



Summer Band Concert sets the tune for success

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

On Tuesday, June 2 the Summer Band Concert held at Kipling School Gym provided a way for those students who are part of the Band Program to celebrate and showcase the impressive results of the dedication and hard work they have put in during the year - while those attending the performance had the opportunity to enjoy some fine music.

The evening began with three selections performed by the Kipling School Beginner Band. Bonnie Jean Dash (Band Teacher) noted the remarkable progress that each of the young performers had made. And for their final piece, a perennial favorite entitled 'Let's Go Band', the Beginner Band was joined by the eight senior students who are graduating this year, in a performance that was one of the highlights of the evening.

This was followed by three pieces performed by the Southeast Outer Limits Intermediate Band. Dash praised the members of this large ensemble (comprised of students from Kipling, Whitewood and Kennedy Langbank Schools) for continuing to grow together as a band and impress audiences with their skills and talent.

During the final performance of the evening, which featured three selections from the Southeast Outer Limits Senior Band, Dash took the opportunity to say good-bye to the graduating band students, noting that they "fooled me into thinking that seven years is a long time". She presented each of the eight students with a small gift and added that they had grown to be good friends who would be missed.

Following the final performance, Dash spoke to the audience about proposed cuts to the Regina Public School Band Program, and her concerns that if such cuts were to take place, other school divisions could consider implementing similar measures which could potentially impact the local Band Program. Dash therefore encouraged those in the audience to consider signing a petition currently circulating and express their opposition to such measures. Dash then concluded by thanking the audience for attending, as well as the Band Parents who contributed their time and effort to making the year a success.

Fundraiser brings in \$4,000 to support STARS Air Ambulance

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

The second annual 'Local Stars for STARS Fundraiser in Memory of Izzy Wilson' was held at the Windthorst Community Center last Saturday, and Michelle Wilson (Izzy's mother) says that the family was pleased with the support they received from the community.

"We had around 130 people come out for the supper and to hear the entertainment," Wilson says. "So, we had a great turnout. And while there were a few people who came from further away, most were from this area. We really had the community coming out to support this."

Entertainment for the evening was provided by local performers, and Wilson says that the event was a nice way for people to discover some of our local talent.

"We had Shaya Istage open for us and 'King for a Day' was back here to perform for the first time in thirteen years. Sheila Synk's band, 'D'Good Juans' also had the crowd rocking. A lot of people came up to me and said that they didn't realize what fantastic local talent we have here. So, it was wonderful to be able to provide a showcase for these performers."

Although a final total is still unavailable, Wilson estimates that "We will be able to make a donation of approximately \$4,000 to STARS and \$1,000 to the Balgonie Fire Department."



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First and last

The Kipling School Beginner Band along with senior band students who are graduating this year performed a familiar and favorite selection together at the Summer Band Concert.



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Impressive performance

These students are part of the Southeast Out Limits Intermediate Band, a large ensemble that gave a huge performance showcasing the results of all the work they've done this year.



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We'll miss you

There was laughter, hugs and a few tears as teacher Bonnie Jean Dash said 'Good-bye' to each of the senior band students graduating this year.

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First Nations upset they weren't part of First Ministers meetings

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

After more than 40 years, Saskatchewan was once again host to Canada's First Ministers' meeting. Federal and provincial leaders met in Saskatoon to discuss items of national concern, but Indigenous leaders felt they should have been part of those conversations.

First Ministers' Meeting

Prime Minister Mark Carney met with provincial premiers and territorial leaders in Saskatoon on June 2. Primary topics included wildfires, infrastructure improvements and law enforcement, along with economic concerns such as tariffs. The group discussed plans to remove trade barriers through a proposed "One Canadian Economy" legislation. They considered means to accelerate projects and streamline assessment processes in order to strengthen the

nation's economy.

First Nation Response

Saskatchewan's Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) responded to the crown's meeting by broadcasting a press conference via social media on Monday morning. The chief and vice chiefs from FSIN, along with several leaders from First Nations, tribal council and other organizations participated in the press conference.

Seated in front of a wall on which were the words "FSIN Protecting Treaty Rights Since 1947," speakers shared their perspective that First Nations were being excluded from discussions regarding topics that would impact their rights. They expressed concerns that legislation for projects to improve Canada's economy would be pushed forward too quickly without consulting First Nations regard-

ing natural resources.

"Where is the conversation with First Nation people where those resources are, whose land they are on?" FSIN Vice Chief David Pratt asked. "What if we as First Nations had a press conference and said, 'We're going to build a critical mineral development outside of Calgary.' How do you think they would feel if we didn't go talk to their MPs or to the people that were living on that land? That's the disrespect that the prime minister and premiers are showing to our leaders."

First Nation leaders further referenced "historic allyship," affirming that proposed legislation should reflect partnership between the Canadian government and sovereign First Nations. They expressed a desire to work together for the benefit of everyone, while ensuring that treaty rights are respected.



Smoky days

An elevator in Whitewood sits in a haze of smoke from the forest fires in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Smoke from the fires blanketed the province and into the United States last Friday and Saturday.

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"The agenda items for the First Ministers' meeting here in Saskatoon are internal trade, tariffs, pipelines and major projects. These are all critical matters that directly impact our inherent treaty rights and constitutional rights, including rights to our lands, waters, medicines and all living things. No one can deny the resources and critical minerals driving these talks are extracted from our treaty and traditional territories. So, let's be clear, any conversation about internal trade, tariffs, pipelines or major projects must include our first nations," explained FSIN Vice Chief Dutch Lerat.

He added that First Nations want to be involved in the economy and stand in solidarity with others to embrace opportunities for the future.

"We call on Canada to honour its commitments, uphold the treaties, and ensure that First Nations are at the table when decisions are made about lands and resources that sustain us all," Vice Chief Lerat said.

Cowessess First Nation Chief Erica Beaudin also gave a brief statement during the press conference. She reminded listeners that Indigenous people have a sense of responsibility as stewards of the land.

"We are the originals and the first, and we will be the last protectors of our lands, our waters, our air and minerals. From the well-being of all of these elements is the well-being of our chil-

dren, our old ones and everyone in between," Chief Beaudin said. "This is not a federal jurisdictional matter because we have federal-provincial transfer agreements as rights holders, as taxpayers, in which we have the right to sit at those tables. The future is bright for what is now Canada, the collective well-being in us working together depends solely on this."

Consultation Promised

As of Grasslands News' publication deadline, the federal and provincial governments had not issued any response directly to Indigenous leaders. However, a summary of the First Ministers' meeting was released by the Prime Minister's office on Monday. It indicated that, although Indigenous leaders were not invited to the First Ministers' meeting, there

is an intention to consult First Nations while endeavoring to move projects forward that would strengthen the economy.

The First Ministers discussed particular "projects of national interest" that meet certain criteria and must be "subject to consultation with Indigenous Peoples whose rights may be affected." When considering infrastructure improvements, "Indigenous equity and participation" was also mentioned as a priority.

The statement further affirmed that "First Ministers pledged to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult with Indigenous Peoples and discussed ways to strengthen Indigenous ownership and partnerships to provide Indigenous communities with generational economic opportunities."

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Sask building and construction growth top the nation

By Ryan Kiedrowski

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As Trade and Export Development Minister, Melville-Saltcoats MLA Warren Kaeding says he has one of the best jobs around right now.

"I have a very exciting job where I get to talk about all the positives of the province, and there are many," he said. "So I try and be as enthusiastic as I can. And it's easy to be enthusiastic about the opportunities in the province."

He has a lot to be excited about, with numbers from Statistics Canada showing an increase of 27.8 per cent in building construction investment in Saskatchewan for March 2025 as compared to the same time last year. It also puts Saskatchewan first in the country for year-over-year growth, something Kaeding calls "an exciting stat that shows the confidence that people have in our economy here."

"The most interesting part of that is it's covering both residential and commercial, so not only do we have families that are feeling confident in our economy, we have businesses that are feeling very confident in the economy and are willing to build, expand, and just do more with what they're working with now," he said. "To me, that just shows we've got long-term confidence in the economy, and that is exciting in itself, because when you've got confidence like that, it spurs other folks to also

participate in the economy."

Both residential and non-residential construction were up 29.8 per cent and 24.2 per cent respectively when comparing March 2025 to the year previous.

"It does take some planning, and hoping that the incentives that you create are there for business to take advantage of," Kaeding said. "It takes a while for all of that to resonate with everyone and where they now have that confidence in doing more."

The question now becomes one of how the province can keep that momentum going, and according to Kaeding, the answer isn't specific to one area.

"I know the Premier has been on record by saying, 'policies matter'," he noted. "And policies matter if they're bad policy – as we've sometimes seen at the federal level – but they also matter when they're good policy, and that's where I think you see growth like this is a result of good policy."

"Whether it's low business tax rates or even graduate retention programs, where there are programs that are here to keep our young people in the province, investing in opportunities, working in sectors that have nothing but growth in front of them," Kaeding continued. "They're feeling comfortable, they've got take-home pay that they now feel comfortable they can build a house and then plan a family. That's what we like to see, too, is growth."

That growth in the construc-

tion sector also translates to physical growth as Saskatchewan officially hit 1.25 million people this year.

"That 300,000 people have moved here just in the last 15 years, that's an incredible statistic as well," Kaeding said. "We even predict it's going to grow more. Part of our growth plan, I believe, is to hit 1.4 mil-



MLA Warren Kaeding

lion by 2030, so we were very encouraged by the stats that we're seeing, but are looking forward to where this is going to end up in 2030 for us as well."

Another key contributor to the mixture of success lies in creative thinking and working together, something Kaeding is happy using a local example to explain.

"What goes with that is the ability for an area to get together and take a regional ap-

proach to this," he said.

"I continue to use Moosomin as that shining example across the province that when you get a number of municipalities working together, having a strategic plan, and then doing everything they possibly can to realize that plan, it results in growth that you're seeing in southeast Saskatchewan.

"We have definitely have a sense of community in the province, and we consider the province to be one community," Kaeding said. "You know, you look at all the things that we've rallied around, specific things, and that certainly supports growth and development when we're taking care of each other."

Kaeding also credits past policies for some of the growth being seen today.

"Some of those policies that got initiated and planted in 2007 are now coming to fruition, and that's what we're seeing in some of these very positive statistics," he said.

Looking at all-time high GDP numbers – reported to be \$80.5 billion 2024 and an increase of 3.4 per cent (\$2.6 billion) – Saskatchewan finds itself again ranked number one among the other provinces. With private capital investment anticipated to hit \$16.2 billion this year (up 10.1 per cent over 2024), there's obviously something intriguing about doing business in Saskatchewan.

"We've heard from a lot of businesses that say, 'business success also breeds more busi-

ness success'," Kaeding said. "Now you see businesses from outside the province looking at their competitors or their suppliers developing, evolving, and building a better business in the province. They're looking at it as an opportunity to come here as well, and we're certainly trying to provide them the incentives – whether it's in small business incentives, small medium enterprise business incentives or value added incentives, whether it comes to ag or manufacturing – we're trying to support any sector that wants to build and develop here in the province."

As a result, international mining giants like BHP and K+S are attracted to the province.

"Companies from outside of North America, they're looking at Saskatchewan as a tremendous opportunity for investment and building some pretty significant capital projects as a result of that," Kaeding said. "One benefit that we've got as a province is we have a very diversified economy. We're starting to see even more resource development in some of the other critical minerals that we've got in the province, but even the evolution of the tech sector, the manufacturing sector – those are flying under the radar right now, but are significant contributors to our economy. It's all of those sectors are all contributing to the growth in our province."

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Jaws of Life training

Members of the Whitewood Fire Department conducted Jaws of Life training Monday evening. Fire departments in communities throughout the area regularly train with the life saving equipment to hone their skills.

CHRS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Local fire bans growing in number across Sask.

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

With dry, windy weather conditions persisting over much of the last several weeks across Saskatchewan, 182 local governments across the province have taken it upon themselves to issue fire bans in their respective municipalities.

In the southeast, as of Tuesday morning, that list included the towns of White City, Pilot Butte, Balgonie, Abernethy and Ituna along with 13 rural municipalities.

Those RMs (in numerical order) included Spy Hill, South Qu'Appelle, Edenwold, Sherwood, McLeod, Abernethy, North Qu'Appelle, Tullymet, Lipton, Wallace, Orkney, Garry and Ituna Bon Accord.

Without rain, more bans could be possible as the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's fire weather index map for Tuesday showed nearly all of the province south of the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District to be at extreme risk for wildfires.

Several northern fires are currently burning out of control and have forced the evacuation of multiple communities including Flin Flon, La Ronge and Air Ronge.

Smoke from those fires has also drifted southward over the past couple weeks, resulting in the postponement or outright

cancellation of many outdoor events across the local region, including minor sports, community barbecues and, in White City, a planned fireworks show for its annual Summer Sizzle festival.

State of Emergency

The provincial government said May 29, prior to the evacuation of the La Ronge area, that 15 communities in all had been evacuated as of that date, and the province had experienced 207 wildfires so far in 2025 – above the five-year average of 125 for this time of year.

In response Premier Scott Moe declared a provincial state of emergency, which is currently in effect until June 27 but could be extended if the government deems it necessary.

A government news release stated that the declaration “provides enhanced powers” to the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency and public safety minister Tim McLeod in order to help address the start to this

year's fire season.

Moe added in a statement that the declaration will allow the government “to mobilize the resources necessary to safely evacuate Saskatchewan residents and to protect our communities.”

Also May 29, the SPSA revised its previously-issued fire ban to also prohibit the use of all-terrain and utility-terrain vehicles on specified lands.

Those areas include all vacant Crown land, the provincial forest – including the Northern Saskatchewan Administrative District – and all provincial parks within the district.

Open fires, controlled burns and fireworks are all barred as well at the present time.

“The SPSA continues to encourage all other municipalities, rural municipalities and communities to examine fire risks in their area and to consider implementing consistent fire bans to prevent unwanted human-caused wildfires,” the agency said in a media release.

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Band teacher honoured at final concert

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

At the end of this month, Sherry Schoepp will conclude more than 30 years of teaching music at schools in rural Saskatchewan. Parents and students gave her special recognition during Mainline Bands' year end concert at Grenfell High School on June 1.

Schoepp's Career

Schoepp graduated from Grenfell High School in 1989, and then convoked from the University of Regina in 1993. She recalls engaging in rigorous training at U of R. Throughout high school, Schoepp had learned to play the flute. At university, she took further flute lessons, along with technique classes for every type of instrument. As a result, Schoepp said, "whatever I teach, I can play."

After graduating from U of R, Schoepp taught band at schools in Redvers, Bellegarde, Wawota, Manor, Carlyle and then Yorkton and Saltcoats. She moved back to Grenfell when her daughter was born in 1996 and began teaching at Broadview and Cornin in 1997. She took a po-

sition with Scenic Valley School Division in 2000, as an itinerant band teacher at seven schools including Balcarres, North Valley Elementary and High School, Wolseley Elementary and High School, Grenfell Elementary and High School. The commute, a four-day week and evening rehearsals made this challenging.

When Prairie Valley School Division was formed, Director Ben Grebinski determined that band classes should be available at all schools. Additional staff was hired and Schoepp was given a more reasonable workload with fewer classes so that by 2017 her teaching was focused on the five schools in Wolseley, Grenfell, and Broadview.

Throughout her career, Schoepp made a valuable contribution to education and students benefited from her skills as she instructed them in music theory and how to play each instrument. She continues to encourage students to maintain their involvement with band throughout their high school years.

"Don't quit because your friends are quitting; I've had a lot of graduates who

have quit say they wished they would not have," she advises.

In addition to sharing her enthusiasm for performing arts, Schoepp also facilitated opportunities for students to engage in educational experiences abroad. She travelled with band students to explore and perform at several overseas destinations including London, Italy, Scotland, and Ireland. There were also band trips to New York City, Disneyland, Banff, Brandon and elsewhere in Canada.

Over the years, Schoepp was grateful for students who were eager to learn and improve their skills. She also appreciated support from students' families and community members that enabled band programs to thrive.

"I've worked with some great families and there's just lots of great support with fundraising and supporting my ideas," Schoepp told Grasslands News.

In turn, parents and youth highly esteem Schoepp's investment in students' lives and they expressed this with a tribute to the teacher during the band's performance last weekend.

Special Recognition

On Sunday evening, Schoepp took her place on stage for a final concert directing band students in the Grenfell High School gym. Young musicians from Broadview, Grenfell and Wolseley joined together to perform a dozen songs. These were presented by Beginner, Intermediate and Senior bands, as well as jazz ensembles. It was evident that the students and their teacher found joy in producing a variety of music together, from traditional folk pieces, to movie themes, pop and rock and roll.

At the conclusion of the program, Schoepp presented a rubber, toilet plunger to each of the graduating students. The band teacher explained that this has been a tradition for several years, as a means

of acknowledging the students' assistance with "all the crap jobs" like setting up chairs for concerts.

Schoepp then voiced her gratitude for students' and parents' participation and support of band programs during her 25 years teaching in the region. The senior band students who were still on the stage and the audience responded with loud applause, cheers and a standing ovation.

After the applause faded, the audience resumed their seats and the band students played "Happy Birthday" for Schoepp, who would celebrate her birthday the following day. Then a Grade 12 representative from each of the three communities spoke a few words of gratitude to Schoepp and presented her with gifts – including her own symbolic plunger. They described Schoepp's positive impact on the youth in all her classes, recalling her encouragement and guidance through a variety of experiences.

"Mrs. Schoepp has the most contagious laugh, the warmest smile and your presence always lights up the room in a way that makes everyone feel seen, valued and cared for. You have a way of making even the most difficult days feel a little lighter simply by being there," said Broadview student Carson Outhwaite. Then he added, with a touch of humour, "As you move on to your quiet re-



Band teacher Sherry Schoepp (right) will retire this year.

SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

tirement home, just know that you're leaving behind more than a band program, you're leaving a legacy. Your impact will resonate in every note we play; you have been the heart of our music and you will always be in our hearts. After all these years of music, you can finally take a few measures of rest. We wish you the best."

Retirement

On Sunday night, students expressed their hope that the band teacher would maintain contact even though she is retiring. Schoepp said that she may fill in as a substitute for band teachers in the area next year when her schedule permits. However, routines will be different for her with

no back-to-school shopping or classroom preparations. In August, she will not be organizing instruments or ensuring they are delivered to the right school for each student. There will be no collaboration with instructors from other schools.

"I will miss attending the reading clinic and PD session hosted by the music store in Regina; we read through new music and see colleagues from different school divisions," Schoepp commented.

Yet, with retirement comes new opportunities and Schoepp is looking forward to spending time with her new grandchild. She also hopes to travel more and engage in various hobbies like baking and sewing.

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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."

There is no Santa Claus in government

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Mark Carney's Liberal government has hit the ground running starting last month with the pageantry of King Charles III delivering The Speech from the Throne followed this week by the Prime Minister's meeting with the premiers in Saskatoon and his G-7 Summit in Alberta next week.

The prime minister appears to be everywhere at once. He has promised to make Canada a global energy super power and embark on the largest economic transformation of the country since World War II. He has pledged to "rebuild, re-arm and reinvent" the Canadian Armed Forces. He has also promised unfettered free trade between the provinces by July 1.

The speed with which he seems to be moving can only leave one wondering: how long it will be before he hits a brick wall?

For the moment he's enjoying a political honeymoon. Even Saskatch-

ewan Premier Scott Moe, who has made a career out of bashing Ottawa, managed to strike a conciliatory tone in Saskatoon describing Carney's ambitious program as "a generational opportunity for us to achieve some of the aspirations the prime minister has put forward."

At that meeting the premiers and territorial leaders presented Carney with a "wish list" of major federal projects they would like to see the federal government fast track for approval. Ontario Premier Doug Ford called it the best meeting in ten years and described Carney as Santa Claus.

"He's coming and his sled was filled with all sorts of stuff. Now he's taking it back to the North Pole and he's going to sort it all out, and he's going to call us."

Any meaningful opposition has been lost in the whirlwind the Carney has unleashed with his driven agenda.

Conservative Opposition Leader Andrew Scheer predictably attacked the new government for failing to

PREMIERS EXPRESS OPTIMISM AFTER MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER...



bring in a budget before the fall. But even the harshest critic recognizes it is a little unrealistic to come up with a budget when Donald Trump is wreaking havoc with the world wide economy.

A day of reckoning is coming. We all know there is no Santa Claus. Car-

ney will have to be held to account. To be fair, for all of his bravado and optimism, the prime minister has repeatedly warned of the daunting challenges Canada faces, of "tough days ahead," and of "sacrifices in the coming months."

But is anyone really listening?

Other provinces are going the wrong way and Saskatchewan shouldn't catch up

By Gage Haubrich
Canadian Taxpayers Federation

Catching up is actually a bad thing if the others are going in the wrong direction.

Unfortunately, Saskatchewan is catching up much too quickly to other provinces that are way off track.

Three premiers remain from those who were originally elected in 2018: Quebec Premier François Legault, Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe.

Legault has increased Quebec's provincial debt by about 30 per cent since 2018. Ford has increased Ontario's by 36 per cent.

Moe has increased Saskatchewan's debt by 113 per cent.

When Ford and Legault were first elected, their provinces already had mountains of debt and those premiers continued to pile more onto their taxpayers.

In terms of debt per person, both Ontario and Quebec taxpayers owe

about \$10,000 more per person than Saskatchewanians.

But this isn't just about where these debts are today. It's also about where they're going. And it's the growth in the debt per person that's a fast-growing problem in Saskatchewan.

Since 2018, the debt per person in Ontario and Quebec has grown by 20 and 19 per cent respectively. In Saskatchewan it's 96 per cent.

The growth of debt interest payments is the same story. While the governments of Ontario and Quebec have increased debt interest payments per person by 15 and two per cent, the Saskatchewan government has increased the debt interest payments per person, again, by 96 per cent.

So, while Saskatchewan isn't dealing with as big a pile of debt as Ontario and Quebec, it's catching up faster.

In total, the Moe government has added about \$12.4 billion to the debt

since first being elected.

The Saskatchewan government will likely blame the pandemic, but that's not the full story. From 2019 to the beginning of 2022, the government increased the debt by \$6.6 billion. But that doesn't explain the other \$5.8 billion the government racked up in debt before and after the pandemic.

In 2018, Saskatchewan's debt was about \$11 billion, or about \$9,561 per person.

Now it's set to climb to \$23.5 billion and \$18,753 per person.

Rising debt will put into jeopardy what the Saskatchewan government has been doing right. Under Moe's leadership, there hasn't been any major tax hikes. But the government did start charging PST on concert and event tickets.

And the government has cut taxes significantly. Recently, the government permanently cut the small business tax rate in half to one from two per cent. The government also recently

cut income taxes by increasing the basic personal amount, the amount of money you can earn before paying income taxes, by \$500.

The government is going to continue upping this amount for the next four years. After that, an extra 54,000 Saskatchewanians won't be paying provincial income taxes, according to the government.

But these tax cuts are moot if the government doesn't get spending under control and stop borrowing money. That's

because as debt interest charges eat up more and more of the budget, the government is going to look for more ways to pay for its spending and the first place it's likely to look is inside taxpayer wallets.

That means tax hikes if the debt doesn't start going down.

From years of borrowing money and racking up debt, Saskatchewan taxpayers are going to be handed an \$878.4-million bill this year for government debt interest payments.

Put another way, those millions could have been used to pay the salaries of almost 8,800 new nurses.

Moe should feel good about Saskatchewan's debt compared to other provinces and he should take pride in how he has cut taxes, but he needs to be concerned about how fast his government is increasing the debt and how much it's wasting on debt interest payments.

Because, if the government doesn't start to solve this problem soon, taxpayers are going to be paying for it with their wallets.

Your opinions are welcome!

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Local youth attend provincial music festival

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

A celebration of performing arts took place in Regina last weekend, with local youth participating in the Saskatchewan Music Festival.

Forty-four District Festivals were held across Saskatchewan from March to May. Top entries advanced to the provincial competition organized by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA). The Mainline Music Festival in April welcomed participants from Wolseley, Indian Head, Grenfell, Balcarres, Lemberg, Kendal and Montmartre. Seven youth from this district advanced to the provincial level.

The provincial competition was held in Regina from May 29 to June 1 and included numerous categories for musical theatre, vocal, piano and other instrumental performances. Adjudicators included Allison Cecilia Arends (voice), Joan Barrett (strings, guitar), Michael Oike (piano), Susan Duska (spoken word), Darryl Ferguson (brass, woodwind, percussion), Darnell Thomas (musical theatre), and Dr. Jamie Hillman (choral).

Sessions began on Thursday morning and continued through Sunday. The musical theatre session on Thursday morning included performances by Brynn Ager of Indian Head ("Send in the Clowns") and Julia Miles of Wolseley ("Far from the Home I Love"). Later that day, Julia also performed "I Love Play Rehearsal" and Brynn presented "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," which they had shared with the audience in Wolseley during the Mainline Music Festival Finale in April. Adjudicator Darnell Thomas (centre) presented a Joy Award to Julia Miles (left) from Wolseley for her musical theatre performance at the Saskatchewan Music Festival. Chloe Masse (right) from Lafleche Music Festival district received a Joy Award in the same category.



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

Music awards

Adjudicator Darnell Thomas (centre) presented a Joy Award to Julia Miles (left) from Wolseley for her musical theatre performance at the Saskatchewan Music Festival. Chloe Masse (right) from Lafleche Music Festival district received a Joy Award in the same category.

ator Darnell Thomas presented Julia with a Joy Award for characterization during her performance of "I Love Play Rehearsal."

On Saturday, Joni Lamb of Indian Head competed in the musical theatre category with performances of "Be Kind to Your Parents" and "I Know It's Today." Jasper Beliveau of Wolseley performed "Seize the Day" during the same session. Some of these show tunes had been shared with the local audience in April.

Saturday also included spoken word competitions such as the presentation that Thomas Kraushaar from Grenfell gave of "Trees Against the Sky," by Robert Service.

Youth from the Mainline District also gave vocal performances during the Saskatchewan Music Festival. Julia Miles sang "Caro mio ben" and "Land of Our Dreams," Brynn Ager sang "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," Jordan Sicard sang "The Little Spanish Town," and

Natalie Malo sang "The Owls."

Valentina May teaches many of the youth in the Mainline District and told Grasslands News, "Everyone performed well, and I think it was a great experience to see so many other kids their age loving music like them!"

The provincial competition concluded the music festival series for 2025. Next year's Mainline Music Festival is tentatively scheduled for April 12 to 18, 2026 in Indian Head.

Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

Chewy the raccoon was just an innocent bystander in another incident where police in Ohio said an officer encountered a strange scene when a raccoon **holding a meth pipe** was found inside a vehicle. Officer Austin Branham conducted a traffic stop, after identifying a vehicle whose owner had an active warrant and a suspended driver's licence.

The driver, 55-year-old Victoria Vidal, of Akron, was arrested without incident. With Chewy's sucking on the glass pipe as motivation, a search uncovered a bulk amount of meth, crack, and three used glass meth pipes. Vidal was charged with possession of drugs, three counts of possession of drug paraphernalia, and was cited for driving under suspension. She was also turned over to Cuyahoga Falls Police on the active warrant. It is illegal to keep wildlife without a permit and keep wild animals as pets in Ohio; however, raccoons, foxes, deer, moose, caribou, zebras, llamas, alpacas, emu, elk and tarantulas are generally permitted as exotic pets. Vidal did have the proper paperwork and documentation to own the raccoon.

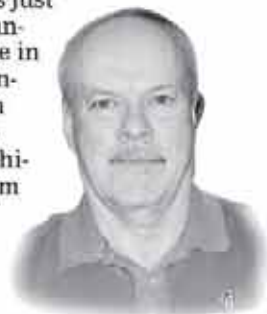
Crowds rushed a Chicago street after bagged cash (**about \$300,000**) fell out of a Brinks armoured truck. Dozens of people were spotted "removing money from the scene and fleeing the area" on foot and in vehicles. No one seems sure about why the back door flew open spilling three bags. Police continue their investigation of the "theft of lost or mislaid property," and have asked anyone who collected money to return it voluntarily.

Officials in Japan are stressing that this is **not the season to climb Mount Fuji**. The weather is harsh and subject to sudden shifts. Trails and medical facilities are closed. As some humans will do, a Chinese student ignored all that and set out to climb the mountain anyway. When he figured it was wiser to get off the mountain, he couldn't because he had lost his crampons, reducing his traction. A helicopter retrieved him, but evidently not all his belongings. A couple days later, he went back looking for his phone and other items. He got altitude sickness, and then, once again, had to be rescued.

The details of an apparent road rage incident in Delaware County, Pa. spread quickly. The confrontation ended with one woman walking over to the other's car and **pooping on its hood**. The incident was caught on video, and even that fuzzy image makes clear that the woman, dubbed "The Delco Pooper", is smiling broadly. The pooper was Christina Marie Solometo, 44, who was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, harassment, and "depositing waste on the highway." However, Solometo defended her action by arguing that "road ragers don't smile." She said that she wasn't the one raging. In fact, when she drove around the other car when the other woman didn't proceed through a green light, the second vehicle followed and the driver called her a "fat bitch." That made Solometo angry. "I wanted to punch her in the face, but I pooped on her car instead and went home."

On a flight from Helsinki to Toronto, there were **400 passengers, but only 200 dinners** were available. Faced with the awkward mistake, the crew apparently made a quick decision. About 30 minutes into the flight, it was nervously announced: "Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know how it happened, but we have 400 passengers on board and only 200 dinners! Anyone who is kind enough to give up food for someone else will have free and unlimited alcohol during the entire flight!" Her next announcement was made six hours later: "Ladies and gentlemen, if anyone wants to change their mind, we still have 200 lunches!" According to my source, the moral of the story is that "drinkers have very big and kind hearts!"

In the meantime, a visitor at the Kabug Mangrove Park and Wetlands Zoo in Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines, had what he must have assumed was a great idea. The 29-year-old man climbed a chain-link fence, waded through the water, and grinned as he took out his smartphone, apparently **trying to pose with a "plastic" crocodile** in the water. Oops, the croc turned out, in fact, to be very much alive and the 15-foot beast was quite unhappy with the intrusion and grabbed the man's arm with her toothy grin and wouldn't let go. The man "screamed in agony" for 20 minutes until the croc's handler risked his own life by going in to rescue him. By then, the croc switched its attention to the man's thigh and launched into a deadly death roll. The handler stopped the attack by smashing a concrete block onto her head. While the man was lucky to survive, Randy Cassingham observed, "Let's see if he agrees after 30 years of nightmares." Until next time...



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Performance encourages students to learn from mistakes

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

An interactive show called "Oopsie" was presented in partnership with the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils (OSAC) at local schools last week. It assisted students with recognizing the positive role that mistakes can have in a learning environment.

Performing artist Candice Roberts visited In-

dian Head Elementary School and Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School on May 29. Dressed in a lab coat and goggles to portray the fictional scientist Dr. Professor, Roberts presented practical lessons about mistakes and perseverance. She used improvisation, props made from upcycled materials and an element of humour to keep the audience engaged throughout the performance.

Students watched

while Roberts attempted to assemble a Brainometer, which included an overhead projector, transparencies and a screen. Sound effects and slapstick added entertainment for the young children.

After several mistakes, Roberts finally succeeded in setting up the Brainometer and explained that her invention was designed to show brain activity. She then invited some students to participate in a game show seg-

ment. They were required to complete creative tasks like designing a costume from newspaper and tape. After each activity, she illustrated brain growth using transparencies on the Brainometer.

Through these assignments and her own humorous bumbling, Roberts demonstrated that mistakes could have a purpose. She encouraged students to engage in

challenging activities and accept mistakes as opportunities to learn.

"Doing hard things grows our brains, also making mistakes grows our brains," Roberts told them.

She and the students further discussed that mistakes provide information regarding how things can be done better. They also considered appropriate means to

address feelings of frustration that may arise when completing a difficult task. For example, Roberts and the students talked about self-regulation strategies and practiced deep-breathing techniques together.

The students enjoyed Roberts' presentation and staff felt it reinforced classroom discussions about the value of learning from mistakes.

Preliminary hearing underway into Wolseley teen slaying

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

At least 16 witnesses are expected to be called to testify before the preliminary inquiry now underway in Fort Qu'Appelle into the shooting death in Wolseley last August of Keila Windigo.

She died during her 18th birthday party. A juvenile from Carry the Kettle First Nation, who cannot be named because he was underage at the time of the shooting, has been charged with manslaughter as well as illegal possession of

a loaded, restricted firearm without a license.

The victim's mother was the first witness to be called as the Crown set out to establish the relationship between the victim and the accused, who sat impassively on the first day through much of the emotional testimony.

"Some of what we are going to hear will be tough to hear," Provincial Court Judge Kevin Lang told the court as he imposed a publication ban on the proceedings.

The preliminary inquiry is expected to last a week.

Changes made to beer markup for small and medium sized breweries

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Government of Saskatchewan announced last week changes to the markup structure for beer to encourage small and medium-sized breweries to grow their production levels.

As part of these changes, markup rates for most production levels were reduced to create a more gradual ramp for small and medium-sized breweries as production volume increases.

The limit for qualifying for these rates was increased from 400,000 to 500,000 hectolitres.

"Small and medium-sized breweries employ many people locally and are a source of pride for Saskatchewan and across Canada," Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) Alana Ross said.

"Encouraging them to grow is particularly important in a time where consumers are increas-

ingly interested in supporting Saskatchewan and Canadian businesses."

Markup is applied to products sold in the province and distributed through SLGA and third-party warehouses.

The markup rates are applied to products produced not only in Sas-

katchewan and across Canada, but also internationally.

The changes announced have been communicated to industry, including producers, distributors and will come into effect for industry on July 1.

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Learning from mistakes

Through her character Dr. Professor, Candice Roberts challenged students at Indian Head Elementary School to consider positive outcomes of making mistakes.

SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS



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|-----------------------------|-----|
| Wednesday 9th Regular Sale | 9AM |
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Future of Rural Canada report compiles recommendations for federal government

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

A special report has been released by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) who have worked over the past year to gain a vision for the future of rural Canada. Rural communities form the beating heart of Canada, covering 95 per cent of our country's landmass and home to a growing population of 6.3 million people.

The Future of Rural Canada report was overseen by FCM's Rural Forum (representing 54 communities from coast to coast) and encompasses all of rural Canada's diversity.

Rural provincial municipal associations, including the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Mu-

nicipalities (SARM), as well as industry representatives such as mining, forestry, energy or agriculture were interviewed and provided important insight on the role their sectors play in rural communities.

This vision put together from the rural report will be taken to Ottawa where the series of detailed recommendations that was produced will help address the most pressing concerns in our vital rural communities.

"Municipal leaders know their communities intimately; they know what's working and what isn't; and they know what it will take for their communities to thrive in the future," Neal Comeau, Chair of Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Rural Forum stated.

"That local knowledge

is at the heart of this report."

The executive of the report emphasized how every day, these leaders are striving to make their communities great places to live. As they look ahead to the future, they envision prosperous, safe and resilient local communities.

Their vision is a rural Canada where their children and grandchildren will stay and build a good life for their families, where seniors can retire in dignity and receive high-quality health care, and where new residents can be assured of affordable housing and a high quality of life.

They want a rural Canada where local businesses are growing and new enterprises are setting up shop, one that feeds and power the world by moving goods to new domestic

and international markets while safeguarding clean air, water and soil for future generations.

Rural communities play a huge role in the overall economic success of Canada, from the farmers who grow our food, to the industries that unlock our natural resources. Through partnership between all orders of government, the full economic potential of rural Canada can be released.

Municipalities play an elemental role in supporting economic activity within their borders, from maintaining roads, bridges and other vital transport infrastructure, to supplying water and water treatment services, to ensuring policing and fire services. Ultimately, local governments and the infrastructure and services they provide are essential to achieving a stronger, more prosperous country.

The future of rural Canada is at a critical intersection. Specifically, rural communities are facing headwinds on key issues like infrastructure, connectivity, and public safety. The report states the path forward requires a strong federal partner who will be able to deliver the support needed to un-

leash the rural economy across Canada.

Key Priorities in the report show the context, state of affairs summary and recommendations in areas including:

- Digital connectivity
- Infrastructure and transportation
- Housing and homelessness
- Community safety
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Recommendations

The Future of Rural Canada report is specifically recommending key measures to be taken by the federal government, in cooperation with provincial and territorial governments, to advance the following priorities, which are essential for rural communities to thrive:

Housing and homelessness

Boost municipal housing efforts, including planning and development capacity to build more housing faster, and invest in a comprehensive rural homelessness plan.

Community safety

Ensure new investment and consultation around RCMP policing, reform the bail system, and address mental health needs in rural communities.

Climate change

Support local adaptation and disaster mitigation projects by investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, while investing in capacity building and staffing for rural communities, plus nature-based climate solutions.

New fiscal arrangement
Establish a new partnership between orders of government that recognizes the financial strain on rural municipalities, who own and maintain 36 per cent of the public infrastructure in Canada, while making up on 15 per cent of the population.

The conclusion from the development of The Future of Rural Canada report confirms that supporting rural Canada is not only an investment in these individual regions but an investment in Canada's long-term growth and resilience.

As Canada's rural municipalities continue to play a vital role in our national economy, it is vital that we act now to ensure every rural community can prosper and thrive.

Note: The Future of Rural Canada is a lengthy report defining important information that affect our communities and country. Watch for future individual sections of the report to be published in the future.

One person dead in fatal motorcycle rollover

Saskatchewan RCMP
Grasslands News

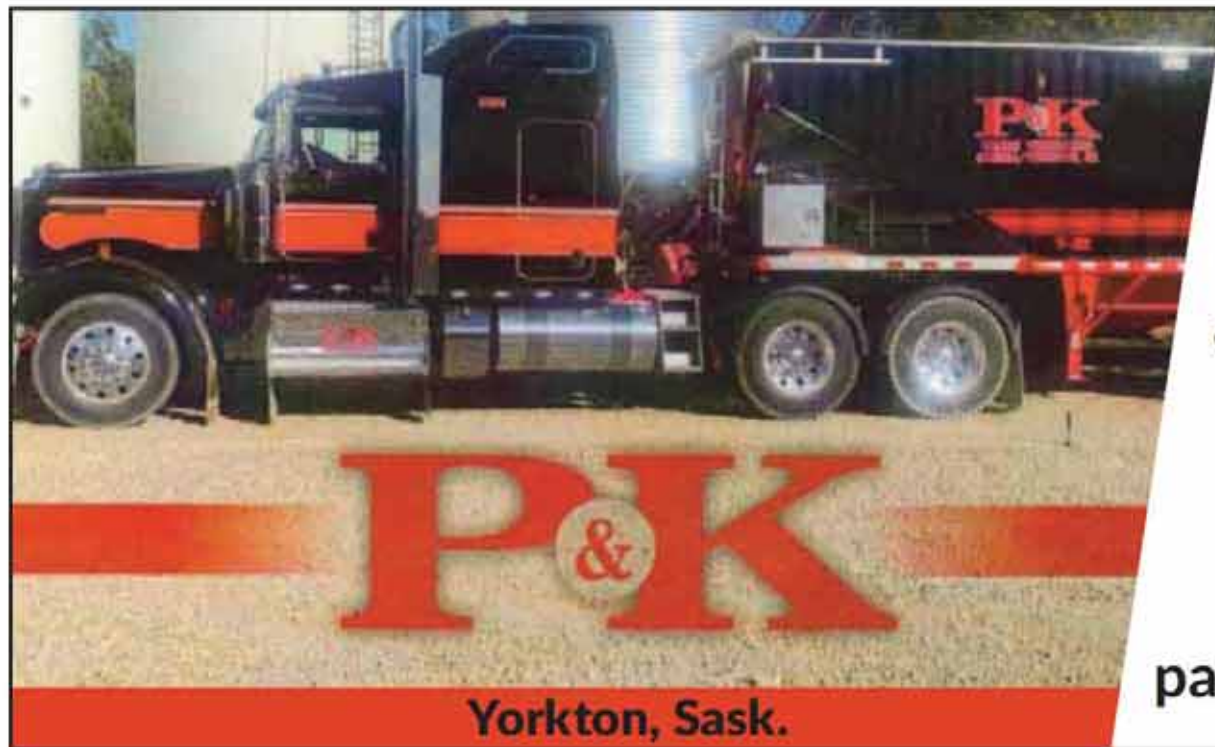
On Friday, May 30, 2025 at approximately 11:50 p.m., Canora RCMP received a report of a motorcycle rollover on Highway #49 in Preeceville, SK.

Officers responded immediately along with local fire and EMS. The driver of

the motorcycle was declared deceased by EMS at the scene. He has been identified as a 47-year-old male from the Preeceville area. His family has been notified.

A female passenger on the motorcycle was assessed by EMS at the scene for injuries described as non-life-threatening.

Canora RCMP continue to investigate with the assistance of a Saskatchewan RCMP collision reconstructionist.



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SHA approves \$5.32 billion operating budget

By Provincial
Grasslands News

The Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has approved a \$5.32 billion operating budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year. In addition to this, \$580 million will be invested in capital. This represents an unwavering commitment to providing high-quality health care to patients across Saskatchewan and supporting SHA staff and physicians with the resources, infrastructure, and equipment needed to deliver this care.

"The approval of this year's budget represents a significant investment in the delivery of safe, high-quality and accessible health care services to the people of this province," said Arlene Wiks, SHA Board Chair. "I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all SHA staff and

physicians for their dedication to supporting the health care needs of our province, every day."

"The Saskatchewan Health Authority is committed to supporting the delivery of high-quality care by our health teams for patients across the province," said Andrew Will, SHA CEO. "Our 2025-26 budget underscores this commitment by directing resources to enhance this care and advance key health system priorities, such as increased surgical volumes, expanded access to primary care services, and added capacity to better support the delivery of emergency, acute and primary care, and mental health and addictions services."

Key investments from this year's budget, laid out in the 2025-26 SHA Roadmap, include spending on several key initiatives such as:

- \$30.0 million increase to expand Saskatoon City Hospital's acute care capacity through the renovation of existing space, allowing for 109 additional acute care beds,

- \$18.6 million toward mental health and addictions initiatives to build treatment capacity and transition toward a treatment-oriented system,

- \$15.1 million to increase surgical volumes and reduce wait times, which will help staff and physicians continue to achieve record-breaking surgical volumes year over year,

- \$11.6 million to support primary health care services, which includes the expansion of a new model of care (Patient Medical Homes),

- \$7.6 million increase for pediatric care, and to further enhance existing programs and services to children and youth throughout the province,

- \$6.6 million for HealthLine 811's Virtual ER Physician Program expansion, which will help stabilize emergency care in our rural and remote communities,

- \$6.6 million increase in emergency medical services (EMS) to further support multi-year stabilization initiatives, and

- \$5.9 million to address the health human resource strategy to meet future healthcare needs in urban and rural communities to help stabilize staffing levels in various disciplines and professions.

- An additional \$580 million will be directed toward 15 capital projects throughout the province, some of which include:

- Continued construction on a new Prince Albert Victoria Hospital that will include a heliport, expanded emergency

department, larger operating rooms, and a new First Nations and Metis cultural space. Work on this project is already underway, and completion is anticipated in 2028.

- Continued work on Weyburn's new hospital that will expand and improve access to health care services to people in the area, is 75% complete.

- Construction of long-term care facilities in Regina, La Ronge, Battleford, Yorkton, Rosthern, and Grenfell. These projects will enhance the lives of seniors living in those regions and allow staff and physicians to provide high-quality care to people living in these communities.

- Continued funding for Saskatoon's Urgent Care Centre and planning for more urgent care facilities in Prince Albert, North Battleford, and Moose Jaw.

Breast cancer screening expansion needs to match with staffing

Submitted
Grasslands News

Tracey Sauer, president of the Saskatchewan Government & General Employees' Union (SGEU), is calling on the provincial government to ensure that the expansion of breast cancer screening is accompanied by effective

recruitment and retention strategies for personnel to deliver these vital services.

On June 1, 2025, the province's screening program expanded to include women aged 45 to 47, as part of a phased approach that will eventually include those as young as 40.

"This is an important and welcome step forward for women's health in Sas-

katchewan," said Sauer. "But any expansion in care must be backed by support for the frontline workers who make it possible."

SGEU represents more than 700 Saskatchewan Cancer Agency employees, including radiation therapists, oncology pharmacists and registered nurses. Sauer said the expansion will add additional pres-

sure to a system that is already stretched thin.

"Our members are highly trained professionals who are deeply committed to their work. But they are also tired, overworked and facing burnout," said Sauer. "We can't keep asking them to do more with less. The government must

act now to recruit and retain staff needed to support the Cancer Agency."

SGEU has raised concerns about chronic understaffing across the healthcare system, warning that staff shortages impact not only workers, but also patients and their quality of care.

"We fully support better access to screening – early detection saves lives," said Sauer. "But we can't ignore the staffing levels needed to deliver that care. If the government truly wants this program to succeed, they need to invest in the people on the front line."

– Wawota community happenings –

By Myrna Olson
for Grasslands News

Sympathy to the family of Ken Dash who passed away on May 30th in Kipling. He was 80 years old and leaves his wife, Denise and children, Greg, Yvonne and Chris and their families. His funeral

service was on Wednesday, June 4th at the Bible Church in Kipling.

This past week was a busy one for Wawota and district residents. On Thursday, May 29 Wawota Parkland School presented the musical, "Hercules".

On Friday, May 29 the Wawota Museum celebrated their 45th birthday.

They held their annual Spring Tea and Bake Sale and all attendees were treated to birthday cake.

On Sunday, June 1 the Hints of Harmony held their annual spring concert at the United Church. Nicki Ford organized this group 42 years ago and this was their 40th concert.

The only disappointment was the cancellation of Minor Ball Day on May 31. This has been re-scheduled for a later date.

Congratulations to Kathryn Stadnicki and Robert Vanderveer on the birth of their daughter on June 1st. She weighed 5 lbs., 5 oz. and has been named Haisley Ann. She is a sister for Joshua, Luca and Silas.

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Making memories bloom

Dorothy Barsi (left) and Jean Sostorics (right) were among the group of volunteers who were working in the Kennedy Memory Garden, clearing away old growth and planting flowers on Monday, June 2.



Plants & More Sale gets things growing for the season in Windthorst

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

The Windthorst Horticultural Society's Annual Plants & More Sale, held on May 24 at the Windthorst Community Center, offered visitors an opportunity to peruse a large selection of items and gardeners a chance to add some new and different plants to their gardens.

Adele Nagy says that those coming out for the sale generally left with their arms full.

"There were about a dozen different vendors taking part. Some had been there before, but there were new vendors there this year too. So, there were a lot of different things available. And we had around 150 people come through over the day, which is slightly less than last year. But those that were there were enthusiastic and went home with a lot of things for their garden and more!"

She notes that the Horticultural Society had some unique plants on offer this year.

"We had a wide variety of plants, it was quite amazing - the plant donations

easily covered four tables and floor space! Because we have greenhouses bringing annuals to the sale, for our Horticulture Society Table, our members like to bring in perennials. And earlier this spring, one of our members was digging up her perennial bed. So, we made a day of it, went out and dug up those beautiful perennials, and many of them arrived at our sale. So, there were some very different perennials on offer from her garden, and some old-fashioned perennials that you don't generally find at greenhouses or box stores in Regina, such as the perennial primrose that was a favourite this year."

Although the yearly sale is a type of fundraiser for the Horticultural Society, Nagy says that it also encourages others, particularly young gardeners, to discover a love for growing things.

"We brought in around \$3,800, which will be used to supply the prizes for our annual Horticulture Show in August. But the sale also promotes awareness - it's a way to let people know we're here and welcoming nine new members. And we want to encourage people to grow their

own plants, that's what the Horticulture Society is all about. So, we were really pleased to see some very knowledgeable

young people buying perennials and asking questions, which is definitely a step in the right direction!"



Talented sewing

A crew of dedicated seamstresses were on hand at Kennedy Langbank School late last month, creating ribbon skirts for each of the students at the school. Ribbon skirts are unique traditional skirts worn by First Nations and Métis and are considered a symbol of identity, resilience and connection to the land.

Gifted dress

Jean Sostorics (left) stands with KLS student Lia Pretorius (right), who is wearing the ribbon skirt that Jean created for her.

CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS



Legion BBQ

The Kipling Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion hosted its BBQ and Flag Sale at the Legion Hall last Thursday. A total of 97 people took the opportunity to enjoy a BBQ lunch during the event. As well, there were 23 orders for Canadian Flags received, and those orders along with an order for 30 flags that the Legion will be supplying to the Town of Kipling have been submitted.

CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

SPORTS



Safe at third - Out at home

Mckinley O'Rourke of the Pipestone Valley Cats U13A girls' softball team safely steals third base (left photo) but then is tagged out while trying to steal home plate (right photo) during a game against the Estevan Bulldogs in Whitewood on Sunday, June 1. Whitewood hosted a one day tourney that also included the Lumsden Cubs, with each team playing two games.

CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS



Senior Lacrosse League

Standing Buffalo Fighting Sioux take three wins

By Alan Mustak
Grasslands News

The Standing Buffalo Fighting Sioux are off to a good start this season with top Austin Shanks, Jake Boudreau and Jeff Shattler leading the scoring race in the LaCrosse leagues first three games.

The Fighting Sioux won the home opener at the Rexentre on Friday, May 30 against the Regina Heat, 16-7 and on Saturday, May 31 won again against the Heat in Regina 13-7. On Sunday, June 1 they outscored the Saskatoon Swat 16-10 in a game in Fort Qu'Appelle. Shanks alone has scored about a third of all the goals in the three games.

"It is great to see all the kids who started together 18 years ago when they were in grade two still working together," coach Russ Matthews told Grasslands News. "We're not playing to win. We play for all the kids who never had a chance to play, for the generation of kids that were deprived by residential schools, kids who never got an opportunity to play."

STANDING BUFFALO



FIGHTING SIOUX LACROSSE

First goal of the season

Sandis LaSwisse scores a goal for the Fighting Sioux during the home opener against the Regina Heat on Friday, May 30 in Fort Qu'Appelle. The Fighting Sioux were undefeated in the first three games of the season.

ALAN MUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

Sometime, over the next two-week period, we'll all find out if the Stanley Cup will be making a return to Canada.

At this point, it's a difficult choice between the returning champs – the Florida Panthers – and last year's runners-up, the Edmonton Oilers.

Both teams took different routes to the NHL league final, but at the end of the day, they both knocked out three counterparts for the opportunity to compete for Lord Stanley's mug.

Last year, it was the Panthers who celebrated on the ice as the Oilers watched, heartbroken after the playoffs' finale and the question that remains, is will it be the same end result this year?

The Panthers have once again proven to be a tough playoff opponent, knocking off the Tampa Bay Lightning, the hapless Toronto Maple Leafs and the Carolina Hurricanes.

While the Leafs were probably the toughest opposition that the Panthers faced, they were ousted in seven games that included two 6-1 beat-downs in the last three contests, in Toronto, the self-proclaimed Mecca of hockey.

In my own estimation, the Oilers had a tougher path to the big dance, defeating the Los Angeles Kings, the Las Vegas Golden Knights and the Dallas Stars, three hockey clubs that play that heavy defensive style that helps a team thrive in the postseason.

And defeating those teams may give the Oil some hope as they face the NHL's biggest meat-grinder, the Florida Panthers.

While the Panthers have plenty of talented players, they also have a team that would be regarded as "heavy", especially when it comes to defensive play in their own end.

The Oilers have the speed advantage over the Panthers, but they did last time around too, and we all saw how that worked out for them.

This time around, the Edmonton franchise is a tougher squad, more built for the playoffs than they were when these two clubs had their go-around last June. Part of that harder-nosed approach will be missing, as Zach Hyman is out for the season with an injury.

The Oilers have pretty much forced themselves to be tougher to play against than they have been in the past, because they know what it will take to knock off the defending champs this time around.

The Panthers were already hard to play against, with grinders such as Matthew Tkachuk and Sam Bennett in the fold, but they've also added super-pest Brad Marchand from the Boston Bruins to the mix.

Don't forget, all three of these guys can score, as well, and they still have Aleksander Barkov and Sam Reinhart, who notched 39 goals during the regular season.

For the Oilers to come out on top, they have to do what has been preached forever in hockey circles – their best players, have to be their best players.

That means they're going to need captain Connor McDavid and playmaker teammate Leon Draisaitl to be on top of their games.

Both of these guys are skilled to the max, but they'll still need to perform with a supporting cast that seems considerably weaker than the Panthers', especially when it comes to grinding out games.

The Oilers were able to defeat three teams that were seemingly more of a physical threat than they were, but will they have enough intestinal fortitude and enough left in the gas tank, to get it done this time around with the defending champs?

The reasons teams make it this far in the playoffs is because they're good, they're lucky and they're tough.

Are the Oilers tough enough to finish it off this year, and bring the Cup back to Canada, where many say it belongs?

They made it to the final last year and again this year, so there should be no one questioning whether they're tough enough this year, but they're going to need some second line guys to stand up and play their best to get it done.

They need to get continued production from Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, who, in this scribe's humble opinion, is playing the best hockey of his career, and they need Evander Kane to be that tough and gritty forward that he's supposed to be, and he's also got to provide some secondary scoring.

The closest a Canadian team has come to winning all the marbles, in recent memory, was when the Vancouver Canucks were beaten in seven games by the Boston Bruins, dropping the last two games to lose out.

Is Stanley ready to move back to Canada?

We'll all find out soon.

Men's and Ladies Invitational held at Katepwa Beach Golf Club

Submitted by Pat Pratt

Grasslands News

Our Men's and Ladies Club Invitational kicked off on Thursday, May 29 with 63 men and women participating at the Katepwa Beach Golf Club. Great weather for the event.

Pin awards as follows: Closest to the line #1 Joan, Pinches. Closer to the Pin on #5, Judy Marshall, longest putt on #9 Denise Gendur.

The winning team consisted of: Sheila Coutts, Pat Tourond, Sandra Williams and Jane Johnson.

Next year the Ladies will be looking forward to the Men's club hosting.

The Ladies Club is now preparing to host Katepwa Beach Ladies Open. Thursday, June 19th *Called 50 Shades of Green*. A new format 6/6/6 Two Person Teams.

Wear Your Green. Early Bird Registration Friday, June 6. For more information text 306-331-7906.

Proceeds to STARS Ambulance.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KIM STEPHENS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Quarterbacks hog spotlight in the CFL

By Bruce Penton

Sports Columnist

Sports Column

By Bruce Penton

Just like in the National Football League where quarterback is king, the men barking out signals behind centre are the stars in the Canadian Football League, too.

It's the CFL's 67th season, but the Grey Cup game in Winnipeg Nov. 16 will be the 112th edition of the professional football championship of Canada. Prior to 1958, when the CFL was officially formed, there were two leagues in Canada, the Interprovincial Rugby Football Union in the east and the Western Interprovincial Football Union.

Star power thrives at the quarterback position, and even non-stars are given the chance to shine. Remember last fall's Grey Cup game, where the Winnipeg Blue Bombers were heavy favourites to beat the Toronto Argonauts, especially because the Argos were playing backup QB Nick Arbuckle after No. 1 Chad Kelly, the league's most outstanding player (MOP) in 2023, broke his leg in the Eastern final. Well, all Arbuckle did was throw for 252 yards and two touchdowns and the Argos scored 24 points in the fourth quarter en route to demolishing the Bombers 41-24.

So, while Toronto is content to know that with Kelly and Arbuckle, they have probably the best 1-2 punch at quarterback, other field generals around the league are just as talented. Two-time MOP Zach Collaros is still in charge of the offence in Winnipeg, and Bo Levi Mitchell, the CFL's MOP in 2016 and 2018 while in Calgary, will be counted on to steer the Tiger-Cats offence in Hamilton.

Perhaps the most intriguing quarterback situation is found in B.C. and Calgary. While Vernon Adams was the starter for the Lions last year, he was demoted in mid-season when 2022 sensation Nathan Rourke returned to the Lions after a failed effort to crack a National Football League team. In the off-season, the Lions traded Adams to Calgary, who will replace Jake Maier as the Stampeders' starter. Adams will obviously have motivation to shine when the Stamps and Lions meet in 2025.

Overall, the quarterback talent in the Western Division is stacked. Besides Collaros, Rourke and Adams, the West also features Saskatchewan's Trevor Harris and Tre Ford of Edmonton. Harris played in only 12 games due to injury last year, but still managed to throw 20 touchdown passes. In Edmonton, Ford's strong suit is his running speed. He averaged 9.0 yards per carry last year and Elks' management has expectations of a 1,000-yard running season for him. He's also not bad at throwing the ball, completing 72 per cent of his throws last year. In 2025, he'll have former Lions' of-

fensive co-ordinator Jordan Maksymic as his coach. Ford will be backed up by Cody Fajardo, the former Roughrider and Alouette QB.

Despite the star power at QB, only three quarterbacks have ever been named Most Outstanding Player. Russ Jackson of Ottawa was honoured four times in the 1960s, Gerry Dattilio of Montreal was the winner in 1980, and Rourke got the MOP nod in 2022.

My prediction: A QB will win the award in 2025.

• Retired sports columnist Rick Reilly, in a blast-from-the-past column after Tiger Woods obliterated the field with a 12-shot win in the 1997 Masters: "... Forty-seven-year-old Tom Kite ... would finish second in the same sense that Germany finished second in World War II."

• Coaching wisdom from Alabama football legend Bear Bryant: "If anything goes bad, I did it. If anything goes semi-good, we did it. If anything goes really good, then you did it. That's all it takes to get people to win football games for you."

• Eamon Lynch of Golfweek.com., on the popularity level of certain LIV Tour golfers: "Take Patrick Reed. Every entertainment product could use a villain who needs a slab of bacon strapped to his face to get a dog to lick him."

• Cathal Kelly of the Toronto Globe and Mail, describing the Florida Panthers style of play: "Florida Panthers' 'nice nose you got there, mind if I rip it off?'"

• Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.) with a business note: "With Bill Belichick headlining the program, North Carolina has sold all 20,000 of its season tickets at a 25-per-cent price hike, after failing to sell out last season."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, on four of the best Florida Panthers' players: "Sasha Barkov and goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky are quiet as church mice. Matthew Tkachuk and Brad Marchand chirp like crows on a wire."

• Another one from Cote: "(The Panthers) become only the fourth team since 1960 to reach the Stanley Cup Final a third season in a row – a Cat trick."

• R.J. Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Sacramento coach Mike Brown was fired just over six months into a three-year extension he signed with the Kings. Even in the NBA, they call that a fast break."

• Headline at fark.com: "Rockies attempt to gin up the roster by designating Martini for assignment; he was reportedly shaken by the news."

• The late Muhammad Ali, feeling confident about an upcoming fight: "I've seen George Foreman shadow boxing and the shadow won."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Willow awards celebrate Sask. youth book authors

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Awards (SYRCA) is a volunteer-run, non-profit, registered charity begun in 2001. The mission of SYRCA The Willow Awards, Inc. is to promote reading and celebrate Canadian literature. Each year, Saskatchewan children and youth vote for Willow Award recipients from finalists nominated in three award categories.

"The willow awards were created to encourage in children, not only to read books, but to love the books that they're

reading and to become life-long readers," said Willow Awards Board Member Wenona Lundsten. "We try to choose great books that will engage them and get them excited about reading, and in turn, excite each other about reading."

The event featured many guests including MLA for Melville-Saltcoats Warren Kaeding.

"Many thanks to our teachers and our librarians, our teacher librarians who support the

willow award since 2001 and thank you to you as parents who continue to encourage your children to read," said Kaeding. "Reading not only is fun and interesting, but it's also going to make your brain stronger, and it can challenge you, it can reward you and make you feel better. So, keep reading."

The ceremony included McDonald School Principal Melissa Johanson, Master of Ceremonies Olivia and Evelyn Ehman, *O Canada* was performed by Oakley Kuzub, Ella Rausch and the Grade 4 class, and Land Acknowledgement was done by Brylee Shipp.

There were also two performances from the Grade 7, 8, and 9 bands, where they played *Adventure in India* and *Beat Street Strut*.

Lundsten added that any school in Saskatchewan can apply to host the Willow Awards and can apply on the Willow Awards website, willowawards.ca.

Awards

The Willow Awards include three categories that were established to encourage participation by all children, regardless of the level at which they are reading. They include:

- The Shining Willow Award, for books written for young readers;
- The Diamond Willow Award, for Books written for upper elementary readers in Grade 4 to 6;
- And the Snow Willow Award, for books written

for readers Grade 7 and up.

The winner of the Shining Willow Award was Jessika von Innerbner for *That's My Sweater*. The award was presented by Owen Bomberak, Lexi Niefer and Stasia Hacault.

"Thank you so much, not just for nominating, but choosing *That's My Sweater* for the shining Willow award. It's a huge honor," said Innerbner in a pre-recorded video to the audience.

The winner of the Diamond Willow Award was Gordon Korman for *The Superteacher Project*. The award was presented by Aubree Nagy, Jaxin Proders and Brylee Shipp.

"I am honored, flattered, humbled and really, really psyched to accept the Diamond Willow Award for *The Superteacher Project*. This is not the first time the

kids of Saskatchewan have chosen to honor one of my books, and I could not be more thrilled," said Korman in a pre-recorded video.

The winner of the Snow Willow was Christina Kilbourne for *40 days in Hicksville*. The award was presented by Rhett Shipp and Harley Ybarra.

"To be able to participate in program like this, and to get to meet readers, and to get to meet festival organizers, celebration organizers, program organizers, it means a lot," said Kilbourne, who was in attendance for the ceremony. "I come from a very small community, so I've only been here for a few hours, but I could already see what a special community Stockholm is and what a great bunch of readers that you guys are raising."



CHIEF ASHFIELD / GRASSLANDS NEWS

Making the turn

Ciera Romanow of Coming and her horse Allie compete in a barrel racing event that was held at the Whitewood/Chacachas Rodeo Grounds on May 29. The next event at the rodeo grounds is the Bull Bash on July 11.

Whitewood in Action

Horseshoe tourney June 10, part of Community Challenge

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

It's the first tourney of the season for Whitewood Horseshoe Club and everyone is invited to try their hand at throwing some shoes. And what makes it even better - this tournament is free. There is no entry fee for the June 10, 2025 tournament and there are prizes!

The tournament is open to ages 10+ and will be a great evening with all levels of experience and shorter

distance throws based on age. Start time is 6:30 p.m.

Whitewood Horseshoe Club is pleased to sponsor this event as part of the ParticipACTION Community Challenge presented by Novo Nordisk that the community of Whitewood is a part of during the month of June. They are privilege to well maintained horseshoe pits located north of the Whitewood Museum where the club meets weekly on Tuesday evenings as well.

Come and join the fun as an experienced player or bring a lawn chair, be a spectator and wait for the sound of the shoe hitting the steel peg from the ringers!

Southeast Men's Fastball League

| Date | Away | Home | Times |
|--------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 06-Jun | Ochapowace | Cowessess | 8 p.m. |
| 09-Jun | Round Lake | Whitewood | 6:30 p.m. |
| | Ochapowace | Grenfell | 8 p.m. |
| 11-Jun | Cowessess | Round Lake | 8 p.m. |
| | Ochapowace | Neudorf | 7 p.m. |
| 13-Jun | Neudorf | Cowessess | 8 p.m. |
| 16-Jun | Whitewood | Neudorf | 7 p.m. |
| | Cowessess | Grenfell | 8 p.m. |
| 18-Jun | Grenfell | Whitewood | 6:30 p.m. |
| 19-Jun | Ochapowace | Round Lake | 8 p.m. |
| | Cowessess | Neudorf | 7 p.m. |

Windthorst Pirates Baseball Club



FULL SCHEDULE - 2025

| Game | Date | Away | Home | Location/Time |
|------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| 4 | Fri June 6 | Ax | Pirates | Windthorst 6:45 |
| 5 | Sun Jun 8 | Capitals | Pirates | Windthorst 2:00 |
| 6 | Tues Jun 17 | Pirates | Capitals | Curie 8:45 |
| 7 | Fri Jun 20 | Cowboys | Pirates | Windthorst 6:45 |
| 8 | Mon Jun 23 | Pirates | Red Dogs | Curie 8:45 |
| 9 | Fri Jun 27 | Pirates | Lumader | Lumader 6:30 |
| 10 | Sun July 6 | Padres | Pirates | Windthorst 2:00 |
| 11 | Tues July 8 | Rouves | Pirates | Windthorst 6:45 |
| 12 | Mon July 14 | Pirates | Cowboys | Optimist 8:30 |
| 13 | Fri July 18 | Bucs | Pirates | Windthorst 6:45 |
| 14 | Wed July 23 | Pirates | Rangers | Optimist 8:30 |
| 15 | Sun July 27 | Indians | Pirates | Windthorst 2:00 |
| 16 | Wed July 30 | Pirates | Ghosts | Optimist 8:30 |

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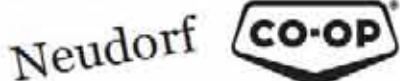
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Voting begins for Credit Union recommended merger

Submitted
Grasslands News

cision-making members expect.

How to Vote

Members can easily and quickly vote. Here's how:

• **Online:** Members can vote online by visiting either the Conexus, Cornerstone, or Synergy Credit Unions pages depending on where they bank.

• **In branch:** Members can vote at any of their credit union's branches across Saskatchewan.

All three credit unions encourage their members to get in touch with any questions and to vote before Friday, June 13 at noon.

The Benefits for Members

This recommended merger puts members first. This merger will build on the success of our three credit unions, creating a stronger, more resilient financial institution while also staying true to our shared values.

Here is what this merger will mean for members:

• **Modern digital banking experience.** We will prioritize investment in our digital banking, adding new functionality to deliver an experience that is easy, secure, and offers convenient access.

• **Branch network.** Our combined network has no overlap, allowing us to be sustainable without

closing locations as part of this merger. We will serve Saskatchewan with 57 branch locations in 50 communities - giving you more ways to bank where, when, and how you want.

• **Competitive with low to no-fee options.** We will offer low to no-fee options that are accessible to all while still offering competitive rates and fees.

• **Profit-sharing with our members.** We will share our profits through a modern rewards program - putting money back in our members' pocket.

• **Local service and local decision-making.** Your trusted advisors remain local—local people, serv-

ing local members. Decision-making will remain rooted in the communities we serve.

• **Enhanced lending capacity.** We will have increased financial capacity so as your farm or business grows, we will grow with you!

• **Specialized expertise.** We will expand access to specialized expertise like wealth management, estate services and mobile mortgage specialists.

• **Personalized service and modern offerings to meet diverse needs.** Our team will be empowered with the required technology and insights to provide proactive, needs-based advice and

solutions tailored to your financial goals.

• **Our profits stay local.** Our profits stay local, with 5% of pre-tax earnings reinvested into our local communities further strengthening Saskatchewan. We remain committed to making a positive impact through sponsorships, volunteering and community support.

• **Committed to employees.** The merger will create new opportunities for current and future employees. We're committed to retain engaged team members, invest in career development, explore new growth potential, and be a top employer in Saskatchewan.

The voting period for the Together for a Thriving Saskatchewan recommended merger of Conexus, Cornerstone, and Synergy Credit Unions has officially begun.

Members can now cast their votes online and in 57 branches across Saskatchewan until Friday, June 13 at noon. Conexus, Cornerstone, and Synergy Credit Unions encourage their members to have their voices heard!

Approximately 200,000 Saskatchewan members across the three credit unions are eligible to vote to create a credit union ready to navigate challenges while continuing to offer the service, innovation, and local de-

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Esterhazy, SK S0A 0X0

United Church honours its past, looks to the future

Centennial observed for the United Church of Canada

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Rev. Jo Mader urged those United Church congregations that still have a church building in which to worship, to think outside the box to find new ways to be relevant in their communities.

Mader was speaking to members from a dozen neighbouring congregations who gathered at St. Andrew's United Church in Fort Qu'Appelle on Sunday for a joint communion service marking the centennial of the United Church of Canada.

The United Church was

created through an act of parliament passed in June 1925 which brought together some Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational congregations to start what today is the largest Protestant denomination in the country with about 2-million adherents.

"As our demographics change, communities dwindle and churches have disappeared. But dozens of new churches are being opened, not in traditional buildings, but with gatherings in different areas like shopping malls, the foyer of a high-rise apartment and even

in an empty bar," Mader observed.

The United Church she said has never been afraid to be a trail blazer.

"The Jesus movement must continue as a growing, ever evolving living church. We need to continue (as did the founders of the United Church), to brave new possibilities. Jesus broke the barriers of his day. We need to look at the barriers we have collected and seek the Jesus vision to follow to break down customs that prevent us from finding the Jesus story relevant to us today."

She said the church does not need to change the core message of the gospel but has to find ways to make it relevant by seeking justice for all.

"Our communion table is a table for all. No one who follows Jesus is turned away," she said. "The United Church strives to welcome and celebrate all peoples of any age, race, class, gender, orientation, identity or ability."

Mader was assisted by Revs. Sharron Bodnaryk and Deb Anderson Pratt. A pickup choir sang of "The church built long on the prairie when first pioneers came to dwell," referring to the oldest Methodist church built near Edgeley in 1883.

There were special musical performances by the Pancho and Guevarra families, Phoenix McKenna, and pianist Fred Barker, organist Judy Hershmillier and flautist

Wendy Dixon Jewett.

Representatives from Indian Head, Grenfell, Wolseley, Abernethy, Lemberg, Balgonic, Qu'Appelle, Edgeley, McLean, Wanakapew and Fort Qu'Appelle gave thumbnail histories of their various church histories.

About 200 people attended a reception afterwards.



ALAN HUSTAK GRASSLANDS NEWS

100th Anniversary observed

Rev. Sharron Bodnaryk assists Rev. Jo Mader prepare for communion.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Melville Churches Welcome You

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

Sunday, June 8:
*2:00 p.m. Worship Service at St. Paul's with Communion and Grad Recognition
*9 a.m. Worship at Trinity, Lemb with Communion
*11 a.m. Worship at Christ, Neud with Communion

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
Church Office 306-728-5764;
306-720-0589
Sunday, June 8:
10:30 a.m. Worship with Eucharist

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Saturday, June 7: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Garage Sale at First United
Sunday, June 8:
11 a.m. Worship Service with Rev. Mee
100th Anniversary Celebration of the United Church of Canada
Shared Lunch and Cake Cutting
Sunday, June 10:
3:30 p.m. Council Meeting

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER
(A Church with a Caring Heart)
800 Prince Edward St.
(Melville Comm. Works)
Ph. 306-728-2347
Pastor Tim Oehler
Sundays:
9:55 a.m. Pre-service Prayer
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Welcome
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
www.melvilliverchurch.org
Facebook @melvilliverchurch
Recorded messages posted online

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
June 7: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Barbecue and Garage Sale
June 8: 10:30 a.m. Confirmation
Sunday Communion Service

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basimalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Sunday, June 8:
5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Saturday, June 14:
7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

MELVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
473 - 8th Ave. W.
Office Ph. 306-728-5022
Pastor Jon Pettinger
Associate Pastor: Jesse Darby
Sunday during Summer Months:
Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
Online services can be found at:
www.melvillebaptist.com

Melville Churches Welcome You

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001
Sunday, June 8:
Worship 10:30 a.m.

ST. HENRY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
729 Main St. - Office
Ph. 306-728-5702
Res. Ph. 306-728-2305
111 - 8th Ave. W.
Father Melchor Samonte
Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, June 8:
11:00 a.m. Divine Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour
heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Thursday - Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday Kids Club - 3:30 p.m.

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

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tony Mandapatil
Saturday, June 7:
5:00 p.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, June 8:
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
(Pentecost Sunday)

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, June 8:
12 Noon Communion Service with Potluck to Follow

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, June 8:
2:30 p.m. Communion Service w/Rev. Roy Bortolotto
(This is the last service until September)

Indian Head Church Welcomes You

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
801 Buxton St. - Indian Head, SK
306-695-3838
Sunday Services 11 a.m.
*Family Play Group - Mondays, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon
*Living with Cancer Support Group 2nd Tuesday of the Month

Kipling Churches Welcome You

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

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

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

ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
418 First St., Kipling
Priest: Father Joseph Villamartin
306-538-2163
Saturday, June 7:
Mass 6:30 p.m.

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

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

PARKLAND BIBLE CHURCH
309 3rd St. South, Kipling
306-736-2421
parklandagc@sasktel.net
Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship Service
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Coffee with Pastor
Wednesday: 10 a.m. Mom's Group

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

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

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
202 Bay Ave. S.,
Phone - 306-551-8213
Hall Contact - 306-331-6720

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
194 Bay St., Fort Qu'Appelle
Rev. Jo Mader, 306-332-4455
Sunday School & Service 10:30
Hear the Gospel, sing the faith, feel the family fellowship. Facebook Live.

Growing in Faith Together

TAX TITLE PROPERTY FOR SALE

Village of Windthorst

Tenders will be received up to 4 p.m. on Monday, June 30, 2025 for the following property:

Lot 18 & 19 Block 03 Plan N2139
(129 Railway Avenue)

General Comments:

This property will be sold on an "as is" basis. There are no warranties offered or implied on the condition of the property.

The Village of Windthorst reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

All legal costs and title transfer fees are the responsibility of the purchaser and are in addition to the bid price.

Offers shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Property Offer", and must be accompanied by a certified cheque or money order in the amount of 20% of the bid, which money will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Minimum tender amount is \$10,000.00. The date of possession and adjustment of taxes shall be set at August 15, 2025, or such other date that can be arranged and payment of the total bid price must be made by that date.

Failure by the successful bidder to conclude the transaction will result in forfeiture of the deposit as liquidated damages.

Submit offers in person at 202 Angus Street in Windthorst or to:

Village of Windthorst
P.O. Box 98,
Windthorst, SK S0G 5G0

For further information contact: Harley McCarthy, Administrator - Telephone: 306-224 2033.

Send your
advertising to
ads@gngnews.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT BYLAW NO. 477/2025

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Balgonie intends to adopt a Bylaw, under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, to amend Bylaw No. 374/2014, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT:

The proposed Bylaw will allow for a reduced minimum frontage for public parks and outdoor recreational areas within the Community Service (CS) District and prohibit the use or erection of temporary garages (fabric covered structures) over 9.3 m² (100 sq. feet) in all Zoning Districts.

REASON FOR THE AMENDMENT:

The reason for reducing the minimum frontage for parks in the CS District is to accommodate the proposed upgrades to Greenall School.

PUBLIC INSPECTION:

Any person may inspect the Bylaw at the Town of Balgonie Municipal Office Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available for a cost at the Municipal Office.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Council will hold a public hearing to receive submissions on the proposed Bylaw on June 23, 2025 at 7 p.m. at the Town of Balgonie Council Chambers. Council will also consider written submissions received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing. For further information, please contact the Municipal Office at 306-771-2284.

Issued at the Town of Balgonie, this 30th day of May, 2025.

Karen Craigie, CAO/Administrator



CLASSIFIEDS



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

Obituary Mildred (Midge) Pearl Walden

Aug. 11, 1934 - May 23, 2025

Mildred (Midge) Pearl Walden passed away peacefully on Friday, May 23, 2025, at the age of 90.

Born on Aug. 11, 1934, on the family farm north of Melville, SK, Midge was a woman of deep faith, community, and family. She attended St. Henry's School in Melville and went on to work in various secretarial roles throughout her early career, including positions at a pharmacy, a law office, and a church office. Later in life, Mildred devoted herself fully to her family, her church, and her community becoming a full-time homemaker and a committed member of the Catholic Women's League, where she volunteered generously of her time and talents.



In 2006, Midge and Elmer moved to Saskatoon, and in 2016, Midge moved into a beautiful assisted-living facility in Warman after Elmer passed in 2016. The staff at the Diamond House took incredible care of Midge, and we thank them immensely for their care and efforts.

Midge was predeceased by her beloved son, Scott Walden; her husband, Elmer Walden; her parents, Adam and Agnes Wassil; her brother, James Wassil; and her sisters, Violet (Palmer) Berg, Genevieve (William) Adams, Marvel Wassil, and Alice Bannister. She is lovingly remembered by her sons, Glenn (Shelley) Walden and Grant (Rhonda) Walden; her grandchildren, Kyle Walden, Stephanie (Garrett) Vogelaar, and Sarah Kendry; and her great-grandchildren, Scarlet Rideout, Bronson Vogelaar, and Oriana Vogelaar. She also leaves behind many other relatives and dear friends who will miss her.

Mildred's legacy is one of faith and family. She will be missed.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at Matthews Funeral Home, Melville, with Deacon Dave Hudy officiating. Organist Gerri Miller led the congregation in the singing of the hymns "How Great Thou Art", "Amazing Grace" and "Just a Closer Walk With Thee". Kyle Walden and Stephanie Vogelaar provided the readings. Interment took place in St. Henry's Parish Cemetery with Sarah Kendry and Scarlett Rideout as urn bearers.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.



Memoriam



KARIUS - To remember Orv, who left us June 12, 2006. God gives us wisdom and peace, He gives us direction and love, He gave us you. -Your family loves and misses you

In Loving Memory of Clifford Morley Pankoski



June 8, 1927 - June 7, 2020

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back;
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
May the rain fall soft upon your fields;
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
-From the Family

Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Estate of Richard Lance Bodnar, late of Abernethy, Sask., deceased.

All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 18th day of June, 2025.

KREKLEWICH & CHAMBERS
Barristers & Solicitors
147 Third Avenue East
P.O. Box 2000
Melville, SK S0A 2P0

Solicitors for the Estate.

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink,
that's your business.
If you want to stop,
that's ours.

Call Alcoholics Anonymous
306-545-9300

Moving Sale

MOVING SALE at 305 - 2nd Ave. West, Melville, June 5 to June 8. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Downsizing to an apartment, wide variety of items. Freezer (41x23x34 in. high), large chesterfield, desk, coffee table that holds records, table saw, tools. Hopefully you will find some treasures to take home. M4-1p

Home for Sale

BEAUTIFUL HOME and contents FOR SALE (in Melville). Furniture, textiles, dishes and all. Call 306-728-2131. M3-2p

For Rent

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom apartment in Melville. Equipped with fridge, stove, AC, off-suite storage, plug-in parking and free laundry. 306-730-7447 for inquiries. M3-4p

FOR RENT - 1- and 2-bedroom apartments in Squire's Court, Melville. Appliances included. Phone Steve at 306-730-7242. M2-8p

LONG TERM RENTAL at Cumberland Villas Condo in Melville. 2 bedroom unfurnished suite, 4th floor corner unit, 1 parking spot included. Nice and bright with lots of windows and great views. Contact Doug McDonald, 204-291-3565 or Diane Exner, GM, 306-728-2035. M46-4p

\$ Paying Cash \$

PAYING CASH for all firearms; one or many. Includes estates and collections. Executors welcome. Once and done. Please call 306-539-2543. M46-4c

Coming Event

LANSDOWNE MEMORIAL GARDENS annual service Sunday, June 8 at 2:30 p.m. with Shelley Schau officiating. Located in the rural area NE of Kipling. All are welcome.

Auctions

2S Auctioneers



"Online Timed Auctions Closing Weekly!"

Come in have a look! All items are on Display. Located at 506 Dewdney St, Indian Head, SK.

Brad 306-551-9411,
Nicole 306-660-7377

www.2sauctioneers.hibid.com

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Province Wide

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Auction Sale June 21

Huge Family Run ESTATE SALE Saturday, June 21

38 Willow Crescent Fort Qu'Appelle, SK

*Registration 8:30 a.m.
*Auction 10:00 a.m.

until everything is sold
CASH ONLY ACCEPTED

There will be a large amount of shop, yard and garden tools. Includes various hand, electric and gas options. Numerous antiques and collectibles, along with a variety of household items.

Lunch and refreshments will be available. Free coffee provided on site. Washroom available.

NOTE: If unable to proceed due to inclement weather, it will be held on Sunday, June 22, 2025. Same starting times will apply

Auction June 11

FARM and TOOL AUCTION for WANDA CUNNINGHAM Wednesday, June 11, 2025 10 a.m.

REDVERS, SK

2 miles East on Hwy. #13, 1 mile North, half mile East

Includes: 4430 JD tractor c/w loader, grapple fork, duals; 1950 9N Ford tractor c/w 3 PTH; various 3 PTH equipment; 307 JD rotary mower; side wheel delivery rake; Vulcan deep tiller; PJ long haul trailer; 1,000 gal. metal tank on trailer; Plasma arc cutter/ AC-DC stick welder; pipe bender/gear pullers/ drill press; building fan; Coleman Power Mate generator; 4800 watt heater, sand blaster, grinders, floor jacks, large assortment shop tools, 525 JD F lawn mower, roto tiller, yard sprayer, 1970 Snow Cruiser (ran when parked). THIS IS A LIVE ON SITE AUCTION

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Dellan Mohrbutter

306-452-7847

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Province Wide

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Auction June 14

ACREAGE MOVING AUCTION for GARNET and HELEN FAWCETT Saturday, June 14, 2025 10 a.m.

MOOSOMIN, SK

2 miles South of Moosomin on Hwy. #8, 1-1/4 miles West on #709 (Lake Road)

Includes: 1984 256 Versatile loader tractor; fork lift and bale spear attachment for 256 Versatile; 1981 Case 580 D Construction King backhoe (good shape); 1956 1600 truck; 6 ft. Terrain gyro mower; Massey Harris pony tractor (restored); Allis Chalmers WF (restored); Elk Rite 2200 elk squeeze; 30 ft. Elk stand up panels (15), 2-10 ft. cattle panels; 30 ft. feed trough; assort. fence posts; assort. dimensional lumber and heavy wall metal; CPR wagon and CN wagon; antique dressers/ washing machine; Fridays Quebec Carleton Place stove/Canada B9- 20 1907 stove; platform scale; a large selection antiques and collectibles, sand blaster/pressure washer/bench grinder; various misc. power tools; large selection carpentry related power tools; pallets of bolts and wire; huge assortment steel pipe - various lengths and sizes; large and small landscaping rocks, assortment garden tools.

THIS IS A LIVE ON SITE AUCTION KEY "M" AUCTION SERVICES

Dellan Mohrbutter

306-452-7847

www.keymauctions.com

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COVERING ALL OF SKI Todd

306-774-2420

CLASSIFIED RATES

(based on 25 words or less)

Obituary Deadline Tuesdays 12 Noon



1 week: \$15.00 • 2 weeks: \$20.00 • 3 weeks: \$25.00 • 4 weeks: \$30.00

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

1-844-GNG-NEWS

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\$73,000
Towards Any Dealer in Saskatchewan

OR

TAKE CASH!
\$70,000

50/50
Winner Takes Half the Jackpot
CURRENTLY OVER \$83,100* AND GROWING!

BUY TODAY! Final Deadline: June 9
PROCEEDS HELP SUPPORT THE JIM PATTSIN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
1 for \$25 | 10 for \$250 | 25 for \$750 | 50 for \$1500 | 100 for \$3000

SCAN HERE TO BUY TICKETS

trucksandbucks.ca | 1.866.653.9191

RCMP respond to fatal side-by-side rollover

Submitted
Grasslands News

On May 27, 2025 at approximately 8:20 p.m., Yorkton RCMP received a report of a side-by-side rollover on a grid road in a rural area west of Bredenburg, SK. Officers immediately responded. The operator and sole occupant of the side-by-side was declared deceased by EMS at the

scene. He has been identified as a child under the age of 10 from the area. His family has been notified. Bredenburg Fire Department, EMS and STARS assisted at the scene.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TOWN OF BALSARRES PUBLIC WORKS LABOURER FULL-TIME POSITION

Wage: \$25/hr or based on experience
Start Date: Immediately
The Town of Balcarres invites applicants for the position of Public Works Laborer, available immediately. This full-time permanent position will assist the public works team in providing services to the Town of 600+ residents for transportation, utility distribution, infrastructure maintenance, and seasonal employees during assigned hours.

- Some of your tasks might include:
- Manual labor, mostly outdoors
 - Street maintenance, including but not limited to graveling, grading, patching, crack sealing, painting street lines, hydrants, and curbs, oiling, snow removal, sanding, sweeping streets, and de-icing walks
 - Traffic Control, including but not limited to the maintenance of street signs, traffic control signs and traffic signals
 - Drainage, including but not limited to clearing debris and blockages from catch basins, and removing weeds and debris from ditches.
 - Maintain sewage lagoon, pumphouse and lift stations in the sewage system.
 - Maintain curb stops, valves and fire hydrants in co-operation with the Fire Department and Water Treatment Plant
 - Sidewalk repairs
 - Park lot and Town yard maintenance.

Minimum Qualifications:
Valid Class 5 Drivers License or above
High school diploma or equivalent
Experience operating powered mobile equipment
Criminal Record check and driving abstract will be required

Preference will be given to applicants with:
Certification in Water Treatment and Distribution, Wastewater Collection and Treatment (or willingness to become certified)
Certification on heavy equipment an asset
Confined space training, ground disturbance training
Certification in Power Mobile Equipment would be as asset
Pesticide Application License (or willingness to become licensed)
Local residency or willingness to relocate

Candidates will have good public relations and communication skills as well as excellent time management skills. Be a strong team leader, and have the ability to work independently or as part of a team.

The Town of Balcarres has an excellent benefits and pension package.

Applicants should submit a detailed resume, complete with a cover letter including three work references no later than Friday June 20, 2025.

To apply, please send resumes to the Town of Balcarres:

Mail - Town of Balcarres, P.O. Box 130, 209 Main Street, Balcarres, SK, S0G 0C0
Fax - 306-334-2907, Email - balcarrestown@sasktel.net

Only those applicants being considered will be notified.
If you have any questions contact the Town Office at 306-334-2566.

Dale's Painting
306-728-4392
602 - 8th Ave. W.
Melville

LANDFILL
FORT QU'APPELLE
WINTER HOURS
• Dec. 1 to March 31 •
Monday to Friday 9:00 to 4:30
Saturday and Sunday Closed
Closed Statutory Holidays
SUMMER HOURS
• April 1 to Nov. 30 •
Monday to Saturday
8:00 to 4:30
Sunday Closed
Closed Statutory Holidays
ACCEPTING: Used oil, filters and containers;
Used Antifreeze; Batteries; Select household chemicals; Grain Bags & Twine; Concrete; Asphalt.
Info: northvalleywaste.ca

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Available Immediately
Whitewood Housing Authority has one-bedroom senior suites for rent. Units supplied with heat, appliances, private parking and sewer/water. Personal response system available upon request. Damage deposit required. Rent subsidy available.
Ph: 306-735-7513

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We are a rural, privately owned funeral home with our locations in Russell, Shoal Lake, Erickson, MB, and Esterhazy, SK.

We strive to provide outstanding family satisfaction. We care about each other and the people we are privileged to serve. Our motto is, "A Commitment to Excellence".

You are:

- Passionate, talented, and service oriented.
- A communicator and know the significance of excellent communication
- Looking for a challenge and want to be involved in all aspects of the funeral home, with a focus on arranging and directing funerals
- Able to work with a fine attention to detail, in a fast paced environment
- Inspired and excited to be part of a team of professionals
- A Funeral Director and Embalmer and in good standing; or are willing to train as an apprentice
- A professional and have a clear driving record

We are passionate about what we do and are looking for someone to share our enthusiasm. Salary will be based upon your experience and skills.
Please call 204 773 3786
or send your resume to: admin@braendlebrucefs.ca

the 110 GROUP Thank you for applying
www.braendlebrucefs.ca

Classified/Obituary Deadline Tuesdays 12 noon
production2@grasslandsnews.ca

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WHY ROCANVILLE

GROWING FORWARD



MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES/ TAX INCENTIVES

- **Municipal minimum property tax, every property no matter the assessed value pays the same amount of Municipal Taxes.**
- **Tax Incentives are available via application to the Town Office for all new residential and commercial builds. 5 and 3 years respectively**

ECONOMY

- **We are an easy 15 minute drive to two mine sites for the world's largest potash miner and producer as well as a 45 minute drive to additional potash producing mines**
- **Full-Service metal fabrication, engineering, machining industrial plant within town limits servicing Western Canada**
- **Industrial and trade opportunities**

HEALTH & SAFETY

- **A full service hospital; Primary Health Care, Acute Care, Lab/X-Ray Services, Emergency Dept, Mental Health, Palliative; is a quick 20 minute drive on a highway that is being repaved in 2025.**
- **In Town Medical Centre hosts doctors, dentist, audiologist, health care, public health, and foot care on rotating schedules**
- **Enhanced Airport project nearing the end of completion is available for Saskatchewan Air Ambulance, STARS, and Commercial use**
- **Our active Fire Department and First Responders have a fully equipped fleet with a prompt response time**

HOUSING & LIVING

- **In 2024 there were 24 residential houses sold for an average price of \$226,521**
- **There were 5 empty lots sold (residential & commercial) for an average price of \$24,099**
- **Cameron Crescent (Town owned) 16 empty serviced lots available in the growing area of town. Council would like to state that all offers will be reviewed**
- **A number of privately owned empty lots for sale (as of print date 14) and residential houses on the market**

RECREATION & CULTURE

- **We have an Outdoor Skating Rink, Indoor Skating Rink, New Indoor Aquatic Centre, Recreation Facility, Community Hall, Off-Leash Dog Park, Walking trails, New Shale Ball Diamond, X Country Ski Trails, Groomed Snowmobile Trails, 9 hole Golf Course, Rocanville & District Museum, quad trails for miles,**
- **K-12 School, Daycare, Playschool, public library**
- **Soccer Club, Dance Club, Minor Hockey Club, Youth Rec Hockey Club, various Baseball teams, Pickleball Group**
- **AND MORE!!!!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE TOWN OFFICE

ROCANVILLE.TOWN@SASKTEL.NET

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