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Alpaca Ranch takes pride in Rookie of the Year nomination

Tiger Lily Alpaca Ranch top three finalist in 2025 Hospitality awards

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

While Saskatchewan Open Farm Days officially won the 2025 Hospitality Saskatchewan's Rookie of the Year Award, top three finalist Tiger Lily Alpaca Ranch outside Pilot Butte took the honour of the nomination to heart.

The Rookie of the Year Award recognizes a new business, partnership, organization, event or attraction that has demonstrated innovation, hard work, and perseverance to establish a strong new business in Saskatchewan's tourism sector.

"It was pretty exciting when I found out I made the top three for Rookie of the Year and I got to go to the event, which was very fancy," says owner Carol Poole. "This year has been a very successful one for me with Alpaca Walkz, and success for me looks like people finding me. I am pretty proud of it."

Poole not only breeds alpacas for sale, but she also sells a variety of alpaca wool products in her on-location shop. The Rookie of the Year nomination stems from her recent venture into the world of agrotourism adventures which includes Alpaca Walkz, Alpaca Hour, and Alpaca Yoga.

"I didn't know about it, and Tourism Saskatchewan had phoned me and said they felt I should put

my business name forth," Poole says. "They felt I hit all the criteria for Rookie of the Year.

Criteria for the nomination includes growth within the business—something Poole has strived for over the last couple years. She says it started with the Achieving AWESome Program, aimed at supporting new experience providers in Saskatchewan tourism.



Carol Poole

After her completion in the program, Poole gained a Tourism Saskatchewan mentor, Corrina Kapeller, who she says championed her on into the next chapter of Tiger Lily Ranch's growth.

"She was such a cheerleader for me," Poole says. "Fast forward, I did my pilot and Tourism Saskatchewan came out as part of the program to figure out what to do, what is the value of it, and all the things."

From there, Alpaca Walkz was born. Visitors

are given the chance to walk with alpacas, dress them up, and enjoy the natural beauty of the farm. In 2025, Alpaca Hour was developed for those with mobility issues, as well as younger visitors. Guests can relax with the alpacas and enjoy their company without strenuous activity involved.

"We are going to start Alpaca Winter Walkz," Poole says. "We will use our llama, Kuzco—he'll be the star of the show for the winter walks. It will be really fun. We are going to walk, build a fire, have hot chocolate and marshmallows. We will have the alpacas with us and walk them as well. It will be in the winter, on Saturday afternoons. I think it's going to be fun and I'm looking forward to it."

Over the last 29 years, Tiger Lily Ranch has steadily grown, but Poole says her journey began with humble beginnings.

"I started raising Alpacas in 1996 and fell in love with them," Poole says. "I had seen an advertisement in the Auto Trader. So, from the AutoTrader I went to the Western Producer, and lo-and-behold there were alpacas and llamas in the livestock section. I thought that was pretty cool, so we went and looked at some farms, and the rest is history."

At the time when her interest was piqued, Poole



ASHLEY SCARFE | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Tourism award nomination

Tiger Lily Alpaca Ranch, located outside Pilot Butte, was nominated for the 2025 Hospitality Saskatchewan's Rookie of the Year Award. While they didn't win the award, they have won the hearts of guests across the province with their Alpaca Walkz, Alpaca Hour and Alpaca Yoga where people can get up close and personal with the curious and friendly animals.

reveals she did not yet own a farm, but the drive to own alpacas just made sense to her.

"It was at a time when there was a big movement of exotic animals in Western Canada," Poole says. "There was bison, elk, ostrich, emu, alpacas, llamas and different types of deer. These guys were little, and something I could

handle. What really interested me was their fibre—or hair."

Alpaca fibre is known for its softness, warmth and moisture wicking properties. Warmer than sheep's wool, alpaca hair is hollow and a natural thermal regulator. Poole says beyond their luxurious fibre to make warm clothing; alpacas also

are good at warming the heart.

"It doesn't matter the age of the person—the reaction to the animal is the same—and it's always, 'Oh my God, they are so cute and fluffy, I just want to hug them,'" Poole says. "It is always pure joy. I never dreamt it at the beginning, but I am so glad I got to this point."



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Canada Post workers shift to rotating strikes

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

The nation-wide strike action from Canada Post workers has come to an end as rotating strikes take its place.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) announced on Oct. 9 that on Oct. 11 they moved from a nation-wide strike action to rotating strikes. The union said that locals that will be rotating out will be informed closer to the time when they will take action.

"This will start mail and parcels moving while continuing our struggle for good collective agreements and a strong public postal service," said CUPW National President Jan Simpson in a release. "We did not take the decision to move to a nation-wide strike lightly. Postal workers would much rather have new collective agreements and be

delivering mail instead of taking strike action."

Simpson said that the union could not stand by as the Government of Canada announced its plans for Canada Post.

Canada Post is welcoming employees that are represented by CUPW back to work, saying that plans are underway to ensure a safe and orderly restart to national operations.

"While postal services will begin to resume this week, uncertainty and instability in the postal service will continue with the union's decision to conduct rotating strikes," said Canada Post in a media release.

Canada Post has urged the union to return to the bargaining table to reach new collective agreements, saying that they are waiting to hear back from the union on its latest offers from Oct. 3.

"These offers put for-

ward proposals that are affordable and treat employees fairly given the challenges we face," said Canada Post. "Only new collective agreements will provide the certainty Canadians require to confidently use the postal system."

Canada Post reports that there has been more than 170 days of strike activity by CUPW this year that has disrupted Canadians and businesses.

"This prolonged period of instability, uncertainty and disruption has significantly impacted Canadians and Canadian businesses, often without warning. As a result, they have moved to other carriers or are avoiding Canada Post altogether. The move to a different form of strike activity will not change that," said Canada Post.

Canada Post reports that the impact on the company's financial po-

sition is significant and mounting, and that with continued uncertainty

and the expiry of collective agreements they will be required to adjust op-

erations to its current business realities moving forward.

Sask. adds 19,000 full time jobs in Sept.

By Provincial
Grasslands News

Statistics Canada's latest labour force numbers show that the labour market in Saskatchewan remains strong with 19,000 full-time jobs added year-over-year, for an overall increase of 2.2 per cent. Saskatchewan's unemployment rate is the second lowest amongst provinces at 6 per cent, below the national average of 7.1 per cent.

Year-over-year, full-time employment in Saskatchewan increased by 19,000, an increase of 3.8 per cent, ranked second highest among provinces.

Saskatchewan's two biggest cities also saw year-over-year growth. Compared to September 2024, Saskatoon's

employment was up 1,900, an increase of 0.9 per cent, and Regina's employment was up 7,800, an increase of 5.4 per cent.

Major year-over-year gains were reported for health care and social assistance, up 8,400, an increase of 8.9 per cent. Consistent with the gains in urban housing starts and building permit values, an increase was seen for business, building and other support services, up 2,800, an increase of 25 per cent.

Saskatchewan continues to show economic strength in other areas. Year-to-date Saskatchewan ranked first amongst provinces for growth in the value of building permits, and month-over-month recorded the highest growth in manufacturing sales amongst provinces.



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NDP calls for change after ER gaffes in local hospitals

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The opposition NDP are once again ringing the alarm bells as another case of misdirection at rural emergency rooms has occurred.

"Somebody is going to get killed," said Keith Jorgenson, Saskatchewan NDP Associate Shadow Minister for Health. "These are emergency rooms. You can't just throw up a 'we'll be back soon' sign and call it a day."

On Oct. 9, the emergency room at the Arcola Health Centre closed and stayed that way for much of the Thanksgiving long weekend. During that same weekend, the ER at the Kipling Integrated Health Centre was also closed, but information posted for the public redirected those seeking emergency services to attend the Arcola facility.

According to Jorgenson, the redirection from one closed facility to another isn't the first time such an error has occurred in recent memory.

"By my count, this is the fifth time that they've directed somebody between two closed rural ERs," he told reporters during a media availability at the Legislature in Regina on Oct. 14. "But how difficult is it to fix this problem? This should be a simple problem to fix. We have complex prob-

lems in our health care system, and if the Sask Party and the SHA can't fix something as simple as this, how do we expect them to tackle really big problems?"

Jorgenson pointed to resources such as the Highway Hotline and the SaskPower outage map as tools already available and utilized by people, wondering if temporary ER closures could be added to such notification methods.

"All of these are ways that we could provide people with the information in rural Saskatchewan to keep themselves safe," he said. "We will be introducing a private member's bill in the coming session that would force the government to notify people of ER closures. We're asking the government to do the right thing voluntarily."

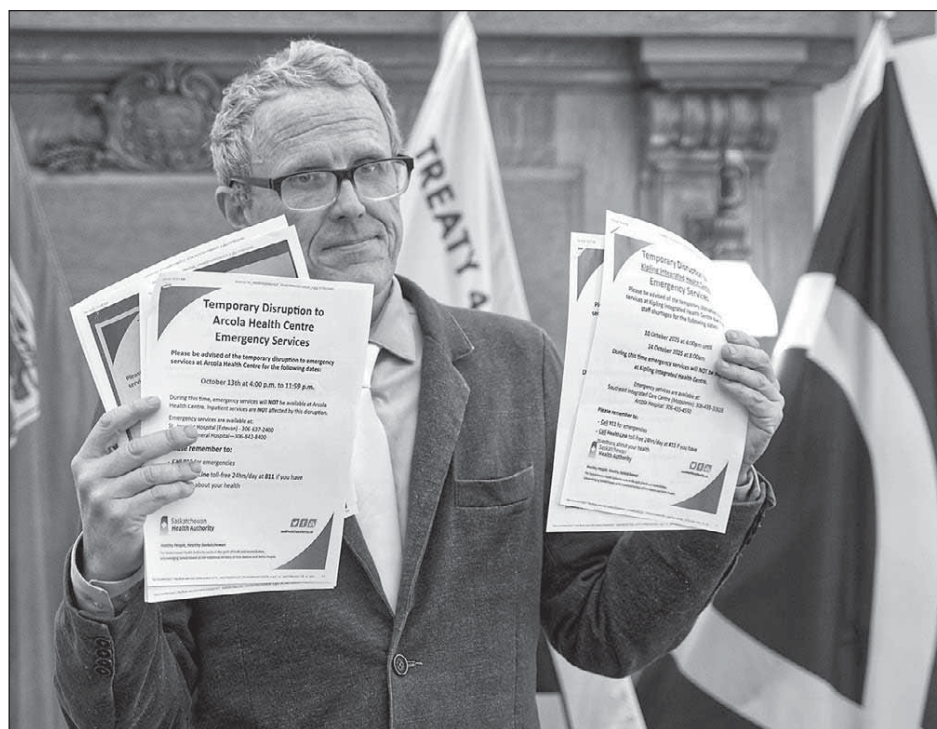
Neither Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill or Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr were available for comment, however the SHA did compose a response to Grasslands News' query.

"The Saskatchewan Health Authority is committed to providing seamless care as close to home as possible, and to ensuring that patients and families have accurate information about accessing emergency care in their community," the statement read. "Communities rightly expect accurate

information about accessing emergency care, and we acknowledge concerns from the communities we serve about gaps in how the SHA currently reports emergency service disruptions. The SHA is committed to reviewing its current reporting processes and identifying opportunities for improvements to both its internal and external communications processes. We are working with SHA teams across the province to improve communication with communities and better serve our rural and remote patients."

In the case of a life-and-death emergency, the SHA advises to call 911 'so paramedics can assess, treat, and transport the patient to the nearest location where the patient can receive further medical attention.'

"The SHA has advanced several strategies to stabilize emergency services and enhance capacity in rural and remote communities in collaboration with the Ministry of Health," the SHA noted. "Through the provincial Health Human Resources Action Plan, nearly 400 new and enhanced full-time equivalent positions in rural and remote facilities impacted by service disruptions. The introduction of the Virtual Physician Program and Point-of-Care Testing have also helped stabilize emergency services in 28



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Misdirection

Keith Jorgenson, Saskatchewan NDP Associate Shadow Minister for Health, holds up two temporary emergency room closure notices for reporters during a press conference on Oct. 14. One is from the Kipling Integrated Health Centre, which advised those seeking emergency services to attend either Moomsomin or Arcola for help. The other notice is from the Arcola Health Centre, which was also experiencing a service disruption in their ER.

rural and remote communities, resulting in over 3,400 potential emergency room service disruptions being avoided."

Current methods of informing residents of a temporary disruption of ER services include individual municipalities spreading the information on social media.

"In some communities, the town will use their Facebook page," Jorgenson said. "They will take a picture of this or a copy of this (holding a paper copy of the notice), and they'll post it on their Facebook, and currently that's the only way that people know when their ER is closed. I think that it's not a municipality's job to disseminate

that information, and the best way to do that is not Facebook, because not everyone has Facebook."

In Kipling, notices of a temporary ER closure are also received by Mayor Pat Jackson then put onto the Town's website and Facebook page. She also sees how easily mistakes can be made through putting the onus on a municipality to disseminate update ER information.

"SHA is responsible, and they need to come up with some kind of decent protocol that lets people know," Mayor Jackson said.

Jorgenson visited Kipling during the summer and heard feedback from area residents about

the intermittent closure situation.

"People are very frustrated about the lack of information about closures," he said. "I remember running into an older gentleman in Kipling, and he said, 'I'm not on Facebook. How the (blank) am I supposed to know when my hospital is closed?' I think it's a weird way to run a healthcare system where we're depending on third parties to post on social media when our hospitals are open and closed."

The SHA website currently features a Service Disruptions tab on their News & Events portion of the website. The most

- SEE ER PROBLEMS, 4

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SOURCES

¹ Annual Report on Government of Canada Advertising Activities 2023-2024, combined with proprietary industry data.

² Totum Research Canada, January 2025. Canadians 18+, n=2418.; Pollara for the Dais, 2025 Survey of Online Harms, Canadians 16+, n=2502.

Report warns of 'devastating consequences'

Churches could be crippled if charitable status removed

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

A new policy report from the Frontier Centre for Public Policy is warning that proposed changes

to Canada's Income Tax Act could have far-reaching consequences for faith-based organizations across the country.

The report, Revoking the Charitable Status

for the Advancement of Religion: A Critical Assessment, was written by Frontier Centre senior fellow Pierre Gilbert. It responds to a 2025 recommendation from the federal Standing Committee on Finance to remove "advancement of religion" as a recognized charitable purpose under the Income Tax Act. If adopted, the change would strip churches, mosques, temples, synagogues and other faith-based organizations of their charitable status, eliminating tax exemptions, preventing them from issuing charitable tax receipts and potentially triggering one-time "revocation taxes" that could effectively wipe out their assets.

Gilbert said the proposal represents "a direct threat to religious freedom and the vital role faith communities play in Canadian society." He noted that religious organizations contribute an estimated \$16.5 billion annually to Canada through social services, education, community programs and cultural preservation. Removing their charitable status, he warned, would be both "fiscally short-sighted and socially destructive."

The report also highlights the broader financial and social implications of the proposed



CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Looking for lunch

A badger makes his way across a pasture in search of something to feed on. Badgers catch a significant proportion of their food underground, by digging. They can tunnel after ground-dwelling rodents at speed.

ER problems continue to happen

- continued from page 3

recent notification was the Feb. 26, 2024, notice of reduced hours at the Wolseley Memorial Integrated Care Centre.

"I don't understand why the government chooses to keep this information private," Jorgenson said. "The only explanation I have is embarrassment. I'll say it again to Minister Cockrell, if you were embarrassed by these two hospitals being closed, then fix the problem, and then you will cease being embarrassed."

He also wondered if MLAs in areas affected by temporary closures could utilize social media as well, taking a note from municipalities.

"To my knowledge, I've never seen a Sask Party MLA, who represents most of these community as well, post on their Facebook," Jorgenson said. "They all have social media accounts. Why is the MLA that represents these folks not sharing news that could save the lives of their constituents on their Facebook? It's a good question I would love to ask them."

Meanwhile, Mayor Jackson says the issue is not as simple as it seems.

"It's not black and white, there are multiple shades of gray, but it is something that we as a town of just under 1,100 people can't fix," she said. "Arcola - a town of much less than that - can't fix it. All of the villages and the RMs connected to each of those hospitals can't fix it. There is an organization that was created by the provincial government, and then the provincial government kind of dusted its hands off and said, 'there, now they are responsible', taking the responsibility off the province. But SHA has become gargantuan."

The NDP is anticipated to introduce their private member's bill regarding mandatory ER closure notices sometime during the First Session of the 30th Legislature, which begins Oct. 22.

change. Canada currently foregoes between \$1.7 billion and \$3.2 billion in annual tax revenue by maintaining charitable status for religious organizations — an amount Gilbert describes as modest when weighed against their contributions to Canadian communities. Many faith-based organizations provide vital services such as food banks, counselling, education and emergency relief that governments would struggle to replace.

If charitable recognition were revoked, places of worship could also face new property tax bills. Under existing Canada Revenue Agency regulations, any charity that loses its status is subject to a "revocation tax" equal to 100 per cent of the fair-market value of its assets, unless those assets are transferred to another

eligible charity within a year. The result, Gilbert warns, could be devastating financial hardship for many congregations.

The Frontier Centre report links the proposed policy shift to a combination of rising secularism, fiscal pressures and ideological conflict over issues such as abortion and LGBTQ rights. It attributes much of the momentum to lobbying efforts by the BC Humanist Association, which has called on the government to end property tax exemptions for places of worship and redirect public funding to secular programs. Gilbert argues that such efforts misrepresent religious institutions as outdated or divisive, while ignoring their historic and continuing role in strengthening communities and fostering compassion, education and social stability.

In his conclusion, Gilbert urges churches and other religious groups to act now by educating their members, engaging policymakers and working collectively to defend their charitable standing. He writes that the potential loss of charitable status should be seen as "an urgent call for faith communities to reassert their public mission and relevance." Without a coordinated response, he warns, the proposed legislative changes could "irreversibly weaken one of the oldest and most effective networks of social support in Canadian history."

The full report, *Revoking the Charitable Status for the Advancement of Religion: A Critical Assessment*, is available through the Frontier Centre for Public Policy's Policy Roadmap series (No. 150, October 2025).

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Community newspapers urge Ottawa to support local media with advertising set-aside

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan's community newspapers have joined counterparts across the country in calling on the federal government to reserve at least 25 per cent of its annual advertising budget for Canadian news outlets — a move they say would bolster local journalism without costing taxpayers a cent more.

The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association (SWNA) joined a united front of media organizations — including the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association, B.C. & Yukon Community News Media Association, Hebδος Québec, Manitoba Community Newspapers Association, National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada, News Media Canada, and the Ontario

Community Newspapers Association — in urging Ottawa to “Buy Canadian” when it comes to public advertising.

“Advertising set-asides are a payment for a service — not a subsidy — that can provide substantial revenue to local news organizations and help community journalism thrive,” said Steve Waldman, founder of Rebuild Local News, a U.S.-based non-profit that has helped shape similar policies in other jurisdictions. “It is money the government is already spending — not new money — so it does not require enlarging government budgets or raising taxes.”

For rural and small-town publishers in Saskatchewan, the message resonates strongly. Each year, millions in federal ad spending flow to large digital platforms like Meta and Google, de-

spite their limited reach in smaller markets and their role in spreading misinformation.

“At a time when our sovereignty and economy are under threat, we call on the federal government to Buy Canadian,” said Lisa Sygutek, publisher of the Crowsnest Pass Herald and chair of the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association. “Taxpayer-funded federal advertising dollars should be spent in communities across Canada; they shouldn't flow to Big Tech companies in California whose algorithms amplify disinformation and drive division.”

SWNA representatives note that in Saskatchewan, weekly papers remain the most trusted and accessible source of local information, particularly in communities under 10,000 people where social media reach

is limited and broadband access uneven.

Ethnic and multi-lingual outlets are also backing the proposal, highlighting how traditional news organizations connect with audiences that government advertising often overlooks. “Because we are trusted by our communities, Canada's ethnic news publications are uniquely positioned to help the Canadian government reach the nearly 25 per cent of Canadians whose mother tongue is not English or French,” said Maria Saras-Voutsinas, executive director at the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada. “This is smart policy that is working in other jurisdictions, including Ontario and New York City.”

According to News

Media Canada, more than 85 per cent of Canadian adults read newspaper content each week — a reach unmatched by social media platforms. Readers also trust newspaper content far more than online sources, a factor that benefits both advertisers and the public. “Advertising in trustworthy environments leads to a 25 per cent lift in brand rating,” said Benoit Chartier, president and editor-in-chief of Le Courrier de Saint-Hyacinthe and vice chair of News Media Canada. “News publishers in aggregate are seen as 35 per cent above the baseline level of trust across information environments.”

In Saskatchewan, many local newspapers have been operating on razor-thin margins amid

declining ad revenue and rising costs. A federal set-aside could help sustain local journalism that keeps residents informed on municipal decisions, agricultural policy, and community events — the kind of coverage that rarely appears in national media.

“This isn't about hand-outs,” said one SWNA member publisher. “It's about fair recognition that local newspapers are still doing essential work in every corner of this province, and federal advertising should reflect that reality.”

The coalition is urging Ottawa to implement the 25 per cent advertising set-aside as part of upcoming federal budget planning, framing it as a cost-neutral, patriotic investment in the survival of Canadian journalism.

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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."

Mandatory addiction treatment: a necessary intervention or a dangerous overreach?

Addiction remains one of the most persistent public health crises, claiming thousands of lives every year and costing billions in healthcare and lost productivity. In response, many policymakers and health professionals are now advocating for mandatory addiction treatment — programs that compel individuals to undergo rehabilitation, often as an alternative to incarceration or in response to repeated crises.

But it's not that simple. Each situation brings its own outcomes, some successful and others not. While the goal is to save lives and reduce harm, this approach raises complex ethical and legal questions. Can addiction truly be treated without consent? Does coercion undermine recovery? Or, in the face of escalating overdoses, is it morally right to intervene — even against someone's will?

Supporters argue that mandatory treatment can save lives, especially for individuals in the depths of severe addiction who are unable to seek help voluntarily. Addiction can impair judgment and self-preservation instincts, making non-intervention a form of abandonment. It's also viewed as a public safety measure: individuals under the influence may endanger themselves or others through impaired driving or neglect. In such cases, forced treatment may protect both the individual and society.

Economically, diverting people from jails to treatment programs can cost less and reduce re-offending. Studies have shown that some individuals benefit from coerced treatment — particularly when programs are evidence-based, long-term, and properly funded.

Critics, however, warn that coercion is not care. Addiction is a chronic, relapsing condition, and lasting recovery requires personal motivation. Without consent or engagement, mandatory treatment may become little more than a temporary detox with high relapse rates.

Civil liberty concerns also arise. Forcing someone into treatment can violate personal autonomy, especially when done without due process or medical oversight. Some jurisdictions allow family members or judges to mandate treatment without the individual's consent, prompting serious human rights questions.

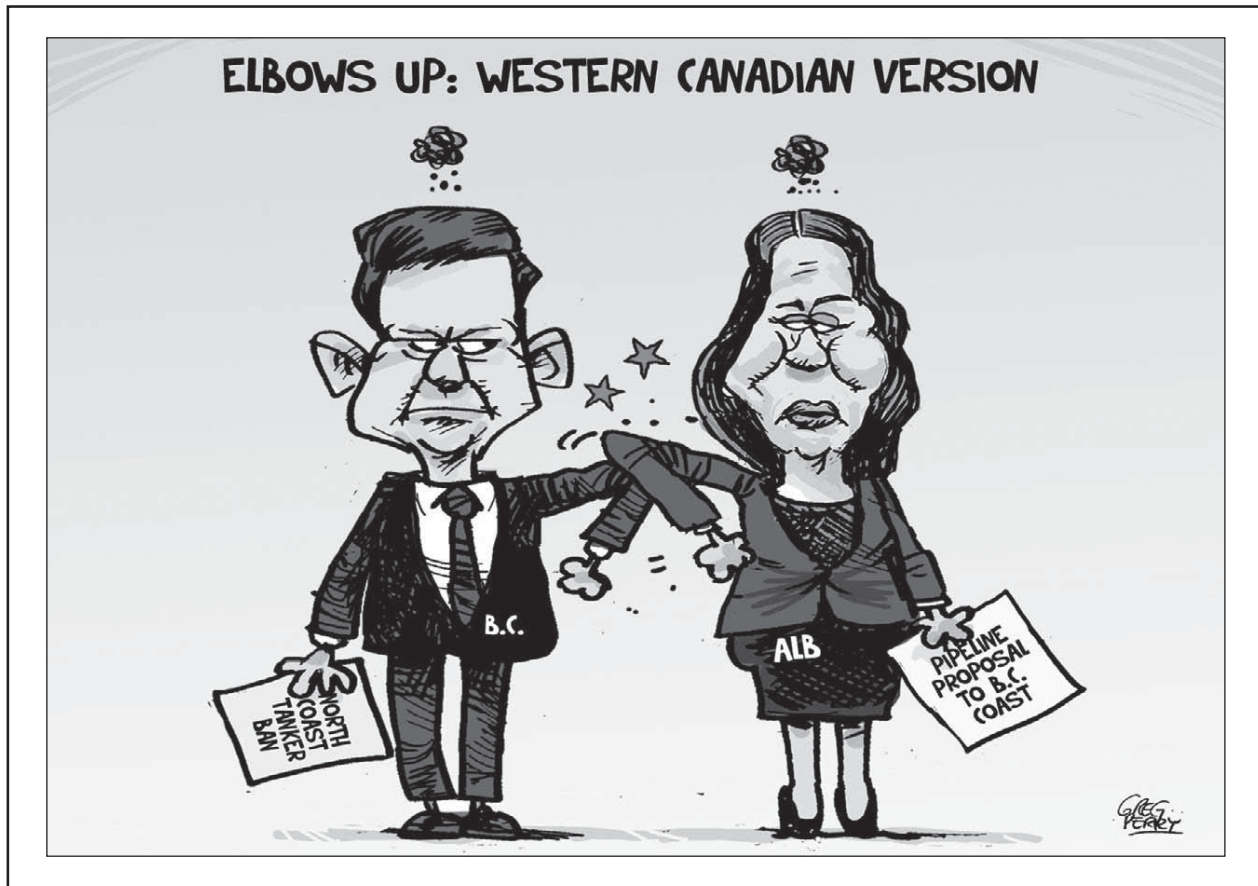
Research on effectiveness is mixed. Some studies show coerced patients fare no better — and sometimes worse — than voluntary participants. In the worst cases, mandatory treatment becomes a revolving door that criminalizes illness, disproportionately affecting marginalized populations.

The debate reflects a deeper struggle between compassion and individual rights. Effective policy must balance both — prioritizing voluntary access to quality care, strengthening harm-reduction programs, and reserving compulsory treatment for only the most extreme, life-threatening situations with strict safeguards.

Ultimately, we must confront the root causes that make forced treatment seem necessary: lack of accessible rehab, weak mental health supports, and housing instability. Too often, people are "forced" into treatment only because help wasn't offered sooner.

Addiction treatment should be rooted in dignity, evidence, and empathy — not punishment or fear. The goal is not just to end addiction, but to help people rebuild lives worth living.

- Elaine Ashfield/GNG



Ottawa must put its money where its message is — support Canadian media

When it comes to government advertising, actions speak louder than slogans. For years, Ottawa has promised to support local journalism, yet millions of taxpayer dollars in federal advertising continue to flow south to Big Tech companies like Google and Meta — corporations that pay little tax in Canada, undermine local journalism, and profit from the very content our newsrooms create.

That's why the call from Canada's community newspaper associations, including the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association (SWNA), deserves serious attention. The coalition is urging the federal government to dedicate at least 25 per cent of its advertising budget to Canadian news outlets — print, digital, and ethnic media that serve communities large and small. This proposal isn't about handouts or subsidies. It's about fair purchasing decisions for services the government already pays for.

As Steve Waldman of Rebuild Local News notes, an advertising set-aside is "a payment for a service — not a subsidy." The money is already in the system. The only question is where it goes. At present, too much of it is leaving the country, buying space on platforms that are designed to grab attention — not build trust or strengthen communi-

ties. In Saskatchewan, where weekly newspapers still serve as the backbone of civic life, this imbalance is especially stark. Local papers in Whitewood, Grenfell, Indian Head, Kipling, and across the province remain the primary way residents learn about town council decisions, volunteer efforts, school programs, and local businesses. These are the stories that don't trend on social media but define who we are as communities.

And unlike the global tech giants, local newsrooms are accountable. They answer to readers, advertisers, and communities — not to algorithms. They hire local reporters, print locally, and spend their revenues locally. Every dollar invested in community media circulates through the Canadian economy, supporting jobs, small businesses, and public engagement.

Critics may argue that the marketplace should decide where advertising goes. But that logic ignores the fact that the marketplace itself has been distorted. For years, the digital ad industry has been dominated by monopolistic tech firms that undercut local outlets through algorithms and data collection practices that news publishers simply can't compete with. A 25 per cent Canadian set-aside would be a mod-

est but meaningful correction — one that levels the playing field and ensures public funds serve public interests.

Canada's ethnic and multilingual media are also right to point out that traditional outlets remain uniquely positioned to reach audiences that government campaigns often miss. Nearly one in four Canadians speaks a language other than English or French at home. If the federal government truly wants to communicate with all Canadians — whether about public health, climate programs, or democratic participation — it must advertise in the media Canadians actually trust and consume.

The federal government has an opportunity here to lead by example. Buying Canadian should not stop at dairy and lumber. It should extend to journalism — the product that keeps democracy informed and communities connected.

This is not charity. It's good policy, smart economics, and a patriotic investment in Canada's voice.

If Ottawa truly believes in local journalism, now is the time to prove it — by keeping at least a quarter of its advertising dollars where they belong: in Canadian communities, Canadian newsrooms, and Canadian hands.

- Chris Ashfield

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Yorkton man charged with second-degree murder after suspicious death at city home

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

A Yorkton man has been charged with second-degree murder following the death of another man whose body was found outside a home in the city earlier this month.

On Oct. 7, at about 3:10 p.m., Yorkton RCMP received a report of a deceased man outside a residence on Victoria Avenue. Officers responded immediately and secured the area while Saskatchewan RCMP Major Crimes took over the investigation.

At the time, police said the death was being treated as suspicious and that investigators were working to identify the victim. Residents in the 100-block area of Victoria Avenue were asked to review footage from home security or doorbell cameras taken between noon on Oct. 5 and the afternoon of Oct. 7. RCMP requested that anyone who captured suspicious activity contact police or

provide an anonymous tip through Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers.

Over the following days, investigators worked to identify the victim and determine the circumstances surrounding his death. On Oct. 14, Saskatchewan RCMP confirmed the deceased as 51-year-old Curtis Gilman Bourassa of Winnipeg. His family has been notified.

As part of their investigation, officers arrested 51-year-old Henry Wayne Chartrand of Yorkton on Oct. 11. He has been charged with second-degree murder under Section 235(1) of the Criminal Code.

Chartrand appeared in Yorkton Provincial Court on Oct. 14. RCMP have not released further details about the nature of the relationship between the two men or the events that led to the death.

Police say there was a noticeable increase in law enforcement activity in the area following the discovery, including the presence of Saskatchewan RCMP Major Crimes

investigators. Officers have since reassured residents that there is no indication of a broader threat to public safety.

The investigation remains ongoing as RCMP continue to gather evidence and conduct interviews.

Authorities have thanked the public for their cooperation and for assisting by reviewing home security footage and sharing information. They also reminded residents that community vigilance can play a key role in advancing serious investigations.

Anyone with further information related to the case is asked to contact the Yorkton RCMP detachment at 310-RCMP or submit an anonymous tip to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

RCMP say additional updates will be provided as the investigation progresses or if new information becomes available.

RCMP seek public's help after break-in at Muscowpetung store

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

RCMP are asking for the public's help in identifying suspects after a break-in at a convenience store on Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation earlier this week.



The break-in happened around 4:30 a.m. on Oct. 12 at Skunk's Corner, where two people entered the store and stole a large amount of tobacco products before fleeing.

Investigators say the suspects were inside for only a few minutes but caused significant loss to the business.

Surveillance images released by the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation show the suspects and a vehicle believed to be connected to the crime. RCMP say the vehicle appears to be a black Chevrolet Tahoe or GMC Yukon, likely from the 2000-to-2010 model years, with a distinct black rim on the rear passenger side.

A \$2,500 reward is being offered for information leading to the identification and arrest of those responsible.

The Fort Qu'Appelle RCMP detachment is leading the investigation with support from the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation. Officials are urging community members to review the images carefully and report any information that may help investigators.

"If you recognize this person or have any information that may assist in this investigation, please contact the Fort Qu'Appelle RCMP detachment immediately," noted the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation.

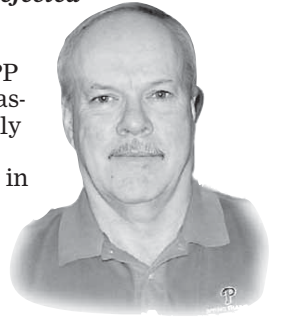
Community leaders thanked residents for their cooperation and urged continued vigilance.

"We thank everyone — your help is greatly appreciated as we work toward holding those responsible accountable," the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Fort Qu'Appelle RCMP or submit an anonymous tip through Crime Stoppers.

Gene Hauta It's a Strange World

Premier Doug Ford has *ejected* **Chris Scott**, 35, from the Progressive Conservative caucus after the rookie MPP was charged with spousal assault with a weapon, namely a child's high chair. Chris van Scott was investigated in Sault Ste. Marie, and was charged with assault with a weapon and assault. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years behind bars. I have not heard the whole story, just what he was charged with.



Francine Villa wanted to get away from the racism she faced as a Black woman in Miami. Her parents are American and she'd lived in the United States since childhood, but she was born in Russia, and that's where she went in 2019. At the time, she said, "I feel free living in Russia because in Russia, no matter what time it is, I can walk outside and I'm safe." But now, Villa says her Russian neighbors are prejudiced against her. They allegedly shut off her electricity and changed her locks. She has also accused Russians of physically attacking her. According to a 2021 Amnesty International report, **"violent racism" is "out of control" in Russia.**

Two boys were turned in by their mothers to face charges after vandalism caused \$50,000 worth of damage to the media centre at a Florida elementary school. The **12- and 13-year-old boys broke into** Friendship Elementary School in Deltona during the daytime and then returned at night to cause more damage, such as smashed glass doors, overturned tables and shelves, shredded books, and graffiti. They were charged with burglary, trespassing, criminal mischief, and theft. This idiotic, thoughtless vandalism is so frustrating.

Michael Tremaine and his son, Tyler, have run a coffee truck in Phoenix, Ariz., for the past 3-1/2 years, and particularly like to park at hospitals, including Phoenix Children's Hospital. Recently, because of their business name and logo, they have been banned from Mayo Hospital. That clinic found **"Graveyard Shift Coffee"** a bit much, especially with their logo depicting a stethoscope-wearing skeleton dressed in surgical scrubs. The truck's two nights at Mayo accounted for 40 percent of their business. Tyler argued that the hospital staff working through the night (the graveyard shift) never got catering, or if something was offered it was something like leftover pizza; therefore, they appreciated fresh coffee.

Turkey has shattered its **all-time heat record** with a scorching 122.9 degrees Fahrenheit, or 50.5 degrees Celsius, as relentless heat waves and wildfires gripped much of southern Europe. The new high surpassed the previous record of 121.1 degrees F (49.5 degrees C) set just last August. To me, there is no doubt that the world is changing in so many areas, from politics to weather. I can't believe that leaders like Putin and Trump seem to be trending towards world wars. Besides threatening his own citizens, Trump is quick to thrust his views on other countries, with the constant threat of military might. Putin seemingly has his sights set beyond Ukraine 'to test Western resolve', although hasn't been able to conquer Ukraine in a 3-1/2 year war!

At least four people were killed and eight people were wounded when an **ex-Marine smashed a pickup truck**, adorned with American flags, into a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Michigan, opened fire and set the building ablaze. It was the latest in the apparent hatred many have for Mormons. This guy insisted they are "the antichrist" and saying "they are going to take over the world." It is not clear if the recent death of Russell Nelson, the 101-year-old president of the LDS, played any part.

Another man then drove through the barricade surrounding that church. No one is sure what his motive was, but no doubt it starts with more misdirected hatred. **Anti-Mormon violence** is relatively rare in America today, but aversion to Mormons is not. Since 2000, there have been nearly 500 homicides in American places of worship, three quarters of them by firearm. This is a bigger problem than the violence facing any one religious group. Meanwhile, an online campaign has raised over \$300K for the family of the Michigan church shooter. Dave Butler, a LDS church member, organized the fundraiser, and said the donations show church members "believe the Bible and try to live by the Bible."

A woman in Hokkaido, Japan, realized too late that she had been **conned in a romance scheme**. The man contacted her on social media, and convinced the 80-year-old, who lives alone, that he loved her. Of course, after a few months of stringing her along, he had a problem he needed her help with. So, she blindly sent him 1 million yen (US\$6,700) after he told her he was an astronaut, in space, and desperately needed to buy oxygen!

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

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Multiple departments called to fire in Qu'Appelle Valley

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

A massive wildfire burned approximately 1,500 acres of land in the Qu'Appelle Valley, involving resources from the Cupar, Southey, Lipton, Piapot, Pasqua, and Muscowpeung Fire Departments plus File Hills Qu'Appelle Emergency Management.

"We got the call on Sept. 28, probably around 1 p.m.," explained Cupar Fire Chief Chris McLeod. "By the burn pattern, it started on the valley floor, and it moved its way up into the hills."

Initially, firefighters were called to an area west of grid road 640, but a combination of very dry materials and high winds kept crews busy for several hours. Several years of dry fuel fed the fire, making its way up the hills and into

increasingly more difficult terrain to reach.

"We were offensive for most of the day and then we decided to switch to defensive and do a bunch of back burns," McLeod said of the response. "We did a bunch of back burns, got it contained, got it out as best as we could, and then it was just the wind. The wind kept shifting on us and kept moving embers around and that would generate another fire."

Southey's Fire Chief Ron Off told Grasslands News that the Loon Creek valley fire was the largest he's been involved in during his 36 years as a volunteer firefighter.

"Usually, we go to a fire and you're there for an afternoon, you go home." Off said, not anticipating four days of battling the blaze. "Every time the wind changed, it would get stirred up, and then a spark would blow further over and start another one."

By 3:15 a.m. on Sept. 29, firefighters were confident they had the wildfire under control, but crews were called out again eight hours later.

"There's a considerable amount of fuel out there," McLeod said. "We talked with some of the people from the area and they can't recall where there

has been a fire out there for the last 20 years, so that's an indicator to us of 20 years of fuel buildup, right? So, your leaves, your branches, your dying trees, and when you get that situation, once it gets embedded into that, they're extremely hard to extinguish."

After another nine hours of fighting the valley blaze, it appeared as though the fire was under control. Unfortunately, the reprieve would not last for long, and firefighters from around the region returned to the valley over the noon hour on Sept. 30. Members from Cupar Fire Department stayed on scene overnight on fire-watch with crews returning the next morning as the calendar flipped over to October.

"The Cupar Fire Department is tooled for wildfires - so grass fires, prairie fires, stuff like that," McLeod said. "We are not tooled to fight what we would classify as a forest fire."

A major turning point came when helicopter support arrived around 6 p.m. on Oct. 1, dropping bucket loads of water on the fire from above, providing an attack where ground resources simply could not reach.

"That was one of the driving factors that we



CUPAR FIRE DEPARTMENT | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Contained

A Cupar Fire Department Wildfire Unit vehicle is stationed at the edge of an area burned in the Qu'Appelle Valley while a helicopter prepares to dump water on a hot spot.

brought in a helicopter was to save the members," McLeod explained. "Generally, we're in good physical conditioning, but when you start going up and down the hills, that takes a toll on your well-being."

Keeping a watchful eye

After four long days, the multiple emergency crews were able to breathe a sigh of relief as the fire appeared to be extinguished completely. However, McLeod says firefighters will continue to monitor the area for the time being.

"Even what we noticed on Oct. 8 when we were up

there is that we were in a completely black area that fire had progressed and consumed," he said. "We were in an area of brush, and the fire had gone subterranean and it's in the root system."

The large system that brought rain and snow to much of the province over the Thanksgiving weekend was a welcome sign.

"We'll take all the moisture we can get," McLeod said. "It's been dry. We had our seasonal rains, but in the last little while, it has been dry. The fields, the pastures and that, they're

tinder dry. Once we get through the winter here, it'll be dependent on how much snow we get to completely snuff this fire out."

Remarkably, there was no loss of life - human or otherwise - or property due to the Qu'Appelle Valley fire. One silver lining will be the rejuvenation of the 1,500 acres that burned; after all the years of fuel have been consumed.

"It'll be very green. It'll be healthy," McLeod said. "Hopefully, if there's a fire next summer/next spring in this area, it won't be as severe."

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No Fort by-election until 2026

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

The by-election to replace Fort Qu'Appelle town councilor Rebecca Zacharuk won't be held until March 25, 2026. Zacharuk resigned because of what she called "ongoing harassment" from the administration and her council colleagues. Zacharuk had been upbraided for violating the town's code of ethics, but had been allowed to attend council meetings by zoom. The disciplinary action taken against her required her to publish a written apology in the Fort Times and provide council with a report about her medical condition. She didn't. As a result, her salary for the months of July, August and September was reduced. Rather than comply with the directives she resigned. The job pays \$700 a month and requires the successful candidate to attend 21 regular council meetings each year as well as committee and special meetings.

Bylaw rescinded

Council has rescinded a 40-year-old bylaw with the RM of North Qu'Ap-

pelle 187 which governs the RM's share of operating the Rexentre. The RM had been paying \$4,000 each year towards the operational budget but claims the town has failed to live up to the contractual obligations by failing to provide the RM with an itemized account of what it costs to run the facility by July 1 each year. The town says all the pertinent information is included in the parks and recreation budget and can be found in public accounts.

Bylaw governing drones passed

Drones can no longer be flown over Fort Qu'Appelle. Council has passed a bylaw (19-2025) which restricts the flying of commercial drones with a 1.9 km radius of the airspace controlled by the helicopter landing pad at All Nations' Healing Hospital which pretty much restricts their use in town.

Fines for flying a drone without a pilot's certificate or an unregistered drone are set by the federal government and range between \$1,000 and \$3,000. The bylaw does not apply to small recreational drones that weigh

less than 250 grams.

SAMA inspection

The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) plans to next year inspect every building in Fort Qu'Appelle for the first time in 25 years to bring its records about the condition of residential properties up to date. The inspection will record any improvements to basements, decks or outbuildings. An inspection is not to be confused with an assessment which takes place every five years.

Anniversary celebrations

Council is preparing to celebrate Fort Qu'Appelle's 75th anniversary next year. A consulting company, Syntax Strategic has been paid \$10,000 to design a logo to mark the anniversary and come up with a yearlong program of related events. The concept is to "celebrate where we have been and imagine where we are going." Among the ideas is the creation of a Hall of Fame to honour the town's outstanding residents, a photo mosaic and digital story wall, as well as celebratory merchandise such as mugs and t-shirts.



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Edenwold skating rink future is still in limbo

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The future of the Edenwold Memorial Rink continues to remain uncertain. Back in the fall of 2023, it was forced to shut down due to an infestation of a rare wood-boring beetle discovered in the support beams of the building. After experts were brought in to assess the damage, repair estimates came in at around \$1 million or three times that number to build a new structure – money the village of 243 residents simply does not have at its immediate disposal.

“We just put a new metal roof on about three years ago, and some of us have suspicions that that may have increased humidity in the building and allowed the beetles to proliferate,” explained Edenwold Mayor Dean Josephson. Nobody knows exactly how long the powder post beetles have been living in the beams, but the theory with the new roof suggests inadvertently introducing the perfect conditions for the nasty bugs to thrive – and wreak havoc on the sup-

port structure of the rink. “There’s not a lot that have the old hip-roof wood beam arches anymore,” Mayor Josephson said. “I think Ford Qu’Appelle may have a rink like that, but they also have artificial ice. We were a natural ice rink.”

With repair and rebuild routes exhausted, the Village is looking at disposal options. However, it’s not quite so simple as tearing the building down and getting rid of the materials. Back in early October 2022, the Town of Cabri, a contractor, and a landowner just outside the community were fined a total of \$51,000 in provincial court after entering guilty pleas to contravening the Environmental Management and Protection Act. Five houses demolished in Cabri had waste material transported to a rural property and burned without required permits.

The Village of Edenwold does not want to make the same mistake and is currently seeking guidance from the Ministry of Environment on future steps for the rink.

One possible option

could be in a pilot program first proposed earlier this year. On March 11, the province announced it was looking at assisting municipalities with removing derelict buildings. Initial planning also allowed for local volunteer fire departments to utilize such buildings for training purposes. After months of consultation, the Derelict Buildings Pilot Project will be accessible for communities starting on Nov. 1.

“The municipality has to be in support, and the volunteer fire captain has to be in support,” explained provincial Environment Minister Travis Keisig. “And once those both align, then they can use any of these derelict properties for firefighter training scenarios.”

Not only does this program offer a way to deal with abandoned buildings, but it also provides local fire departments a sometimes-rare opportunity for real-time training situations.

“I heard from many constituents and many people that they wanted to help their community and



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Empty rink

The Edenwold Memorial Rink has been sitting empty for the past two years after a rare wood-boring beetle compromised the structural integrity of the building’s support beams.

serve their community, but the first time they had an opportunity to actually be in a fire was in a real fire scenario,” Keisig said, pointing out the value in training before entering an emergency event. “That’s not good - you want to be able to provide these training scenarios. Volunteer fire departments work on shoestring budgets. They do fantastic work all across rural Saskatchewan and anything we can do as a government to support them we’re going to try our best.”

Included in the program is an assessment

that identifies risks involved plus notification protocol, so residents and local authorities know when and why a particular building is on fire.

“I think it’s going to really help a lot of volunteer fire departments provide some pretty unique training scenarios for their members, and it’s going to help the community that they all live in,” Keisig said. “Everybody’s going to be wanting to be very safe about it, but they’re going to want to see it happen, because it’s going to take something that’s dragging down a commu-

nity and provide some training opportunities and really helping out the local fire department.”

As for the Edenwold Memorial Rink, Village Council continues to consider their next steps.

“We’re in discussions with Environment about alternatives like that, and whether permission could be granted,” Mayor Josephson said. “We’re still inquiring, looking for alternatives and that, because it’s probably going to be quite expensive, and it could take a few years in order to get the money together.”

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RM of Edenwold

'The Chambers of Doom' on Halloween

Submitted
Grasslands News

The RM of Edenwold Council Chambers are transforming into: 'The Chambers of Doom' for one day only on Oct. 31 in the RM office at 100 Hutchen Road in Emerald Park.

After school and before the night arrives, step into the kid-friendly, 'Chambers of Doom' at the RM of-

Edenwold office between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. for a fun Halloween experience and get a jump start on your candy collection.

"This is a first for the Rural Municipality of Edenwold. It all started with a simple idea I had - to have councillors dress up and hand out candy," said Councillor Carmen Leibel, who is spearheading the event. "It quickly grew into something special, with volunteers and

staff jumping in to make it happen. It's all about connection, creativity, costumes, candy, and a chamber full of creepy chaos!"

What ghoulishness awaits you? Face yourself in the Phantom's Mirror, brave the Coffin Crawl or enjoy a Ghoul's Feast with a brain buffet and eyeball stew.

This is a free event for the whole family. For more details, visit www.rmedenwold.ca/events

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Learn to play broomball event coming to Odessa rink

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Odessa Flames are inviting community members to hit the ice and try something new this fall with a "Learn to Play Broomball" session led by Flames' head coach

Eric Magnusson. The event offers residents a chance to experience one of Canada's most unique winter sports in a fun, beginner-friendly environment.

The introductory session will be held on Thursday, Oct. 24, from 6:30 to 8

p.m. at the Odessa Rink. It's open to participants ages eight and up, and no prior experience is required. The cost is just \$10 per player, making it an accessible opportunity for anyone curious about the sport.

Organizers will provide shoes and brooms, but players are required to bring their own helmet and gloves. For added safety, elbow pads and shin or knee pads are encouraged. Participants are asked to pre-register in advance to ensure appropriate shoe sizes are available.

"Broomball is a fan-

tastic way to stay active during the winter months," said organizers, noting the sport's inclusive and fast-paced nature. "It's easy to learn, fun to play, and perfect for families and friends who want to try something different."

To register, contact Amy by phone or text at (306) 535-8888, or by email at flamesbroomball@gmail.com.

The event is part of ongoing efforts by the Odessa Flames to promote local recreation and grow participation in winter sports within the community.

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SPORTS

Steelhawks, Knox, and Storm deliver thrilling hockey games

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Prairie Junior Hockey League's Thanksgiving weekend offered a full slate of action-packed games featuring the Fort Knox, Moosomin Steelhawks, and Pilot Butte Storm, with fans treated to hat tricks, overtime winners, and nail-biting finishes.

Fort Knox Rolls Over Pilot Butte

The action began Oct. 9 in Pilot Butte, where Fort Knox routed the hometown Storm 7-2. Devante Pratt-Fry led the way with a hat trick and two assists, while Josh Heistad added two goals and two helpers. Knox netminder Drew Pereyma turned aside 30 of 32 shots, holding firm as Fort Knox outshot Pilot Butte 43-32.

The visitors stormed to a 3-0 lead before the Storm could answer late in the first. Knox padded its advantage through the second and third, converting once on the power play and controlling the game from the blue line out.

Steelhawks Down Silver Foxes

Meanwhile in Regina that same evening, the Moosomin Steelhawks exploded for a 7-4 win over the Regina Silver Foxes, powered by an unforgettable performance



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

First win

Historic win – The Moosomin Steelhawks posted their first team win on Oct. 9, visiting the Regina Silver Foxes. Seen here, the Steelhawks celebrate after Deagan Reister's second of five goals scored in the away game, with the boys claiming a 7-4 win.

from Deagan Reister, who scored five goals – including two on the power play – to single-handedly carry the offense.

Daynon Smith recorded four assists, while Nathaniel Plourde scored twice, one

shorthanded. The Steelhawks outshot the Foxes 41-25 and controlled special teams play, going 2-for-8 on the man advantage. Goaltender Zachary Barath earned the win, stopping 21 shots for an .840 save percentage.

Moosomin Edges Rebels in Overtime

A night later, the Steelhawks returned home to the Mike Schwean Arena in Moosomin, where they battled the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels to a 4-3 overtime victory.

Moosomin's Colby Asselstine scored with just 17 seconds left in overtime on a power play set-up by Reister and Smith, sealing the win. Earlier in the game, Kohl Stephen and Gregory Prock helped erase a Rebel lead, while goaltender Zachary Barath was phenomenal again, turning aside 66 of 69 shots for a .957 save percentage.

The Rebels' Noah Osiowy (one goal, two assists) and Samuel Tolsma (power play goal) gave their club early momentum, but Moosomin's resilience and special teams made the difference down the stretch.

Fort Knox Wins OT Thriller Over Moosomin

The marquee matchup of the weekend came Oct. 11 when Fort Knox edged Moosomin 4-3 in overtime, also at the Mike Schwean Arena.

After Moosomin rallied from a 2-0 deficit to tie the game late in regulation, Knox's Tanner Wiens delivered the dagger, scoring the winner at 2:56 of overtime on the power play. River Banks, Carter Hirsch, and Taye

Shukin also tallied for Fort Knox, while Reister continued his torrid pace with two goals and an assist for Moosomin with a single from Zyn Leslie.

Knox fired an incredible 62 shots on goal to Moosomin's 31, with Kale Gorski earning the win between the pipes. Despite the loss, the Steelhawks again showed grit, scoring all three of their goals on the power play.

Fort Knox Crushes Moosomin in Rematch

In the return meeting Oct. 14 at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre in Fort Qu'Appelle, Fort Knox dominated the Steelhawks 11-3.

The Knox offense erupted for six third-period goals, led by Josh Heistad and Devante Pratt-Fry with two goals and two assists each, while Madden Wallis netted a pair and Shaden Duliak, Taye Shukin, and Kobe Wotta added singles. River Banks and Leland Cody each recorded three assists.

Moosomin's goals came from Daynon Smith, Tyson Czernick (shorthanded), and Rory Poole, but they were outshot 61-19 and couldn't slow the relentless Knox attack. Drew Pereyma earned the win in goal, stopping 13 of 16 shots, while Connor Rapley faced a barrage of 61 shots in the Steelhawks' crease.

Storm Slip Past Rebels in Sunday Matinee

The weekend wrapped up Oct. 12 in Pilot Butte, where the Storm edged the Rebels 2-1 in a tight defensive duel.

Pilot Butte's Sutter Baily opened the scoring on a first-period power play, and after the Rebels' Samuel Tolsma tied it up midway through the third, Nixon Wirth netted the game-winner with 2:57 remaining. Goalie Keegen Dansereau was the difference-maker, stopping 40 of 41 shots for a .976 save percentage to secure the win.

Weekend Recap

Across six games, the three teams combined for 45 total goals and three overtime finishes.

Top Performers

- Deagan Reister (Moosomin) – 7 goals, 3 assists across three games.
- Devante Pratt-Fry (Fort Knox) – 5 goals, 4 assists in two wins.
- Josh Heistad (Fort Knox) – 4 goals, 4 assists.
- Zachary Barath (Moosomin) – 132 saves on 141 shots over the weekend (.936 SV%).
- Keegen Dansereau (Pilot Butte) – 40 saves in a 2-1 win Sunday.

The PJHL season may still be young, but with the Steelhawks, Knox, and Storm already trading blows in multiple thrillers, fans can expect rivalries to heat up quickly.

High School Football Roundup

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Griffins Heads to Swift Current

Balgonie's Greenall Griffins will travel to Swift Current in the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association's 5A 12-aside football quarterfinals after dropping a 30-24 decision to the Colts in Saturday's regular-season finale for both clubs.

Saturday's result at Regina's Leibel Field left both teams with a 4-2 win-loss record but gave Swift Current the tie-breaker in the South Rural League standings, and home field advantage for the first round of playoffs.

Moose Jaw's Central Cyclones ran roughshod over their competition this year, topping the league with a 6-0 record and an average margin of victory of 36 points.

They will host the Weyburn Eagles (3-3) in the south's other provincial quar-

terfinal Saturday.

Provincial quarterfinal matches in the north league will see Prince Albert's Carlton Crusaders (4-0) face North Battleford Comprehensive School (1-3) and P.A.'s St. Mary Marauders (2-2) face Martensville (3-1).

Five Alive

One more obstacle – the Broadview Bandits – stands between the Melville Cobras and a perfect regular season.

Melville (5-0) plays Broadview (0-5) on Thursday, Oct. 16 under the lights (7 p.m.) to conclude the SHSAA's 4A nine-aside Conference 3 schedule.

The Cobras have already clinched first place in the conference by virtue of their 43-0 win over Foam Lake on Oct. 9, and were only awaiting the result of Thursday's game between Esterhazy (2-3) and Yorkton Sacred Heart (2-3). The loser of that game was to finish fourth and face Melville in conference quarterfinals.

SEE BISON, EAGLES 13

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Millionaires split with Terriers, down Bombers

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

Last week the Millionaires played a trio of contests and it seemed to be a matter of two steps forward and one step back for the SJHL club.

The Mils authored a home victory over the Flin Flon Bombers and then slammed the Terriers in Yorkton before an uninspired home ice effort led to a one-sided loss to the same Terriers' squad.

Yorkton Terriers 6 at

Melville Millionaires 3 (Oct. 11)

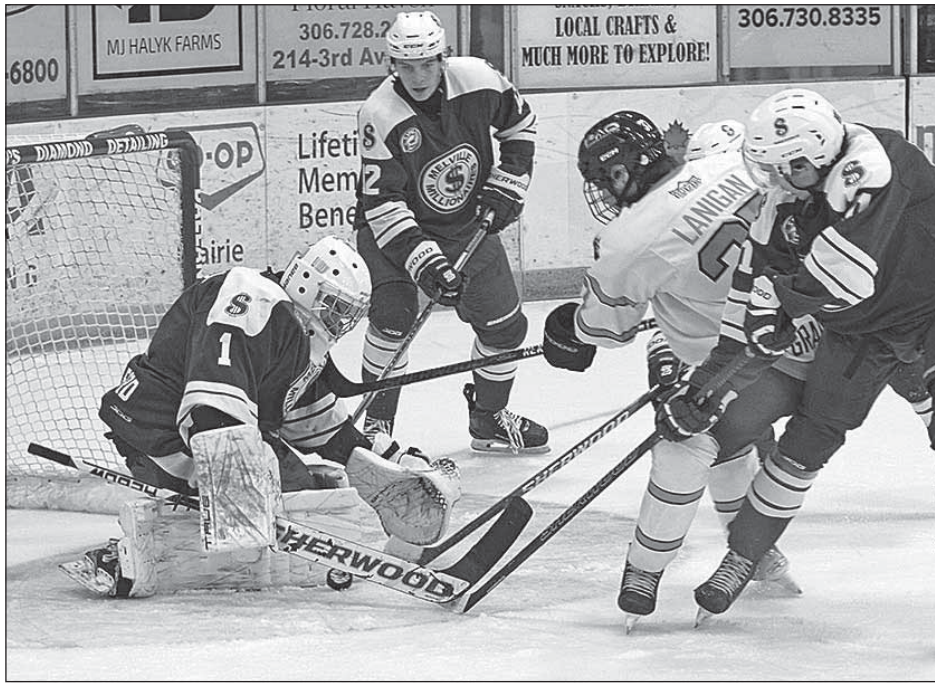
The Millionaires started strong in this one, but it was the Terriers who finished with five goals in the third period to hand the Millionaires the embarrassing home ice defeat in front of almost 1,200 fans.

The Millionaires held a 1-0 lead after the opening frame and a 2-1 advantage following two periods of play, before the Terriers third period goal explosion.

The home-towners carried much of the play in this match-up, outshooting their Yorkton counterparts by a 43-30 margin with Kael Svenson getting the start in net and taking the loss for the Millionaires.

Preston Baerwald led the Melville offence, notching his second goal of the season and an assist while Wesley Olson also dented the twine for his second marker of the campaign with newcomer Keil Schmalz potting his first goal in his first game with the Millionaires.

Boston Harkness continued his own point parade, chipping in with a pair of helpers while Kale Margolis, Matthew Edwards and Leo Jewitt each contributed a single assist for the Mils.



DARCY GROSS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Solid goal tending

Melville Millionaires goaltender Kael Svenson staves off a scoring attempt by Yorkton Terrier Cash Lanigan while Mils Kale Margolis and Rylan Oatman defend, during SJHL action at the CNCC on Oct. 11. The Terriers would even the weekend series by defeating the Millionaires 6-3 a night after the Mils blasted the Terriers 7-2 in Yorkton.

The Terriers were collared for 13 of the game's 20 minor penalties.

Melville Millionaires 7 at

Yorkton Terriers 2 (Oct. 10)

The Millionaires scored once in the first stanza and added three more in each of the next two periods to hand the Terriers a beating in their own rink in the first of two weekend contests.

Grady Carmichael led the way for the

White and Blue, scoring his second goal of the season while adding a pair of assists for a three-point game.

Leo Jewitt and Devon Winder each sniped their fourth of the season and added an assist while Rylan Oatman ripped the mesh with his third of the season while also registering a helper.

Harkness and Edwards each collected a couple of helpers with singles going to Wesley Golden and Olson.

Noah Sonagowitz was a standout between the pipes for the Millionaires, stopping all but two of the 43 shots he faced as Melville skaters tested the Yorkton goalie with 40 shots on net.

Each team was whistled for six minor infractions with the Millionaires receiving the game's lone 10-minute misconduct.

Flin Flon Bombers 3 at

Melville Millionaires 5 (Oct. 8)

The Millionaires took over in the third period of this game, scoring three times to knock off the always tough Bombers to start the week with a home ice triumph.

Millionaires' defencemen led the way in this game, as Golden fired his second, Harkness counted his fourth and Riley Craigen picked up his first tally of the season.

Oatman and Baerwald were the other Millionaires' goal scorers.

Brendan Olson, Jackson Lee, Harkness, Craigen, Edwards, Baerwald and Oatman each earned an assist for the Millionaires.

Sinagowitz was tremendous between the pipes, allowing three goals on 35 shots while Melville skaters tested the Bombers' netminder 24 times.

The Mils were handed five of the game's seven minor penalties while Flin Flon was whistled for the contest's lone misconduct penalty.

The Millionaires will face off with the Kindersley Klippers in consecutive home games at the CN Community Centre on Oct. 17 and 18 at 7 p.m.

The next home action for the Millionaires is Nov. 1 when the Battlefords North Stars visit.

Sixteen teams to compete at 20th annual Canes Classic

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

High school volleyball season is in full swing, and the 20th annual Canes Classic tournament is just two weeks away. It will take place at Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School at Kahkewistahaw First Nation north of Broadview, Oct. 24 and 25.

The inaugural event was organized in 2005 by Chief Evan Taypotat, a teacher at CKCS at that time, and teacher Alana Taypotat. This year the senior girls' volleyball team is led by Irene Isaac and Martina Taypotat. The school's sports teams are called Hurricanes, so the tournament was originally named the Hurricane Classic. However, respect for those impacted by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, prompted organizers to shorten the name to the Canes Classic.

Over the past 20 years, the tournament has provided a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for young athletes.

"The players always have fun, with plenty to do outside the court, and once the games begin—it's go time," Chief Taypotat commented. "Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School comes together to create a memorable social and volleyball experience for these athletes as they near the end of their high school days."

He also described the Canes Classic as one of the biggest tournaments in the area. Fourteen teams participated in 2024 when players came from nearby communities like Grenfell, Broadview and Cowessess, as well as more distant towns like Davidson and Gladmar. Sixteen teams are expected to attend the tournament later this month, making it the largest Canes Classic to date.

With players representing both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, Chief Taypotat said there is an important element of reconciliation involved in the tournament.

"Too often, non-Indigenous people only hear negative stories about First Nations' communities. The reality is very different—we are thriving, resilient, and proud First Nations people on a journey toward sovereignty, and here at KFN we do things the right way," the chief explained. "Because most of the teams who attend are non-Indigenous, the Canes Classic provides a unique opportunity to challenge those negative narratives. We are strong hosts, good people, and we put on an outstanding volleyball tournament. When teams and their fans leave the Canes Classic, many of their assumptions are challenged, and most walk away better for the experience."

Bison, Eagles aim to improve

continued from 12

Bisons Win First Game

The Fort Qu'Appelle Bisons will look to enter 4A nine-aside Conference 2 playoffs on a two-game winning streak with a road victory tonight over Lumsden.

Fort Qu'Appelle enters the game fourth in the conference with a 1-3 record, having secured its first win of the season Oct. 10 with a 28-27 decision over the Indian Head Broncs, who will finish fifth in the five-team conference.

Undefeated Lumsden (4-0) meanwhile is the only team in the conference with a positive points differential, having outscored its opponents 202-48 so far this season.

Eagles Win Again

Like their Melville-based colleagues half an hour to the northeast, the North Shore Eagles out of Lemberg are also facing one more must-win game to close out an undefeated regular season.

The 1A six-aside Eagles improved to 6-0 with a 78-0 win Oct. 9 over St. Brieux and will host Southey Friday, Oct. 17 at 3:45 p.m. to close out the schedule ahead of playoffs.

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The Melville Millionaires thank all the 400 Club purchasers and all who attended the 400 Club Cabaret on Saturday, October 5. Your continuing support is very appreciated. See you at the game against the Kindersley Klippers on Friday, Oct. 17 and Saturday, Oct. 18. Lic. #RR25-0208

SJHL Notebook: Mils' Harkness chasing SJHL history

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Do you remember the last time a defenceman led the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League in scoring?

If you said yes, you might have a degree in revisionist history.

But Melville Millionaires' defenceman Boston Harkness is making a push to become the first.

Through the team's first 10 games of the 2025-26 season, Harkness had posted 15 points (four goals, 11 assists) to sit second in the league scoring race – one point back of Humboldt Broncos' winger Jacob Strizzi.

Harkness continued a strong start to his over-age season with a pair of assists in both of the Mils' recent games (Oct. 10 and Saturday) against the Yorkton Terriers, extending his point streak to five games and his multi-point games streak to three.

A 2020 draft pick of the Western Hockey League's Red Deer Rebels, Harkness was selected by Melville that same spring and has played his entire junior hockey career with the Millionaires.

The White City product entered this

season with 47 points in 169 career SJHL regular season games.

Via a hybrid of official league and third-party sources, Brady Wacker of the Humboldt Broncos appears to have come closest in SJHL history to topping the scoring charts from the blue line, finishing third in league scoring – five points back of top spot – with 82 points during the 2008-09 season.

Bombers Streak Ends

The Flin Flon Bombers are undefeated no more.

After racing out to a 6-0-0-0 start to the new season, the Bombers took a 2-0 first-period lead against Humboldt but gave up five of the next six goals in a 5-3 loss Oct. 7.

Flin Flon's losing streak reached two games the next night with a 5-3 loss to Melville.

Those results also dropped the Bombers to second in the SJHL's UPL Division behind the 6-1-0-0 Nipawin Hawks.

Trading Spaces

Five SJHL teams were active on the trade market over the first week of October with the La Ronge Ice Wolves creating new mailing addresses for three players along the way.

The Wolves picked up 2006-born forward Justin Berezniuk from the Bonnyville Pontiacs of the Alberta Junior Hockey League and 2007-born defenceman Trevor Oishi from the Weyburn Red Wings, both in exchange for cash (also referred to as a player development fee), while shipping out 2006-born defenceman Tyson Matthews to the Winnipeg Blues of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League.

Oishi made an immediate impact in his first couple games with La Ronge, posting four points.

The Humboldt Broncos made a pair of moves as well, dealing recently-acquired over-age defenceman Easton Adrian to the Battlefords North Stars for cash and the Stars' fourth-round pick in next spring's 2010-born player draft, and trading 2006-born forward Jacob Kulas to the Kemptville 73s of the Central Canada Hockey League.

Humboldt had acquired Adrian in late September from the AJHL's Drumheller Dragons.

In a corresponding move to their trade of Oishi, the Red Wings added over-age

defenceman Bryson Carlyle.

And the Melfort Mustangs traded 2006-born defenceman Nathan Hayes to the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Swan Valley Stampeders after a brief four-game stop for Hayes with the defending SJHL champions.

National Rankings

There is a new No. 1 in the national junior A hockey rankings as Quebec's College Francais de Longueuil have supplanted the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Selkirk Steelers atop the weekly list.

Selkirk dropped to sixth in the country as of Monday's updated rankings, while the Nipawin Hawks rose from 16th to fifth to top all SJHL teams.

Nipawin (6-1-0-0) woke up Tuesday morning on a five-game winning streak and with the best winning percentage in the SJHL through the first three weeks of the season.

The Weyburn Red Wings (7-2-0-0) were the only other team ranked nationally, sitting 19th as of Monday.

Melville's Halyk 12th at cross-country provincials Deer Park GC in Yorkton

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Melville's Gradey Halyk placed 12th out of 101 runners in the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association's junior boys' cross-country provincial championship Saturday, crossing the finish line in 14 minutes 58 seconds at Deer Park Golf Course in Yorkton.

That showing left Halyk just 57 seconds short of the podium in the 4-kilometre race, which was won by Henry Reeves (13:38) of Saskatoon's Walter Murray Collegiate.

Greenall Griffins' runner Payton Young represented her Balgonie school in the junior girls' race and ended the day with the next-best placement among local students, completing the 4K course in 18:32, good for 21st out of 85 runners.

Luseland's track and field star Lily Holman was Saturday's junior girls winner in 15:52.

Senior boys and girls also ran a 4K course this year with Maryfield's Owen Gray topping local runners in the boys' race (39th place, 15:26) and Chloe Clark of Indian Head leading local students in the senior girls race with a 56th-place finish in 19:42.

Those races were won by Colter Folk

of Swift Current Comprehensive School (12:12) and Hannah Gates of Regina's Sheldon Williams Collegiate (13:58) respectively.

Intermediate runners raced around a 3K course Saturday with North Shore High School student Logan Timmerman pacing local boys with a time of 11:56, good for 27th out of 115 runners, and Greenall's Sophia Kelln leading local girls with a 29th place finish (out of 108 athletes) in 13:29.

Freya Nostbakken of Regina's Campbell Collegiate won the girls' race in 11:30 while Ryder Germain of Saskatoon's Bedford Road Collegiate won the boys' race in 10:14.

Jayden Bruch was the lone competitor from Vibank this past weekend and placed 34th among intermediate boys in 12:08.

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www.stpaulsmelville.ca

Thursday, Oct. 16:
MACC Com Outreach Supper at Good Shepherd
Sunday, Oct. 19:
11:00 a.m. Joint Holy Communion

Worship at Christ, Neudorf with Bishop Ali Tote
Monday, Oct. 20:
7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 21:
3:30 p.m. MACC Meeting

--- at Neudorf/Lemberg ---
Sunday, Oct. 19:
*11 a.m. Joint Worship at Christ, Neudorf with Bishop Ali Tote

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Oct. 19: No Worship

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website: firstunitedmelville.org
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Sunday, Oct. 19:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service with Rev. Brian Mee

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Pastor Ronald Shumba
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Oct. 16: 5 p.m. MACC Supper at Good Shepherd
Oct. 17: 7:00 p.m. Youth Group
Oct. 18: 10 a.m. Men's Coffee Chat
Oct. 19: 9:15 a.m. Choir
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Oct. 21: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day

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Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basimalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Sunday, Oct. 19:
11:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Oct. 26:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

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473 - 8th Ave. W.
Office Ph. 306-728-5022
Pastor Jon Pettinger
Associate Pastor: Jesse Darby
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Sunday Service at 11 a.m.
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Ph. 306-728-5702
Res. Ph. 306-728-2305
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Father Melchor Samonte
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Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.

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(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. - Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpcastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, Oct. 19:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

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Wednesday Kids Club - 3:30 p.m.

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

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapathil
Sunday, Oct. 19
9:00 a.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Oct. 19:
No Worship Service

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
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102 Nelson Ave. - 306-736-2237
email: kwpc@sasktel.net
Services Held 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Minister will vary

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

ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
418 First St., Kipling
Priest: Father Joseph Villamartin
306-538-2163
Sunday, Oct. 19:
Mass 9:00 a.m.

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

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Lay Person/Service Leader
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Pastor Stephen Luff

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Hall Contact - 306-563-7451

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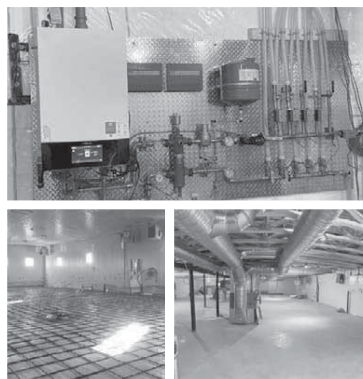
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ONE AD, SIX NEWSPAPERS: All classified ads appear in the Fort Qu'Appelle Times, Indian Head-Wolseley News, Kipling Clipper, Melville Advance, Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun and Quad Town Forum

Obituary Darlene Mavis Hourd

May 23, 1946 - Sept. 20, 2025

Darlene Mavis Hourd passed away at home on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025.

Darlene was predeceased by her husband Stewart Hourd; parents Clifford and May Jack; sister Evelyn and daughter Wendy. She is survived by her son Walter (Christine) and her grandchildren Kristy, Nikki and Brooke.

Born on May 23, 1946, Darlene grew up in Manor, SK. In 1963 she married the love of her life. Together they moved to Calgary for a brief time before settling back on to a farm south of Kennedy, SK, where they raised their two children. Darlene was the steady support behind her husband as he built and ran his own business. Her kitchen often smelled of fresh baked bread and cinnamon buns made for her grandchildren. During the summers she kept busy by crocheting intricate doilies and expanding her cherished Occupied Japan figurine collection. In the winters, she spent time with her husband and friends in Arizona making the memories of a lifetime.

Darlene will be deeply missed by her friends and family, who will always treasure the memories made with her. She will be laid to rest beside her husband, Stew. As per the wishes of Darlene, no formal service will be held.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



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Coming Event Oct. 15 to 18

St. Andrew's United Church in Esterhazy will be holding their annual **Rummage Sale** October 15 to 17 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and October 18, 9 a.m. till 12 noon *Pie and coffee will be available Wednesday to Friday*

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Coming Event

Kennedy Community Hall Board

Holiday Fundraiser

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025

Kennedy Hall
232 Robinson Street,
Kennedy, SK
* * *

Roast Beef Supper with entertainment by The Dueling Pianos of Saskatchewan * * *

Tickets only \$40 and must be purchased in advance. Deadline for tickets is Nov. 5 Children allowed if accompanied by a guardian. For tickets or more information contact 306-435-2588

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Balcarres cenotaph moved; re-dedication Oct. 22

By Judy Hershmillier
Grasslands News

Cenotaph Moved

The Balcarres Legion would like to acknowledge Chatterson Lumber for moving the cenotaph from the Balcarres Town Hall location, where it sat for many years, to the Legion Park along Main Street. The Balcarres Legion Branch No. 84 will hold a re-dedication service on Oct. 22 at 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Around the Community

Balcarres and community are saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Beulah Godkin, Jacqueline Aldous and Ron Todd.

Harvest in the area has been completed just before the inclement weather arrived on the Thanksgiving weekend, and while snow arrived everyone is hoping it doesn't stay long so they can get back to their fall work.

Hats off to the Balcarres Lions members, Pattison Agriculture and friends who brought their equipment to harvest the Community Land Project, east of the community, and along Highway 10.

With the arrival of fall people have been busy getting their gardens and yards cleaned, trimmed and ready for winter. The following items are accepted at the Town Transfer Station: bare wood (not painted or stained), metal or used appliances (fridges, stoves, washers, dryers, etc. accepted) concrete and/or cement accepted, leaves, garden plants, grass clippings, etc. accepted. There is a map at the entrance to the Transfer Station of where these products can be

disposed of. To visit the Transfer Station please call the town office 306-334-2566 to book an appointment.

Balcarres Public Library Hours now are Tuesday and Wednesday 12 noon to 6 p.m. Closed all statutory holidays. Follow the library on Facebook. Mobile book delivery and pick-up service is available to in-town residents. Contact Amanda 306-334-2966 to arrange and for more information.

Public Skating takes place Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 to 4:45. Stick n puck happens on Fridays 3:30 - 4:45 - hockey sticks and pucks are permitted during this time. No rough play is permitted. All public use at the rink requires appropriate head gear and skate gear to be on the ice. Our calendar includes game times for all ages.

Balcarres Golden Age

Appreciation to the Balcarres Lions and Lions Clubs for their kind donation of \$3,000. The Golden Age Center is a very important building in our community and is a busy venue for many events.

The Club has applied for a Federal New Horizon Senior Grant and it is their hope to be approved at which time they would replace the carpet flooring. Painting the main center will also be necessary, and the generous donation will go toward the future improvements and upkeep of the Center.

Members of the Centre are looking for helping hands young and old to make our events unforgettable. Please feel free to reach out to Carol Flight

and be a part of the senior volunteer team.

Coffee times take place Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 2 to 3 p.m. Birthday parties take place every third Wednesday of the month beginning at 2:30 p.m. for members celebrating their birthday that particular month.

Membership is \$40 a year and open to all aged 45 and older.

The sewing club within the Golden Age club meets every second Tuesday. Most members usually come and enjoy Tuesday coffee, then begin their projects. They bring their lunch and make a fun day of it. The center has sewing machines available for those who don't bring their own machine. The sewers have completed wonderful projects, making hundreds of pillowcases and donating them to the Allan Blair Cancer Clinic for cancer patients of all ages. They have also made neonatal quilts for donation as well.

Chair Yoga is back starting in October, every Monday at 10 a.m. This is perfect for all levels to stretch, relax and boost your well-being while enjoying great company. Chair Yoga is under the guidance of Florence Milne.

October brings the return of our much-loved Saturday cribbage games beginning at 1:30 p.m. Cribbage, shuffleboard and pool are great games to have fun with friends during the fall and winter months.

Plan to join in the fun and share in the laughter, and competition, all topped off with a goodie,

hot chocolate or coffee. Cost is \$2 and winner takes home the pot.

Members gathered this fall to make Saskatoon, apple, and cherry pies to fill their orders, and soon there'll be a work bee to make perogies for the upcoming holiday season. A big thank you to those volunteers who put their culinary skills to work in this area.

A massive Christmas Garage Sale will take place on Thursday, Nov. 20 and Friday, Nov. 21. This is your chance to find festive treasures big and small at the Golden Age Centre. A bake sale will take place on Nov. 20 because nothing says Christmas like homemade goodies. Donations of Christmas items in good condition are welcome. Contact Bonnie Dubiel or Pat Schill with any questions.

BICC Recreation Update

The residents of the Balcarres Integrated Care Centre have made full use of the nice weather, being outside in the courtyard, on bus excursions to Fort Qu'Appelle to shop at the Bargain Shop and Dollar Store, and a garage sale which was fun for them.

They enjoyed the Harvest Ho-Down hosted by the Friendship Club, enjoying live music and pumpkin pie with whipped cream. Appreciation to Turtle's Tea Room for supplying dainties for the ladies tea party.

The residents are looking forward to planned fall activities and programs including an Oktoberfest themed social with entertainment, fall baking sessions, fall themed crafts and more fall outings and drives. The October Cash Calendar is successfully



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Cenotaph moved

This cenotaph was recently moved to its new location, the Legion Park in Balcarres. A re-dedication will take place Wednesday, Oct. 22.

being drawn as the days go by. Good luck to everyone.

There are plans for another winter plant sale with Growing Smiles through October and November. Watch for more details.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who come and support the church service programs, monthly birthday parties, happy hours and other planned activities.

Anyone who would be interested in volunteering with the Recreation Dept. to help support recreational programs during the week or on the weekends; Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 11 a.m., 2 to 3 p.m. or 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. when there are no regularly scheduled weekend programs, may contact Rylie, recreation co-ordinator (if you are interested) at 306-334-6270.



Royal Canadian Legion
Indian Head Branch No. 114
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President - Lorne Scott

Contact Ken Turpin 250-661-8812 and Myrna Scott 306-727-3733

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More seismic activity rocks Esterhazy area

By Ryan Kiedorwski
Grasslands News

Residents in the Esterhazy area felt the earth move once again as the second seismic event since August occurred over the long weekend.

Around 11:08 p.m. on Oct. 12, reports of a possible earthquake came from people in the Esterhazy, Tantallon and Yarbo areas followed by a smaller tremor 29 minutes later.

The epicentre of the magnitude 3.7 earthquake is believed to be 1 km underground and 18 km NNE of Esterhazy, which would place it in the general area of Mosaic's K1 facility.

There are usually 50 to 75 people underground at the Mosaic K3 operation during that shift, and the company verified that no employees were injured during the event.

"All employees were quickly accounted for, and comprehensive safety checks and inspections confirmed there were no reported findings," Mo-

saic said in the statement Monday morning.

"Operations at Esterhazy continue as usual, with no impact on production or infrastructure."

Mosaic further noted that mining-induced seismic activity in this area is common, and their facilities are engineered with seismic loading in mind.

"This event registered well below the threshold for significant impact," the statement read. "While the two recent events occurred far from current mining areas and present no immediate safety concerns, we continue to advance our knowledge of the geological properties of the K3 ore body and are working with external experts to review seismic activity."

Back on Aug. 1, a magnitude 3.3 earthquake shook 5 km northeast of Esterhazy, plus an equal magnitude event occurred on May 11, 2 km east of Spy Hill.

"For us to see any significant structural impact, we would have to

be reaching more of a 6.0 magnitude," said Marnel Jones, Director of Government and Public Affairs for The Mosaic Company after the August event. "And quite frankly, the buildings and infrastructure are engineered with seismic loading incorporated into the design."

Jones also pointed out that the past mining activities in the area can set the stage for future seismic events to occur.

"Seismic activity in mining communities here in southern Saskatchewan is common, and this event would be considered mining induced seismic activity, meaning that stress in the rock from past mining activities does tend to shift and will relieve stress and pressure," she said.

"The rate of this movement just really depends on the geological characteristics in the area, and that can cause the seismic activity from time to time."

The first real taste of winter hit much of the re-

gion on Sunday with rain and snow not only affecting driving conditions but was also the cause of a power outage affecting the area.

"To our knowledge, the power outage was unrelated to the seismic activity and instead due to weather," Jones said. "Power issues in the area started before the event, and our own operations did not lose power."

From what we know and from what our team reported, there had been power outages well before the seismic activity was detected. I think we're attributing that to likely this lovely storm that we received this Thanksgiving long weekend."

Nick Ackerley is a Seismologist with the Canadian Hazard Information Service, and he agrees that the 3.7 magnitude quake felt Oct. 12 was likely due to mining activity.

"We have marked his event as 'suspected mining-related' based on proximity to nearby potash

mines and the lack of past natural seismicity," he told Grasslands News. "If a mine operator confirms that an event was in their mine, we will mark it as 'known mining-related'."

Since 2008, there have been 35 seismic events within a 50 km radius of Esterhazy, ranging in magnitude between 2.6 (Jan. 14, 2012) and 4.1 (Aug. 16, 2019), with the majority (26) measuring around 3.0. All have been listed as either 'suspected mining-induced' or 'known industry-related'.

As for anecdotal accounts that the most recent event felt stronger than the August quake, Ackerley verified those claims.

"It does make sense that people at the same distance from the event should have felt stronger shaking, because the magnitude was larger," he said. "In fact, one way of interpreting the difference in magnitude is that the ground shaking amplitudes for yesterday's (Oct. 12) event were about 2.5 times larger."

A magnitude 3.0 to 3.9 is considered a weak intensity earthquake that very rarely cause damage. More than 100,000 quakes in this range are estimated to occur around the world every year.

"Note also that we don't normally see damage until about magnitude 5," Ackerley said.

RM of South Qu'Appelle No. 157 Notice of Poll

Public Notice is hereby given that:

1. A vote will be held for the election of Division 2 Councillor

Candidates are:

- Teresa Covey
- Stacey Getz
- Maxine Hanofski
- Steven Kuntz

2. The vote will take place on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the polling place listed below:

- The RM Office, 1 Becker Road in McLean, Saskatchewan

3. Advance voting will take place on Monday, November 3, 2025 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the RM Office located at 1 Becker Road, McLean, Saskatchewan.

4. I will declare the results of the voting at the Municipal Office on the 13th of November at 10:00 am.

Dated at McLean, SK this 8th day of October, 2025.

Lisa Pahl,
Returning Officer

Immunization clinics now open across Sask.

Submitted
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan residents aged six months and older can now receive their free influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations for the season.

The vaccines are being offered at public health clinics, with many participating pharmacies and some physician or nurse practitioner offices also providing one or both vaccines. Residents are advised to call ahead to confirm availability.

Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill emphasized the importance of getting vaccinated, saying it's a simple but powerful way to protect yourself and others from respiratory illnesses. Both flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be received at the same appointment or separately, depending on personal preference.

Dr. Tania Diener, a Medical Health Officer with the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), said the two vaccines can be safely administered together.

"There are no additional safety risks or side effects when both vaccines are given at the same time," she noted.

Appointments can be made through the SHA's



online booking system or by calling 1-833-727-5829 on weekdays. Walk-in clinic details are also available online.

Residents planning to get their shots at a pharmacy should contact the location directly or visit the Government of Saskatchewan's Respiratory Illness webpage for participating sites.

Children between six months and five years must be immunized through a public health clinic, public health office, or by a physician or nurse practitioner.

Health officials continue to stress the importance of vaccination for those at higher risk of serious illness, including seniors, young children,

pregnant women, and people with chronic health conditions or weakened immune systems.

Dr. Ibrahim Khan, Indigenous Services Canada's Medical Health Officer for the Saskatchewan Region, encouraged Indigenous residents – particularly those living with chronic conditions or in crowded homes – to get vaccinated.

"This season, share your stories and traditions, not the flu," he said. "The flu shot is both effective and life-saving."

Similarly, Dr. Nnamdi Ndubuka, Medical Health Officer with the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority, urged residents in northern First Nations communities to protect

one another through vaccination. "Getting the flu shot helps keep your community healthy," he said.

All vaccinations are voluntary. For more information about influenza and COVID-19 symptoms, when to seek care, or where to book an appointment, residents can call HealthLine 811 or visit www.4flu.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF SECOND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Election for Board Trustees
Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division No. 212
Melville at Large Subdivision & Geographic Area Surrounding Melville

Public Notice is hereby given that in accordance with sections 78 (1) of *The Local Government Elections Act, 2015*, the number of candidates for the Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division No. 212 – Melville at Large Subdivision and Geographic Area Surrounding Melville (Subdivision #2) Election is less than the number of vacancies, and therefore, a second Call for Nominations is hereby issued. Nominations of candidates for the office of:

Board Member: Christ the Teacher Catholic Separate School Division No. 212
City of Melville at Large Subdivision
Number to be elected – One (1)

Geographic Area Surrounding Melville (Subdivision #2)
Number to be elected - One (1)

will be received by Delmar Zwirsky, during regular business hours: 8:00 am to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, **commencing on Friday, October 10 to Wednesday, October 22, 2025.**

Forms may be submitted:

- a) personally by the candidate or by an agent (must also provide an 'Appointment of Candidate's Agent' form), to the Returning Officer's Office, 45A Palliser Way, Yorkton, Saskatchewan;
- b) by registered or ordinary mail to 45A Palliser Way Yorkton, Saskatchewan – S3N 4C5;
- c) by fax at (306) 783-4992;
- d) by e-mail to Delmar.Zwirsky@cttcs.ca

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division Office – 45 A Palliser Way Yorkton, SK and on the Division website at www.christtheteacher.ca.

Dated this 9thth day of October 2025
Delmar Zwirsky Returning Officer

CRIME STOPPERS

1-800-
222-TIPS

Enrolment down at GSSD

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

The Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) is reporting that enrolment in the division has decreased in the last year.

The division says that over the last year enrolment numbers have decreased by 198 students a three per cent decrease for a total of 6,272 Pre-Kindergarten to 12 students enrolled in GSSD schools as of Oct. 2, 2025.

The large decrease is due to Sask DLC (online)

students no longer being counted in the enrolment numbers; without counting the Sask DLC students there was a decrease of 98 students, a 1.5 per cent decrease.

Of the 6,272 students in the GSSD, 6,002 students are in public schools, 44 are Hutterite colony students, and 226 are enrolled in home based education. GSSD schools within Grasslands News' coverage area account for approximately 12 per cent of enrolments with 803 enrolments.

Davison School has

a total of 197 students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6, Grayson school has a total of 48 Kindergarten to Grade 9 students, MacDonald School in Stockholm has 111 Kindergarten to Grade 9 students, Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) has 365 Grade 7 to 12 students, and Miller School has 109 Kindergarten to Grade 6 students.

In Melville at Miller and Davison School there is a combined total of 27 students in Kindergarten with 15 at Davison and 12 at Miller.

Davison school is the only school with Pre-Kindergarten in the area with 23 enrolments, down by four when compared to last year.

At MCS there are 44 new students attending the school as they enter Grade 7 and there are currently 87 students enrolled in Grade 12.



Hon. Travis Keisig
MLA for Last Mountain - Touchwood Constituency

110 Elgin St.
Balcarres, SK S0G 0C0

(306) 334-3444
mla@traviskeisig.ca

Brad Crassweller
MLA for White City - Qu'Appelle

(306) 520-5018 | mla@wc-q.ca

A - 129 Railway St. East
Balgonie, SK S0G 0E0



Hon. Warren Kaeding PAg.
MLA for Melville-Saltcoats

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RM OF EDENWOLD No. 158



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Discretionary Use Application

Pursuant to Section 55 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the Council of the RM of Edenwold No.158 gives notice that a discretionary use application has been received and the details are as follows:

Discretionary Use Application: Residential Day Care - 14 Park Bay, Emerald Park, Lot 3-Blk/Par 11-Plan 92R35429 Ext 0.

Intended Discretionary Use: To allow for the development of a provincially licensed residential day care with a space limit of eight (8) children.

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing to receive submissions, written or verbal, on the proposed discretionary use application at its regular Council meeting, during a Public Hearing on October 28, 2025, at 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the RM Office building, located at 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan. Written, signed submissions will be presented to Council and can be sent by mail, email, or dropped off at the RM Office.

For further information please contact the RM of Edenwold at 306-771-2522 or planning@edenwold-sk.ca.

Dated this 6th day of October at Emerald Park, in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Sauna Bzdel, Chief Administrative Officer



Town of White City Notice of Intent to Restructure

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to The Municipalities Act, public notice is hereby given that the Town of White City intends to restructure by adding the following lands from the Rural Municipality of Edenwold No. 158. The lands to be added to the Town of White City include:



Legal Land Description:
SW 19 17 17 2 Ext 0
SE 19 17 17 2 Ext 0
Blk/Par A-Plan 101742320 Ext 0
Blk/Par 1-Plan 90R49038 Ext 0

Roads:
ORA 52-17-17-2 Ext 0
ORA 46-17-17-2 Ext 0
SW 19-17-17-2 Plan FU639 Ext 1
ORA 51-17-17-2 Ext 0
ORA 45-17-17-2 Ext 0

The proposed development aligns with the Town's growth objectives as it is located east of White City—an area identified for future expansion with the RM of Edenwold No. 158. The request, initiated by the landowners, is supported by a demonstrated need for additional growth lands, is consistent with planning frameworks, and can be serviced through the extension of existing municipal infrastructure.

This notice is being reissued to include an additional 10-acre parcel of land at the request of the landowners. Additionally, an informal open house information session is being scheduled for the public to learn more about the annexation, planning process, and vision for the development. An formal public meeting will also be held to provide additional opportunity to provide comment on the restructuring.

An Open House will be Held:
November 6, 2025
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
White City Community Centre
12 Ramm Avenue East, White City

A Public Meeting will be held:
November 10, 2025
6:30 PM
White City Council Chambers
14 Ramm Avenue East, White City

Any persons who wish to object to the proposed restructuring may file a written objection, stating clearly their reason for their opposition to the Town of White City Box 220 Station Main White City, SK S4L 5B1 or via email: townoffice@whitecity.ca. A written notice of objection must be received by the Town of White City no later than November 15, 2025.

The proposal may be viewed online at whitecity.ca or at the White City Town Office between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Dated at the Town of White City, Saskatchewan this 10th day of October 2025.

Town of White City
14 Ramm Avenue East, White City

† 306-781-2355 | e townoffice@whitecity.ca | www.whitecity.ca



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*Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on new in-stock 2024 ELANTRA Essential/2024 VENUE Essential/2024 TUCSON Preferred AWD models with an annual finance rate of 4.49%/5.49%/4.49%. Cost of borrowing is \$1,072/\$2,389/\$3,340. Selling price is \$25,879/\$25,363/\$39,414. Weekly payments are \$10/\$10/\$17.5 for 48/48/48 months. \$2,999/\$2,399/\$2,095 down payment required. Trade-in value may be applied to down payment amount. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination charge of \$1,775/\$1,950/\$1,950, taxes and all applicable charges (excluding HST/GST/PST). Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to \$500. *Price of model shown: 2024 ELANTRA N Line Ultimate/2024 VENUE Ultimate/2024 TUCSON Ultimate Hybrid AWD is \$33,856/\$28,330/\$46,931. Price includes Delivery and Destination charges of \$1,775/\$1,950/\$1,950, taxes and all applicable charges (excluding HST/GST/PST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to \$500. Fees may vary by dealer. Prices are not established for pre-production models.
*Bonus price adjustments of \$500 available on select in-stock 2024 KONA N Line trims only, on lease, finance and cash purchase from July 3, 2024 to July 30, 2024. Price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. Model inventory for which the price adjustments are applicable may vary from dealer to dealer and from region to region. See your local Hyundai dealer for further details and applicable model inventory. †Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Vehicle colour is subject to availability. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.I. and a full tank of gas. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. Visit www.hyundaincanada.com or see dealer for complete details. The Hyundai name, logo, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned or licensed by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. All other trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners.

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