

Are you travelling outside the country this winter?

ALL-ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

Get travel coverage you can count on. Call us today.

1-800-661-6995

INSIDE

REMEMBERING

SEE ANNOUNCEMENTS, PAGES B11-B12

COP SNOWCARD

ONE FREE DAY | \$39.99

403.247.5452 | www.sportcanada.ca


ON SALE NOW!

CITY & REGION

BREAKING NEWS AT CALGARYHERALD.COM

EDITOR: STEVE JENKINSON 403-235-7580 HOTTIPS@THEHERALD.CANWEST.COM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2010



THE SENTRA CHALLENGE

★★★★★
5-STAR RATING
CRASH SAFETY

CASH PRICE FROM **\$15,198**

FIRST CHALLENGE: SEE WHY THE SENTRA IS BETTER THAN THE COMPETITION

SECOND CHALLENGE: BEAT THIS OFFER

CASH INCENTIVE **\$3,500** OR **0% FINANCING FOR 72 MONTHS***

PLUS **\$1,400 NO CHARGE SPORT PACKAGE ON 2010 SENTRA SE-R***
(REQUIRES TECH PACKAGE)

CALGARY'S SUPERSTORE

Fish Creek Nissan

FISHCREEKNISSAN.COM
14750 Macleod Trail
403-256-6900

See dealer for details AMVIC LICENSEE

Greater budget cuts sought

Tax hike now sits at five per cent

RICHARD CUTHBERTSON
CALGARY HERALD

Now that council has approved the 2011 budget calling for a five per cent tax hike, attention turns to the efforts of city officials to find even more savings, and whether aldermen will approve even deeper cuts.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi and some aldermen want the tax increase to be hauled down closer to four per cent, with council sending managers back to find \$8 million in additional savings.

After 3½ days of deliberations, with aldermen seeking to carve out adjustments to next year's spending plan, the budget passed almost unanimously Thursday.

Only Ald. Peter Demong opposed it, telling his council colleagues that voters don't want the tax hike and "have been challenging us to be far more careful with their money."

Still, the mayor came out of deliberations in a buoyant mood, saying he was pleased at where council has found itself, reiterating that this budget was a matter of buying time before a whole new review for the next three-year cycle.

"This is a first in a long journey in how we transform and deliver services," he said.

But early next year, the question will turn to whether council will forge ahead with any more cuts. City officials are due to report in February with the next group of saving options.

At least one alderman suggests that if council can't get

the tax rate down further, he will oppose the budget finalization in April.

"Personally, I still think we need to go lower," Ald. Andre Chabot told reporters.

But others urge caution in slashing the budget. Ald. Brian Pincott said he believes Calgarians are willing to pay for services; they just want to know it's being done efficiently.

"Our challenge isn't to be as cheap as possible. Our challenge isn't to cut and disguise it as reinvention. Our challenge is to be efficient."

Demong was clear in rejecting the budget: "The voters

feel that they've been over-taxed for the last few years," he said.

The budget is a mixed bag, with cuts being carved from some departments, while others have largely been protected or have come out in better shape than anticipated.

If the five per cent increase stands, it will add \$60 a year to the tax burden of the average homeowner. Dropping to four per cent means a \$48 increase.

Transit did well in this budget, with a 5.6 per cent increase in service hours.

SEE BUDGET, PAGE B7



BUDGET DECISIONS

- More cuts a test, writes Tony Seskus B2
- LRT security won't be trimmed, says city B2
- List of winners and losers B2

Transit will link airport to city core

JASON MARKUSOFF
CALGARY HERALD

The city is considering an express bus service linking the airport to downtown, as Calgary Transit gets ready to launch a new airport route next year.

Calgary Transit said Thursday that Route 100 will offer a service between the airport and the city core, using an express bus to connect the terminal to the nearest LRT station, which is McKnight-Westwinds on the northeast line.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi is pursuing a more ambitious plan, which would take the form of a terminal-to-downtown express line.

Council laid the groundwork Thursday by creating a \$5-million innovation to look at various options. Transit has additional plans for either a bus or tram using Centre Street.

SEE TRANSIT, PAGE B2

New transit route to downtown



Ted Jacob, Calgary Herald

Yudi Matusof, 12, centre, helps his brother Avremy, 7, light the menorah on the second day of Hanukkah in their southwest Calgary home Thursday, while their father, Rabbi Menachem Matusof, looks on with his youngest child, Shlomo, 13 months.

Calgarians invited to menorah lighting

LEA STORRY
CALGARY HERALD

It's the second day of Hanukkah and Jewish people around the world are celebrating the festival of lights.

Rabbi Menachem Matusof said the event is an important one for everybody, no matter what their beliefs.

"The Jewish people were oppressed when they weren't allowed to practise their own religion," said Matusof, executive director of the Chabad Lubavitch of Alberta, a group dedicated to creating awareness of Judaism. "The message

is one of freedom of expression and freedom of religion."

The rabbi invites Calgarians of all faiths to the 22nd annual community menorah lighting on Sunday in the City Hall atrium at 5 p.m. He said there will be music and food and fun for the whole family.

"It's a wonderful event," said Matusof. "It's an event that unites the community in a positive way, and there are latkes — what kind of other encouragement do you need?"

Hanukkah involves lighting candles on a candelabra, or menorah, over eight days. Eliezer Segal, a religious stud-

ies professor at the U of C, said the holiday is a commemoration of ancient events that took place in second century BC.

Segal said Jews in Jerusalem revolted after being under Greek rule. When the oppressors tried to paganize their temple, the Jews rose up under a priest and his five sons, the Maccabees. They restored the temple to a Jewish place of worship.

As for why Hanukkah runs for eight days, Segal said there are several explanations.

"When they came to purify the temple, they discovered they couldn't light the cande-

labra. They only had enough oil for one day and it took eight days to bring in purified oil. But there was a miracle, and the one-day supply of oil lasted eight days."

Besides the lighting of the menorah, special prayers are recited, while other customs have evolved according to where Jewish people lived.

"Jews of German extraction, who are most of the Jews in North America, eat fried potato pancakes — latkes," said Segal. "Middle Eastern Jews will eat a kind of jelly-filled doughnut."

Another custom that orig-

inated in Eastern Europe is Hanukkah Gelt. This is money or gifts given to children.

"In North America, everything gets commercialized, and with the Christmas shopping mania, it has translated into expensive gifts," said Segal. "But this isn't traditional."

The dates of Hanukkah are determined by the Hebrew calendar, which is defined by phases of the moon. This is why the days change depending on the year. In 2010, Hanukkah began at sunset Thursday and will end next Thursday.

LSTORRY@CALGARYHERALD.COM

Lotto MAX

\$ 20 MILLION

FRIDAY

Please play responsibly.

wcl.com

Always get your ticket back.



in the know