

news

RSS FUNDRAISER

# Seniors offer help for school football program

The seniors' resident at the Chartwell Chatsworth Retirement Residence believe community and look for opportunities that have purpose and the chance to give back.

This year the Chatsworth seniors are rallying together in support of the Rutland Senior Secondary football program to raise money to provide those in need of equipment as well as funding for game trips.

The seniors feel the RSS Voodoos are fortunate to have a passionate head coach in Pete McCall, someone who truly believes in giving children the opportunity to be involved in sports; giving them purpose, direction, discipline and drive.

Citing McCall's commitment to the school football program, re reviving the junior team while coaching the senior squad.

Junior football teams are taking notice of McCall's efforts as well, noting the Regina Rams have recruited Andrew Becker, a former Voodoo.

To help raise money to support the RSS football program, the Chatsworth seniors will host a Broadway Musical Review featuring Rick Worrall, from the Kelowna Actors' Studio, on Thursday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.

Tickets \$10/person. There will also be a silent auction of items donated by members of the Rutland business community.

For further information, contact Colleen Groat, sales and marketing director at the Chatsworth residence, 250-860-1064.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

# Highway To Tears documentary to be showcased

A documentary about the disappearances of at least 40 young women, mostly Aboriginal, since the 1960s on Highway 16 in northern B.C. will be shown by the Kelowna chapter of Amnesty International.

The film, "Highway Of Tears," will be showcased Friday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m., in Room B-112 of Okanagan College, 1000 KLO Rd., in Kelowna.

A recent RCMP special investigation linked DNA from one of the missing women to a deceased American criminal.

The cases reveal sweeping crimes: kidnapping, rape, torture, murder and the disposal of human bodies.

The women have been victims not only of murderous predators but also of a pervasive systemic racism that has kept them marginalized on impoverished reservations.

First Nations leaders and activists contend that there has been little interest in further investigating the crimes and in apprehending their

killers.

Admission is by donation.

For more information at 250-769-4740.

EMOTIONAL RESPONSE

# Absorbing the fallout of accident fatality

On Feb. 3, 2016, at approximately 3 p.m., a 47-year-old woman suffered fatal injuries as she was driving through Peachland.

An oncoming 4Runner had crossed the centre line causing a head-on crash.

There is no escaping this kind of crash, where vehicles are traveling in opposite directions, nothing physically separating the lanes.

There is no time to react. It could have happened to me, my wife, my friend, an entire family. It could have happened to you.

It was, of course, entirely preventable.

It doesn't take any special skill to keep your vehicle on your side of the road if you are driving a sensible speed according to the road conditions.

I have compassion for the 4Runner driver who caused the crash.

She is not to be singled out nor demonized, in my view. She is a symptom of a driving culture that we all need to take more responsibility for.

She wasn't the only one overdriving the conditions that day. I wish her as speedy and full a recovery from her injuries as can be hoped for.

I also wish her the most peace she can find in recovering from the

Achieving Justice

PAUL HERGOTT



psychological impact of having caused a fatality.

I was reminded of the tragedy two weeks after the Feb. 3 crash, when a friend suggested writing about it in my column.

Reminded? Yes. I'm afraid so.

I am a symptom of our society where crash after crash after crash are blips in the media.

We no longer stop to think about the reality that any one of us, or someone close to us, or an entire family could have been the victim.

We just carry on, with no improvement in the level of care we take on the roads, while the crashes keep occurring.

When looking for media footage of this crash, I stumbled on news reports of another head-on fatality on the same stretch of road that occurred just 13 days later on Feb. 16, 2016.

There is something unique about the crash of Feb. 3. Footage of the horrible, graphic event was caught on the dash camera of a motorist traveling on a street parallel to the highway.

The footage is available for all to see on the Internet.

My friend's column suggestion had to do with an online debate about

whether or not the video should be available for public viewing.

I have not seen the debate, but apparently many feel that public availability of the video is an insult to the family of the deceased.

My gut response was that we need to see the footage, particularly because a woman lost her life. We need to watch, in slow motion if that is more poignant, those moments.

We need the senselessness of the crash and the gravity of the loss to hit us over the head like a sledgehammer.

My gut response gets me into trouble sometimes, so I did a little Internet research to help me find perspective.

I found lots of links

to fatality videos, which helped me understand the point of view of those feeling that the video should not be available for public viewing.

Horrible car crash videos have, it seems, become something of entertainment, with many video compilations titled: "Most horrific car crashes ever caught on camera" as if to best capture the viewer's attention.

One fatality video affirmed my gut response.

The helmet camera of David, a 38-year-old motorcyclist, captured his 2013 head-on crash with an oncoming vehicle that turned directly into his path.

The approximately 10 seconds of dash camera footage is the last 10 seconds of a beautiful video that includes David's mother lovingly sharing about her son.

These words come up on the screen as part of the introduction:

"David's family have seen the footage and feel passionate about

preventing deaths on our roads. It is their wish this footage is released to make riders and drivers think seriously about road safety."

Perhaps a beautiful video might eventually be made that tells us the story of the yet nameless 47-year-old woman who lost her life on Feb. 3, 2016.

I believe that such a video would help us all feel something of the devastating loss.

It is only by feeling and recognizing the gravity of the loss that we become motivated to make changes.

If, at some point, the family feels moved to create a video like David's, I would appreciate the opportunity to fund the videography work.

If anyone would like a link to David's video, please e-mail me.

Paul Hergott is a personal injury lawyer at Hergott Law in West Kelowna.

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