

## Friend's tip led to quick arrests

### Eagle staff

Sgt. Jason Waldner got an phone call alerting him to something strange after thieves stole vehicles from a local dealership last month.

Other than those thefts, police enforcement activity during June was about normal, Waldner indicated in reviewing recent RCMP activity with town councillors at their regular meeting last Monday night.

Waldner, who heads the detachment, had been talking about officers establishing relationships with citizens and pointed to that June 21 call, just before 6 a.m. as a beneficial result.

A person going out to his farm phoned him at home to say, "This just looks odd. We've got so many vehicles travelling at highway speed on a gravel road,"

Waldner said.

He'd agreed with the caller and an officer he sent discovered the break-in at Mainline Chrysler.

"Because of that phone call, we were able to get Kerrobert, Kindersley, Unity, Macklin, Biggar, Maidstone and Battleford out and we arrested two people within an hour and a half," Waldner said. Police were then able to learn who else was involved and got them arrested in Red Deer, he added.

He's usually up early "and I appreciate the relationship I have with this individual, that they felt comfortable calling me, . . . but 911's OK for stuff like that," he told councillors, drawing laughter. "Because sometimes, I might sleep a little later than six."

Crime here "significantly" declined during the pandemic but rebounded after "some regular, known offenders got out of the correctional centre," he said.

"Crime spiked again until they all went back in and has come back to a low normal," other than the Mainline Chrysler robbery, Waldner said.

The perpetrators, a "professional crew," travelled and focused on vehicle dealerships, he said, adding, "I don't know why Rosetown was targeted."

The detachment is currently one member short of its eight-officer quota but he expects to be "at full staff" in late August.

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Photo by David McIver

### Sunny stroll

A local group of moms enjoying a summer stroll and a cool beverage with kids tow in the Wednesday noon hour agreed to stop for a photo: Sarah Rieger (L) with Raymond Rieger in the stroller, Kaydin Wintonyk with Camden Wintonyk, Krista Wenaas with Kyler (shown) and Weston Wenaas, Lisa Pylypow with Olivia (shown) and Clara Pylypow and Anna Russell escorting Beckham Russell and, with a big doggie smile, Neela.

## Town swimming in revenue

### Eagle staff

The town's finances are up dramatically in one area, town councillors learned during their regular meeting last Monday.

"We have sold more season tickets (for the swimming pool) this year than I've seen as long as I've been working here," Amanda Bors, the acting chief executive, said as council members studied the financial documents for June.

Janet Coffey-Olson also took her seat after winning a June byelection. Coffey-Olson agreed to join the Administration Committee and the Orange Memories Management Board.

At the pool, after the town kept it closed for two years due to the pandemic and the need for repairs, demand was such that staff had to create more tickets in each category, Bors said.

A crew put a liner along

the pool bottom last year to address concrete deterioration.

"I've had lots of positive comments about the liner so far," said Greg Carlson, who chairs the Recreation Committee. "It's more comfortable to get around on, for old people like me."

Also, tax payments were up slightly, Bors said. By the end of June, property owners had paid about 77 per cent of the taxes expected

this year, similar to the 75 per cent of 2021, she said.

An increase to the amount the town pays for RCMP service isn't as much as officials had expected when they prepared the budget, she added.

The policing invoice came in at close to \$126,600. The town had budgeted about \$250,000. The federal government used the latest population figures, Bors noted.

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