



**CULTURE:** National Aboriginal Day celebrations were colourful. **A5**

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Rocky Mountain House, Alberta

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# Hundreds of families rely on Food Bank

Donations needed to keep up with demand

BY AUTUMN CHRUNIK  
 SUMMER STAFF REPORTER

Food bank donations are down as summer gets underway.

"It's been slower than it usually is," says David Carter, who will officially take over as director of the food bank from Dan Gonzales on July 1.

The local food bank is in need of donations to last through the summer.

"We need food and cash donations to keep up with hamper demands and operation," says Carter.



David Carter stands by the shelves of the food bank on June 27. Because getting food donations is slow over the summer, they accept food donations from other food banks in Alberta to get by. AUTUMN CHRUNIK | THE MOUNTAINEER

They are in need of mostly canned goods such as soup, vegetables and beans. They also need baby and toddler items such as diapers, formula, bottles and baby food.

"There are a few things in the facility that need to be replaced as well," says Carter.

Carter mentioned that in March they handed out 500 hampers filled with food for 348 different families.

Donations can be brought to the Lord's Food Bank, Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., at the back door of the food bank. Cash and cheques are also accepted. Cheques can be made out to The Lord's Food Bank, and the food bank can issue a tax receipt.

If you have any questions please phone the office at 403-845-7546.

## Pet Bylaw hearing set for next week

BY LAURA BUTTON  
 EDITOR

Rocky Mountain House councillors are close to finalizing the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw that has been under discussion since early 2016.

The bylaw, which passed first reading on June 7, stipulates a maximum leash length of two metres, higher fines for offences such as having an animal at large or failing to provide a pet adequate food or shelter, and mandatory court appearances for the owner of any dog that attacks another animal or person.

It also gives councillors the authority to restrict animals at public events such as Marketplace on Main. Council has in fact already done so by way of special resolution for Marketplace on Main 2016.

Under the bylaw, pet owners in Rocky Mountain House must provide their animals with adequate food, water, shelter,

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Isabelle Settle, Greg Christenson, Mayor Fred Nash and Reeve Pat Alexander smile as they cut the ribbon signifying the official opening of the new Christenson Sports and Wellness Centre on June 25. AUTUMN CHRUNIK | THE MOUNTAINEER

# A very grand opening for rec centre

BY AUTUMN CHRUNIK  
 SUMMER STAFF REPORTER

The Christenson Sports and Wellness Centre is now officially open for the public to enjoy. The grand opening was held on June 25, where there were a ton of fun games and events held throughout the day for the public to enjoy, such as a pancake breakfast, pickleball, a tailgate party and cabaret.

Mayor Fred Nash, Chief Administrative Officer Todd Becker, Reeve of Clearwater County Pat Alexander, President of Christenson Group of Companies Greg Christenson and property manager of Christenson Group of Companies Isabelle Settle all took part in the cutting of the ribbon, before unveiling the new name. Representatives from Rocky Knights soccer, Rebels

*'I am very proud. This is for future generations.'*

**Fred Nash**  
 Mayor

football, Rapids basketball and Rocky Flipz gymnastics helped out.

"We are very proud of this facility. It takes us from being a small town to a city. We encourage you to use it," said Mayor Fred Nash.

Christenson said on behalf of his company, "We are very proud to be involved with this in Rocky. It's about the kids and health and wellness."

Mayor Nash told The Mountaineer after the ribbon ceremony, "We have a quality of

life for all citizens to fulfil their destiny in a healthy lifestyle. I am very proud. This is for future generations."

Donald Verhesen, a town councillor, discussed the facility cost overruns and setbacks. "It's been a long time coming and we've taken a lot of hits. The final products made it all worthwhile," he said.

"It's a wonderful facility for this community. It's diverse for the town. Anyone can use it. It's a year-round facility," said Pat Alexander.

Some citizens of Rocky Mountain House showed their enthusiasm about the Rec Centre grand opening too.

Rachel McAdam, mother of two, said, "I think the little play place is gonna be awesome. I can work out while (my kids) have fun."

More coverage on C1

## Subscribers: In case of postal disruption . . .

As of July 2, Canada Post will be in a legal position to lock out employees, and members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) will be in a legal position to strike.

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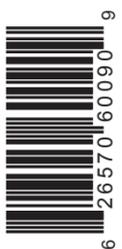
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**EVENTS GALORE:**  
 Check out the Community Calendar for a myriad of events and activities including Market on Main which begins this Thursday. **C10**

