

Schools keep busy inside during summer

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Summer vacation has just started for students but the hard work has already begun to get schools ready for their return.

"What looks like dormant schools because there's no students, there's actually a huge amount of activity going on inside," said Francis MacQuarrie, facilities and operation supervisor with the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education.

"We have a number of support staff working all summer long while the kids are having their break," said Andy Christie, facility administrator with SD 76.

For SD 76, the big project is getting the Roy Wilson Learning Centre ready to go — right now that includes installing whiteboards, tack boards, clocks, speakers, computers, furniture and the long list of equipment that needs to be connected up, said Christie.

And both school divisions are in the planning stages for modernizations at Hat High and Mosignor McCoy High School.

But other updates and renovations are also underway right now.

Mother Teresa will be undergoing a "huge mechanical

upgrade" to its HVAC system, said MacQuarrie. Demolition starts next week, with the completion date being early September. After two years without air conditioning, St. Thomas is having its air handling unit replaced, another project that will be finished by the end of the summer. Small roofing projects are underway at St. Patrick's and St. Mary's, while two major light retrofits are also being done at St. Michael's and St. Francis, MacQuarrie said, while other small projects like flooring repair and replacements are also being done where needed.

"We're relocating two modular classrooms from George Davison School over to Connaught School," said Christie. "And Webster Niblock School we have contractors in replacing the boilers." Air conditioning is also being installed on to three SD 76 elementary schools.

Summertime is also when safety inspections happen for sprinkler systems, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, boilers and more.

"It's good that we do get six to eight weeks to do all those things," said Christie, noting that it takes two days to test all the fire alarms at Crescent Heights



NEWS PHOTO EMMA BENNETT

Darcy McNabb, head custodian at St. Francis Xavier, buffs the floors on Tuesday afternoon.

High School, something that would be "hard to impossible" to do if students were there.

One of the biggest projects are the custodians doing summer cleanup.

"They empty the classrooms,

clean them right out, redo the floors, strip them, wax them, put them back into place," said MacQuarrie. This has to be done while co-ordinating with contractors, and fitting in their holidays which are also taken during

the summer months.

"I would really like to recognize the custodians for the work that they do," said MacQuarrie. "They really work hard at it and its a thankless job ... and they do a great job."

Fraudster gets jail time after pleading guilty to more than half his charges



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A man charged with 48 fraud-related allegations received a 14-month jail sentence after pleading guilty to 25 counts.

Kristoffer Del Campo, 31, was charged in May 2013 along with three co-accused in connection with what Crown Andrea Dolan called a "significant spree of criminality" spanning from Strathmore, Brooks, Redcliff and Medicine Hat.

The four used stolen identities and forged credit cards to rack up between \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of fraudulent purchases of electronics, lodging and a pickup truck from various businesses between March and May 2013.

Dolan described Del Campo as the "ringleader" of the quartet which included co-accused Jesse James Hoffman, Lacey Yvonne Manion and Courtney Anne Sabo.

Hoffman had earlier entered guilty pleas to seven of his 19, receiving a four-month prison sentence with Sabo receiving 12 months probation for her role in the operation.

Manion is deceased with Del Campo currently facing second-degree murder charges in relation to her death after allegedly being runover by the man while on release in Calgary.

Defence lawyer Greg Craven argued against the Crown's two-year jail sentence, stating his client has no previous record.

He also cited Del Campo should be handed a sentence proportional to Hoffman's which would amount to one year in jail.

Del Campo was handed a 14-month term of incarceration but given two months credit for 35 days of pre-trial custody.

Drive-in showing of Lego Movie coming to Costco parking lot

Medicine Hat News

It's a chance to step back in time, as Community View Lions Club is bringing drive-in theatre to Medicine Hat this Saturday.

"We're just hoping for people to come out," said Nick Gale, with the Community View Lions Club.

A four-storey screen will be set up in the Costco parking lot for the evening, where there will be a free showing of the Lego Movie.

"There will be an old-school drive in system, with an FM transmitter on sight," Gale said, so people can tune in to hear the show.

The site will open up at 7:30 p.m., with the movie starting after 9 p.m., once the sky gets dark. There will also be a barbecue and concessions set up.

The event is a way to give back to the community, said Gale, all while providing a free and accessible event for families.

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\$100K went to Kiwanis River Park flood repairs, then it flooded again

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Flood repair work in Kiwanis River Park this spring cost more than a \$100,000 and within weeks the park was flooded again.

"We spent approximately \$105,000 to regrade the lower part of Kiwanis River Park in order to improve drainage adjacent to the existing trail and to reseed the area," said Maureen Mudry, manager for Parks Planning and Development.

"That is absolute insanity," said Bill Wahl, Harlow resident who watched the work this spring as June 2013 flood debris was removed, the asphalt trail was cleared, and the grass area raked re-seeded. "A total of \$105,000 was spent on a dog park? You've got to be kidding."

Wahl says improved drainage has not worked very well because the trail is currently being cleared of mud and silt again due to this year's flood.

"When the waters receded this year the wettest portion was the trail," said Wahl. "The grading didn't work. Another layer of asphalt on the existing trail would have raised it."

Dating back to the 2005 flood restoration it was decided to restore Kiwanis River Park to a coarse grass (non manicured, non irrigated) park, said Mudry. This included reseeding the areas that are heavily silted due to floodwaters.

"We are obligated under the weed act to control noxious weeds," said Mudry. "The area is used by people walking their dog and cross country skiing so while it is not being used as a traditional park the lower portion still continues to be used for a variety of activities."

Wahl suggests simply mowing the



NEWS PHOTO EMMA BENNETT
Kiwanis Park in Harlow was under water during this year's flooding and the trails are currently being cleared of mud and debris.

grass would keep the weeds down.

In a recent interview with Mayor Ted Clugston, he said the City has "basically given up on that park" because "it floods every year."

"If they'd taken the \$105,000 and built a gazebo on the new upper level park that would have been what the original plans for that park included but were never done," said Wahl.

At a recent infor-

mation evening about the proposed berm to be built in Kiwanis River Park along Harris Street, people in the neighbourhood talked about their hope that the park would remain an off-leash area for dogs and their owners to enjoy.

Wahl says the off-leash area in Kin Coulee is never groomed like Kiwanis River Park is.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD
1072 7 STREET SW

TAKE NOTICE THAT the following Development Appeal will be heard by the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board at a Public Hearing in City Hall Council Chambers, commencing at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, July 29, 2014.

APPEAL #6-2014
Location: 1072 7 Street SW (Lot 2, Block 6, Plan 7710675)
Purpose: On June 17, 2014 a Development Officer approved a development permit application for a Commercial Building (Miniature Golf Course) and Free-Standing Sign. The applicant is appealing certain conditions applied to the development permit.

If you wish to inspect any other documentation on file with regard to this matter, you may do so by attending at the City Clerk Department between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Written/electronic submissions, regarding the above, will be accepted and placed before the Board. All submissions will be treated as public documents and must be received by the undersigned by 4:30 pm, **Wednesday, July 23, 2014**. Oral Submissions are normally limited to five (5) minutes.

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