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Community must be involved in protecting local health services

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

There are certain fundamental necessities that form the foundation of a healthy community. Access to reliable health services in the community is one of these. Yet residents in some smaller Saskatchewan communities see their local health services disrupted and destabilized and are becoming increasingly frustrated with a health care system that seems unable to effectively respond to this.

For residents in Broadview, it seemed the only solution to the situation they were facing was to become advocates for their own health care.

The Broadview Hospital Reopen Committee formed after the Acute Care beds and Emergency Room were closed and lab services severely reduced at that hospital in September 2019. David Bettschen (Committee Chair) says that it initially seemed nothing had been done to address what should have been a preventable problem beforehand or effectively deal with that problem once it existed.

“When our hospital first closed, it was because the staff member that had been our technician for the past forty years was

a committee member) says that the group decided to adopt a proactive approach to the problem.

“Members of our committee launched a recruitment effort, meeting with students studying to be lab technicians before they graduated. Our Health Foundation developed some incentives to encourage them to stay for three years, because if people are here for three years, they are more likely to feel that



Colleen Umpherville

they have become part of the community. And basically, we tried to think of ways to promote Broadview and get the word out about what was happening to the community as much as we could.”

Ultimately, Bettschen says that the committee’s efforts did produce results.

“What the committee did – worked. We’ve got our hospital opened back up to 66 per cent with our ER open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days per week. We’ve now got two full-time Lab Techs for Broadview, and there is also a Multisite Lab Tech who is dedicated to working in Broadview for holidays and sick-time coverage.”

In January of last year, Umpherville and Bettschen note that SHA decided to bring Virtual Physician into Broadview Hospital so that the Emergency Room could reopen. However, they say that this measure was impeded by what later proved to be an unnecessary delay.

“Virtual Physician became part of our reality after our ER first closed down,” explains Umpherville. “But there was a delay in getting it set up. SHA told us that we would need to have fiber optics installed at the hospital for Virtual Physician to operate, because the doctor working virtually has to see things in real time. But the assumption was that we didn’t have fiber optics in our hospital. So, we were told this would

be a real roadblock.”

“But as it turned out, we had fiber optics already installed at the hospital” says Bettschen. “Our understanding is that around 2012-2013, the Provincial Government made a specific effort – at quite an expense – to have fiber optics installed in every rural hospital in the province. But nobody at SHA seemed to be aware of this. Because of that confusion, there was a six-month delay before Virtual Physician was put in place, and that delay was very detrimental to us”.

Once it was finally installed, Umpherville says that Virtual Physician was effective in helping to keep the Emergency Room open.

“We’ve come to the understanding that Virtual Physician is going to be a part of rural health care. And so far, it’s worked well for us. It doesn’t replace having a doctor on site. But it does allow someone who is experiencing an event to find out if that event is serious enough for them to be stabilized at our hospital and taken to another facility. And it also allows someone who has a child with an ear infection, for example, to come in and have that child assessed, and be sent home with the medication they need. This is exactly what would have happened in our Emergency Room before if a doctor was present.”

However, she notes that while Virtual Physician might become something that could provide support for doctors, its presence did not prevent one physician from deciding to leave the community.

“We can certainly see how Virtual Physician might make working in a smaller community more palatable for doctors. But even when we had all three doctors here and Virtual Physician was in place, they felt as though they were ‘on-call’ all the time. Then last fall we lost our third doctor. So, that’s even more the case now that we only have two doctors in the community. They just feel as though they are wearing out.”

Bettschen points out that the doctor who chose to leave Broadview had worked with one of his colleagues to develop a possible solution, but that solution was not accepted.

“The doctor who left last fall talked about his dissatisfaction with the



HANDOUT | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Something to talk about

Tuesday’s performance by the West Coast Canadiana band Rumour Mill - featuring Anna Katarina & Aline Deanna (pictured above) offered up a unique blend of folk/pop and other genres during this final Arts Council Concert of the season. See story on page 13.

working conditions here. He liked working in the hospital and the staff. But he expressed frustration about his dealings with the SHA Executive. He and one of the other doctors here came up with a rotation that they thought would work. They felt that if they had the equivalent of two Virtual Physician positions in place, the three doctors could work with that. But they were informed that this would not happen.”

Moreover, Bettschen says that even though the doctor felt he had given SHA adequate time to find a replacement, the position remains unfilled, and SHA has indicated that it is unlikely to be filled soon.

“The doctor who made his decision to leave was within his rights to make that choice. He’d had a one-year contract, and he’d fulfilled that contract. Before he left, he met with the committee and told us that he had given SHA at least two months’ notice that he was stepping away. So, he felt that he’d given them ample time to replace him. But that still hasn’t happened.”

“We asked the SHA about the most recent group of doctors to come out of the SIPPA (Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment) Program. But we’ve been told that we aren’t going to be getting one of those physicians.”

Both Umpherville and Bettschen note that uncertainty over the availability of health care services has had an impact on their community.

“If your health care situation isn’t stable, then it causes instability in the whole community,” says Umpherville. “People can end up making major decisions because of that uncertainty. If a person has a serious illness or an ongoing situation, they may get nervous and decide to leave the community. Seniors might decide that they have to go to where the health care situation seems more stable and end up in a larger community or city where they have no support - whereas before they were living in their home community where they had lots of support.”

“One of the other things that we did when we were first working to get out hospital reopened was talk to the local and area businesses” adds Bettschen. “When people go to another community to access health services, they also do the shopping that they would have otherwise done at our local businesses. And Vadersstad, for example, which is certainly one of the largest employers in this area, told us that they have a hard time attracting people to come to work there if the health care situation in nearby communities isn’t stable.”

Despite the progress

that has been made, Bettschen points out that the apparent inertia within the system that the group has encountered since it was formed continues to be a challenge.

“The local people from the SHA are willing to work with the community, because they feel they are members of it. They do excellent work in their area. But when it comes to the SHA management system, it doesn’t seem as though they share information very well within that system or within the community where they’re working. At least that was our experience. So, you go around and around, and the situation doesn’t seem to get resolved. It’s very frustrating.”

Consequently, Umpherville says that the need to advocate for the health services their community requires has not diminished.

“If our committee hadn’t done this work, we wouldn’t have the health services that we do right now, and I really wonder where we would have been at this point. Yet here we are, five years after our committee was formed, and we feel that we can’t stop our work or lose focus. Because if we do, we’re certain that things will slide backwards. So, we might have gotten our hospital reopened, but our job is not done.”



David Bettschen

retiring. Her departure wasn’t a surprise. Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) had ample opportunity to replace her. Yet when the time came and she retired, we were told that the position was advertised, but they couldn’t replace her. And if you don’t have a person in that position, you can’t have Acute Care beds and an Emergency Room operating. A few months after that, when it seemed nothing was being done to get the hospital reopened, the Broadview & District Health Foundation created the Broadview Hospital Re-Open Committee.

Colleen Umpherville (Mavor of Broadview and



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How survivors of Indian Boarding Homes can be compensated

By Claire McFarlane

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Indigenous people who were relocated to a boarding home so that they could attend school can now submit a claim under the Indian Boarding Homes Class Action to receive financial compensation.

The claims process opened in August 2024 after a federal court approved a \$1.9-billion settlement in the class action lawsuit.

Any Indigenous person who was a part of the boarding home program between 1951 and 1992 is

eligible to submit a claim online at boardinghomesclassaction.com

People who were placed in a boarding home after 1992 are also eligible if the federal government was responsible for the placement.

One of the lawyers representing the class, Douglas Lennox, said about three percent of the claims filed to date have come from the Northwest Territories.

About 33,000 people are said to be included in the class.

There are two types of claims that applicants can file. A category one

application, which any applicant has to complete, is fairly simple, Lennox said.

The category two application – intended for people seeking compensation for abuse, neglect or discrimination endured in the boarding homes program – is more involved, he said, and requires completion of a category one application at the same time.

The process requires applicants to complete an online form (the form expires after 30 minutes of inactivity, so it's best to have all the required information ready before beginning) and fill in basic information such as the applicant's name and address, while providing copies of a piece of ID.

Acceptable forms of ID can include a passport, driver's licence, general identification card, status card or Inuit beneficiary card.

Anyone without ID – or applying on behalf of someone who has passed away – can have a guar-

antor (someone who can vouch for the applicant) complete a statutory declaration form.

Applicants must also include the names of the schools they attended while living in a boarding home, as well as the location of the home and time period the applicant lived there.

Once the form is submitted, it is reviewed by a claims administrator who looks for proof that the federal government paid to send the applicant to a boarding home.

"Typically, the government would have spent money that they gave to non-Indigenous families who were hired to house the children in the program," said Lennox. That means there are typically records available to confirm someone was in the program, he said.

Applicants can expect to hear back from the claims administrator in six to eight months. If

there is sufficient proof that an applicant was part of the program, they will receive \$10,000 in compensation.

"What I would say to people is they should try to get their category one claim form in right away," said Lennox.

"If you get that answer back and it says you were in the program, then you can take the time to provide a more detailed answer about the abuse that you suffered," said Lennox about submitting a

category two claim.

Applicants who have a category two claim approved can receive up to \$200,000.

Both types of claims must be submitted by February 22, 2027.

"We want people to understand the history of our country," said Lennox.

"This is one of these things where kids were taken from their families and it was sad, and we're trying – as a country – to make amends for that."



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Indigenous Art heads for the Moon and beyond

By Carol Baldwin

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Two Saskatchewan artists submitted their work to be part of *The Lunar Codex*. Nigel Bell, a multiplatform musician from La Ronge, SK, is one of the Indigenous artists already selected to be part of the project. The second, Teagan Littlechief, a singer/songwriter from White Bear First Nation, said that including Indigenous people is another step towards reconciliation. “The recognition that Indigenous people work so hard every day in their artistic ways and just to be recognized in such a manner is a humble [sic] experience.”

Teagan Littlechief's name is familiar, not only because she is a rising artist who appeared on the province-wide Tel-emiracle 2024, but she also sat down with Funky Moose Radio's Joel Gaudet and Mark Poppin for 'The Sit Down Podcast -199' recorded in Bellevue in December 2023. Gaudet and Poppin are the people behind Bellevue's annual music festival, Moosefest. The podcast which can be viewed on YouTube is the pairs' effort to bring 'indie' Saskatchewan artists, those who produce music without the support of a record label, to listeners' attention. Littlechief performed three selections for those who attended the filming, *A Song We Can Sing To*, *Vulnerable*, and *Heartbreak Song* all written by a former Saskatchewan songwriter, Sean Hogan. (www.youtube.com/watch?v=hILDAtg4Qc8)

Littlechief has been singing and performing since she was five years old, both in private and public. She is open about her past struggle with addictions and took a hiatus from recording to get clean and sober and to free herself from a negative relationship. She came back focusing strongly on her music and is celebrating seven years of sobriety. She has received the SCMA Indigenous Artist

Award three years in a row, in 2024 she became the first Indigenous musician to win Female Artist of the Year, and in 2022 was awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award for Art.

Consistently topping Indigenous music charts and finding success on SiriusXM-Indigiverse, her most successful singles, including “Need You To Go,”

“Scar On My Heart,” and “Every Child Matters,” reflect her ability to connect with listeners on a personal and emotional level. The fact that she drove from Carlyle to Bellevue (a five-hour drive), in December, for a one-hour podcast speaks to her belief and desire to connect with rural communities. “I want to start where I am from and branch out from there...small towns are where you build your fans, this is where you meet people,” she said. “I love singing for people and in small communities because not everyone can get to the city... being invited to a smaller community, it's so much fun.”

The Lunar Codex is a curated archive of cultural works from across the globe, launched from Earth via NASA Artemis. The initiative known as the Artemis Program is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) plan to land humans on the Moon for the first time in over 50 years and establish a permanent base on its surface. NASA's Artemis III manned mission is scheduled to

launch in mid-2027. To prepare for this, NASA is launching unmanned missions with lunar landers via rockets developed by Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) and the United Launch Alliance (ULA). These missions carry NASA's instruments and commercial payloads,

including time capsules that form the *Lunar Codex* which embodies 250,000 cultural artifacts from over 40,000 artists, writers, musicians, and filmmakers representing 261 countries and territories, and 149 Indigenous nations. Essentially, the *Lunar Codex* is a collection of time capsules... messages in bottles for future generations. It is particularly noteworthy that, alongside the Artemis Program, which aims to land the first woman on the Moon, the *Lunar Codex* will be the first project to send the works of women artists to the lunar surface.

“Our hope is,” says curator and founder of Incandence Corp, Samuel Peralta, “that future travellers who find these time capsules will discover some of the richness of our world today... It speaks to the idea that, despite wars and pandemics and climate upheaval, humankind found time to create art, found time to dream.”

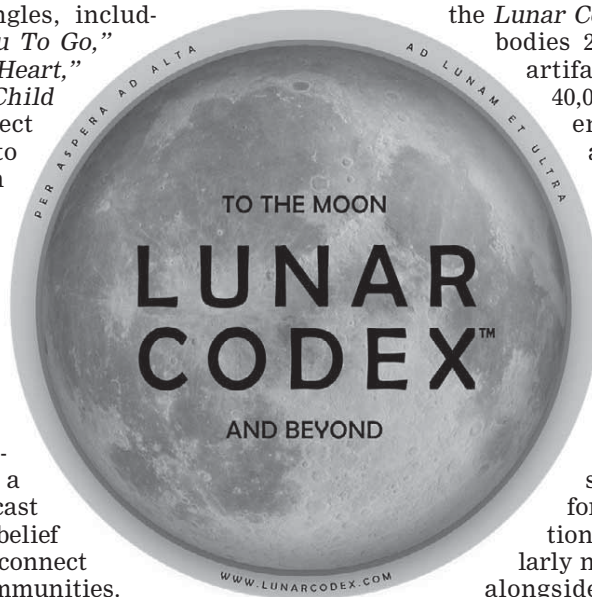
When asked to describe the project, Peralta has publicly said *The Lunar Codex* is a passion project. “It started as a project to spread hope during a dark

time - the lockdown, the years of pandemic, a time of economic upheaval, war, the realization that climate change was upon us. It attempts to instill the Moon with some of the heart of humanity, our art so that when we look at the sky, the Moon might become a tangible symbol of hope and of inspiration.”

Since the *Lunar Codex* does not receive payment, the curators are free to select works that fit the project's vision. Creators know that their works are selected for their significance to the cultural vision, not because of any payment.

Although still waiting to learn if her song is a part of the project, Littlechief submitted her single *Need You To Go*, a song about parenting, sobriety and making hard decisions when needed. “I hope that they get a little bit out of my story, that they know that everybody kind of has the same story, but hardships are manageable when we work on it,” she said of the song.

Littlechief said as a little girl she wished to travel outside of Earth and experience the universe to see what is out there. “For me, if this happens... it would be a dream that I never thought would ever be possible.”



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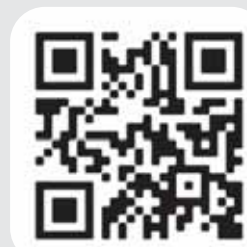
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Saskatchewan

Kinistino to receive 2025 Saskatchewan Music Award

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Erroll Kinistino from Ochapowace First Nation is being recognized for his contribution to the Saskatchewan music industry. He has been chosen to receive the Indigenous Music Achievement Award at the 2025 Saskatchewan Music Awards (SMA). Kinistino was initially reluctant to accept the accolade since he does not have formal music training; yet he agrees it represents a tribute to his parents' positive influence on his life.

Early Music Exposure

Kinistino was born in Whitewood and spent his childhood at Ochapowace First Nation and other communities in the area. Music was a significant part of his experience from a very young age. He learned numerous hymns while attending a Methodist church with his parents, and from his mother Rosalie who taught Sunday School. She had learned many of the songs as a child attending a residential school.

Kinistino's father Lawrence, who was from Little Bone reserve but transferred to Ochapowace, played the fiddle and guitar.

"He always had a guitar at the house, and I was curious about the guitar," Kinistino recalls. "I would see it hanging

up on the wall and I'd hit it and it made a nice humming sound and then I got curious about, well maybe I'll pluck the strings. My mother was patient enough to teach me to touch the G string and then the C and then I could make a melody from there."

Performance Opportunities

Kinistino's mother continually encouraged his interest in music. When he was about 3 years old, she took him to sing at the CHAB Radio station. A few years later, Kinistino and his sister travelled from Ochapowace with a Methodist minister to sing at another First Nation. He also remembers singing for his classmates at Broadview School and later participating in the Glee Club at Grenfell High School. As he grew older, he gained additional experience at various open mic events.

Over the years, Kinistino continued to perform as a soloist and as the Dog River Duo, with his partner Josie, or the Dog River Band that included Greg Campeau. The band's name was a reference to Kinistino's role as Phil, the bar tender, on a few seasons of the TV series *Corner Gas*.

Throughout his music career, Kinistino has performed in a variety of settings, from private events to festivals, visiting Toronto, Vancouver and

even Europe. He sings covers of popular songs as well as his own compositions. He also continues to share hymns like "In the Sweet By and By" that he learned as a child, particularly to bring comfort at funerals.

When he is not performing, Kinistino said he attends karaoke events to keep his skills sharp and to hear other talented musicians.

Songwriting

In addition to singing, Kinistino creates music and poetry inspired by his early years at Ochapowace First Nation. He feels that, as an elder now, this is an important means of sharing the history that he and others experienced.

"My curiosity and my ability to write has led me to gravitate to music and although I'm not a trained musician - I [play] by ear - I play guitar, I do the chords and I challenge myself to write," Kinistino explained.

He was prompted to write a song called "Kookum's Kaddilac" after his mother purchased a Pontiac car with the Common Experience Payment she received from the federal government. The song includes deeply meaningful references to his mother's life and accomplishments, as well as other experiences common to many Indigenous people. For example, the Lonesome Prairie Road mentioned in the third verse of "Kookum's Kaddilac" would remind many listeners of the road that led to Round Lake Residential School. The song reached the top of AMC charts and the lyrics were also included in an anthology by Dr. Jessie Archibald.

Another song, "Shas Ka Nuk," draws from his memory of eating pork rind snacks prepared by his grandmother. These two songs, along with another one, were featured on a Winnipeg TV show call "Don't Even."

Award Presentation

Kinistino's accomplishments and contributions to the arts will be



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Sask. Music Award

Erroll Kinistino (centre) will receive the Indigenous Music Achievement Award at the 2025 Saskatchewan Music Awards. Also pictured are Josie (left) and Greg Campeau (right), fellow members of the Dog River Band.

acknowledged in March with this year's Indigenous Music Achievement Award, but he credits the success to his mother's influence.

"There's something magical about being able to express your voice and being able to perform," Kinistino observed. "Taking the opportunity and having the ability to do it, I think I really have to honour my mother Rosalie for helping me sing through the years."

The award will be presented during the SMA ceremony at the Regina Performing Arts Centre on March 2. At that time,

Kinistino will perform his music with the Dog River Band and he has invited several special guests to join him, including JJ Lavallee, Todd Lucek, flutist Jessica McMann, steel guitar player

Ian Cameron and others.

"They are talented people that I've watched perform and now I get to play with them so it's going to be a great, once in a lifetime opportunity," Kinistino said.

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Indigenous Storytelling Month launch held in Broadview

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

A small group of interested community members enjoyed an evening of storytelling at Broadview Library on Feb. 1. The event marked the formal start of Saskatchewan Indigenous Storytelling Month, a provincial initiative organized annually by Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples (LSSAP).

Last Saturday's program was a celebration of Indigenous culture and storytelling traditions. Broadview library's space in the newly constructed joint administration facility was an excellent place to hold the event.

Josephine Kaysaywaysemat from Kahkewistahaw First Nation spoke to the group and read an excerpt from *What Comes From Spirit*, a collection of writings by Indigenous author Richard Wagamese. Robert Gladue from Waterhen Lake First Nation shared stories and music, playing a hand drum and then a flute for the group.

Following the launch event in Broadview, libraries and schools across the province will host sessions with Indigenous artists, authors and knowledge keepers who will share traditional teachings and stories from their personal experiences.

Métis Knowledge Keeper Calvin Racette will visit schools in Pilot Butte and Qu'Appelle on Wednesday, Feb. 12. He will lead sessions in Whitewood and Broadview on Monday, Feb. 24, and in Kipling and Grenfell on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Heather O'Watch, from Okanese First Nation, will speak at Kennedy Langbank School and Glenavon Library on Feb. 13. O'Watch is the author of the recently

published picture book *Auntie's Rez Surprise*.

Irma Klein and Larry Fayant will share their Métis culture and the Michif language with audiences in Sedley and Vibank on Wednesday, Feb. 26, and at Mont-

martre School on Thursday, Feb. 27.

These programs are made possible through partnerships between LSSAP, regional libraries, SK Arts, and other sponsors.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Listening to stories

Josephine Kaysaywaysemat and Robert Gladue spoke to a group at Broadview Library during the formal launch of Indigenous Storytelling Month led by Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples.

Letter to the Editor - Where is the empathy, remorse in a world leader

Dear Editor,

Let's start with a definition. "1) a person having an egocentric and antisocial personality marked by a lack of remorse for one's action, an absence of empathy for others, and often criminal tendencies. 2) a person with antisocial personality disorder". Quite broad, probably, to various degrees includes some of the people you know. Dare I say maybe even yourself to a degree if you can admit it.

"Absence of empathy, lack of remorse" can be encouraged by conditioning in this day and age of a steady smorgasbord of violence and division served up and flooding our receptive senses in invasive media persuasion. Our mind, feelings, sight, hearing, our reflection on our fellowship with life and social commitment to each other can become foggy as they are sidelined in the controversial justification for power, greed and winning. The degradation of human value in losing being the only other presented option. So, we can drift into a semi conscious state in a foggy denial of our natural tendencies for passive, cooperative, collective survival. Our very emotions of sympathy, empathy and remorse suffers in the media onslaught of psychopathic, controlling activities.

The hard-core part of the definition is an apt description for many of the worlds elite leaders in politics, industry and

wealth. Leaders whose selfish activities have deprived the world of free enterprising opportunity and created a tsunami of nomadic migrants. Waves of victims from predictable wars, poverty and environmental upheavals. Upheavals that have no ability to consider human suffering. The obvious pitiful victims, if one cares to look, are the homeless, the refugees or wandering migrants in desperate search for safety, food, health and a secure roof over their heads.

Conquerors propaganda for their followers over history paints deceptive, negative, pictures of anyone not adhering to the conqueror's strict definition of acceptability. It preaches about subversive characteristics flaws in the identified foe. That they are dangerous to the regime and therefore deserving little or no consideration compared to the followers of the, supposedly, superior doctrine that was the basis of conducting the conquest in the first place.

Unconditional, tunneled visioned, adherence to a self interest without remorse or empathy to the obvious expense of other forms of life that are negatively affected, loudly trumpets the full definition of psychopathic.

Lucrative industries in analysis, meditation, or self love have sprung up to try to reconnect us to the conscience rewarding

practicalities of a simple, natural, non aggressive, fulfilling lifestyle. Life that considers the collective pursuit of happiness, health and natural teachings as having the ultimate importance in the peaceful sustainability of this Earth for those conditions of life that would be appreciated now and by our future generations.

We are not born psychopathic. We are born with potential as the old grand-

mothers who once kept the home fires burning throughout antiquity, in their collective reflections would search for, would identify and encourage because they knew that gratifying compassionate potential made for a more harmonious community.

Those grandmothers still exist in their wisdom. You could easily have one. Ask them.

- Greg Chatterson, Abernethy, SK

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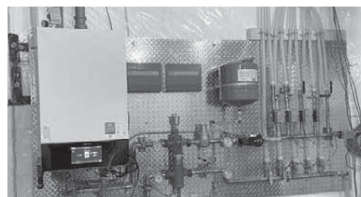
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OPINION

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

Will rural and urban municipal amalgamations in Sask. become reality?

By Jan Derwores
Guest column

The Saskatchewan system of Rural Municipalities and Urban Municipalities, SARM and SUMA respectively, is one of the most representative systems in the country. This current system allows for a direct connection between the residents and the local government.

Residents of rural Saskatchewan have what might be considered an advantage over urban residents. The elected councillors, Reeves and mayors are well known, work and live among their electorate and are approachable. These are the people who, for the most part, are doing a tremendous job to protect the rights of and provide essential services to the people.

A successful government needs the engagement of the people, needs to be receptive to ideas and input from the people who are affected by the implementation of policies, and above all needs to be willing to be held accountable.

How does global governance and global policies begin to take precedence in local municipalities? Are global policies necessary to “save the planet?”

It may begin very unassumingly, with the introduction of glossy literature promising a bright and sustainable future for all. Who could possibly argue with lofty goals promising to carry everyone into a utopian world?

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) on its website <https://fcm.ca>, says it has been the national voice of municipal government since 1901. Membership in the organization is voluntary.

“Our members include more than 2,100 municipalities of all sizes, from Canada’s cities and rural communities, to northern communities and 20 provincial and territorial municipal associations. Together, they represent more than 92 percent of all Canadians from coast to coast to coast. Municipal leaders from across Canada assemble each year to set FCM policy on key issues,” it said.

Saskatchewan has 378 members, representing 85.862 percent of the province. This is not the

highest number count but far surpasses the province of Quebec which sits at 51.790 percent encompassing 362 of the municipalities in that province.

“Today, we advocate for municipalities to be sure their citizens’ needs are reflected in federal policies and programs. Year after year, our work benefits every municipal government and taxpayer in Canada, and our programming delivers tools that help municipalities tackle local challenges,” it said.

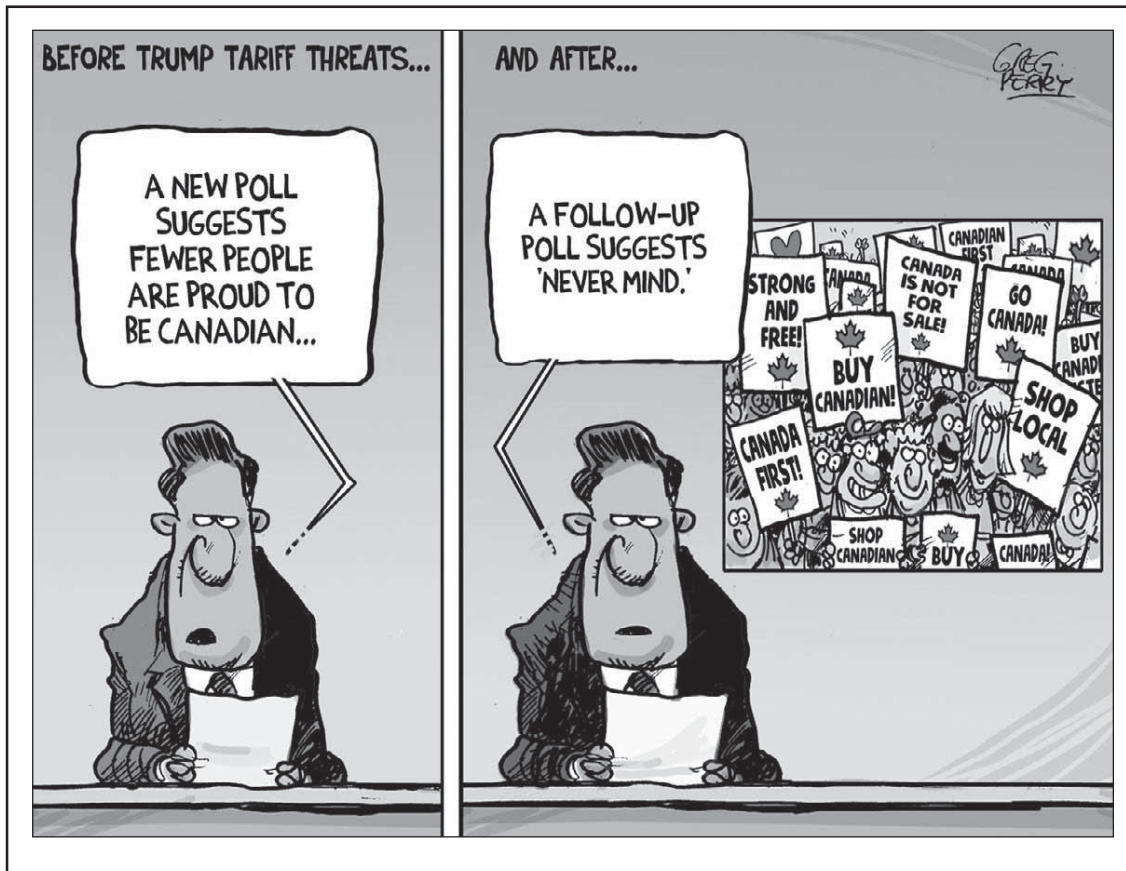
In 1994, ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) Canada partnered with the Government of Canada to fund sustainable development programs to achieve Agenda 21, Agenda 2030, and net zero by 2050. These United Nations (UN) directives programs are administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and are completely voluntary. It is important to note that the FCM and the Government of Canada take no responsibility for these programs, said information found on the Internet.

The following information, taken from its website <https://icleicanada.org>, says that ICLEI Canada’s network is made up of the municipalities that participate in their programs and activities, representing Canadian municipalities from the smallest towns to the largest cities.

“It also includes our implementing partners, our funders and our peers, who help us deliver a range of programs and activities. Most importantly, our network is the local stakeholders and community members we bring together with municipalities to create a local impact.”

This global network that was created to drive local action is active in 125 plus countries, to influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low-emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development, said information found on the Internet.

“Municipal governments like yours influence or control half the sources of Canada’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. You’re also on the front lines of responding to severe weather events and other impacts of climate change. By taking action, you have the opportunity to save



money in municipal operations, lower energy costs for residents and businesses and increase investment in the local economy,” it said.

The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program, <https://www.pcp-ppc.ca>, is managed and delivered by the FCM and ICLEI and receives financial support from the Government of Canada and ICLEI Canada.

On the PCP website it says, “Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Canada) and FCM, helps your municipality do its part. It consists of a five-step Milestone Framework that guides you as you take action against climate change by reducing emissions in your municipality. “Together, we support municipalities like yours as they move through the Milestone Framework, whose steps result in lasting and environmentally sustainable changes in your municipality.”

PCP membership is free and gives you access to tools, case studies, and other informational resources, as well as support from the PCP Secretariat and our Regional Climate Advisors.”

But what is actually in play here? A relatively new organization known as KICLEI (Kicking International Council out of Local Environmental Initiatives) has sprung up and has begun to take notice of whether there is more on the agenda than just warm, fuzzy platitudes and offers of support for a sustainable, green future.

The following excerpt is taken directly from the KICLEI Primer on its website <https://www.ki->

clei.ca, and outlines some areas of deep concern:

“We have discovered that UN programs are adopted at the local level and are entirely voluntary, emphasizing the freedom of choice for Canadian Municipal and First Nations Councils. Many of these programs are funded by the United Nations affiliate ICLEI Canada and the Government of Canada and administered through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

“UN directive programs, if not carefully considered, may have significant adverse effects on mobility and property rights, energy security, smalltown growth, and the urban crisis.

“They could also redirect public funds and assets to corporate and foreign investors under the guise of ‘saving the planet.’ Additionally, these programs could augment the roles of local administrators and limit public feedback. Therefore, we seek to educate communities and councils on the origins, aims, rationales and disadvantages of such programs and propose that Canadian Municipal and First Nations Councils withdraw from UN directive programs, such as the FCM-ICLEI-PCP programs.

“We are dedicated to empowering communities and councils to withdraw from the PCP, which is the leading program advancing the United Nations’ Agenda 21 in Canadian municipalities. Managed by the FCM in partnership with the UN’s ICLEI, the PCP program implements global goals at the local level.

“Many are surprised to learn that the FCM, a body meant to represent Canadian municipalities, helped draft Agenda 21, a global framework developed to centralize environmental, social, and economic governance worldwide.

“As concerns grow about the influence of global agendas, few realize that these policies are being implemented in our local councils through programs like PCP. The good news? PCP is voluntary, and many councils are unaware of the real impacts on privacy, local autonomy, and community development. Canada’s vast geography and unique rural and urban needs make one-size-fits-all policies ineffective. But rather than driving to Ottawa to challenge these policies, Canadians can engage locally, where meaningful change is most possible.

“We’ve demonstrated that councils can indeed withdraw from PCP. In Thorold, Ontario, our first attempt at withdrawal was successful and proved that local civic engagement has the power to halt international directives from advancing in our communities. This campaign calls on Canadians nationwide to advocate for community-centered governance and join us in challenging the UN-driven PCP program at the local level.

- This is the third installment of a series of educational and proactive articles and is an initiative of the people to support and develop good municipal government. The opportunity to become involved and speak out is now.

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Arrests made for assaults, theft

Melville / Ituna Detachment
Cpl Dave Kisters

Reporting period: Jan. 29 to Feb. 4

Melville and Ituna detachment area had 62 occurrences over the past week.

Traffic

During this time, Melville and Ituna Detachments responded to 30 reported traffic occurrences or traffic stops that resulted in eight Charges and 12 Warnings.

Melville RCMP were dispatched to a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of 2nd Avenue West and Columbia Street in Melville. Police determined that a four-door sedan operated by an adult female proceeded from the stop sign, and t-boned a one tonne pickup truck operated by an adult male. Both vehicles were inoperable as a result of the collision and needed to be towed. No injuries were reported to the police. The adult female driver was charged with Proceeding from a Stop Sign Before Safe to Do So (\$230).

Ituna RCMP were dispatched to a two-vehicle collision on Main Street in Ituna. Police were told that an adult female was traveling north on Main Street, had the right of way when a pickup truck, operated by a male youth, attempted to cross the street. The adult female attempted to swerve to avoid a collision with the truck but was unsuccessful. Minor injuries were reported to police and were treated roadside. Police continue to investigate the matter.

Melville RCMP were dispatched to a hit and run that occurred in Neudorf. The caller told police that a delivery van had struck their vehicle. The driver of the delivery van got out to check on the caller to see if they were ok, then left without exchanging information. Police continue to investigate this matter.

Melville/Ituna RCMP responded to two separate collisions involving wildlife. No injuries were reported to the police.

Assault with Weapon/Break and Enter/ Possession of Stolen Property

Melville RCMP responded to multiple 911 calls to a residence on the 500 block of Prince Rupert Street in Melville. Police were told that an intoxicated adult male had assaulted the adult male tenant at this location. Police arrived and learned that the victim had invited the Accused over to socialize. A fight broke out between the two. A neighbour next door heard the commotion and came over to see what was happening. The neighbour attempted to break the fight up but wound up being assaulted as well. The Accused was arrested without incident and held in cells overnight. As a result of this investigation, Tyrell Kayne Sparvier, 28, of Melville, was charged with Assault Causing Bodily Harm, Assault, and two counts of Uttering Threats. Tyrell Sparvier was released on an Undertaking to appear in Melville Provincial Court at a later date.

Melville RCMP were dispatched to a 911 complaint of a home invasion on the 200 block of 8th Avenue West in Melville. When police arrived, the members learned that two adult male suspects had entered the residence and assaulted the homeowner with a shovel. The homeowner's spouse attempted to intervene, however was also assaulted. The victims were able to identify the two suspects. Police located the two suspects a short while later and were arrested without incident. As a result

of this investigation, Travis Craig Sawchuk, 35, of Melville and Austin Calvin Myers, 27, of Melville, were each charged with Break and Enter with Intent, Assault with a Weapon, Assault Causing Bodily Harm, and Uttering Threats. Both Accused were released on Undertakings to appear in Melville Provincial Court at a later date.

Police were advised of a break, enter and theft at a business on the 100 block of Main Street in Melville. The complainant told police that suspect(s) had entered the property and removed coin boxes from inside sometime overnight. Police continue to investigate with the assistance of the Yorkton Forensic Identification Services.

Melville RCMP received a 911 call from Sirius XM, advising that a vehicle reported stolen two days previous in Manitoba was being tracked and appeared to be in Melville near 3rd Avenue West and Scotia Street. Police made patrols, and located the stolen vehicle parked in front of a residence on the 100 block of Scotia Street. While police spoke with the homeowner, one of the officers observed an adult female inside who had an outstanding warrant from several police jurisdictions. A Feeney warrant was obtained to enter the residence. With the assistance of additional members from Melville Detachment, the Melville RCMP drone, and Yorkton Police Dog Service, three adult males and one adult female were arrested without incident. The homeowner was later released with no charges.

As a result of this investigation, Robert Christopher Chipuer, 35, of the RM of Cana, was charged with one count of Possession of Property obtained by Crime over \$5,000 and Possession of Break in Tools. Robert Chipuer was released on an Appearance Notice to appear in Melville Provincial Court at a later date. Also charged was Darcy Shane Anderson, 56, of Cypress River, MB with one count of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime over \$5,000 and Possession of Break in Tools. Darcy Anderson was also wanted in seven other police jurisdictions in Saskatchewan and was remanded into custody to appear in Yorkton Provincial Court. Melodie Anderson, 64, of Cypress River, MB was charged with one count of Possession of Property obtained by Crime over \$5,000 and Possession of Break in Tools. Melodie Anderson also had warrants from three other police jurisdictions, and was remanded into custody to appear in Yorkton Provincial Court.

Melville RCMP were dispatched to several calls of an assault that had taken place on the 100 block of Manitoba Street in Melville. Police were initially told that the Victim was being held against their will and had been assaulted. During the course of the investigation, police learned that earlier in the morning, the accused and co-accused had broken into a residence on the 300 block of Manitoba Street, looking for the victim.

As a result of this investigation, Harvey Calvin George Smoker, 29, of Melville, has been charged with one count of Break and Enter with Intent, Possession of a Weapon for Dangerous Purpose, Intimidation, and Conspire to Commit an Indictable Offence. Harvey Smoker was released on an Undertaking to appear in Melville Provincial Court at a later date. Also charged in this matter was Conner Mackenzie Sparrow, 26, of Melville. Conner Sparrow was charged with Break and Enter with Intent, Possession of a Weapon for Dangerous Purpose, Intimidation, Mischief under \$5,000, Assault, Assault with a Weapon and Conspire to Commit an Indictable Offence. Conner Sparrow was remanded into police custody to appear in Yorkton Provincial Court.

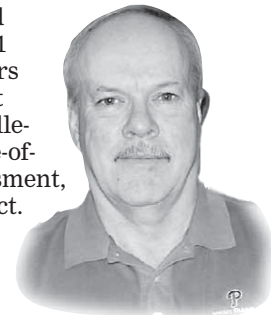
Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

A blaze out of Australia's Grampians National Park raged, sending animals scattering and, in one case, straight into Pam Turner's living room. Turner runs the Wildwood Wildlife Shelter in Victoria, and ended up *hosting 20 baby kangaroos* (joeys), in her home on the day after Christmas. Turner and her menagerie of hand-reared roos huddled inside as sprinklers tried to douse her home's roof and other buildings on her property. Because of the wind, her home was spared. Wildfires are a huge, emerging problem in the park. "Our wildlife are on the front line of climate change," said Lisa Palma, CEO of Wildlife Victoria.

This seems unbelievable and so wasteful. The Toronto District School Board has apparently spent \$35.1 million in just over three years to *place staff on paid leave* while they were being investigated for alleged misconduct. It cost an additional \$2.7 million, over the past four years, to hire external investigators. I'm all for unions protecting their members, but this is ridiculous.

Between January 2021 and March 2024, there were 621 staff, including 518 teachers and 44 administrators, put on home assignment for allegations that included code-of-conduct violations, harassment, and child abuse and neglect. Obviously, that money should be better spent "in the classroom" and on "more efficient investigations."



An 84-year-old British man *armed only with a pair of trousers* beat back a mugger half his age who tried to rob him at a laundry in northern England. Ron Croker was drying his clothes when the masked thug accosted him at the unstaffed Coin-Op Laundrette. Croker was determined not to give up his wallet. As the attacker moved in again, Croker swung the jeans he was folding, swatting the thief, who then retreated for good. A 42-year-old was charged with attempted robbery.

In Conroe, Texas, parent Amber Johnson says she received a text message from her daughter's first grade teacher at Bartlett Elementary School, letting her know students had *"lost their privilege to use the restroom"* because they lost their restroom badge. It turned out that a few kids were denied permission to leave and peed themselves. The teacher said her justification was that "if we both help [the children] understand the rules, they will understand it better." Outraged parents reached out to the school, and the district has said the teacher is "no longer employed" there. Mike Straw mumbled, "Maybe now she understands the rules."

Meanwhile, a Quebecer found guilty of murdering a woman and their two children is being held in a men's federal institution while authorities assess the convict's request to be housed at Joliette Institution for Women. Mohamad Al Ballouz was sentenced Dec. 20 to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 25 years for the 2022 murders of Synthia Bussieres and their sons, five-year-old Eliam and two-year-old Zac. Al Ballouz *now identifies as a woman* and goes by the name Levana. Correctional Services policy "is to place offenders in an institution that better aligns with their gender identity unless there are overriding health and safety concerns that cannot be otherwise mitigated."

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre pulled no punches. "I can't believe I have to say this: but when I'm (prime minister), there will be no male prisoners in female jails!" It is a touchy subject for many.

The tiny *town of Thiberville*, in France's Normandy region, was stunned to learn that a man in Paris has willed his entire fortune of 10 million euros (US\$10.25 million) to the town, despite having never even visited there. Meteorologist *Roger Thiberville*, who died last year at 91, had no heirs, and apparently chose the town of fewer than 400 people simply because it shared his name.

In England, a naked man was arrested for driving 110 mph, reported Argus Hamilton. "He was charged with the UK's most serious crime, *not being drunk*."

Ten people were injured at an event at The Game, a restaurant/arcade in Peabody, Mass. The incident was caused when a giant *LEGO sculpture collapsed* and fell on the crowd. Four adults and six children received minor cuts and scrapes. "Right," concluded Randy Cassingham. "The screams of pain were not from victims, but rather first responders stepping on loose pieces."

"Donald Trump has revealed his climate policy," observed Argus Hamilton. "He's going to build a wall so high nobody can climate."

Until next time...keep reading between the lines...

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Crooked Lake dam replacement still delayed by land negotiations

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

MLA for Melville-Saltcoats Warren Kaeding assured cottage owners in an email dated Jan. 11 that addressing aging infrastructure at Crooked Lake is still a priority, yet progress continues to be delayed by land negotiations.

Crooked Lake dam was built in 1941 to control water levels at the outlet of the lake into the Qu'Appelle River.

The provincial government began taking steps to replace the dam 10 years ago based on concerns of impending structural failure. Designs were completed and some preliminary sitework was done in autumn 2022, but further progress halted while the Water Security Agency (WSA) and Cowessess First Nation discussed land use.

Two and a half years later, an agreement has

still not been reached. Similar to Kaeding's statement earlier this year, a message from WSA president and CEO Shawn Jaques was recently shared with stakeholders. It said, "Construction is not planned for 2025 as WSA continues negotiations with Cowessess First Nation to gain rights holder support for the project. Upon successful completion of negotiations, WSA will procure a contractor to complete the work."

Grasslands News reached out to Cowessess First Nation for comments but did not receive a response before press time.

Kaeding's letter to stakeholders affirmed that upgrading the dam is still a priority and that construction is included in the WSA budget for 2025.

In the meantime, WSA says it plans to continue operating the existing dam and will monitor its condition.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

No progress

Progress continues to be delayed on replacing the water control structure at the east end of Crooked Lake but MLA Warren Kaeding recently sent out a message to cottage owners that the project is still a priority.

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Prairie Valley identifies top infrastructure needs

Grenfell School consolidation and elementary school in Pilot Butte top priority

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Prairie Valley School Division Board of Education has selected the Grenfell School Consolidation as its top major capital priority.

"Students need safe, welcoming and engaging learning environments to reach their full potential," board chair Janet Kotylak said.

"The Grenfell School Consolidation project remains our most urgent major capital priority because Grenfell High School has multiple accessibility, safety and programming deficiencies. These issues must be addressed for students to receive the high-quality learning opportunities they deserve."

The board's second and third major capital priorities are new elementary schools in Pilot Butte and Lumsden, respectively.

"The existing elementary schools in these growing communities will see even more overcrowding in the coming

years. The time to invest in new schools for these communities is now," Kotylak said.

The board also selected renovation projects at Indian Head Elementary School and Robert Southey School as its minor capital priorities.

"The serious infrastructure deficit in our rural school division goes far beyond these five major and minor capital projects," Kotylak said.

"Continued underfunding, including Preventative, Maintenance and Renewal Grant reductions, makes it extremely difficult to maintain our schools, which have an average age of 61 years. We need sustainable and predictable infrastructure funding to ensure students are learning in first class facilities."

Each year, all school divisions can submit three requests for major capital project funding, and two requests for minor capital project funding to the Ministry of Education. The ministry reviews submissions from school divisions and selects which ones will receive funding.



Comedy night fundraiser

Legendary comedian Big Daddy Tazz will be performing at the Whitewood Legion Hall on March 1 at a Dinner & Comedy Fundraiser. The money raised is going towards helping the local Legion survive.

Legendary comedian Big Daddy Tazz is coming to Whitewood

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The Whitewood Legion is trying its best to bring entertainment to Whitewood and at the same time help our local Legion survive. But to do this, they need our community's support, and this means confirming attendance so the show can go forward.

TV, radio, stage and from large city centres to small town events, crowds have been delighted at fundraisers, corporate events and festivals for over 30 years by

this "Bi-Polar Buddha" who is equal part comedian and mental health advocate. It was in high school that this fellow, Big Daddy Tazz – a Canadian full of good clean humor – realized his natural ability to make people laugh.

After falling on his face, his teacher asked what he was trying to prove. Tazz quickly answered, "Gravity!" Laughter erupted, and thus the saga began.

Having performed a wide variety of shows stretching from a client's 101st birthday to a biker initiation makes Tazz

one of the most sought-after comedians working today. Tazz is able to do what he loves both on and off stage, which is to make people laugh! His off-the-cuff style brings the audience together, making them feel like they are part of his family, sitting around the kitchen table playing crib. Tazz has proven that you can get laughs without being foul or offensive and is often described as "one of the most talented comics in the business."

And who doesn't need a good laugh nowadays! Get your tickets now for the

March 1, 2025, Dinner & Comedy Fundraiser. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and supper is served at 6 p.m. Book a corporate table for eight people at \$400 or single tickets can be purchased at \$50/person.

Support our community's great organization, the Legion, and also enjoy a great meal with entertainment you would expect to see in larger city venues but has been booked to entertain us right here in Whitewood! For tickets contact: Chad 306-735-7810, Kaelynn 306-861-3220 or Lisa 306-735-7301.



Council Meetings: The second Monday of each month. Town Council Meeting begins at 7 p.m. All Council Meetings are open to the public.

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www.townofkipling.ca



Beck calls on gov't to stop supporting harmful merger

Decision will cost Saskatchewan crop producers \$770 million annually

By Provincial
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan NDP is joining the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) in opposing the Bunge-Viterra merger, warning it will hurt farmers and cost Saskatchewan jobs. The Official Opposition is also demanding the Sask. Party Government reverse its support for the harmful merger.

APAS points to a newly revealed letter that the Competition Bureau sent to the Minister of Transport in November, saying the merger will suffocate the agriculture sector and must be reconsidered by Transport Canada.

"The federal and provincial governments need to listen to our hardworking producers and pump the breaks on this deal," said Carla Beck, Saskatchewan NDP Leader and Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

"This merger will be a gut punch to our agriculture sector and the many rural communities that rely on it. Two-hundred

head office jobs in Regina and canola crush plants are also on the chopping block."

The University of Saskatchewan estimates the merger will cost farmers \$770 million annually in lost revenues. Saskatchewan farmers already face uncertainty with the threat of 25% tariffs under the new U.S. administration.

Despite widespread opposition by Saskatchewan farmers and farm groups, the Sask. Party government has been silent, refusing to oppose the deal. Records show a major Sask. Party donor lobbied Premier Scott Moe and senior officials on Bunge's behalf before the merger.

"The Sask. Party has been silent as this merger is set to take hundreds of millions annually out of pockets of Saskatchewan producers," said Beck. "The real question is: why won't they stand up? This deal sells out our producers and we're going to fight it every step of the way."

APAS released a statement saying the condi-

tions do not meet the standards set out in the Competition Act. The Bureau's assessment raises serious alarms about the potential erosion of competition within crucial segments of the agricultural market, directly impacting Saskatchewan's farmers.

The detailed objections from the Competition Bureau on Transport Canada's oversight decision of the proposed merger focus on significant concerns that the arrangements would fail to preserve competitive markets for farmers and customers. The merger could potentially lead to increased control by a single entity, suffocating competition and innovation.

The Competition Bureau highlights that the merger's remedies proposed by Bunge and Viterra do not adequately address the potential harms identified. These inadequacies include concerns about the merger's effects on market dynamics and an unfavorable shift in market power, which could disadvantage



CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Stop?

A stop sign at the corner of Highways 1 and 9 at Whitewood has been laying buried in a deep snowdrift for over a week causing a concern for motorists. Complaints have been sent to Highways to have it fixed.

producers significantly.

APAS demands a reconsideration of this merger arrangement by Transport Canada, urging for the adoption of stronger, more effective regulatory measures as advised by the Competition Bureau. The current stance risks significant and lasting damage to the foundational aspects of our agricultural community.

"If government's role

is to preserve and protect market competition, then it has failed miserably with this decision, even by the standards set out in its own legislation," Prybylski lamented. "We support the Competition Bureau's concerns and echo their call for robust, enforceable conditions that genuinely address the merger's far-reaching impacts," Prybylski continued. "We have re-

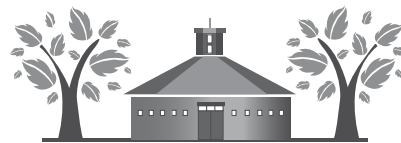
quested a meeting with the Transport Minister to discuss our concerns and giving them an opportunity to explain their decision.

The only response so far is silence." APAS believes that the terms of the merger should more effectively safeguard competitive integrity and uphold the agricultural vitality of Saskatchewan's agricultural sector.

THE TOWN OF
Indian Head
SASKATCHEWAN

Town Page

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



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 – Lions' Winter Festival & Night Ski March 8

Save the date and come out for some winter fun! The Indian Head & District Lions Club Winter Festival will be Saturday, March 8th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Dixon Park. Bundle up and come down for hot chocolate, bonfire, skating, tobogganing, and wagon rides.

In the evening, join us for a Cross-Country Night Ski at the Indian Head Golf Course. Bring your own headlamp, but there will be limited ski equipment to borrow. The event will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. starting at the clubhouse on the corner of Beatty and Eden Street.

Play Chase the Ace to help the Grand Theatre

A new round of Chase the Ace is back at the Grand Theatre in support of the Renovation Fund! Tickets are on sale now at The Wooden Nickel Saloon during any open hours, The Grand Theatre during regular movie times or Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

Anyone 18+ can purchase a ticket from The Wooden Nickel or Grand Theatre for \$10 each; 50% goes to The Grand - right into the Renovation Fund!

Want to help sell tickets for Chase the Ace on Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Grand? Email chair@grandtheatre1904.com to sign up.

Stay Active at the Heritage Club

Join the Indian Head Heritage Club on February 9 for an afternoon of games and socializing! All adults are welcome to take part in the fun, meet new friends, and enjoy a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The event takes place from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Lunch will be a potluck, so bring your favorite dish to share!

The Heritage Club is a 55+ centre that offers a variety of games, fitness, and educational programming for both members and the public. For more information, visit the Heritage Club profile on the Town website or calendars are posted on their bulletin board at 505 Otterloo Street.

Celebrate with the Chiefs Past & Present

Join us for a special evening Saturday, February 8 as the Indian Head Chiefs celebrate their Alumni at the home game against the Strasbourg Maroons! Game time is 8 p.m.

There will be Alumni registration, special presentations, shoot-to-win contest, kids puck toss and a post game social.

Let's pack the rink, honor our history, and cheer on the Chiefs!

Work at the Indian Head Swimming Pool this Summer

The Town of Indian Head is now accepting applications for Lifeguard positions at the Indian Head Swimming Pool. Make a splash this summer by joining our team and ensuring a safe and fun environment for everyone in the community!

For more information on working at the Indian Head Swimming Pool and how to apply, visit the town website www.townofindianhead.com/swimming-pool/

Application Deadline: Monday, March 3, 2025.

Upcoming Community Events

- Feb. 8 – Sr. Chiefs Game & Alumni Social
- Feb. 9 – Heritage Club Games Day
- Feb. 18 – Little Minds, Big Ideas at IH Library
- Feb. 22 – Indian Head Snow Drags
- Feb. 24 – UCW Fundraiser Supper
- March 1 – Smart Start Music Trial Class
- March 1 – Prairie Sons Concert

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.

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King Charles III Coronation Medal Ceremony held

Submitted
Grasslands News

On Saturday, Feb.1, 2025, Dr. Robert Kitchen, Member of Parliament for Souris - Moose Mountain, had the honour of presenting the King Charles III Coronation Medals to deserving citizens of the Southeast Saskatchewan region. The ceremony took place in the afternoon at the Stoughton Legion.

The King Charles III Coronation Medal is awarded to individuals who have made a significant contribution to Canada, their province, or their community, or who have made an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada.

"This is an opportunity to recognize and thank those who selflessly give their time and energy to make their communities better, and I am truly honoured to have a chance to highlight these individuals who have been nominated by their peers to receive this medal," said Dr. Kitchen.

The medals were presented to Alice

Abrahamson (Moosomin), Ross Apperley (Carnduff), Donald Dechief (Estevan), Jordan Ethier (Wawota), Debbie Hagel (Estevan), Robert Jordens (Weyburn), Troy LeBlanc (Estevan), Albert Petrash (Estevan), Peter Piper (Stoughton), Robert Rooks (Estevan), Dr. Edward Tsoi (Estevan), Kenneth Turner (Midale), Harold Whiteoak (Weyburn), and John [Jack] Wilson (Carlyle).

Not in attendance but receiving a medal are Patricia Anderson (Carlyle), William Baryluk (Estevan), Peter Brocolo (Weyburn), Marie Donais Calder (Estevan), Jennifer Elias-White (Weyburn), Patricia Jackson (Kipling), and Mona Lynn Stender (Kipling). Their medals will be presented to them at a future date.

"I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to all of the medal recipients for their service to our country, to Saskatchewan, and to their communities. Their efforts and achievements deserve to be celebrated as they make this country a better place, now and into the future," concluded Kitchen.



Medal presentation

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMPACT CREATIVE ESTEVAN, SK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Front row, from left, are, Dr. Robert Kitchen MP, Alice Abrahamson, Debbie Hagel, Jordan Ethier, John Wilson, Dr. Edward Tsoi. Back row, from left, are, Ken Turner, Albert Petrash, Peter Piper, Robert Jordens, Robert Rooks, Troy LeBlanc, Don Dechief, Ross Apperley, Harold Whiteoak.

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Corning annual snowmobile derby Saturday

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

The Corning Community Hall will be a busy place on Saturday, February 8 as the community hosts its Third Annual Snowmobile Poker Derby.

Marcie Bott, one of the organizers of the event says that this is an annual fundraiser for the community.

“Originally this started out because we were raising money for the Corning Community Hall. But now, we just do it every year to raise money that we can give to whoever needs it in the community.”

Bott goes on to say that the event has become very popular with snowmobile riders of all ages.

“People register when they get there, so I can’t tell you how many we’ll have. But our average so far has been between 130 and 150 riders, from this area as well as Stoughton, Windthorst and other communities. And we’ve had kids as young as seven taking part in this while, so far, our oldest rider was 86!”

She explains that once a rider has registered, they are ‘dealt their hand’ and are then able to head out and enjoy some time riding.

“Once you’ve registered, instead of cards, we role five dice – five times – and that is your poker hand. Half of the money raised through the registration goes to whatever need there is in the community. The rest of that money is divided with 50 per cent going to the high hand that day, and the other 50 per cent going to the low hand.

“But this is also a snowmobile derby. So, once you have a poker hand, you can go for a ride. You have to be back at the hall by 5 pm. But aside from that, as long as you stay on the snowmobile trails, you are free to ride 80 miles or you can ride 30 miles. So, people just enjoy doing their thing.”



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Ready to ride!

Corning’s Third Annual Snowmobile Poker Derby set to take place on Saturday, Feb. 8 will provide snowmobilers (such as those pictured above during last year’s derby) a chance to enjoy a day’s ride, support their community and possibly win some cash.

Kennedy skating carnival this Sunday

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

A bit of Broadway will be coming to the Community Rink in Kennedy this weekend, as the Kennedy Skating Club presents its annual carnival.

This year’s carnival is ‘Broadway’ and Amanda Maloney (Kennedy Skating Club President) says that this theme provides all of the skaters in the club with an opportunity to do a performance that they enjoy, which also allows them to showcase

their skills and what they have learned.

“We have 21 skaters, a few from Wawota and Kipling as well as Kennedy, in our club this year. Nine of those skaters are in the Canskate Program, while the other twelve are in Star Skate. Our youngest skater is three years old and our oldest skaters are in Grade 12.

“Broadway was a theme that we thought would really span our younger skaters to our older skaters, and each of them could pick something they liked, that fits with what they’re doing in their skating. There will be some group numbers and solo performances from our Star Skaters.”

She notes that holding the Carnival now will enable the skaters to focus on completing the remainder of the year.

“We’ve got a competition coming up in Regina called the ‘Winter Classic’. And our Regional Competition is in White-wood this year, which is great. It’s nice for us to have the Regional Competition so close to home. That takes place on the weekend after our Carnival (Feb. 14-15). So, by having the Carnival a little earlier gives the skaters that time to finish up

their levels and work towards something for the end of the year.”

Maloney goes on to say that taking this ‘Broadway stage’ will allow both skaters and coaches to showcase the results of what is proving to be a successful year.

“Two skaters who grew up in this club, Morgan Debenham and Ashlyn Dovell, are coaches, along with our Star Skate Coach Sara Chant. Sara is from Elkhorn but is a student at the University of Regina. So, we’re kind of ‘in-between’ for her and we’re lucky to have her.

“Both our skaters and our coaches are doing incredibly well this year. Carnival gives them a chance to really celebrate that. I also think our skaters all really look forward to this. They want that moment to go out there and showcase what

they’ve been learning and doing. And it’s an important thing for our community to see what we’re up to.”

The Kennedy Skating Carnival - Broadway starts at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 9. Admission is \$5/person and \$20/family with those under six admitted for free. There will be dessert and coffee available during intermission, a 50/50 Draw and a prize table with a Silent Auction will be set up as well.

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Rumour Mill performance at Kipling Arts Council season finale

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

Those attending the Kipling and District Arts Council's final show of this season on Tuesday were treated to a unique performance by the West-coast band Rumour Mill in the first of what will be the band's eight-show tour in Saskatchewan.

Rumour Mill is Aline Deanna and Anna Katarina. The two young women took to the stage in Kipling along with Max Ley on drums and Kaitie Sly on bass

guitar offering up a performance that brilliantly defied the conventional lines and labels that we use to squeeze music into those narrow definitions that we call "genres."

Katarina says that the pair have worked hard to develop their style and sound, referring to their music as "Canadiana."

"You have to find your own thing and then lean into that. Our music is a melting pot of genres, which is why we use the term 'Canadiana' to describe it. People have heard of 'Americana'

music – which is a little bit folksy and a bit alternative. This is our non-American way of saying the same thing.

"People that come to our show can expect folksy music that is pop in the way our melodies are written, with a little bit of throwback to the 60's and 70's and we blend our vocal harmonies together with violin, electric guitar, drum and bass. So, listeners get the sense that this is a mixture of organic instrumentation with a bit of a modern, electric influence."

She notes that most of the music that the audience heard during their performance in Kipling was original.

"The majority of our show features original music. We do play a couple of covers that people will know. But we try to pick cover songs that complement our music as well as some that people might know – but might not always hear done as a cover song."

Katarina explains that she and Deanna have always known each other, and adds that the connections which began as children were reinforced in high school and solidified into the musical partnership that led them to create Rumour Mill.

"Our moms were working together before we were born, and we went to preschool together. We knew each other growing up and re-connected again in high school, in about Grade 10, which was quite a few

years ago now.

"For me, music has always been what I wanted to do. I've never questioned it or felt I had an option to question it. I ended up going to music college in Nelson after graduation and I loved the program.

"I was going into my second year when Aline reached out and said she was considering doing violin at the college. So, she auditioned and was accepted, and that's when we re-connected again after graduating from high school. We also started our first band while we were in college, and Rumour Mill is based on that college band."

After moving to Vancouver, Katarina says that she and Deanna have worked to bring their distinctive style of music to an ever-growing audience.

"We moved to Vancouver and have been trying to make it happen. This is the place to be if you're in the industry in BC. But it's both big and small – welcoming and cliquy. It's especially hard because the only direction you can really go is east. We don't have a lot of markets until you hit Alberta. With the mountains there, geographically it's tricky.

"It's been a tough journey, figuring out how this can be done and what the music industry actually looks like compared to what people

think it looks like before they go into it.

"Between the two of us, we've done five tours over the past two years - as Rumour Mill and with other projects each of us are involved in, in BC and Alberta, some in the US and in Europe."

She notes that audiences they have encountered while touring Europe have been particularly receptive, and adds that the pair expect those coming out to hear them during this OSAC tour will be equally eager to listen and appreciate their original music.

"People in Europe really pay attention when they go to hear live music, and audiences there seem to crave original music. It seems as though it's part of their upbringing to respect music and listen to lyrics. I've actually had more people in countries like Germany come up to me and talk about lyrics written in what is their second or third language, than I have in Canada.

"We are expecting the shows in Saskatchewan to be much like that in part because this is an Arts Council Tour, and the Arts Council promotes creativity and originality. People will be coming with open ears to have a great evening and hear something fresh and new."

However, Katarina points out that they also expect to find a similar appreciation for live music in rural Saskatche-

wan communities to that which existed in their own rural hometown.

"These shows will also be special because we'll be in smaller, rural communities. We are both from a rural community that appreciated and loved having bands - including alternative and indie bands - come and bring their music to us - instead of us having to travel to a larger center to hear them."

While they hope that everyone who was there for their show in Kipling enjoyed the evening, Katarina says that both she and Deanna hope that the young people in the audience also found the show inspiring.

"Our show isn't geared specifically towards kids, but it is definitely kid friendly. And it's cool for kids to come and see three young women (because our bass player is also a young woman) on stage playing their own songs. It's still relatively rare in the industry to have more women than men onstage during a concert, and it's pretty cool for the young girls I see watching us.

"I also remember as a kid, watching female musician onstage and thinking 'Cool – I could actually do that!' So, musically, we hope that the younger people in the audience enjoyed it. But we also hope that both the girls and the boys in the audience were inspired and empowered by what they saw and heard."

Wawota

Community happenings

By **Myrna Olson**
for Grasslands News

Congratulations to the 4-H Curling Team of skip Wyatt Beutler (Whitewood), 3rd Samuel Brehaut, 2nd Reid Beutler (Whitewood), lead Tessa Brehaut and spare Brooke White (Whitewood). They participated in the Regional Playoffs and went undefeated, winning gold. They will be off to the Provincial finals in a few weeks.

Sympathy to family and friends of Betty Drumm. She passed away at Hospice at Glengarda in Saskatoon on Jan. 23rd. She had just recently celebrated her 86th birthday. A former Wawota resident, she was predeceased by her husband, Ron and is survived by her children, Paul and Jodi and their families. A service will be held at a later date. Interment will be in the Wawota Cemetery.

The Wawota Public Library hosted a Literacy Night last Monday, Feb. 3 at the Drop In. Attendees enjoyed a potluck meal and an evening of various games.

Happy 65th birthday to Norman Oliver (Feb. 2nd). He is one of our hard-working town men!

Congratulations to Jordan Ethier who was presented with a King Charles III Coronation Medal. This was "for educational leadership in the province of Saskatchewan especially Indigenous education, and contributions to the Metis Society in Canada." Katelyn, Aurora and Jericho attended the weekend ceremony.

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



2025 Junior Citizen of the Year Scholarship



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.

Building a Strong Saskatchewan through the Crown Sector

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

SPORTS



Glow in the dark curling in Fort Q.

'Spiel planned for Feb. 20

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

A trippy, psychedelic edge has been introduced to curling in Fort Qu'Appelle. Glow in the dark curling is a creative incentive to recruit younger members into the rink.

The rink is plunged into darkness with black light and the familiar red and blue curling rings and hog lines are painted with fluorescent pigments. Teams are equipped with glow sticks which add hallucinatory 'pop' to the game and allow players to see where to aim their rocks.

The focus is on socializing and not necessarily strictly on competition.

"It is something different, something new. It shines a light on having fun," says club president Warren Bobbee, "It's cheap entertainment. We've been losing older members, not many are willing to commit to a 20-week schedule. Maybe this is a way to attract families, or even businesses who want to bring their staff out. It's free for anyone under 19." Adult admission is \$10.

A glow in the dark bonspiel is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 20. To enter as a team or as an individual call 306-331-9890.

Creative curling atmosphere

Glow in the dark curling is a unique way to play the game and socialize at the same time. A bonspiel is planned for Thursday, Feb. 20 in Fort Qu'Appelle.

ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Senior hockey regular season winds down, prepare for playoffs

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

As teams in the Qu'Appelle Valley Highway Hockey League (QVHHL) and South East Hockey League (SEHL) wind up their final regular season games, the Kipling Windthorst Oil Kings are just one loss away from being eliminated in the first round of playoffs in the Big Six League.

The final QVHHL game between the Balcarres Broncs and Balgonie Bisons was scheduled for Jan. 31 but ended up being postponed due to weather. The game, the final of the regular season, was rescheduled for Feb. 5 in Balgonie at 8:15 p.m.

With only one point separating the fourth place Milestone Flyers and fifth place Balgonie Bisons in the league standings, the playoff schedule was yet to be de-

termined prior to presstime on Feb. 5. The only confirmed series at the time was the best of three quarter series between the third place Balcarres Broncs and the sixth place Southey Marlins. Game dates were not yet scheduled.

In the South East Hockey League, the regular season will come to a close on Feb. 8 but the outcome of the remaining game between Preeceville and Swan Valley will not have any bearing on the final standings.

The Wapella Blackhawks did host the Churchbridge Imperials on Feb. 1 with Churchbridge coming off the ice with a 5-4 win.

Ethan Dartige scored a pair of goals for Wapella, one while short-handed in the second period and one on a power play with less than one-minute remaining in the game. Other Blackhawk goals came from Ryan Garvey and Cole Hayhurst,

both in the third period. Churchbridge scored three in the first and once each in the second and third. Credit went to Mike Cross with a pair and singles from Drew Putland, Donnie St. Marie and Cole Cusitar.

The SEHL playoffs will see the north and south divisions merged into one division with the first-place team taking on the eighth-place team, second versus seventh, third versus sixth and fourth versus fifth. That means the first round will see Rocanville take on Churchbridge, Canora face Wapella, Langenburg against Esterhazy and Swan Valley versus Theodore.

The quarterfinals will be a best of three series with the semi-finals and league championship series both being best of five series.

In the Big Six League, the KW Oil Kings have been battling the Moosomin Rangers in the first round and are already two

games down in the best of five series. The teams met for game one on Jan. 31 in Moosomin where the Rangers blanked the Oil Kings 4-0. Brad Cole scored twice with singles from Monty Driver and Dustin Fisher.

Game two of the series was played in Kipling on Feb. 1 where Moosomin clenched a 9-5 win to put the Oil Kings against the ropes. Moosomin's Bud Holloway and Taylor Sanheim both scored twice with singles coming from Tayte Willoughby, Kyle McGonigal, Jayden Bender, Justin Lamontagne and Jevon Schwean. The KW Oil Kings' Riley Kolesar scored two of his team's goals with Dan Loffler and Austin Fleck each adding a single.

Game three of the series will be played on Feb. 7 in Moosomin with games four and five, if necessary, will be played Feb. 12 in Kipling and Feb. 14 in Moosomin. All games begin at 8 p.m.



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Fort Knox Scott named 'Coach of the Year'

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Fort Knox is on top of the standings in the Prairie Junior Hockey League's southern division but don't ask coach Matt Scott how he feels about being named coach of the year.

"It doesn't work until the end of the year. We haven't accomplished anything yet," he told Grasslands News before last Saturday's game against the Regina Capitals. At first the game appeared to be a tight contest until the third period when Knox came from behind firing on all cylinders to defeat the Capitals 7-2.

This is a team of varied talents that seems to be able to win games that you might at first think it is losing. If so, Scott says that is not part of any strategy he has developed. If he has a strategy, it is that he exudes a quiet confidence that lets his players believe they are the best, as good as they can be.

"The general manager (Jarrod Williams) put the team together. Team-wise, the trick for me is to pick the right people for the right spot. Do that and you've got the game," he explained. "We ask the guys to play very well. They are pretty independent on the ice; they do a good job. We don't have to say much. Sometimes they get a little too loose in the

middle. Our job is to graduate the guys to the next level."

The son of a Whitewood high school principal, Scott started playing hockey when he was three or four years old. He played with U18 AAA hockey in Yorkton then advanced to the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League playing with the Melville Millionaires and the Weyburn Redwings. He was the Knox goalie eight years ago when the team hosted the Keystone Cup and picked up a silver medal. "Coaching here was always something I wanted to come back to," he said.

His coaching career began with the Pipestone Valley Jets 'AA' midget team, and he has coached all levels at Notre Dame College in Wilcox where he was skills and development coach. He has also spent time as a mentor for Hockey Saskatchewan. For the past three years he's been teaching Phys Ed at Kipling high school.

"He doesn't focus on our mistakes. He always talks about what we need to work on," says the team's all-star goalie Zane Winter. "He stays calm, levelheaded," adds Trae DeDecker. Another player Spencer Copeland says Scott has his own way of motivating players during a game.

"I like the way he yells at the referees," Copeland jokes, "That fires the team up."



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Let's GO!

"You're the best," Knox coach Matt Scott tells his team in a pep talk during a recent home game. The Knox are on top of the Bill Johnson Division with 26 wins, five losses in 36 games as of Feb. 4.

Storm struggle to find footing while Fort Knox dominate latest set of games



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Knox wins

Liam Cody (8) scored two of the six goals to skin the Regina Silver Foxes at the Rexentre last Thursday. Josh Heistad sent another two pucks past goalie Jacob Morris adding to the 6-3 victory.

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

The Pilot Butte Storm struggled to find their footing while Fort Knox continued to dominate in the Prairie Junior Hockey League (PJHL).

Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels 1 at Pilot Butte Storm 2

The Pilot Butte Storm hosted the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels on Jan. 29 where the Storm won 2-1 against the Rebels.

Pilot Butte opened scoring late in the first period with a goal from Kayden Reeder. There was no scoring in the second. In the third Pilot Butte's Jackson Wingert scored seven seconds into the period giving the Storm a 2-0 lead. The Rebels made it 2-1 game with a goal from Layne Gadd, but it was not enough. Game winning goalie Kellen Boji saw

31shots while Rebels goalie Matthew Stephens saw 23. There was 24-minutes of penalties throughout the game with one 10-minute misconduct going to Peyton Kostiuik.

Regina Silver Foxes 3 at Fort Knox 6

Fort Knox hosted the Regina Silver Foxes on Jan. 30 where Fort Knox won 6-3 against the Foxes.

Fort Knox started scoring in the first with a goal from Colby Cuddington which was followed up by a powerplay goal for the Foxes from Luc Fafard making it 1-1. In the second period the Silver Foxes took the lead with a goal from Macade Ochitwa; this lead was short lived as it was followed by three goals for the Knox with goal makers being Leland Cody with two and Josh Heistad, ending the period 4-2. In the third the Silver Foxes made it a one goal game with a powerplay goal from Jett Lamb, but it was not enough as Fort Knox's Shaden Duliak answered that goal. Knox's Heistad sealed the game with an empty net goal late in the third making it 6-3 for Fort Knox. Fort Knox goaltender Zane Winter saw 30 shots on net while Silver Foxes' goalie Noah Sharp saw 38 shots. There were 61-minutes of penalties handed out throughout the game, with three 10-minute game misconduct penalties being handed out to Cohen Boehm of the Silver Foxes, Austin Davis of Fort Knox and Castor Berezuk of Fort Knox.

Pilot Butte Storm 4 at Saskatoon Royals 6

The Pilot Butte Storm were on the road to Saskatoon on Jan. 31 to face off against the Saskatoon Royals where they lost 6-4 against the Royals.

Storm score makers in the first period were Tyler Council and Austin Kozakewich, with one each

but the Royals Cody Irwin and Spencer Chestolowski tied it up making it 2-2. In the second the Royals had one goal from Luke McMurray. In the third period Royals' Isaiah Arnold strengthened their lead but was answered by a Storm goal from Kayden Reeder. Cole German made it a two-goal game again for the Royals but was cut short by a powerplay goal from Kayden Reeder. The Royals secured the win with an empty net goal for Chestolowski. There were 26-minutes of penalties throughout the game with one 10-minute misconduct going to the Royals' Keenan Bender. Pilot Butte goaltender Kellen Boji saw 36 shots while Royals' Nic Jensen saw 44.

Pilot Butte Storm 4 at Saskatoon Westleys 1

The Pilot Butte Storm won their next game on their Saskatoon road trip as they faced off against the Saskatoon Westleys on Feb. 1, where they won 4-1.

The Storm opened scoring with a goal from Jaxon Skiftun in the first period. The Westleys' Cade Hynd tied it up in the second. In the third period Skiftun got a hat trick with two back-to-back goals making it 3-1. Wyatt Homeniuk sealed the win for the Storm with a short-handed empty net goal making it 4-1. Penalty minutes were short with only eight minutes of penalties being handed out. Storm goalie Ty Fehrenbach saw 41 shots while Spencer Stokke saw 20 shots for the Westleys.

Extreme Regina Hockey Capitals 2 at Fort Knox 7

Fort Knox played host to the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals on Feb. 1 where the Knox won 7-2.

Fort Knox started scoring in the second period with a powerplay goal from Madden Wallis. The Capitals only scoring in the game occurred in the

second with two powerplay goals from Cohen Godlien and Dylan Schoenroth making it 2-1. In the third period Fort Knox scored a total of six goals. Goal makers were Josh Heistad, Cooper Buhay, River Banks with a powerplay goal and a regular goal, Wallis with a short-handed goal, and Marc Belanger with an empty netter making it 7-2. There were 98-minutes of penalties handed out during the game, with four 10-minute misconducts going to Ty Langford, Sean Brochu, and Lukas Brone of the Capitals. There were also three 10-minute game misconducts going to Langford for the Capitals and to the Fort Knox Team and to the Capitals Team. Zane Winter saved 40 shots for the Knox while Luca Stadnyk saved 37 for the Capitals.

Fort Knox 5 at

Pilot Butte Storm 4 (SO)

Fort Knox and the Pilot Butte Storm faced off for the final time in the regular season in Pilot Butte on Feb. 4 that saw the Fort Knox win in the shootout.

Score makers in the first period were Marc Belanger and Landon Kaban for Fort Knox while Dryden Jeannot scored a powerplay goal for the Storm. The Storm was the only score maker in the second period with a goal from Easton Johns. In the third period goal makers for Fort were Josh Heistad and Tadem Anardi while the Storm's goals were attributed to Kayden Reeder and Kaden Corbin. Shaden Duliak was the shootout winner for Fort Knox. There was a total of 14-minutes of penalties handed out throughout the game. Jackson Miller was in net for Fort Knox, saving 24 shots on net. Pilot Butte had Ty Fehrenbach in net who saved 32 shots.

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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

All that's left of the NFL season is the Super Bowl and with the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs battling for the title; it's going to be a tough game to watch for folks who aren't fans of either squads.

Philadelphia, well known as the City of Brotherly Love and for its lack of class when it comes to sports fans, and Kansas City Chiefs, a team that seems to have become the darlings of the NFL officials, will meet in New Orleans for Super Bowl LIX.

These teams both earned their way to the final – although many will tell you KC's road was paved by referees while the Eagles had some rumble bumps along the way.

The NFC's Eagles dispatched a severely underwhelming Washington Commanders team to get to the big dance as the Chiefs edged a determined Buffalo Bills squad in the AFC finale.

When it comes to both teams, it all starts with the glamour position of quarterback.

The Eagles have a slightly banged up pivot, Jalen Hurts, who is mobile and has a strong arm and isn't afraid to use his legs to generate offence when required.

The Chiefs, looking for the first three-peat in NFL history, have Kermit the Frog sound-alike Patrick Mahomes running their offence, with the head of the Taylor Swift Fan Club, tight end Travis Kelce, being one of his main weapons.

Both teams have extremely solid defences, with the edge probably going to the Eagles, who will try to make life difficult for Mahomes with their tremendous pass rush and solid secondary coverage.

The Chiefs' defence might be more explosive, but teams with good offences can move the ball against them, when they aren't dialing up an exotic blitz package, which we're sure to see a lot of on Super Bowl Sunday.

With Mahomes ability to extend plays with his scrambling ability and a plethora of other offensive weapons such as Kareem Hunt and Isaiah Pacheco at running back and speed merchants Xavier Worthy and Marquise Brown at wideout at his disposal, the Philadelphia defence is going to have to dial up a few schemes that the Chiefs maybe haven't seen before.

The task facing the Kansas City defence, is stopping running back Saquon Barkley and the now infamous 'Tush Push', a play where the offence moves the ball with some help from behind. It's especially effective in short yardage and goal line situations.

Hurts is also a skilled passer, so if the Chiefs try to load up their defensive line to stop the run, expect some play action and plenty of passing.

If you're to believe that the regular season records are part of these teams' identity, then it seems fitting that the 15-2 Chiefs and the 14-3 Eagles are the right teams to be meeting in the NFL's biggest game of the season.

Another problem the Eagles could encounter, is the Kansas City 12th man, also known as the officiating crew.

Over the past few seasons, it seems like the Chiefs have gotten more calls than Telemiracle on the Sunday of the yearly Kinsmen extravaganza.

Even last week, against the Buffalo Bills, there were more strange calls or non-calls that went the way of the Chiefs, because it seems like that's always the case in the big games.

Whenever it looks like the Chiefs are on the ropes, there will be a call that bails them out, and it's happened far too many times to be coincidental.

I'm pretty sure most fans would settle for a slightly inferior game, as long as one team isn't favoured by the officials, or one isn't the constant target of bad calls.

You certainly have to give some respect to the Chiefs, who are playing in their fifth Super Bowl in six years, with the opportunity to win three in a row, something unprecedented in the NFL since the time before the NFL/AFL merger, and a dominant Green Bay Packers team with Vince Lombardi holding the reins.

Get your chicken wings, your chili and all the rest of the snacks you require, because it's still the Super Bowl and it's still a great day to hunker down and enjoy some terrific commercials and hopefully, a good game to go with it.

Mils continue to pocket wins

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

The Melville Millionaires extended their unbeaten streak to four games with a couple of victories over the Nipawin Hawks over the weekend.

Nipawin Hawks 1 at

Melville Millionaires 3 (Feb. 2)

The Millionaires broke this game open in the third period, after neither team was able to score in the first couple of stanzas.

Jackson Lee scored the first goal and added an empty netter to give him four markers on the season while Gaborik Carlson's unassisted, shorthanded tally proved to be the game winner.

Carlson, who has picked up his game significantly over the last month, netted his sixth tally of the campaign on a brilliant breakaway deke.

Matt Kjemhus and Alex Morrison were each credited with an assist.

Nick Genette got the start in goal for the Millionaires and looked solid after missing a few games due to injury. Genette was up to the task, recording the win and making 24 saves in the process.

Melville skaters accounted for 29 shots on the Hawks' cage.

The Millionaires were the more penalized squad

in this contest, being on the hook for six of the match-up's 11 minor infractions.

Melville Millionaires 3 at Nipawin Hawks 2 (Feb. 1)

Jadon Iyogun's 16th goal of the season – a play where he beat two defenders down the ice and tucked the puck past the Hawks netminder -- was the difference maker, as the Millionaires edged the Hawks in the first of two weekend games between the two hockey clubs.

The game was close throughout, with the Mil-

lionaires leading 2-1 after the first frame and the game knotted at 2-2 following the second period.

Jett Fogle picked up his fourth goal of the season to open the scoring with Will Forsberg firing his fifth of the season.

Brodie Hicks, Boston Harkness and Edward Knittig each counted an assist for the visiting Millionaires.

The Mils outshot the Hawks by a 34-23 margin as Ben Laurette earned the triumph between the pipes.

Penalties were not an

issue in this game, with each club being whistled for two minor infractions.

The home win over the Hawks kicked off a stretch of games that will see the Millionaires play 10 home games of their 13 final contests at the CN Community Centre.

The Millionaires are back in action with the Notre Dame Hounds visiting the CNCC on Feb. 8 for a 7 p.m. tussle.

The following weekend the Millionaires will play a pair of games as the Kindersley Klippers provide the opposition.



DARCY GROSS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Eyes on the puck

Melville Millionaires' goaltender Nick Genette searches for a loose puck with three opposition players on the doorstep in last Sunday's game against the Nipawin Hawks, which saw the home side victorious by a 3-1 count at the CNCC.

Sports Column

NHL stars excited for best-on-best 'Faceoff'

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

If Connor McDavid is any indication, National Hockey League players from the four countries involved in the Four Nations Face Off are excited for a chance to show their skills in a best-on-best event, with national pride and bragging rights on the line.

Coaches and general managers around the league, meanwhile, are watching with a touch of anxiety as their players risk injury in an exhibition setting with the all-important Stanley Cup playoffs just around the corner.

McDavid, who was the NHL's No. 1 draft pick in 2015, has played in neither an Olympics or a World Cup as a member of a Canadian team, although he was a member of Team North America (a 23-and-under squad) in the 2016 World Cup. With Canada committed to taking part in the 2026 and 2030 Olympic Games, McDavid will experience more than his share of top-level international hockey and says the Four Nations event, running Feb. 12-20, is a "good teaser."

Played in Montreal and Boston, the tournament is a straightforward single round-robin, with the top two teams meeting in the championship game in Boston on Feb. 20. The four nations taking part are Canada, the United States, Sweden and Finland, which offers fans a stellar group of stars but leaves out many of today's best players — no Germans like Leon Draisaitl or Tim Stutzle, no Russians like Nikita Kucherov or Kirill Kaprizov, no Czechs like David Pastrnak or Martin Necas, no Swiss like Roman Josi and no Dane like Nikolaj Ehlers.

But the lineups of the four teams are nonetheless stacked and picking Canada's team, for instance, meant that a number of great players will stay home — or jet off for a vacation in Mexico or the Bahamas — while their colleagues are wearing the Maple Leaf.

So who will win? Most experts suggest it will come down to the U.S. vs. Canada for the title, with the Swedes and Finns also-rans. McDavid says he's excited about finally getting to play with his boyhood hero, Sidney Crosby, who, at the age of 37, is still putting up outstanding numbers for Pittsburgh Penguins. But in tournaments such as this, the most important player on the ice is usually the goaltender and this is where the U.S. shines. In Connor Hellebuyck of the Winnipeg Jets (but born, unfortunately for Canadians, in Michigan) the goalie's skill in stopping pucks could be the difference. In fact, in pains me as a Canadian to point out that overall,

the American lineup appears to be stronger.

McDavid, meanwhile, is giddy about playing on the same team as Crosby for a week, with something other than a silly all-star game victory on the line. Playing at such a high level at Crosby's age is amazing, said McDavid. "It's unbelievable," McDavid told the Globe and Mail. "Everything that he's done for the game, everything that he's accomplished, and the fact that he's still playing hockey and playing at such a high level, it's incredible."

• Globe and Mail columnist Cathal Kelly, on Auston Matthews: "Matthews gets those weird-but-not-weird-enough RBC ads that some manager somewhere should be fired for."

• Arpon Basu, on Bluesky.social: "Patrik Laine's ability to play at 33 rpm when everyone else is playing at 45 rpm and still almost never lose the puck continues to amaze me."

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun, after complimenting slugging outfielder and new Blue Jay Anthony Santander on his hitting: "But he makes George Bell look like a gold Glover in left field and he runs the bases with all the acumen of Alejandro Kirk."

• Hall-of-Famer Ichiro Suzuki on his least-favourite place to play baseball: "To tell the truth, I'm not excited to go to Cleveland, but we have to. If I ever saw myself saying I'm excited going to Cleveland, I'd punch myself in the face, because I'm lying."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Max Scherzer, who turns 41 this summer, just signed a one-year contract valued at \$15.5 million with the Toronto Blue Jays. Well, the way the U.S.A. is going maybe Max wanted to play in a country that has Medicare."

• Vancouver comedy guy Torben Rolfsen, on Edmonton fans' protest over the Connor McDavid suspension: "I can understand the protest, but the candlelight vigil was a bit much."

• Rolfsen again: "What's with all those people jammed into Taylor Swift's box at the Chiefs' game? You'd think she could afford her own suite. It looks like she's watching the game from a Tokyo subway car."

• Humorist Brad Dickson of Omaha, on allegations of officiating favouritism toward Kansas City Chiefs: "On Valentine's Day the K.C. Chiefs and a group of NFL referees will be having a romantic dinner."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Jayden Daniels lost a shoe during the Commanders' first drive in the playoff versus the Eagles. I think Kenny Rogers would say it best: 'You picked a fine time to leave me loose heel.'"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Grenfell Curling Club and SaskCurl hosts U20 bonspiel

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

A U20 Mixed Doubles Bonspiel in Grenfell last weekend provided an opportunity to extend prairie hospitality and showcase quality sportsmanship.

The bonspiel was held Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 and organized by CurlSask in partnership with the Grenfell Curling Club. Organizers were grateful for strong community support and appreciated the assistance of many volunteers that made the weekend a success.

Volunteers and Hospitality

When the curling club issued a call in January for volunteers to help with meals and other aspects of the bonspiel, club president Mike Kardash said there was a great response. Community members quickly offered to help cook food, serve in the concession or prepare the ice surface. Grenfell recently revived its youth curling program and some participants assisted with ice maintenance or took opportunities throughout the weekend to talk with the U20 curlers. In addition to volunteering, many community members supported the event as spectators and by purchasing a meal at the rink.

Visiting coaches and parents were impressed with the venue and community, expressing appreciation for the hospitality they were shown during their time in Grenfell. Kardash said it was a very positive experience and a great opportunity to showcase the facilities that are available in the community for recreation and accommodation.

Mixed Doubles Bonspiel

The bonspiel began at 2 p.m. on Friday and continued with a full schedule until Sunday afternoon. Competitors from the 16 teams included several individuals who had participated in U18 or U20 provincial events in 2023 and 2024. While the young athletes curled, their parents and community members watched from the bleachers on the main floor or from the lounge upstairs.

Spectators enjoyed watching the bonspiel which included a few tight games. The weekend was characterized by good sportsmanship and a positive atmosphere. Kardash noted that although doubles curling is a relatively new format for the sport, it is quickly becoming popular.

By lunchtime on Saturday, four pairs had secured their place in the finals, including Rachel Vogelsang and Nathan Roy, Tessa Todd and Shane Cornelson, Andra Todd and Ryder Helmeczi, Renee Wood and Rogan Snow. Roy, Wood, Snow, Helmeczi and Andra Todd all competed in the provincial championships within the past two years.

Playoffs were underway by that evening, and eight remaining teams competed for a place in Sunday's draws. Vogelsang and Roy from Saskatoon went on to win the bonspiel Sunday afternoon.

Team Todd and Helmeczi from Saskatoon finished in 2nd place; followed by Chloe Semeniuk and Brandon Weiss from Esterhazy and North Battleford, and Team Wood and Snow from Saskatoon.



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Mixed Doubles U20 curling

On Saturday evening, eight teams competed for a spot in the quarter-finals during a U20 Mixed Doubles Bonspiel hosted by Grenfell Curling Club and CurlSask, from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2. Hudson Heistad urges Brooklyn Schell to sweep the rock into the rings.

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Regional Figure Skating Competition in Whitewood Feb. 14-16

190 skaters from across Saskatchewan and Manitoba to compete

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Excitement is building, says Danielle Jones, president of Whitewood Skating Club, as the Whitewood club prepares to welcome 190 figure skaters for the upcoming Regional Competition. The competition is set to take place Feb. 14 - 16, 2025. This event will bring together skaters from various skating clubs throughout Saskatchewan and Manitoba with 20 officials overseeing the competition.

Whitewood is representing the skating clubs within Regions 1 and 6 of Skate Saskatchewan. The furthest Saskatchewan Skating Club joining the regional competition in Whitewood that weekend will be the Prince Albert Skating Club (Corporation).

"This prestigious event will showcase a range of skating talent, from rising young athletes who

are referred to as "STAR 1" figure skaters who then progressively reach higher star levels as skills develop, which then leads individuals into the competitive pathway who are more advanced competitors," Jones stated. "These skaters will perform and compete for top placements individually and against other competitors depending on their skill level."

The competition provides an opportunity for skaters to demonstrate their skills in various categories, including freeskate, dance, and interpretive programs.

Hosting this event is a proud moment for Whitewood Skating Club, as it not only highlights the town's dedication to figure skating but also brings visitors to the community, supporting local businesses and tourism.

"We are thrilled to host this competition and welcome skaters, coaches, families, and officials to

Whitewood. This event is a great way to showcase our club and the incredible talent in our region," the president stated on behalf of Whitewood Skating Club.

The competition will be held at the Whitewood Community Centre with events running throughout the weekend. Spectators are encouraged to attend and cheer on the athletes as they compete at various levels. Admission is free for spectators. The kitchen will be open with healthy options with all funds raised going back to the Whitewood Skating Club to be able to afford to keep this grassroots skating club progressive for their members.

The many volunteers that have come forward are greatly appreciated to help bring an event of this magnitude to the Whitewood Skating Club and to the community.

Events begin on Friday, Feb. 14 at 4:30 p.m. and continue until 9:10 p.m. Skaters performing will be competing in Creative Improv 1, 2 and 3, Star 1 Free Program, followed by Star 2 - 3, 4 - 5 Solo Dance Follow and Star 4 - 5 Solo Dance Follow & Lead.

Saturday's competition begins at 8:00 a.m. with Star 6 - 7 Solo Dance Follow, Couple Dance, Star 8 - 9 Solo Dance Follow & Lead and Star 10 Solo Dance Follow. Next will be Star 5 Artistic, Star 5 Artistic Women's and Men's & Star 7 Artistic Men's, Star 7 Artistic, Gold Artistic & Adult Gold Artistic.

tic & Adult Gold Artistic.

Star 7 Free Program, Star 7 Program Women's and Men's & Star 9 Free Program will be on the ice around noon on Saturday followed by the Star 6 Free Program & the Star 6 Men's Free Program, Star 8 & Star 10 Free Programs. Mid-afternoon will be the Adult Silver FreeSkate & Star 5 Free Program competing prior to Star 5 Free Program U13, 13 & 0 & Star 5 Men's Free Program,

Star 4 Free Program U13 & 13 & 0.

The day will wind down at 8:00 p.m. following the Star 8 Syncro, Star 7-8 Elements & Star 7-8 Men's Elements, Star 6 Elements, Star 5 Elements & Star 5 Men's Elements and Star 6 and Star 5 Team.

The final day of competition, Sunday, Feb. 16 starts at 8:00 a.m. with Star 2 Free Program, Star 3 Free Program, Star 2 Elements, Star 3 Elements,

Star 4 Elements, Star 2 Team, Star 3 Team and Star 4 Team to bring the competition to a close at 5:10 p.m.

All events with individual and up to 9 skaters competing are listed above in the order they will be completed each day.

For more information, follow Whitewood Skating Club on Facebook or visit www.whitewoods skating-club.com

Pilot Butte Storm Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
FEBRUARY:
06- PB Storm at Regina Caps 7:30
12- Reg. Silver Foxes at PB Storm 8:00
15- S'toon Quakers at PB Storm 7:45



Melville Millionaires Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
FEBRUARY:
08- Notre Dame at Melville 7 p.m.
14- Kindersley at Melville 7 p.m.
15- Kindersley at Melville 7 p.m.
21- La Ronge at Melville 7 p.m.
22- Flin Flon at Melville 7 p.m.
28- Melville at Weyburn 7 p.m.

Fort Knox Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
FEBRUARY:
08- S'toon Quakers at Fort Knox 7 pm
13- Fort Knox at Extreme Hockey Regina Caps 7:30 pm
15- Regina S.Foxes at Fort Knox 3 pm
17- Fort Knox at Regina SFox 7:45 pm

Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M. Feb. 3	Gutter Girls	42	Squishmellows	28
Ladies' High Single, Triple, and Average, Shaleen Kruger 239, 577, 203. Men's High Single and Triple, Joe Wu, 267, 689. Men's High Average, Gordon Ostlund, 181. Team High Single and Triple, Brewer, 918, 2577.	Professional Amateurs	38		
Team				
Dobson		50.5		
Brewer		40.5		
Stuckey		34.5		
Gelowitz		34.5		
MONDAY COMMERCIAL Feb. 3				
Ladies' High Single and Triple, Brittany Boyarski. Ladies' High Average, Brandy Lechner, 223. Men's High Single and Triple, Destin Kohlenberg, 290, 725. Men's High Average, Isaac Hollinger, 218. Team High Single and Triple, Pinheads, 1419, 4005.				
Team				
Pin Heads		64.5		
Blame it on Garry		45.5		
Blind Chickens		45		
MONDAY COMMERCIAL Feb. 3				
Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Pat Brown 179, 487, 180. Men's High Single, Chris Heinmiller, 242. Men's High Triple and Average, Mike Hickie, 653, 204. Team High Single and Triple, CCJ, 1283, 3672.				
Team				
CCJ		47.5		
Drifters		43		
Just 4 Fun		39.5		
A Team		26		
TUESDAY YBC Jan. 28				
Girls High Single and Triple, Amzlee Patterso, 135, 349. Boys High Single, Alex Kohlenberg, 152. Boys High Triple, Jakob Unterschute, 342. Team High Single and Triple, Squishmellows, 872, 2496.				
Team				
Bowl Kings		52		
THURSDAY YBC Jan. 30				
Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 248, 637. Boys High Single, Lukas Matchim, 237. Boys High Triple, Zachary Curylo, 582. Team High Single and Triple, Nameless, 888, 2626.				
Team				
Cobras		48		
Nameless		46		
Hollinger		44		
Head Pins		22		
SATURDAY YBC Feb. 1				
Girls High Single and Triple, Laura Smidt, 93, 243. Boys High Single and Triple, Lucas Giesbrecht, 199, 432. Team High Single and Triple, Bravehearts, 884, 2487.				
Team				
Bravehearts		59.5		
The Enders		41.5		
Bowling Superstars		35		
Everythings		20		

Notice of Abandonment of Poll

(Municipal Elections)

Rural Municipality of Montmartre No. 126

Whereas,

Patrick Sauvé, nominated for the Office for Councillor, Division 5

was the only candidate, I hereby declare elected by acclamation, and give notice that no voting for this office will take place on March 5th, 2025.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2025.

Dale Brenner
Returning Officer



Town of Broadview Part-Time Public Works Maintenance & Equipment Operator

The Town of Broadview is accepting applications for the position of Part-Time Public Works Maintenance and Equipment Operator. This is a permanent part-time position.

Applicants must possess a minimum Grade 12/GED, Valid Class 5 Drivers License and be willing to acquire any certification necessary.

Job duties:

Here are some of the main activities and tasks that Public works maintenance equipment operator and related workers have to perform, and some of the physical demands they involve:

- Operate street cleaning equipment such as street sweepers or other vehicles equipped with rotating brushes to remove sand, litter and trash
- Operate snowplows or trucks fitted with plow blades to remove snow from streets, highways, parking lots and similar areas
- Operate sewer maintenance equipment such as sewer jet cleaners to maintain and repair sewer systems
- Operate trucks equipped with apparatuses for spreading sand, salt or abrasives on roadways
- Operate chainsaws and other clearing equipment to fell trees and cut back vegetation
- Operate riding mowers to maintain Town owned property and private custom work.
- Check, lubricate, refuel and clean equipment and report any malfunctions to supervisor.

Individuals that are self-motivated are encouraged to apply. Previous experience in operating and maintaining large equipment also preferred.

Submit resumes and references by Monday, February 14, 2025 at 4 p.m. to:

Town of Broadview
P.O. Box 430
Broadview, Saskatchewan
S0G 0K0
Phone 306-696-2533
Fax 306-696-3573

email: town.of.broadview@sasktel.net

The Town of Broadview would like to thank all who apply, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF PILOT BUTTE



Notice of Intent to Amend Zoning Bylaw No. 2-2023

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Pilot Butte intends to amend the Zoning Bylaw No. 02-2023 and adopt Bylaw No. 02-2025, under the Planning and development Act, 2007.

INTENT:

To implement the text amendments required by Community Planning prior the approval of the Zoning Bylaw No. 02-2023 in April 2024. The text amendments contain the following:

- Schedule of fees
- Public Notice Policy
- Development Appeals
- Definition and wording errors

PUBLIC INSECTION:

Any person may inspect the proposed Bylaw No. 02-2025 at the Town Office—222 Diamond Place, Pilot Butte, SK S0G 3Z0 between 9 AM—12 PM and 1 PM—5 PM from Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays. The bylaw will also be available at the Town's website: www.pilotbutte.ca

REPRESENTATIONS:

The Municipality is open to accepting any representations from the public that state their concerns or comments regarding the proposed Bylaw No. 02-2025. Written, online, or any other representations shall be submitted with your full name and address no later than **February 10, 2025** to the Town Office or email to planner@pilotbutte.ca

PUBLIC HEARING:

Council will hold a **public hearing** for the proposed Bylaw No. 02-2025 on **February 10, 2025** at the Town's Council Chambers to hear any concerns from the Public. Please call or send us an email with your full name and civic address no later than **February 10, 2025** to confirm your participation in the public hearing.

For further information, please send an email or contact the Town Planner at (306) 781-6250.

Dated this 15th of January, 2025, at the Town of Pilot Butte, Saskatchewan.

Princes Guzman, Town Planner

CLASSIFIEDS



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

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 You were a very special person
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 And the love we had together
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 But a piece of me went with you
 The day you went away.
 –Wife Francis, family and friends.
 * * * * *
Love Lives On
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 No longer in our life to share
 But in our hearts, you're always there.
 –Tim, Shelly and family.

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Indian Head Library

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WEDNESDAY

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THURSDAY - New Hours

1 - 4 p.m.; 5 - 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

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SATURDAY

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M37-4c

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M35-4p

FOR RENT – 1- and 2-bedroom apartments in Squire's Court, Melville. Appliances included. Phone Steve at 306-730-7242.

M20-8p

Looking for Work?

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M37-4p

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M46-4c

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(based on 25 words or less)



Obituary Deadline Tuesdays 12 Noon

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Additional weeks: \$7.50 • Deadline: Tuesdays at 12 noon

1-844-GNG-NEWS

Businesses spend over 32 days a year wrapped up in red tape

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

In 2024, small businesses spent a whopping 735 hours complying with regulation, finds a new report by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) released in partnership with Intuit QuickBooks as part of the Red Tape Awareness Week™. Over a third of that (256 hours or about 32 business days) is spent on red tape that could be eliminated without compromising public health and safety.

The time spent on red tape specifically has increased by 35 per cent since 2020, from 189 hours in 2020 to 256 in 2024.

"Small business owners are spending an alarming amount of time navigating endless forms, interpreting confusing government instructions, and jumping through unnecessary hoops. That's time they could dedicate to growing their businesses, supporting their staff, and serving their communities," said Brianna Solberg, CFIB Director of Legislative Affairs, Prairies

& the North. "If we're serious about tackling Canada's productivity challenges, governments must take bold steps to eliminate red tape and give business owners the time they need to succeed."

In addition to lost time, regulatory compliance also comes with a big price tag.

In 2024, Canadian businesses faced compliance costs totaling approximately \$51.5 billion, a significant increase of 13.5 per cent or \$5 billion from CFIB's 2020 estimate (\$45.4 billion). Business owners attribute a substantial portion—35%, or \$17.9 billion—of these costs to red tape, up from \$12.7 billion in 2020. Higher wages and professional fees, along with an increase in time spent on compliance, are driving the rise in costs.

Small businesses also face a higher regulatory burden than their larger counterparts, paying over five times more per employee. In 2024, businesses with fewer than five employees spent \$10,208 per employee on regulatory compliance, while businesses with 100 or more employees spent \$1,374. Smaller firms also spent 198 hours per employee on compliance, compared to

just eight hours for those with over 100 employees.

Business owners indicated that savings from regulatory reductions could be used to expand operations, hire more employees, increase wages, and improve work-life balance, all of which could contribute to greater productivity and economic growth.

"Running a small business shouldn't mean becoming an expert in government red tape. Unnecessary regulations act as a roadblock to growth, innovation, and competitiveness," added Solberg. "Freeing up even a fraction of the 200 million hours lost to red tape each year would allow business owners to focus on what matters most, growing their businesses and strengthening our economy."

Actionable steps to reduce red tape

An overwhelming majority (87 per cent) of small business owners said that excessive government regulations significantly reduce their business's productivity and ability to grow. With a looming threat from the U.S. tariffs, our governments need to focus on boosting Canada's productivity and competitiveness.

CFIB put together a 10-point plan with practical ways for governments to reduce red tape, which includes measuring the regulatory burden, staying accountable to the public, prioritizing plain and simple language, and making regulatory accountability a political priority.

Balcarres seniors welcome new members

Memberships \$40 per year

By Judy Hershmilller
Grasslands News

Sincere sympathy to the Stephens family and friends on the recent passing of Ron Stephens of Regina. Ron's career took him on the road as a driver for Greyhound, Richards Transport and STC until retirement.

Sincere sympathy to the family of Don Warner who recently passed away. Don was very community minded serving as Balcarres town mayor, administrator, and local coroner and business development board across SE Saskatchewan for many years before his retirement.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of Eric Hastie, long-time resident of Balcarres who owned Hastie's Heating and Plumbing business for over 50 years. Eric was also the Balcarres Fire Chief for 25 years,

a Charter Member of the Balcarres & District Lions Club, and was recently honoured last year for his 70 years as member of the organization. Eric's funeral will take place on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. at St. John's Anglican Church, Fort Qu'Appelle.

Golden Age Events

Memberships are \$40/year and is open to anyone 45 years and older. Drop in or call Carol at 306-334-2449 for more info or to arrange a ride. Becoming a member is not all work but is also a rewarding way to gather, laugh and socialize in the various projects while also helping with expenses. All hands on deck does make work fun and easier.

Coffee time takes place every Tuesday at 9:30. The Sewing Club meets every Tuesday after coffee time to begin sewing. Recently they met with Isabel Fishley, who is a member of

the Katepwa Sewing Club, and together with Katepwa's pillow cases, Pat Schill's pillow cases and Balcarres pillow cases there were 47 donations to the Allan Blair Cancer Clinic. Appreciation to Isabel for co-ordinating to take them in to the city.

Every week approximately six ladies gather at the Centre to co-ordinate the material on hand, in matching colors, to make up bagged kits, which in turn go to where the material is cut, and then sewed into the beautiful pillowcases, which are appropriate for adults, and children. The members are looking forward to their next project which will be sewing neo-natal quilts.

Members have also been busy in the kitchen. Recently they made 100 doz. perogies which are for sale - 2 doz. perogies are \$14.50. Apple pies are still on hand at \$15.50,

lazy cabbage rolls \$10, and rhubarb crisps in 6 x 8 pans \$10. Cabbage rolls will be made closer to Easter. Watch for details. For more information contact Sandy 306-332-7285.

Birthdays of members are celebrated every third Wednesday of the month at 2:30.

Join us for our Games Day during the winter months, on Saturdays at 1:30. Cribbage games are enjoyed (\$2 entrance fee) with the winner taking the pot. Crokinole was also enjoyed last game day. Membership is not required for Games Day. All ages welcome.

Exercises with Florence take place every Monday at 10 a.m. through to April. Florence hosts a video class that is designed for seniors. The class is helpful for mobility and balance and may be done sitting or standing. To register, contact Florence at 206-640-9413.

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SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards of Excellence now open

Submitted
Grasslands News

SaskTel announced that it is now accepting applications for the 2025 SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards of Excellence. First established in 1997 as a partnership between SaskTel and the Wicihitowin Foundation, the SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards of Excellence celebrate outstanding achievements of young Indigenous people across Saskatchewan.

"The SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards of Excellence highlight the remarkable talents, leadership, and contributions of these young individuals," said Charlene Gavel, SaskTel President and CEO. "We are proud to stand alongside the Wicihitowin Foundation in recognizing and honoring the unique abilities and extraordinary accomplishments of Indigenous youth. Their dedication and resilience inspire us all, and we look forward to cheering them on as

they work to build a brighter future for themselves, their communities, and our province as whole."

The awards recognize youth achievement in five categories:

- Outstanding Academic Achievement
- Leadership
- Culture & Community
- Sports & Recreation
- Arts & Science



"The SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards aim to provide recipients with the confidence and encouragement needed to move forward and achieve great success in their post-secondary education and careers," said Fawn Redwood, SaskTel Indigenous Engagement Manager.

"This year marks the 27th edition of the awards, and it's incredible to think about how many lives they've touched. It's truly an honour to see past winners thrive and succeed as they work to achieve their personal and academic

goals."

To be eligible for an award, participants must be of First Nations, Metis, or Inuit ancestry. Participants must also be between the ages of 14 and 18 (by December 31, 2024) and able to demonstrate outstanding commitment and/or ability in one of the award categories.

To apply for an award, or nominate a deserving young Indigenous person, please submit your application on Sask-

Tel's website at the link below. All applications must be received by April 18, 2025.

SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards www.sasktel.com/about-us/corporate-social-responsibility/indigenous-youth-awards-of-excellence-site

The 2025 SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards will be held in Regina on June 6th.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Demolition of Building located at 508 Buxton Street

The Town of Indian Head invites sealed proposals from qualified contractors to demolish and load all building material located at 508 Buxton Street, Indian Head.

Proposal should include:

- Quote to demolish and load building into 40-yard Loraas bins. Bins to be provided by the Town at the Town's expense.
- Quote to demolish and haul all concrete from the demolition project to the Indian Head Waste Transfer Station. Town will be responsible for backfilling and final grade work.
- Timelines/schedule to complete the job.

Please make arrangements to view the project before submitting a proposal. Arrangements can be made to view the property by calling the Town Office at 306-695-3344.

Proposals will be accepted at the Town Office during working hours Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Unsealed or late proposals will not be accepted. Proposals must be clearly marked "508 Buxton Street Demolition Proposal" on the outside of the envelope. Proposals will be received by the undersigned until 12 p.m., Monday, February 24, 2025.

Proposals will be opened and reviewed at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2025 in the Town Office Council Chambers located at 419 Grand Avenue.

Lowest or any proposal not necessarily accepted. Submit proposals to:

Administrator
Town of Indian Head
P.O. Box 460
Indian Head, SK S0G 2K0
306-695-3344

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to *The Municipalities Act*, public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Indian Head intends to annex lands.

INTENT: The Town of Indian Head (Town) intends to annex the following parcels of land shown on the maps below:

1. Blk/Par T, Plan No. 101372521 Ext 13, Surface Parcel Number 121037510
2. Blk/Par Q, Plan 72R42001 Ext 0, Surface Parcel Number 110552891
3. NE 1/4 23-18-13-W2M Ext 1, Surface Parcel Number 203750434
4. Blk/Par B, Plan 102318757 Ext 0, Surface Parcel Number 203750423



REASONS: The reason for the proposed annexation is to accommodate a proposed addition to the existing Sherwood Co-op that is partially within Town boundaries and connected to Town services. The annexation would result in the entire Sherwood Co-op development being within the Town.

Additional agricultural land would be included in the annexation in order to better plan for future growth.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the proposal at the Town of Indian Head office Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at the Town Office.

PUBLIC MEETING: A public meeting will be held on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Office Council Chambers located at 419 Grand Avenue to discuss the proposed annexation. Any person who wishes to object to the proposal may file a written objection, clearly stating their reason(s) for their opposition, with the Administrator of the Town of Indian Head at the following address:

P.O. Box 460
Indian Head, SK S0G 2K0

A written notice of objection must be received by the Administrator by Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

Issued at the Town of Indian Head this Friday, January 31, 2025.

Cam Thauberger,
Administrator

Mike LaValley named King of the Snow

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Calgary's Mike LaValley riding a custom-built turbo charged Yamaha was named King of the Snow during the Qu'Appelle Valley Racing Association's snowmobile races on Echo Lake last

weekend.

About 80 contestants from the three prairie provinces braved the sub-zero temperatures to take part in the Maxceleration racing series.

LaValley has won championships in every province in Western Canada. He said driving

through a snowstorm to get to Fort Qu'Appelle was the hardest part.

"But I got here, didn't I?" he said.

On Saturday, Feb. 15, snowmobile racing fans can attend the Saskatchewan Racing Association's Pro Stick and Heavy Mod races on Mission Lake.



King of the Snow

Mike LaValley is a snowmobile dealer in Calgary.

ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS



Perogy-making

JUSTINE WALTON | GRASSLANDS NEWS

On Jan. 28, the White City Public Library hosted a Ukrainian perogy-making class. It was a collaboration between the library and the White Butte Museum's Ukrainian Culture Week. Instructor Olena Shyian led the group and participants were encouraged to take perogies home after class.

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*Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on new in-stock 2024 ELANTRA Essential/2024 VENUE Essential/2024 TUCSON Preferred AWD models with an annual finance rate of 4.49%/5.49%/4.49%. Cost of borrowing is \$1,972/\$2,389/\$3,340. Selling price is \$25,871/\$25,363/\$30,614. Weekly payments are \$101/\$101/\$175 for 48/48/48 months. \$2,995/\$2,395/\$2,995 down payment required. Trade-in value may be applied to down payment amount. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination charge of \$1,775/\$1,950/\$1,950, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST/GST/PPST). Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, licence fees and dealer admin. fees of up to \$500. (Price of model shown: 2024 ELANTRA N Line Ultimate/2024 VENUE Ultimate/2024 TUCSON Ultimate Hybrid AWD is \$33,856/\$28,331/46,931. Price includes Delivery and Destination charges of \$1,775/\$1,950/\$1,950, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST/GST/PPST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, licence fees and dealer admin. fees of up to \$599. Fees may vary by dealer. Prices are not established for pre-production models.

†Bonus price adjustments of \$500 available on select in-stock 2024 KONA N Line trims only, on lease, finance and cash purchase from July 3, 2024 to July 30, 2024. Price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. Model inventory for which the price adjustments are applicable may vary from dealer to dealer and from region to region. See your local Hyundai dealer for further details and applicable model inventory. ††Offer available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Vehicle colour is subject to availability. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.I. and a full tank of gas. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. Visit www.hyundaincanada.com or see dealer for complete details. The Hyundai name, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned or licensed by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. All other trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners.

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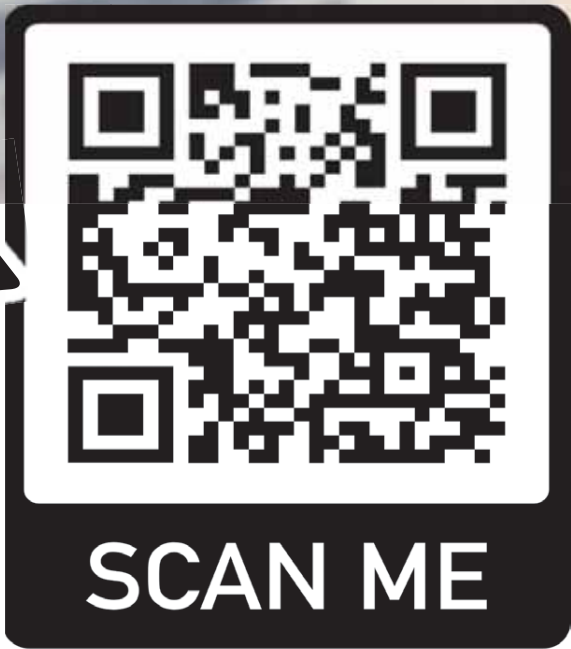
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