

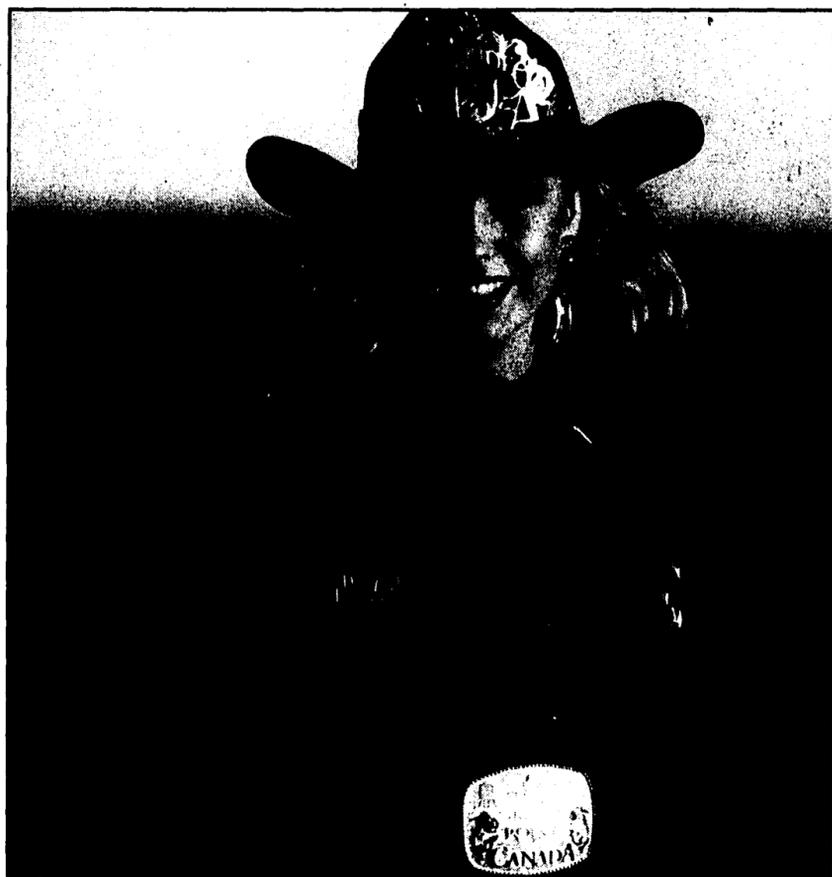
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Doug Hintz City Editor 527-1101 ext. 230 • fax 527-1244 • dhintz@medicinehatnews.com



— SUBMITTED PHOTO
Wendi Lund, a former queen of the Medicine Hat rodeo and Miss Rodeo Canada, was diagnosed with cancer last year. Friends are raising funds this weekend to help with the cost of her cancer treatments.

Funding former rodeo queen's cancer battle

Friends collecting donations for Wendi Lund, Miss Rodeo Canada in 1994, to help her battle against cancer

By **LISSA SWIHART**
Medicine Hat News

A Duchess native who became a rodeo queen needs the help of Hatters to get through her greatest challenge yet — cancer.

Wendi Lund, 29, was diagnosed with cancer in July of 2001 and became terminal in December of 2001.

"It started in her reproductive system and then spread to her liver and her right lung and now she has a tumour near a lymph node," said Nichole Neubauer of Medicine Hat.

Neubauer has been good friends with Lund ever since they met in the Medicine Hat Rodeo Queen contest.

"Wendi was the rodeo queen in 1992 and I was the princess," said Neubauer. "Wendi was also Miss Rodeo Canada in 1994."

Neubauer is organizing a fundraiser during this weekend's Roughstock Xtreme rodeo at the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede.

"We'll have a booth set up from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday night where people will be encouraged to make donations for Wendi's treatments."

"We're also setting up a bank account with the help of the exhibition and people can get information about that this weekend too."

Neubauer said Lund was very excited to hear that a fundraiser was planned in Medicine Hat.

"She was happy but, being Wendi, she asked that no one go out of their way to help. She's the most remarkable person I've ever met and I just hope we can help her."

Since her rodeo days, Lund has worked for the Alberta Cattle Commission, did some broadcasting for TSN and had a contract to act in a movie.

"Wendi lives in Boise, Idaho now because her boyfriend Derek Paget is a hockey player there and it's closer to her treatments."

"She tried chemotherapy but she wasn't strong enough and it actually made her worse," said Neubauer. "She has since abandoned conventional treatment and has been treated in Tijuana and Rosarita, Mexico with new holistic medicine."

"She's on special diets and they have scientists studying her cancer so they can find a specific way to treat her."

Neubauer said Lund is facing her cancer the way she faces everything in life, with courage and grit.

"She is living every day to the fullest and is grabbing life by the horns. I visited her in Idaho for a week and she never wanted to go to bed because she's so excited to enjoy every second."

IN TOUCH

Financial advice for seniors tonight

Money matters for seniors will be on the agenda at a workshop at the Veiner Centre today.

The workshop is aimed at making seniors aware of financial abuse by persons in whom they have placed trust. It will also deal with precautions they can take.

The program costs \$5 and runs from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch is included.

Seniors can register by calling Marilyn Heckbert at 529-8384.

Alberta pork moves onto Internet

Those with an appetite for information about pork will soon be sated.

Alberta Pork is launching a new Web site, being billed as a major source of information about all aspects of pork in the province.

The Web site is intended for use by producers, consumers and the general public and will include food, health and nutrition information about the meat as well as research, animal care and market outlooks.

The site also provides a classified section, discussion boards, recipes and direct links to other pork organizations.

Alberta Pork can be found at www.albertapork.com or www.albertapork.ca

City to consider \$2.5 million for South Ridge rec centre

By **JAMES WOOD**
Medicine Hat News

One of the fastest-growing areas of Medicine Hat is finally in line for a major recreational facility.

The public services committee is recommending to city council that the city budget \$2.5 million this year for the capital costs for a multiple-use facility in South Ridge that will be finished in 2003.

"We've been at it for over three years so we're happy it's gotten to this stage," said South Ridge Community Association chair Eric Springman following Tuesday's committee meeting.

The plan is for the dryland facility to be built in conjunction with a grade five to nine school planned by the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education in the area.

Superintendent Guy Tetrault said the Catholic board has \$5.4 million to use for the school.

None of that money will go for construction of the recreation facility as such, he said.

But the money will more likely be pooled together to make a connected school and recreation facility that would have multiple uses for the community.

"The idea is for everyone to put their money together and see if we can get more value by putting

our money together," he said.

"The whole idea is that it's a community school, not just a Catholic school. The idea is to bring about as much savings as possible by being in partnership with others, so you could share one heating system, one ventilation system and one common area."

The city, school board and community association will also have discussions with the YMCA, Medicine Hat School District No. 76 and other community groups to see if there is greater potential for partnerships.

Costs of construction are actually expected to be \$3 million, so \$500,000 in additional funding must be found.

"We'll definitely be raising funds through donations and service clubs hopefully and possibly through government grants," said Springman.

What will actually be in the facility will also be decided in those discussions.

"It's intended to accommodate a number of uses in the community," said community development manager Ron Webb.

"Our hope would be that we would be able to accommodate as many uses as possible, including soccer."

“The idea is for everyone to put their money together and see if we can get more value by putting our money together.”

— Guy Tetrault

There will not be a pool or ice rink at this point, but Springman is hoping that future expansion will bring those facilities.

"One of the considerations of the design is to allow for future growth down the road. Although there's no particular forecasting of what that might be," said Webb.

The city is not budgeting for operating costs for the facility in 2002.

Ald. Julie Friesen, chair of the public services committee, said the actual costs to the city will have to be determined during the partnership talks.

The ultimate commitment to operating costs by the city could range from nothing to a cost in the millions.

The capital expenditure for the facility must still be approved by city council.

City searching for cemetery plot owners

By **JAMES WOOD**
Medicine Hat News

The city will do some digging to find out whether the owners of more than 500 unused plots in Hillside Cemetery still want their sites.

Parks and recreation general manager Rodger Vizbar told the public services committee there are over 500 plots whose owners have had no contact with the city in 20 years.

"Some of these go back more than 50 years ago," he said.

Under the provincial Cemeteries Act, the city can sell the plots again if it takes certain steps.

These include verifying there is no one buried in the plot and making reasonable efforts to locate the purchaser of the plot or their representative.

Vizbar said the city will have stricter guidelines than the legislation. Among the steps it will take to find the original owners or their current representatives included advertising in The Medicine Hat News, posting notices at the cemetery and trying to trace family members through the phone book.

The city is taking this step to ensure proper utilization of the cemetery.

"Theoretically you could have some prime space the city kept for years become available," said public services commissioner Bob Wanner.

In the event that someone comes forward after an unclaimed lot has been resold, the city must either supply a new lot of equal value or pay market value for the plot.

Vizbar said the city first went through a similar process in 1996, when it found there were 64 plots that had been claimed but not paid for.

Of those, eight were identified by families, with six returned to the city and two paid for.

TIDBITS

PHOTO RADAR

For Wednesday, March 13

- 1) George Davison school/playground
 - 2) First Street S.W.
- Police will have photo radar set up at various locations in Medicine Hat.

WASTE REMOVAL

Today's garbage pick up will be done in Zone 1

THE NEWS ONLINE:

Visit us on the Web at www.medicinehatnews.com



"Where's that dumb cat?"

Legion auxiliary branch turns 75 this Saturday

By **LISSA SWIHART**
Medicine Hat News

Medicine Hat is invited to celebrate 75 years of support for war veterans and this community.

Saturday marks the 75th anniversary of the Robertson Memorial Branch 17 Ladies' Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion. The semi-formal dance begins with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. in the Ortona Room at the Legion.

"The main purpose of the auxiliary is to support the branch," said Hazel Brodin, president of the auxiliary.

"The dinner and dance on Saturday is intended to renew camaraderie and encourage people who haven't been out for a while to come and enjoy our 75th."

Brodin said the auxiliary in Medicine Hat has 300 members who make donations to non-profit groups and legion programs like poppy services possible.

Brodin, who has been a member of the auxiliary since 1973, said both of her husbands were veterans so the ladies' auxiliary offered her a place to interact with women she could relate to.

"But now that war veterans from WWI, WWII and Korea are literally dying off, we are hoping to encourage new veterans who have been involved, or people who are involved, with peacekeeping, police and RCMP who are retired, and those

who aren't to join.

"I encourage anyone interested to join. They will have complete use of our lovely facility where there's always cards, darts, pool and shuffleboard going on, a well-equipped gymnasium which we just spent \$5,000 on for new and refurbished equipment and access to our lovely banquet rooms for rental to members."

Since 1927, the ladies' auxiliary has organized such projects as a catering service, school milk programs and has sent care packages to soldiers during Second World War. It has also contributed to worthy community groups and projects over the years.

On the first Sunday in June, the auxiliary places popples on every grave in the Field of Honour, it attends a birthday at the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital once per year and helps support young people involved in sports.

"We sponsor the stampede queen speeches every year and we have done that for 26 years," said Brodin.

Brodin said a lot of water has gone under the bridge in 75 years and she just hopes the ladies' auxiliary can stay alive for 75 more years.

The auxiliary meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion. Anyone interested in joining can contact Brodin at 527-2738.

Tickets to the 75th anniversary dinner and dance are available for \$15 at the branch office.



— NEWS PHOTO RYAN TAPLIN
Hazel Brodin, the president of the Robertson Memorial Branch 17 Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion, is preparing for the 75th anniversary of the branch. Tickets are now available for Saturday's festivities.