

Drug charges lead to jail sentences

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Two men involved in separate and unrelated incidents involving drugs have been handed short jail sentences.

Cory Bruce Hagan pleaded guilty Thursday in Lethbridge provincial court to single counts of drug possession and breaching release conditions. Although he was given a 15-day sentence for each of the federal offences, to be served concurrently, he was also given credit for time he already spent in custody since his arrest last month, which completes his sentence.

On May 4 Hagan was downtown, where police saw him meeting with a number of people. The officers also knew he was wanted on a warrant, and arrested him. During a search they found in his pocket 10 grams of fentanyl and a digital scale.

Hagan was initially charged with drug possession for the purpose of trafficking, but he pleaded not guilty to the charge in exchange for the guilty plea to simple drug possession.

Police also found Hagan in possession of a small folding

knife, which he had previously been prohibited from possessing.

Hagan, who appeared in court by CCTV from the Lethbridge Correctional Centre, remains in custody on several provincial charges, including robbery and resisting a peace officer, and is scheduled to address those charges in court today.

In an unrelated incident, Paul Wayne McCarthy, 41, received a jail sentence after he was caught late last year with about 15 grams of fentanyl.

Coaldale RCMP noticed a vehicle with a licence plate that did not match the make of the car. Although they were unable to stop the vehicle, they saw it the following day parked in a residential area of Coaldale, but with a different licence plate. Police saw McCarthy leave a residence, climb into the car and drive away, but they were able to pull it over and arrest him.

When they searched the suspect, they found the drugs, a scale and some plastic bags.

McCarthy, who has a criminal record with convictions for drug possession and drug trafficking, was sentenced to 30 days in jail, which will begin running May 4 when he completes a sentence on which he is currently serving.

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SOUTHERN ALBERTA NEWSPAPERS PHOTO BY NIKKI JAMIESON

Birds of Prey Managing Director Colin Weir presents FortisAlberta President and CEO Janine Sullivan with a birdhouse during the Mosquito Terminator unveiling this week in Coaldale.

Mosquito Terminator a natural way to prey on bugs

Nikki Jamieson

SOUTHERN ALBERTA NEWSPAPERS
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A new nesting platform has been installed at the Birds of Prey Centre.

In an event earlier this week, the Birds of Prey Centre and FortisAlberta were proud to announce the unveiling of the Mosquito Terminator.

A joint project with FortisAlberta, the Sarcee Fish and Game Association and the Alberta Birds of Prey Centre, it is a barn swallow nesting platform that aims to provide a nesting site for the natural mosquito predators.

"This partnership offers an environmentally friendly way to control pests while creating a nesting site for barn swallows," said Janine Sullivan, president and CEO of FortisAlberta, adding the project was extremely cool.

Janine also presented the centre with a \$50,000 cheque. FortisAlberta has supported the Birds of Prey Centre since 2006, and over the years has donated \$720,000 towards the centre.

The idea for the platform came from Kelly Weatherall, an asset management senior planner for Fortis. As part of the Sarcee F&G Association, Weatherall said he's

built a lot of artificial habitats, and he was looking to expand on that work.

Barn swallows require a different nesting site to a traditional bird house, as they look for things like ledges to build their nests on. During his research for the project, what concerned him the most was that one of the top searches seemed to be for getting rid of them.

"They tend to nest under people's houses and they tend to be over doors or windows and they make a mess, and people try to get rid of them," said Weatherall. "I was thinking well, here we want them, let's make a spot for them."

The nesting platform is also outfitted with a bat box, and Weatherall noted that once the pole's intended inhabitants move in, there will be constant mosquito mitigation going on.

"If we can get the birds to start using them, I think, I've heard reports where bats and birds eat up to 1,000 mosquitos a night or a day," said Weatherall. "What I like about the concept too is that it's like 24/7 mosquito control: bats at night, birds during the day."

Colin Weir, managing director of the Birds of Prey Centre in Coaldale, said it was good to have a "natural" control for the mosquito population, rather than relying on expensive pesticides.

"Just in general, even bats, for example, and barn swallows,

they're here for a reason, and they really provide a lot of benefits to us," said Weir, noting old farmhouses are a perfect example of habitat for barn swallows. "We will educate people a little bit so they can appreciate the presence of these creatures, in and around their homes."

Weatherall said Fortis was hugely supportive of the project, and he couldn't have done it alone.

Employees from the FortisAlberta Lethbridge office placed the pole for the structure at the Alberta Birds of Prey Centre, and Weatherall called the crew "tremendous".

"These are the types of ideas that we love to see our employees bring forward," said Sullivan. "Our commitment to the environment is really represented by ambassadors like Kelly (Weatherall), and it gives us great pleasure to help him see these types of projects through."

"One of the things we want to do here at the centre is we want this to be a bit of a place where there's different ideas that people can actually take and use them in their own farms, acreages and even urban backyards," said Weir. "The idea is hopefully when people see these things here, like the bat houses and the barn swallow nesting area, they'll want to implement some of these ideas back on their own farms and acreages and backyards."

Bellevue residents protest potential loss of park

Al Beeber

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A rally is being staged in Bellevue today protesting the conditional sale of a town green space to a Lethbridge developer.

The rally will run between 2 and 4 p.m. at the green space on 25 Avenue between 210th and 208th Streets.

Bellevue resident Kirsten Fleming said the 2.25-acre parcel of municipal land - which used to be a ball park - is used every day by children and their families as well as fly fishermen who use the space for dryland teaching.

"We're out there every single day," she said.

She said while a notice about the sale appeared in a Pass newspaper, adjacent residents weren't notified directly about the plan which will see 24 townhomes built on the property if the sale goes ahead.

Fleming said residents aren't opposed to development in the Pass - in fact, they know the tax base needs to increase - but she said Bellevue residents should have a say in this matter.

"I totally believe in progress in the Crowsnest Pass but it's not been done properly," she said.

One public hearing has already been held and a second is slated for July 13 at 7 p.m. in the MDM Community Centre.

"This is not something the town wants," said Fleming, whose family like many live in the Pass part-time. But due to remote working thanks to COVID, hers now spends about 290 days a year at the home they've owned for 18 years.

The first public hearing attracted 30 concerned Bellevue residents and spurred a petition with 80 residents calling for the process to be paused," said Fleming.

"People are pretty upset." Follow @albeebHerald on Twitter

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LETHBRIDGE HERALD

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce has a new board chair.

Richard Westlund was elected to the position Thursday at the chamber's general meeting.

He previously served as Chair Elect in 2020-21 and has served three terms as a director. Westlund is also a member of the

Talent Development Taskforce, recently created by the Alberta Chambers of Commerce.

"Lethbridge's business community is a key component of the vibrancy and strength of our city. More than ever, the Chamber must play an active role in ensuring that conditions are right for business to succeed in our region and that decision makers understand the challenges and

opportunities facing our business community," said Westlund in a press release.

Westlund is the Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations at the University of Lethbridge and is responsible for conceptualizing and implementing government relations, media relations and internal communication strategies for the benefit of the U of L.

HOT TOPICS



**WEDNESDAY
July 7**

**10:00 am
MST.**

Cost:

Nothing at all, but you must pre-register as there is limited space for the live online event.

How to Register:

Go to <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/140/vlxgrbm5> and fill out the form. Once accepted you will get an email confirming your registration with your own link.

BEYOND THE CRISIS

The real story on our governments pandemic response.

Join us Wednesday, July 7 for a webinar presentation by David Redman, retired Lieutenant Colonel and former Head of Emergency Management Alberta. As an expert who was instrumental in Alberta's pandemic response plan in 2005 Redman is an authority on the subject, he has never been afraid to challenge the status quo and openly question the response to Covid 19 in Canada. Controversial and often maligned, Redman's fact and evidence based approach will shake your understanding of the pandemic, what was done and what should have been done.

"Governments took every emergency pandemic plan they'd ever written and threw them out the window when COVID arrived." — Emergency management expert David Redman



David Redman

Retired Lieutenant Colonel and former Head of Emergency Management Alberta.

SPECIAL GUEST MODERATOR

Danielle Smith

