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# MEDICINE HAT NEWS

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2009

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COMING UP

## In Thursday's News WHL Decision Day

Thursday marks the Western Hockey League's deadline for declaring three overage players on team rosters. The Medicine Hat Tigers still have four. Read an overview of the situation in the News' sports section.

SPORTS

## Locals wow at provincial Taekwondo meet



Page A9

## Loonie soars toward parity

JULIAN BELTRAME  
The Canadian Press

OTTAWA  
The recent surge in the loonie could damage the pace of Canada's recovery, Prime Minister Stephen Harper warned Tuesday as pressure built on the Bank of Canada to intervene.

The Canadian dollar has risen more than five cents in the past two weeks, much of it in the last few days of trading.

It closed up 0.73 cents at 96.48 cents U.S. Tuesday from the central bank's posted rate Friday, although it had been above 97 cents for much of the day and was higher in overseas markets Monday when Canadian markets were closed for Thanksgiving.

Speaking in Vancouver, Harper said he was concerned, especially with the quick pace of appreciation.

"As we said before, we're not out of the woods. There are many risks ... and obviously the value of the Canadian dollar is a risk to recovery," he said.

"I don't think it's a risk to choking off the recovery but if it goes up too rapidly it does have difficult effects on our economy."

The prime minister went on to say the currency is the responsibility of the Bank of Canada, but did not say what he believes governor Mark Carney should do, if anything.

Carney has taken to trying to jawbone the dollar down since it began its steady ascent from 76.53 cents on March 9 with little to show for it.

See Loonie, page A2

THE ECONOMY

## Golden delicious

The Canadian Press

TORONTO

Tim Hortons Inc. is setting up shop near Fort Knox, home to U.S. government's main gold storehouse.

The king of Canada's coffee and doughnut industry says the new outlet in Kentucky will be its first on the grounds of a U.S. military facility.

It's also another location in a growing number that the company has added near popular tourist destinations in the United States.

FINE DINING

## Green-built condos go ahead

Low-cost housing project built with environment in mind

GILLIAN SLADE  
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Medicine Hat's first green-built condominiums were celebrated in a ground-breaking ceremony on Tuesday afternoon.

Classic Construction Ltd has begun development of 88 units in Southlands Pointe that not only provides affordable housing but construction techniques that will demonstrate the cost savings of living green.

"Classic Construction has taken the concept of affordable housing one step further with green home-energy efficiency," said John Hamill, deputy mayor. "Over the past five years this company has partnered with the city in providing housing that is also economically sound and we congratulate them."

"This first green-built project will bring our total investment in affordable housing for Medicine Hat to \$26 million," said Murray Prokosch president of Classic Construction Ltd.

The development, located on Southlands Drive, is using the latest in environmental technology including Structurally Insulated Panel Systems in the walls that are stronger and better insulated against weather and air infiltration noise.

They is produced in the Hat by Classic Panels, a subsidiary of Classic Construction, said Kris Trail, creative director and marketing manager.

Other standard features include high-efficiency furnaces, tankless hot water heating, Low-E Argon windows, Hardie plank and stucco durable exteriors, no VOC paint and insulated water lines that meet Built Green standards, said Trail.

The credentials brought accolades from the city's environment and energy efficiency program manager, Russ Smith, who attended the ceremony.

"Classic Communities Ltd has not only made housing affordable but also monthly utility bills affordable," said Smith.

See Housing, page A2



NEWS PHOTO  
IAN SORENSEN  
Public Health Nurse Jackie Mulligan prepares a needle during an influenza immunization clinic at the Cypress Centre on Tuesday afternoon.

## Hatters flock for flu shot

TENILLE TELLMAN  
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Nearly 2,000 Hatters rolled up their sleeves Tuesday as the seasonal influenza vaccination program officially started around the province.

Local clinics kicked off with a line up of Hatters at the Cypress Centre Tuesday morning. A day-long clinic and community resource fair successfully attracted approximately 1,500 people by 2 p.m.

The turnout was welcomed by Gerri Renz, manager of public health nursing for Alberta Health Services in Medicine Hat, who says the province's goal is to immunize as many seniors as possible before they move on to the Pandemic H1N1 vaccinations.

Also see...

- Canada may move up H1N1 shots, on page A6

See Flu Shots, page A2

## Stelmach takes to the airwaves

JIM MACDONALD  
The Canadian Press

EDMONTON

It appears that Premier Ed Stelmach will have some fence-mending to do when he takes to the airwaves to deliver a pre-taped, paid, provincewide address Wednesday.

Alberta is facing a record \$7-billion budget deficit and recent polls have suggested that support for the Progressives Conservatives is plummeting.

Stelmach's own political future also remains uncertain.

Party members will hold a mandatory leadership review vote on Nov. 7 at the party's convention, and there has been grumbling from Tories in just about every corner of the province.

The premier says he will use the 20-minute address to talk about how to get out of the current recession.

"We have a very specific four-point plan to deal with the current economic situation and put the province back on solid economic ground," Stelmach said Tuesday in a statement.

See Premier's message, page A2

NEWS PHOTO  
IAN SORENSEN

From left, City Environment Manager Russ Smith, Ald. John Hamill, Alberta South Corporate Representative Bernadette Majdell, and Classic Construction President Murray Prokosch break the ground for Medicine Hat's first green-built condominiums on Tuesday.



WEATHER

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