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Friday, January 10, 2025

Vol. 112 • Issue 37

2025 brings new librarian and improved shelves

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

As the new year begins, the Indian Head Library board is making improvements to the facility, adding new resources for community members and welcoming a new interim librarian.

Facility Improvements

Library board chairman Dan Grunert explained to Grasslands News that, after visiting another branch, librarian Vanessa McDonald recognized that moveable shelves would be a valuable asset for the Indian Head branch. It was cost-prohibitive to purchase entirely new shelving units with wheels, so the board and librarian considered alternative means of retrofitting the existing metal shelves that hold youth and children's books.

They consulted Vale Industries, a local steel manufacturer, and the company responded by designing and creating custom-fitted rolling platforms for the shelves at no cost to the library. The platforms were installed last week, and the shelves can now be moved within the library to improve sight-lines to the projector screen or to accommodate other group activities in the room. The library is grateful for Vale's support since the new design will make the space more user-friendly and versatile.

In addition to the shelving improvements, the library also has a new multi-function printer that will provide patrons with increased options such as scanning documents. The new equipment compliments a laptop that was purchased in 2023 with funding from Cornerstone Credit Union and community donations. Eventually, the library



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Library upgrade

Jamie Lowe is eager to meet other book enthusiasts in her new role as librarian in Indian Head. The black rolling frames visible at the base of the shelving units behind Lowe were generously sponsored and constructed by Vale Industries.

board hopes to also upgrade the desk and chair for patrons using the computer and printer.

New Librarian

With the commencement of a new year, the library board and patrons are also welcoming Jamie Lowe as the new interim librarian at the Indian Head branch. Susan Brooks initially filled a

vacancy left by Vanessa McDonald who welcomed her second son last spring. Brooks happily assisted patrons from March until December 2024. Now, Lowe expects to continue in the role until McDonald returns from maternity leave in September.

Lowe moved to Indian Head in November with her husband, two school-

age children and her mom. This is her first experience as a librarian, but she is an avid reader who particularly enjoys non-fiction works on a wide range of topics. Lowe is excited for the opportunity to become better acquainted with community members and looks forward to facilitating programs for children and others at the library.

Programs and Resources

Regular book clubs, chess club, craft class and story time sessions will continue at the library throughout January. This month's schedule also features presentations on a variety of subjects. On Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m., Jamie and Ruth Anne Rudack will share highlights from their tour of Sicily. On Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m., Don Ford will speak about the Regina Rifles' visit to Europe for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Watershed conservation will be the topic of a presentation at the library on Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. and prairie conservation will be discussed on Jan. 30 at noon.

Along with providing scheduled programming and access to traditional items like books, the library also offers patrons an opportunity to borrow kits containing useful resources. The library previously received a grant from SaskPower and SaskEnergy that provided for the purchase of a radon detector, night vision goggles, and other materials. Another grant was recently approved by SaskPower that enables the library to obtain a telescope, metal detector, and decibel meter. Supplies have also been purchased for a birding kit, as well as pickleball equipment that could be borrowed for use at a community program and frisbees to use at the disc golf course located along the Sunbeam Creek Walking Trail.

Scheer says a non-confidence vote will trigger federal election

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

Over the past few months, as Canadians have watched the sometimes almost melodramatic events unfolding on Parliament Hill, even longstanding political loyalties and convictions have been strained to the point that a strange unity has begun to develop.

No matter which party they might have voted for in the past, supported with their hard-earned money or loudly defended in social media debates and coffee shops, Canadians from coast to coast have found themselves saying "enough already."

At first glance, Monday's announcement by Prime Minister Trudeau that he would step down as both Liberal leader and Prime Minister after his successor had been chosen – and would be proroguing parliament

(thereby avoiding the possibility of a non-confidence vote at the end of this month and placing the country's political system in a state of suspended animation) seems to have done little more than prolong an already over-long saga.

However, Opposition House Leader Andrew Scheer says that the non-confidence vote which would trigger an election could still occur this spring.

"Trudeau has really deprived the Canadian people of accountability through parliament and avoided the ultimate scrutiny by proroguing parliament until March 24 and pushing off a potential non-confidence motion.

"However, the government needs to bring in a Supply Bill – a Spending Bill – and the deadline for them to do that is March 26. That means the chronology looks like this. The house comes back on March 24. We'll have a Throne Speech and debate on that Throne Speech. Then by that Wednesday, we'll have a vote on our Op-

position Day motion and the Supply Bill. So, it looks like the Non-Confidence Vote will likely take place on March 26."

Even if the writ does drop this spring, Scheer says that Canadians will still face an increase in the much-maligned Federal Carbon Tax on April 1. However, he points to the Conservative promise to 'Axe the Tax' as an assurance that this will be a brief tax increase... if the Conservative party is chosen to form government.

"Unfortunately, the way that Justin Trudeau has set it up, the increases to the Carbon Tax happen automatically. So, even if we are in the middle of an election, they will still kick in. The good news though, is that if Canadians vote the Liberals out and give our leader Pierre Poilievre a mandate, one of his first acts will be to axe the Carbon Tax. So, there may be a brief period

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Kipling family surprised by TikTok influencer on holiday

\$10,000 makes a huge difference - nets 1.6 million views

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

Family vacations are a time when one might expect to encounter new things and unexpected experiences. However, for Kipling resident Tara Carter and her family, a recent vacation in Anaheim, CA resulted in an experience that, she says initially seemed too strange to be true.

"We'd bought tickets to an Anaheim Ducks NHL game and an Uber driver took us to the arena. He tried to drop us off right in front of the arena, but found out he couldn't park there. So, he dropped us off a few blocks away. The funny thing is that if he had dropped us off right in front, we would have missed all of this.

"So, we were walking to the arena, and this young guy (TikTok Influencer and motivator Zachery Dereniowski) asked if we wanted to buy a big stuffed duck for a dollar. We said 'No thank you' because - honestly - I've never been anywhere - this was our first vacation ever - but this just seemed weird to me. And I knew that stuffed duck wasn't worth a dollar!"

"But my son Ryder was very persistent and wanted to buy the duck. So, Tyler (my husband) went with the boys to talk to this guy while I stayed where we'd stopped. A woman that was passing by told me that she thought the young guy was an 'influencer' but I didn't know anything about influencers. Then, my son Jaxen came running up to me with this huge wad of money in his hand and I had no idea where he got it from. So, I went over to where Tyler and the boys were, and Zachery told me that he'd given us \$1,000 and upgraded us to front row seats."

While accepting the \$1,000 and upgraded tickets felt strange, Tara says that the situation then became even more surprising.

"I felt funny taking the money, because you hear about stuff like this, but you don't really believe it's true. Nothing like this ever happens in a small town! Then, as we were talking, Zachery told us that he was going to give us another \$10,000."

Tara says that her immediate reaction was to look for an opportunity to pass the \$10,000 on to someone else who might be in greater need.

"My first thought and the first thing I said to him was, 'Can we give the \$10,000 to someone else?' I come from nothing - I grew up poor. And I really like helping people out, because so many people helped me out along the way. And when would my family and I ever have another chance to help somebody out like this? So, this



Photo op
Ryder Ruthven, NHL Player Ryan Strom, Jaxen Carter, Waylor Carter and TikTok Influencer and motivator Zachery Dereniowski pose for this picture at an Anaheim Ducks hockey game.

SUBMITTED BY TARA CARTER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

was something that I wanted to do.

"Zachery asked me a few times if I really wanted to give the money away and I said I did. So, he asked who I'd like to give it to. I looked around and saw this guy by the arena selling hot dogs. So, I said we could give the money to him."

Tara says that it soon became apparent that this kind decision had been the right decision and the money would have a significant impact on the person that re-

ceived it.

"Tyler went and bought a hot dog from this fellow. Then we told him we wanted to give him this money. At first, he didn't really understand because his English wasn't very good. But a police officer who stopped to find out what was going on translated for us. Then, he just couldn't believe it - the same way that I hadn't been able to believe it! Once he finally realized it was true, he was so happy. He told us that his mom has cancer, and he really needed this. That seemed so fitting to me, so I knew then this was right. And that \$10,000 was deposited into his account."

She goes on to say that this choice was in keeping with the circumstances and motivation that had led to their encounter with Zachery Dereniowski.

"Later on, Zachery explained to us that at the time in his life when he was down the furthest, nobody helped him back up. So now, he's found a way to make a difference and be the change he thinks should happen. He goes all over the world - talking to different people or organizations - and asks if they would like to help someone out by giving some money away. When he approached the Anaheim Ducks, they said that they would like to give away \$10,000 to someone, that could be used for groceries."

As they made their way back home, Tara said that they discovered their story had also impacted many other people.

"The Anaheim Ducks shared the video of this, and it's had over 1.6 million views. And the influencer has had over 700,000 views of the video. We really didn't understand how this thing had spread. But when we were at the airport going home, people were telling us that they had seen us on TikTok. That was amazing too!"

Since the story became widespread knowledge, Tara says that some people have questioned the choice that she and her family made. However, Tara says that she remains satisfied the decision was the right one.

"There have been people that asked me why I gave the money away. It wasn't because we couldn't use it. We aren't rich. And yes, when we got home, I knew I might have to work some overtime to pay for our vacation. But I have that opportunity, because I have a good job. We live a comfortable life. We have love and I have a beautiful family. So, money doesn't mean that much to me. When I look at my life, it feels like I have millions!"

"So, to me, we were on this vacation that we'd saved up for, knowing that the memories we brought back would be so worth it. But this was an incredible memory that we didn't expect!"

SGI awards \$1.6 million from Provincial Traffic Safety Fund grant program

By **Sarah Pacio**
Grasslands News

SGI recently awarded nearly \$1.6 million in grants through its Provincial Traffic Safety Fund grant program. The program includes two intakes annually, with grants awarded on June 30 and Dec. 30, and recipients from the second intake in 2024 were announced earlier this week. SGI approved 82 applications for projects in 79 Saskatchewan communities, and the approved grants range from \$197 to \$100,000.

The grant program was established in 2019 and funding for projects is sourced

from photo speed enforcement tickets. Eligible projects focus on addressing traffic safety issues such as speeding, impaired driving, distracted driving, intersection safety, vulnerable road users, and similar concerns. Applications are reviewed by a committee of representatives from the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Prince Albert Grand Council, the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Highways and SGI.

"There are hundreds of municipalities in Saskatchewan, and every community has specific needs. These grants are

extremely beneficial because they fund safety improvements directly identified by each community," said Minister Responsible for SGI Jeremy Harrison in a news release.

Several communities in the Grasslands News area will benefit from the grants awarded at the end of December, with funding allocated for the following projects:

- Flashing beacons for pedestrian safety on South Plains Road in the RM of Edenwold; \$22,958.
- Phase 1 of a speed control project in the Town of Pilot Butte; \$11,883.
- Improvements to pedestrian safety in the Town of Qu'Appelle; \$15,696.

- Speed awareness in the RM of South Qu'Appelle; \$11,868.
- A speed display project in the Town of Francis; \$4,163.
- Speed management signs in the RM of Francis; \$3,938.
- Speed awareness and management in the Village of Montmartre; \$9,186.
- Speed management in the Town of Kipling; \$7,953.
- Speed awareness on Lalonde St. in the Town of Whitewood; \$11,552.
- A pedestrian safety project in the Town of Grenfell; \$12,386.
- A speed awareness project in the RM of Grayson; \$10,143.

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Postage increases announced for Monday, Jan. 13, 2025

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Canada Post posted on Dec. 5, 2024, that on January 13, 2025, there will be increased prices for Canada Post customers.

The price increases will affect Smart-mail Marketing that includes Neighbourhood Mail™, Personalized Mail™ (PM) and Postal Code Targeting (PCT). Commercial Mail including Publications Mail™ and Business Reply Mail™ (domestic and international) are also included.

Additionally, Canada Post has published a proposal with the Government of Canada to increase its regulated Lettermail™ rates. For stamps purchased in a booklet, coil or pane, which represent most stamp sales, the company has proposed an increase of 25 cents per stamp, from \$0.99 to \$1.24.

Non-regulated Transaction Mail rates follow regulated rates. Pending approval, this proposed price increase will mean corresponding adjustments averaging about 25% for non regulated Transaction Mail products and services.

Canada Post also stated, at the time "We understand you need to plan ahead. So, while the proposed rates are still subject to regulatory approvals, please plan for the new pricing to take effect on January 13, 2025. If there are any changes to this planned implementation date, we will update this notice."

There were no changes posted to the site as of press time on Wednesday of this week.

The notice also stated, "We understand this change means additional costs for Canadians and Canadian businesses that depend on our delivery services, and we don't take that lightly. However, this rate change is necessary to better align prices with the rising cost of providing service to all Canadians. We always work to minimize the impact of price changes, ensuring they are fair and reasonable."

Proposal given in September 2024

It was in September 2024 Canada Post proposed the new postage rates for 2025. The price of a domestic stamp would rise 25 cents in move to better align with rising cost of providing the service.

For stamps purchased in a booklet, coil or pane, which represent the majority of stamp sales, the rate would increase by 25 cents, to \$1.24 per stamp.

In this new release, Canada Post stated, "For the last decade, the Corporation has kept regulated letter mail rate increases to a minimum. The proposed rate change represents a one-time increase of roughly 25 per cent, which is required to better align stamp prices with the rising cost of providing letter mail service to all Canadians.

• Canadian letter mail volumes have declined by 60 per cent over the last two decades, from 5.5 billion letters in 2006 to 2.2 billion letters in 2023.

• During that time, the number of addresses served has increased by more than 3 million, from 14.3 million addresses in 2006 to 17.4 million addresses in 2023, and that number continues to grow.

• In 2006, Canadian households re-

ceived an average of seven letters per week: today, it's two per week.

• From 2018 to 2023, Canada Post lost \$3 billion before taxes, including a loss before tax of \$748 million in 2023.

"Every year there are fewer letters to deliver to more addresses, adding significant cost pressures to the Corporation on top of continued inflationary pressures. At the same time, Canadian stamp prices have remained among some of the lowest internationally.

Pending regulatory approval, the new rates would take effect January 13, 2025, after the busy holiday mailing season. The new regulated rates are expected to generate approximately \$80 million of additional annual gross revenue for Canada Post in 2025.

"While rate increases are necessary, Canada Post understands that they mean additional costs for customers, and the Corporation works to minimize the impact. For the average Canadian household, the rate increase is estimated to have an impact of \$2.26 per year. For the average Canadian small business, the estimated impact is \$42.17 per year. Permanent™ stamps will always be accepted at the current domestic postage price.

"We also encourage small businesses looking for support or special discounts on shipping and other services to sign up for the free Canada Post Solutions for Small Business™ program."

Strike Interrupts Services

November 15, 2024, more than 50,000 Canada Post workers went on strike, halting mail and parcel services across the country during the busy holiday

shopping season.

Postal workers returned to the job on Dec. 17 after they were ordered by the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) to end the strike.

"We have returned to normal processing and delivery levels across the country, including in rural and remote areas," the Crown corporation wrote in a press release on Tuesday.

Canada Post said on-time service guarantees apply again for domestic parcels as of Monday.

Canada Post thanked Canadians for their patience as it worked to safely restore normal operations, but it said it's still working through "higher volumes of mail."

The Crown corporation said Canadians should expect delays of several days beyond its service standard for "transaction mail" such as letters, bills and statements.

Other increases

Also shown in the proposal for rate increases were: Neighbourhood Mail – The Specified Delivery Start Date surcharge will increase from 1.0¢ to 1.1¢ for Standard items and 1.5¢ for Oversize items. The Transportation fee will increase from 1.2¢ to 1.3¢; Publication Mail – The annual fee will increase from \$245 to \$250 and Registered Mail (pending approval) – Domestic Registered Mail will increase from \$10.50 to \$13.15. International Registered Mail will increase from \$21.00 to \$26.25.

Full details on all recent and upcoming improvements to Smartmail Marketing and Commercial Mail services are available at canadapost.ca/notice

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Four-year property reassessment will happen this year

May affect your property tax bill

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

This year, 2025, is a year where provincial legislation requires all properties in Saskatchewan to be revaluated for taxable assessments. This must be done once every four years. This is done to ensure a property's value for tax purposes reflects the real estate market.

Do not confuse a Tax Assessment with a Property Tax Bill. It is only one step used to determine the total amount payable for your property tax bill.

The property tax bill is determined by Assessed Value of the properties X the Percentage of Value & Exemptions (Provincial) X Mill Rates (Education (Province) and Municipalities (Local Governments) = Property Taxes payable by the Taxpayer.

If taxpayer's assessment rate increases (or decreases) and the mill rates remain unchanged from the past year, any increase (or decrease) in taxes will be the result of the assessment value. The Town plays a part in the tax total only by the amount set for their yearly mill rate.

Tax Assessment

The first step in determining the total taxes payable is the tax assessment where once every four years, all properties in Saskatchewan are valued using an ad valorem (according to value) standard. Values placed on properties are based on market values or regulated rates that reflect the same valuation base date. This means property upgrades will increase a property's value. This property value increase is not a penalty, but an inherent measure within a fair assessment system. The ad valorem property assessment method has been used successfully for many decades in most North American jurisdictions.

Agricultural properties are assessed

using a current regulated system based on productive value. Heavy industrial property, railway, pipeline and resource production equipment use a regulated system based primarily on replacement costs.

For all other properties, Saskatchewan's assessment system is based on a market value assessment, mass appraisal system, the valuing of properties using standard methods and allowing for statistical testing.

Assessed Value (SAMA)	X	Percentage of Value & Exemptions (Province)	X	Mill Rates Education (Province) and Municipalities (Local Government)	=	PROPERTY TAXES (TAXPAYER)
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Over time, it has been shown the property assessment system has been the most equitable for the distribution of municipal taxes.

Sask. Assessment Management Agency

In 1987, a review by a Saskatchewan Local Government Finance Commission published reports that called for multiple changes to the property assessment system in Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) was established. SAMA is used for reassessment, but it is the choice of the municipal officials to utilize their services as private assessment services can also be utilized.

SAMA states, "Local government associations such as the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA), and other assessment stakeholder groups across the province, have had a significant influence on the shaping of assessment policy in the past. The agency maintains four advisory committees (urban, cities, rural and commer-

cial), and it holds an annual meeting at which municipalities and assessment stakeholders advise the Board of Directors on current and proposed assessment policy."

A methodology is applied to calculate the assessed value of a property. The methodology varies according to different types of properties. The Saskatchewan system of assessment uses the "mass appraisal" methodology so that assessments are done according to the fairest,

most defensible system available. Mass appraisal means valuing a group of properties as of a given date, using standard methods and statistical analysis. This includes developing valuation models capable of valuing all properties.

Percentage of Value

The second part is the application of provincial government established tax policy, such as property classes, percentage of value, and statutory exemptions. The provincial government sets the percentages that each of four classes of property can be taxed at.

Government Relations Minister Eric Schmalz has already stated the government will keep the percentages for 2025 the same as they were four years ago. They are as follows:

- Arable agricultural land (property that can have crops grown on it) is taxed at 55 per cent of its assessed value.
- Non-arable agricultural land (property where crops can't be grown) is taxed at 45 per cent of its assessed value.
- Residential property is taxed at 80 per cent of its assessed value.
- Commercial and industrial are taxed at

85 per cent of its assessed value.

The provincial government consulted with various sectors and organizations in Saskatchewan in the process of reviewing and considering percentages of value and property classes for the next four-year period. These included: local government associations, residential property associations, agricultural associations, oil and gas industry, pipeline industry, commercial/business sector, mining industries, railway and grain elevator associations as well as the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency.

Mill Rate Factor

The third and final part of the process involves a provincial education mill rate factor, and the local mill rate factor which is determined annually by the local municipalities based on local budget needs.

In addition to determining mill rates, local governments have the authority to apply a series of tax tools, such as mill rate factors by local property class, minimum tax, and base tax. Budget preparations are currently taking place in many municipalities and once determined, the mill rates can be determined, and bylaws passed to legislate the municipal mill rate.

The mill rate, along with the mill rate for education and libraries, is used to calculate property tax.

They then multiply the taxable assessment by these mill rates to determine your property tax bill.

Non-taxable Properties

Every municipality has their choice of tax tools and can exempt some properties from paying municipal taxes or may also provide incentives to property owners for new construction or locating to the municipality.

Snowplow safety

Don't get lost in the clouds.

Stay back. Stay safe.

Snowplows kick up snow and cause poor visibility.

Keep your distance.

Be patient and stay safe.



Saskatchewan WCB adds to Firefighter Cancer Coverage

By Carol Baldwin

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Health Canada announced this fall that cancer is the leading cause of job-related deaths for firefighters across the country. In Saskatchewan, firefighters are now eligible for Workers Compensation Board (WCB) coverage for up to 22 types of cancer, six more than before.

Firefighters have been lobbying for decades for better cancer coverage and now, the Saskatchewan WCB is stepping in to provide some relief. Workers' compensation legislation across Canada has changed over the years to provide presumptive coverage for certain types of cancer for full-time and volunteer firefighters, but which cancers are covered and what conditions must be met to be eligible for benefits, such as how long firefighters had to have worked in the job, vary by province.

Seventy-one percent of firefighters in Canada are volunteers according to the association's latest firefighter census, and volunteer departments protect 80 percent of the country's territory, primarily in rural areas. 'Shower in an hour' is a mantra used across borders to remind firefighters to wash the soot that seeped under their gear

off their bodies as soon as possible. Previously, exposure was believed to occur from breathing in toxins, but further research has shown toxins can be absorbed through a person's skin, and by ingestion. Firefighters responding to a scene, particularly structural fires, can be exposed to a variety of chemical and hazardous substances.

A typical house fire often exposes firefighters to 265 known cancer-causing materials, while also being exposed to things like diesel exhaust from their trucks and contaminants from their gear. Still, if it comes to providing shower facilities at the fire hall or purchasing new equipment, these volunteer departments often have to make tough decisions about how they spend money.

The International Agency of Research on Cancer (IARC), the specialized cancer agency of the World Health Organization, declared firefighting a Group 1 carcinogen two years ago. It's one of only five occupations to receive this designation. In 2022, 95 percent of on-duty deaths among Canadian firefighters were linked to cancer. A 2018 study found cancer killed Canadian firefighters about three times more often than the general population.

Firefighters are well

aware that the job leads to cancer, but there is not much they can do about it. Tyler Packham, a 23-year veteran Regina firefighter, who serves as the president of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 181, told CBC News the new health coverage has been a long time coming. Any full-time, part-time or volunteer firefighters in Saskatchewan who have one of the 22 cancers now covered may be eligible for benefits from WCB to support them and their families. Still, that coverage only applies if the cancer is found in a primary site. Firefighters must work for a minimum time before they can access coverage, and that period is different for different cancers.

The minimum number of years of required service, to be eligible for coverage for leukemia is five years; brain, primary site breast, primary site cervical, primary site ovarian, primary site pancreatic, primary site thyroid, and testicular cancer is ten years; bladder, colorectal, lung (non-smoking firefighters), multiple myeloma, primary site prostate, primary site laryngeal cancer, primary site mesothelioma, primary site penile, primary-site skin, primary site soft tissue sarcoma is fifteen years; kidney cancer and pri-

mary non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is twenty years; and esophageal cancer is twenty-five years. The coverage only applies to new injury claims, however, a firefighter with a previously denied claim can also ask the board to reconsider it.

A 2022 Safety Advisory from the International Association of Fire Fighters identified that recent studies had shown that all three layers of firefighter turnout gear contain Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), a class of fluorinated chemicals known as "forever chemicals" which have been linked to cancer and other serious health effects. These studies highlight the risks associated with the materials and finishes used in turnout gear even before it is exposed to its first fire. The advisory continued to say that identifying safe and effective PFAS-free materials for turnout gear is a long and challenging process and until PFAS is fully removed from turnout gear, firefighters were recommended to reduce exposure to PFAS in turnout gear by using the following precautions:

- Turnout gear should NOT be taken into firehouse living areas.
- When transporting gear in personal vehicles, it should be in a sealed container or bag, and preferably NOT transported in the passenger compartment.
- Apparatus cabs should be cleaned regularly and after every fire.
- Wash your hands after handling turnout gear.
- Legacy turnout gear should be replaced as new PFAS-free technologies become available.
- Do not wear turnout gear on responses where this level of protection is not necessary.*

*Wearing all PPE and

SCBA during firefighting, overhaul, and while working in smoke is still the best first line of defence when it comes to limiting exposures to fireground contaminants. Following any exposure to the products of combustion, all PPE should be cleaned in accordance with NFPA 1851 to reduce cross-contamination and further exposure. (<https://www.iaff.org/pfas/pfas-advisory/>)

Nine things' firefighters can do to protect themselves from job-related carcinogens include:

1. Using a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) at all times during an active fire—even after an initial attack is successful in overcoming flames and heat. Not wearing SCBA in active and post-fire environments is the most dangerous voluntary activity in the fire service today, he says.
2. Decontaminating equipment in the field to remove as much soot and particulates as possible before climbing into a fire truck.
3. Use wet wipes or moist towelettes to remove as much soot as possible from head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms and

hands while still at a scene.

4. Changing clothes and washing them immediately after a fire.

5. Shower thoroughly after a fire either at the station or immediately after volunteers return home.

6. Thoroughly clean personal protective equipment, gloves, hood and helmet immediately after a fire.

7. Ensure contaminated clothes or equipment is not brought into a home or stored in a personal vehicle.

8. Cleaning and decontaminating the interior of every fire apparatus after returning to the station.

9. Keeping turnout gear far away from living quarters and sleeping areas.

The IAFF has designated January as Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month. For more information go to <https://www.iaff.org/cancer-awareness-month/>

The Firefighter Cancer Support Network is an American organization with numerous resources available on its site: firefightercancersupport.org

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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."

Trudeau gone; crisis remains

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Is anyone really ready for the precarious year ahead? Prime Minister Trudeau mercifully is gone. Parliament has been prorogued for three months, but the Liberal government is foundering, and the opposition appears ready to force an "Axe the Tax" election.

We are faced with the prospect of the Quebec separatist Bloc Quebecois once again becoming the official opposition in Parliament and yet another Quebec referendum looms on the horizon. Trudeau's departure doesn't solve the immediate crisis that faces the country.

Canada takes over the rotating leadership of the G-7 at a time when Donald Trump talks about making this country a satellite state with Wayne Gretzky as governor and threatens to slap Canada with unprecedented tariffs.

If recent public opinion polls are to be believed, two out of every three residents are no longer proud to call themselves Canadian. Angus Reid conducted an online survey which shows that since 1985 the number of people who feel very proud of Canada has dropped by almost 50 per cent. The feeling that it has never been so bad to be a Canadian has been repeated so often by Opposition leader Pierre Poilievre stating that the country is broken but he doesn't say whether it is worth fixing. Poilievre's deputy Andrew Scheer who holds dual U.S-Canadian citizenship appears to defend Trump's irrational behaviour. Scheer would have us believe that all of the president-elect's woes are Trudeau's fault. He called on Trudeau to put an end to "his blind partisanship and ideological fixation on a cap on oil and gas and carbon tax," which have nothing at all to do with Trump's grievances. Scheer has also unfairly blamed Trudeau for the drug addiction crisis and stated that the prime minister "actually legalized the consumption of hard drugs" in many of our communities. It shouldn't take a U.S. President to spur Justin Trudeau to take action on



Fentanyl."

Trudeau is now on his way out.

Let's not forget that in the beginning he was one of the country's most popular prime ministers until his administration was crippled by the Covid crisis. In the end his approval rating tanked and he is hated because he over-promised and failed to deliver. He never learned to harness the machinery of government.

Canada has survived weak prime ministers before, but it cannot survive toxic polarization or internal dissent fuelled by other politicians like Saskatchewan's Premier Scott Moe who erodes national pride when he promotes the province

as a nation. Alberta's Premier Danielle Smith, too, adds to the perception that Canada is a failure with her sovereignty act which refuses to recognize the constitutional validity of federal initiatives. And Quebec continues to threaten the stability of our fragile confederation.

In stepping down as party leader and as prime minister Trudeau says the country deserves "a real choice" in the next election. The challenge for his replacement - whoever he or she may be - is to come up with a brand-new financial strategy and heal the fissures and fault lines that threaten the very existence of Canada as we know it.

The clock is ticking.

Letter to Editor: Tariff threat

Dear Editor,

As someone whose inventions have brought in over 200 million US funds into Canada I need to comment on all of the hype that is going on with potential US tariffs.

Fact - the proposed US tariffs will not cost Canadian exporters to the USA one penny. As exporters we get paid FOB our loading dock. When that shipment / product arrives at the USA border the USA customer has to pay the tariff (tax is a better description); only then is the load released to travel to its USA destination. That tax / tariff paid by the importer goes to the US government. How that importer absorbs it has nothing to do with Canadian companies. Usually that cost is passed down to the USA end-users, which is their taxpayers. No cost or hassle for Canadian exporter.

I would say to our politicians - relax and ignore. That Iowa farmer is still going to buy our potash and they need our oil. If you are a manufacturer of parts, which my company was, it takes months, if not years, for US manufactures to switch suppliers (there is so much due diligence required). In the case of other products, the amount of time it takes to build a factory hire employees etc. is also years! What

business person in their right mind would gamble that the next US administration would keep these tariffs /taxes in place. They simply do not have the manufacturing infrastructure or the workers to take up the slack required to make up for Canada, Mexico or China's needed imports.

Politicians, there are more important issues for you to address instead of reacting to issues that might not happen. And it is Trump - "I'm going to build a wall and Mexico will pay for it." He gloats in cruelty, conflict, chaos and confusion.

There are 7.7 billion other customers in the world that need our resources. Our resources are appreciating in value where they are.

- Brian Olson
Fort Qu'Appelle

Letter to Editor: Homelessness

Canada's homeless problem can easily be compared in numbers to the refugee crisis in any war torn third world country. And unless you live in the neighborhood of the encampments or even care, you can embrace ignorance and support the authorities' attempts to sweep the tragedy under the rug, demonize the victims and actively work against attempts for humane solutions, solutions that cannot be tolerated in the Capitalist dominated sys-

tem that, over the past decades, has transformed this rich, prosperous and caring country into transitory and permanent homeless camps across the nation.

Homelessness is a thing that causes great trouble and suffering. Many are affected, most notably veterans, mental health sufferers, the drug addicted and many of our indigenous people, who can no longer afford shelter. The escalating rate of rent and mortgages has found even double income families unable to meet housing costs. Some of the most insidiously affected victims are the seniors that have worked all their lives, paid their taxes, supported their families and communities in a good way, yet find their meager savings and pension inadequate to navigate the rapidly escalating cost of living in this land of (supposed) plenty.

As far as who is responsible for this sad state of affairs, Pierre Poilievre simply points his accusing finger directly at Justin Trudeau with little justification and offers unleashing free enterprise as his common-sense solution. I would have to argue it was another Conservative, Brian Mulroney, as PM, who holds a lot of the responsibility. He got rid of the cooperative housing program in 1992 and scrapped funding for construction of new affordable housing, then opened the Canadian real estate market to foreign investment. Mulroney unleashed the capitalist,

free enterprise tornado that has expanded into the homeless disaster we are in today. Mr. Poilievre seems to be an intelligent man but perhaps in his studies to become a career politician he either skipped his political history classes or views human suffering as unworthy of human emotion and a simple byproduct of his ultra-capitalist agenda.

Peoples' memories are so short and political approaches have become so viciously predatory. Successive Conservative parties since Steven Harper have strategically attacked every thing they chose to comment on, thus intentionally ignoring value in any policy the governing body wishes to provide. The strategy destroys the conciliatory values of Democracy.

Once again unleashing free enterprise, as Poilievre proposes, encourages big money investment to further dominate private ownership of all Canadian real estate, driving up the price beyond reasonable access for any common incomes. Oh yes! international capitalism is already firmly established in Canada in its parasitic nature, creating growing homelessness as its byproduct, not the deceptive pointing finger of Pierre Poilievre.

Our Democracy is being starved for respect of the people it is supposed to protect.

- Greg Chatterson

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Melville Advance • Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun • Quad Town Forum

Issued Fridays by Grasslands News Group from the office
at 218 - 3rd Ave. West, P.O. Box 1420 Melville, SK., S0A 2P0
Ph: 306-728-5448 • Fax 306-728-4004 • Whitewood: 306-735-2230

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SWNA News Media Canada Funded by the Government of Canada Médias d'Info Canada Canada

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WFD has a record year for calls

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Whitewood Fire Department (WFD) had their busiest year ever in 2024 with firefighters responding to nearly 80 calls for service, an increase of more than 190 per cent over the previous year.

Fire Chief Bernard Brule described 2024 as an exceptionally busy year with nearly double the number of calls over the last couple years.

"We had a total of 77 calls in 2024, compared to 40 calls in 2023 and 42 calls in 2022," said Brule. "In December alone we had 14 calls, half of which were for accidents."

According to figures released by the WFD, the 77 calls of service included 33 motor vehicle collisions, 22 fires, 18 alarm calls, one STARS landing outside an MVC, and three other calls that consisted of a well rescue and two gas leaks.

Compared to 2023, fire calls increased 244 per cent (up from nine) and MVC's jumped 235 per cent (up from 14).

Firefighters provided a total of 1,225 personnel hours to the fire department in 2024, which was made up of 820 hours responding to calls and an additional 405 for training. Not included in the totals are hours firefighters provide for fundraising and equipment maintenance.

"We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated firefighters who can respond when needed and who put in the time and effort necessary for training so that they have the skills necessary for fires, accidents or rescues," said Brule.

While the WFD is hoping for a quieter year, it is already responded to several calls in the New Year including a two-vehicle



CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Busy year for fire department

Members of Whitewood Fire Department (WFD) attend a rollover near Whitewood just before Christmas. The WFD had a record number of calls in 2024, nearly doubling their previous years.

collision at the intersection of Highways 1 and 9 on Jan. 1 as well a structure fire in Whitewood on Jan. 3.

Plans for 2025

Heading into 2025, Brule said the WFD will be focusing on continuing its regular training for firefighters both in-house and through outside trainers.

"We had several calls in Scissor Creek this past year, so we want to make sure all our firefighters are properly trained for low-angle rescue. We also recently purchased a set of used heavy rescue stabilization struts for larger vehicles such as semis and farm equipment. Sometime this spring we will be training with those and be invit-

ing neighbouring departments to also come train with them," said Brule.

Planning will also continue for the new emergency response centre (fire hall and EMS facility). Preliminary plans have been drawn up and the fire department will be meeting with the Whitewood Fire Board next week to discuss them.

Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

Alexei Phillips took his 13-year-old nephew, Jack, to a Charlotte Hornets basketball game. Jack was thrilled when he was selected to go onto the court for some sort of skit. One of the Hornets' dancers said he had won a PS5 and started to put it in the bag for him, but when he got off the court the Playstation was taken away and, instead, he was handed a Hornets' jersey. Uncle Alexei said if he had been told he had a chance to win a jersey, he would have been thrilled, but the disappointment ruined the experience. Mike Straw sniped, "Someone's getting coal in their stocking... or a jersey!" Once the situation was made public, the Hornets did promise a Playstation and a VIP Experience at a future game.

While Christmas can be a time for happiness and great family time, but it certainly does mean different things to different people, and literally means nothing (or sadly) becomes a negative thing in some cultures. In Syria, there were rampant protests over the burning of a Christmas tree, prompting calls for the new Islamist authorities to take steps to protect minorities. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the main Islamist faction which led the uprising that toppled President Bashar al-Assad, said foreign fighters had been detained over the incident. HTS representatives have promised to protect the rights and freedoms of religious and ethnic minorities in Syria.



In Bethlehem, the Nativity Store, a fixture since 1927, is grappling with a dire outlook amidst ongoing conflict in the region. As Bethlehem faced its second consecutive subdued Christmas due to war in Gaza, tourism has obviously declined sharply. "We are not feeling Christmas," said one small business owner, emphasizing the lack of visitors and subsequent economic strain. Unemployment in the city is around 50 per cent and the broader West Bank faces 30 per cent joblessness. The lack of tourism has left local artisans without work. Bethlehem's streets have been left unusually quiet. Economic setbacks have driven nearly 500 families from the area in the past year. Amidst these hardships, Father Issa Thaljieh of the Church of the Nativity calls for resilience and faith. He encourages Palestinians to remain connected to their roots, through reviving family traditions. Her son, aware of the contrasting hardships in Gaza, remains hopeful, trying to maintain the Nativity Store against the odds and cherishing Christmas's symbolic "light in the night," praying for peace as the community waits.

The Florida Highway Patrol asked for the public's help on Christmas Eve in tracking down a man in a distinctive red suit with white trim. But if this sounds like one of those warm-hearted Santa police posts, this was a little different. Authorities were looking for a speeding motorcyclist in a Santa suit who eluded a trooper during a chase that hit speeds of 120 mph in Beverly Hills, north of Tampa. "The sleigh must be in the shop, but last night Mr. Claus didn't pause for any cause," tweeted the FHP with video of the case. The trooper tried to pull over Santa because he was weaving in and out in a "reckless manner." One silver lining, they said, was that Santa was wearing a helmet.

Another Santa found himself a little more tied up than usual this year. A northern California man impersonating Santa Claus and flying on a powered parachute was rescued after he became entangled in power lines. The incident happened shortly after the man took off near a school in Rio Linda to deliver candy canes to children in his community. He flew into a maze of power lines and wound up suspended in them. Despite dangling overhead, the man was not injured. A spokesman reported that it didn't take long to rescue the costumed pilot and lower him to safety, "W/o a scratch & full of good cheer we made sure Old St. Nick will use his reindeer when he sees you later this year."

I hate when garbage events like this happen so close to home. Two Regina teenagers are facing charges in connection with a homicide. Charles Russell Thompson, the 30-year-old victim, was found seriously injured with stab wounds in the area of 8th Avenue and Retallack Street. Two 15-year-old boys have been charged with second-degree murder and failing to comply with a release order. One of the boys faces an additional charge of carrying a concealed weapon. That's really disappointing.

Be positive! No matter how much you gorged on turkey, your earrings will still fit.

Until next time, keep reading between the lines... welcome to 2025

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Illegal hunting nets \$17,000 in fines

By Provincial
Grasslands News

A photo of a deer posted on social media was the starting point of an investigation that ended with three Saskatchewan residents convicted of several offences under The Wildlife Act given licence suspensions and fines totalling \$17,240.

The three were sentenced in Moose Jaw Provincial Court on October 23, 2024. Lindsey Erbach of Marquis was convicted of four counts of unlawful hunting and one count of providing false information to an officer. This resulted in a fine of \$13,020 and a three-year licence suspension. Lynne P. Dunbar of Moose Jaw was convicted of unlawful pos-

session of wildlife and providing false information to an officer, resulting in a fine of \$3,220 and a two-year licence suspension. Blair A. Dunbar, also of Marquis, was convicted of four counts of failing to tag game, receiving \$1,000 in fines and a one-year licence suspension. Various items, including firearms, ammunition, wildlife trophies and wild game meat, were forfeited to the Crown.

In November 2023, Moose Jaw conservation officers noted a social media post that included several photos of a woman posing with an untagged white-tailed deer buck at a residence. Further investigation revealed another account with more photos of the same person with other wildlife, including

an untagged white-tailed deer doe. The trail of evidence led officers to interview both Lindsey Erbach and Lynne Dunbar about wildlife in their possession, some of which was improperly tagged or untagged. In early December, Moose Jaw and Regina conservation officers executed a search warrant at Erbach's rural residence, seizing firearms, animal trophies, wild game meat and hunting seals.

Saskatchewan laws regulating the harvest of wildlife are in place to support healthy and sustainable wildlife populations and to ensure that animals are taken responsibly and ethically.

If you suspect wildlife, fisheries, forestry or environmental violations, please call Saskatchewan's toll-free Turn In Poachers and Polluters (TIPP) line at 1-800-667-7561 or report violations online at saskatchewan.ca/tipp. You may be eligible for cash rewards from the SaskTIP Reward Program and you don't have to give your name.

Whitewood offers winter fun with toboggan hill, trails & outdoor rinks

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

You know you are from Saskatchewan when a weather forecast of minus temperatures that are only one digit gets you excited!

The forecast for the next few days and for a couple of weeks, excluding one or two days, is for temperatures in the -3 to -8 C range and is welcome news following the past days of -20 and -30 temperatures.

It is time to hit the outdoors and have some fun.

Possibly take a trek to the walking trails on the south quarter off from South Avenue that the Town of Whitewood grooms over the winter months as well as the summer months.

And while you are there, take your

toboggan or super slider and have some fun on Whitewood's 'Snow Hill' at the same location.

Crossroads Snow Diggers, the local snowmobile club have graciously groomed the hill in the last few days so be sure to enjoy the beautiful days of January that we don't see every year.

The Snow Diggers are also happy that this is the first year in many that they can boast that the snowmobile trails have all been groomed and ready to ride before Christmas. Be sure to check out their Facebook page for trail information and membership fees that help pay for the equipment used to maintain trails for your safe enjoyment.

The outdoor skating rink and Croki-curl site in the park near the swimming pool are set to open soon as well.

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Local breeder's Clydesdale is part of Rose Bowl parade

One of horses used in the Budweiser float

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Many may have watched the prestigious Rose Bowl Parade on New Year's Day 2025 but not many would have been aware that the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdale float was being drawn by a Clydesdale named Diesel, an offspring of local area breeders, Delvin and Louise Szumutku of Stockholm, Sask.

The Budweiser Clydesdales began in April 1933, when August A. Busch, Jr., and Adolphus Busch III surprised their father August A. Busch, Sr., with the gift of a six-horse Clydesdale hitch to commemorate the repeal of Prohibition, the Act that banned the sale of alcohol. As the hitch carried the first post-Prohibition case of beer from the brewery down the streets of St. Louis, it became not just a celebration but an instant brand recognition. A second six-horse hitch was sent to New York where the crowd went wild at the Empire State Building as a case of Budweiser beer was presented to former Governor Alfred E. Smith in thanks for the years he gave fighting Prohibition. Shortly after, the six-horse teams were increased to eight-horse hitches.

The team travels across the U.S., performing at parades and events. The Rose Parade has always featured some beautiful equestrian units and a parade icon like no other, the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales, have been a cherished part of the Rose Parade tradition since their first appearance in 1953. Traveling with a team of horses and a Dalmatian mascot, the red beer wagon is adorned with a gorgeous array of roses and the finest quality ingredients used to brew Budweiser. The Clydesdales pull a historic beer wagon while decked out in handcrafted patent leather harnesses with solid brass accents, worth more than \$100,000. These majestic Clydesdales must meet strict requirements to qualify for the iconic eight-horse hitch. They must stand 18 hands tall, weigh around 2,000 pounds, and feature bay coloring, four white stockings, a blaze on the face, and a black mane and tail.

A beautiful Clydesdale in the ring is utterly impressive, made all the more so, since they are the most recognized breed because of their use by Budweiser. The Budweiser Clydesdales train for promotions and appearances and are featured in commercials by the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company, becoming the most recognized of all draft horses.

Delvin and Louise Szu-

mutku have owned and operated Clydesdale Creek for over 35 years. Delvin has been involved with raising Clydesdales for over 71 years and can't remember a day without a Clydesdale horse around him.

As told in a story in the *Horse Journal*, titled 'Celebrating the Clydesdale,' by Margaret Evans on June 25, 2021, it was in 1983, that Delvin was drawn into the beginning of their journey of future accomplishments.

Delvin was stressed. He was living on the family farm in Saskatchewan where they grew grain and had been breeding Clydesdale horses since the 1960s. But his father was sick and in urgent need of heart surgery. He had been ordered by his doctors not to lift even so much as a suitcase, a tough call for a farmer. But despite his condition, he badly wanted to show six of their Clydesdales at the Yorkton Harvest Show that was just a day away.

From Delvin's perspective, that wasn't happening. But he agreed with his dad that he would take one horse, their stallion Boulder Bluffs Maxwell. Far from being ready, Maxwell hadn't even been groomed and his mane, tail, and feathers were all dirty and knotted. With no prep time, Delvin loaded Maxwell and drove all evening to the show grounds, pulling in at midnight. He had ten hours to get his horse ready.

"I was walking him through the grounds to a stall and there were two old Clyde guys staring at Maxwell," recalls Delvin. "One muttered, 'Why would they bring something like that here?'"

Undaunted and determined to make his father proud, Delvin scrubbed his horse all night, washed, trimmed, and thinned the mane and tail, and washed the feathers until they were pure white. At 10 a.m., as ready as possible, he was in the show ring. He was ecstatic when Maxwell won the supreme champion award. Leading him out, the two old Clyde guys stared at him, speechless.

Delvin looked straight at them with an irrepressible, cheeky grin. "That's why I brought him here!"

Delvin Szumutku's father, Joseph Marvin Szumutku, was born in 1923 in Stockholm, Saskatchewan, the fifth of nine children. His father died when he was 11 and farm work became his responsibility. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces when World War II broke out and as a sergeant saw active combat in France, Italy, Sicily, and Germany. He was seriously wounded in Belgium when a mortar shell

exploded, killing his best friend. Upon recovery, he was sent back into action until the war ended and served as a guard at the Nuremberg War Trials. He returned home, bought a homestead of 640 acres, and began farming grain with the use of Clydesdale horses. "It's because of him and his teaching that Louise and I have been able to keep the tradition of Clydesdale Creek Farms alive and thriving," says Delvin Szumutku. "He was the best horseman I will ever know, and he will always be my best friend. I had the best teacher there was."

Clydesdales are among some of the best-loved and most recognized of draft horses. And, like all great stories, theirs began long ago and far away. Clydesdale, the historic name for Lanarkshire, Scotland became the famed Clydesdale horse, a breed that has been in existence since 1727.

The Clydesdale quickly built a reputation as a horse not only of power and ability, but also of style, beauty, intelligence, a willingness to work, and with a personality that made them such a pleasure to work with. The first Clydesdale imported to Canada was a stallion called Cumberland, arriving in Ontario in 1840. The horse set the stage for Clydesdales to become the first draft breed to be found in most of the provinces. Clydesdales were in Manitoba by 1881. They came to the Alberta foothills in 1883, and a stallion purchased by the Douglas Lake Cattle Company arrived in British Columbia in 1887, just one year after the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada was formed in 1886. The breed went on to receive top honours at shows and was sought after at sales across the continent.

Today, most Clydesdales are bay, brown, or black, with white legs and a blaze. They have straight, silky feathering covering their lower legs and hooves. They stand an average 17 to 18 hands, weighing some 800 to 900 kilograms and are well muscled with an elegant, energetic gait, arched neck, and proud presence.

"The thing that I most admired was the quality of their flat bone and that beautiful hind leg," says Delvin Szumutku.

"The Clyde horse has been blessed with the finest set of legs in the draft horse world. That along with the abundant silky hair that we call feathers makes them unique among the draft horse breeds. Put that together with beautiful colours and their wonderful disposition, and you have the closest thing



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Rode Bowl parade

Delvin Szumutku of Stockholm, SK. said, "Wish I was there but at least Diesel is." Diesel is one of the Szumutku's prize winning Clydesdale horses pulling the Budweiser float in the 2025 Rose Bowl Parade.

to perfection in the horse world."

Szumutku lost his father in 1988, and their Clydesdale breeding program was on hold while he focused on farm work, running a business, and raising a few cattle. He married Louise in 1992, and she encouraged him to get back in the game. He paid close attention to pedigrees, knowing that the lack of genetic diversity in the breeding pool could compromise the offspring, and he was prepared to borrow the money to buy the right one if necessary.

"We faced a lot of challenges getting back into the breeding stock we needed," he says. "The market was quite expensive and there just weren't many good mares for sale. I did a lot of studying of successful breeders and winning pedigrees. We started with one mare we had raised and one mare we had bought. We then leased a stallion we thought would cross well. We tried to raise modern horses along with timeless qualities. To me, quality [conformation], colour, size and disposition were very important. We have always stuck to that."

The "right one" starts not only with conformation but solid, healthy, proportionate feet. In the selection for certain qualities, Szumutku says that some breeders were turning out Clydesdales with

small feet. Now that has turned around and show ring judges are looking at the feet as an overall aspect of the horse's desired conformation.

Szumutku's attention to bloodlines and genetics has resulted in many awards along the way. The family's Clydesdale Creek pedigree has become well-known throughout the draft horse world.

The Saskatchewan Clydesdale Association printed a profile in April 2024 of Delvin and Louise Szumutku sharing, "Delvin and Louise have competed at 4 World shows in Canada and the USA. They now have taken approximately 15 home raised Clydesdales to those shows and have placed in the ribbons with every horse and in most cases in the top four placings in the world event. They also exhibited the world champion registered gelding and placed second in the World Champion Breeding class.

Delvin was twice

awarded the Saskatchewan Clyde person of the year, and Louise was awarded the same honor once. Delvin served as President of the Saskatchewan Clydesdale Association for 6 years and has been a director for the Canadian Clydesdale Association for 12 years and is currently serving his second term as Vice President of the Canadian Association. He is one of the founding members of the Canadian Clydesdale Hall of Fame and is serving his 3rd year as chairperson of that same organization."

"Our biggest success along the way has been the friends we have made," says Szumutku. "We are fortunate to have met wonderful people throughout the world, because of our horses. Trophies tarnish and ribbons fade, but friends and memories are forever. My dad started me on this journey and my wife encouraged and helped me along the way. We are living the dream I am forever thankful for."





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Top 911 calls that 'missed the mark'

RCMP's DOCC had an interesting 2024

Provincial RCMP
Grasslands News

With 367,707 calls for service, Saskatchewan RCMP's Divisional Operational Communications Centre (DOCC) had another busy year in 2024, taking calls ranging from 911 mis-dials and false alarms to serious incidents regarding matters of public safety.

"Our annual list is fun, but it's important to realize that DOCC officers play a really important role during emergencies. We are the first voice someone hears when they reach out for help from police. We are there until emergency services arrive to help them. We dispatch police officers to calls and provide them assistance during them," says Lee Rosin, Recruiter and Training Facilitator for DOCC. "It's important that these lines remain open for those who reach out for help through 911 or 310-RCMP."

Here are the top 10 calls that "missed the mark" in 2024:

10. Who are you? A concerned individual called 911 to advise that they didn't recognize someone on their social media friend list.

9. Spick and span: A frustrated individual called to complain that their parents were forcing them to clean their room.

8. Stop stressing meowt: A caller advised that a fox was wandering the neighbourhood and scaring a local cat.

7. To bee or not to bee: 911 dispatchers

received a call from a person saying that they had a problem with bees in their home.

6. Tech support: A concerned individual called 911 to ask for help unlocking their cell phone.

5. Litter bug: An individual called 911 to report that someone had thrown their ice cream on the ground.

4. Cut the cat-itude: A caller advised that their cat was being mean to them and they were hoping an officer would come and help with the situation.

3. Loads of fun: 911 dispatchers received a call from a person who was having trouble with their washing machine.

2. I'm counting on you: An individual called 911 asking for help on a math equation as they didn't want to fail their test in the morning.

1. Party's over: 911 dispatchers received a call from an individual saying that their tambourine was taken from a party they attended.

Please remember: whether you're frustrated with your washing machine, trying to unlock your phone or suspicious of a fox – calling 911 must be reserved for emergencies and crimes in progress.

Saskatchewan RCMP would like to remind the public that there are ramifications for those who misuse 911. Not only is there a chance of preventing someone with a life-threatening emergency from getting help, there is also a summary offence charge under the Emergency 911 Systems Act with fines up to \$2,000.

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JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Over the past four decades, the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, has recognized the youth of Saskatchewan through the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

These prestigious awards are given to youths who:

- Have a positive lifestyle
- Volunteer within their community and school
- Has overcome a personal life challenge (physical, emotional or environmental)
- Have a strong sense of caring and responsibility
- Are between the ages of 8 and 18

This year, four deserving youths will receive a **\$3,000 bursary**, provided by SaskPower, to use towards their post-secondary education.

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR STEM AWARD

New in 2025. The Junior Citizen of the Year STEM Award will recognize a Saskatchewan youth who contains all the same qualities of a Junior Citizen of the Year but **has an aptitude for science, technology, engineering, or mathematics**. This award is eligible for all students, including but not limited to, young women, and underrepresented communities.

This year, one deserving youth will receive a **\$3,000 bursary**, provided by Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan, to use towards their post-secondary education.

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Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2025

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Town Page

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2025 Sask Lotteries Community Grant Applications are Available

Applications are now being accepted from local organizations in support of sport, culture and recreation programs in Indian Head. Organizations requesting funds must fill out and return an application to Indian Head Community Development before Friday, February 14, 2025.

Application forms can be found online or picked up from the Town Office. Eligible programs must take place between April 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

Save the Date for our Town Events in 2025

The Community Development Committee is hard at work planning some great events for 2025! Mark these dates on your calendars join us for the fun!

- Town Wide Garage Sale – May 24
- Indian Head Parade Days – June 28 & 29
- Harvest Hoedown Craft Show – October 18
- Light the Lights – December 6
- Jingle & Mingle – December 12

Minor Hockey Day in Indian Head

Mark Your Calendars for Minor Hockey Day in Indian Head! Join us on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at the AJM Davies Arena for a full day of exciting youth hockey action! Cheer on our talented young athletes as they hit the ice, showcasing their skills, teamwork, and love for the game. Even the coaches will be getting in on the action! Whether you're a die-hard hockey fan or just looking for a fun community event, this is a day you won't want to miss. Bring your family, grab some snacks from the concession, and enjoy the energy of Minor Hockey Day in Indian Head!

Stay Active this Winter!

Stay active this winter by taking part in some of our outdoor recreation activities! The Cross-Country Ski Trails have been groomed at the Indian Head Golf Course. There are tracks for both classic and skate skiing. The trail begins at the Club House and winds throughout the scenic golf course, with a half-loop option for those who want a shorter ski.

The outdoor arena is flooded and ready to use. Located beside the swimming pool at 900 Grand Avenue, the outdoor arena is free to use at any time. We also have our regular public skating and shinny times at the AJM Arena. Visit our website for the times.

In the winter, Public Works keeps the Sunbeam Creek Walking Trail cleared of snow. If you are worried about the ice or cold weather, come to Memorial Hall for Walking Club on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week from 9 to 11 a.m.

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Upcoming Community Events

January 11 – Heather's Crafting Class at the Library
January 18 – Indian Head Minor Hockey Day
January 18 – Air Cadets "Around the Pole"
January 25 – Sr. Chiefs vs Ituna
February 4 – Bad Apples Comedy Show
February 22 – Indian Head Snow Drags

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



Friends and Neighbours

Christmas traditions shouldn't be a burden

By Allison Kydd
Grasslands News

Since I am finishing this when Greek Orthodox members of my family are celebrating Christmas, this discussion still feels timely. One of my favourite Christmas traditions is inviting friends over to help us decorate our Christmas tree. (Since we observe Advent, the tree never goes up before Dec. 20th.) This tree-decorating event is also a great excuse to prepare favourite dishes and use all the extra serving bowls, not to mention doing a thorough job of dusting and tidying things up. In fact, some books and papers disappear out of sight at this time never to be found again.

We also keep a guestbook and take photographs when we remember, so we have had a chance to relive many of these gatherings. I note, for instance, that on Dec. 22, 2012, we welcomed Karen and Wayne Horsman, Ed and Myrna McCall, Mavis Jealous and Connie Billett for tree decorating. Most of the decorating, as I recall, was done by the women. For some reason, the guys were happy just to watch. I also recall that Connie Billett is an expert at getting tangles out of strings of lights.

Another year, Ellen and Jack Varley and Betty Good were among the guests. There were others as well, but I have a photo of Jack helping Betty place her ornament, so I'm absolutely sure about the two of them. Betty left Indian Head for Winnipeg many years ago now, and she died within a couple of years of leaving, but I still remember her Liverpool accent and lively intelligence. It was a pine tree that year, one selected from Irv Escott's plantation, and it took ages—perhaps years—to clear away the pine needles, as there were a couple of cold air registers in the floor nearby.

More recently, much to my regret, we have gotten out of the habit of inviting friends to help trim the tree. This getting out of the habit probably began (or was exacerbated) during the pandemic, but I regret that we haven't reclaimed the tradition. There have even been a couple of years when we haven't had a tree. (I still insist it be a real tree or nothing.)

Another year – 2018, as I recall – I brought in a baby spruce I had planted in a pot during the previous summer, and we decorated it with a few of the smaller, lighter ornaments. It was only about fourteen inches high, but it served the purpose quite well. When I put it back in its natural habitat, however, it dried up and died. I suppose it had had too much of the high life during its brief sojourn in the house.

This year, thanks to Bruce Farrer, Brian Herman and Allison Fizzard of St. Thomas Anglican Church, the classic little stone church near Edgeley, we will have a pine tree again. When I discovered to my dismay that Sherwood Coop in Indian Head wasn't able to bring in any Christmas trees this year – the closest for purchase were in Regina – I put out an appeal. Seeing it, Fizzard and Herman offered one of a number that had seeded themselves and were growing willy-nilly on the Herman farm. They also delivered: Farrer stuffed the fourteen foot tree into his car and brought it to our door.

Of course I understand that Christmas tree farms are struggling due to droughts, insect problems and climate changes, but the threat to our longstanding tradition was still a severe disappointment. We'll see how I do clearing up the needles after the twelfth day of Christmas. At least there are fewer furnace registers near the spot I've chosen this time.

Another tradition that suffered this year has been the giving and receiving of Christmas cards. Though the postal strike is over for the time being, the damage has already been done. Not only was there a backlog for workers to deal with, but most people e-mailed their greetings or sent general messages by Facebook. Only a handful of cards have actually ap-



Mavis Jealous and Karen Horsman decorating the tree in 2012.

peared in our mailbox this season.

Yet cards have been a hallmark of Christmas for as long as I can remember. It was the one time during the year when we heard from all our relatives and friends, and my mother kept a ledger religiously. It would be unpardonable to neglect anyone who had sent a greeting the previous year. We also added a few names to the list (or they added us), as new people came into our lives.

I remember those holiday cards above every doorway in our large farmhouse and sometimes strung across the living-room as well. These days, even without the excuse of a strike, many people e-mail their Christmas newsletters, and others send beautiful, animated e-cards, but I still miss having those happy greetings to brighten up the living-room.

After a couple of weeks, I couldn't wait any longer for the strike to end, so I started hand-delivering local cards, which has actually been a lot of fun, and I think I'll do the same thing next year. One thing does trouble me, however, and I hope it's clear this is something I'm mainly doing for me. It makes me feel less isolated and as if I'm doing my part to keep the tradition of giving and receiving cards alive. Just because it's my tradition, however, doesn't mean it has to be everyone's tradition.

We all choose the things that keep the spirit of the season alive for us. That's what traditions are about. They aren't meant to be a burden, and nobody need apologize for replacing old traditions with new ones. For instance, my cousin Wayne Bennett makes a point of sending e-cards not only for Christmas but for other occasions as well. He has a large extended family, and one of his daughters lives in England, so this makes sense for him. I, however, will probably continue to rely on Canada Post—if it is there to rely on.

I have had some entertaining reactions to my Christmas card deliveries. For instance, Steve Broomfield met me at the door with a smile and a witty "How nineteenth century of you." But what can one expect of a Brit, especially someone whose work is in the computer technology line! (And of course I say that with appreciation, having come from British stock myself, though not so recently.)

It was a few weeks ago, while I was contemplating the holiday season and how few things were checked off my to-do list, that I found a poem by Scottish poet Donna Ashworth posted on Facebook. Apparently Ashworth, who is married to Robert Ashworth, former producer of

title of the poem appears to be "Spirit of a Hippie," though the Facebook post also featured artwork by Jane Newland, and it wasn't clear which piece of art belonged to the title.

Though Ashworth's poetry and ideas resonate with a lot of people, not everyone loves her. A number of well-known periodicals have been more than a little disparaging. *The Observer*, for instance, calls her "a cheerleader of Insta-poetry"; *The Telegraph* has described her themes as "motivational Post-It notes"; and *The Economist* compares her work to ChatGPT if asked to produce "inspirational fridge magnets." Even Ashworth calls her work "self-help in poetry" and says "a lot of what I say is cheesy." Fans, however, describe her words as "like a warm hug," and that's how they strike me. They also give me permission to be less productive. Here is the poem in question:

[Spirit of a Hippie]

If you haven't sent cards this year, or [have] forgotten someone's gift.

If you don't have matching pyjamas or a festive family photograph.

It's okay.

If you can't find the energy to be merry and bright,

or your tree isn't even decorated yet.

That's really just fine.

If you don't feel like watching your favourite Christmas movies, or honouring the traditions that you normally always do.

Don't sweat it, my friend.

This year has been hard, for many.

Really hard.

If you can't see a way to celebrating like you have in the past, don't worry.

Just hang on in there, finding any joy you can in any little way.

Just make it through 'til next year.

One day at a time.

We need you.

Hang on in there.

You are loved.

~ Donna Ashworth from *Wild Hope*

As always, contact akyddwrt@sasktel.net with comments or suggestions.

Coronation Street, became quite well known during the COVID-19 lockdown when she published a poem called "History Will Remember When the World Stopped" on her blog. Her ideas obviously hit a chord for a lot of people, and before long celebrities were reading the poem to raise money for Britain's National Health Service (NHS).

Not only that, but Ashworth followed up on her popularity by publishing several books of poetry—first self-publishing and then through a traditional publisher. The poem I found comes from a collection called *Wild Hope: Healing Words to Find Light on Dark Days*. The



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SPORTS

PJHL Storm wins/loses; Knox wins in OT at home

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Prairie Junior Hockey League (PJHL) action is back after a short holiday break as Fort Knox continue their winning streak into the new year while the Storm win-

one before Christmas and lose one in 2025.

Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals 3 at Pilot Butte Storm 5

The Pilot Butte Storm played host to the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals at the Pilot Butte Recreation Centre in the last game before the Christmas break on Dec. 21, 2024. The Storm won 5-3 against the Capitals.

The Storm picked up a 3-0 lead in the first period with goals coming from Easton Johns, Kaden Corbin and Tyler Council. The Capitals started scoring in the second with a goal from Kian Knoll followed by a powerplay goal from Cohen Godlien, making it 3-2 for the Storm at the end of the second.

In the third the Storm maintained their lead with a goal from Peyton Losiuk, which was followed by a powerplay goal for the Capitals from Lukas Borne. The Storm sealed the game with a goal from Johns making it 5-3.

Storm goaltender Kellen Bojic saw 35 shots and had 32 saves while Luca Stadnyk, who was in net for the Capitals, saw 28 shots and had 23 saves.

Penalties were low, with a total of 22-minutes of penalties, none of which occurred in the first period.

Regina Silver Foxes 3 at Fort Knox 4 (OT)

Fort Knox continued their winning streak into the new year with a 4-3 overtime win against the Regina Silver Foxes at the Fort Qu'Appelle Rexentre on Jan. 4, 2025.

The Silver Foxes took the lead in the first period with a goal from Ethan Palandri which was answered by a goal from Josh Heistad for Fort, tying it 1-1 at the end of the first period. Fort Knox picked up two goals in the second period, both coming from River Banks. In the third the Silver Foxes forced the game into overtime, tying the game 3-3 with two goals from Colby Whyte and Ethan Ulriksen. Fort Knox's Madden Wallis was the overtime hero with the game winning goal.

Winning goalie Zane Winter who was in net for Fort Knox saved 22 of 25 shots on net while Silver Foxes goalie Jacob Morris saved 34 of 28 shots.

Pilot Butte Storm 2 at Delisle Chiefs 7

The Pilot Butte Storm lost their first game of 2025 2-7 against the Delisle Chiefs at the Delisle Centennial Arena on Jan. 4, 2025.

The Chiefs took an early 2-0 lead in the first with a powerplay goal from Griffin Heaney followed by a goal from Jesse Borschneck. Pilot Butte scored twice within 25 seconds of the second period starting with goals from Easton Johns and Austin Kozakewich but was not enough. The Chiefs proceeded to score four times in the period with goal makers being Borschneck, Garin Lammers with two, and Jack Puckett. In the third period Lammers scored another goal for a hat trick, ending the game 7-2.

There were 16-minutes of penalties handed out throughout the game.

Storm goaltender Kellen Bojic stopped 39 of 46 shots while Kalan Olynick stopped 55 of 57 shots.

Upcoming games

There are two games on Jan. 8 which will see Fort Knox face off against Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels and the Pilot Butte Storm face off against the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals. The games occurred after press time and will be featured in the next issue.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Knox goal

River Banks scored two goals in the second period in the game against the Regina Silver Foxes on Saturday which Fort Knox won 4-3 in overtime in the Jan. 4 game.

PJHL all-stars rosters named, game on Jan. 11

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

The Prairie Junior Hockey League (PJHL) All-Star game is fast approaching and players from both Fort Knox and the Pilot Butte Storm have made it to the Bill Johnston All-Star Team roster.

The PJHL All-Star game is set to take place this weekend in Carrot River at 4 p.m. on Jan. 11, 2025.

Players from Fort Knox participating in the All-Star game include forwards Madden Wallis, Shaden Duliak, River Banks, Marc Belanger, Josh Heistad, and goalie Zane Winter.

Players from the Storm include forwards Jaxon

Skiftun and Kayden Reeder, defense Zach Reeder, Dryden Jeannot, Tyson Herron, and goalie Kellen Bojic.

Also joining the team from Fort Knox is the coaching staff.

The rest of the Bill Johnston roster includes forwards Jack Bechard (Capitals), Carter Skarbon (Rebels), Dylan Schoenroth (Capitals), Kian Knoll (Capitals) and Colby Whyte (Foxes), and defense Nikolas Smolinski (Rebels), Jett Lamb (Foxes) and Tyson Kistner (Capitals).

The team will face off against the Bob Dybvig All-Star Team which features players from the Delisle Chiefs, Prince Albert Timberjaks, Saskatoon Royals, Saskatoon Westleys, Saskatoon Quakers, and the Carrot River Outback Thunder.



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MELVILLE FISH & GAME LEAGUE



Saskatchewan WILDLIFE FEDERATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and AWARDS NIGHT

Melville Fish & Game Membership required to attend

Thursday, January 30, 2025

7 PM

Melville Community Works
800 Prince Edward Street, Melville, SK

Contact Ken at 306-730-6671 for more information on membership or meeting.

- Meeting to include Election of Officers
- Lunch following meeting
- New Membership Purchase Deadlines To Qualify For Awards:
 - *Open Water Angling - May 1st
 - *Bear April 1st
 - *Hunting - Aug. 1st

Senior hockey teams lace up for first games in 2025

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Senior hockey teams didn't waste any time into the new year getting back onto the ice with teams in the Qu'Appelle Valley Highway Hockey League (QVHHL), Big Six League and South East Hockey League (SEHL) all hitting the ice on the first weekend of January.

QVHHL

Both the Balcarres Broncs and Balgonie Bisons played a game last week with Balcarres finding success while Balgonie came up a little short.

Balcarres hosted the Raymore Rockets on Jan. 3 in a game that saw the Broncs hold off any scoring against them until the last minute of the game, giving up a shut-out in a 4-1 win. Keegan Milligan scored three of the four goals for Balcarres, two of which came in the first two-minutes of the game and just 18-seconds apart from each other. Justin Bernhardt finished things off for the Broncs late in the third period with a goal with

52 seconds left on the clock. The only Raymore goal also came late in the final frame with 1:08 left on the clock, and it was scored by Arthur Miller.

On Jan. 4 the Balgonie Bisons visited Lumsden where they came up just one goal short in a loss to the Monarchs. Lumsden took a 4-1 lead in the first, but Balgonie closed the gap to 5-3 in the second before scoring the third's only point to end the game at 5-4. Austen Flaman, Austin King-Cunningham, Riley Woykins and Dylan Simank were credited with goals for Balgonie while Lumsden's points came from Torey Lindsay with a pair, Kevin DuFour, Carter Folk and Ty Barnstable.

Big Six League

The KW Oil Kings hosted the Cardnuff Red Devils in Kipling on Jan. 3 where the Red Devils dominated over the hometown Oil Kings with an 8-2 victory. Cardnuff scored five goals before the Oil Kings were able to get onto the scoreboard in the second with a power play goal by Taylor Hoedel. Riley Kolesar scored the Oil Kings only other goal in the opening

half of the third period. Carnduff's goals came from Tanner Froese and Nico Anderson each with a pair and singles from Kaden Crest, Chance Purves, Ty Stovin and Ben Hiltz.

South East Hockey League

The Wapella Blackhawks started 2025 off on a high note with the team earning a 7-4 win against the Preeceville Pats in a game on Jan. 4 in Wapella.

The Blackhawks took a 3-1 lead in the first with goals by Ethan Dartige and Cole Hayhurst with Jorie Dull scoring for Preeceville. Both teams scored twice in the second with credit going to Rory Poole and Riley Holloway for Wapella and Dawson Paul and Cody Hort for Preeceville. In the third, Wapella's Ryland Maier score both a short-handed and a power play goal just two minutes apart and then also assisted on another goal by Riley Holloway. Preeceville's Jorie Dull also scored once more for his team during the last frame to end the

game at 7-4.

Upcoming Games

In the QVHHL, Balcarres will host Bethune on Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. and will head to Lumsden on Jan 11. The team will play again on Jan. 13 in Southey in a make-up game from Nov. 23. Meanwhile Balgonie will host Southey on Jan. 10 at 8:15 p.m. and they will head to Southey on Jan. 11 for a rematch.

In the Big Six League, the KW Oil Kings will host three home games in the next week with Wawota in town on Jan. 12 at 8 p.m., Oxbow visiting Kipling for a 6 p.m. game on Jan. 12 and then Carlyle coming to town on Jan. 15 at 8 p.m.

The South East Hockey League's Wapella Blackhawks has a run of home games in January with the team playing seven games, six of which will be at home. The team's games in the next week include hosting Langenburg on Jan. 10 and Canora on Jan. 11. Both games begin at 8 p.m.

Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M. Jan 6		THURSDAY YBC Dec 19	
Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Shaleen Kruzer, 211, 577, 206.	Gutter Girls 33	Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 195, 505.	Professional Amateurs 32
Men's High Single and Triple, Joe Wu, 240, 635. Men's High Average, Gordon Ostlund, 183.	ST. HENRY'S Dec 17	Boys High Single and Triple, Bryden Wiegiers, 219, 633.	
Team High Single and Triple, Brewer, 845, 2400.	Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Pat Brown, 166, 490, 181.	Team High Single and Triple, Hollinger, 870, 2813.	
Team	Men's High Single, Chris Heinmiller, 669. Men's High Triple and Average, Mike Hickie, 259, 201.	Team	Pts.
Dobson 39	Team High Single and Triple, CCJ, 1342, 3877.	Hollinger 40	Cobras 39
Stuckey 31.5	Team	Nameless 33	Head Pins 16
Brewer 30.5	CCJ 38.5		
Gelowitz 27	Drifters 34		
MONDAY COMMERCIAL Jan 6	Just 4 Fun 31.5	SATURDAY YBC Dec 21	
Ladies' High Single and Triple, Brittany Boyarski, 346, 756. Ladies' High Average, Brandy Lechner, 223.	A Team 20	Girls High Single and Triple, Laura Smidt, 86, 233.	
Men's High Single and Triple, Wade Kohlenberg, 307, 650. Men's High Average, Isaac Hollinger, 218.	TUESDAY YBC Dec 17	Boys High Single and Triple, Reid Morgan, 161, 405.	
Team High Single, Professional Amateurs, 1515. Team High Triple, Gutter Girls, 4170.	Girls High Single and Triple, Lindsay Unterschute, 152, 355.	Team High Single and Triple, Bravehearts, 811, 2385.	Pts.
Team	Boys High Single and Triple, Jakob Unterschute, 196, 418.	Team	Bravehearts 51.5
Pin Heads 49.5	Team High Single and Triple, Bowl Kings, 890, 2568.	The Enders 33.5	Bowling Superstars 25
Blame it on Garry 39.5	Team	Everythings 14	
Blind Chickens 34	Bowl Kings 45		
	Squishmellows 19		

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Pilot Butte Storm Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
JANUARY:
16- PB Storm at Regina Capitals 7:30
18- Richardson P. Southern Rebels at PB Storm 7:45
22- Fort Knox at Pilot B. Storm 8:00
24- PB Storm at S'toon Quakers 8:00
26- PB Storm at Fort Knox 3:00
29- RP South. Rebels at PB Storm 8:00
31- PB Storm at S'toon Royals 8:00

Melville Millionaires Game Schedule

Home/Away Games unless otherwise stated
JANUARY:
10- Melville at Estevan 7 p.m.
11- Battlefords at Melville 7 p.m.
17- Weyburn at Melville 7 p.m.
18- Estevan at Melville 7 p.m.
21- Flin Flon at Melville 7 p.m.
23- Melville at Battlefords 7:30 p.m.
24- Melville at Battlefords 7:30 p.m.

Fort Knox Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
JANUARY:
12- Richardson Pioneer S. Rebels at Fort Knox 3 pm
17- Fort Knox at S'toon Royals 8 pm
19- Delisle Chiefs at Fort Knox 3 pm
22- Fort Knox at Pilot Butte Storm 8 pm
23- Richardson Pioneer S Rebels at Fort Knox 7:30 pm
26- Pilot Butte Storm at Fort Knox 3 pm
30- Regina Silver Foxes at Fort Knox 7:30 pm

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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

Hockey fans recently had the opportunity to watch a terrific overtime battle in the IIHF World Junior Hockey Championships, with the Americans coming out on top, giving them their second title in as many years.

The Canadians started off quite strongly in the yearly event themselves, but had difficulties all tournament long and were eliminated in the quarterfinals by a game with the Czechia squad.

Since I'm not up to speed on the state of the Ontario Hockey League, and the Quebec league so much, I didn't want to read too much into Canada's early exit, but now, it sure seems like there was a lot of dysfunction on the 2025 version of Team Canada.

Hockey Canada's Peter Anholt, the top manager for the Canadian juniors says the blame for being eliminated prior to the medal round for the second consecutive year should fall squarely on him.

Certainly, anyone could say it was going to be a close tournament and any of five teams could come out on top, but why was Canada eliminated from podium play for the the second straight year?

The team, for the most part, looked uncoached and perhaps some of that was head coach Dave Cameron's decision to not practice a lot, because he said the team was tired.

Tired or not, 17, 18 and 19 year olds should be able to get on the ice and go through a practice quite easily, without making any excuses.

In every game Canada played, players looked out of position and there seemed to be very little chemistry amongst the players.

Time and again, I watched this group take a puck from the slot, pass it to the outside and then shoot, rather than shooting from the best spot on the ice to score a goal.

Now, I'm not exactly Scotty Bowman, but why would you want less of an angle to shoot from when you're playing against the top teenage netminders from around the globe?

You should want to give yourself every opportunity to win hockey games and these guys simply did not do that.

Perhaps the lack of chemistry, and the lack of ability to generate offence had more to do with the roster that was put together.

I'm not sure about the names, although it was be easy to find them, but there were at least four players that were having a better season than some of the guys who made the cut for Team Canada, and three of them weren't extended the courtesy of a tryout.

I understand that some coaches know more than I do, but when you have an anemic offence and you don't bring in the right players to address it, or even bring them in to audition for a spot, you're not doing yourself, or your country any favours.

And then there were the penalties.

From the beginning of the event, the Canadian team took what would be termed 'dumb penalties' and they did it like they were addicted to them, and just couldn't quit.

In the game against the USA, they basically sat their way out of contention, and they did it in the penalty box.

Everyone knows that when you play hockey, the international version, anyway, there are precautions you have to take to ensure you're not giving the opposition more chances than they deserve, and these guys took call after call in a game that they were in control of, at least in territorial play and shots on net.

They had tons of chances, but undid them all by taking penalties.

Coach Cameron said there was nothing he could have done about that, but that sounds like a bunch of malarky to this scribe.

If a coach cannot convince his players that hockey during the holiday break is different, and they need to be careful about the penalties they take, then I would surmise that he or she isn't much of a coach.

It's quite difficult to show someone how to check an opponent without getting sent to the penalty box to feel shame, when you're not practicing!

It's time to clean house and get rid of the group that's been in charge of the Canadian juniors, especially those who have been involved for the last couple of years.

Obviously, whatever they're doing, isn't working.

Mustangs drop Komets 4-1 on Jan. 4

By Braedyn Wozniak

Grasslands News

The Wolseley Mustangs began 2025 with a 4-1 win over the Kelliher Komets on Jan. 4.

In what was a sloppier (and colder) game than usual, the Stangs shook off the holiday rust and found enough offence to pull through with a victory.

Riley Chambers kicked off the scoring just under 10 minutes into the first period, potting in a rebound. Will Noble and Bennett Gottfried assisted on the play.

Gottfried then scored one himself on a quick shot off an offensive zone faceoff won by Jaxon Ulmer, who picked up the assist.

The scrappy Kelliher Komets did manage to get one back before the first frame closed, getting a power play goal off the stick of Nathan Minhinnickat, assisted by

captain Zach Wilson and Jack Chorney.

The second period saw a good push by the Komets to even the score, generating a lot of quality scoring chances. Mustangs' goaltender Spencer Phythian turned each scoring chance aside to preserve the lead heading into the third.

The Mustangs seemingly got warmed up in the third, controlling puck possession for the majority of the period.

Their late game push to put away the Komets was rewarded with goal on a snipe from Landon Obleman just five minutes in on a feed from Tyler Powell.

Then Conner Webster one-timed the dagger home from the left dot on a pass from Eric Bruce with 6 minutes left to cap off the scoring.

The Mustangs improve to 6-3-1 on the season and next face the Strasbourg Maroons in Wolseley, Jan. 11.



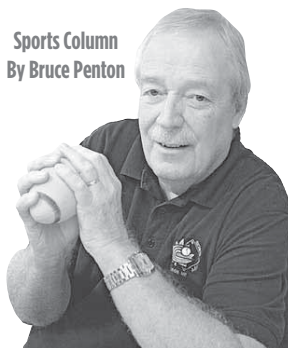
BRAEDYN WOZNIAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

First goal

Wolseley Mustangs' Riley Chambers #21 opening the scoring in the first 10 minutes of the first period as teammate Will Noble #20 looks for a possible rebound in the crease.

Sports Column

Chiefs chasing third straight Super Bowl

By Bruce Penton
Sports ColumnistSports Column
By Bruce Penton

Bookmakers in Las Vegas say the Kansas City Chiefs are the betting favourites to win the 2025 Super Bowl, but coach Andy Reid's team had the most underwhelming regular season of the top five or six playoff contenders.

Even though the Chiefs went 15-2, losing the unimportant last game of the season where quarterback Patrick Mahomes and a number of other regulars did not play, their regular season was coloured with mediocrity. They outscored their opponents by a grand total of 59 points in 17 games, fewer than four points per game. In fact, they won only five games by double figures, but eked out one-, two- or three-point victories on five other occasions.

Supporters say winning is the only thing that matters, and the Chiefs have been good at it the last three years. Two consecutive Super Bowl victories and being favoured for a third is all the proof KC fans need that the end result, not the route taken, is what matters.

So what might transpire between now and Feb. 9 when the AFC and NFC champions meet in New Orleans?

For most of the regular season, Detroit Lions were the Super Bowl favourites, slightly ahead of the Chiefs, before injuries began to pile up. The Lions' defence became more porous, but a season-ending 31-9 win over Minnesota in a battle of 14-2 teams, was indicative of a correction. As some of the injured players recover, Detroit might again be the league's No. 1 team.

Can Philadelphia Eagles be discounted? Philly has the game's top running back, Saquan Barkley, who approached Eric Dickerson's single-season record for most yards gained before sitting out the final game of the season, and quarterback Jalen Hurts finds wideouts A.J. Brown and Devonta Smith often enough for the team to pile up major point totals. Their defence is also stalwart.

There are three other legitimate contenders: Baltimore Ravens, Minnesota Vikings and Buffalo Bills, The Ravens and Bills could both handle KC on a good day. The Ravens' Lamar Jackson is the likely Most Valuable Player, with his arm talent and running ability too much for many defences. The Bills, led by quarterback Josh Allen, also a strong MVP contender, finished the season 13-4 and will have home-field advantage during the first two rounds of playoffs. Minnesota is the surprise team of the top contenders. The Vikings lost their would-be starting quarterback, rookie J.J. McCarthy, to a pre-season injury.

and then watched as journeyman Sam Arnold turned in a spectacular season. The off-season will be interesting in Minneapolis as the Vikings' brass decides on their quarterback situation. Do they pay Darnold big bucks, and let McCarthy sit and learn for a couple of years? Or do they save some money by letting Darnold go free and go all-in on McCarthy?

A blown call, a dropped pass, a critical fumble or a 99-yard punt return could throw all the playoff predictions out the window. That's why the next month is going to be great theatre for fans of the NFL.

- A New York Jets executive, in a story in the Athletic, on the NFL team's dysfunction: "The football people are not the issue. It's, 'Hey, I have brain cancer.' And, 'Well, just cut off your foot.'"

- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "I've watched maybe one minute of figure skating in years, and I happened to see a replay of French skater Gabriella Papadakis' infamous wardrobe malfunction. Is that peeking at the right time?"

- Headline at the onion.com: "More Parents Say Allowing Child To Play Football Not Worth Risk Of Being Drafted By Jets"

- Lizzie F. in a Chicago Bears' mailbag: "What legal action can I take against my parents for raising me as a Bears fan? When does this become cruel and unusual punishment?"

- Headline at theonion.com: "Jets Fans Required To Sign NDA Before Leaving Stadium"

- Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "Wonder how many owners in sports are paying attention to what the Suns are doing in Phoenix, charging \$2 at concessions stands for water, soda, hotdogs, and popcorn? A small popcorn at Cineplex is \$9 now. And you wonder why people don't go to movies anymore."

- Headline at fark.com: "The Bears have ruined a lot of quarterbacks. But have they ever ruined a coach? Pete Carroll may find out."

- Columnist Dave Barry of the Miami Herald in his 2024 review: "As the Olympic Games get underway in Paris, tens of millions of viewers tune in to NBC to watch three action-packed weeks of Snoop Dogg reacting to French things."

- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Joe Polo, fifth on the U.S. gold-medal curling team, named his daughter Ailsa after a Scottish island that produces the stone for curling rocks. The kid already feels taken for granite."

- Headline at fark.com: "Sixty-five-year-old Mike Wallace to attempt to qualify for the Daytona 500 after years away from the sport. Observers say it's no big deal, he's just a little Rusty."

- Sharon Kuruvilla, on Bluesky: "In approximately five years, a megachurch will have ads for sports betting apps during the intermission."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@vahoo.ca

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Fort Qu'Appelle library showcases local artists



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Artists showcased

Guild members, from the left, Christine Akrigg, Judy Hershmilller, Christine Rumanciak, Debbie Dewar, Darlene Clarke and M.J. Dornstauder are exhibiting their works at the library. This month Dornstauder is having her first solo show.

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Works by members of the Qu'Appelle Valley Art Guild are being exhibited on a rotating basis each month until July at the Fort Qu'Appelle Library.

The exhibitions demonstrate the stylistic differences of local painters. This year kicks off with, Mary Jane Dornstauder's wildlife portraits and landscape paintings. It is the first time Dornstauder, who has been painting for 25 years has had a showing of her own.

"It is an ideal way to showcase the artistic work and talent being produced by guild members," explained guild secretary Darlene Clarke.

"Some of the paintings are for sale, some aren't, but if you are interested in buying one you will have to contact the artist directly. The library isn't selling them."

In February a collection of works by several guild members, who meet once a week to make art, will be featured.

Folk art by Christine Akrigg will be mounted in March, Debbie Dewar is

April's artist of the month, Judy Hershmilller's eye-pleasing landscapes will be seen at the library in May, her first showing since an exhibit in Melville several years ago. Realistic works by Debra Malley will be shown in June and Darlene Clarke's floral watercolors and wildlife in July.

All guild members will exhibit in the annual art show and sale in Lebert which this year will be held on the July 12th weekend. The guild also exhibits at the Midsummer Arts Festival in August.

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238 - 3rd Ave. E.
Office Ph. 306-728-2551
Office Hours: Mondays
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Clergy: Deacon Kevin Prouten
www.stpaulsmelville.ca

Sunday, Jan. 12:
2 p.m. Worship at St. Paul's
and Sunday School
Thursday, Jan. 16:
5 p.m. MACC Community
supper at St. Henry's

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
Church Office 306-728-5764;
306-720-0589

Jan. 12: 10:30 a.m.
Service with Communion

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org

Jan. 12: 11 a.m. Worship
with Ray Yost
Jan. 14: 3:30 p.m. Council Meets

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER
(A Church with a Caring Heart)
800 Prince Edward St.
(Melville Comm. Works)
Ph. 306-728-2347
Pastor Tim Oehler

Sundays:
9:55 a.m. Pre-service Prayer
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Welcome
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
www.melvillechurch.org
Facebook @melvillechurch
Recorded messages
posted online

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville

Jan. 9: 7 p.m. Bible Study
Jan. 12: 10:30 a.m. Worship
Jan. 15: 9 a.m. Budget Meeting
Jan. 16: 7 p.m. Bible Study

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102

Sunday, Jan. 12:
11:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Jan. 19:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

MELVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
473 - 8th Ave. W.
Office Ph. 306-728-5022
Pastor Jon Pettinger
Associate Pastor: Jesse Darby

Sunday:
Connections at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service at 11 a.m.
Online services can be found at:
www.melvillebaptist.com

ST. HENRY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
729 Main St. - Office
Ph. 306-728-5702
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111 - 8th Ave. W.
Father Melchor Samonte

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.

Melville Churches Welcome You

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Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001

Jan. 12: Worship 10:30 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. - Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com

Sunday, Jan. 12:
11:00 a.m. Divine Service
*Church of the Lutheran Hour
heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton*

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Worship Service ~ 10:30 a.m.

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

Thursday - Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday Kids Club - 3:30 p.m.

EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY
Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Youth Group - 7 p.m.
Rev. Dr. James R. Graham

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapathil
Saturday, Jan. 11
5:30 p.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Jan. 12: 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Cheryl Johnson

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Jan. 12: No Service

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Jan. 12: 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service

Indian Head Church Welcomes You

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
801 Buxton St. - Indian Head, SK
306-695-3838

Sunday Services 11 a.m.
*Family Play Group -
Mondays, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon
*Living with Cancer Support Group
2nd Tuesday of the Month

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Kipling Churches Welcome You

KIPLING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
417 3rd Street South
Office: 306-736-8268
Sunday Services 10 a.m.
email: pipestoneparish@sasktel.net

KIPLING UNITED CHURCH
102 Nelson Ave. - 306-736-2237
email: kwpc@sasktel.net
*Services Held 1st and 3rd Sundays
at 9:30 a.m. Minister will vary*

KIPLING PEOPLE'S CHURCH
701 3rd Street - 306-736-8992
Website: kiplingpeopleschurch.com
Pastors: Kevin & Merodee Hassler
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship and
Children's Ministry

ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
418 First St., Kipling
Pastor: Father Joseph Villamartin
306-538-2163
Saturday, Jan. 11:
Mass 6:30 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
400 3rd St. South, Kipling
306-736-2447, Doris
306-424-2604, George
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

BEKEVAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
102 Nelson Ave.
(in Kipling United Church)
Sunday Worship
in person 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Devon Pattimore
Lay Person/Service Leader
306-736-2479
bkbernat@gmail.com

PARKLAND BIBLE CHURCH
309 3rd. St. South, Kipling
306-736-2421
parklandagc@sasktel.net

Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship Service
Thursday: 9 a.m.- 12 noon
Coffee with Pastor
Wednesday: 10 a.m. Mom's Group

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH Fort Qu'Appelle
Sunday service 10:30 a.m.
Service is also available on YouTube
and will be livestreamed
306-900-0600
Fort Qu'Appelle - valleyalliance.ca

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
202 Bay Ave. S.,
Phone - 306-551-6213
Hall Contact - 306-331-6720

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

194 Bay St., Fort Qu'Appelle
Rev. Jo Mader, 306-332-4455
Sunday School & Service 10:30
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family fellowship. Facebook Live.

Lights competition winners

Town of Balcarres

By Judy Hershmilller
Grasslands News

Happy New Year - I hope everyone had a safe, happy and warm new year celebration where ever you were.

Sincere sympathy to the families of Adam Lucyk, Blaine Crittenden and Howard Rand (Chico) Norton who recently passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Winners Announced

Before Christmas a Christmas Lights competition was held in the community. There were many beautiful homes and yards and entries. Hats off to everyone who made our town look so beautiful over the holidays and to the individuals and businesses who offered the generous prizes.

Winners were announced as follows: First place, 105 Charles Cres. Winner of a \$50 gift certificate to RW and Sons Builders and \$100 to Mustard Kitchen etc., Balcarres. Second place to 105 MacDonald St. Winner of a Sweet Treat Basket

donated by Holly Lowe of Clip n' Curl and Dana Lowe of Country Edge and \$50 to Mustard Kitchen etc., Balcarres. Third place went to 114 Dianne St. Winner of a gift basket donated by Baber's Pharmacy, Balcarres and \$25 to Mustard Kitchen, etc., Balcarres.

Honorable mention went to 118 Westview Dr. who also had a beautiful Christmas display.

The time and energy that so many put into making their homes and yards so beautiful was enjoyed by everyone.

RCMP determined it was a non-criminal situation and transferred the investigation to the Saskatchewan Coroners Service, which is responsible for investigating sudden deaths in the province.

Since the death did not result from criminal activity, and in order to maintain the privacy of those involved in the incident, the RCMP could not provide further details to Grasslands News.

Officers located the adult male, but EMS declared him deceased at the scene.

RCMP responded to a report of an injured person outside the Indian Head Bakery.

Incident on Grand Ave., Indian Head

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

A serious incident occurred on Grand Ave. in Indian Head just before the Christmas holidays.

RCMP informed Grasslands News that on Dec. 14 at approximately 10:45 p.m., the Indian Head de-

tachment responded to a report of an injured person outside the Indian Head Bakery.

Officers located the adult male, but EMS declared him deceased at the scene.

RCMP determined it was a non-criminal situation and transferred the investigation to the Sas-

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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 Norman Frederick Covey

May 16, 1936 – Dec. 13, 2024



Norman Frederick Covey, beloved husband of Marlene (Yung/Dick) Covey, passed away on Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, at Preeceville Long Term Care. He was 88 years of age. Norman was born May 16, 1936, the first child of Bernice (Vern) and Martha (Krenbrenk) Covey at Empress, Alta. Norman moved with his parents to the Endeavour district in the fall of 1937. Due to the tough times of the Dirty Thirties and the Second World War the family moved to Flin Flon in 1943 to find work. In 1948 the family was able to move back to the Endeavour area and purchased a quarter of land. Norman attended school in Flin Flon, Endeavour and Midland School. After he left school, he worked on various local farms and in the bush in the winter. In 1955, he was able to purchase his first quarter of land which set his future path as a farmer. In 1957, he returned to Flin Flon and got a job with Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting. He worked mining at Flin Flon, Snow Lake and a short time at Thompson and Lanigan mines. During these years holidays and weekends were spent at Endeavour clearing and working the land with his father.

March 1984 saw the biggest change in his life when he married Marlene (Yung) Dick of Abernethy, a widow with two teenage sons. They made their home in Abernethy, farming both the land at Endeavour and the land at Abernethy for six years. Their theme song became "On the Road Again"! In 1990 Norman and Marlene bought an RTM home from Yorkton and moved it into Preeceville where they resided until the fall of 2023.

Norman loved farming and working the land. He enjoyed curling in his younger days, dancing, fishing, hunting and camping. In his retirement he took up woodworking, reading and feeding the birds.

Norman leaves to mourn his passing, his loving wife of 40 years, Marlene; step-son Kelvin (Shirley) and their children, Dalton and Chelsey (Lance), and their daughter, Alethea; step-daughter-in-law, Denise and son, Shayne; nieces, Marilyn (Owen) Dennis and Maureen (Todd) Broadbent; brother-in-law Ken (Delores) Yung and their children, Murray and Les; sister-in-law Elaine Hack and her children, Rhonda, Yvonne, Brenda and Dean.

Norman is predeceased by his parents, Vern and Martha; sisters, Alice (Richard) Scharfenberg, and Nelda (Joe) Myden; step-son Norman Dick; brother-in-law Erwin Hack. Norman will be missed by all who knew him.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, at St. James Anglican Church, Endeavour, SK, with Phyllis Verbeek and Kathy Ambrose officiating. Gaylene Palagian and Lennette Geistlinger read the scripture. Marilyn Dennis sang "It is Well with My Soul". Debbie Blender played the piano for the singing of the hymns 'In the Garden', 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus' and 'The Far Side Banks of Jordan'.

The interment followed in the St. George Ypres Cemetery with Dalton Dick, Kelvin Dick, Shayne Dick, Barry Rieder, Owen Dennis and Gordon MacDonald serving as casket bearers.

Memorial donations may be made to St. James Anglican Church (Box 434, Preeceville, Sk. S0A 3B0) or St. George Ypres Cemetery (Box 205, Endeavour, SK S0A 0W0) as gifts of remembrance.

Condolences can be sent to the family by visiting Norman's tribute page at preecevillefuneralhome.com

Arrangements were entrusted to Preeceville Funeral Home.

Obituary Michael Mann

July 13, 1923 – Dec. 14, 2024



Michael Mann was born on a farm north of Oakshela, SK, on July 13, 1923, to Jacob and Emma (Geib) Mann. He passed away on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, at the age of 101 years.

Michael received his schooling at a farm school north of Oakshela. After leaving home, he worked for various family members and other farmers. He enjoyed being around horses and farm animals.

Michael was also employed at Rail City Industries before moving to St. Paul Lutheran Home.

Mike was predeceased by his parents, Jacob and Emma Mann; stepmother Elizabeth Mann; brothers Reinhold (Effie), Rudy (Helen), Alfred, Bill, Arthur, Ernest and Oscar (Eleanor); stepbrothers Ronald Yethon and Andrew Yethon; stepsisters Lily (Russell) Billings, Evelyn Weimer and Olga (Albert) Besler; and great-nephew Calvin Mann.

He leaves to mourn his passing his brothers, Herb (Trudy) Mann and Henry (Phyllis) Mann; sisters-in-law Thurza Mann and Joy Yethon; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff at St. Paul Lutheran Home for their loving care and compassion.

Mike's funeral service was held Friday, Dec. 20, 2024, at Matthews Funeral Home, Melville, with the Rev. Dawn Myrfield officiating. Interment will take place at a later date in St. John's Lutheran cemetery, Oakshela, Sask.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.



Obituary Howard Rand "Chico" Norton

Feb. 28, 1953 – Dec. 25, 2024



Howard Rand "Chico" Norton passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024 at the age of 71 years.

Rand was born in Balcarres, Sask., where he grew up on the family farm. He lived life to the fullest enjoying his time playing hockey, team penning, roping, hunting, trapping, family, friends, holidays in Zihuatanejo with Toni and watching his favourite sports teams: Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Blue Jays and Saskatchewan Roughriders.

His personality was larger than life, always kind and charismatic, with an amazing sense of humour. His greatest love was his family and large circle of friends.

Rand will be missed by his wife Toni; children: Krista, Jaclyn and Jason (Jenn); grandchildren: Rylee, Sophia, Austin, Londyn, Jazzelle and Jakobe; brothers Terry (Debbie) and Larry (Corinna); sisters Shelly (Gord) and Marsha (Don) and their families, as well as numerous friends.

Rand was predeceased by his parents, Doug and Bunny and mother-in-law Lyn.

A Celebration of Rand's Life will be held in the Balcarres Lions Hall, Balcarres, Sask., on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. The family would like to thank Dr. Iqbal and the nursing staff of the Allan Blair Cancer Clinic for their care. Memorial donations may be made to the Allan Blair Cancer Centre, c/o Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, 200-4545 Parliament Avenue, Regina, SK S4W 0G3. Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



Obituary Jessie Pitura

Sept. 1, 1920 – Dec. 23, 2024



"A life well-lived"

It is with sadness that the family of Jessie Pitura (nee Leganchuk) announces her passing on Monday, Dec. 23, 2024, at the age of 104 years.

She passed away peacefully at the Coteau Range Manor in Avonlea, SK, where she resided for the past year and a half.

Jessie was the only daughter born to Joseph and Mary Leganchuk. She had five brothers. Her early years were spent on the farm. After her marriage to Andrew Pitura in 1937, she became a dedicated and supportive partner to their many moves. They started their life together in northern Ontario followed by moving to a farm near Basswood, Manitoba. Finally, they purchased and operated the Kennedy Hotel in Kennedy, SK, where they enjoyed an active life in the community.

After retiring from the hotel, they moved to Minnedosa, MB, where they had extended family in the area. Friendly and kind, they made many new friends and continued their active lives.

After losing her husband in 1990 and living alone for many years, Jessie moved to Regina, SK, to be closer to her children and grandchildren. Here, she made her home in an apartment on Rae Street and lived there until she reached the age of 100 years. She moved into a care home in Regina with one final move to the Coteau Range Manor in Avonlea, SK, where she was close to family and friends and had many visitors. Jessie received excellent care from the staff of the Manor, for which the family is very grateful.

Jessie is lovingly remembered by her three children, daughter Mary (John) Slusar and sons Stan Pitura and Ron (Charm) Pitura; and grandchildren, Bruce (Donna) Slusar, Robb (Mona) Slusar, Colleen (Bob) McCrank, Scott (Nancy) Pitura, Doug (Cathy) Pitura, Carla Pitura, Janet (Garth) Spence, Dale (Sue) Pitura, Kyla (Dwayne) DeDecker, Jennifer Johnson, Tommi (Kurtis) Kish, and Cole Pitura. Jessie is also survived by 33 great-grandchildren; 32 great-great-grandchildren; and two brothers, John Leganchuk and Arthur (Lillian) Leganchuk.

Jessie was predeceased by her parents, Joseph and Mary Leganchuk; husband Andrew; daughter-in-law Peggy Pitura; grandson Daniel Pitura; her brothers and their wives, Michael and Lena Leganchuk, James and Mary Leganchuk, Edward and Rose Leganchuk; as well as a sister-in-law Clara Leganchuk.

Funeral Mass for Jessie was held on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, at Resurrection Roman Catholic Parish, 3155 Windsor Park Road, Regina, SK, at 1:00 p.m. Officiating at the service was Father Brad Fahlman and Deacon Joe Lang. Reception followed. Interment was held at the Minnedosa Cemetery, 141 2 Avenue SE, Minnedosa, MB.

Donations in the memory of Jessie may be made to the Coteau Range Manor, 210 New Warren Place, Avonlea, SK, S0H 0E4.

To leave an online message of condolence or to watch a livestream of the service, please visit www.speersfuneralchapel.com

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Obituary

Gloria Marie Ritter
June 28, 1935 - Dec. 24, 2024

Gloria Marie Ritter, 89, of Regina, SK, (formerly of Melville, SK), died Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, at Regina General Hospital surrounded by her family.

Gloria is lovingly remembered by her son, Robin (Iffat) and grandsons Aden (Leslie) and Logan; daughter Nancy Pilon (David) and granddaughter Sara; and son Jeff (Leanne) and granddaughter Lindsay. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

Gloria was born on June 28, 1935, to Tom and Mary Mosewich in Cana, SK. After finishing school, she moved to Melville and worked at the Royal Bank, where she met the love of her life, Ralph. They married on Dec. 17, 1955, and they were devotedly together for 57 years until his passing.

Gloria was known for her active involvement in the community. She was involved in several athletic organizations such as the Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association (SSFA) in track and field, where she competed and won numerous events. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Beta Sigma Phi, the Kinettes and the K-ettes.

Gloria and Ralph travelled extensively and spent over 20 perfect winters in Arizona in the company of friends. Their many years there led to a number of hobbies and activities such as hiking, stained glass work, silver smithing and ceramics. She also loved her summers at the cottage at Crooked Lake, where many laughs and good times were shared with friends and family.

Gloria was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Ralph, and her brothers and sisters.

We are grateful for the life we shared with Gloria and are comforted that she is at peace and reunited with Ralph, whom she missed so much.

A funeral service was held Friday, Jan. 3, 2025 at Matthews Funeral Home, Melville, with the Rev. Ron Shumba officiating. Yvette Beutel gave the eulogy and the congregation listened to some of Gloria's favourite songs. Interment took place in Melville City Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.



Obituary

Betty Smiley (Smith)
March 31, 1934 - Dec. 6, 2024

With incredible sorrow Betty's family announces her passing. Although she was 90, it was very sudden. We are sure Dad and many others were waiting with open arms for her arrival. The family requests, in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Society.

Mom was the youngest of 11 children with 24 years between herself and her oldest sibling and five years between herself and the second youngest. When she was born her Dad was already 50, her mom was 47, and one sibling had already passed. She already had two nieces. She didn't meet her oldest brother until she was already two and was quite upset when he called her mother 'mom'.

As in many large Catholic families, the older siblings helped raise the younger ones. It was not a good time to be the youngest as you were the last one in the bathtub. Otherwise she had a happy childhood, loving the farm animals, especially the cats. They had a small house with only two bedrooms, so her dad built a "shack" to house the many children. Mom said they loved the shack, laying in the bed hearing the coyotes howl and the rain on the roof. She grew up in the depression, so Christmas gifts were small items - colouring books, crayons or homemade items. They had a Ford Model T, but it was parked in the winter, so they used a horse and sleigh or cutter to go to town.

Mom met Joseph Smiley - who would become her adoring husband - in Plenty where they both worked in the bank. Then the true adventure began. After many moves all over Saskatchewan, they moved to Whitewood in the early 70s, where they settled. After many years of work, Mom retired from Postmistress of the Post Office at 60.

Mom always loved gardening, curling, coffee parties with her friends and travelling. After retirement and becoming empty nesters, mom and dad developed quite the social life. They began travelling more, enjoying many bus trips with family and friends, often making new friends along the way. From remarkable trips to the Maritimes and Hawaii to frequent visits to Round Lake for dances to camping with friends, they filled photo albums with memories testifying to a life well-lived.

In recent years mom had some medical issues that held her back, but never dampened her sense of humour or wit. She took up bingo and, though she said she never won, she often had an unexplained prize in her room. She still loved watching curling and sometimes she thought she might curl next year. She could still whip your butt at Crib and loved to play Wahoo on the board dad made, joyfully sending you back to start over.

But her greatest love was her family, and she was proud of each and everyone of us. We had moved Mom to Slave Lake in June 2021, as she was alone in Broadview and Covid restricted visits from her friends. Mom especially loved it when all three of her children visited her concurrently, delighting in sharing meals and playing games. She was always chilled, so only left the home in the summer,



enjoying the parades with Shelley's family, eating the great grandchildren's cotton candy, and "camping" at the beach.

As we speak to friends and relatives one word has been often repeated: KIND. Mom was kind. She took in the strays and not just animals. She was always there to help a friend or volunteer at a function. Everyone was always welcome in her home, offered food, coffee or a drink. She continued that kindness in the home, where her new neighbor mentioned mom was the only one that welcomed her when she moved in.

Betty was predeceased by her beloved Joe, her grandson Tyler, her parents, and all her siblings and their spouses. Left to mourn her passing are her children: Debbie (Roy), Terry (Jean), and Shelley (Gordon); her grandchildren, Corey, Amy, Chad, Garrett, Justin, Travis and Robyn; her great-grandchildren, Jayden, Ashton, Jayce, Ryder, Peyton, Carter, Richelle, Ryleigh, Jacob and Jude and her many nieces, nephews and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a currently undetermined date in Slave Lake, and she will be laid to rest in Whitewood beside Dad.

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(Municipal Elections)

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PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

Councillor: RM of Montmartre No. 126 Division No. 5

will be received by the undersigned on the 29th day of January, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Municipal Office, 136 Central Avenue, Montmartre, SK, and during regular business hours on January 10th, 2025 to January 28th, 2025.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the Municipal Office, 136 Central Avenue, Montmartre, SK.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2025.

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Obituary **Pauline Roberta Ward** Jan. 26, 1941 - Dec. 29, 2024



With a heavy heart, we announce that our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend, Pauline Roberta Ward (nee Pittlik) died peacefully with family at her side late Sunday night, Dec. 29, 2024.

Pauline was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Ward; her parents, Paul Joseph and Elizabeth (Bessie) Ann (nee Roberts) Pittlik; her in-laws, Frederick Courtney and Susan Mary (nee Wells) Ward; her beloved little girl, Lindamay Jean, in infancy; son-in-law Roy Mounthey; daughter-in-law Barbara Ward (nee McKay); granddaughter-in-law Lori McKay; sisters and brothers-in-law, her infant sister in 1939, Sharon Ward, Glenda (Dave) Read, Jewel (Joe) Middlemas and Steve Kormos; brother/sisters-in-law Courtney Ward, Alvery (Maude) Ward, Maurice Ward, Hector (Olive) Ward, Garnet (Rita) Ward, Jerry (Ivy) Ward, Earl (Mary) Ward; Richard Ward; Frank Ward; Marion (Frank) Graves, Irene (Maurice) Turcotte, Emma (Hugh) Jones; Doris (Vincent) Evans; Winton Louttit; and Margaret Ward.

Pauline leaves many to remember and pass on her love and wisdom: her beloved children, Joanne Mounthey, Paul Ward, Roberta Ward, Bentley Ward (Wanda), Sandra Flegel (J. Paul), Frederick Ward (Michelle), Melissa Lummerding (Bill) and Victor Ward (Sherri); her cherished grandchildren, Jennifer Mounthey, Christopher Mounthey (Kalee), Kendra Stav (Mitchell), Kyle Mounthey (Chelsie), Amanda Herbert (Brett), Amber Stehr (Mark), Kerry Williams (Tim), Melanie Delorme, Wally McKay, Robin Yuzicapi, Brittany Frick (Jordan), Bryce Ward, Brady Ward (Kirsten Boughner), Braxton Ward, Stephen Flegel (Alison Walsh), Johanna Flegel, Haylea Ward, Sarah Ward, Vaughn Ward and Jayar Lummerding; her precious great-grandchildren, Alexys Ludwar, Aleah Mounthey, Michael Mounthey, Tyrell Mounthey, Shawna Mounthey, Sophia Stav, Sterling Stav, Deeghan Smith, Dantaye Smith, Sawyer Herbert, Sia Herbert, Evan Osiowy, Gavin Stehr, Jacob Stehr, Lily Flegel, Kyra Flegel and Addy Walsh; her cherished sister, Elenor Kormos; brother-in-law Ted Ward; sisters-in-law Freda Louttit, Helen Ward and Darlene Ward; many nieces and nephews whom Pauline loved deeply; friends and neighbours of all ages and walks of life who became, and are part of, Pauline's family.

Pauline was born Jan. 26, 1941, in Saskatoon, SK; she was the oldest of five girls. She attended Aston School for most of her education, then Bangor School with the exception of her Grade 11 year when she went to school in Edmonton, AB. She then finished her Grade 12 at Bangor School. Pauline married the "man of her dreams", Joe Ward, on Oct. 15, 1960. Pauline and Joe farmed and raised the majority of their children on the farm that Joe grew up on. Pauline had many different jobs over her life; she was the janitor for Bangor School for many years, worked at Donut World and the AG Kuziak building in Yorkton. She was the cook at the Classic Inn in Melville while still living on the farm.

In the fall of 1984, Pauline and her family moved to Melville, SK, to the house she was living in up until her death. Once in Melville, she was the head cook at the Cameo restaurant, the Flamingo restaurant and then the King George Hotel restaurant; she retired while at King George.

Pauline was active in her community and church. She had many different roles while a member of All Saints' Anglican Church in Melville, as well as being an active member at both the Bangor and Llewellyn Anglican churches. She loved curling and watching sports, any sports, especially ones that included her family and friends, as well as the Melville Millionaires, where she proudly wore the title of "Mama Mils". She couldn't go to a game without someone making a special trip to where she sat to say "Hi!" to Mama Mils.

Pauline had the biggest heart and always had room for more. It didn't matter who her family would bring into her life, be it a girl/boyfriend, potential spouse, friend or casual acquaintance, Pauline included them in her life, and they were now part of her family.

As one of Pauline's daughters has commented, "We can take comfort in knowing she is dancing with her husband, Joe, rocking her daughter, Lindamay, in her arms, and having coffee with all her sisters who have gone before her." Pauline will be greatly missed by many; however, her smile will always be with us in our hearts.

A prayer service was held Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at Matthews Funeral Home, Melville, followed by Pauline's funeral service at All Saints' Anglican Church, Melville, on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, with the Rev. Kim Sherwin officiating. The organist was Gaylene Matthews and the readers were Paul Flegel and Sherri Ward. The eulogists were Joanne Mounthey, Roberta Ward, Sandra Flegel and Melissa Lummerding. Grandchildren providing tributes were Amber Stehr, Johanna Flegel, Kendra Stav, Sophia Stav, Jayar Lummerding and Haylea Ward. Honorary pallbearers were Pauline's grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all who knew her. Interment took place in the Bangor cemetery with Jennifer Mounthey, Kendra Stav, Amanda Herbert, Amber Stehr, Johanna Flegel, Brittany Frick, Haylea Ward and Sarah Ward acting as pallbearers.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.



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The Saskatchewan Health Authority has several cook and food service worker positions available in Wolseley, Indian Head, Fort Qu'Appelle, Balcarres and Montmartre. Responsibilities may include organizing, producing and distributing food and beverages. No experience required.

Starting wages for cooks \$23.17/hour and food service workers \$19.52/hour.



Saskatchewan Health Authority

Please Please contact Tyler Arnott:
Tyler.Arnott@saskhealthauthority.ca
or (306) 901-7028

Town of Kipling Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Starting: As Soon as Possible Scope: Full-Time / Permanent

The Town of Kipling, located in Southeast Saskatchewan on Highway 48, is a vibrant and growing community with a population of 1,042 (Census 2021). Kipling offers a range of services, including a new Integrated Health Facility, various health providers, a Pre-K to 12 school, accredited subsidized daycare, a library, and numerous recreational facilities (indoor arena, outdoor rink, curling rink, pool, golf course, and more).

The Town is seeking a highly motivated and experienced Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to serve as a key liaison between the seven-member Town Council and the municipal staff. The CAO will play a crucial role in managing day-to-day operations and fostering a collaborative work environment.

Key Responsibilities:

- Serve as the main point of contact between the Town Council and municipal staff.
- Oversee the implementation of Council policies and decisions.
- Manage municipal operations and ensure efficient delivery of services.
- Handle financial management, including budgeting, payroll, utility billing, and tax rolls using MuniSoft software.
- Supervise staff, including hiring, training, and disciplinary actions when required.
- Ensure effective communication within the organization and with the public.
- Act as an ambassador for Kipling in promoting its values and vision.

Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will have:

- A certificate in Local Government Administration (or equivalent).
- Experience in a municipal government setting.
- Proficiency with MuniSoft software, including General Ledger (GL), Accounts Payable (AP), Accounts Receivable (AR), tax rolls, and utility billing.
- Experience in Human Resources, including recruitment, training, and, when necessary, disciplinary actions.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to build relationships within the community.
- Exceptional time management skills and the ability to multitask effectively.
- A high degree of self-motivation and a proactive approach to leadership.

Additional Assets:

- Knowledge of Economic Development practices.
- Experience working with Rural Municipalities (RMs) and Villages to support regional initiatives.
- Familiarity with Leisure Services and recreational program management.

Compensation:

- Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience, based on UMAAS guidelines.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should submit their application to kiptown@sasktel.net. Please include the following:

- A current resume.
- Two recent employment references.
- At least one non-employment character reference.
- A recent Criminal Records Check.

Application Deadline: January 24, 2025 (or until the position is filled).

Thank you to all applicants for their interest in this position. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Support for Echo Valley Trails a boost for the park

\$3,000 Christmas Eve gift

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

The Echo Valley Trails Advisory Group which helps groom, maintain and promote the hiking and cross-country ski trails that run through Echo Valley Provincial Park, received a \$3,000 gift on Christmas Eve to boost its efforts in the park.

The money was raised by Jenna and Kevin Bedel who last year created the Pasqua Peaks Trails Race as a fundraiser to help the advisory group continue its work.

“We work with the park to maintain the trails, cut branches and generally mark the trails,” said Rick Minett who started a previous trail race 12 years ago which ran until 2018 when the annual event fell by the wayside.

The area became a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts like Kevin Bedel and his sister Jenna who want to connect with nature and set out to create a new event. More than 150 people registered last year for the 25 km, 13 km or 5 km race events.

“We love running out here, we did it because we wanted more people to know these trails were here,” explained Kevin Bedel.

“The Trails Race contributes to a sense of community. We hope to make the race an annual event each October. Autumn especially is a great time to be out in the valley.”

The Bedel siblings inherited their love of the outdoors from their parents, Julie and Larry Bedel who kick-started the auxiliary group with Minett almost a decade

ago when they went looking for the hiking trails but couldn't find them.

They had been laid out by the landscape architects but hadn't been fully developed.

“We identified things in an attempt to bring more tourists here and set to work to let others in on the natural beauty that is here,” said Julie Bedel.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Boost for the trails

Echo Valley Trails Advisory Group president Rick Minett (C) accepts a cheque from Jenna Bedel (R) and her brother Kevin (L) who raised \$3,000 for outdoor enthusiasts when they revived the Pasqua Peaks Trail Race.

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Carbon Tax on Poilievre's list to be chopped

continued from front

where the increase kicks in. But, if we earn the confidence of the Canadian people, we'll be able to undo that and cancel the Carbon Tax altogether."

He goes on to say that while removing the Carbon Tax itself will not be a difficult process, the same cannot be said for the task of restoring faith in the Canadian economy.

"Because it is a taxation measure, it's a relatively straight-forward process to repeal the Carbon Tax. But many of the moves that Justin Trudeau has made may take some time to correct. Or it might take some time to restore confidence in the Canadian economy.

"For example, by imposing the Carbon Tax and moving the goalposts on things like pipeline construction, Justin Trudeau has made Canada completely unattractive to invest in - to the point where we have had Canadian companies that liquidated and picked up their assets, or changed their name, and moved to the US to invest in pipelines down there.

"We're going to not just have to repeal the legislature that caused that, but we're going to have to work to restore that confidence in investors that Canada is once again a place where you can invest and have a good return for your employees. So, we understand that some things are going to be more straightforward than others."

Scheer goes on to say that the Conservative party will be focused, both before and during the anticipated election, on providing a more comprehensive outline of their platform for the voters tasked with evaluating it.

"Our job is to put our vision in front of Canadians and explain how we're going to do things. For example, with the housing crisis, Pierre has outlined some general steps that he will take. This includes removing the GST on new home construction. Home builders say that alone will lead to about 50,000 new homes being built in Canada. Incentivizing municipalities to lower their permitting times and simplify their permitting process is another step that we will take. This is a simple measure, and we'll work closely to make sure municipalities do that.

"We are very aware that some things can be

done more quickly while other things will take more time. But our first step will be to explain to Canadians what it is we're going to do - earn their confidence - and receive a mandate from Canadian voters."

When it comes to dealing with a budget that comes packaged with a record-high deficit, Scheer says that a Conservative government would be determined to abide by principles such as "find a way to save a dollar before you spend a dollar."

"We will have a comprehensive platform where we will show Canadians all the areas where we will have a different approach and exactly how we will chart our path back to balanced budgets. But there are some general principles that we will be following. The Liberals have this terrible habit of measuring success in dollars spent instead of results. So, when you look at their announcements, they're always announcing how much money they're spending and never really track the result.

"We've tracked quite a few areas where saving money is possible, because money that is being spent is not bringing about real results. For example, the Liberals say that they are going to tackle social challenges. But instead of feeding people or housing people, they give the money to third party advocacy or lobby groups. Of course, well over a billion dollars is being spent on the CBC. And the Liberal government has sent a lot of taxpayer money overseas to countries that have dictatorships with terrible human rights records.

"So, we are going to be looking at all spending through the lens of ques-



Resigns
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced on Monday that he would resign once a new leader has been chosen for the Liberal Party. Local MP's are criticizing him for shutting down Parliament during a crucial time with the new US President coming in.

tions like: Could the free market be doing this better? Could we solve more problems by getting out of the way instead of spending money? Is money going to actual, front-line people or NGOs and high-

priced consultants in Ottawa? Just by doing this, we've already identified billions of dollars in savings."

Similarly, Scheer says that dealing with the issue of crime will involve

assessing the results of policies which he points to as being the root of the problem.

"If you look at the explosion of crime, including violent crime, which has gone up 50% in the nine years with Justin Trudeau as Prime Minister, you can trace it all back to their legislation, which created an easy bail system in Canada, where judges and prosecutors were forced to grant bail to people who didn't deserve it - people who already had long rap sheets and had already proven to be a threat to communities.

"And the Liberal approach to drugs - which calls injecting heroin and using opioids and methamphetamine 'safe supply' is a slap in the face of every family member who has lost a loved one to addictions.

"Undoing the Liberal legislation that caused the problem in the first place and focusing on recovery in the two-pronged ap-

proach we'll have to deal with the crime problem that these policies have caused."

During these next few weeks of waiting, Scheer says that the Conservative Party will lay the groundwork for the election campaign that is to come.

"We're going to highlight the Liberal leadership contenders and show Canadians that changing the face on the poster doesn't undo the damage that Trudeau and the Liberal party has done."

"At the same time, we're going to talk to Canadians about how a Pierre Poilievre government will make life more affordable by axing the carbon tax, make our communities safer by putting dangerous offenders behind bars and building more homes by getting local bureaucrats out of the way. That way, when the election finally happens, Canadians will have a clear choice in front of them."

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