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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

CBE's lease called too high

School board's new HQ to cost \$11M per year

MATT MCCLURE
CALGARY HERALD

As it cuts teacher jobs and squeezes more students into classrooms, top officials and trustees with Calgary's public school board are preparing to move into new headquarters that will cost more than \$11 million a year to rent and run.

In a deal signed in Novem-

ber 2006 but approved much later by trustees, the Calgary Board of Education agreed to lease 180,000 square feet in an 8th Street S.W. building at a rate that two real estate experts say was at least 25 per cent higher than the prevailing market.

Greg Kwong, Alberta managing director with the commercial real estate broker CB Richard Ellis, says space in other Beltline buildings was fetching up to \$30 a square foot at that time, but the board agreed to pay \$37.95 a square foot, based on figures from the CBE's website.

"At that price, they could have rented space then in some of the best buildings in downtown Calgary," Kwong says.

"As a taxpayer, this deal really concerns me."

Scott Thronson, managing director with the real estate firm Avison Young, says similar space in projects just south of downtown was going for between \$28 and \$30 a square foot when the board inked its deal.

"That's pretty expensive space," Thronson says of the CBE lease.

SEE LEASE, PAGE A13



Ted Jacob, Calgary Herald
The public school board is renovating Dr. Carl Safran School, at a cost of \$31 million, next to its new home.

BOMBSHELL'S LOST ALBERTA PHOTOS

Book reveals previously unpublished photos of Marilyn Monroe's Rockies getaway in 1953. SEE PAGE A4



See a photo gallery of Marilyn Monroe from her visit to Banff and Jasper.



Photos, courtesy the Estate of John Vachon, Dover Publications, Inc., Reuters

Marilyn Monroe enjoys the Rocky Mountain experience with Joe DiMaggio during the actress's movie shoot in 1953.

AROUND ALBERTA

2010 CIVIC ELECTION



As election day nears, columnist **Tony Seskus** takes the temperature of Wild Rose Country.

TODAY: Sundre
WEDNESDAY: Okotoks

For photos and video, visit:

calgaryherald.com



Ex-Reform MP revisits political roots

As a part of the surprise wave of Reform MPs that swept into Ottawa in 1993, Myron Thompson made a name for himself as a straight-talking, and at times ornery, political figure. Now, at age 74, Thompson is seeking a Myron council seat in Sundre, where he served in the 1970s.



Top News, Page A3

Oilsands boom town cool to director's visit

KEITH GEREIN
POSTMEDIA NEWS
FORT McMURRAY

James Cameron may be one of the biggest names in Hollywood entertainment, but in northern Alberta, there's no red carpet rolled out for his visit.

No parade. There's not even a welcome sign.

To Fort McMurray residents such as Janice Horner, the Avatar director and his movies can't compete with the natural special effects lighting up the Athabasca River valley.

"(Cameron's visit) isn't really something people are talking about," she said,



Shaughn Butts, Edmonton Journal
James Cameron began his tour of the oilsands Monday.

taking in the view beside the river on her lunch break Monday. "This region is already so maligned by people from other places saying negative

stuff all the time, many of us are just thinking, 'Oh, here's another one.'"

Such ambivalence is a strange greeting for Cameron, whose three-day visit to the Alberta oilsands could have a huge influence on how the industry is perceived internationally, particularly in the United States.

But people here say they have grown tired of outsiders inserting themselves into the oilsands controversy, including those who call the industry a "black eye" on Canada's environmental record, as Cameron did earlier this year.

SEE CAMERON, PAGE A10

Court rejects appeals in Mayerthorpe police deaths

The only two men convicted in the shooting deaths of four Mounties near Mayerthorpe in 2005 have lost their bid for shorter prison sentences.

In rejecting a reduction of the 15-year sentence for Shawn Hennessey and the 12-year term handed Dennis Cheeseman, the Alberta Court of Appeal noted, "Apart from treason in wartime, killing police officers is probably the most serious crime in Canada."

Top News, Page A10

Congratulations Dave Sprague for being a loyal Herald subscriber!
Dave helps move the city forward as a member of the board of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. The Calgary Herald is proud to be part of the community and we appreciate the support of our readers and advertisers.

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Segway owner killed as scooter plunges off cliff near U.K. home
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