

## Debate, from page 3

"I think people who suffer from mental illness may naturally be depressed and might see no hope and take this route if there's no safeguard."

He said the legislation must be written carefully, to protect healthcare providers and citizens. It is wrong to force all practitioners to provide referrals to patients for doctor-assisted death, he said, when it goes against their belief system.

"I don't believe it's the right thing to do," said Kwong. "I think it's going down a slippery slope."

Okotoks resident Diny Woyiwada said she welcomes legalizing physician-assisted death, but she believes the process needs to be strictly legislated.

"I've seen a couple of close relatives go through really long, traumatic deaths that lasted longer than they should have, so this is really a personal topic for me," said Woyiwada. "I think it has to be a well-thought out decision and that all possible healthcare should be accessed and used where possible first, if it's not a terminal illness."

Retired physician Dr. Neil Graham, said it was rare to have patients ask him whether he could help end their lives - but it did happen.

Graham is currently

working with the High River Cancer Care Clinic, said he knew he was "the odd person out" among the group, but spoke out in favour of the Supreme Court decision.

There will be more people considering the option as a possibility once it's available, he said.

"They'll want to discuss it, to discuss it with their families and think about it and decide whether they want to keep on going because often they're in very miserable circumstances," said Graham. "It becomes a difficult life sometimes."

Melanie Chute, a registered psychiatric nurse at the Foothills Country Hospice, disagreed.

"I'm not in favour of it at all," said Chute. "I think we're making incredible strides in palliative care."

Under the care of a single physician or at a hospital, she said, things aren't managed as well as they could be with the multi-faceted approach taken by a hospice team, which includes balancing medication and providing psychological and spiritual care to suit each patient.

"We have seen people come in and say, 'Can't you just end it all for me?' But that's just when they first come in," said Chute. "Then they relax and they let us love them and that's all part of the medicine. So I'm definitely against this."

# Keeping an eye on crime

## Foothills: Rural crime watch formed for High River area

By Krista Conrad

Staff Reporter

A recent rash in crime has led rural residents to take action.

Led by Const. Stacy Campbell of the High River RCMP, citizens from High River's surrounding area, including Blackie and Cayley, are banding together to form a new rural crime watch.

Campbell said the upswing in crime is likely correlated to the economic decline and rural residents need to be proactive.

"We want to make people accountable and responsible for their community," said Campbell. "It's giving them the power to take back their community."

The fan-out system will disseminate information from the RCMP to crime watch association members to keep rural residents informed of issues and make them vigilant, she said. Messages may range from crime trends or ongoing issues to suspicious vehicles and activity seen in the area, she said.

All information will be confirmed and generated by the RCMP and the board and association will manage the crime watch, Campbell said.



BRENT CALVER/OWW

MD of Foothills Councillor Ted Mills at the gate to his property on Apr. 7. Mills encountered an alleged car thief on his property when the individual approached him asking to put air in his tires.

Two general meetings have been held so far, including one information session with High County Rural Crime Watch Association president Suzanne Oel and about 100 people came out.

"I think that's a good start, but I'd like to see 10 times that number of people joining the association," said Campbell.

Joining the association involves completing an application form and having a basic criminal record

check done, she said. Campbell hopes to have the board up and running by the end of June, so the crime watch can get started over the summer.

Board members are required to attend regular meetings, general association members do not have the same stipulation, but will receive fan-outs and information when issues arise, she said.

Though the RCMP will endeavour to use the fan-out in all cases, Campbell

said sometimes events unfold too quickly for the crime watch to effectively warn everyone - like in the case of the machete-wielding truck thief in the Mazepa area on April 1.

"If the members have the ability to send messages, in a situation like that, they could potentially put out to people to stay in their houses, but that one happened so fast I'm not sure it would have been effective in this case," said Campbell.

See Crime on page 7

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## 21st Annual LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Okotoks 2016

The following individuals were nominated to recognize their leadership, dedication to volunteering, and for inspiring the spirit of volunteerism in others.

Leaders of Tomorrow Elementary Award Recipient: *Mya Jones*  
 Leaders of Tomorrow Junior High Award Recipient: *Emily Penzo*  
 Leaders of Tomorrow Senior High Award Recipient: *Gabby Gibbs*  
 Heart of Okotoks Award Recipient: *Marg Cox*

Leaders of Tomorrow Elementary School Nominees:

Leah Brown	Faith Hunter	Ella Rasmussen
Claire Corneille	Anna Mueller	Abby Szilagyi

Leaders of Tomorrow Junior High School Nominees:

Rosie Bouchard	Benjamin Leggett	Alexandra Vander Maaten
Adele Colbert	Alexander Leggett	Zak Wasylshen
Taylor Dingman	Krystal Mackie	Matthew Wouters
Colby Goutbeck	Cassandra Roy	
Jordin Haar	Athena Spear	

Leaders of Tomorrow Senior High School Nominees:

Deicy Alcludia	Matthew Nystrom	Michaela Staples
Olivia Herbst	Mikhaila Pearcy	Katie Stuart
Emma Kehoe	Claire Poulter	Katelyn Knierim
Katelyn Knierim	Aiden Smith	(Honourable Mention)


Heart of Okotoks Individual Nominees:

Robert Beck	Tara Epp	Mark Rowed
Tamara Boivin	Jana Giger	
Connie Drake	Brenda Merkle	

Heart of Okotoks Group Nominees:

- Mr. Campbell's Grade 6 Class: Westmount School - *Estee Arnot, Ronin Bartsich, Colby Cotton, Dallin Court, Madison Dean, Kyle Doroshenko, Nalaina Funk, Taya Hartin, Samantha Hilmer, Sara Hlady, Dylan Hodgins, Ella Hummel, James Jevier, Seth Kohls, Olivia Lee, Aurum Lightfoot, Nathan McAllister, Brooklyn Muir, Darian Nimeck, Sheldon Ryder, Sen Smith, Liam Smith, Noah Suykens, Nyah Ulmer, Fiona Vinden, Domyinc Whittin*
- Volunteer Driver Program. 2015 Drivers - *Liz Albrecht, Evan Bulloch, Jana Giger, Roberta Gullacher, Shannon Ho, Neilly Little, John Martin, Pam McKay, Jeremy Neufeld, Stan Parker, Norma Ramage, Roberta Robinson, Wayne Stewart, Lisa Wengel*

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### Crime, from page 4

MD Coun. Ted Mills, a Blackie-area resident, was approached by the suspect before incident that led to a police pursuit, and said with a crime watch he could have warned more people in the area.

"It's dangerous when you've got these guys running around out here looking for trouble," said Mills. "They could have a gun, they could be on something, they're unpredictable and people need to be vigilant and be careful out here."

While he worked in his shop, he said he heard a truck driving erratically on

gravel roads and revving its engine before it entered his yard and parked outside his shop.

The driver insisted he needed air for his tires, but Mills refused and told him to get off his property.

From there, the suspect went to the neighbour's house and stole a truck, he said, beginning the series of events that ultimately led to him smashing through rural gates and standing in another yard with a machete.

Mills phoned police with the license plate number, but said it would have been even better to also be able to warn area residents, since nobody knew where the suspect was driving or how the incident would

end. "With everything that's been happening lately, we are more vigilant about what's going on here now," said Mills. "We're not just laidback, we're paying attention. People need to be aware, and make sure they have gates and they're being proactive and sign up for the rural crime watch to tighten it up."

The next meeting for the rural crime watch will be held April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Blackie Community Hall. Anyone interested in being a board member is welcome to attend.

Those interested in joining the crime watch as a member can contact Sgt. Campbell at the High River RCMP at 403-652-2357.

**Okotoks Crime Prevention**

**CRIME STOPPERS**  
1-800-222-8477  
crimestoppers@city.okotoks.ab.ca

Incidents for the week of April 4 to April 10

INCIDENT CATEGORY	GEOGRAPHIC AREA				
	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Assault	3	2	0	0	1
Break In	2	0	1	0	4
Collision	7	4	0	0	15
Drug	0	2	1	1	3
Impaired	2	0	0	0	0
Theft	4	2	0	0	4
Vandalism	5	2	1	0	2
Other	41	24	6	3	31
<b>Totals</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>60</b>

Notes:  
1. Statistics are Monday through Sunday inclusive  
2. Areas T1, T2, T3 & T4 are wholly within the Okotoks town limits  
3. Area T5 is rural

Anyone with information about mischief, vandalism or any other crime in the community is encouraged to contact the Okotoks RCMP or Crimestoppers. Please call the Okotoks RCMP at (403) 995-6400 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (1-800 222-8477).

# 4 FOR 3

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