316.

BOOK NOW ... TRAVEL TO MOOSE JAW TEMPLE GARDEN SPA AND RESORT — MARCH 7, 8, 9

Cost: $165 Double Occupancy /$250 Single Occupancy

The cost includes two nights accommodation; transportation; 3 lunches; free play at the Moose Jaw Casino and unlimited use of mineral spa resort , including indoor/outdoor roof-top pool. The Spa is connected to Moose Jaw Casino. You won't want to miss your chance to test your luck and skill at the Casino. Complete your stay with a stroll through downtown Moose Jaw including shops, galleries and tourist attractions like the Underground Tunnels.

For more details or to sign up, see Marilyn or call (403) 529-8384

APPLY NOW FOR THE ARTS & HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD

WANT TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY
You can make a difference in our City

APPLY NOW FOR THE ARTS & HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD assisting Council with respect to the Esplanade and other matters relating to arts and heritage.

Your participation will provide valuable community involvement in the decision-making process.

More information about this Advisory Board, and the required application form, may be obtained from the City Clerk Department, Second Floor, City Hall, 580 First Street SE, Medicine Hat, or on our website at: www.medicinehat.ca

Please submit your application to the City Clerk Department office at your earliest opportunity.

For further information please contact the City Clerk at 403-529-8234 or the Assistant City Clerk at 403-529-8220.

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL CULTURAL EVENTS/ PERFORMANCE, EXHIBITION AND COMPETITION ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATIONS (ARTS AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD)

The City of Medicine Hat Arts & Heritage Advisory Board is now accepting applications for Special Cultural Events, Performance, Exhibition, Competition Assistance Grants.

The City may grant support to a group proposing a program or project which fills a cultural need in the community. This event must demonstrate a major contribution to the community in terms of citizen involvement, tourism generation, economic benefit, positive recognition and celebrating the joy of living in Medicine Hat.

The City may grant support to groups, organizations or individuals who have achieved representative status or recognition at provincial, national or international competitions, exhibitions, performances or events related to arts and culture. This category also applies to those who are hosting such an event.

NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 2012

Applications are available at the Esplanade Security Desk, Cultural Centre, or on line at www.medicinehat.ca/ city government/departments/ cultural development/cultural development grants. For further information contact Susan at 403.502.8426 or Kathy at 403-502-8580.

PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

To protect your water lines against the possibility of freezing this winter, consider the following actions:

- Repair broken windows and ensure windows and vents are closed during the winter.
- Insulate water pipes in unheated areas of your home or business, including crawl spaces.
- If a sink is located against an uninsulated outside wall, consider opening the vanity door to allow warm air to reach the water pipes. A light bulb placed near the water pipe may generate enough heat to keep the water flowing. Similarly a heat tape wrapped around the pipe may keep the pipe from freezing.

Residents of mobile homes should check the condition of the heat tape on their water service and water meter. An unheated indoor water meter should be protected with an insulated box and water pipes should be wrapped in insulation and heat tape.

Outside water taps and underground sprinkler systems should have their water supply shut off inside the house at the isolation valve for the tap and sprinkler line. Lines should be drained/blown out.

- A very thin stream of water (as thick as a pencil lead) running continuously from at least one tap will help prevent a frozen water service.
- If you plan to be away from home over the winter period, close the main water isolation valve in your home. This is located next to your water meter.

A frozen water service, or a burst water pipe, is an inconvenience and expense that most people would like to avoid. Please take precautions to prevent this inconvenience in your home or business.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING DECEMBER 26, 2011 – JANUARY 31, 2012

Residents are advised that there is no residential Christmas tree collection.

Trees can be recycled by taking them to the landfill site or one of the drop-off depots listed below:

- Kipling Recycling Depot (across from Kin Coulee Park)
- Shamrock Recycling Depot (172 Altawana Drive NE)

All plastic bags, stands, tinsel and decorations must be removed from trees. The trees will be chopped and used in the composting program.

For more information on this and other recycling programs, please call the Recycling Infoline at 403-502-8045 or visit our website at www.medicinehat.ca

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED DECEMBER 29, 2011 TO JANUARY 4, 2012, PLANNING, BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

What's Happening In Your Neighborhood?

RESIDENTIAL	
256 Stratton Road SE	(Lot 39, Block 13, Plan 1111043) Permit No. DP9350. With Conditions. Single Detached Dwelling.
COMMERCIAL	
1, 2265 – 10 Avenue SW	(Lot -, Block -, Plan -) Permit No. DP9349. With Conditions. Fascia Sign.
HOME OCCUPATION	
15 Vintage Meadows Place SE	(Lot 62, Block 3, Plan 9511466) Permit No. DP9367. Office Use Only. General Contractor – 3 Year Renewal.
24 Taylor Bay SE	(Lot 11, Block 54, Plan 9511255) Permit No. DP9368. One to Five Customers Per Week. General Contractor – 3 Year Renewal.
62 Valleyview Drive SW	(Lot 22, Block 41, Plan 8111202) Permit No. DP9369. Office Use Only. Janitorial Services.
107 Police Point Drive NE	(Lot 42, Block 5, Plan 8811197) Permit No. DP9370. Office Use Only. General Contractor – 3 Year Renewal.
69 Spruce Close SE	(Lot 1, Block 2, Plan 9812816) Permit No. DP9371. Office Use Only. Masonry Contractor – 3 Year Renewal.
86 Rossland Road SE	(Lot 73, Block 10, Plan 7810695) Permit No. DP9372. Office Use Only. Mobile Welder – 3 Year Renewal.
1503 Eagle View Place SW	(Lot 25, Block 2, Plan -) Permit No. DP9375. Office Use Only. Oilfield Services – 3 Year Renewal.
3, 2470 – 15 Avenue SE	(Lot 6,7,8, Block 23, Plan 2140AJ) Permit No. DP9376. Office Use Only. Drywall.
330 – 3 Street NW	(Lot 7,8, Block 14, Plan 726M) Permit No. DP9377. Office Use Only. General Contractor.
114 Markwick Drive SE	(Lot 3, Block 1, Plan 7410139) Permit No. DP9378. Office Use Only. Sprinkler Installation – 3 Year Renewal.
250 – 13 Street SE	(Lot 27,28, Block 29, Plan 1132M) Permit No. DP9379. Office Use Only. Janitorial Services – 3 Year Renewal.
319 – 11 Street SE	(Lot 5, Block 23, Plan 1132M) Permit No. DP9380. Office Use Only. Janitorial Services – 3 Year Renewal.
2399 – 13 Avenue SE	(Lot 23, Block 1, Plan 5976JK) Permit No. DP9381. Office Use Only. Janitorial Services – 3 Year Renewal.
81 Sundance Road SW	(Lot 8, Block 30, Plan 0312198) Permit No. DP9382. Office Use Only. General Contractor – 3 Year Renewal.
1296 – 27 Street SE	(Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 7710087) Permit No. DP9383. Office Use Only. Property Management – 3 Year Renewal.
123 Prairie Drive NE	(Lot 23, Block 9, Plan 9311380) Permit No. DP9384. Office Use Only. Plumbing and Gasfitting Contractor – 3 Year Renewal.
1609 – 29 Street SE	(Lot 16, Block 43, Plan 1655HS) Permit No. DP9385. Office Use Only. Janitorial Services – 3 Year Renewal.
5 Stratton Way SE	(Lot 30, Block 22, Plan 8210189) Permit No. DP9386. Office Use Only. Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning – 3 Year Renewal.
53 Rice Drive SE	(Lot 1, Block 51, Plan 9311587) Permit No. DP9387. Ten Customers Per Week. Art and Sewing Lessons – 3 Year Renewal.
1265 Crockford Crescent NW	(Lot 10, Block 2, Plan 6641JK) Permit No. DP9388. Office Use Only. Sprinkler Installation – 3 Year Renewal.
288 Seven Persons Drive SW	(Lot 53, Block 10, Plan 7711294) Permit No. DP9389. Office Use Only. General Contractor – 3 Year Renewal.
853 – 3 Street NW	(Lot 36, Block 5, Plan 8810499) Permit No. DP9390. Office Use Only. Water Well Drilling – 3 Year Renewal.
503 12 Street SE	(Lot 18, 19, Block 32, Plan 1595M) Permit No. DP9391. Office Use Only. Software Development – 3 Year Renewal.
35 3 Street NE	(Lot 24, 25, Block 9, Plan 3204M) Permit No. DP9393. Office Use Only. Photography Services.
59 Hunt Crescent NE	(Lot 1, Block 14, Plan 0012635) Permit No. DP9394. Office Use Only. Excavation – 3 Year Renewal.
504 Sissons Crescent SE	(Lot 4, Block 5, Plan 7711294) Permit No. DP9396. Office Use Only. Retail Sales – 3 Year Renewal.
1916 5 Avenue NE	(Lot 26, Block 3, Plan 7410135) Permit No. DP9397. Office Use Only. Gas Well Testing – 3 Year Renewal.
133 1 Street NW	(Lot 4, Block B, Plan 3287E) Permit No. DP9398. Office Use Only. General Contractor – 3 Year Renewal.
50 Ross Haven Place SE	(Lot 83, Block 16, Plan 7911087) Permit No. DP9399. Office Use Only. Electrical – 3 Year Renewal.
96 Somerset Way SE	(Lot 49, Block 1, Plan 0612243) Permit No. DP9401. Office Use Only. General Contractor – 3 Year Renewal.
632 3 Street SE	(Lot 31, Block 14, Plan 1491) Permit No. DP9402. Office Use Only. Selling Jewelry.
888 Ross Glen Drive SE	(Lot 17, Block 40, Plan 8610678) Permit No. DP9404. Office Use Only. Drapery.
3175 15 Avenue SE	(Lot 9A, Block 50, Plan 8910248) Permit No. DP9407. Office Use Only. Drapery.
2073 17 Street SE	(Lot 26, Block 3, Plan 2662JK) Permit No. DP9406. Office Use Only. Cement Finishing – 3 Year Renewal.
1549 10 Avenue NE	(Lot 5, Block 4, Plan 47JK) Permit No. DP9408. Office Use Only. Furnace & Duct Cleaning – 3 Year Renewal.
39 Clark Crescent SE	(Lot 45, Block 8, Plan 7510668) Permit No. DP9409. Office Use Only. DJ Services – 3 Year Renewal.
125 Cypress Way SE	(Lot 5, Block 6, Plan 7410538) Permit No. DP9411. Office Use Only. Senior Companionship Visits.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within fourteen (14) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Second Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca

Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning, Building & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 529-8374).

GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR JANUARY

The City of Medicine Hat has set its January energy commodity rates.

Natural Gas

The January natural gas commodity rate of $2.98 per gigajoule (GJ), down from $3.32 in December, for all customers is based on the average of the monthly gas charges set by Alberta gas distribution (pipes) owners and Gas Alberta Inc. as established and posted on the Alberta Consumers Advocate and the Gas Alberta Inc. websites.

(per gigajoule)	January 2012
AltaGas Utilities	$3.057
Direct Energy Regulated Services North	$2.952
Direct Energy Regulated Services South	$2.957
Gas Alberta Inc.	$2.95
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	**$2.98**

Electricity

The January electricity rate of $0.1481 per kilowatt hour, up from $0.1330 per kilowatt hour in December, for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting is based on the average of the monthly electric energy charges set by Alberta electric distribution (wires) owners as established in accordance with the provisions of the Alberta Regulated Rate Option (RRO) Regulation (AR 262/25005) and published on the Alberta Consumers Advocate website with the following exceptions:

- RRO electric energy charges set by Rural Electrification Associations (REAs) that own electric distribution systems in rural Alberta; and
- RRO electric energy charges set for customer classes described as anything other than "Residential" or "Commercial"

January 2012 (per kilowatt hour)	Residential	Commercial (Small / Medium)
Direct Energy Regulated – Atco Electric Area	$0.15940	$0.14896
Enmax – Calgary	$0.15284	$0.15284
Enmax – Red Deer	$0.14797	$0.14797
Enmax – Cardston	$0.15087	$0.15087
Enmax – Fort MacLeod	$0.15087	$0.15087
Enmax – Crowsnest Pass	$0.15087	$0.15087
Enmax – Ponoka	$0.15085	$0.15085
Epcor – Edmonton	$0.15114	$0.15114
Epcor – FortisAlberta	$0.14664	$0.14874
City of Lethbridge	$0.12661	$0.12661
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	**$0.1481**	

The January electricity rate for Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting customers is based on the monthly average Alberta Power Pool price as established and published by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO). The rate for December was $0.0513 per kilowatt hour.

Wind Energy - Going Green

Customers also have a "Going Green" surcharge on their bill. This surcharge is for the annual purchase of 15,000,000 kilowatt hours of wind energy which represents three per cent of the annual kilowatts consumption for residential, farm, small and medium commercial customers.

The Going Green surcharge is calculated from the difference between the average monthly Alberta Pool Price as established and published by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) and the contracted wind energy price of $0.095 per kilowatt hour.

The Going Green surcharge for January is $0.0005 per kilowatt hour.

Media inquiries:
Gerry Labas,
Chief Operating Officer,
Energy Services
City of Medicine Hat
403-502-8756

PUBLIC SKATING SCHEDULE

SKATING HOTLINE: 403.502.8570
WWW.MEDICINEHAT.CA

Arena: 155 Ash Ave
Family Leisure Centre - EnCana Arena: 2000 Division Ave NW
Hockey Hounds: 39 10th St NE
Kinplex: 2055 21 Ave SE
Moose Rec Centre: Div Ave & 6 St SW

Free Public Skating is sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Medicine Hat

SATURDAY JAN 7	SUNDAY JAN 8	MONDAY JAN 9	TUESDAY JAN 10	WEDNESDAY JAN 11	THURSDAY JAN 12	FRIDAY JAN 13	SATURDAY JAN 14
NOVICE 2nd YEAR HOCKEY TOURNAMENR Jan 6 - 8 *Hockey Hounds & Moose*	**PUBLIC SKATING** 2:00 – 3:00 PM *Family Leisure Centre* **ADULT SKATING** 8:00 – 9:00 PM *Mooses*	**ADULT SKATING** 9:00 – 10:15 AM *Arena* **PUBLIC SKATING** Noon – 1:00 PM *Family Leisure Centre* **PUBLIC SKATING** 7:00 – 8:00 PM *Family Leisure Centre*	**FAMILY SKATING** 9:30 – 10:30 AM *Family Leisure Centre* **SHINNY HOCKEY** Noon – 1:00 PM *Family Leisure Centre ($5 drop-in)* **PUBLIC SKATING** 7:00 – 8:15 PM *Hockey Hounds*	**PUBLIC SKATING** Noon – 1:00 PM *Family Leisure Centre* **PUBLIC SKATING** 7:00 – 8:00 PM *Family Leisure Centre*	**FAMILY SKATING** 10:00 – 11:00 AM *Family Leisure Centre* **SHINNY HOCKEY** Noon – 1:00 PM *Family Leisure Centre ($5 drop-in)* **PUBLIC SKATING** 7:00 – 8:15 PM *Moose*	**ADULT SKATING** 9:00 – 10:15 AM *Family Leisure Centre* **SHINNY HOCKEY** Noon – 1:00 PM *Family Leisure Centre ($5 drop-in)* **PUBLIC SKATING** 3:30 – 5:00 PM *Family Leisure Centre*	**FAMILY SKATING** 6:30 – 7:30 PM *Moose* **ED HORVATH RINGETTE TOURNAMENT** Jan 13 - 15 *Hockey Hounds, Moose, Kinplex*

Plus! Don't miss:
Hedley – Friday, February 17, 2012 at the Medicine Hat Arena
Tickets available online at tixx.ca, by phone at 403.502.8777, or in person at the Esplanade Box Office or Medicine Hat Mall Customer Service Desk