



Photo by JERRY GERLING/Advocate staff

The tuba section of the Red Deer Royals was in fine form during a brief performance at a dinner in Festival Hall celebrating their 40th anniversary.

Bakke-Purnell organized the 40th anniversary reunion of the Red Deer Royals this weekend because she believes her youthful years with the award-winning marching band were some of the best of her life. "It sounds like I'm over-dramatizing, but it was a wonderful lifestyle," she said, calling her six formative years with the Royals "a life-changing process."

The same tour to San Francisco also took the Royals to Disneyland and San Diego. Two years later,

Bakke-Purnell and the rest of the band played at Expo '86 in Vancouver and went on a cruise to Alaska.

She recalled her excitement at performing on a cruise ship.

"We played to the crowds in every port we stopped at. It was really neat.

Please see **ROYALS** on Page **A2**

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## ALBERTA WINDS FUEL FIRES

Winds and warm temperatures combined to fuel many grass and brush fires. Fires were burning Sunday on the Montana First Nation, the Louis Bull First Nation, Pigeon Lake south of Camrose and near Bruderheim and Redwater, and Clyde **A3**

## BUSINESS FIAT HOPEFUL

Fiat says it is in talks to buy most of GM's European operations, taking another step toward being a global automotive enterprise **B2**

## WORLD JACK KEMP DEAD AT AGE 73

Jack Kemp, the former pro quarterback and American VP candidate, has died of cancer **D6**

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ON **A2**

# Child birth risky in much of Africa

BY LANA MICHELIN  
ADVOCATE STAFF

Westerners associate Sierra Leone with blood diamonds and a vicious civil war that has killed thousands of people.

While a peace agreement was signed in 2002, there's another kind of scourge sweeping Sierra Leone — one in eight women in that African country are dying in childbirth.

Bev Carrick said the scope of the tragedy is put into perspective when considering that only one in 11,000 women die while giving birth in Canada.

To stop the pregnant women of Sierra Leone routinely dying of bleeding, high blood pressure and infection, Carrick, executive-director of CAUSE Canada (which stands for Christian Aid in Under-assisted Societies Everywhere) spoke to two Red Deer church groups this weekend about the need to construct more birthing huts in the country.

These simple four-room structures

with cement floors and metal roofs, can be built and furnished for \$3,000 each, said Carrick, of Canmore.

They would be staffed by a nurse and midwives who would assess the progress of high-risk pregnancies, and would prevent "hundreds and hundreds of women from dying one of the most painful of deaths," added Carrick, who believes Canadians should care because the world is shrinking.

"We are our brothers' keepers, our sisters' keepers, and these women, daughters and sisters are only a plane ride away."

Theresa Benjamin, a midwife from Sierra Leone, spoke to local groups at United Baptist Church and First Baptist Church on Saturday and Sunday of the pain she feels whenever she hears of another childbirth tragedy.

"A midwife is like a mother, and there's no mother who likes to see a child die or get sick," Benjamin said in an earlier interview.

In Sierra Leone, some cultural factors add to birthing problems.

Please see **MIDWIVES** on Page **A2**

**Alberta's Home Lottery 2009**

**TRUE-LINE**  
CONTRACTING LTD.

451 Prince  
Highway 200,  
Red Deer, AB  
T4N 1V7

**\$2,000,000**

**Early Bird Prize**

Ticket sales cut-off: 11pm, May 31, 2009  
Draw date: 2pm, June 12, 2009  
Final draw date: June 26/09

**Tickets \$25**  
**5 for \$100**  
**15 for \$250**

**Over 65% SOLD**

Total tickets printed 102,500

2009 Denali 5th Wheel  
Supplied by **Uncle Ben's RV & Auto**  
27467 Hwy 2 South, Red Deer County

2009 Dodge Ram 3/4  
Ton Quad Cab 4x4  
Supplied by **North West  
Motors (Red Deer) Ltd.**  
3115 - 50 Avenue, Red Deer

### STORIES FROM PAGE A1

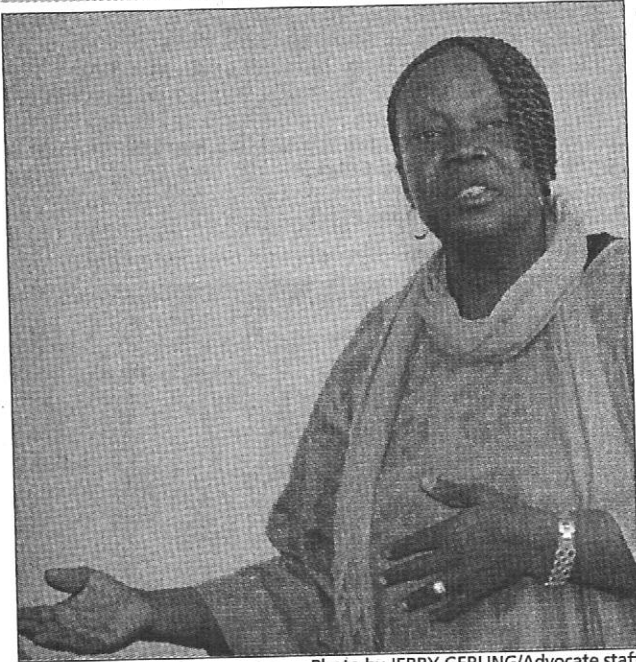


Photo by JERRY GERLING/Advocate staff

Theresa Benjamin addresses an audience at the First Baptist Church in Red Deer.

## MIDWIVES: Deaths common

Many girls, married too young, get pregnant at 13 or 14, Benjamin said, "They are not fully developed. Their bones are not strong."

Carrick said a circumcision practice known as female genital mutilation, is still commonly done to pubescent girls. The smaller genital opening and scarring that result cause more tearing and bleeding during childbirth.

While some tribal chiefs have outlawed this on girls younger than 18 and older girls who don't give permission, Carrick said the practice persists because some consider uncircumcised girls to be unmarriageable.

But the biggest factor is the distance to health care facilities. Benjamin said women in remote villages can't get medical help quickly once problems become apparent.

That's why community birthing huts are so valuable. Women with high risk pregnancies would be spent by a midwife to a birthing hut a few weeks before their delivery.

These women could bring their young children

with them.

If a nurse monitoring their progress decides a C-section is necessary, a vehicle will transport the women to hospital.

Benjamin said someone with a uterine rupture can survive when a hospital is nearby, but "traveling in a hammock to a health care centre can cause more damage."

The midwife is thankful Canadians care about women in her country. "Any dollars will go to a worthy cause, and the Lord will pay them back for it," she said. Donations can be made on-line at [www.cause.ca](http://www.cause.ca) or by calling 1-888-552-2873.

[lmichelin@reddeeradvocate.com](mailto:lmichelin@reddeeradvocate.com)

## PIGS: Short incubation

It wasn't necessary to cull any of the infected pigs, said Hodgman, because, while bacteria, such as E-coli can survive for a time on animal meat, viruses can't.

"They need living hosts. They don't go into animal meat."

Unlike the BSE bacteria that stopped Alberta's beef exports for months, he added the H1N1 virus has a very short incubation time, which is typical for an influenza virus.

While human deaths have been linked to the virus in Mexico, other countries seem to have imported only a mild version of the sickness. Seven new cases were reported in Alberta on the weekend, increasing Alberta's human cases to 15. But none of these people have required hospitalization.

Hodgman praised the disease reporting protocols Alberta pork producers operate by, which worked well in identifying the sick animals this time.

He noted most pig barns have shower facilities for people entering and leaving, as well as clothes that are only to be worn by people inside barns.

[lmichelin@reddeeradvocate.com](mailto:lmichelin@reddeeradvocate.com)

## ROYALS: Great memories

"You couldn't go anywhere in the ship without running into someone you know."

It was her memories of camaraderie with other Royals that made Bakke-Purnell plan the weekend reunion that attracted 150 band alumni from as far as Calgary and Edmonton to Festival Hall on Saturday night for dinner, dancing and reminiscing. "We made so many good friendships.

"It was so much fun."

Bakke-Purnell's younger brother and sister also

spent time as of the '95 tour same "withd step down fr 19 and is nov

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