



**Firefighters pose for a cause**  
— Page A4

# CITYSIDE

**WWI veteran turns 107**  
— Page A7



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## IN BRIEF

### DUI sentence doubled for alcohol breach

**LEE ANNE TRIPP**  
Medicine Hat News

A Medicine Hat man who was convicted of impaired driving in March had his jail-time doubled Tuesday for showing up drunk at the remand centre.

Mark Baron breached a probation order to abstain from alcohol when he failed to report to serve his 10-day sentence, which was being served intermittently on weekends, in a sober condition. Baron arrived at the Remand Centre swaying, staggering and smelling of alcohol, a police report noted. His record showed he had been before the courts on several occasions dating back to 1976 and Judge Darwin Greaves noted that each offence was related to substance abuse.

Baron pleaded guilty to the breach of probation and was ordered to serve another 10 days in custody, this time, with no chance of serving intermittently.

"An impaired driver who is sent to jail shows up to serve his time drunk, it rubs me the wrong way," remarked Greaves.

## TIDBITS

### JACKPOT

Wednesday's Pick 3: 339  
Wednesday's Lotto 6-49 numbers were: 2, 3, 18, 31, 38 and 46. The bonus number was 17.

The Plus winning number was 2691885.

Wednesday's BC-49 numbers were: 1, 6, 10, 14, 20 and 40. The bonus number was 4.

The four Extra winning numbers for British Columbia were 14, 36, 59 and 80.

Wednesday's Western 6-49 numbers were: 1, 6, 9, 12, 41, and 44.

The bonus number was 47. In event of a discrepancy, the official winning list shall prevail.

### PHOTO RADAR

For Thursday, July 19

- 1) CAPE School/Playground
  - 2) Alexandra School/Playground
  - 3) Southview School/Playground
  - 4) Connaught School/Playground
- Police will have photo radar set up at various locations in the city.

### WASTE REMOVAL

Today's garbage pickup will be done in Zone 1

### THE NEWS ONLINE:

Visit us on the Web at [www.medicinehatnews.com](http://www.medicinehatnews.com).



"Why don't you try it out before you buy it?"

## PHOTO GALLERY

Photos from readers are welcomed at our online photo gallery.

### NEWLY ADDED

- JazzFest 2007
- Medicine Hat News/YMCA Father's Day Run

# City weighing \$36M investment

**ANGUS HENDERSON**  
Medicine Hat News

The city's energy committee this week reviewed a recommendation that would see — pending city council approval — the capital investment of \$36.6 million to add a new gas turbine to replace two older ones.

General manager of electric utilities Kendall Woodacre explained the two generators proposed to be replaced were purchased in 1975 and 1978, respectively.

He added that both are fully

depreciated and uneconomical to continue to maintain and operate in order to provide for the city's growing service area electricity load — a forecast increase of 2.3 per cent annually.

If approved by city council, Woodacre expects the new gas turbine to be on-site in the summer of 2008 and put in service a few months later.

City council's go ahead would also be subject to approvals from the Alberta Electric System Operator, the Alberta Energy Utilities Board, Alberta Environment, passage of a borrow-

ing bylaw and a development and building permit.

Woodacre explained that under developing regulations that take effect in 2009, a combustion turbine (CT) at end-of-life must either be rebuilt to meet new environmental emissions limits, or be designated as a 'peaking unit' with limited operation.

The city's two older CTs are both at end-of-life and are inefficient high heat-rate units that are high emitters of greenhouse gases (GHGs).

According to Woodacre, a new CT would meet environmental

requirements and reduce high emitter costs.

In addition, the new equipment would provide a reliable supply; a 30 per cent efficiency improvement in gas-fired generation; and provide more than a 10 per cent return so it meets the city's guidelines for rate of returns on investment.

The new gas turbine is expected to have a 25 to 30 year operating life.

City council will be discussing approval of the acquisition at the July 23 council meeting.



—NEWS PHOTO IAN SORENSEN

Reigning Stampede Princess Trina Cairns, right, shares a laugh with 2007 Stampede Queen contestant Kayla Kuntz on Wednesday night.

# Queen contestants trot their stuff

**AVERY BUYE**  
Medicine Hat News

Though the Mark's Work Wearhouse horsemanship competition may not have started out exactly as two of the Stampede Queen hopefuls had wished, it only got better as the evening went on.

While riding into the ring for introduction, two of the eight girls encountered troubles with their horses and were bucked off. However, they did not fret, getting right back up and even joking about it in their introductions.

"How do you start the evening but from the ground?" one of the girls said with a laugh.

The competition began with a trail ride including: opening and closing a gate, walking horses over planks of wood, over a bridge, walking backwards and moving a piece of fabric from one pole to the next.

All of the girls really "brought 'er home" when it came to the barrel racing, each completing the stage without incident. While some did it faster than others, not all of the horses are barrel racers, so finishing the event was quite an achievement for all of the horses and the riders.

The pushing stock portion of the competition proved to be easy for most of the riders, with the cattle running toward the gate without hesitation.

Contestant Colleen Krueger did have some difficulty with her stubborn cow, who just seemed to want to do anything but go in the gate. With a little perseverance, Krueger was successful.

The fastest to push the cattle certainly had to be Kayla Kuntz, who had her horse right on the heels of the cow.

The girls lastly had to go through a serpentine circuit, intertwining through eight horses while holding onto a flag.

The other girls who competed in the competi-

tion include Danelle Bishoff, Pearl Brower, Jesse Kleinknecht, Tiffany Riva and Candice Wutch.

"A few of them stick out more than others," said Andrea Slofstra, one of the two judges and a former Stampede Queen and was Miss Rodeo Canada in 2001.

As for her advice to those girls who are crowned, and the other contestants, she said to "look at it as a learning experience be thankful for it because it doesn't happen to everyone."

Other things that the girls were judged on during the competition included appearance and knowledge, presentation ride and western equitation.

Horsemanship is worth 40 per cent and personality is worth 60 per cent of the competition.

Tonight the queen contestants will participate in Royal Bank Speech night at 7 p.m. in the Cypress Centre Auditorium. Tickets are \$16 per person.

# Little support for new municipal taxes

**ANGUS HENDERSON**  
Medicine Hat News

A controversial proposal that could see municipalities implement a wide variety of new taxes isn't getting much support from some city council members.

The proposal was first floated in a report a few months ago by members of the province's municipal affairs and housing Minister's Council on Municipal Sustainability.

The council consists of the presidents of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, and the mayors of Edmonton and Calgary.

Mayor Garth Valley said he can understand how some municipalities — particularly big city ones — want the extra ability to tax, but for smaller city mayors like him, he's not personally in favour about going to other forms of taxation.

This week the province responded to the recommendation by stating it was reserving a decision on the recommendation, pending further consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders.

And that's all just fine with Valley, who doesn't

“The last thing the poor taxpayer needs is increased taxing powers for government.”

—Graham Kelly

to municipalities and the present government's commitment to allot \$1.4 billion annually by 2010 has led the way with respect to other provinces.

He would, however, like to see more sharing of the wealth from the federal government.

Ald. Graham Kelly, too, doesn't think the city needs additional taxing powers.

"I think the last thing the poor taxpayer needs is the increased taxing powers of another level of government," he said. "I don't see it as a big thing for Medicine Hat."

support the recommendation that could see anywhere from amusement, tourism, vehicle registration, and property transfer taxes implemented by municipalities.

Valley doesn't blame the province for whatever financial woes certain municipalities are experiencing. He thinks former premier Ralph Klein's \$3 billion commitment

Kelly also pointed out that recently when the city was looking at a new arena, there was a suggestion that possibly a hotel tax or a tax on tickets could be implemented to help fund it.

"The hotels weren't wild about the idea and the Medicine Hat Tigers weren't wild about the idea of taxing their tickets," he added.

Ald. John Hamill wasn't keen on the idea either. "I always have a concern about things like this," he explained. "There are some things that a municipality has to do, but there are other things I don't think we should be involved in either."

His preference is to see less downloading of services from the federal and provincial governments.

Ald. Harv Speers, however, saw some merit to the increased taxation proposal.

"It's something that would help municipalities become sustainable through some kind of sustainable revenue," he stated. "We can't depend on any kind of government grants because they could be there one day and gone the next."

Speers added that such taxation income would provide a safety net for municipalities and that's what makes it so desirable.

Other council members weren't available for comment Wednesday.