

Gallery Coffee House a popular gathering place

Ribbon cutting held for new downtown business

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

A buzz of conversation filled The Gallery Coffee House last Thursday morning as community members joined the business owners and local artists for the shop's formal opening. The new business at 428 Grand Avenue in Indian Head combines coffee and art to create an inviting atmosphere. Marilynn Malo collaborated with Richard Cochrane and his daughter Morganne to open the business.

After participating in the JAMB Art Festival at the Memorial Hall in November 2022, Malo was inspired to establish a place where she and others could continue to showcase their work. Malo is herself a multimedia artist who enjoys working with a wide range of materials, from watercolour to ink to charcoal to textiles. She and several other local artists have sold their work through The Gallery artist cooperative in Wolseley, but the town of Indian Head was lacking this type of venue.

The concept for The Gallery Coffee House began to take further shape after Malo moved back to Indian Head from Wolseley last year. A plan

developed through conversation with fellow artist Barbara Holzapfel and her brother Richard Cochrane, who had recently moved to Indian Head from Vancouver. The heritage building on Grand Avenue where an Ice Cream Parlour and, more recently, Cultura Eatery were previously located had become available and seemed to be a suitable location. Malo has experience as the owner and operator of Quirky Quilts in Wolseley but appreciates the partnership with Cochrane and his daughter who focus on the barista aspect of the new venture.

The front portion of the new shop is cozy, with a seating area and counter where patrons can order a variety of regular and specialty coffees and teas. Customers can also enjoy a selection of donuts, dainties and desserts supplied by Malo's daughter-in-law Tilli. Carefully curated artwork is tastefully arranged on the white walls throughout the Gallery Coffee House.

Ten artists are represented at the shop, with more expected to join shortly. They are all from the Indian Head area or have personal connections to the community. Tremendous talent is visible in the pieces dis-



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Ribbon cutting

Artist and entrepreneur Marilynn Malo (far right) celebrates the opening of The Gallery Coffee House while Mayor Steven Cole cuts a red ribbon in front of the shop.

played throughout the coffee house. These include watercolour and acrylic paintings, quilts, fired glass bowls, and many other specialty items. Laminated biographies are posted near each artist's contributions, providing a brief introduction to visitors.

Not only is the coffee house a venue for artists to sell their pieces, it also gives them a place to work on their projects. Beyond the seating area at the front of the shop there is a spacious gallery and an adjacent room that provides workspace for the artists and an additional viewing area.

The shop has been open since mid-April, but a Grand Opening celebra-

tion took place on May 9, coinciding with the opening of seasonal venues like Grace & Thyme, The Sinking Canoe Antiques, and Dairy Mart. Several artists were present to speak with patrons about the processes used to create their unique pieces. Mayor Steven Cole had the honor of cutting a red ribbon held by Malo and Morgan Cochrane at the front door of the new shop. The mayor welcomed the entrepreneurs and ex-

pressed appreciation for their efforts to provide a valuable asset to the community. Malo also shared a few comments.

"This shop has always been a dream of mine," she said. "I'm glad to be here and I'm glad to have the shop, it's going to be a wonderful success for all of us!"

There has been positive community support for the new coffee shop even in the few weeks since it opened. Artists are grate-

ful for a place to display their work and community members are enthusiastic about the new place to meet with friends and colleagues. People regularly stop in for a coffee on their way to work and small groups have gathered at the coffee house for meetings over a warm drink and tasty treats.

The Gallery Coffee House is open Wednesday to Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Indian Head town council

Budget and pool rates approved

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Indian Head town council held a regular meeting on May 13 at 7 p.m. in the council chambers. Councillor Pieter Cruson chaired the meeting in Mayor Steven Cole's absence.

Finances

Council set the mill rate at 8.79 and approved a bylaw to set the minimum municipal property tax at \$1,393.60 for residential, commercial and industrial properties. This reflected an increase of 4 per cent on the municipal portion of property taxes; education tax rates set by the province remain the same as last year. Council also approved a balanced municipal budget for 2024 of \$6.1 million with approximately \$1.7 million anticipated from tax revenue.

The overall revenue and expenditures are nearly \$1

million higher than last year's budget, due to the inclusion of funding from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for the town's landfill closure project. The municipal budget also included various infrastructure maintenance projects for recreational facilities and other municipal buildings.

Swimming Pool

Council reviewed two tenders for painting the interior of the pool building at 900 Grand Avenue. Rod Vance Construction provided the lower bid at \$7,800 plus tax and was awarded the contract. Work is to be completed by the facility's opening day, which is tentatively scheduled for June 1.

Council reviewed and approved updated rates for the outdoor swimming pool. Season passes will be \$300 for a family, \$210 for an adult, and \$165 for a stu-

dent. A family day pass will be \$25; adult day passes will be \$9 and students \$7. Children age 5 and under are free of charge. The fees for swimming lessons range from \$70 to \$160 and are determined by skill level. Registration for swimming lessons is expected to open by the end of this week.

Policy & Bylaw

Council approved a Violence Prevention Policy prepared by administration. The document is a provincial requirement and will be overseen by Occupational Health and Safety.

Council reviewed a contract renewal from Commissionaires, a company that provides bylaw enforcement for the town. The annual rates increased approximately \$370 but council and administration are satisfied with the service provided so council moved to renew the contract.



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Gallery exhibits

Patrons were excited to visit The Gallery Coffee House during its Grand Opening celebration on May 9.

Cowessess and Morris Interactive awarded CIM Partnership award

Recognized for first-ever partnership between Mosaic and Mosaic Potash

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Canadian Institute of Mining (CIM) has awarded the first-ever CIM Indigenous Partnership Award to Cowessess First Nation and Morris Interactive for their collaboration on Morris Interactive's Digital Transformation in Potash Mining (DTiPM) program which is delivered in partnership with the Mosaic Company.

The award was presented May 13, 2024, at the CIM gala in Vancouver where representatives from Morris Interactive Rob Knibbs, Mathew Cey (CEO), Benjamin Williamson from Mosaic and Cowessess First Nation, Barry Sparvier, were present.

The award recognizes a "significant, ongoing contribution to the advancement of Indigenous reconciliation in the mining sector" and celebrates the collaboration to deliver a program of this nature in the potash industry.

The DTiPM program was developed to give participants the knowledge, confidence, and skills to join and prosper within the potash industry. The program facilitates an extensive networking opportunity between students and industry employers, including The Mosaic Company. Since the onset, the program has achieved a success rate of over 83% in connecting graduates to employ-

ment or further education. The program has established a reputation built upon student success and outcomes, leading to a recent student recruitment pursuit that resulted in over 2,200 Indigenous applicants.

The program was piloted on Cowessess First Nation in 2022 through a partnership that included Cowessess First Nation, The Mosaic Company, and Morris Interactive. Following this successful pilot, Mosaic committed \$1,000,000 to further the sustainability of the program over 5 years. "Thank you to the Canadian Institute of Mining for recognizing this innovative partnership and the program's impressive track record," said Berthelet, Mosaic's Vice President of Operations - Potash. "Mosaic's investment in the DTiPM demonstrates our commitment to increasing representation in our workforce and advancing economic reconciliation in Saskatchewan."

To date, the DTiPM program has successfully run two of its five cohorts on Cowessess First Nation. "It is an honour to receive the CIM Indigenous Partnership Award with Morris Interactive and Mosaic. The DTiPM program has benefited the community and all Nations with the training opportunities and careers in the potash industry," said Sparvier, Director of Employment for Cowessess First Nation.

The CIM Indigenous Partnership



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Awards gala

Attending the CIM gala in Vancouver on May 13 were (l-r) Mathew Cey (CEO Morris Interactive), Barry Sparvier (Cowessess First Nation, Director of Employment), Benjamin Williamson (Senior Instructor, Digital Transformation - Mining, Morris Interactive) and Rob Knibbs (Principal Consultant, Business & Economic Development Morris Interactive).

Award represents a major accomplishment and symbolizes the benefit of Indigenous Rights Holders, industry, and various stakeholders working alongside one another to create life-changing outcomes for the students. "We're fortunate for the relationship we have with the Cowessess First Nation and The Mosaic Company. We bring our strengths and

people to the table with one common goal in mind, connecting graduates to meaningful employment within the industry," said Cey, Morris Interactive's CEO.

The future looks bright as the sixth rendition of the program is slated to return to Cowessess First Nation in August of 2024, where it all began.

Free Regional Park pass returning this summer

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) announced the return of the Regional Park Pass Lending Program in partnership with the Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) and the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association (SRPA) for the 2024 summer season.

From May 17 to September 15, 2024 anyone with a valid library card

can borrow a pass from any Saskatchewan library and enjoy free seven-day access to nearly 100 regional parks across the province. The program has been a hit with campers. The 2023 passes were circulated over 7,000 times! With 850 passes available this year, distribution will include all regional library branches, libraries in Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, and university libraries in Saskatoon and Regina.

"We're excited to collaborate once again with

our friends to offer greater access to the many benefits of nature," said Darcy McLeod, SPRA president.

Libraries have long been community hubs for recreational programming and the SLA was an enthusiastic partner from day one.

"We're absolutely thrilled to be participating in the program again this year," said James Hope Howard, SLA president. "I hope that library patrons make many wonderful memories over these next four months."

Saskatchewan's regional parks offer a variety of outdoor activities, from interpretive trails and scenic lakes to secluded camping spots and challenging golf courses. By removing barriers to participation, the program aims to encourage people to enjoy the natural beauty of the province.

"This program aligns with our mission to provide accessible recreational opportunities for all," said Katrina Irving, SRPA executive director. "We look forward to welcoming more visitors to Saskatchewan's regional parks."

Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis and must be obtained in person. Library patrons are encouraged to contact their local branch to confirm availability.

Travis Keisig

Member of the Legislative Assembly for **Last Mountain-Touchwood**

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Sask. talent will be the focus at 13th 'All Folk'd Up' festival

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

Organizers are hoping this year's All Folk'd Up festival will represent a lucky 13 for the signature event of the summer in Montmartre.

The festival committee has announced the full lineup for the 13th edition of the village's annual concert festival with a focus on bringing the event back to its roots.

What that means for this year is an enhanced focus on local and Saskatchewan talent, with headliners including Regina-based rockers Arcana Kings (previously known as the Johnny McCuaig Band), banjo-playing singer-songwriter Eliza Mary Doyle, and The Steadies, who promise to bring their own signature blend of dance-rock, funk and reggae to the Montmartre stage.

Other artists with Saskatchewan roots at this year's festival are scheduled to include LJ Tyson (Prince Albert), Rein (Langbank), Julie Ella (Saskatoon), Emily Dubois (Regina), School of Rock (Regina), Ella Forrest (Regina), Josh Daly (Regina), Ashley and Brad Brown (Vibank), Wade and Chord Fehr (Prince Albert), Jasper Beliveau, and Lissa and the Try-Tones.

Rounding out the lineup are Alberta country artist Travis Dolter, The Heat Strokes, Jaryn Friesen, Detour Country, Joey Theriault and The Local Group.

Doyle has performed at multiple All Folk'd Up festivals in the past, while Johnny McCuaig last played the festival in 2018. Steadies front-man Earl Pereira

meanwhile was a founding member of Saskatoon-rooted rock band Wide Mouth Mason.

"We're bringing it back to our roots and helping folks who are up and coming and giving them a platform to present their songs and art on," second-year festival coordinator Mitch Dureault told Grasslands News.

"We're pretty excited just looking at the crossover too. There are a lot of bands that have crossover members which is pretty cool to see in terms of those musicians being able to incorporate different genres of music.

"Then there's a lot of people who are famous regionally but just not in their home province, and that's my favourite part about this year's lineup is just the local talent being supported and people being more aware of what's going on in Saskatchewan because we have some of the best musicians you'll find but they're kind of hidden in these little pockets of the province so people don't always get to hear them."

This year's committee is also hoping for a turnaround in financial fortunes after the 2023 festival lost over \$30,000. That followed a loss of just under \$2,500 in 2022 in the festival's return after a two-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2024 festival is also combating the loss of Regina rock band Dead Levee, a previously-announced headliner featuring Montmartre's Rylan Dusyk on guitar, after that band broke up. And it will also be conducting a scheduling experiment this year, with this year's event (June



FILE PHOTO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Festival lineup announced

Banjo-playing singer-songwriter Eliza Doyle of Regina will be taking to the stage in Montmartre for the All Folk'd Up festival this summer along with a large number of other Saskatchewan based performers.

21-23) taking place in a month other than July for the first time.

Still, Dureault said there's plenty to be excited about, including the youth who will take to the stage to kick off Saturday's bill.

"If I'd had that opportunity when I was their age I would have just been floored," he said. "Getting to hang out backstage and make connections... for those of them who might want to make a career out of music, that's really important for me."

Dureault also added that this year's

festival has received more in-kind and financial sponsorship support since before the pandemic, which should also help the festival's chances of returning in 2025 – a prospect that was uncertain following the festival's Oct. 2023 annual general meeting.

Advance passes for the full 2024 weekend are currently priced at \$110, with single-day passes tagged at \$65 for Friday, \$75 for Saturday and \$30 for Sunday. Attendees aged eight and under can attend free, while a full weekend youth pass for children aged 9-18 is \$40.

Grasslands News wins 23 Sask. newspaper awards

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Grasslands News publications were recognized by their peers last week when they received 23 provincial awards of excellence in the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association (SWNA) annual Better Newspapers Competition (BNC).

Grasslands News publications – the Fort Qu'Appelle Times, Indian Head-Wolseley News, Kipling Clipper, Melville Advance and Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun – picked up nine first place awards, eight second place awards and six third place awards in the BNC's General Excellence and Premier award categories. The awards were judged on publications from 2023.

The General Excellence Awards are the top honours in the newspaper industry and recognize newspapers of similar circulation for excellence in layout, design and content. The Premier Awards has newspapers of various circulations compete against each other in areas such as writing, ad design and photography. All papers are judged on

issues published throughout 2023.

In General Excellence category, the Kipling Clipper swept winning first place for Best Front Page, Best Editorial Page and Best Overall Paper, while the Indian Head-Wolseley News won second place for Best Front Page, Best Editorial Page and Best Overall Paper. The Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun placed third for Best Front Page while the Melville Advance placed third for Best Front Page, Best Editorial Page and Best Overall Paper.

In the Premier Awards, Grasslands News received five first place finishes for stories and photos published throughout the year. The Kipling Clipper's Connie Schwalm won first place awards for Best Sports Story in her story about Blake Lamontagne adaptive water skiing with his disability and Best People Photo of her photo of a grieving mother during a mock accident.

"Connie Schwalm's A Parent's Nightmare is the perfect 'can't look away' photo full of emotion," said the judge.

The Whitewood & Grenfell Herald Sun's

Chris Ashfield won first Place for Best Hard News Photo for his photo of a tractor fire and first place for Best Colour Photo for his photo of a Stars helicopter landing on Highway #1.

"Chris Ashfield's 'Tractor Fire' checks all the boxes to win this category," said the judge.

The Fort Times' Alan Hustak won first place for Best Habitat Conservation Writing for his story about spring runoff debris in the Lakes in the Qu'Appelle Valley.

Second place awards won by Grasslands News publications were:

- Best Business Writing for Sarah Pacio's article in the Indian Head-Wolseley News titled "Film Rescue gets recognized internationally"

- Best First Nations Coverage for Alan Hustak's article "Human remains; 2,000 anomalies found at former residential school" in the Fort Times.

- Best Photo Essay of the Year for Chris Ashfield's photos of the Ochapowace First Nation Powwow in the Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun.

- Best Black and White Photo for Jacob Miller's photos of the midsummer festival wife carrying contest in Dubuc.

- Best Feature photo for Alan Hustak's Polar Bear Dip photo in the Fort Times.

Hustak also received third place in Best Gov-

ernment Coverage for his story "Petition to force referendum collects more than 300 signatures" and Best Colour Photo for the Plywood Regatta. Sarah Pacio placed third for Best First Nations Coverage with her story "Cowessess picture preserving history" that appeared in the Whitewood & Grenfell Herald Sun.

"It is an honour to be recognized by our peers for the work we do every week to bring people their local news and help to ensure history is recorded for the communities that we serve. Each and every one of these awards were only possible because of our dedicated and hard-working staff who week after week work to do the

best job they can. I can't thank them enough for everything they do," said Ashfield.

The Vibank Quad Town Forum, which Grasslands News acquired in October of 2023, also picked up a number of awards including third place in Best Educational Coverage K-12 and second place for best Government Coverage.

Chacachas elects new Chief and Headmen

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The first election for the newly declared Chacachas Treaty Nation was held on Monday, May 13, 2024. Elected were a Okimahkan (Chief) and four Headmen.

Grasslands News contacted Chacachas Treaty Nation but did not receive the official numbers prior to press time. It was revealed through unconfirmed reports that there were one hundred and forty eligible voters.

The new Chief is reported through unconfirmed reports to be Charlie Bear. Also running for Chief was Morley Watson.

The Headmen elected (unconfirmed) are Rob Bear, John Bear, Gary Leggott and Tom Bear. Unsuccessful in their bid for Headman/



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Chacachas election

Elected as the new Chief and Headmen for Chacachas Treaty Nation were (l-r) Tom Bear, John Bear, Charlie Bear (Chief), Rob Bear and Gary Leggott.

Headwoman in the election were Sonia Holt, Cameron Peter Watson, Raven Brass, and Erica Allary.

The number of voters who placed a ballot at the Governance Center or

registered online voting is not known. The length of term for the elected positions is also not known at this time.

Chacachas Treaty Nation is located north of Whitewood.

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SCAN ME

Sask teachers vote no to offer; to vote on renewed sanctions

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan teachers voted no on the first contract the Government Trustee Bargaining Committee (GTBC) offered as contract negotiations continue between the GTBC and the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation (STF). On May 9, the STF said that 90 per cent of voters voted to reject the offer that was put forward by the GTBC. Ninety-two per cent of STF members participated in the vote on May 8 and 9.

"This vote is a clear demonstration of the high level of engagement of teachers throughout this entire process and also shows the resolve that they have to fight for their students and for public education," said STF President Samantha Becotte during a press conference on May 10.

The rejected offer included a three-year agreement; salary increases of three per cent in year one, three per cent in year two, and two per cent in year three with retroactive pay to Sept. 2023; and reference to the accountability framework in relation to a Memorandum of Understanding among

the STF, GTBC, and Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA).

The STF has said that they have invited the GTBC back to the bargaining table, asking them to secure a new mandate from the Government and the SSBA.

Sask. Minister of Education Jeremy Cockrill has said that classroom complexity, one of the main issues the Teachers Bargaining Committee is asking for, would not be part of a new mandate.

"We urge the government and SSBA to provide a new mandate and despite the ministers comments, a mandate that needs to include a plan to address classroom complexity," said Becotte.

"I hope consideration of a potential renewed mandate would have been part of the government and SSBA's work over the past three weeks while teachers were deliberating on the offer, completing that work and being prepared with a new mandate would provide an immediate path back to the bargaining table and ensure that there isn't further job action taken."

Minister Cockrill in a statement to media said he was disappointed in

the result of the offer.

"I am disappointed by the result of the vote to reject a fair agreement that was negotiated between the government, school divisions and STF, reflecting the best interests of Saskatchewan student, teachers, parents and taxpayers," said Cockrill.

"The best deal will be reached at the bargaining table, and both sides should immediately agree to return to the table and avoid any further sanctions that could jeopardize instructional time and important milestones for Saskatchewan students."

Teachers to vote on renewed sanctions mandate

Teachers will be voting on a new sanctions mandate May 15 and 17, because the current mandate expires on June 30. In a statement the STF said that the STF must prepare for the possibility that the government could continue to stall into the next school year now that the only offer has been rejected by teachers.

"For reasons that are beyond understanding, the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association seem

committed to dragging this process out as long as they can, leaving students, teachers, families and the education sector in limbo," said Becotte. "Teachers want to teach, not strike. We want to be in classrooms, not picket lines. We want to focus on the success of our students, not fight tooth and nail for the bare minimum needed to do our jobs. But this is about more than what we want. This is about what's right for Saskatchewan's students, the sustainability

of our profession and the future of publicly funded schools."

The STF said that the

results of the sanctions vote will be shared with the public once voting closes on May 16, 2024.



Elvis and Ainsley

'Whitewood's Own' talented artists, Sylvio Fontaine and Ainsley Friesen, who are no strangers to entertaining across Canada, gave a great performance for an almost full house at Poncho's Bar & Grill on Mother's Day.

ELAINE ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

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Budget priorities discussed at Grenfell public meeting

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Grenfell ratepayers gathered at the Community Hall on May 8 to hear about town council's priorities for the upcoming year. Residents were provided with handouts summarizing key budget points for 2024 and Mayor Wolfe shared

updates on various projects and plans for the community.

The handout indicated that Grenfell anticipates \$3.8 million in revenue for 2024; expenditures are budgeted at \$3.79 million. Property taxes will account for \$1.38 million of revenue and \$567,000 will be acquired from utilities. Additional funds will be obtained from government grants and the mayor noted that there is an increase of 14.4 per cent to the annual

Municipal Revenue Sharing program.

Grenfell's mill rates increased from 7.15 to 7.65 this year and property owners will see a base tax increase of \$320 that will be used to cover the town's portion of funding for a new long-term care home.

Other highlights from the 2024 budget included \$55,000 for sidewalk maintenance and \$165,000 for road repairs. The town has allocated \$299,000 for local improvements to pave gravel roads. Despite previous delays to these projects, Mayor Wolfe assured residents that Anderson Street, Lake Street, Alice Street and Black Avenue will be paved this year.

The mayor also provided updates on major projects in the community such as arena repairs, tourist booth development and downtown revitalization efforts.

A plow wind caused extensive damage to the Grenfell Recreational Park Arena in July 2022. Major repairs were completed under an insurance claim so that the facility could be safely used, however a few more items such as repairs to netting, Q-decking and lighting will be addressed.

The town is also preparing to upgrade equipment at the arena and the Grenfell Curling Rink.

"As of 2025, refrigerants are not going to be available worldwide; actually, the refrigerant that we are using we cannot buy new product now," Mayor Wolfe explained. "We're going to be looking at different options. Carbon monoxide and ammonia are the two viable options."

The town has contracted CIMCO to conduct a greenhouse gas reduction study and assist with finding a suitable solution.

At a September 2021 meeting, council approved the purchase of a small building to use as a Tourist Booth or Welcome Centre and Bulk Water fill station. The building was placed on the northeast corner of Desmond Street and the Service Road. Some modifications were neces-

sary, but damage from the plow wind and foundation issues caused delays. New tenders will be issued soon, and council is optimistic that the tourist booth can open later this summer.

Council is also working on a revitalization plan for Desmond Street and striving to ensure funds are available to replace the outdoor swimming pool liner in 2025.

Mayor Wolfe concluded the presentation by thanking residents for their patience while council sought a replacement after releasing CAO Brenna Ackerman from her duties. The mayor stated that council is working with HMC Management Inc. and Scott Blevins will assume interim CAO duties on May 15.

Grenfell announces interim Chief Administrative Officer

Submitted
Grasslands News

With the assistance of HMC Management Inc. (HMC), Mayor Rod Wolfe and the Council of the Town of Grenfell announced the retention of Scott Blevins as their Interim Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) effective May 15, 2024.

Blevins recently retired from a 32-year municipal career and most recently was the City Manager for the City of Martinsville, Sask., a position he held for the past 16 years. Blevins' career started out in recreation, holding various positions including Director of Planning, Development and Leisure Services with the City of Melfort,

SK, and Director of Community Services with the Town of Drumheller, Alta.

Blevins brings a strong administrative, planning and project management skill set to his new em-



Scott Blevins

ployer, which will be valuable to Council as they move forward with implementing the 2024 budget and working on the various ongoing major

projects which Council is involved with.

Blevins graduated from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Physical Activity Studies and holds a Certificate in Economic Development from the University of Waterloo. He also holds a Standard Certificate and an Advanced Level 1 Certificate, which allows him to work as an Administrator in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Mayor Wolfe and Council are pleased to move forward with Blevins as their interim CAO and ask residents and staff to join them in welcoming him to the community.

HMC will now commence the process of recruiting a new Chief Administrative Officer for Council.

| REVENUE SUMMARY | \$ | 3,806,744.17 |
|---------------------------------------|----|--------------|
| PROPERTY TAXES | \$ | 1,385,313.75 |
| UNCONDITIONAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS | \$ | 298,831.00 |
| GRANTS IN LIEU | \$ | 120,641.00 |
| GENERAL GOVERNMENT FEES & CHARGES | \$ | 206,915.00 |
| FEES, PERMITS, LICENSES AND PENALTIES | \$ | 5,350.00 |
| RECREATION & CULTURE FEES & CHARGES | \$ | 95,430.00 |
| CONDITIONAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS | \$ | 625,438.42 |
| SALE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS | \$ | 3,500.00 |
| LAND SALES | \$ | 90,000.00 |
| INVESTMENT INCOME | \$ | 59,085.00 |
| OTHER INCOME | \$ | 4,000.00 |
| RESERVES | \$ | 345,000.00 |
| UTILITIES | \$ | 567,240.00 |

| EXPENSES SUMMARY | \$ | 3,798,754.40 |
|--|----|--------------|
| GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATING | \$ | 617,956.53 |
| PROTECTIVE SERVICES OPERATING | \$ | 173,133.00 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OPERATING | \$ | 313,274.60 |
| As well as the following capital expenses: | | |
| Sidewalk Improvements | \$ | 55,000.00 |
| Paving | \$ | 169,650.00 |
| Paving - Local Improvements | \$ | 299,125.00 |
| ENVIRONMENT HEALTH SERVICES OPERATING | \$ | 241,109.56 |
| PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE SERVICES OPERATING | \$ | 16,179.43 |
| PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OPERATING | \$ | 148,177.13 |
| RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES OPERATING | \$ | 488,475.12 |
| FUTURE RESERVES | \$ | 150,000.00 |
| UTILITIES OPERATING | \$ | 369,674.03 |
| As well as the following capital expenses: | | |
| Sewer Infrastructure | \$ | 700,000.00 |
| Manhole | \$ | 16,000.00 |
| Fire Hydrant Replacements | \$ | 20,000.00 |
| Information Centre/Bulk Water | \$ | 57,000.00 |

| | | |
|-----|----|----------|
| NET | \$ | 7,989.78 |
|-----|----|----------|

Shaping Municipal Futures: Targeted Sector Support Funding Opportunity

Saskatchewan municipalities are encouraged to apply for cost-shared funding under the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Initiative.

Eligible project funding streams:

- capacity building
- regional co-operation
- municipal corporate transition
- relationship building and dispute resolution

Municipalities require at least one partner to apply, which could be a neighbouring municipality, First Nation, regional organization or district planning commission.

Applications are being accepted until
June 7, 2024

Scan the QR code or visit the website below for more.

The TSS Initiative is a partnership between Saskatchewan's Ministry of Government Relations, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and New North.





OPINION

"For the cause that needs assistance;
for the wrong that needs resistance;
the future in the distance and
the good that we can do."

Dystopia could be fantasy, but it's becoming real

How many of you know what scrolling is? How many of you are guilty of this? And how many of you have been caught believing an intentional and misleading fact from a headline or a sentence?

The answer is many, as social media has led many of us today to scroll and not read. It has led us to click and share, quickly spreading what is often the mistruth.

This is unfortunate as we are presently entering into a world of fake news, intentionally put out to stick within the minds of people in our societies. And intentionally done to gauge how quickly artificial intelligence (AI) can influence people, eventually leading to a dystopian society.

That's a big word – dystopian.

Here's a bit of an explanation. Themes typical of a dystopian society include complete control over the people in a society through the usage of propaganda, heavy censoring of information or denial of free thought, worshipping an unattainable goal, the complete loss of individuality, and heavy enforcement of conformity.

Think back to the days of the recent pandemic.

Draw your own conclusions if there was a theme typical of a dystopian society during COVID that was shared through social media and AI?

For quite some time now, I have been stating that social media is becoming the downfall and a detrimental impact on people, especially youth, losing their interest and ultimately their ability to read. The loss of literacy

also means the loss of knowledge and a detrimental factor affecting our society.

Paul Samyn, Editor of the Free Press recently wrote about dystopia meeting reality.

He stated, "If you take the time to scroll all the way down the page, you might detect that something seems not quite right.

"In a world where our consumption patterns involve incessant swiping rather than scrolling all the way to the bottom, a damning headline is often all that we see — all that sticks with us.

"The damage is done long before the Free Press or any other trusted media outlet can engage."

As newspapers, we continue to reassure society about the truth being written in black and white on our pages. We continue to remind society that the written news has been researched to ultimately publish only truthful information and provides the source of the information.

The newspapers are here for their communities and their regions, and unlike the mainstream media, they are not owned and influenced by big corporations or political financing.

Samyn went on to explain, "But let's pretend for a moment that the Free Press did try to catch up to that lie (the headline you recently scrolled and glanced at) and tried to set the record straight with a story that explained this one was a lie. Meta's blocking of news on

its Facebook and Instagram platforms would prevent Canadians from sharing the legitimate news story — one that debunks the false story Meta had no problem spreading.

"Dystopia, meet reality."

People are tuning out of news as the internet is deteriorating into a whole bunch of untruths. People are tired of this; they tune out and distrust everything.

This should not be happening. Society should be joining with their local newspapers to keep people reading so they continue to be knowledgeable, informed and most of all, educated.

Journalism must continue in the form that has proven to be beneficial. The news must be shared, the truth "and the whole truth" must be written, people must be allowed to make decisions of their choice and the news stories must be retained for history.

People must make time to read not only the headline but also the information related to the headline. This is for the betterment of every one of us, our children and our society.

In an interview in the Globe & Mail this week, Nobel laureate Maria Ressa warned of the possibility of journalism dying in the age of AI.

"I've said this so many times, without facts you can't have truth, without truth you can't have trust, and without trust you can't have democracy," she said.

- Elaine Ashfield / Grasslands News

Large Saskatchewan Party turnover problematic

By Murray Mandryk

Sask. Political Columnist

Foes of the Saskatchewan Party were quick to characterize two more government MLAs not running for re-election as rats leaving the sinking ship — how things often play out in the nasty world of politics.

Overall, there seems little reason for worry.

The good ship Sask. Party seems fine.

Even with what's an admittedly significant 21 of the 48 MLAs it elected in 2020 not seeking office for the governing party in 2024, it still has the wind in its sails in rural Saskatchewan and elsewhere.

No one is realistically predicting that the rival NDP or anyone will be able to sink the Sask. Party quite yet.

All that said, 21 of 48 MLAs not running again is a significant total — far more than the 20- to 25-per-cent turnover we usually see from election to election.

However, the real story here may be why many of these Sask. Party MLAs are leaving — discontent,

run-ins with the law or simple age and burnout.

In the latest development, Sask. Party MLAs Hugh Nerlien (Kelvington-Wadena) and Marv Friesen (Saskatoon Riversdale) announced last week they would not be running again.

Friesen, first elected in 2020 in what was once considered one of the strongest NDP seats in the province, explained in a statement he was dealing with health issues "that make it difficult" to continue.

Nerlien, first elected in 2016, said he changed his mind and would be "focusing on spending more time with family." Both were acclaimed as Sask. Party candidates last August.

While neither had high public profiles and while Nerlien represents another strong rural seat in which in which most anyone carrying the Sask. Party colours is likely to win, these departures do feed at least part of the narrative that this is an aging government.

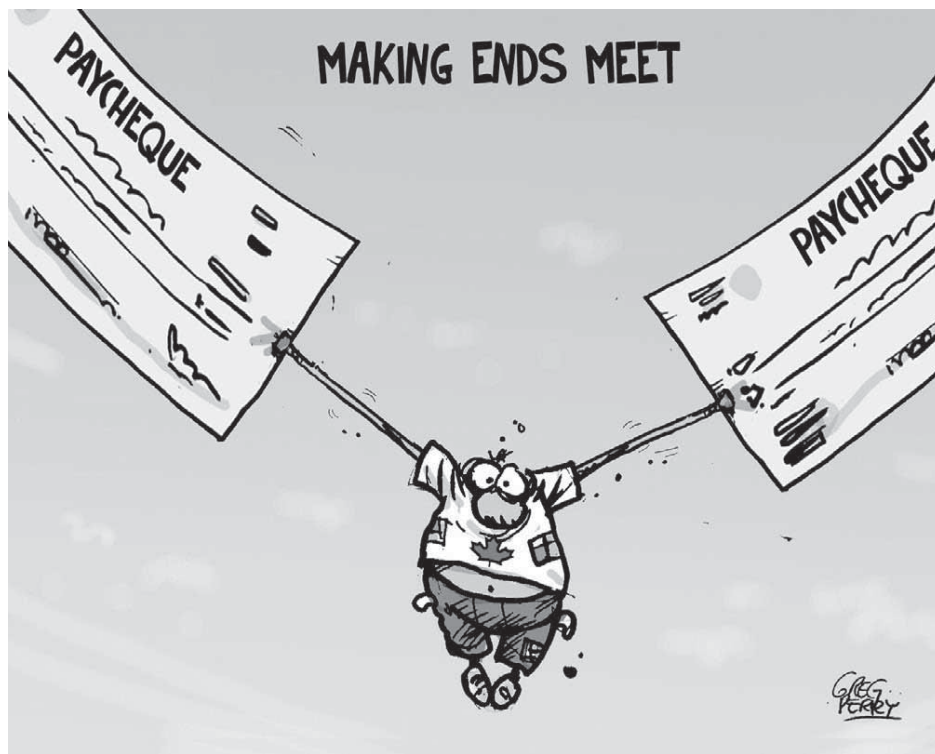
In February, the Sask. Party announced the loss

of 80-years-worth of political experience when four veteran MLAs announced they were not running again: Finance Minister Donna Harpauer (Humboldt-Watrous), Government Relations Minister Don McMorris (Indian Head-Milestone), Crown Investments Corporation Minister Dustin Duncan (Weyburn-Big Muddy), and Advanced Education Gordon Wyant (Saskatoon Northwest).

All served in the most senior cabinet portfolios, as did former justice, labour, and CIC minister Don Morgan (Saskatoon Southeast), who announced last August he would be retiring from politics after more than two decades as an MLA.

Also announcing they would be retiring from politics are Dana Skoropad (Arm River), Delbert Kirsch (Batoche), Fred Bradshaw (Carrot River Valley), Greg Ottenbreit (Yorkton), Ken Francis (Kindersley), and Gary Grewal (Regina Northeast).

Last year, Mark Docherty (Regina Coronation Park) and Lyle



Stewart (Lumsden-Morse) both resigned, while Derek Myers (Regina Walsh Acres) lost his battle with cancer. That created the need for three byelections. The Sask. Party lost the two in the cities, affording the NDP some momentum.

Among other current sitting MLAs, Terry Dennis (Canora-Pelly) and Randy Weekes (Biggar-Sask Valley) both lost nominations in new constituencies altered by the change in the electoral boundary map.

Greg Lawrence (Moose Jaw Wakamow) and Ryan Domotor (Cut Knife-Turtleford), both were forced to resign from office late last year after being criminally charged.

Finally, Saskatchewan Rivers MLA Nadine Wilson resigned from the government caucus three years ago, after it was announced she misrepresented colleagues on her COVID-19 vaccine status.

Wilson is the only one who will not be running for the Sask. Party, but will be running again ...

as a member of the Saskatchewan United Party.

Realistically, it seems likely the Sask. Party will easily win about 15 of these mostly rural 21 seats. And even if it only wins half of them, they will still maintain a comfortable majority government.

But the resignations do represent upheaval in the ranks and the problems with aging MLAs.

Maybe it's not enough to defeat the Sask. Party, but there does seem to be issues with renewal.

NOTICE: The views and opinions expressed within the content of editorials or columns published in this publication are solely the author's and do not reflect the opinions and beliefs of Grasslands News.

grasslands
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New RCMP commander in Fort Qu'Appelle

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Detachment in Fort Qu'Appelle is gearing up for the summer season under its new commander, Staff Sgt. Larry Kurtenbach.

Kurtenbach, a 24-year veteran with the force replaced Staff Sgt. Dean Lerat earlier this year.

As commander Kurtenbach's job is to plan, evaluate and direct the operations of the detachment.

Originally from Wakaw, he's been stationed in a number of communities and served with the Major Crimes Unit in Regina. He's no stranger to the Fort having been stationed as a Sgt. here three years ago.

"We're not seeing any increase in crime, nothing major," Kurtenbach told Grasslands News. "Fort Qu'Appelle is only as dangerous as you allow your lifestyle to be. We have to deal with a lot of things, mostly substance abuse, petty theft, traffic violations, things like that."

This week is National Police Week which began in 1970 as a way for police to connect with their communities and increase awareness about the services they provide.

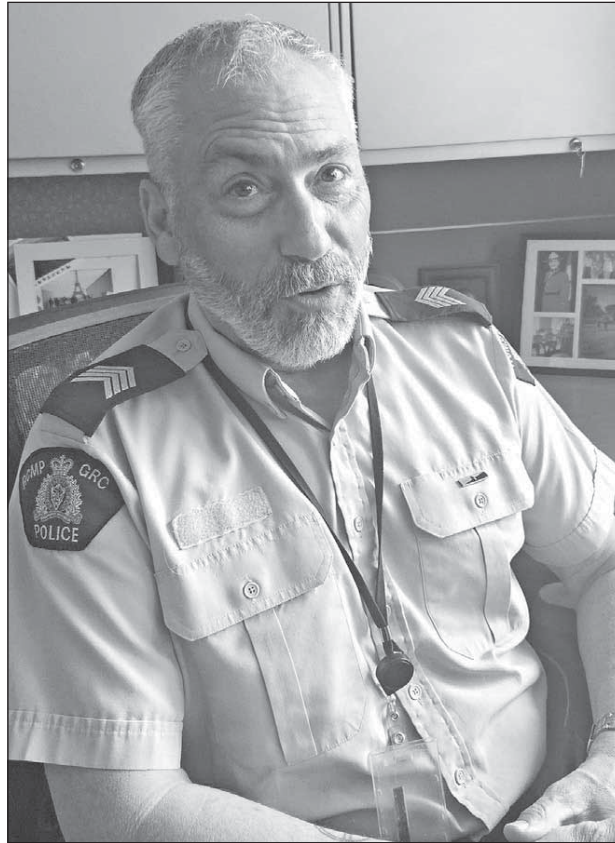
In a report to the town council last week Kurtenbach signalled a slight departure in the way he'll keep the public informed about what's going on in town. Instead of just listing a bunch of crime statistics the detachment will report on what is actually happening in the community.

"We want to provide updates on trends, talk about how to prevent people from fraud, we talk about how to prevent traffic infractions, essentially how you can protect yourself."

Fort Qu'Appelle's detachment is almost up to full strength, "which is fortunate because we get busier in the spring and summer," says Kurtenbach.

This year the detachment is preparing for the influx of tourists coming to the Fort for the 150th Treaty Four Pow wow and for the Canada Day Parade.

"The pow wow is not our event, but we meet with its



New commander
Staff Sgt. Larry Kurtenbach replaces Dean Lerat as commander of the local detachment.

ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

planning council and with Treaty 4 regularly to discuss the logistics of policing the event. We've been invited to attend the annual Treaty 4 parade and pow wow. It is going to be one heck of a show."

Community wellness expo in Emerald Park May 25

Submitted
Grasslands News

Head to the Emerald Park Fire Hall at 102 Hutchence Road in Emerald Park on May 25th to meet area doctors, first responders, firefighters, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, physiotherapists and other wellness experts for the area's first annual Community Wellness Expo.

Unlike most expos, this event is not about selling products - this free family-friendly event will be your chance to have your vital signs taken, including your blood glucose

levels, plus receive free hearing tests from Hear Canada. Attendees will also be able to receive Narcan training with some free kits provided (while supplies last).

"The 2024 Community Wellness Expo will promote good health practices and introduce families from Balgonie, Pilot Butte, Village of Edenwold, RM of Edenwold, White City, and the local area to healthcare in our community," notes organizer Murray Wright. "Attending the event will be six staff from the Cardiac, Respiratory, Diabetes, and immediate response teams from SHA, and public health nurses ad-

ministering free vaccines for measles. There will also be female nurse practitioners on hand to discuss women's health."

Attendees will also be able to talk to spiritual advisors or find out about nutrition coaching and the benefits of exercise.

Drop by the Emerald Park Fire Hall between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 25, 2024, take in the free BBQ & Kid's Zone with a bouncy castle, and find out ways to improve your overall health.

Check out www.communitywellnessexpo.com for additional information on all attendees.

Gene Hauta It's a Strange World

In Ceres, Calif., authorities **found 86 dogs and several people** living in a house where conditions were described as deplorable and unlivable. An older woman and a young girl were placed in the custody of Stanislaus County protective services, and three adults were arrested for investigation of child abuse, elder abuse and animal cruelty. It is not clear how the older woman and the girl were connected to the individuals that were arrested.

As Alberta apparently wrestles with moral panic over 4-litre jugs of vodka being for sale in the province, Saskatchewan has gone bigger, much bigger. Almost unbelievably, 19-litre jugs of the hard liquor are gaining in popularity here. **The "Saskatchewan mickey"** was first produced in 2016 by Radouga Distilleries in Blaine Lake. It is an enormous vodka-filled 18.9-litre water cooler jug. It's the company's largest size option for their Provincial vodka brand. Despite starting at a suggested price of \$499, the "Saskatchewan mickey" proved a wildly popular product, with the distillery selling nearly 200 of them last year alone. The largest size typically available in Canadian liquor stores are three-litre bottles commonly known as Texas mickeys.

As summer vacation time approaches, here's a reminder. Rene Remund and his wife had a "magical" trip to Switzerland, and "never gave a second thought" to uploading lots of photos and sending plenty of text messages from his phone. But when they returned home to Dunedin, Fla., they were nailed with an **outrageous cell phone bill** from T-Mobile, which was demanding payment of \$143,442.74, including 9.5 gigabytes of international roaming data. Remund believed he was covered for the travel because an employee at a T-Mobile store assured him that he was. He was denied by customer service, his lawyer wrote letters to T-Mobile (which were ignored), and then they contacted a TV station. A few days later, someone from the carrier called and offered to credit his account for the entire amount.

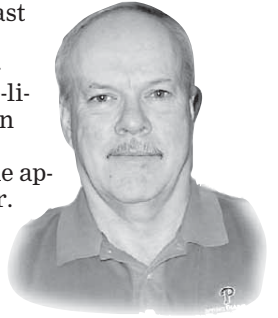
An Oklahoma man just wanted to spend a long weekend in Turks and Caicos celebrating his 40th birthday. Unfortunately for Ryan Watson, 40, **four bullets in a Ziploc bag** were found in his luggage. No one was interested in hearing that it was ammo from a deer hunt that he had forgotten about. He was released from jail after a couple weeks and paying \$15,000, but he cannot leave the country and still faces 12 years in prison. His wife, Valerie, was initially charged, as well, but those charges were dropped and she returned home to their two young children in Oklahoma City.

The Tax Court of Canada has **ruled against a man** in Montreal. I would not have known this and I'm not sure it is in place country-wide. I would guess few people were aware of this. The court ruled that the man, who had simply rented an apartment, should have known that his landlord is a foreigner, and further should have known that the renter was obliged to withhold 25 percent of his rent to ensure the landlord paid his taxes. Since CRA couldn't collect from the landlord, an Italian national, the tenant must pay the six years of taxes, plus compound interest and penalties. The tenant argued he had no idea the landlord was a foreigner. Of course, Canada Revenue refused to comment on the story. Randy Cassingham snarled, "They don't care. Just like other mobsters, they just want their money."

Peter Owens, 35, was charged with felony battery after **allegedly assaulting the manager** of a Walgreens store in Clearwater Beach, Fla. Owens got into a verbal altercation with an employee, and the manager intervened. According to Owens' statement to police, the manager "was being rude to him" but he "did not mean to hit her" — in the face — with his Bible! My excellent source ("This is True") commented that it is unclear whether he always carries a Bible or if he just had it with him that Easter Sunday. He was arrested and charged, but the next day he was arrested again after allegedly stealing a pair of shoes and a bag of Cheez-Its from a Tarpon Springs Walmart.

Planet Fitness is the latest business to get the **Bud Light treatment** after it saw its value plummet in the wake of transgender controversy. The fitness chain nose-dived \$400 million in value, from \$5.3 billion on March 14 to \$4.9 billion on March 19, just days after an Alaska woman revealed she was banned from the gym for taking photos of a member who claimed to be transgender shaving their face in the women's locker room. I admit I am confused by all the gender designations, but patrons were obviously not happy to see "a man shaving in the women's bathroom," and then banning the women who complained.

I don't blame them... keep reading...

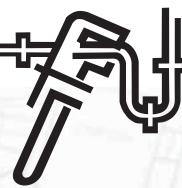


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Drive-In opens for 70th season

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

The weather was favourable and movie-goers were enthusiastic for opening night at Twilite Drive-In

Theatre on May 9. Approximately 100 cars lined up in front of the big screen outside Wolseley for the first show of the theatre's 70th season and many more attended additional show-

times over the weekend.

Twilite Drive-In was constructed by Stanley Zaba on the south side of Highway #1 in Wolseley and is one of the oldest outdoor theatres still in operation. An article in the May 20, 1954, issue of the 'Indian Head Newspaper' stated that, "Wiring of Indian Head's nearest drive-in theatre... has been proceeding under care of Hall's Electric." The notice added that Zaba hoped to begin showing films in early June, and indeed the first black and white movie was shown on June 16.

Articles and showtime advertisements have appeared regularly in the local newspaper throughout the years. One of these clippings is displayed on the wall inside the concession stand.

"About 10 years ago, a fella from town was going through the archives and found an old news clipping of the actual grand opening of the Twilite Drive-In," Zaba's son Don explained.

After managing the drive-in for nearly three decades, Stan sold the business to his son Don in 1982. The son continues to run the seasonal venue with other family members. He noted that family involvement has always been a key aspect of Wolseley's drive-in theatre.

"The whole family worked there," Zaba told Grasslands News. "There

An advertisement for Twilite Drive-In in the Indian Head Newspaper from 1956.

was ten of us in the family, so we always had employment; there was no problem finding help for the drive-in."

The theatre has now started its 70th season offering entertainment to Saskatchewan residents. Shows typically run Friday to Sunday, with occasional additions such as last Thursday when Zaba continued the tradition of offering a free show on opening night. The season opened

with 'Migration', followed by a weekend of 'Kung Fu Panda 4'. Other movies scheduled for the month of May include Godzilla and Ghostbusters films, 'Dune' and 'If'. Additional feature films will be advertised as the summer progresses.

Showtimes are at sundown each night, currently 8:45 p.m. though this naturally changes slightly throughout the season. Gates open one hour before the show and fees are the

same as last year at \$30 per carload or \$10 per person. Entrance for children age 12 and under is \$5. Admission and concession are by cash only. The theatre also has unique hoodies available for a cost of \$100, which serve as a season pass for the wearer.

Plans are being made for a 70th anniversary celebration at Twilite Drive-In later this summer and details will be shared when they are available.

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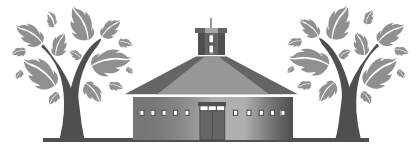
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THE TOWN OF Indian Head Town Page

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For more information call the Town Office: 306-695-3344
or Indian Head Community Development: 306-695-2742



Town Wide Garage Sale

Save the date for the Town Wide Garage Sale in Indian Head! Saturday, May 25th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please register by Friday, May 17th. Contact Meagan at 306-695-2742 or email indianheadcdc@sasktel.net if you have any questions or to get your garage sale put on the map! Maps will be available the week of May 21st at Bigway Foods, Pharmasave and at the Town Office or on our website.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

On June 6, 2024, you can drop off certain leftover pesticides, toxics, corrosives, flammable liquids and physically hazardous products for free in Indian Head. The province's new household hazardous waste (HHW) program is partnering with municipalities and local governments to provide collection services through one day collection events, free of charge to consumers. Accepted materials can be dropped off at the Town of Indian Head Maintenance Shop at North Railway Avenue & Water Street between the hours of 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information on what will be accepted, please visit www.productcare.org/products/hhw/saskatchewan/

Sunshine, Smiles, and Western Styles at Parade Days

The Town of Indian Head is very happy to be holding Indian Head Parade Days once again this year June 22 & 23! The weekend will include many of our favourites including the parade, family activities, tours, cabaret featuring Tayler Tluchak and Travis Dolter, and wrapping up with the Flatland Cruisers Show 'n' Shine. We're excited to announce the theme for this year's Indian Head Parade Days: "Sunshine, Smiles, and Western Styles"! Dust off those cowboy boots, grab your hats, and join us on June 22nd & 23rd. Let your creativity shine as you decorate your floats, businesses, and homes in true western fashion.

Volunteer for the Indian Head "Bloom Brigade"

The Town of Indian Head is seeking volunteers to join the "Bloom Brigade" this summer! Volunteers will help with watering hanging baskets, maintaining flower beds, and pruning trees at the community orchard. We are looking for individuals who are passionate about gardening and are willing to donate their time to keep our community beautiful. This is a great opportunity to get involved with your local community and make a positive impact.

Do a little or do a lot - every little bit helps. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Meagan:
indianheadcdc@sasktel.net

Together Again Reunion at Indian Head - August 2-4, 2024

Prepare to step back into the heart of Indian Head for a weekend filled with nostalgia, laughter and camaraderie. From the grand banquet to the friendly golf tournament, each moment is a chance to relive old memories and create new ones. Visit www.ihreunion.com for more information.

Tourist Booth Volunteers Needed

Our Tourist Booth is now open! Local businesses are encouraged to bring promotional items, brochures or information that we can hand out to visitors. Promotional material can be taken to the Town Office or directly to the Tourist Booth during regular hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

We are still looking for more volunteers to help with our Tourist Booth this summer. If you are volunteering on behalf of a local community organization, the town will make a donation to that group! If you are interested in volunteering, please email indianheadcdc@sasktel.net or call 306-695-2742.

Upcoming Events

May 18 - UCW Spring Fling Craft Show
May 22 - Paramedic Services Week Community BBQ
May 25 - Town Wide Garage Sale
May 25 - Ride for the Breath of Life
May 25 - Bell Barn Lobster Supper
May 28 - Shriner's Rose Day
June 1 - St. Andrew's United Church Steak Night
June 6 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
June 12 - Access Community Barbeque
June 14 - IHHS Graduation
June 22 & 23 - Indian Head Parade Days

Do you have a great community event coming up? Let us know about it! You can have your event featured on our Community Events webpage by emailing your details and poster to indianheadcdc@sasktel.net. Don't forget to schedule your community event on our sign at least one week before your event date.

www.townofindianhead.com



Indian Head Horticultural Society

Spring Tea and Sale held May 11

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Friends sat in small groups at the CE Centre chatting over a cup of tea during the Indian Head Horticultural Society Spring Tea and Sale on May 11. Other visitors perused the tables arranged around the perimeter of the room and filled with plants, baking, and raffle prizes donated by society members or local businesses.

Second-generation society member Shelley Radcliffe greeted guests as they arrived, collecting the small admission fee and selling carnations for Mother's Day. Other members of the horticultural group assisted with serving tea, selling plants or tasty baked treats.

The plant table included houseplants such as Swedish Ivy, along with Aztec tobacco used for ornamental gardens. There were also dahlia tubers, chive and poppy plants.

An array of tomato seedlings was available from Dave Gehl. Since retiring from the Indian Head Experimental Farm, he has developed a tomato grow-

ing hobby. He prepared more than 150 seedlings for local residents and made the surplus available at the sale last weekend.

Gehl is very knowledgeable about tomato varieties and willingly shared his expertise with gardeners attending the event. Among the 70 varieties that he planted this year, there was one called Dwarf Champion. Records from the Experimental Farm indicate that it was grown in 1888 and recommended for local propagation, likely for its early fruit production.

"It's a fairly small plant with small fruit," Gehl commented, adding that the Experimental Farm did a lot of valuable work researching plant varieties and spacing for food grown by homesteaders in the region.

Horticultural Society Chair Kathy Robb said proceeds from the tea and sale on Saturday afternoon will support programming offered by the group. This includes prizes for the annual Horticultural Show on Aug. 11 and supplies for workshops or the children's garden project.

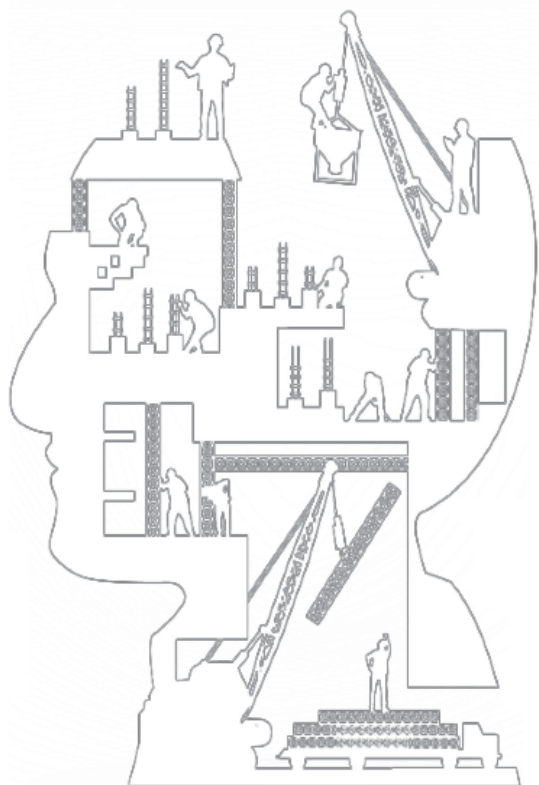


SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Choosing tomatoes

Dave Gehl assists gardeners with selecting the best tomato varieties during Indian Head Horticultural Society's Spring Tea and Sale on Saturday, May 11.

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Grenfell long-term care home

Construction delays amidst fundraising efforts

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Although design work for a replacement of the Grenfell Pioneer Home is nearing completion, project partners are facing construction and funding obstacles.

Construction Delays

The Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement recently notified the Town of Grenfell that it will seek a new construction team to build a long-term care home in the community.

"The Government of Saskatchewan is exercising the 'off-ramp' mechanism under the progressive design build agreement after being unable to reach an agreement on commercial terms with Scott Builders Inc. for the construction of the new Grenfell long-term care home," the statement from SaskBuilds said. "As a result, construction will not resume this spring as anticipated."

This is naturally disappointing to the community that has spent nearly 40 years lobbying the government for a new long-term care facility. In 1985, a committee from Grenfell submitted a notice of intent to replace the Grenfell Pioneer Home because of limited space and aging in-

frastructure. The government took minimal action and in 2018 the Saskatchewan Health Authority closed the Grenfell Pioneer Home, citing health risks from mold in the building. As a result, 22 seniors were relocated, and 63 employees were laid off or released from their jobs.

Town councillors and the Grenfell and District Health Foundation (which includes representatives from the Town of Grenfell, and the RMs of Elcapo, Wolseley, Chester and Kingsley) continued to push the Ministry of Health and Saskatchewan Health Authority to replace the care home. They appeared to be making progress in May 2023 when Scott Builders Inc. of Red Deer, Alberta was awarded the construction tender for a 33-bed care home. A sod-turning ceremony took place at an empty lot on the northeast corner of Grenfell in October 2023, and sitework commenced for a new facility. The community was cautiously optimistic that their efforts were finally bearing fruit; yet they will continue to wait for construction to start.

"A new two-stage procurement will open in June, with a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Short-listed teams who qualify through the RFQ



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Reviewing the plans

Stakeholders had an opportunity to view renders for a new long-term care home at a public meeting in Grenfell on May 8.

will be invited to participate in a Request for Proposals (RFP). The successful team selected through the RFP is expected to be on-site this fall, so that construction activities can resume," SaskBuilds said in a statement emailed to Grasslands News on May 6.

Mayor Rod Wolfe

represents the Town of Grenfell on the Health Foundation and spoke with town councillors about the situation during a regular council meeting in early May. He indicated that SaskBuilds' decision was based on the previous contractor's failure to adhere to budget constraints and failure to engage local trades and suppliers.

The plan to procure a new construction team was affirmed at a public meeting in Grenfell on May 8. Representatives from Saskatchewan Health Authority, Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement, and Grenfell and District Health Foundation spoke to a large group of stakeholders assembled in the Community Hall that evening.

Officials indicated that an RFP should be awarded by late August or early September 2024, with construction completed by the end of 2025 and the new facility open early in 2026. They explained that a progressive design model was used for the project so that design work and construction could proceed simultaneously. This also allowed for "early works" or sitework to be started last fall. The design aspect is progressing well; it is nearly complete and building renders were on display at the public meeting. Only the construction aspect has been delayed and will be included in the new RFQ and RFP.

Funding Efforts

Along with discussions relating to the construction and procurement process, financing was another topic at last week's meeting.

The provincial government has committed significant funding for care home construction, but local cost-sharing is standard procedure for this

type of project. The Grenfell Health Foundation is responsible for providing 20 percent, or approximately \$3.6 million, for the capital portion. The Foundation must also pay for all the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) at the new home; they anticipate this will total approximately \$2 million. Although SaskBuilds does not anticipate increased costs resulting from the most recent delays to the project, Mayor Wolfe has assured town councillors that the Foundation does not intend to absorb any cost overages.

The Foundation recognized its limitations to raise the large sums required for the project. As a result, it created a collaborative funding model to cover the capital portion. RM of Elcapo Reeve Larry Parrott, who serves as the treasurer for the Health Foundation, described the unique success of multiple municipalities accepting cooperative terms for funding. He presented information about the agreement at last Wednesday's meeting and noted that Foundation members carefully considered factors such as geography, population and tax assessment to decide a suitable formula.

The resulting agreement includes a total commitment of \$1,799,399 from the Town of Grenfell; \$763,015 from the RM of Elcapo; \$434,774 from the RM of Wolseley; \$468,705 from the RM of Chester; and \$134,107 from the RM of Kingsley. The town and RMs have committed to collecting these funds over a ten-year period. Parrott explained that \$3.6 million is too much debt for municipalities to carry while they gradually collect these funds through taxes, so the Foundation presented its funding model to the provincial government in May 2023 and requested bridge

financing. The Foundation is still waiting for a response from the government, but the municipalities have begun to levy additional taxes to meet the funding requirement. For example, the Town of Grenfell added \$320 to its base tax this year to reach its annual commitment of \$179,940.

After hearing the details of how the care home funding agreement would impact them, some individuals commended the Health Foundation for its diligent efforts. Other ratepayers expressed concerns about the tax increases since they are already experiencing rising costs in other areas of life. Parrott was sympathetic and emphasized the need to fundraise since the amount obtained through taxation would be reduced if fundraising efforts exceed what is required for furniture and equipment.

"There just isn't enough of us to come up with those kinds of dollars, it's going to take a number of different fronts," Parrott said. "Nobody is ignoring how big of a load this is going to be on local businesses and local residences."

While advocating for a new facility over the past several decades, the Foundation has organized several successful fundraisers and has accumulated \$1.67 million. The group will continue its fundraising campaign with various initiatives, including establishing a website so donations can be accepted online. Since building renders are now available, the Foundation can also proceed with seeking corporate sponsorships. Anyone interested in assisting with the Grenfell Health Foundation's fundraising efforts is encouraged to contact Larry Parrott by email treasurerghdf@gmail.com or phone 306-697-7931.

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Spring seeding underway for Saskatchewan farmers

Provincial News Grasslands News

Spring seeding by Saskatchewan producers is officially underway across the province, with 12 per cent of the 2024 crop now planted.

“Saskatchewan farmers are back in the field doing what they do best and in many ways better than anyone in the world,” Agriculture Minister David Marit said. “Our producers have generated record agri-food exports for each of the past four years, growing crops with some of world’s smallest carbon footprints compared to other competitive jurisdictions. While seeding is underway, I encourage everyone to stay safe and especially to be aware of farm equipment on the province’s roads during this very busy time of year.”

Widespread rainfall was welcomed this week by producers throughout the province. The provincial seeding progress of 12 per cent is behind the five-year average (2019-2023) of 23 per cent and the 10-year average (2014-2023) of 20 per

cent. Seeding is furthest advanced in the southwest and southeast parts of the province. Seeding progress has been slower in the east-central and north-east regions where spring snowfall accumulations were higher.

The southwest region is the furthest advanced in their seeding operations with 23 per cent seeded so far. The southeast is also making good progress and is reporting 16 per cent complete. The northwest and west-central regions are at eight per cent and five per cent respectively. The east-central and north-east regions are further behind at four per cent and three per cent respectively.

Most of the province received rain in varying amounts. The most rainfall was recorded in the Moose Jaw area with 103 mm. The Stalwart area received 65 mm. The Rose Valley and Hague areas received 55 mm. The Hafford area received 33 mm over the past week.

Although the recent

moisture caused delays to seeding, it allowed the topsoil moisture conditions to improve across the province. Topsoil moisture for cropland is rated at eight per cent surplus, 79 per cent adequate, 12 per cent short and one per cent very short. Hayland is rated at four per cent surplus, 74 per cent adequate, 18 per cent short and four per cent very short. Pasture topsoil moisture conditions are reported at three per cent surplus, 70 per cent adequate, 22 per cent short and five per cent very short.

Spring runoff was reported in mid-April at 74 per cent below average, 22 per cent average and four per cent above average. Out of the crop reporters, 58 per cent reported that the amount of runoff received would be sufficient to fill dugouts and other water bodies within their area. Livestock producers are hopeful the recent moisture will improve pasture conditions to ensure cattle have adequate feed

while out to pasture. 59 per cent of producers currently estimate there will be no shortages of on-farm surface water supplies for livestock with 23 per cent estimating that shortages may occur in one to two months depending on future moisture conditions. 81 per cent of producers are not concerned with water quality for their livestock.

With calving almost complete, many livestock producers are moving their cattle out to pasture. When the weather allows, producers will be back in the fields spraying and seeding throughout the province. Producers are reminded to be safe during their field activities and

while transporting equipment across or alongside roadways.

More than 200 volunteers contribute the information composing the Crop Report each week throughout the growing

season and we are actively seeking additional volunteers. For more information about becoming a volunteer crop reporter, please contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



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SPORTS

Junior golfers elated with top-rank MLT finishes

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Young golfers from Melville and Whitewood placed high in the Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour (MJT) and Mini Tour this past weekend in Estevan.

Whitewood's Parker and Emma Hallam and Melville's Caleb O'Brien placed during the MJT Mini Tour while Melville's Keaton Kreklewich placed during the MJT.

Estevan Woodlawn's fairways sizzled with excitement this past weekend as the Saskatchewan circuit of the MJT's Mini Tour took flight, launching its highly anticipated 2024 season for talented 12U players. Young golfers from across the province battled it out in Estevan on May 11 for coveted spots in three prestigious U13 Golf Championships.

Persistent winds made an already challenging course even harder for the Mini Tour golfers who demonstrated their resilience and fervour for the game across six divisions. Winners of the Boys and Girls 9-10 and 8U divisions each earned direct exemptions into the hugely popular FCG Callaway World Championship in Rancho Mirage, California, this July, and all division winners qualified for the season-ending MJT Mini Tour National Championship in Tsawwassen, B.C., this August. Exemption into the World Stars Junior Championship in Las Vegas, NV, were also awarded.

Twelve-year-old Parker Hallam left spectators in awe with a commanding 15-stroke lead, seizing not only the MJT Boys 11-12 title but also the low overall score. Hallam, beaming with pride, exclaimed, "I feel happy and proud of myself!" He credits his tournament success to a remarkable 30-foot putt, showcasing his skill and determination around the greens. Parker finished with a 78 on a par 72.

Meanwhile 10-year-old O'Brien triumphed in MJT Boys 9-10, edging out Hudson Deibert, 9, of Regina, SK, by a narrow one-stroke margin. O'Brien expressed elation, stating, "I feel great," and commended the pleasantly challenging nature of the course. O'Brien finished with a 79.

The 10-year-old Emma Hallam finished second in the Girls 9-10 with a score of 109, one point behind the first place Makinlee McCrystal (9), from Regina.

Melville's Kreklewich placed second in the MJT Pee-wee Boys with a total of 156.

Next on the MJT Saskatchewan schedule is the three-day major ranked MJT Golf Saskatchewan Spring Classic at Elmwood Golf and Country Club in Swift Current, May 18-20, 2024. The next MJT Mini Tour event in the province is also at Elmwood Golf and Country Club in Swift Current, SK, on May 18, and will also directly qualify young players for the MJT Mini Tour National Championship.



PARKER HALLAM



EMMA HALLAM



CALEB O'BRIEN



KEATON KREKLEWICH



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Kipling Track Athletes

On Saturday, May 11 the Grade 9-12 track athletes from Kipling School travelled to Moose Jaw to compete in the Invitational Track Meet. Kipling athletes ended the day with a number of top six finishes, with Sheldon Puffalt setting a new record in the Junior Boys Quadathlon. Front row, left to right, are, Olivia Werbowski, Sybil Brickley, Mackenzie Miskiman, Brooke Allan, Mia Wyporowich and Nigella Logrono, Middle row, left to right, are, Rein Porol, Layla Walker, Kamryn Kish, Dawson Shoemaker, Jillian Meszaros, Brynn Sproat, Hunter Andrews and Kieran Rajotte. Back row, left to right, are, Sherwin Puffalt, Cayden Hoffmann, Payton White, Sheldon Puffalt, Jover Chagwasi, Rowan Pauls and Tyson Roppel.

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Sports Column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

The toughest prize to win in all of sports has to be the Stanley Cup.

Some folks might say that winning a Super Bowl is harder than Stanley, but anyone who has watched or played both sports, knows that this just isn't true.

Teams in the NBA have to go through a similar amount of games to win that sport's top trophy, but, you know, it's still basketball, and on any given night, the only player you'll see writhing around on the parquet in agony is LeBron James, who was probably brushed by a loose thread on an opposition player's jersey.

Some folks might say that soccer is quite a difficult sport to win, the World Cup especially, but you can't compare people running around in shorts to hockey players, who carry a stick and have razors stuck to their boots, in a game where a puck will routinely reach 90 miles an hour.

It's also the only major sport to have a penalty for fighting that doesn't involve the immediate ejection of the combatants.

Long story short – hockey is a tough game.

That's why I'm so surprised to hear all the whining from fans of a few teams when their players get roughed up.

Last weekend, the Boston Bruins fans watched in horror as their number 1 agitator, Brad Marchand, took a pretty good shot to the head from the Florida Panthers' Sam Bennett.

If you watch the replays, you see Bennett lifting his hand as Marchand closes in to check him and said hand seems to meet the speedy Bruin in the side of the head.

Watching it in real time makes it look next to impossible that Bennett could have been targeting Marchand's noggin, and Bennett has said there's no way he'd have had time to react to the oncoming super-pest with the precision required to deliver a blow to the temple.

And had he not gotten his hand up to where he did, who's to say that Marchand wasn't going to go after him with a dirty hit?

There's a reason that Marchand's halo wasn't protecting his head and that reason is that he's not exactly an angel when he's on the ice.

While Marchand's status right now is uncertain for the next Bruins – Panthers game, it would be a shame if he missed any time, because he's still one of the most skilled and exciting players in the game, regardless of whether you like him or hate him.

Even if he does miss some time, he knows that hockey's a sport that has all kinds of dangers and he also knows that guys get hurt in pursuit of the Cup.

At the end of game 3 of the Edmonton Oilers and Vancouver Canucks series, the best player in the world, Connor McDavid, got involved in some shenanigans and he was cross-checked high from the front and in the middle of the back at virtually the same time.

Carson Soucy, who was slashed by McDavid and responded with a cross-check to the superstar's face, has been handed a one-game suspension, probably because it happened after time expired.

It wasn't a really vicious check, but because Nikita Zadorov – and I'm pretty sure Zadorov means "likes cross-checking in the back" – was cross-checking McDavid from behind at the same time as Soucy's transgression.

What did McDavid have to say about the game ending incident?

He said it was tough hockey, and the Canucks have some big, strong defencemen and they can hurt a player.

He also followed up saying that this is a great series to be a part of and that he's having a lot of fun out there.

In other words, he's not looking for any special treatment from the referees in the series.

Having said that, It would be shocking if the Oil didn't respond with a greasy play against one of the top skilled Canucks at some point in game 4.

Sometimes in hockey, maybe more-so than any other sport, you have to be the biggest bully on the block, simply because that's what you need to do to impose your will on an opponent and win hockey games.

In a seven-game series, the idea is to beat down your opponents down enough that they quit going to the dirty areas to retrieve pucks and they basically give up.

Some people call it tough hockey.

We call it the playoffs.

Men's fastball and baseball begins

By Chris Ashfield

Grasslands News

Men's fastball and baseball will take to the field for another season next week with local communities fielding teams this year in the South East Men's Fastball League, the Saskota Baseball League and the Qu'Appelle Valley Baseball League.

South East Men's Fastball League

The South East Men's Fastball League (SEMFL) will be made up of nine teams this year and consist of a 12 game modified home and away schedule.

Returning teams this year are the Cowessess Royals, Fleming Jets, Grenfell Gems, Kahkewistahaw Jays, Round Lake Braves, Whitewood Falcons, Young Bucks (Ochapowace) and Zagime Eagles (Sakimay). New to the league are the Neudorf Posse who joined the SEMFL from the Tri-Highway Fastball League.

The regular season will consist of six home games and six away games with the season starting on May 20 and concluding on July 5. All games

will begin at 8 p.m. with the exception of home games in Kahkewistahaw, Whitewood and Zagime which will begin at 6:30 p.m. and Neudorf which will begin at 7 p.m.

The opening week will see Neudorf in Kahkewistahaw and Zagime in Ochapowace to play the Young Bucks on May 21. The following night, on May 22, Whitewood will head to Fleming and then on May 23 the Young Bucks will be in Cowessess and Kahkewistahaw in Zagime. The week will round off on May 24 with Fleming in Grenfell and Whitewood at Ochapowace against Round Lake.

Saskota Baseball League

The Kipling Royals will begin their regular season in the Saskota Baseball League (SBL) next week when they host the Carlyle Cardinals on opening night on May 21.

Kipling will play a total of six home games in the regular season hosting the Carlyle Cardinals on May 21, the Moosomin Badgers on May 30, the Kenosee Cubs on June 4, the Estevan Tap House Wolves on June 13, the Weyburn Sun Devils on June 25 and the Arcola Threshers

on July 2.

The regular season will be 12 games with the top eight teams making the playoffs.

All home games for the Kipling Royals will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Qu'Appelle Valley Baseball League

The Windthorst Pirates of the Qu'Appelle Valley Baseball League (QVBL) will start their season on May 24 in Moose Jaw with their first home game being on May 28 against the Red Dogs. The team will be playing a 16-game schedule this year, with half the games being played at home. The regular season wraps up for Windthorst on July 30.

The Pirates' will be one of 12 teams playing in the Jack Bateman Division of the QVBL this year. Along with the Windthorst Pirates, the division will consist of the Moose Jaw Padres, Regina Red Dogs, Bethune Bucs, Regina Ghosts, Findlater Braves, Lumsden Cubs, Holdfast Indians, Optimist Rangers, Regina Capitals, Regina A's and Regina Blue Jays.

Windthorst home games begin at 6:45 p.m. with the exception of Sunday games which have a 2 p.m. start.

Windthorst Pirates host first baseball camp

By Connie Schwalm

Grasslands News

Last Saturday (May 11), the Windthorst Pirates hosted their first Baseball Camp. Thirty-three young athletes were split into two groups for the camp, with the U9 – U11 players working with coaches from the Windthorst Pirates Baseball Team in the morning and the U13 – U15 players taking their turn on the field in the afternoon.

Rhett Larsen (Windthorst Pirates) says that the Baseball Camp received a very positive response.

"It was a really good day although a few of us got a bit sunburned. Five members of the Windthorst Pirates were out there, helping the kids learn and practice their skills. So, we're hoping that the kids benefitted from getting that head start on the ball season."

"We also got lots of positive comments from parents who told us that they would be happy if we ran this camp every Saturday. That was nice to hear. A lot of work goes into putting on a camp like that. So, it's good to know that your efforts are appreciated and that the parents feel their kids have learned something."

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Baseball camp

Players from the Windthorst Pirates held a baseball camp for 33 kids on Saturday, May 11. They were divided into two groups, U9-11, top photo, and U13-15, bottom photo.

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Melville Slo Pitch League 2024 Schedule

| Date | Time | Home | Away | Location |
|--------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| May 22 | 6:30 p.m. | Back Door Sliders | Sakimay Redbulls | Father Tom |
| May 22 | 6:30 p.m. | Crushers | Unicorn Stampede | RP1 |
| May 22 | 6:30 p.m. | Whitecaps | RAMRODS | RP3 |
| May 22 | 6:30 p.m. | Scared Hitless | The Reel Hi-Lite | RP4 |
| May 22 | 6:30 p.m. | The Runs | Hi-Lite Reel | SP2 |
| May 29 | 6:30 p.m. | RAMRODS | The Runs | RP1 |
| May 29 | 6:30 p.m. | Sakimay Redbulls | Scared Hitless | SP2 |
| May 29 | 6:30 p.m. | Back Door Sliders | Whitecaps | Father Tom |
| May 29 | 6:30 p.m. | The Reel Hi-Lite | Crushers | RP4 |
| May 29 | 6:30 p.m. | Unicorn Stampede | Hi-Lite Reel | RP3 |

Park, Page picked in WHL Prospects Draft

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

Nearly three points per game and a cumulative win-loss record of 14-5 were enough, respectively, for Pilot Butte's Carson Park and Whitewood's Kaleb Page to capture Western Hockey League scouts' imaginations last week.

Park, who played centre for the under-15 Prairie Storm in the Saskatchewan AA Hockey League, was chosen in the fifth round, 107th overall by the Brandon Wheat Kings in the WHL's annual prospects draft May 9.

The Wheaties drafted Park off a season in which he posted 21 goals and 28 assists in just 18 regular season games for the Prairie Storm, before adding another five points in four playoff games.

Page meanwhile was selected in the seventh round,

139th overall by the Calgary Hitmen after his own break-out season with the SAAHL's U15 Sask. East Oilers.

Page's 2023-24 campaign included a 12-3 regular season record with a .910 save percentage, while splitting duty between the pipes for the Oilers. He was anointed the team's starting goalie for playoffs and posted a 2-2 post-season record on the back of a .914 save percentage.

While both players' teams were swept in the second

round of league playoffs, Park and Page were also individually among 29 players invited to attend an orientation camp in June and a summer camp in July ahead of final cuts before Team Saskatchewan's roster is named for October's WHL Cup tournament in Red Deer.

Park's Prairie Storm teammate, defenceman Kayson Anderson was also drafted last week, taken 50th overall by the Edmonton Oil Kings.



Players drafted

Carson Park, top photo, was drafted by the Brandon Wheat Kings 107th overall and Kaleb Page, bottom photo, was selected by the Calgary Hitmen 139th overall.

FILE PHOTOS | GRASSLANDS NEWS



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Katepwa Ladies' golf starts

Katepwa ladies golfers started the season May 9th with the Spring meeting. Business finished and now time to golf. A quick photo of the 44 ladies and off we go. Reminder that tee times start at 9 a.m. for May and June. A start time of 8 a.m. for July and August. Reverting back to 9 a.m. in September. All ladies welcome. For more information: Call the clubhouse 306-332-2582 or email klgask@gmail.com .

Sports Column

Personnel moves rampant in curling

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

As the inturn turns...

Well, it might not be as intriguing and dramatic as the television soap opera *As The World Turns*, but the Canadian curling scene continues to draw gasps of surprise from the thousands of die-hard fans across the country.

The latest: Brendan Bottcher of Edmonton, who skipped his team to the Brier title in 2021, appears to have been fired by the other three members of his team – Marc Kennedy, Brett Gallant and Ben Hebert – and been replaced at skip by Brad Jacobs, who has become Canada's most prominent member of the 'Have Broom, Will Travel' club. Jacobs, from Sault Ste. Marie, has a spectacular curling resume, having won one Brier (2013) and

an Olympic gold medal (2014). He was a perennial participant in the Brier out of Northern Ontario but his rink split up when he took a sabbatical after the 2022 Brier. Last year, he hooked up with Reid Carruthers of Winnipeg and by the latter stages of the season, was skipping the team. After his sabbatical – reportedly so he could devote more time to family and business interests – Jacobs is now back in the full grind of competitive curling.

The Bottcher move was intriguing because only three years ago, the team's third, Darren Moulding, was essentially fired by the team. To have the same thing happen to Bottcher must have brought a wry smile to the face of Moulding, who wasn't happy with the move and didn't mind saying so. What kind of supporting cast Bottcher will wind up with for next season remains to be seen, but publicly, he took the high road, posting on X that he wished his former team-mates all the best "on and off the ice." He said he would have "more news" in the near future.

The Jacobs-to-Alberta move left the Carruthers rink with a big hole, but Saskatchewan native Catlin Schneider, who has thrown third stones for Matt Dunstone and Colton Flasch, among others, filled it by joining the Winnipeg-based rink at third. There were other headline-inspiring moves during curling's unofficial 'free agency' period. One of the bigger ones concerned Jennifer Jones, perhaps the best female curler in Canada's history. She retired and her youthful rink went

looking for a replacement, finding Calgary's Chelsea Carey, an original Winnipegger who has two Scotties' Tournament of Hearts' titles to her credit.

Other personnel moves involving top curlers include Scott Howard, Glenn's son, taking over as skip after his dad's retirement; John Epping moving on from his Toronto-based rink and joining forces with Jacob and Tanner Horgan out of Northern Ontario (the Horgans are brothers of Tracy Fleury, the third on Rachel Homan's world championship rink); and Lisa Weagle, who has played with Homan and Jones, has joined the Laurie St-Georges rink from Quebec.

Intrigue remains. Where will Bottcher land? Are there more changes to come? Will Moulding pop up on someone's team? Stay tuned. Curling news is a 12-month-a-year deal these days.

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Husband and wife Michael and Jasmine Snell each bowled 300 on the same night in Omaha, Neb. Can't say if their marriage is solid, but there were no signs of a split."

• Headline at fark.com.: "Ahh, the signs of late spring. Flowers blooming, birds singing, and St. Louis Cardinals' fans panicking."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Bally Sports channels removed from Comcast after bankruptcy of Bally operator Diamond Sports. Comcast fans of MLB's Tigers, Brewers, Reds, Cardinals, Rays, Rangers, Braves, Angels, Royals, Twins and Marlins can no longer see games. Sadly

White Sox fans can still watch their team."

• Vindictive guy Steve Burgess of Vancouver: "The Leafs are out. The Jays are losing. Drake's beef is not going well. Sucks to be you, Toronto."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Did you see where LIV Golf just made a major announcement that there will now be a trading window to allow its teams to swap players. Philosophical question: If a sports league makes a major announcement and nobody cares, is it still a major announcement?"

• Canada's satirical website, the Beaverton, after coach Sheldon Keefe was fired: "Maple Leafs begin search for new scapegoat."

• From fark.com: "NFL strength of schedule for all 32 teams: Browns face most difficult slate as they don't get to play against the Browns."

• Another one from fark.com: "He's MVP for the third time, and that's no Jokic."

• Steve Simmons of Sunmedia, lamenting some of the high salaries paid to Maple Leafs compared to Oilers' Leon Draisaitl: "Draisaitl is paid \$8.5 million a year by the Oilers, \$2.5 million less than the Maple Leafs pay John Tavares, \$2.4 million less than they pay Mitch Marner, \$3 million less than the Leafs will pay William Nylander next season."

• Another one from Simmons: "Vladimir Guerrero Jr. is fifth in all of baseball in hitting the ball the hardest. When that translates to runs scored, call me."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Melville & District Minor Hockey Assoc. Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, MAY 30 - 7:30 PM

CNCC Convention Centre

575 - 2nd Ave. W., Melville, SK

Audited financials will not be available at this time.

They will be available in August for viewing and presented at the August meeting.



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EGG-citing experience for Kipling kids, chicks

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

Last week, students in the Grade 2/3 classroom at Kipling School were excited when they finally had the chance to really meet the baby chicks that they had studied throughout the incubation process.

As teacher Amberlee Dayman explains, "My friend had some fertilized 'Barnyard mix' chicken eggs, and my mom had an incubator. So, we decided to let the eggs hatch in the classroom and then take the chicks back to the farm.

"As part of the curriculum, the students are to learn about the life cycle of an animal. So, this gave them the chance to look at the fertilized egg and the embryo. To see the embryo, we 'candled' the

eggs by holding a light underneath them, so that the students could see the living embryo moving inside the egg. Then the kids got to see the chicks hatch, and we talked about how they would grow to become full-sized chickens."

Although the chicks hatched on Wednesday, Dayman says the students had to wait a bit before they could do more than observe them.

"It was very exciting for the kids when the eggs started to hatch. But the baby chicks had to stay in lockdown for two days. So, the kids couldn't open the lid, they could only watch the chicks through the little window. Then on Friday, the kids were finally able to hold the chicks and show them to some of the other students."

She notes the students happily shared what they had learned with this project.

"I've had several parents tell me that they had gotten regular updates from

their child about what was happening to the eggs every day. So, the kids were really excited about watching this whole process happen."



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Newly hatched

Last Friday, Grade 2/3 students at Kipling school were excited to finally have the chance to hold and 'meet' the baby chicks that they studied during the incubation process and had seen hatch two days earlier.

— Wawota community happenings —

By **Myrna Olson**
for Grasslands News

Happy 80th birthday to Alderman, Dan Nicurity. (May 13th)

Sympathy to the family of Russell (Toby) La Rose who passed away at Deer View Lodge. He was originally from Regina and passed away on April 29th at the age of 79 years.

Wawota would like to welcome a new family to Wawota. They are Robert Vanderveer and Katryn Sadnicki and their family of Joshua, Lucas and Silas. They are residing on Pipestone Avenue.

Kurt Gleisinger visited with his mother, Joyce Glenn over the Mother's Day weekend.

David and Nicki Ford, Rhonda Hall, Rochelle Friesen, Kelton and Zoey, Jamie Finlay, Jordi and Paul and Tenille Ford, Emery, Autumn and Grady travelled to Toronto last weekend to participate in Meagan's Hug. They donated the funds that were raised for childhood brain cancer research, a total of \$19,392! What a great effort and what great community support.

Treena Epp has been hired by Canada Post as a casual employee. (Contrary to the rumors, I have not retired, yet).

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Stolen truck from Okanese FN found stuck in a field

Melville / Ituna Detachment
S/Sgt. T. L. Adams

Reporting period: May 7 to May 14

Melville and Ituna detachment area had 63 occurrences over the past week.

Traffic

During this time, Melville and Ituna Detachments responded to 16 reported traffic occurrences or traffic stops that resulted in five Charges and nine Warnings.

Melville RCMP were dispatched regarding a maroon/red Toyota Camry that went in and out of ditch on Highway #9. Melville and Yorkton RCMP members located the suspect vehicle and the male driver confirmed he had fell asleep and drove into the ditch and back onto highway and did not pull over. The lone male driver was charged under the Traffic Safety Act, 213(1) Drive a vehicle without due care and attention and received a \$580 fine.

Theft/Mischief/Dangerous Driving

RCMP were dispatched to a report of a white Ford F550 truck that is stuck in a field. The truck was stuck up to the frame in mud, no plate on the vehicle. RCMP attended and located vehicle; it was confirmed stolen from Okanese FN. File Hill Police Service continue to investigate.

RCMP received a complaint of a stolen credit card and fuel cardlock cards. The cards were used at businesses in Melville and Yorkton. Businesses are able to provide photos and security video. RCMP continue to investigate.

RCMP received a set of keys that was located in the alley behind Rail City Industries in Melville. The key ring contains keys for a Mitsubishi, Chevrolet, Toyota, Honda Goldwing motorcycle. RCMP continue to investigate.

RCMP were dispatched to a complainant that someone stole the fishing gear out of his pontoon boat, cut the fuel tank off and stole it while parked on 3rd Avenue West in Melville. RCMP continue to investigate.

RCMP were dispatched to the RM of McLeod reporting that two street signs south of Neudorf appear to have been hit by a vehicle on purpose. RCMP continue to investigate.

Home Services and Equipment Fraud

Home services and equipment

A scammer offers services such as air duct cleaning or furnace/boiler repairs at very low rates. If the company completes the services:

- They are of low quality
- The warranties are invalid
- The repairs can cause potential risks

Internet, cable or cellphone service providers

A fraudster calls and claims to be from an internet, cable or cellphone service provider. They offer a deal that's too good to be true. The fraudsters proceed to ask for the victim's personal information including their Social Insurance Number (SIN) and Driver's License number. They will then:

- Use your personal information for identity fraud
- Order a cellphone using your identity
- Order a cellphone and have it shipped to the victim but then tell you it was the wrong cellphone and you need to ship it back to the criminal's address

RM of North
Qu'Appelle No.187
SASKATCHEWAN
Valley of Festivals

PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of NORTH QU'APPELLE NO. 187
Amend Zoning Bylaw 13-08

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No.187 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw #13-08 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT: The proposed bylaw amendment will allow for a reduction of minimum site size requirements at Council's discretion in the A- Agriculture District.

AFFECTED LAND: The proposed bylaw will affect all A-Agriculture District land.

REASON: The reason for the amendment is to reduce the minimum site size requirements to allow for greater flexibility and accommodation of subdivisions within the RM.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office at 136 Company Avenue S, Fort Qu'Appelle between 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday, excluding Thursday and statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday May 28, 2024 at 10:15 am at the Council Chambers located at 136 Company Avenue S, Fort Qu'Appelle. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. The Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle, May 10, 2024.

Gwen Lowe, Administrator
RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187

If you get a call from your service provider, tell them that you will call them back and end the call. Look up the legitimate phone number for the company and communicate with them directly by always making the outgoing call.

Help with government documents

For a fee, a website offers services to help you:

- Get a passport
- Get a birth certificate
- Book a driver's road test

The website may promise faster processing times or other guarantees.

The forms needed to get government identification are free. No one can speed up the process.

Immigration website

Scammers create fake websites and online ads that offer "cheap" immigration services or even may "guarantee" high paying jobs. Many of the websites will look like official government sites.

Beware if they are asking you to pay for application ac-

PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of Cana No. 214

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the R.M. of Cana No. 214 intends to adopt Bylaw Z10-2024 under The Planning and Development Act, 2007 to amend Bylaw No. Z2-2016, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT: The proposed Bylaw Z10-2024 will amend the setback requirements in the Agricultural District (A).

AFFECTED LAND: The affected lands will be all those included in the Agricultural District (A).

REASON: The reason for the amendment is to reduce setbacks required for non-conforming residential dwellings located along developed roads and municipal road allowances.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect Bylaw Z10-2024 at the municipal office in Melville, Saskatchewan during regular office hours between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday. Copies are available at cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on June 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the R.M. Office at 110-Sth Avenue East, Melville, Saskatchewan, to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed Bylaw Z 10-2024. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing, or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at the R.M. of Cana No. 214 this 17th day of May, 2024

Marj Beatty, Administrator

RM of North
Qu'Appelle No.187
SASKATCHEWAN
Valley of Festivals

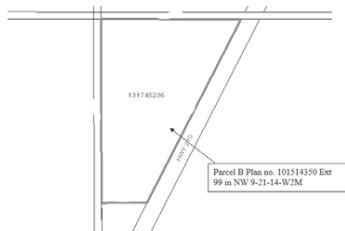
PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of NORTH QU'APPELLE NO. 187
Amend Zoning Bylaw 13-08

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INTENT: The proposed bylaw will allow for a rezoning of the land described below from A- Agriculture District to C-Commercial District and allow for off-season storage of trailer coach on campsite at Council's authorization.

AFFECTED LAND: The affected land is legally described as Parcel B, Plan no. 101514350 Ext 99 in the NW 9-21-14-W2M as shown on the map below.



REASON: The reason for the amendment is to allow for a proposed seasonal campground development.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office at 136 Company Avenue S, Fort Qu'Appelle between 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday, excluding Thursday and statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday May 28, 2024, at 11:00 am at the Council Chambers located at 136 Company Avenue S, Fort Qu'Appelle. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. The Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle, May 10, 2024

Gwen Lowe, Administrator
RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187

cess fees or deposits before the application is even started.

If you suspect you've been the victim of cybercrime or fraud, report it to the RCMP and to the CAFC's online reporting system or by phone at 1-888-495-8501. If not a victim, report it to the CAFC anyway.

RM of North
Qu'Appelle No.187
SASKATCHEWAN
Valley of Festivals

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INTENT: The proposed bylaw amendment will allow for a Ski Resort at Council's discretion in the A- Agriculture District

AFFECTED LAND: The proposed bylaw will affect all A-Agriculture District land.

REASON: The reason for the amendment would be to add ski resort as a discretionary use in the Agriculture District to facilitate an expansion to Mission Ridge Winter Park.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office at 136 Company Avenue S, Fort Qu'Appelle between 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday, excluding Thursday and statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 10:30 am at the Council Chambers located at 136 Company Avenue S, Fort Qu'Appelle. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. The Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle, May 10, 2024.

Gwen Lowe, Administrator
RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187

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INTENT: The proposed bylaw will allow for a rezoning of the land described below from A- Agriculture to R1-Residential District- Low Density and RR-Residential District to R1- Residential District-Low Density.

AFFECTED LAND: The affected land is legally described as Parcel L, Plan 69R27956, Ext. 0., Parcel 8, Plan AP4426, Ext. 0., Parcel 9, Plan AP4426, Ext. 2., Parcel 20, Plan AP4426, Ext. 0., Parcel 21, Plan AP4426, Ext. 2., Parcel 22, Plan AP4426, Ext. 2., St/L 3, 4, Plan AP4426, Ext. 0., St/L 1, Plan 66R30405, Ext. 0. Shown on a plan of proposed subdivision dated February 9, 2024, and signed by Scott Assie, R.P.P.



REASON: The reason for the amendment is to accommodate the proposed subdivision which provides for the closed laneway to be attached to the described properties

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office at 136 Company Avenue S, Fort Qu'Appelle between 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday, excluding Thursday and statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday May 28, 2024 at 10:00 am at the Council Chambers located at 136 Company Avenue S, Fort Qu'Appelle. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. The Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle, May 10, 2024

Gwen Lowe, Administrator
RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187

CLASSIFIEDS



ONE AD, SIX NEWSPAPERS: All classified ads appear in the Fort Qu'Appelle Times, Indian Head-Wolseley News, Kipling Clipper, Melville Advance, Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun and Quad Town Forum

Obituary Elinora (Eleanor) Keller March 18, 1939 - May 8, 2024

It is with great sadness that the family of Elinora (Eleanor) Keller announces her passing on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at the age of 85 years.

Eleanor was born on March 18, 1939, on the family homestead a few miles south of Melville to Henry and Martha Steffen (nee Meyer). She was the youngest of four children and grew up on the farm where she attended the Pearl Creek School. Eleanor married Elmer Keller in 1958 and lived on a farm five miles southeast of Melville. There they raised their family and farmed until 1999 when they moved into the city of Melville.

Eleanor enjoyed being busy and was always active. In addition to the many duties that farm life brings, she also worked many years in Melville, first for the Co-op Creamery and then at Sears. She was an active bowler and enjoyed being involved in the church choir at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. When Eleanor and Elmer moved into Melville, she continued to be active, walking daily, and loved gardening, taking pride in her flower beds.

Eleanor loved to socialize, always going out for coffee with friends and attending senior dances throughout the surrounding area. She loved seeing her grandchildren, often spoiling them with gifts and sweets and playing ball in her back yard. Eleanor was an avid curling and baseball fan and enjoyed watching games on TV and going to ball games, cheering on the local team. She loved to laugh; she loved life.

Eleanor was predeceased by her loving husband, Elmer; her parents, Henry and Martha Steffen; in-laws Henry and Margaret Keller; sister Shirley Howard; sister-in-law Emily Steffen; and brother-in-law Richard Miller. Left to cherish her memories are her son, Brian (Sharon) Keller of Calgary; her granddaughters, Chelsey and Jessica Keller of Calgary; brother Gordon Steffen of Melville; sister Winnifred Miller of Regina; brother-in-law Jack Howard of Vernon, BC; close friend Jim Varga of Bangor, SK; and nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

Eleanor will be greatly missed by all of those who had been a part of her life.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.



Obituary Cindy Deanna Murray Feb. 7, 1959 - May 10, 2024

MURRAY, Cindy Deanna (nee McKerricher) died at her home after a prolonged battle with cancer on Friday, May 10, 2024 at 65 years of age. Beloved wife of Dr. Timothy Murray for 42 years. Much loved mother of William (Eva) and James. Loving grandmother of Ariana. Loving daughter of Jean and the late Oliver McKerricher. Dear sister of Arlinda (David) Johner, Mark (Diane) and Zane (Kim) McKerricher. Treasured aunt of Karena, Jennie, Justin, Garret, Leah and their families.

Cindy was raised on a farm north of Bengough and Horizon, SK. She trained as a nurse at Kelsey's in Saskatoon and in 1979 secured her first job in Melville, SK. A few years later she went to work at the Royal Columbian Hospital in Vancouver, she was a nurse for Terry Fox during his last days in June 1981. Later that year she returned to Melville and married Dr. Tim Murray and spent six years working in Yorkton, making many friends before the young family settled in St. Catharines, Ont. in 1987 to raise their two boys on an acreage in Effingham when she transitioned into office nursing. Here she learned to swim and the family skied, played golf, cared for numerous animals together and she enjoyed gardening. In later years she joined and competed with TryForce Triathlon Club and the Runners Edge Running Club with whom she completed the Chicago and New York Marathons.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Niagara Health System -Walker Family Cancer Centre would be greatly appreciated. Visitation was held at 8 a.m. followed by a Funeral Service at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at Church of Christ, 439 Ontario Street, St. Catharines. A private family interment followed at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Arrangements entrusted to Considerate Cremation & Burial Services, 26 Nihan Drive, St. Catharines, Ont., 289-362-1144. Online condolences and donations may be made at CCBSCares.ca



Obituary Claude Johnson May 15, 1938 - May 9, 2024

It is with great sadness that the family of Claude Johnson mourn his sudden passing on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at the age of 85 years. Claude was born in Maryfield, Sask. on May 15, 1938. Claude has resided in Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask. since 1992, having moved from Edmonton, Alta. with his wife Norma, after retiring from The Bank of Nova Scotia, where he worked for over 40 years. He also had the pleasure of spending winters in Mazatlan, Mexico which truly became his second home.

Claude will be profoundly missed by his wife Norma of 41 years; his sons, Todd (Keiko), Kurt (Lynnette), Ward (Peggy) and Myles (Heromi); 11 grandchildren; a brother Terry (Wendy); and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Claude was a great cook and enjoyed going to auction sales, garage sales and thrift stores and enjoyed a good card game.

A public visitation took place at Tubman Funeral Home, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask. on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. The funeral service will be held in St. Andrew's United Church, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask. on Friday, May 17, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Jo Mader officiating. Interment will follow in the Lakeview Cemetery.

Donations in memoriam may be made to Canadian Cancer Society, 1910 McIntyre Street, Regina, SK S4P 2R3. Online condolences may be made at: www.tubmanfh.com



Memoriam

YOUNG - Lena. In loving memory of a dear Mom and Gramma who passed away May 21, 1999. When tomorrow starts without me please try to understand,

That an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand; The angel said my place was ready In Heaven far above, And that I have to leave behind all those I dearly love. But when I walked through Heaven's Gates I felt so much at home, for God looked down, smiled at me And told me "Welcome Home." So when tomorrow starts without me, Don't think we're far apart, for every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart. When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. -Love forever, Laura, Denis, Julie, Leanne and Janlyn.

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Cont'd on Page 21

Celebration of Life

Remembering Randal Reichel



Saturday, July 6, 2024 11 a.m.

Edenwold Community Hall 204 Brewer St. Edenwold, SK S0G 1K0

On October 26, 2023, we said goodbye to Randal Terrance Reichel - the youngest son of Walter and Hedwig, hardworking farmers who made their home in Edenwold, Sask. Please join Randal's family in his hometown community to celebrate his life as a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend.

Memoriam

EICHELBERG - In loving memory of our parents, father JOHN: Oct. 4, 1913 - June 19, 1984; and mother MATHILDA: May 31, 1923 - May 17, 2013.

Like falling leaves, the years go by But precious memories never die, No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you're always there.

Those we love never truly leave us. -Sadly missed and always remembered by Glenn, Shirley and Sharon.

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Abernethy's Stephen Smith signs with Roughriders

By Judy Hershmillier
Grasslands News

Exciting news for Balcarres and Abernethy area is that Stephen Smith, CJFL Defensive Player of the Year, on their National Team and who played with Regina Thunder, has signed with the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Stephen is the youngest son of Paul and Susan Smith of Abernethy, and grandson of Les and Marg Smith of

Katepwa

The Town of Balcarres... and what it has to offer

written by
Delores Figgitt

Balcarres became a town on Jan. 1, 1951 – it has grown and has many benefits. Today there are 615 residents.

There have been two gold medalists in Balcarres in which the town is proud of, Bob Gibbons won the gold medal in wrestling in Edmonton

in 1978 and participated in the Commonwealth Games. Chase Figgitt was asked to participate in the Special Olympics and won the gold medal in bowling for Saskatchewan.

The town is quiet but offers a grocery store, pharmacy, Royal Bank and Post Office – travelling is not necessary for groceries, medication, mail or banking.

Balcarres is gifted with an ambulance service 24-7 (privately owned) and has

a well-equipped volunteer fire department.

If you are having trouble with your vehicle, there is a mechanic who has a shop and repairs vehicles and if you have a dent or scratch on your vehicle there is an auto repair shop. Tire service is also available for your vehicle or farm machinery as well as a John Deere shop for farmers needs. Two lumberyards are available for building materials and they also build needed buildings, as well as three gas stations. There is a very nice school with approximately 200

students enrolled and two churches in Balcarres. We are very fortunate to have a medical lab and a special care home and two hair-stylists. A skating rink with artificial ice gives an opportunity for boys' and girls' hockey teams and an adult team. The new town hall is just several years old, a reverse osmosis water system is available as well as Loraas garbage pickup. There are many clubs and associations.

Anyone wishing more information may call Victoria at the town office 306-334-2566. Volunteers and community support

is what keeps our town growing.

We are very fortunate to have community and surrounding community support as well as our ever thankful volunteers.

Thank you to the volunteers and community supporters – your gift of time, energy and support is greatly appreciated. You helped to Build An assuring Lasting Caring Active Resourceful Respectful Energetic Society – let's keep working together to build for future generations.

It's officially camping season in Saskatchewan Provincial Parks

Submitted
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan Provincial Parks are ready to welcome visitors for a new season of outdoor fun with prepped campsites, well-maintained trails and an exciting lineup of events and programs.

"We are so excited to welcome visitors back to our provincial parks this summer, as Sask Parks kicks off an exciting season of events, activities and new amenities for every type of camper to explore," Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Laura Ross said. "We are proud of the work done to continue providing an accessible, and affordable, destination for residents and visitors alike. Saskatchewan's parks are the perfect place to relax, connect with loved ones and experience the health benefits of spending time outdoors."

Visitors can participate in new program-

ming and events that will keep them entertained throughout their stay. Families can also take advantage of free, self-use Discovery Packs filled with fun crafts and activities, found around the province and available for checkout.

New this year, visitors will receive a reminder email 72 hours before check-in, highlighting the curated programming and events for the duration of their stay, to not miss a moment of the action.

To view all events and programming happening this summer, visit: Sask Parks Event Calendar.

Know Before You Go

For those who haven't booked yet, campsites are still available across the province this May long weekend. Visit the reservation site and search under "Camping this Weekend" to see what's available. Visitors are reminded that entry per-

mits can be purchased online before arriving at the park, which allows them to be checked in automatically without stopping at the gate.

Saskatchewan parks offer beautiful and well-maintained trails for all skill levels. For the 2024 camping season, Sask Parks has partnered with TrailCollectiv to offer a free premium subscription with every Annual Park Entry Permit purchased to make exploring the trails easier.

For the safety and enjoyment of all visitors, please check fire restrictions that may be in place before arrival and respect park rules, facilities and staff.

Plan your next trip to Saskatchewan's Provincial Parks by visiting: Sask Parks website.

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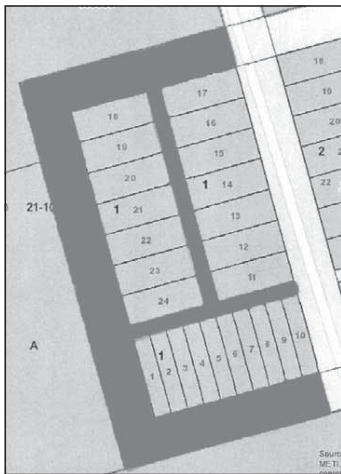
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PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of Abernethy No. 186

Pursuant to Section 13 of *The Municipalities Act*, notice is hereby given, that the Rural Municipality of Abernethy No. 186 intends to consider closing and selling the following road allowances in Lorlie for the purpose of the development of a funeral home:

- Portion of Hamilton Street that lies along the Western boundary of Lots 1 and 18-24 inclusive Block 1 Plan x3298
- Portion of First Avenue that lies along the Northern boundary of Hamilton St and Lots 17 and 18 Block 1 Plan x3298
- North/South alley that runs between Lots 18-24 inclusive and 11-17 inclusive Block 1 Plan x3298
- East/West alley that runs between Lots 1-10 inclusive and Lots 11 & 24 Block 1 Plan x3298
- Portion of Railway Avenue that lies along the southern boundary of Lots 1-10 inclusive Block 1 Plan x3298.



Anyone objecting to the above closures has the opportunity to express his or her objection, in person or by agent, at the next regular meeting of council to be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at the RM Office, Main Street, Abernethy commencing at 8:30 a.m. Issued at the RM of Abernethy this 14th day of May, 2024.

Karissa Lingelbach, Administrator
RM of Abernethy 186

What's happening in your area?

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PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of Abernethy No. 186

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Abernethy No. 186 has received the following discretionary use application and subdivision application in accordance with Bylaws 2003-01 known as the Basic Planning Statement, 2003-02 known as the Zoning Bylaw and 2005-3 and 2017-04, bylaws to amend Bylaw 2003-02.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION:

1. Residential development of two units at Block B Plan 102231896 (NW Pt 01-21-12-2)
2. Animal pet boarding facility at Block B Plan 102231896 NW Pt 01-21-12-2)

PUBLIC HEARING:

Council will discuss the above noted development application at 8:40 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 in the Council Chambers of the RM of Abernethy No. 186, 201 Main St., Abernethy, Saskatchewan. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing, or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at the RM of Abernethy this 6th day of May, 2024.

Karissa Lingelbach, Administrator
RM of Abernethy 186
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Make Saskatchewan's 'Work Zone' safety your priority

Provincial News Grasslands News

With the Victoria Day long weekend upon us and road crews getting busier across Saskatchewan, motorists are reminded to slow to 60 km/h in work zones. Highway construction work currently underway includes repaving on Highway #1 between Broadview and Grenfell, on Highway #9 north of Whitewood and on Highway #47 north of Grenfell.

"As this construction season kicks off, it is an important reminder that we all need to do our part and drive safe," Highways Minister Lori Carr said. "Please be alert and slow down to ensure everyone working to improve our highways gets home safely each and every day."

Work zones are meant to keep motorists, highway workers and road contractors safe. This can be accomplished when drivers slow down, obey flaggers, follow signs and remain alert to road conditions.

These work zones can also have temporary speed reductions, even when workers are not present. Speed reductions protect drivers and vehicles from potential work zone hazards such as a

sharp pavement drop-off, lane closure and/or loose gravel.

To help keep work zones top of mind, a new safety ad will soon debut with the slogan, "Steer Them to Safety." The ad encourages all motorists to slow down in work zones and for seasoned drivers to instill that important safety habit in younger drivers.

Motorists can also plan their journeys and know if they might need extra time to reach their destinations by checking the Highway Hotline at www.saskatchewan.ca/highwayhotline for information about road closures and conditions, construction zones, ferries and border crossings.

The Highway Hotline has multiple access points for this information, such as: an interactive website, mobile app and a 5-1-1 automated system for telephones.

The Ministry of Highways has a budget of \$741 million that will improve more than 1,100 km of provincial roads. Since 2008, the Government of Saskatchewan has invested more than \$13 billion in transportation infrastructure to improve more than 20,700 km of highways across the province.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

SLOW DOWN!

Driver's are encouraged to 'Slow Down' when entering into any highway 'Work Zones' that are popping up all across Saskatchewan. The government has budgeted \$741-million to make over 1,100 km of road improvements.

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Odessa truck and tractor pull

Thunder on the Prairies set to rumble July 5 & 6

By Keith Borkowsky
Grasslands News

Plans for the Thunder on the Prairies modified truck and tractor pull in Odessa on July 5 & 6, are well underway committee member Joe Hoffart said.

For the uninitiated, this is a truck and tractor event where the equipment is heavily modified to pull as many pounds as possible.

"Pretty much, these are all purpose-built tractors and trucks for pulling," Hoffart said. "We have an

association we follow the rules with. More or less, the smallest horsepower would be 700-800 all the way up to 6,000 horse power. These are all custom-built frames and chassis. They don't really look like a tractor."

Odessa's event is part of the Prairie Pulling League circuit, which opens the season June 7-8 in Morris, Man., and also has a stop in Yorkton June 21 & 22 (Thunder in the Parkland).

The event, which includes a classic car show, two cabarets and other events in Odessa, has raised money for commu-



BRAD BROWN | GRASSLANDS NEWS FILES

Thunder on the Prairies

The Thunder on the Prairies truck and tractor pull set to take off on July 5 and 6 in Odessa also includes a car show, two cabarets and numerous other events.

nity projects since its inception around eight years ago. To date, \$360,000 has been donated from event proceeds to the new community hall in Odessa. Other communities have received donations as well, recognizing the contributions of neighbouring communities to the success of the Odessa calendar highlight. Proceeds are donated to area projects through the Odessa Community Enhancement Fund.

While there are pulling events and cabarets both nights, July 6 will feature an antique tractor and classic car show. There will also be heavy horse pulls and a children's pedal pull. Odd Man Out and Wildfire are the bands scheduled to

perform at the event cabarets.

For Hoffart, the tractor pull is a labour of love.

"We tractor pull," Hoffart said. "My family and I came to this community, and we challenged the community to do it as a fundraiser. That's how it started and it kind of blew up. It's the biggest fundraiser of the year."

To participate in the truck and tractor pulls, call Joe at 306-530-2026. Car show entrants should call Jerome at 306-519-7078, while antique tractor pull entrants should call Dave at 306-537-7313.

Musical fireworks are planned on Saturday at dusk to help cap off the event.

Indian Head and District Hospital Foundation holds annual meeting

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Indian Head and District Hospital Foundation (IHDHF) held its twenty third Annual General Meeting at the Memorial Hall in Indian Head on April 25th. President Ann Robb welcomed those in attendance observing that in contrast to the previous year weather was no obstacle. In her Chairperson's Report she described the Foundation's mandate of raising funds to purchase equipment for the hospital and emergency medical services and to pay for training of hospital and EMS staff. Ms. Robb observed that the Foundation's large membership indicates strong support from the communities served by the Indian Head Union Hospital and EMS services. She extended gratitude to the towns of Indian Head, Qu'Appelle, and surrounding communities for their on-going support and to all who have donated to the Foundation.

Treasurer Monica Langevin presented the Foundation's annual financial report. The Foundation's net assets as of December 31, 2023, stood at \$422,677 of which \$301,000 has been approved for equipment purchases. Equipment purchases are on-going

and \$72,767 has been paid thus far with much of the equipment received but not billed to the Foundation yet. The Foundation's income for 2023 was \$91,292 and expenses \$75,506. Due to personal privacy the Foundation does not report the value of donations unless requested. Dan Loran left a portion of his estate to the IHDHF for a total donation of \$338,700.

Penny Huntley delivered the Public Relations Report. She noted that posters with membership applications have been placed at several prominent public locations, that sandwich boards for advertising and promoting the Foundation were purchased and used and piggy banks for donations placed at six local businesses. Golf shirts for board members were purchased for promotional purposes at fund raising events. Membership applications were distributed by the Town of Indian Head with a quarterly water bill.

The annual election to the Board of Directors was conducted by past board member Kathy Robb. The following seven people were elected for a one-year term: Ann Robb, Penny Huntley, Mellisa Robertson, Monica Langevin, David Gehl, Carol Day and Marg Ollett.

Ron Ball, Superintendent of Indian Head Emergency Medical Services reported local EMS activities. Currently there are 26 EMS staff. Two units are in constant operation with one in backup. Local EMS responded to over 11,000 calls in 2023 covering over 80,000 km. EMS staff experience good co-operation with staff at the hospital.

Dan Drummond, Saskatchewan Health Authority Director of Primary Healthcare thanked the Foundation for his invitation and gave a brief report. He noted that there are no nursing vacancies at the Indian Head hospital and that we have a stable physician base in our community. The role of the Foundation is very well received by Saskatchewan Health Authority staff. The equipment it provides aids in staff retention.

Jackie Kennett-Pepler, SHA Executive Director of Primary Health Care stated that for the last twenty years SHA has focused on rural health care. She said that support from rural communities is vital and having EMS in the Indian Head hospital is a big plus. She expressed her appreciation for the Foundation's efforts in supporting local health services.



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