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February 8, 2004 75 cents, GST included

SUNDAY EDITION

Skating for
cancer/7

Artist nominations sought/3
Hemp clothing line/9

Money matters/6
Spiking to victory/10

Chamber shut out of budget process

BY CRAIG GILBERT

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City council has said "no thank you" to a request from the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce for a meeting to discuss the 2004 budget.

Chamber chair Jim Thompson said Friday his organization requested a meeting with the entire council during the first round of public budget consultations.

Although council is consulting citizens at ward meetings, only the two councillors representing the ward are guaranteed to be there.

Thompson said the chamber, which deals with economic issues that affect the whole city, felt its presentation would be more effective at a meeting with all members of council and Mayor Dave Courtemanche present.

Thompson said council declined, saying granting a private audience with the chamber would set a precedent for other groups.

"We're disappointed, but it isn't the end of the world," Thompson said. "Now we'll be making our submission in writing and through the media."

Thompson said the chamber will be sending a letter to Courtemanche and the members of council Monday as a pre-

See CHAMBER, Page 5



THOMPSON

Brawl at college pub

BY KEITH LACEY

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Greater Sudbury Police are continuing their investigation into a big brawl outside the pub at Cambrian College Thursday night, where one victim told police he was struck with the butt of a handgun.

Police were called to Rafters Pub around 10:45 pm after a large number of people were involved in a brawl outside the pub.

Police attended the scene and found several people fighting. One victim of an assault claimed an unknown suspect had struck him with a handgun.

Several people involved in the brawl received minor injuries and were treated and released from St. Joseph's Health Centre.

Staff Sgt. David Bedard said, that as of late Friday afternoon, the only person to claim a handgun may have been involved, was the victim.

"The only person who claims to have seen a gun was the victim, but he insists he was hit by a handgun and we're investigating the matter," said Bedard.

"Obviously, this was a pretty serious incident as several

See GUN, Page 5

Man behind the asteroid

BY TRACEY DUGUAY

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In a solar system far, far away, asteroid 13822 continues its never-ending orbit around the sun. In the City of Greater Sudbury, a former high school teacher continues his never-ending quest to construct the best amateur telescope.

What do the two things have in common you may ask? Well, as of May 2003, asteroid 13822 was officially named Stevedodson, in honour of the former high school teacher and his dedication to the world of astronomy.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU), the recognized authority for naming celestial bodies, bestowed the honour on Steve Dodson because of his work in helping to measure the size and shape of another asteroid, named Vesta after the Roman goddess of fire.

The IAU uses strict guidelines for naming celestial bodies. While many were named after Greek and Roman gods and goddesses, some are named after the people who discovered them, and others, as in the case of Dodson, receive the honor based on their valuable contribution to the field of astronomy.

Dodson, who also goes by the moniker of Stargazer Steve, found out when he received a call from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. He's understandably delighted the asteroid was named after him, especially since astronomy has been his passion for almost as long as he can remember.

"My teacher in Grade 2 gave me a book about the stars and I've been fascinated ever since."

He says he remembers his first response being how "beautiful" and



MARG SEREGELYI

STEVE DODSON, a local astronomy buff and business owner, had an asteroid named after him last spring.

"exciting" it was to see objects in the universe with his own eyes.

His second response was "everybody's got to see this."

Although he's been building telescopes privately for many years, he turned it into a full time business - Stargazer Steve Telescopes - about 10 years ago.

"I'm now building telescopes for the average family who want to look at

the moon and stars from their backyard," he says.

However, the Stevedodson asteroid can't be seen that easily; it's visible only to the largest amateur telescopes. Discovered in 1999 by Spacewatch at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona, the asteroid is around 1.468 astronomical units (AU) away from Earth.

See DODSON, Page 4