

CITY

EDITOR Craig Albrecht 380-7595

Did you win?

NOTE: ALL LOTTERY NUMBERS ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL VERIFIED

Extra: 2005628
Pick 3: 921



Radar hotspots

Photo Radar locations operated by the Lethbridge Police Service can be found at the following locations today:

Algonquin Road West
Leaside Avenue South

Longtime horseman parade marshal

BY GARRY ALLISON
Exhibition Park

Longtime friend of Exhibition Park and avid horseman — until his retirement last year — Dale "Digger" Mortensen, has been named as the honorary parade marshal for today's Whoop-Up Days Parade.

Digger — he picked up that nickname from Cliff Williamson as he dug, by hand, all the posts for a roping arena on his land more than a quarter century ago — worked for Exhibition Park for two years, starting in 1980. He came back in the 1990s and then, when the Rocky Mountain Turf Club took over horse racing, Digger worked for both entities before retiring in 2004 due to the cancer.

In between, Digger also spent a lot of time working with Dick Aldoff's City Excavating crew. Digger, born in 1935 at Swift Current, was eight years old when his family moved to Edson. By 1954 he headed south, first Lethbridge, then Raymond and now back to Lethbridge.

His dad always had horses around when Digger was a kid, but it wasn't until 1980 he got into race horses. He started by himself, with four or five runners. At his peak he was training up to 20 horses, for himself and other owners.

He used to calf rope quite a bit in his early days and, when he stopped, Dale turned to the race track. Free Sunshine was the first horse he ever had at the track and he was claimed in his very first race.

"I should have quit then and there," Dale always says with a laugh. "Instead, I went out and got another." Digger began his track career just two years after the new grandstand and track were opened in 1978.

He and wife Louise had a fairly good horse called I Two Step Too. The horse won 12 races in Lethbridge, mainly ridden by Terri Landaker, and also picked up wins in Calgary and Edmonton before heading south.

The bay gelding was about 12 years old when it was used in the movie Seabiscuit. He was the main horse in the filming and when you look at the DVD for the movie, he's the horse shown on the front.

Digger is quick to praise the support he's received from Louise, a former chairman of racing for Exhibition Park and operator of the old Grandstand Dining Room.

"Through the years I've enjoyed it all, mostly because of the people," Digger says.

Previous honorary parade marshals have included Gene Autry and in the past few years, Art Batty, Garry Allison, Cleve Hill and Ernie Snowden.

The Whoop-Up Days Parade gets underway today at 10 a.m. from Park Place mall west entrance and travels down 3 Avenue South to 13 Street, and then turns north.



Yvonne Coakes, Carol Sekiya, Barb Callihoo and Dan Heyland decorate the parade float for the Foster Care Unit of Southwest Alberta Child and Family Services Monday in the underground parking at Lethbridge Centre.

HERALD PHOTO BY IAN MARTENS

Foster parenting offers many rewards for local families

Local couples honoured for many years of fostering children

By CAROLINE BOSCHMAN
Lethbridge Herald

Retiring from foster parenting may well be impossible, just ask Jaci Helmer.

While Southwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority gave Helmer and three other foster parent couples a formal retirement party Wednesday, Helmer continues to be involved in her foster children's lives. For many of them, Jaci and Buddy Helmer are the only family they know and the people they turn to when they need help. In addition, one of the children they took in at age two is now a dependent adult who still lives with them. They started fostering in 1964 and have cared for 311 children since then. Back in 1964, Jaci was busy with her own children.

"My oldest daughter had an imaginary friend and I was very concerned. My doctor suggested either babysitting during the day or taking her to a group where there were lots of kids," she said.

When she got a call from social services asking her to be a foster parent, it seemed the ideal solution.

"We're in our 44th year and we were never without children. There was never a break. I started at the very beginning with adoptable babies."

Hendrika and Hans Kuperus of Coaldale have taken care of close to 200 children, most of them newborns.

"Some we had only three, four days. Some we had for a year. We've got one now we've

had for 19 and a half years," Hans said.

They've been foster parents for about 40 years, the first five years in California. In addition to fostering, the couple has five children of their own, 21 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

"I love babies, and when my babies went to kindergarten, my house was empty. So we decided to fill it up. Since then we haven't had a dull moment," Hendrika said. "We're still doing two o'clock feedings."

The baby they fostered nearly 20 years ago wasn't expected to live much more than two weeks. Despite being unable to do anything but smile, she has survived and thrived in the Kuperus household.

Patti and Harold Tekye and Rita and John Healy were also honoured for their years of fostering children.

"You will be remembered as great foster parents from Region 1," said Sharon Brokop, CEO of Southwest Alberta Child and Family Services.

Long-term foster care occurred more frequently in the past but the law now promotes permanency so foster parents are told their role is temporary. In the southwest region 130 foster homes look after more than 200 children but more foster parents are always needed.

"More homes means we have more resources for children who need foster care," said Carol Sekiya of the Southwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority.

Prospective foster parents need not be perfect but they should be stable with no recent deaths or divorces. The home must be safe for a foster child. Call Sekiya at 381-5500 for more information.

Council gives OK to affordable housing project

Eight-townhouse project to be built on Stafford Drive North

By DAVE MABELL
Lethbridge Herald

After hearing neighbours voice support, city council gave speedy approval Monday to an affordable housing project in north Lethbridge.

Making use of long-vacant land on Stafford Drive North, real estate developer Miles Godlonton will build eight townhouses with a common courtyard and green space, on a half-acre site left over as Staffordville developed in the 1980s and '90s. The property lies west of existing multi-family homes on Stafford Drive but has right-turn access to the busy thoroughfare.

"We hope to provide affordable, entry-level housing," Godlonton said. By rezoning the

land to direct control, he told council, it would provide planning officials and nearby residents an opportunity to ensure the development becomes an asset to the area.

When neighbouring residents were asked to speak during the public hearing, all four who came forward expressed general support for the proposal. Some voiced concerns about parking, fencing or sideyards, but none offered "not in my backyard" arguments against the higher density.

"I'm impressed by the planning that went into it," said Mayor Bob Tarleck after the hearing ended. "I like the courtyard idea."

Ald. Barb Lacey and others accepted the mayor's suggestion that final readings be given to the required bylaw Monday, rather than waiting until a meeting in September.

"I commend the developer for working with the neighbours," she said. "This is appropriate to the site."

Ald. Les Vaala was equally positive.

"This is a good opportunity for the whole neighbourhood," he said. "I am impressed by the reasonableness of these neighbours."

The project is not in line for any support grants, the mayor pointed out, so it's not "affordable housing" as it's usually understood.

"It's attainable housing," he offered.

Remaining land to the south of his site could provide more medium-density homes, Godlonton added. On this project, three-bedroom units will be sold as individual condo units so a condominium association will be formed to ensure the buildings' exterior, courtyard and other common areas will be kept in good shape.

A small community garden is also part of the plan, along with trees selected to screen the site from neighbouring property.

See more city council on A4.

Get ready to eat your way through Whoop-Up Days

Plenty of culinary events on tap this week

Lethbridge Herald

With a week of pancake breakfasts and barbecues throughout the city to celebrate Whoop-Up Days, cowboys and girls can strap on the feedbag.

Breakfast will be served from 8 to 10 a.m. today at Lethbridge Orthotic-Prosthetic at 542 13 St. N. for a toonie donation.

All money raised will benefit the Cerebral Palsy Association.

The Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization is also hosting a \$2 breakfast today from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at 500 11 St. S.

Following the Whoop-Up Days parade, Scenic Plaza businesses will have lunch ready on the patio between the Galt Museum and Pemmican Lodge.

In addition to the \$2 barbecue meal, the United Farmers of Alberta History in Motion trailer will be on site. The 53-foot museum-on-wheels showcases nearly 100 years of the UFA in Alberta.

All proceeds from the barbecue go to Streets Alive.

On Wednesday Nord-Bridge Senior Citizens Association is serving up pancakes and sausage for a toonie from 8 to 11 a.m. in their multi-purpose hall, 1904 13 Ave. N. Live entertainment will be provided by the Nord-Bridge Jammers.

Also on Wednesday, Sun Life Financial will be hosting a charitable Whoop-Up breakfast at 550 W.T. Hill Blvd. S. from 7 to 10 a.m. Proceeds will go to the Green Acres Kiwanis Club breakfast/lunch program.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, the Ramada Inn at 2375 Mayor Magrath Drive will be serving barbecue beef on a bun, corn on the cob, chips, barbecue beans, pop and coffee for \$3.

Participants will also have an opportunity to dunk the hotel's general manager. Three balls for the dunk tank cost \$2.

All proceeds will benefit the Handicapped Riding Association and the Breast Cancer Society of Canada.

The Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation is hosting its annual pancake breakfast in the hospital cafeteria Thursday from 7 to 10:30 a.m. For a donation, hungry residents can enjoy pancakes and sausages while they listen to the Rhythm Kings and watch the Rocky Mountain Cloggers perform.

There will also be kids games and a visit by Tara Sergerie, Miss Rodeo Canada, between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Proceeds from the CRH Foundation breakfast will benefit the pediatrics unit.

Hungry residents can also get breakfast — there's no charge, but donations are welcome — in the Lethbridge Herald parking lot, 504 7 St. S. from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Thursday. The annual pancake breakfast is put on by Southern Al-Care Manor.

On Friday the LSCO will serve hamburgers, coleslaw, corn on the cob and all the fixins from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$6.

College flag to fly at city hall

The college flag will fly Friday at city hall, as Lethbridge College celebrates its 50th anniversary. But despite a sympathetic hearing, city council turned down college president Tracy Edwards' request that Aug. 24 be proclaimed "Lethbridge College Day."

Edwards told council Monday the institution has sent out at least 30,000 graduates, and now counts about 12,000 people who come to the campus for credit or non-credit learning over a year's time. She also outlined plans for Friday's seven-hour celebration, culminating with a fireworks display about 9 p.m.

"It will be one of the biggest parties in Lethbridge history," she predicted.

While extending their best wishes, council members refused to overturn a 1999 council decision to stop issuing proclamations which had been routinely made in response to many organizations' requests

CRIMEINBRIEF

Pickup stolen from business

A 14-year-old half-ton was likely the biggest booty gained from four break-ins reported by Lethbridge regional police. The truck, a white Chevrolet pickup with Alberta licence ECJ 115, was taken over the weekend from All Glass and Windows on 10 Street North.

In Coaldale, police discovered a break-in at Intercontinental Truck Body. A canine unit failed to find anyone inside, but police suspect culprits were after cash.

Nearby in Coaldale, Prairie Meat Processors was also a break-in target, where entry was gained by smashing a window. Officials are checking inventory to see if anything was taken.

In Lethbridge, a north-side resident called police Monday after hearing glass shatter as someone tried to break in about 2 a.m. The culprit fled as police arrived.

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Monday to Friday: 6 - 8 p.m. Weekends and holidays: noon - 5 p.m.

All proceeds benefit the nine health foundations in communities throughout Chinook Health