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Kipling Community Remembrance Day

We will Remember them

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

Although love is something that each of us yearn for and seek in our own way, it can be difficult for us to comprehend what love is.

We adorn it with decoration – with hearts, flowers and precious, glittering things.

We celebrate it in those artifacts we create.

We do this without realizing that our actions obscure the truth, because love is not a ‘feeling’ or some state of bliss that we ‘fall into’.

Love is a choice.

And even though in any circumstance, the decision to love entails risk, there are times when love will demand all that we have to give.

On Tuesday, a large crowd gathered in the Kipling Community Center to take part in the Remembrance Day Service hosted by the Kipling Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and keep a promise that was made to our veterans over a century ago.

As those in attendance took part in our familiar Acts of Remembrance and heard the names of those from this area who gave their lives in service to Canada during WW1 and WW2 they were given an opportunity to understand both the strength and the cost of this thing called love.

In his message, Pastor Stephen Luff from Parkland Bible Church noted how “warmly welcomed” and “safe” he and his family have felt since arriving in Kipling a few months ago. He then went on to observe how difficult it is for those of us living in a community like this to understand what it means to live with war. During a trip to Gaza several years ago, Luff recalled being shown a new playground that had been built to replace one destroyed by a missile.

“I had three kids at that time, and as a parent I could not fathom what it would be like to live in a place with that kind of violence. In that community, there were bomb shelters everywhere, because people knew that when the sirens went off, they only had a certain amount of time to get into a shelter before the missiles struck. That is something those of us blessed to live in a place like Kipling struggle to understand.”

Yet, as he spoke about the sacrifices made by our veterans, Luff pointed out that the love shown through the choice made by those who stand to serve and offer their lives to protect the peace we enjoy in Canada, is something that all of us might understand, because it is a reflection of the Divine.

“Giving one’s life for others, choosing to do this, has always been seen as one of the greatest acts of love, sacrifice and care. It is portrayed over and over again in some of our greatest books and mov-

ies. It is something that never fails to move our hearts.

“In considering this, I turn to the words of Christ to his disciples, spoken the night before He died: ‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one that this, that someone lay down his life for his friends’ (John 15:12-13). From a Christian perspective, the reason this moves us the way it does, is because we were created to show the love and glory of Christ, and in this sacrifice we reflect the love and sacrifice of Christ.”

So many of our veterans who loved enough that they were willing to make that sacrifice during wartime have since left us.

Yet, to this day there are men and women who choose to serve and are willing to offer up their lives to protect those ordinary things that we often too easily take for granted – this normal life we have in Canada.

If we are to truly honor those who died fighting for us, and those who returned to us forever changed by what they experience, we must honor the love shown by those who serve in the Canadian Armed Forces today as well. Because in understanding that these daily lives of ours were purchased at great price by people whose names we may not know we offer evidence of this truth – love never dies.



CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Marching in the Colours

Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 006 Kipling enter the Community Center at the beginning of the annual Remembrance Day Service.

One sprained ankle away

Paramedic shortage pushes rural EMS to the brink

By **Elaine Ashfield**
Grasslands News

Concerns over ambulance availability and staffing shortages throughout the province dominated a recent meeting between in Whitewood between town council and representatives from the Saskatchewan Health Authority, who acknowledged that emergency medical services across the province are facing one of the most challenging staffing crises in years.

The meeting between the two groups was organized after several incidents that occurred over the summer in Whitewood where the ambulance was out of service due to lack of paramedic coverage, forcing units from neighboring communities to respond to local emergencies which obviously takes those unit(s) from another community. “We just wanted to get a

feeling of what’s going on and see if there’s anything the town can do to help ensure we don’t lose a vital service,”

Mayor Chris Ashfield said during the meeting.

SHA representatives Glen Perchie, Director/Chief of

EMS – South and Jon Antal, Manager/Deputy Chief, EMS – South Central spent approximately 30 minutes speaking with council, where they explained the current EMS situation and outlined where changes need to be made to ensure paramedic services can continue to operate throughout Saskatchewan.

“So as much as I don’t like being in this position, I actually really appreciate that you are asking this. We’re not okay with this either,” Antal said of the current challenges and confirmed that the shortage is a province-wide issue, with vacancies in nearly every EMS service. “We are probably in the worst shape we’ve been in for years in EMS in Saskatchewan. There is some light at the end of the tunnel, but it’ll be six to eight months before we see the effects of new training seats opening up.”

- SEE EMS, 12



GRASSLANDS NEWS FILES

Paramedic shortage

A shortage of paramedics in Saskatchewan is causing issues right across the province.



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'Canada Strong' budget draws praise for investment push, criticism for rising debt

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Prime Minister Mark Carney's first federal budget, billed as a blueprint to make Canada "strong, self-sufficient, and resilient," has sparked both optimism and concern — hailed by some as a bold shift toward domestic investment and by critics as another round of record spending.

Unveiled on Nov. 4, *Budget 2025: Canada Strong* pledges to transform Canada's economy by investing \$1 trillion over five years in major infrastructure, housing, and industrial projects. A central feature is the new Buy Canadian Policy, which will require federal departments, Crown corporations, and major publicly funded projects to prioritize Canadian-made materials, technology, and services whenever possible.

"Budget 2025 is our plan to build Canada strong — with major infrastructure projects, millions more homes, new defence industries, and thousands of new high-quality careers all across our country," Carney said. "As we build big and bold, we will build Canadian and buy Canadian."

The government is earmarking \$186 million to fully implement the policy. That includes \$98.2 million over five years for Public Services and Procurement Canada to ensure compliance across all departments and \$79.9 million to launch a new Small and Medium Business Procurement Program, designed to help Canadian firms compete for federal contracts.

Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne said the move will strengthen domestic supply chains and reduce reliance on foreign partners. "We can control who we buy from — and we choose to buy Canadian," he said. "Building economic strength starts with becoming our own best customer."

The policy will extend to housing, defence, and infrastructure projects — part of the government's effort to direct as much as \$70 billion in public spending toward Canadian businesses and workers.

Despite the government's assurances, opposition MPs and fiscal watchdogs warn that the budget's ambitions come at a steep cost.

The government projects a \$78-billion deficit this fiscal year, up from \$62 billion previously forecast. Debt interest charges are expected to hit \$55.6 billion — more than Ottawa's total annual health transfers to provinces.

Yorkton-Melville MP Cathay Wagantall said the budget relies too heavily on borrowed money and offers little relief for average Canadians.

"It's all new spending," Wagantall told Grasslands News. "They're casting a \$78-billion deficit, and the debt is at \$1.35 trillion. We're adding \$10 million to our debt every hour — and interest payments alone are higher than what we spend on health care."

She said while some initiatives — such as \$108 million to support agriculture export markets and modernize the Canadian Food Inspection Agency — could

benefit Saskatchewan, the overall plan "depends on private-sector uptake" without removing regulatory barriers that drive investment away.

"They're saying the private sector has to show up now, but businesses left for a reason," Wagantall said. "We're just not competitive."

She also questioned the government's focus on modular housing, noting Carney's past advocacy for the approach during his tenure in the private sector. "The question is: will these homes be an investment for young Canadians or for corporations?"

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation echoed those concerns, summing up the 406-page budget as "expensive" and warning that the growing debt burden will hit taxpayers hard.

"Spending is up, debt is up, and debt interest charges are up," said Gage Haubrich, the CTF's Prairie Director. "It's a disaster for taxpayers because there was nowhere the government was actually looking to cut costs."

Haubrich said Ottawa missed an opportunity to streamline bureaucracy and reduce government spending, arguing that the new industrial carbon tax measures will further raise costs for families and businesses.

"We're looking at debt interest charges of about \$55.6 billion this year — more than what the government collects through GST," he said. "Every time Canadians pay sales tax, that money's not going toward services. It's going to pay for debt."

Haubrich added that Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe's resistance to the federal carbon tax remains "the right call."

"He rightly pointed out that it hurts jobs and makes life more expensive for families," Haubrich said. "The last thing Ottawa should do is impose it again."

The federal government maintains that the new spending is an investment in national resilience. Officials argue that strengthening domestic industries will reduce vulnerability to trade disruptions, particularly after years of volatility in global markets.

Public Works Minister Joël Lightbound said the Buy Canadian policy "will give businesses — including small and medium-sized companies — opportunities to compete for major projects, grow, and create good jobs."

Proponents in the manufacturing and resource sectors have welcomed the policy as a way to boost local procurement and innovation, though many are waiting to see how quickly funds flow to communities.

Wagantall said the next phase — the Budget Implementation Act — will reveal which promises materialize. "There are statements about investments in agriculture and trade, but we need to see the details," she said. "Right now, it's still just words on paper."

For Saskatchewan, the budget includes modest funding for agriculture and infrastructure in the Prairies, but critics say the measures fall short of ad-

ressing inflation, carbon tax costs, and export challenges.

"We're resourceful people," Wagantall said. "Our farmers are innovating, our communities are adapting, but the federal government needs to open the economy, not just spend more borrowed money."

As Parliament prepares to debate the budget's implementation later this month, both supporters and skeptics agree on one thing: the stakes are high.

For Carney, Canada Strong is a test of his promise to shift the nation's economic foundation. For many Canadians, it may determine whether Ottawa's big bet on buying Canadian will pay off — or deepen the country's fiscal hole.



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Province introduces reforms to modernize Credit Union Act

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan government is moving to modernize its decades-old Credit Union Act, introducing amendments aimed at making it easier for credit unions to operate and better serve their members.

The proposed Credit Union Amendment Act, 2025, tabled in the legislature Nov. 5, would update and clarify portions of The Credit Union Act, 1998 to reflect how financial institutions now function in an increasingly digital and fast-changing economy.

"Saskatchewan credit unions are an integral part of Saskatchewan's economy," said Justice Minister and Attorney General Tim McLeod, K.C. "These amendments are meant to streamline and clarify requirements, making it easier for Saskatchewan credit unions to operate. This benefits both credit unions and consumers."

The changes include lowering the threshold for members to pass a special resolution from three-quarters to two-thirds — a move that aligns Saskatchewan with most other provinces. The amendments also authorize credit union boards

to delegate certain responsibilities to employees, define the term "professional adviser" for board eligibility, and clarify rules for deposit payouts, membership terminations and appeals.

Other updates will allow the use of electronic records and give regulators flexibility to prescribe future requirements through regulations.

According to McLeod, the goal is to simplify processes, reduce ambiguity, and ensure Saskatchewan's credit unions can remain competitive in an evolving financial landscape.

The sector has long advocated for an overhaul of the legislation, said Rob Swallow, director of communications and government relations with the Canadian Credit Union Association.

"It's actually fairly significant," Swallow told Grasslands News. "Credit unions have been advocating for quite some time for legislative changes to modernize the act — just to better reflect the current realities of credit unions and the communities they serve."

Swallow said one of the biggest updates involves formally recognizing the use of electronic records — something credit

unions have already been using for years.

"Having that modernization will help them in terms of records management," he said. "It's a step forward in strengthening Saskatchewan's credit unions and helping them keep pace with a changing landscape."

He added that the amendments stem from extensive consultation between government, regulators, and the industry. The Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Justice, the CCA, SaskCentral, and the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation all contributed feedback, along with Saskatchewan credit unions and the public.

"The government's been really good with consulting with credit unions," Swallow said. "We're really happy because they did take on quite a few of the suggestions that we had put forward. It demonstrates the strong alignment between the credit union sector and government."

Credit unions serve a major role in Saskatchewan's economy and remain a vital presence in rural and urban communities alike.

"There are 97 communities in Saskatchewan



ELAINE ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

A tragedy remembered

A teddy bear sits outside the apartment in Whitewood where a young man lost his life in a tragic incident on Nov. 6 that resulted in murder charges against a youth. The teddy bear is undoubtedly a memorial tribute to the life lost but also is a harsh reminder of the stresses in our society today that are affecting our communities and our young people.

that are only served by a credit union," Swallow said. "There are over 520,000 members — in a province of about 1.25 million — across 222 locations. So they're a major driver for the economy, not only for business, but for helping community members."

While the proposed changes won't significantly affect actions such as mergers, Swallow said one key adjustment — the lower threshold for passing special resolutions — will simplify governance

processes for all credit unions.

The bill is currently approaching second reading and is expected to return to the legislature in the spring session for further debate and potential passage. After that, the government will draft accompanying regulations, with additional consultation planned.

"We'll continue to engage with the government through that process to make sure everything lines up," Swallow said. "It's all good news for

credit unions — these are changes they've been asking for quite some time."

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Lorne Calvert

Former premier finds faith and humour in the ashes of loss

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Two months ago, former Saskatchewan Premier Lorne Calvert lost his house and everything in it when it was destroyed by fire.

Lost in the flames were treasures of a lifetime - not only in politics but as a United Church minister. But with a degree of hope and a sprinkling of light-hearted humour, Calvert told a men's luncheon at St. Andrew's Church in Fort Qu'Appelle how he was able to take the catastrophe in stride.

"The most frequent question I get is 'why did I give up the ministry for politics', and I replied 'when you spend your life dealing with sinners you might as well go where the action is,' he said to widespread laughter from the audience.

He then related a series of anecdotes from his extensive book of memories.

The first had to do with his cameo appearance on the popular television series Corner Gas. Calvert is remembered by many as the premier when a boom in commodity prices and resources increased provincial revenues. But a new generation who have no idea of who he was still recognize him from reruns of the show. He told of how the original script for the episode in which he

appears called for him to emerge from a shower. It was then rewritten to have him in bed with one of the show's female characters.

That never happened.

The scene with Calvert was filmed in the premier's office. For his participation in the television series, he was given a souvenir mug that was lost in the fire.



"The memories that make you smile cannot be stolen - invest in the memories that make you smile."

- Lorne Calvert

"That mug is gone," he said ruefully.

He then told of the role he played in getting Montreal promoter Donald K. Donald to convince the Rolling Stones to give two concerts at Taylor Field in Regina in 2006.

"I had my all-time favourite rock band there in front of me. They made more money in Regina than anywhere else," said Calvert. That's because they gave two concerts in Regina where they played to 80,000 fans.

The Stones autographed Calvert's guitar strap.

That too was lost in the rubble.

He then spoke of how Prince Charles - now the

King - took him completely off guard during a visit in 2007 by asking Calvert if he knew Percy Schmeiser, the former Member of the Legislature and organic farmer who made worldwide headlines in 2004 when he won a partial victory against Monsanto for accidentally contaminating his canola field with chemicals.

"I should have known at the time, but I didn't then that Prince Charles had a passion for organic farming," Calvert said. After the visit to Regina, Charles sent Calvert a personal letter in which he said he would see what he could do about sending his son, Prince Edward, out to Saskatchewan "as soon as possible."

The letter was reduced to ashes in the fire.

Those souvenirs, said Calvert, are now among the "inventory of memories that make us smile."

Then, compelling storyteller that Calvert is, he turned to the appropriate verse in scripture which admonishes us: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth.. for where you treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6: 19-21)

"There is a lot of truth in that," said Calvert. "The memories that make you smile cannot be stolen, they can't be consumed, they can't be burned. Invest in the memories that make you smile."



Still smiling

Former NDP Premier Lorne Calvert is left with memories that make him smile after his house burned to the ground in September.

ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

SHA begins posting daily updates on disruptions

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

As of Monday, Nov. 10, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) launched a new process to provide patients, families, and communities with accurate and reliable information about emergency room availability. All emergency service disruptions, regardless of their length, were being posted publicly on the SHA website, with updates occurring daily at 4 p.m., seven days a week.

The webpage, found at saskhealthauthority.ca/servicedisruptions, listed all affected facilities alphabetically and provided direct links from the SHA Facilities & Locations directory to community-specific disruption notices.

When emergency room services were disrupted, signage was posted at the affected facility, and Healthline 811 provided real-time information. Patients and families were encouraged to call Healthline 811 toll-free, 24 hours a day, for advice regarding service availability or to access health guidance from Registered Nurses and other qualified health professionals.

The SHA also noted that work was underway to enhance the process by developing a longer-term, user-friendly public interface to support real-time updates.

In any life-threatening emergency, residents were reminded to call 9-1-1 immediately so paramedics could assess, treat, and transport patients to the nearest available site for medical attention.

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Province honours veterans at Sask. Legislative Building

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

In advance of Remembrance Day, a special service was held Nov. 5 at the Legislative Building to honour those who served. The rotunda area was filled with mostly MLAs and government representatives, including Her Honour Bernadette McIntyre, Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor.

"Remembrance Week is an important time for all of us here in Canada to recognize the service and the sacrifices of so many Canadians who - whether they were public servants, whether they were just in regular life - answer that call to service," said Col. Jason Quilliam, the province's Chief of Protocol and Secretary of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. "Whether they went overseas, whether they served domestically, they put that uniform on, and so we take this week to recognize that."

This year's ceremonies marked the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II on Sept. 2, 1945.

"Those dates are not merely historical footnotes," he said. "They're solemn reminders of the cost of peace. They speak to a time when the world

was fractured by violence, and yet from that darkness, hope emerged, carried by those who served — many of whom never returned. It's our duty to ensure that their names, their stories, and their service are never forgotten."

Premier Scott Moe laid a wreath at the Saskatchewan War Memorial following the ceremony on Nov. 5, reflecting on the fragility of the peace we currently enjoy.

"I'm reminded of just how fortunate we are to have lived so long in our country without war at our doorstep," he said. "But we must be reminded that with the current geopolitical landscape that we see today, that this could change at any time."

In speaking with reporters after the wreath laying commenced, Col. Quilliam spoke on the good fortune to serve one's country in the military and through public service.

"Winston Churchill called reservists 'twice the citizen'," said Col. Quilliam, who wore the Canadian Armed Forces uniform for 28 years through regular service and as a reservist. "It's an interesting term, we're here in our communities. We're serving whether

we're public servants, whether we're corrections officers, whether we're teachers, but we're also taking that time out of our own schedules to wear the uniform. There's thousands of reservists in the West here who do that on a regular basis."

When asked by Grasslands News of his message to someone considering the Forces, Col. Quilliam was quick to call his nearly three decades in uniform as "the best decision that I've ever made."

"For me, it was continuing on a family legacy, but the lessons learned out of putting on a uniform, out of learning that discipline, about learning leadership, will hold anybody in great stead as they continue on in their own lives," he said. "It doesn't matter how old you are - whether you're 16, 17, whether you're 56, 57, - it doesn't matter your background. If you want to serve, I would encourage folks to talk to a recruiting officer, to go visit your local armoury, to go somewhere where there's a recruiting office and just check it out."

During his service, Col. Quilliam was on two tours in Afghanistan, one with the UN Peace Commission in Africa as a public ser-



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Premier remembrance

Premier Scott Moe lays a wreath at the Saskatchewan War Memorial on Nov. 5 as Col. Jason Quilliam watches on.

vant, "fulfilling a lifelong goal of wearing a blue beret."

"Just over my shoulder here, there's 12,000 names etched of Saskatchewan-

ians who paid that ultimate sacrifice," he said, gesturing to the Saskatchewan War Memorial listing those Saskatchewan residents that were casu-

alties of war dating back to 1885. "These are not just names on a monument. They were flesh and bone. They fought for all of our freedoms."

SaskTel teams up with Calm to offer free premium mental wellness app

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

SaskTel is partnering with leading mental wellness app Calm to offer free premium memberships to its wireless customers across Saskatchewan, in a move the company says is designed to promote mental health and mindfulness throughout the province.

The program, announced Wednesday, gives SaskTel and Lüm Mobile users complimentary access to Calm's full suite of mental wellness tools, including guided meditations, mindfulness exercises, sleep aids and relaxation soundscapes. The offering marks Calm's first major partnership of its kind in Canada.

"Through this opportunity, our government recognizes that SaskTel is taking an important step forward in promoting daily mental wellness—whether at home, at work, or out in our communities," said Jeremy Harrison, minister responsible for SaskTel, in a news release. "By offering access to mindfulness and stress-reduction resources, SaskTel and Calm are empowering individuals to improve their overall wellbeing."

Calm, one of the world's most popular mental wellness apps, features hundreds of guided meditation sessions, breathing exercises and other mental health tools aimed at reducing anxiety and improving focus. Its Sleep Stories™—narrated by celebrities such as Matthew McConaughey, Cynthia Erivo, Harry Styles, Colman Domingo and Camila Cabello—are among its best-known features, designed to help users fall asleep more easily.

Charlene Gavel, SaskTel president and CEO, said the partnership reflects the company's ongoing focus on support-

ing communities across the province.

"Supporting the mental wellness of our customers is a natural extension of SaskTel's commitment to being a caring and community-focused company," Gavel said. "By working with Calm, we're not only enhancing the value of our wireless services—we're helping people across Saskatchewan tune out daily distractions and connect more mindfully to what matters most to them."

The initiative adds to SaskTel's suite of community-based programs, including its Phones for a Fresh Start recycling program and the Be Kind Online campaign, which encourages digital kindness and mental well-being among youth.

Calm CEO David Ko said the partnership with SaskTel aligns with his company's mission to make mental health resources more accessible.

"At Calm, we're on a mission to make mental health support accessible to everyone," Ko said. "We're proud to work with SaskTel to take another step toward that mission by making Calm available to all of their wireless customers, offering them a product that grows with them on every step of their mental wellness journey."

The Calm premium offer launches immediately and is available to all SaskTel wireless customers, including both post-paid and prepaid users, as well as Lüm Mobile subscribers.

Customers can activate the offer by texting "Calm" to 42256 (4CALM) to verify their SaskTel account and receive a direct link to the Calm premium membership. Lüm Mobile users can access the offer through their myLüm account.

Existing Calm subscribers with SaskTel or Lüm Mobile can redeem the free offer once their current paid subscription expires.

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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."

When tragedy strikes close to home

When tragedy strikes in a small town, it doesn't just make the news — it breaks the collective heart of a community. The recent death of a man in White-wood and the first-degree murder charge laid against a local youth has left residents shaken and searching for words. In a place where everyone is connected by only a few degrees of separation, the loss feels deeply personal, no matter who you are.

In big cities, such stories can fade into statistics. But here, we know the people behind the headlines. The victim may have been someone you waved to at the post office, someone your family worked with or helped. The accused may be a youth you've seen grow up — the child of parents who are friends, co-work-ers, or classmates. That's what makes tragedies like this so painfully real in small communities: everyone knows someone who is hurting, and the pain spreads far beyond a single home.

Both families now face long, difficult roads ahead — different, yet equally heavy. One family is grieving the unthinkable loss of a loved one. Their days ahead will be filled with sorrow, unanswered questions, and the slow process of trying to rebuild a life without someone who mattered deeply. The other family faces a different kind of heartbreak — knowing their child stands accused of taking a life. They must navigate the justice system, public scrutiny, and a future that has been forever altered. They, too, are mourning — mourning the loss of the life they once knew, the innocence of youth, and the dreams that have suddenly been shattered.

Both families will need compassion, privacy, and support from their community. Compassion for the pain that cannot be undone. Privacy to grieve and process without judgment. Support that extends beyond the first few days of shock — because this kind of trauma does not fade quickly. Over time, both will need the strength of friends, counsellors, faith lead-ers, and neighbours to help carry them through the weight of what has happened. Genuine gestures of care — a meal, a message, a moment of understanding — can mean more than words ever could.

And as we think about the human toll, we must also remember those who responded first: the RCMP officers, paramedics, and volunteer firefighters who were witness to the scene, did their jobs with profes-sionalism and care, and then carried those images home with them. In small towns, first responders are not anonymous — they are our neighbours, our friends, sometimes even relatives of the people in-volved. They, too, will need time and support to heal from what they witnessed.

Tragedies like this test the very heart of a commu-nity. It is easy to let fear, gossip, or blame take root. But true strength comes from empathy — from choos-ing to care for everyone affected, without exception. Whitewood and the surrounding area have always been known for coming together in difficult times. Now, more than ever, that compassion will be needed to help both families, the first responders, and the entire community find a path forward through grief, shock, and pain.

- Chris Ashfield



Bagpipes, rock and roll, and a record-breaking tribute

Bagpipes are classified as one of those things 'you either love em or hate em'. A hauntingly beautiful melody performed by an elegantly dressed piper can be interpreted as someone practicing torturous misdeeds upon a housecat (perhaps skill levels also factor in) to those not keen on the instrument.

But there is one unifying element most music enthusiasts can agree on — the bagpipe solo in AC/DC's 'Long Way to the Top if you Wanna Rock and Roll' is awesome.

A new world record was set recently with that particular tune, a nod to it's 50-year anniversary of being scribed by the brothers Angus and Malcolm Young plus former frontman Bon Scott. The Aussie rockers officially released the song on Dec. 8, 1975, and gained perhaps the greatest notoriety for that particular tune with a 1976 video featuring the band navigating Melbourne's Swanston Street in a flatbed truck while performing with gear in tow. Bon Scott performed a bagpipe solo in the midst of the heavy rock classic, with the truck flanked by several pipers joining in the fun.

Talk about a publicity stunt for a rock band, not to mention the creation of an iconic music video! Any-way, back to the world record bit.

Nov. 12 saw 'the Great Melbourne Bagpipe Bash' in Federation Square, which is incidentally along the

famed Swanston Street that AC/DC rocked back in 1976. A mass of 374 pipers — the oldest aged 98 — gathered to perform 'It's a Long Way to the Top', joined by what reports claim were thousands of spectators cram-ming the space to get a glimpse. In that assortment of pipers were Les Kenfield and Kevin Conlon — two of the bagpipers that performed with AC/DC 49 years ago while filming the video.

The Australian Book of Records confirmed that the 374 pipers indeed shattered the previous record set in 2012 by a mere 333 Bulgarian pipers.

Today, only Angus Young re-mains as an original member of the band, who once famously told an in-

terviewer how retirement is not an option in AC/DC. Perhaps wielding a Gibson SG is the secret formula for youth as Young retains his en-ergy and onstage antics at 70 years of age. The fact that he's a teetotal-ler unlike many in the rock'n'roll lifestyle probably helps, plus getting paid from doing something you love.

Regardless, the band has man-aged to create timeless melodies that unite generations of rock fans; maybe imparting some of that 'foun-tain of youth' vibe along the way. And they proved bagpipes have a place in rock music.

- Ryan Kiedrowski, Grasslands News

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(Letters must include your name, phone number and community for verification.)

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Saskatchewan plans to use dirty coal as 'bridge' to nuclear power

By Natasha Bulowski

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Saskatchewan is hitching its future to continued coal-fired power generation while it transitions to nuclear energy — and wants the federal government to help pay for a huge, but unspecified, chunk of it.

The province's new strategy, published Oct. 20, formalized Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe's intention to extend coal-fired power generation and use it as "a secure bridge" to nuclear power. The plan flies in the face of federal regulations that require all coal-fired power plants (except those outfitted with carbon capture technology) to be shut down by 2030 to clean up Canada's electricity grid.

"Coal is secure in that it's there, and it's operating, but the bridge to nuclear is the open question: How far is the bridge? How expensive? And what are the environmental consequences of maintaining that bridge?" M.V. Ramana, a professor and nuclear expert based at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, said in an interview with Canada's National Observer.

Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel and produces more planet-warming carbon dioxide when burned than oil or gas.

A group of citizens are challenging the province's decision to extend coal-fired generation, arguing the province's decision is "unreasonable" and should be reviewed by the courts due to a lack of public consultation, disregard for Canadian and international law and potential Charter rights implications. On Nov. 10, the applicants were in Court of King's Bench in Saskatoon to argue that the case should be allowed to proceed, while the province said it should be struck down.

Canada and Saskatchewan signed an equivalency agreement last winter that exempts Saskatchewan from the federal rules until the end of 2026, reads a statement from Gregory Frame, a spokesperson for Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Tim Hodgson, in an email to Canada's National Observer. The agreement recognizes "Saskatchewan has its own measures to achieve the same outcomes as federal coal regulations," Frame wrote.

Saskatchewan's energy security and supply plan does not include cost estimates for bringing small modular reactors online and large-scale reactors online but still asked the federal government to pay for 75 per cent of the province's first nuclear reactor.

The federal govern-



PHOTO BY BRIAN ZINCHUK

Coal continuing

A Westmoreland dragline working east of Shand Power Station. Saskatchewan plans to continue using coal power while it transitions to nuclear.

ment did not give a clear response to the province's request for it to cover three quarters of a reactor. The federal government is committed "to advancing clean, reliable baseload power in Saskatchewan and across Canada, including next-generation nuclear," according to Frame's statement. In it, Frame pointed to \$74 million the federal government committed in 2023 to support the pre-development work for Saskatchewan's first small modular reactor project with SaskPower and GE Hitachi.

The province's plan was light on details, but if Saskatchewan wants its first reactor to be a reproduction of Ontario's Darlington SMR project, which includes four reactors, the current cost would be \$20.9 billion — meaning the province would expect Ottawa to contribute \$15.7 billion, Ramana said.

"I don't see the federal government paying that kind of money," said Ramana. For Darlington, the federal government is spending \$2 billion through the Canada Growth Fund and several years ago provided nearly \$1 billion through the Canada Infrastructure Bank for pre-development work.

"The rest of the costs, I presume, are going to be falling upon the heads of the residents," Ramana said.

"Now, in the case of Saskatchewan ... regardless of whether this is realistic or not, the question is, even after that, what is the cost increase that is going to be passed on to the customers, as opposed to if the province had chosen to go with an expansion of wind and solar," he said.

Although the federal government and Saskatchewan are both supportive of nuclear energy,

Ottawa wants to replace fossil fuels — and fast, Ramana said.

"If Saskatchewan were really serious about nuclear, they should have started planning for these, for these reactors, decades ago," Ramana said. "Saskatchewan is so late to the game that it can only be seen as a delaying tactic."

"Even provinces that have been planning for close to a decade have not actually come anywhere close to having SMRs start operating," he said, pointing to New Brunswick as a "cautionary tale." Since 2018, the Atlantic province and federal government have given more than \$80 million to companies, ARC and Moltex, but neither will have a reactor ready by 2030.

Saskatchewan's energy security plan partially justifies its decision to stick with coal-fired generation because of the intermittent nature of wind and solar power, citing SaskPower's forecast that electricity demand will increase by 40 to 100 per cent by 2050.

"Countries around the world have been adopting renewables, and they've been growing very fast, despite the fact that everywhere wind and solar have fairly low efficiencies, but it's more than compensated for by the fact that their costs are far less," Ramana said. Once you set up wind turbines or solar panels, you generate electricity for free because you aren't paying for fuel like with nuclear, he said.

Over the last decade, ways to deal with the variability of renewables "have increased tremendously," including through expansion of storage, battery storage and demand-side measures, making it a more logical path, particularly when compared to the long timelines and high costs of nuclear, Ramana said.

Saskatchewan would continue burning coal until it gets SMRs online and contributing to the electricity grid, which Ramana said could be 2035 in a very optimistic scenario, but likely closer to 2040.

The province should be investing in and researching how to integrate more renewables onto Saskatchewan's grid while maintaining grid stability, he said. But by doubling down on coal, the province is signalling disinterest in solving those challenges, said Ramana.

Federal regulations require all coal-fired power plants (except those with carbon capture technology) be shut down by 2030 to clean up Canada's electricity grid but Saskatchewan's plan doesn't emphasize carbon capture for coal plants.

Jesse Knisley, media relations officer for Saskatchewan's executive council, said in an email to Canada's National Observer that SaskEnergy is not currently pursuing a carbon capture project. The Crown utility is open to explore a role in transporting and storing carbon dioxide if such a project is developed in Saskatchewan, Knisley said.

Ontario was the first province to phase out coal-fired electricity under Premier Kathleen Wynne in 2014. Last summer, Alberta transitioned its last coal plant to natural gas to complete the coal phase-out. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan still use coal-fired electricity.

Saskatchewan is the world's second-largest producer of uranium and Saskatoon-based Cameco Corp and Brookfield Asset Management recently struck up an \$80 billion strategic partnership with the U.S. government to accelerate nuclear deployment south of the border.

Opinion

Taxpayers have a right to see the costs of Ottawa's gun ban and confiscation

By Gage Haubrich

Canadian Taxpayers Federation

If you walk into a car dealership to ask about the price of the car out front and answer is "probably tens-of-thousands of dollars," it's unlikely you are going to buy that car.

Consumers need the full information on the price of something before they can decide if it's a good decision. The same goes for taxpayers and proposed government programs.

Since 2020, the federal government has banned more than 2,500 makes and models of firearms owned by licensed Canadians. Now, the federal government is pushing ahead with its gun confiscation scheme for individual firearms owners. Starting with a six-week pilot project in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

But the federal government has been anything but clear on the full price of its gun ban and confiscation scheme.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation filed an access-to-information request with the RCMP for all projected costs to confiscate firearms in July 2023. The government answered this request in January 2024.

The request showed a letter from the Pacific Region RCMP showing that it would cost \$12.6 million to confiscate and destroy banned firearms in that region.

But the government refused to provide documents with cost estimates from other RCMP divisions.

The CTF then made a complaint to the information commissioner, the independent official whose job it is to make sure the government is being transparent, in April 2024. Now more than a year later, the complaint has essentially gone nowhere, multiple investigators have been assigned, but we still have no idea on when we will actually get an answer from the commissioner.

To go back to the car dealership, imagine asking about the price of a car and getting the answer: "I'll think about telling you in two to three years." That still isn't helpful to decide whether to buy the car.

That's why it's so important that taxpayers have timely and easy access to information on how much the government thinks programs like the gun confiscation will cost.

Access-to-information has been found to be quasi-constitutional, as access to government information is a necessary component for the meaningful exercise of freedom of expression. Without timely access to these types of documents, taxpayers are having their ability to exercise their fundamental freedom of expression limited by the government.

This problem is compounded because estimates the government have produced on the program so far have been wide ranging, lacking detail and not at all helpful for taxpayers trying to decide if the cost is worth it.

Originally the government said the confiscation would cost \$200 million in 2019. Then the Parliamentary Budget Officer said it will cost up to \$756 million compensate owners for their firearms without even considering administration costs. Other experts have put the final price tag at about \$6 billion.

The stats and the experts say the confiscation isn't worth it.

The union representing RCMP members says Ottawa's program "diverts extremely important personnel, resources, and funding away from addressing the more immediate and growing threat of criminal use of illegal firearms."

"It won't impact crime rates," said Mount Royal University professor Doug King. "Individuals who have registered firearms are much less likely to commit criminal offences than people who don't have firearms."

That makes it even more important for taxpayers to know the full price of the scheme.

That's why the CTF is going to court to compel the information commissioner to do its job and issue a decision on the CTF's complaint and release the information.

Ottawa should not be hiding the full picture of costs from taxpayers for any program and this court fight will enforce the transparency taxpayers deserve.

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Court orders return of nearly \$500K stolen from RM of Edenwold in email fraud scheme

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Details leading to the decision of a King's Bench Court case involving the fraudulent transfer of funds from the RM of Edenwold have been made public, highlighting how such online crimes seem to be on the rise.

In a decision issued Oct. 23, Justice A.S. Davis ruled that the RM of Edenwold No. 158 is the rightful owner of \$497,613.28 that was mistakenly transferred to a fraudulent account earlier this year. The court found that the funds were sent under a "mistake of fact," after municipal officials were deceived by convincing—but ultimately fake—email messages that appeared to come from a legitimate partner organization.

According to court documents, the RM believed it was transferring the money to the White City–Emerald Park Wastewater Management Authority, with which it had an ongoing business relationship. Instead, the payment went to an unknown fraudster who had hacked the authority's email account.

"The RM transferred funds in response to an email communication from a WCRM account," Justice Davis wrote. "That account had been hacked and the request for the e-transfer came, not from the WCRM, but from an unknown fraudulent actor."

While Davis described the RM's

actions as "somewhat surprising," given that the email messages were "a departure from previous practice" and written in "ungrammatical English," he said the facts were clear: the money was never meant for the person or persons who received it.

The decision follows similar cases in which public bodies and businesses have been duped into transferring funds to cyber criminals through fake invoices or spoofed email addresses. Justice Davis referenced *Creative Saskatchewan v. Royal Bank of Canada* (2023), where a provincial Crown corporation was also tricked into sending funds to an imposter. That case resulted in a comparable order directing the bank to disclose information and return the money.

"The ease with which moneys may be transferred electronically and the sophistication of fraudulent actors suggests schemes like the one here may only grow more prevalent," Davis noted.

The RM's legal counsel, Randall Sandbeck, K.C., argued successfully that the municipality was entitled to the return of its money under well-established common law principles: if someone pays another under a mistaken belief, the payer is typically entitled to reclaim it unless the recipient can show valid reason to keep it. In this case, no such reason existed.

Although the Bank of Montreal

did not oppose the application, it required a court order before releasing any funds or customer information, due to privacy laws. Justice Davis ordered that the money currently held by BMO be returned to the RM and that the bank disclose the name and details of the individual or entity controlling the fraudulent account.

The judge cited provisions under the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act which allow banks to share otherwise confidential information when required by a court order. He emphasized that such disclosure "will not interfere with BMO's obligations" under federal privacy law.

The RM had also requested a broader order, known as a Norwich order, that would have compelled any financial or investment institution aware of the transaction to release related information. Justice Davis declined to extend the order that far, limiting it to BMO only.

"I am reluctant to order a non-party who has had no ability to make representations to this Court to do anything," he wrote, cautioning that the proposed sweeping order could affect institutions that had not been notified or given a chance to respond.

However, Davis agreed to remain "seized" of the case, meaning he will continue to oversee it if the RM later learns that the stolen funds were transferred to other banks or accounts. This would allow the municipality to apply more efficiently for additional disclosure orders in the future.

The ruling serves as a cautionary tale for municipalities and organizations across Saskatchewan that handle large electronic transactions. In his written decision, Davis acknowledged the sophistication of such schemes and said courts are increasingly being asked to assist victims in tracing and recovering lost funds.

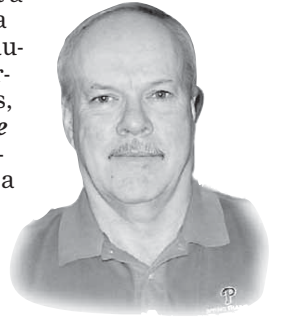
"This kind of fraud is a scourge on our businesses and economy," he wrote, quoting from the *Creative Saskatchewan* case. "The order sought is necessary to allow the RM to trace and hopefully recover more of its property."

Of the initial \$497,613.28 transferred, the RM was able to recover \$377,376.03 of the funds.

Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

It was a strange scene at a Chuck E. Cheese in Florida as police arrested the restaurant's 'iconic anthropomorphic rodent.' Jermell Jones, 41, who was **dressed as the rat/mouse** when police arrived, had allegedly stolen a customer's bank card and used it to make fraudulent purchases worth \$105.57. Police wanted to take him into custody quietly,



but when he tensed up, they handcuffed him and led him out... past several young customers. Many people questioned why police didn't have Jones remove the costume before he was placed under arrest. The restaurant said simply that they have "taken the appropriate action concerning the subject employee." Randy Cassingham warned, "Wear gloves: rats can carry disease."

After watching her daughter graduate from high school, Maria Mendoza stopped at a Burger King in Dacula, Ga., and noticed another **graduate working the counter**, still wearing his Honors medals. He wasn't scheduled for a shift that night, but stepped in to help overwhelmed co-workers. "He was so kind, so polite," she said of Mykale Baker. "While many graduates spent the night celebrating with friends and family, he quietly showed the world what determination looks like." Mendoza started a GoFundMe account, hoping to raise \$60,000. The last time I checked, the **fund had raised \$236,876 USD** and Mykale had started classes at Gwinnett Tech for Automotive, pursuing his dream of becoming a master auto mechanic. BK also gave a 10K scholarship.

A driver of a Lamborghini Huracán, a 34-year-old North Vancouver man, is facing a slew of fines after being caught travelling over twice the speed limit on Highway 99 in Porteau Cove. That vehicle retails for upwards of \$300,000 in Canada. A secondary charge was levied for not having snow tires. **Winter tires are required** on most BC highways from Oct. 1 until at least March 31. "Those rules also apply to supercars," said a police statement.

Taking a Pounding: America has its dollar stores. The UK has its own version, Poundland. Even though a pound is currently worth US\$1.33, the 1/3 premium isn't keeping the discount retailer on its feet. **A bidding war has ensued** among multiple suitors, and it appears Gordon Brothers, an American company known for snapping up distressed companies, is the front-runner. It will take on debts and the costs of turning Poundland around, and thus the actual price it will pay for the company is going to be rather low: about a pound. Randy Cassingham pointed out, "Don't forget: bags are extra."

This is True reported that US Customs and Border Protection officers at Florida's Tampa International Airport say an arriving passenger **declared "10 cigars"** in his luggage, **but didn't mention several other items**, including "prohibited plants," a human skull, and several other bones wrapped in foil. "The traveler claimed the items were for rituals," said CBP Director of Field Operations Carlos C. Martel. Due to potential health risks, the undeclared items were seized and destroyed. Homeland Security says an investigation continues.

The Alexandria (Va.) Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board discovered that an executive with a six-figure salary had been **allowed to jump to the top of a waiting list of "thousands of people"** to live in one of the agency's "affordable housing" units, advertised as "the best type of unit that ARHA has to offer." The Board ordered the man to leave the unit, and held the Authority's CEO responsible for the outrage. They then "voted to terminate the employment of CEO Erik Johnson, effective today." And who did Johnson allow to live in such a high-end, subsidized place when there were so many in line for the location? Himself. The irony? "Being unemployed now makes him eligible to live there."

President Donald **Trump attacked ranchers** after they pushed back on his plan to import beef from Argentina to help ease record prices for beef. That plan never made much sense to me in a country trying to be great, all on its own. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America and other farming groups condemned the president's casual remark about importing beef from Argentina, and Trump lashed out at them. How? Oh, on a Truth Social post. "The Cattle Ranchers, who I love, don't understand that the only reason they are doing so well, for the first time in decades, is **because I put tariffs on cattle coming into the United States**, including a 50 per cent tariff on Brazil," posted Trump, who suggested ranchers were insufficiently grateful and blamed them for higher prices for consumers.

Until next time...

Ochapawace FN man accused of murder back in court Nov. 19

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

After a recent appearance in Broadview Provincial Court, Dustyn Allary, 33, will have his matter heard on Wednesday Nov. 19. Allary is from the Ochapawace First Nation and is being charged with second-degree murder in relation to the death of 32-year-old Elias Still, also of OFN.

Around 6:45 a.m. on April 20, 2024, Broadview RCMP were called to a residence to assist EMS with an injured male who later died on

scene; identified as Still. Police immediately considered the death as suspicious with RCMP Major Crimes taking charge of the investigation.

Allary was arrested at the scene and initially appeared in Yorkton Provincial Court two days after Still's death. After appearing in Broadview Provincial Court on Aug. 6, 2025, Allary was released on \$5,000 bail and continued appearances throughout the summer.

Still is remembered for his positive attitude and sense of humour; always willing to help those around him.

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Sask's waterfowl population strong despite challenges

By Shaynee Modien,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Grasslands News

Three years ago, the provincial government of Saskatchewan introduced new legislation involving a revised Trespass Law. As of January that year, hunters were required to obtain direct permission to hunt on private land.

Katherine Conkin, a wildlife biologist based in Saskatoon for the Saskatchewan Fish and Wildlife branch of the Ministry of the Environment, was recently asked about the impact of this law on the population of waterfowl, as well as other changes that may affect the growth of these bird species in Saskatchewan. Given that the province is located on the main migratory route, Conkin noted that "the waterfowl population continues to do very well in Saskatchewan, though we continue to monitor as we go through drought periods."

Recent notable waterfowl migrations spotted in the Southwest include snow geese. When asked about their status, Conkin replied, "In the early 2000s, snow geese and Ross's geese exploded and they were doing incredibly well." However,



she also mentioned that recent snow geese populations are seeing a decline due to breeding productivity.

When asked about the Canadian goose, the signature bird of Canada, Conkin stated, "They're doing pretty well, with nothing notable to report in Saskatchewan."

While the current situation for some waterfowl has remained the same, a

look at the past provides insight into the future. Out-of-province hunters, including Americans, saw a dramatic decrease during the COVID-19 pandemic. "For at least a year, we didn't have any hunters coming in or out of the province, or very few, and there was a steep decline," stated Conkin. "More recently, we've seen the number of hunters return to pre-COVID levels, and it's kind of stabilized."

Conkin went on to state, "I was just looking at the number of non-resident license sales for this year, and most visiting hunters are visiting from late September to early mid-October, and we're within 100 licenses of last year's numbers."

When asked about the impact of the changes to the Trespass Law and its effect on hunting, Conkin responded by saying, "It's a complex question. I don't know if we've seen a change in population that we can directly relate to the law. We did some research on waterfowl hunters, both resident and non-resident, just after the change to the Trespass law, and it generally indicated that it didn't have a significant impact on people's ability to obtain permission. But that's not to say there aren't pockets where people are struggling to get permission."

The biologist noted that other types of hunting have shown more significant signs of difficulty. "With big game, we've had a lot more response from people who are having difficulty getting access to hunt for a variety of reasons," said Conkin. "This is something we're certainly interested in and watching more closely as a ministry."

Flying J Travel Center in Balgonie gets major upgrade \$10K donation to local school

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Flying J travel center in Balgonie has received a top-to-bottom renovation as part of Pilot Company's massive \$1 billion modernization program, and the company is marking the occasion with a \$10,000 donation to

support local education.

The newly upgraded travel center, located at 1800 North Service Road, is part of Pilot's New Horizons initiative — a nationwide effort by the U.S.-based company to enhance amenities, improve design and deliver better experiences for travelers across North America.

"We are excited to wel-

come the Balgonie community to our Flying J travel center to enjoy the new amenities and thoughtful upgrades," said Shannon Stone, Pilot's director of store modernization. "Whether you need to fuel up, grab a bite to eat or get going with the best coffee on the interstate, our goal is to provide a convenient and reliable stop for every

journey."

The Balgonie site now features a completely revitalized interior with a modern look and improved comfort for drivers and travelers alike. Updates include a new hot and cold deli with grab-and-go meals, expanded beverage coolers, upgraded laundry facilities, and refreshed restrooms and showers.

For long-haul truckers, commuters, and families passing through, the upgrades aim to make travel easier, faster and more comfortable — part of Pilot's commitment to serving communities across Canada and the United States.

To celebrate the re-

opening, Pilot Company is donating \$10,000 to Prairie Valley School Division 208 to help expand science and technology programming at Balgonie Elementary School.

The funds will go toward establishing a new robotics program designed to engage students in science, technology, engineering and math learning.

"Because of Pilot's generosity, Balgonie Elementary School will be able to take initial steps toward developing a robotics program that will enrich learning in science, technology and mathematics," said school principal Jason Weitzel.

"This exciting initia-

tive will provide students with opportunities to engage in hands-on problem solving, collaboration and innovative thinking, which are essential skills for their future success."

The donation is part of Pilot's Miles of Good initiative, which focuses on giving back to communities through investments in education, safety and veteran support.

"Pilot is dedicated to showing people they matter — in its travel centers, on the road and beyond," the company said in a statement.

The Balgonie renovation is one of several Canadian locations included in Pilot's larger modernization push. The company operates more than 800 travel centers under its Pilot, Flying J and One9 brands and has invested heavily in upgrading amenities, technology and design.

"Through New Horizons, Pilot is re-imagining what a travel stop can be," Stone said. "From cleaner restrooms and better food to refreshed layouts and expanded services, these upgrades are about making travel easier and communities stronger."

For Balgonie, the project represents a welcome investment in local infrastructure and education.

"Pilot's support for Balgonie Elementary School is a great example of how corporate partnerships can directly benefit local students," said Weitzel. "We're grateful to see a company investing not only in its facilities, but also in the young people who will build our future."

As Pilot Company celebrates its latest upgrade, the donation ensures the impact will extend beyond the highway — into the classrooms where the next generation of innovators will learn, create and grow.



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ER closures in local rural communities highlight ongoing rural healthcare crisis

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Rural residents in Broadview, Wolseley, and Kipling are facing mounting frustration as all three communities continue to grapple with emergency room closures amid what many are calling one of the most severe rural healthcare crises Saskatchewan has seen in years.

According to the Saskatchewan Health Authority's new daily reporting system, emergency rooms in Broadview and Wolseley were among 10 rural facilities listed as closed this week. Kipling's emergency department, meanwhile, has been shuttered since Friday with no timeline announced for reopening.

The ongoing closures have drawn criticism from the Saskatchewan

NDP, who say the provincial government has failed to deliver on promises to stabilize rural healthcare services. "This public reporting of emergency room closures confirms what we've known for years — the Sask. Party is failing rural Saskatchewan," said Keith Jorgenson, NDP Associate Shadow Health Minister. "Reporting is one thing. Actually fixing rural healthcare is a whole different matter."

For residents across the southeast, the impact has been significant. With Broadview, Wolseley, and Kipling all facing interruptions, patients requiring urgent care are increasingly being redirected to facilities in Indian Head, Moosomin, or even Regina — adding crucial travel time during emergencies. Local leaders have repeatedly warned that chronic staffing shortages and burnout among healthcare workers are leaving small-town hospitals unable to maintain consistent service.

The Sask. Party government began publicly posting ER closure information this week after months of public and political pressure. While the

move is being welcomed as a step toward transparency, critics say it does little to address the underlying problem: the lack of doctors, nurses, and paramedics willing to work in rural areas.

The NDP says it is developing a comprehensive plan to restore access to healthcare through its Your Care, Your Say initiative, encouraging residents of Broadview, Wolseley, Kipling, and other affected communities to share their experiences and help shape future solutions.



CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS FILES

Closures continue

The Saskatchewan NDP is criticizing the Sask. Party government for failing to stabilize rural healthcare after the SHA's daily reporting shows ER's closed in communities such as Broadview, Wolseley and Kipling.

Saskatchewan sees strong job growth

By Provincial
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan's job market continues to show resilience, with new data from Statistics Canada revealing that the province added 14,000 jobs over the past year, marking a 2.3 per cent increase — the second-highest growth rate among Canadian provinces. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.5 per cent in October, well below the national aver-

age of 6.9 per cent.

"Saskatchewan continues to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada as our economy creates more jobs and opportunities in the province," said Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Career Training Jim Reiter. "Our government is here to support a strong labour force to fill the jobs being created, so Saskatchewan continues to be the best place to live, work and raise a family."

Employment in Sas-

katchewan reached record highs for October, with 621,800 people working and a total labour force of 651,200. Full-time employment accounted for 514,500 positions, up 12,600 from the previous year — an increase of 2.5 per cent.

Both of the province's largest cities also saw notable gains. Regina's employment rose by 9,200 jobs (6.4 per cent), while Saskatoon added 1,900 positions (0.9 per cent) compared to October 2024.

Sector-specific increases were led by health

care and social assistance, which grew by 7,300 jobs (7.6 per cent), and construction, which added 4,400 positions (9.6 per cent).

Beyond employment, Saskatchewan continues to post strong economic indicators. The province's real GDP grew by 3.1 per cent in 2024, reaching \$83.6 billion — the second-highest rate of growth in Canada. Saskatchewan also led all provinces in month-over-month growth for building construction investment in August 2025.

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IH council considers new office

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Indian Head council held a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Nov. 10.

Strategic Planning

At its meeting on Oct. 27, council agreed to engage a consultant for strategic planning services. Administration informed council that the consultant has accepted employment elsewhere and can no longer provide the service. Council rescinded its motion from the previous meeting and will explore alternative service provider options.

Office Proposal

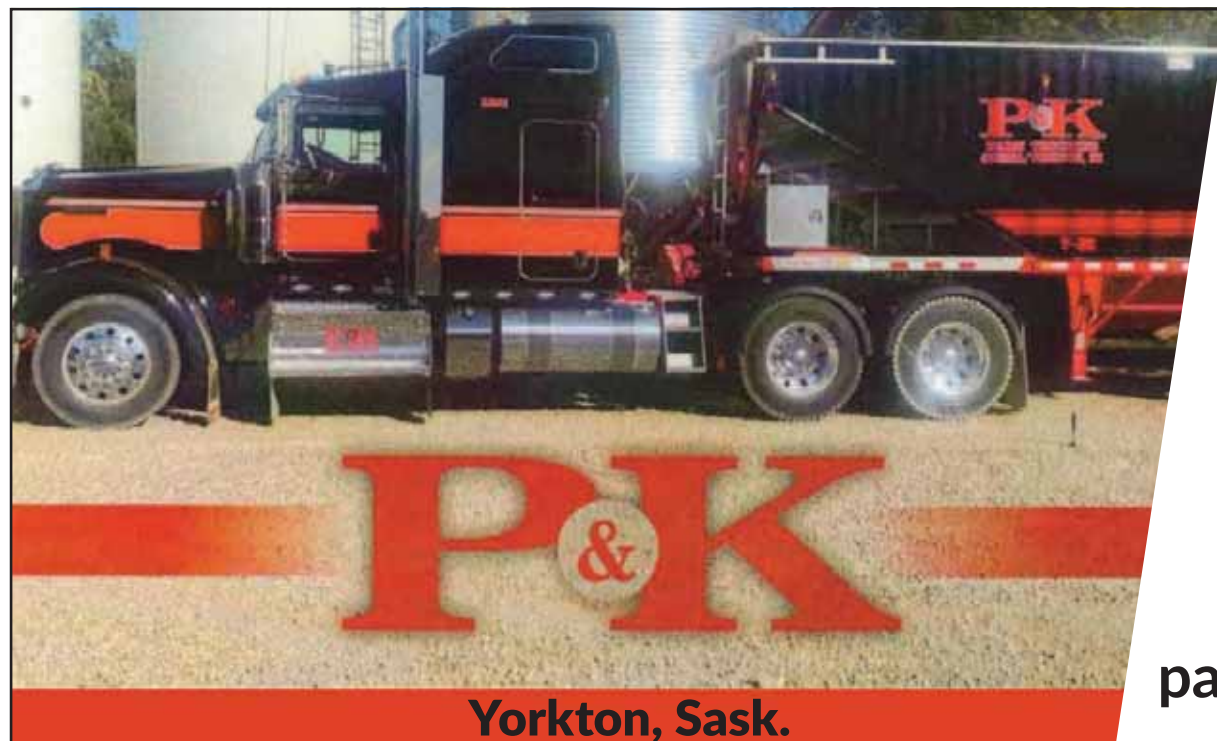
Over the past few years, the town has noted an impending need for expanded office space. Council reviewed possible concept plans for an addition to the back of the existing Town Office and Library

building. The plans could accommodate four additional offices, along with a council chambers and another meeting room.

Council is still gathering information before proceeding with specific plans and directed administration to obtain pricing estimates based on the concepts presented. This information will be considered when council discusses the municipal budget for next year and prepares to renew its 5-year Capital Works Plan.

Grant Application

The town's raw water supply line is nearing the end of its useful life and replacement costs are estimated at \$3.17 million. Council approved a motion to apply for a Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund grant to help finance the project. If approved, the grant would include a 40 per cent federal contribution and a 33 per cent provincial contribution.



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Christmas shoppers get head start at Langbank Craft & Trade Show



By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

Christmas shoppers had an opportunity to get an early start on finding those perfect gifts at the beginning of this month, at the Langbank Christmas Craft & Trade Show held on Saturday, Nov. 1.

Gayleen Gurr helped to organize the event and says that the turnout for the show was tremendous.

"There were 110 people who signed the register," says Gurr. "But so many people came in and didn't stop to sign the register that we're estimating we might have had 180-200 people visit our Craft and Trade Show this year."

She notes that those who took in the Langbank event were impressed by what they found.

"People were really impressed with the number and variety of vendors. One gentleman from Rocanville commented that he couldn't believe that we had the whole building full of that many vendors – he said it was an amazing show. There was also a nice variety of vendors there and some came from as far away as Good Spirit Lake and Bienfait. It was also really well attended by people from surrounding communities who came to see what was on offer."

Although the wide variety of potential gifts on offer at the Langbank show made discovering that one unique item much easier, Gurr says it was the people involved that made it the exceptional show it was.

"It's really the people who made our Christmas Craft & Trade Show a success. The amazing number of volunteers, the vendors and the people who came to support us made this as great as it was!"

Pre-Christmas shopping

A large number of people from communities through this area came out to peruse the variety of items available at the Langbank Christmas Craft & Trade Show at the beginning of this month.

CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Wages are a factor in retention

continued from front

Last year, the province funded an additional 100 seats in the primary care paramedic program, but only about one-third of graduates end up working in EMS. Many are being hired by municipal fire departments, which offer higher wages and better schedules. "We need to be more competitive with our peer emergency responders across the province," Perchie noted, stating that's between SEHO and the unions. Until that gap starts getting bridged, he said they will continue to see this, adding that pay parity and benefits are key to long-term stability.

Perchie stated he is responsible for 38 ambulance services throughout Southern Saskatchewan and a good chunk of those are on-call services. "So, we've been working with the government for the last four years on stabilizing rural EMS. We're trying to move those services to eight hours on and 16 on-call. So even that is not as good as what we have (in Whitewood), because we've got 12 and 12."

Continuing to explain that Regina loses all kinds of staff to the fire department, Perchie added, "And so once you're in with the SHA, you have seniority, and a position opens up in Regina, and you've got it. And that's a challenge for us. The best practice that we see is when we can grow local people from the community, right?"

The SHA is exploring innovative approaches to address staffing gaps, including hiring graduates on "restricted licenses" that opens up staff that can drive the ambulance and work alongside their partner but cannot be alone in the back of a unit

alone with a patient until they complete the national certification exams, which are only offered twice a year. They are offering bursaries to attract rural recruits. Emergency medical responders from local communities are also being trained through a short in-house program, though that option will soon become less feasible when course requirements increase next year.

To encourage more rural participation, SHA has launched a \$10,000 bursary for new paramedic trainees who commit to working in smaller centres for at least two years—double the amount of the bursary amount offered in Regina and Saskatoon. Local leaders suggested that the SHA should be promoting the bursary through town channels and schools to reach potential candidates.

While recruitment remains the immediate priority, officials emphasized that retention is equally critical. "We need something for those who've stayed and built careers here," one said. "A \$10,000 bursary is great for new people, but it doesn't help the ones who've been carrying the load for years."

"Our goal, we call it assembled crew where there's a station with

an ambulance," Perchie added. "The goal is on a hot call, they gotta be in the bus, say ready to go in one minute. If it's not an assembled crew, it's 10 to 15; 10 minutes is the goal but sits around 12 or 13. That's a big difference for a medical, like in a medical emergency."

Ideally the ambulance and the staff will be in the same building. "I think the ministry knows pretty clearly now the three things that we're looking for. And we have multiple business cases in for funding to try, and I don't care if we lease or what we do, but something that's got a decent facility for people that's co-located with an ambulance, Antal stated but also commented, "Until we get more into the system actually get it stabilized, this is what it's going to be like for a while. I get a lot of pressure, fix it, fix it, but you know what? We want to move the bar."

Both the SHA and the Town of Whitewood agreed to explore ways municipalities can help advocate for stronger support through organizations like SUMA. "We're doing everything we can to move the bar," Perchie concluded. "The reality is, we're still only one sprained ankle away from being down an ambulance."

– Wawota community happenings –

By **Myrna Olson**
Grasslands News

Stacey Heffernan, Kate and Sarah from Regina came to Wawota to go trick or treating with some of their Wawota friends and said it was more fun than the city. They stayed for part of the following week.

Congratulations to Allan and Coralee Brehaut on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They celebrated with family and friends at the Wawota Drop-In on Sun-

day, Nov. 9.

A bridal shower was held at Wawota Legion Clubrooms to honor Jose Argerami, bride elect of Mitch Porter. She and Mitch will be married in Regina on Jan. 3.

Justin Olson, Tamara Buckingham and Callie from Saskatoon spent last weekend in Wawota. They visited with the Lamoureauxs and Grandma Myrna Olson in the Moosomin Hospital. Some repairs were done around the house, and all was appreciated.

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Students from Kipling School take in bison harvest

At Kahkewistahaw First Nation

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

Last week, Kipling School students in Grades 2, 7/8 and 10, went to Kahkewistahaw First Nation to observe and participate in a bison harvest. Grade 2 teacher Leeza Picard says that while all of the students attended the same event, the various classes had the chance to take part in different activities.

“There were curricular connections and all of the teachers involved thought it would be a good experience for their classes,” says Picard. “The Grade 10 students helped with a tipi raising, while the Grade 2 students watched. Both the Grade 2 students and some of the older kids got to take part in cooking bannock over the fire, and the Grade 2 class also listened to some stories from the Knowledge Carriers at the harvest. Students also had the chance to listen to songs from the drum circle.”

While reaction to the bison harvest itself was mixed, Picard says that all of the students viewed the event as a positive experience.

“During the bison harvest, the entire animal was harvested and the meat bagged so that it could be given out to families on Kahkewistahaw. Some of the students thought the bison harvest was the best thing ever while others weren’t as excited about it. But all the students

really enjoyed the experience and felt that this type of learning was a lot of fun. It was an opportunity to learn in a different way. And they had a real appreciation of what went into the harvest and what the harvest meant.”

She goes on to say that this type of experience also gives the students something that can help them to better understand the things they discuss in the classroom.

“I wanted my students to see and understand and have more of an experiential learning opportunity. It’s more impactful for them to go and take part in that kind of a learning opportunity than to have me just standing and lecturing in the classroom.”

This gives them an experience that they can draw on when we discuss Indigenous ways of knowing and how bison were used.”

Picard notes that she and other teachers are hoping to provide their students with more opportunities for hand-on learning in the future.

“We’re trying to get students out of the classroom more often. Studies show that kids learn more by getting out of the classroom and experiencing more hand-on activities.”

It’s a different type of learning and knowing. And the students really appreciate having something different in their day.”



CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Hands on learning

Students from Kipling School take part in a tipi raising during a bison harvest that took place at Kahkewistahaw First Nation last week.



CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

District Champions

Last Saturday, the QVDA Junior Boys Volleyball District Competition took place in the Kipling School Gym. At the end of the day, the Kipling 8/9 Boys Volleyball Team emerged as QVDA District Champions. This team played so hard all season long, and this accomplishment is well-deserved.



CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Off to Provincials

“Our Kipling Senior Girls Volleyball Team were small in number this past Saturday at Regionals” says Coach Garth Showmaker. “We had Shayla Burnell away playing with Team Canada in Costa Rica and another of our players was injured. But the girls came up big with an incredible display of faith, skill, courage and team play to secure third place and a trip to the 3A Provincial Championships.”

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SPORTS

Grenfell Prairie Fire makes home ice debut

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

“Get it, Mom! Get the puck!” shouted a little boy in the stands at Grenfell Arena last Saturday night. The child and those near him were cheering for a new Senior Women’s Hockey team, the Grenfell Prairie Fire. The team made its home ice debut on Saturday, Nov. 8 in a game against the Vibank Bruins.

Both teams are part of the newly formed Saskatchewan Senior Women’s Hockey League, the province’s only competitive league for women. They previously faced each other at Vibank’s home opener on Sunday, Nov. 2, where the Bruins won against Prairie Fire 4-3. The Vibank team had similar victories over teams from Rouleau and Gull Lake in October.

The competition at Saturday’s game was fierce, as Prairie Fire sought to break their opponent’s winning streak. Player energy and enthusiasm demonstrated that they welcomed the opportunity to return to the ice after aging out of other hockey programs. Local fans and family members showed their team spirit and support for female athletes by wearing Prairie Fire jerseys or hats with the team logo.

When the teams warmed up on Saturday night and then stood respectfully for the national anthem, they were accompanied by Prairie Fire’s honorary

7th player, four-year-old Rylee Anne of Grenfell. Then the game started off fast with the women racing up and down the ice, vying for control of the puck. Five minutes into the game, the Prairie Fire’s Jaydea Guenter-Betle of Grenfell scored the first point, assisted by Kailey Ottenbreit of Fort Qu’Appelle and Chace Sperling of Rocanville. This was followed almost immediately by a second goal. With six minutes left in the first period, Vibank responded with their first goal, scored by Shaelyn Myers assisted by Jesslyn Gyurek and Jordan Fry.

By the end of the second period, the score was tied at three points each. The game went into overtime and Grenfell scored two more goals, but Vibank was unable to catch up, so the game ended in Grenfell’s favour with a final score of 5-4. The Prairie Fire was thrilled to claim their first win of the season on home ice.

Vibank’s next game is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 16 at 5:45 p.m., when they will host the Southeast Saints. Grenfell Prairie Fire will play in Rouleau that day and then return home for a game against the Yellow Grass Wheat Queens on Nov. 23 at 5 p.m. They will play another game in Grenfell on Saturday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. against the Midale Saints.

Regular season games are scheduled to continue into January, followed by a league final between the top teams from the north and south divisions of the SSWHL.



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Face-off
Grenfell Prairie Fire hosted its first game against the Vibank Bruins at the Grenfell Arena on Saturday, Nov. 8. The Prairie Fire beat the Bruins 5-4.

Fort Knox, Moosomin, and Pilot Butte battle through busy PJHL week

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Prairie Junior Hockey League (PJHL) action has been heating up as the Fort Knox, Moosomin Steelhawks, and Pilot Butte Storm wrapped up another busy week of games heading into mid-November.

Fort Knox

Fort Knox picked up a pair of strong wins before dropping their latest matchup. The team edged the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels 5-4 in a high-scoring battle on Nov. 5 in Assiniboia. Shaden Duliak led the charge with a hat trick while Rhett Weichel and Tanner Wiens also found the net. Goaltender Kale Gorski stopped 30 shots for the win.

Two nights later, the Knox exploded offensively in a 6-2 victory over the Moosomin Steelhawks in Moosomin. Madden Wallis, Jonah Pinel, Carter Hirsch,

Jackson Hofer, Mason Babiuk, and Shaden Duliak all scored in a complete team effort.

However, Fort Knox’s run was halted Nov. 9 at home as the Martensville Chiefs blanked them 3-0 at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre despite 44 shots on goal by Knox skaters.

Upcoming games: Fort Knox travels to Regina to face the Extreme Hockey Capitals on Nov. 15.

Moosomin Steelhawks

The Steelhawks have had a roller-coaster stretch. After back-to-back losses to Fort Knox (6-2) and Martensville (6-2) on Nov. 7-8, Moosomin suffered a tough 14-3 defeat to the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals on Nov. 10. They rebounded in emphatic fashion the next night, defeating the Regina Silver Foxes 8-4 at home. Ryan Weaver led the way with a hat trick and five points, while Malcolm Snooks chipped in four points and Andres Vladimir Couoh Martinez scored twice.

Upcoming games: The Steelhawks host the Saskatoon Royals on Nov. 14 at Rod Hamm Arena.

Pilot Butte Storm

Pilot Butte split their recent northern road swing. On Nov. 7, the Storm edged the Carrot River Outback Thunder 4-3 at Kearns Arena behind goals from Tate Olson, Jaxon Skiftun, Kayden Reeder, and Tyson Nakonechny. The following night, they fell 4-3 in overtime to the Prince Albert Timberjaks despite a pair of goals from Olson and a strong 53-shot performance by the Storm offence.

Upcoming games: The Storm head to Regina to face the Silver Foxes on Nov. 13, then return home to take on the Saskatoon Quakers on Nov. 15.

With several key divisional match ups coming up between Nov. 13-21, teams will be looking to build momentum heading toward the winter stretch of the PJHL season.

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Moe proclaims 'Green and White Day'

Ahead of Riders' playoff clash

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe was joined by a pair of familiar faces at the legislature Thursday morning — Roughriders' president and CEO Craig Reynolds and the team's furry green mascot, Gainer the Gopher — to officially declare Friday, Nov. 7, as 'Green and White Day' across the province.

"It is time to paint the province green and white! Gainer's got his fur brushed up, his jersey ready and he cannot wait to see Rider Nation showing their colours loud and proud," Gainer said according to Craig Reynolds.

The proclamation came as the Saskatchewan Roughriders prepared to host the BC Lions in the CFL's Western Final at Mosaic Stadium in Regina on Saturday, Nov. 8.

"Tomorrow is officially 'Green and White Day' in the province of Saskatchewan," Moe announced, holding up the freshly signed proclamation beside Gainer, who theatrically added his signature in green marker. "We're proclaiming not only the day, but a victory on Saturday as well."

The premier said the declaration is a way for Saskatchewan residents to unite behind the team and celebrate a season that has brought "a lot of excitement and pride" to the province.

"We're encouraging everybody to wear their green and white tomorrow in support of our beloved Roughriders," Moe said. "It's been such an exciting year for the Riders, with so much good news to share."

Among that good news: the team will host the 2027 Grey Cup in Regina, a decision Moe called "a major win for the city and for Saskatchewan fans everywhere." The premier also highlighted new initiatives such as the approval of tailgating at Rider games next season, something he said will "elevate the fan experience



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Rider Day proclaimed

Premier Scott Moe and Riders' mascot Gainer the Gopher officially proclaim Nov. 7 as Green and White Day in Saskatchewan, ahead of the Western Final held in the Queen City over the weekend.

even higher."

With so many fans globally backing the Green Machine, those associated with the team certainly feel the love.

"Rider Nation's support means everything to our players, coaches and staff as we head into the Western Final," Reynolds said. "We are proud to have the Government of Saskatchewan and fans across the province behind us for this 'Green and White Day'."

The premier was quick to credit the organization for its stability and leadership, especially through recent years that have been challenging for many professional sports leagues.

"The CFL is very strong today, thankfully to the leadership of all of the organizations that are part of that league," Moe said. "The spirit of Rider Pride is very strong and Saskatchewan people are

ready to support their team this weekend and certainly support our beloved Rough Riders into next season."

Asked to interpret for Gainer, who remained silent but expressive through the announcement, Moe said the mascot wanted fans to know that "it takes the most beloved mascot in the CFL to bring a little fun to the legislature and remind everyone to cheer for the O&D lines — because that's where the game will be won."

The premier dodged a request for a precise score prediction for Sunday's game, offering only, "We'll have more than them. That's what matters."

Moe confirmed he plans to attend the Grey Cup should the Riders advance to Winnipeg and hinted that another 'Green and White Day' might be declared for the occasion.

He also joked that Gainer might have political aspirations after his trip to the legislature, when asked by Grasslands News.

"He did talk to his MLA," Moe quipped. "He said he might consider running — probably federally. He thinks Ottawa could use a little more Saskatchewan representation, and a great way for him to launch that would be to win the Grey Cup two or three times, bring that to Ottawa and show them what Saskatchewan folks are really made of."

Moe said the Riders' success has had a broad impact beyond the gridiron, boosting morale and strengthening community spirit throughout the province.

"The Roughriders aren't just a football team — they're part of our culture," he said. "They bring people together in small towns and big cities, across generations. When the Riders win, Saskatchewan feels a little brighter."

As the province prepares for Friday's sea of green and white, Moe said he expects Saskatchewan's trademark football passion to be on full display this weekend.

"All 1,250,000 of us come out and show our support for that team, show our support for what we know they can do on the field," he said. "And that's what we're hoping to do this weekend and certainly do a repeat next weekend."

After speaking with the media, Premier Moe and Gainer raised the Roughriders' flag at the Legislature Building in celebration.

The Riders finished the regular season with a 12-6 record, clinching top position in the CFL West. As for that big Western Final matchup, nobody in Riderville had fingernails left after a thrilling contest at Mosaic Stadium, decided in the final 11 seconds of play as the Riders emerged the victor with a stunning 24-21 final.

Saskatchewan will now advance to the 112th Grey Cup in Winnipeg Nov. 16, facing the best team in the East, the Montreal Alouettes.

Local teams hit mid-November stride across prairie hockey leagues

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

The rinks are buzzing across south-east Saskatchewan as community hockey heats up in mid-November, with senior teams from the Prairie Men's, Qu'Appelle Valley, Sask East, and Big 6 leagues battling for early-season momentum. From Fort Qu'Appelle's home-ice win to Wapella's commanding road debut and Lumsden's scoring dominance, fans across the region were treated to fast-paced, physical play that showcased the passion and depth of local talent.

Prairie Men's Hockey League (PMHL)

The Fort Qu'Appelle Valley Warriors picked up their first win of the Prairie Men's Hockey League season with a 4-2 victory over the Strasbourg Maroons on Nov. 8 at home in Fort Qu'Appelle. Hyland Poitras led the Warriors' offence with two goals and an assist, while Quaid Chief and Kian Poitras added singles. Goaltender Jason Taylor stopped 28 shots to secure the win. For Strasbourg, Aiden Erhardt and Tristan McKinnon each scored power-play goals.

In another PMHL matchup on Friday, Nov. 7, the Indian Head Chiefs fell 6-3 to the Cupar Canucks on the road. The Chiefs mounted a strong second period with goals from Mike Reiger, Daulton Perrillat, and Coleman Kaiswatium, but the Canucks' offence proved too much, led by Travis Orr's three-point night (one goal, two assists) and Brayden Frank's pair of goals.

Upcoming PMHL games include the Cupar Canucks visiting the Valley Warriors in Fort Qu'Appelle on Nov. 14, followed by the Indian Head Chiefs hosting the Ituna Avalanche on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Qu'Appelle Valley Hockey League (QVHHL)

The Lumsden Monarchs continue their dominant start, defeating both the Grenfell Spitfires and Balcarres Broncs in decisive fashion. On Friday, Nov. 7, the Monarchs crushed the Spitfires 8-1 in Lumsden, with Jordan Heywood notching two goals and two assists, and Kevin DuFour adding a five-point performance (one goal, four assists). Two nights later, Lumsden rolled past Balcarres 11-2 on the road, led by DuFour's five goals and Jordan Heywood's seven-point night.

Meanwhile, the Raymore Rockets continued their winning ways, defeating the Balgonie Bisons 5-1 on Friday, Nov. 7 behind Tanner Eberle's two-goal performance.

Upcoming QVHHL action includes Grenfell visiting Balcarres and Bethune taking on Raymore on Nov. 14, while Bethune hosts Grenfell and Balgonie faces Southey on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Sask East Hockey League (SEHL)

The Wapella Blackhawks opened their Sask East Hockey League season with a statement, routing the Churchbridge Imperials 6-1 on November 8. Marshall Wilton and Reece Richmond each tallied three points for Wapella, while goalie Matt D'Orazio earned the win in net.

Next up, Wapella will be in Langenburg on Nov. 14 to face the Warriors, followed by a rematch in Churchbridge on Friday, Nov. 21.

Big 6 Hockey League

After dropping their season opener to Carlyle, the Kipling-Windthorst Oil Kings will look to rebound as they host the Wawota Flyers on Nov. 14 at the Kipling Arena, followed by a road game

in Carnduff on Nov. 15.

Upcoming Games (Nov. 13-20)

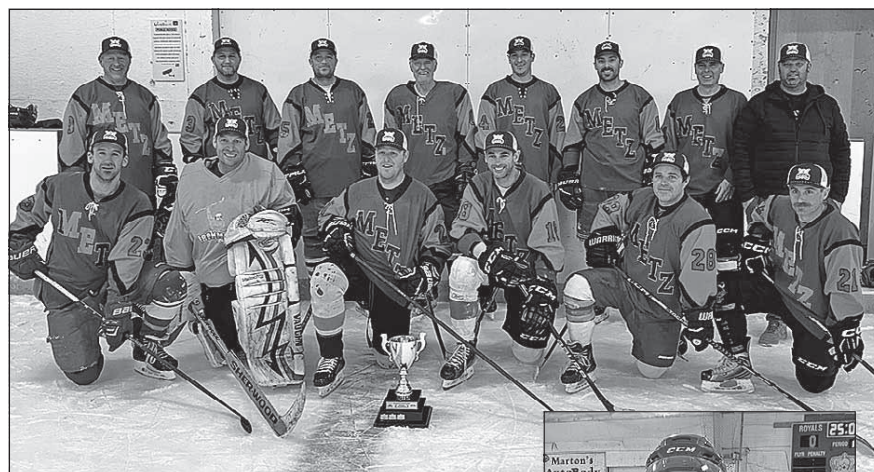
- Friday, Nov. 14: Cupar at Fort Qu'Appelle (PMHL); Wapella at Langenburg (SEHL); Grenfell at Balcarres (QVHHL); Bethune at Raymore (QVHHL); Wawota at Kipling (Big 6).

- Saturday, Nov. 15: Ituna at Indian Head (PMHL); Bethune at Grenfell (QVHHL); Balgonie at Southey (QVHHL);

Kipling at Carnduff (Big 6).

- Friday, Nov. 21: Wapella at Churchbridge (SEHL); Raymore at Lumsden (QVHHL); Balcarres at Southey (QVHHL).

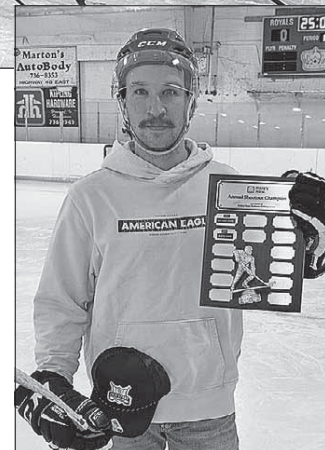
This weekend's action will see several local teams on home ice, giving fans in Fort Qu'Appelle, Balcarres, and Kipling plenty to cheer about as league play heats up across southern Saskatchewan.



Cold Start champions

Although organizer Colby Sproat notes that "for various reasons there might have been a lower attendance" at this year's Cold Start Classic Recreational Hockey Tournament, he says that "We think we did well. We're not certain yet exactly how much was made, but there will be a nice amount that will go into savings for a new arena in the future." The Cold Start Classic Champions this year were the Sparrow Hawks while the Shoot-Out Winner was Jordan Mish (right photo).

SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS



Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

The Saskatchewan Roughriders are going to the big dance.

After not making it to a Grey Cup final since 2013, the Roughriders are headed to Winnipeg to face the Montreal Alouettes for the CFL championship game.

As the folks who watched this game will tell you, beating out the BC Lions was no easy feat.

Kudos to quarterback Trevor Harris for not allowing the moment to get too big for him and the rest of the team, as they had 1:03 left to get a major score, and drove it down the field like it was a walk in the park, culminating with a short pass into a tiny window, where Tommy Nield would score the eventual game winner.

A lot happened in the time between when the Riders got the ball back and the time that Nield's catch would send the Roughriders' faithful into a frenzy, but Harris was as calm, cool and collected as you'd expect a veteran pivot to be.

Harris said he looked at the time situation and thought he had plenty of time, and as it turned out, he was right.

It was never that last drive that surprised me the most about what will go down in the annals of CFL history as one of the greatest playoff contests ever, it was the play that lead up to it.

At a point when the Riders needed their defence to come up big, they did just that, holding the Lions to two two-and-outs and forcing punts.

A lot of teams would have tried to get the first downs, with time running out, but to the credit of Corey Mace, he held firm and let the defence do what they've done all season long.

Harris and the offence took care of the rest.

While the Roughies are on the way to the battle for the biggest prize in the sport, it was certainly a tale of two halves in this contest. Neither team was able to get a lot done offensively in the first half, but both seemed to find enough chinks in the armour of their opponents to move quite easily in the second half, with the Riders coming out of top because of the two huge defensive stands at the end.

At the end of the day, Harris out-dued BC's quarterback, Nathan Rourke, going 26 for 38 for 305 yards and two touchdowns while Rourke's 20 for 30 with a TD and a pick came in a distant second, despite having an extremely good performance of his own.

It was a big game for running back AJ Ouellette and wide receiver Sam Emilus, with the latter catching nine passes for an even 100 yards while Ouellette, a battering ram all season long, had 113 yards on 17 totes.

If the Riders are able to use Ouellette to keep the ball moving and Harris is able to find an open receiver to extend drives, they could make it a long, tough day for the Grey Cup's eastern representatives, the Montreal Alouettes.

The Riders' defence was solid, playing that bend-but-don't-break type of game, and they'll need to be on point against the Als and pivot Davis Alexander, who is unbeaten coming into the final game of 2025.

It's Montreal's second Grey Cup final in three years, and they can't be counted out, even though one might believe that the BC Lions were the biggest test the Green Riders will face in the playoffs.

If it lives up to the hype, it could be a terrific game.

Both teams have a dynamic offence and a stingy defence, so the difference could be execution.

Saskatchewan definitely has the more experienced quarterback, but Harris will have to guard against being too careful.

Against the Lions, there were times when I thought I was watching Cody Fajardo, with all the short passes Harris was attempting.

He'll have to trust his arm and his receivers if he expects to get a ring.

Alexander may be interested in opening things up a little more, but he'll have a short leash, especially if his hamstring begins to act up.

He'll have to complete passes, because it'll be difficult to run a lot versus the Riders.

Anyway, make a plan to get all your shopping done prior to Nov. 16, because if you're part of Rider Nation, you're not going to want to miss a second of it.

With 12 years between Grey Cup appearances, who knows when they'll be in this position again?

Gambling advertising getting out of control

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

Data about cigarettes causing cancer eventually resulted in tobacco advertisements being banned from print and electronic media, but will the data about lives being ruined by gambling addiction eventually force governments to ban the media distribution of gambling ads?

Probably not, because the amount of money involved is enormous and some of the major media outlets in the United States are not only profiting from those advertisements, but they're involved with betting outlets as co-partners.

Ever tried to put the toothpaste back into the tube? That's where the world is at with sports gambling and it's probably going to get worse before it gets better.

(Full disclosure: Your correspondent gambles on sports, in nickel-and-dime fashion, and while a mini addiction has probably developed, my financial stability is not at stake.)

One can't turn on a televised sports event without seeing gambling firms urging fans to bet this, parlay that, take the under - will your favourite team cover a 7.5-point spread? Television networks reportedly collected \$434 million in sportsbook commercials

in 2024. So, as theorized by columnist Colby Hall of Mediate.com, networks aren't covering the rise in problem gambling, which statistically is growing more among young men, "because they're getting paid not to."

When there is huge money involved in anything — millions and billions — organized crime can't be far behind. The recent criminal charges filed against three National Basketball Association figures also involved four New York-based crime families.

If a point guard for a small college in Utah can be guaranteed a mob-related cash payment of a couple of thousand dollars for intentionally going "under" on his posted point total for a game in mid-January, what would stop a pro hoopster from agreeing to do the same for a couple of hundred thousand dollars?

Don't think it's not happening. Toronto Raptors Jontay Porter lost his NBA career after getting a lifetime ban for doing just that; gamblers were informed pre-game that he would bow out of a game, claiming injury, in the first quarter, guaranteeing that his point total would be under a certain number. Those in on the scam laid down big money on Porter's position and

cached in even bigger.

Recently, Portland Trail Blazers coach Chauncy Billups and Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier were implicated in gambling-related endeavours, adding to the ever-growing list of athletes caught up in the idea of making big money the easy, illegal way.

Betting on sports events has long been a common way of life in Europe, but it was generally illegal in North America until the U.S. Supreme Court said in 2018 it would allow states to regulate sports betting. In Canada, betting on sports events has been allowed even longer, as provincial lottery bodies have run Sport Select and other similar games.

Guaranteeing the elimination of criminal activity surrounding sports betting is folly. Bettors are more likely to ask themselves, however, 'am I playing a legitimate game or has the result been predetermined?'

• Super 70s Sports back when O.J. Simpson was a football broadcaster: "Let's go down to the sideline for a report from O.J. who appears to be wearing his murder gloves now, so everybody be careful down there."

• Headline at theonion.com: "NBA Reaffirms Commitment to Gamblers Only Ruining Their Lives Legally"

• Jack Finarelli on his sportscurmudgeon.com site, lamenting the overuse of the phrase 'hostile environment' when referred to a visiting sports team: "A hostile environment is Gaza City in the summer of 2025."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfesen of Vancouver: "I'm not sure about the NHL's Frozen Frenzy (when all 32 teams played on the same night). It sounds like margarita night at an all-inclusive resort in Cancun."

• Columnist Norman Chad: "Somehow, the Dodgers' World Series title has induced Astros fans on X to complain about LA's team payroll. Let's review the Astros' 2017 World Series season: 'We didn't cheat.' 'Well, we cheated but others did too.' 'It didn't help us that much and we would've won anyway.'"

Care to comment?
Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Prairie Men's Hockey League Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

- NOVEMBER:**
 14- Cupar at Valley Warriors (Fort) 7:30
 15- Ituna Avalanche at Indian H. Chiefs 8 pm
 22- Valley Warriors (Fort) at Indian Head Chiefs 8 pm
 28- Ituna Avalanche at Cupar 8 pm
 29- Indian H. Chiefs at Strasbourg 8 pm
 Valley Warriors (Fort) at Cupar 8pm

Fort Knox Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

- NOVEMBER:**
 15- Fort Knox at Regina Caps 7:45
 20- Reg. Silver Foxes at Fort Knox 7:30
 22- Fort Knox at Martensville 7:30
 25- Moosomin at Fort Knox 7:30
 29- Fort Knox at PB Storm 7:45

Pilot Butte Storm Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

- NOVEMBER:**
 13- PB Storm at Silver Foxes 7:45
 15- Quakers at PB Storm 7:45
 19- PB Storm at Royals 8:00
 22- Steelhawks at PB Storm 7:45
 28- PB Storm at Silver Foxes 7:45
 29- Fort Knox at PB Storm 7:45

Wolseley Mustangs Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

- NOVEMBER:**
 14- Emerald Park at Wolseley 8:00
 15- Wolseley at Caronport 8:00
 22- Davidson at Wolseley 8:00
 28- Emerald Park at Wolseley 8:00

Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

- All Games 7 p.m.
 unless otherwise stated
NOVEMBER:
 18- Nipawin at Melville
 21- Melville at Yorkton
 22- Yorkton at Melville
 26- Melville at Warman
 28- Melville at Battlefords 7:30
 29- Melville at Battlefords 7:30

Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M. ST. HENRY'S

- Nov. 4
 Ladies' High Single, Linda Bender, 233. Ladies' High Triple, Angela Morgan, 502. Ladies' High Average Pat Brown, 166.
 Men's High Single, Chris Chevelde, 244. Men's High Triple, Joe Wu, 605. Men's High Average, Ray Kaufman, 201.
 Team High Single and Triple, C.C.J., 1312, 3716.

Team	Pts.
Just 4 Fun	28
CCJ	18
Drifters	18
A Team	8

TUESDAY YBC

- Nov. 4
 Girls High Single and Triple, Amzlee

- Patterson, 134, 328,
 Boys High Single and Triple, Jakob Unterschute, 165, 441.
 Team High Single and Triple, Squishmellows, 839, 2430

Team	Pts.
Squishmellows	20
Bowl Kings	16

THURSDAY YBC

- Nov. 6
 Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 141, 412.
 Boys High Single, Zachary Curylo, 199. Boys High Triple, Braxton Hollinger, 534.

Team	Pts.
Team High Single, Curylo, 786.	
Team High Triple, Hollinger, 2519.	

Team	Pts.
Wurts	22

Curylo	19.5
Hollinger	15
Kohlenberg	15.5

SATURDAY YBC

- Nov. 8
 Girls High Single and Triple, Ashyah Davies, 131, 326.
 Boys High Single, Remi Schneider, 224. Boys High Triple, Aiden Lavergne, 196, 523.
 Team High Single and Triple, The Enders, 929, 2438.

Team	Pts.
The Enders	19
Bravehearts	19
Everything	18
Bowling Superstars	16

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Millionaires split games with Red Wings

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

The SJHL Melville Millionaires played a pair of games last week and while they did earn a road victory, it was followed by yet another home loss.

In 10 home games this season, the Millionaires have managed only three wins and a total of eight points, with only the Battlefords North Stars, Warman Wolverines and LaRonge Ice Wolves earning fewer home ice points.

Injuries have been a huge issue for the Millionaires lately, as a number of players have been sidelined.

Sam Laplante's season came to an end recently, as he required surgery, while Leo Jewitt, Wesley Golden, Devin Winder and Brayden Gourley were all watching from the stands at the latest Millionaires' home game.

Gourley was close to returning to the club with Jewitt possibly returning next week.

Golden and Winder will need a bit more time to heal before they can get back into the starting lineup.

Weyburn Red Wings 5 at

Melville Millionaires 2 (Nov. 8)

The Red Wings scored three times in the first period and added a couple in the third to knock off the Millionaires on their home ice.

The Mills got a first period marker from Kale Margolis, his eighth tally of the campaign, and Rylan Oatman dented the twine in the middle frame for his sixth goal of the season.

Louis Nadeau, Boston Harkness and Preston Baerwald each registered an assist for the home side.

Fuzz Aafedt started in net for the Millionaires and gave up three goals on 14 shots in one period of work before he was lifted in favour of Noah Sinagowitz who made 14 saves on 16 shots through the second and third stanzas.

The Millionaires had 35 shots on Weyburn netminder Nate Stevens.

The Red Wings were the more penalized squad in this contest, getting the gate for eight of 15 minor penalties.

Melville Millionaires 2 at Weyburn Red Wings 1 (OT, Nov. 7)

Aafedt turned aside 32 of the 33 shots he faced in this game and made a huge save in overtime that helped set up Harkness with the game winner, when he took the puck coast to coast and ended the game with a deke. The goal was the sixth of the season for Harkness.

Oatman scored the game's first goal early in the third period and it stood up until 18:01 when the Red Wings tied it to send the game to overtime.

Jackson Lee chipped in with an assist on each goal with Nadeau also picking up a helper.

Melville skaters directed 18 pucks at the Weyburn cage.

The visiting Millionaires were whistled for seven of the contest's 11 minor infractions as well as taking the game's lone misconduct penalty.

The Millionaires hosted the Estevan Bruins on Remembrance Day with their next game being on Tuesday, Nov. 18 when the Nipawin Hawks provide the opposition.

The Yorkton Terriers host the Mills on Nov. 21 with the return match at the CNCC set for Saturday, Nov. 22.

The opening puck drop for home games is at 7 p.m.



DARCY GROSS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Crash the net

Melville Millionaires' forward Preston Baerwald is thwarted on a shot attempt against the Weyburn Red Wings on Saturday, Nov. 8. The Millionaires didn't have much luck around the net that night, as they dropped a 5-2 decision.

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Winter Roping Series returns to Chacachas Nation

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Another season of Breakaway and Team Roping is set to kick off at Chacachas Nation, just 10 miles north of Whitewood on Highway #9, as Oly's Ropings launches its 2025-26 Winter Series. The popular winter event will once again bring together local ropers and fans for a full slate of jackpots running from late fall through early spring.

The action begins Sunday, Nov. 30, with both Breakaway Roping and Open Team Roping on the schedule. Events continue through Dec. 20, Jan. 1, Feb. 7, March 7, and March 28, before wrapping up with the series finals on April 11, 2026. Contestants must attend at least five of the seven jackpots to qualify for prizes and championship buckles.

In the Breakaway division, entries are \$50 each, with competitors allowed up to two entries per rider and results determined on a three-head average. Team ropers will compete in a draw four format at \$200 per entry or \$50 per go, with both divisions offering 75 percent payback based on entries. All participants are required to sign a waiver before riding in the arena.

The winter series provides a consistent opportunity for riders to compete, stay in practice, and enjoy a strong sense of community through the colder months. Each jackpot will feature breakaway roping at 1 p.m., followed by team roping.

The season promises competitive runs, a friendly atmosphere, and the chance for local ropers to showcase their skills while working toward end-of-season prizes.

Grenfell Athletic Association to host event to support local sports

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

The Grenfell Athletic Association will bring the community together on Nov. 21 and 22 with a special event aimed at raising funds and awareness for local sports and recreation programs.

The event will feature a mix of activities for all ages, from family-friendly games and live entertainment to a community supper that is expected to fill the hall with friends, neighbours, and supporters. Raffles, silent auctions, and a 50/50 draw will add to the excitement, helping boost fundraising totals that will go directly toward upgrading equipment.

supporting youth sports teams, and improving recreational facilities in Grenfell.

Organizers say they are anticipating strong community participation, with residents from Grenfell and surrounding communities expected to attend. Organizers say events like this is what small towns are all about—people coming together to keep our programs strong and our kids active.

Funds raised from the event will be used to enhance local sports opportunities, ensuring everything from minor hockey to youth baseball continues to thrive in Grenfell.

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Mustangs' and River Rats' game ends in a tie at home

By Stephen Scriver
Grasslands News

It's been slow going for the Wolseley Mustangs so far this season, as they sit in the middle of the QVJHL standings with a win, a loss and a tie. Their one win came last weekend over the Regina River Rats, when the Mustangs' Kye Englot had scored the winning goal with 29 seconds left in the game. The Rats showed up at the Wolseley Sportsplex on Saturday, Nov. 8 and almost returned the favour, but the game ended in a 4-4 overtime tie.

The Mustangs scored first, Connor Webster converting a goal mouth scramble, and it would be the last time they held the lead, as the River Rats scored three times in three minutes midway through the first, two of them deflecting off Mustangs, giving stopper Terrance Thompson no chance. Thompson otherwise played a solid game between the pipes. The Mustangs narrowed the score to 3-2 on a goal by Tyler Powell before the end of the first 20 minutes.

The second period saw each team score once, the Mustangs goal potted by 16-year-old Cohler Faubert, assists coming from Powell and Captain Jackson Baran on a nifty three-way combination. It was Faubert's first goal in the junior ranks.

Trailing 4-3 going into the third, Tyler Powell scored his second and game-tying goal four minutes into the period, on a long shot that fooled the Regina goalie. The teams played most of the third and a five-minute overtime, that settled nothing but the fact that the Mustangs need to practice that three-on-three puck control game so necessary for overtime play.

Wolseley's offensive play so far this season has been ragged, but the defense-first attitude will keep them competitive until their lines start to gel as players get used to one another. There were only a few rushes throughout that showed effective passing combinations. Goalies Thompson and Muhr have been sound in the net.

Wolseley had four minors to Regina's three. Next home action sees Emerald Park visit the Sportsplex next Friday, Nov. 14.



STEPHEN SCRIVER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

First goal of the game

Connor Webster (#4, right) opened the score for the Wolseley Mustangs on Saturday, Nov. 8 against the Regina River Rats. The game ended in a 4-4 tie.

Broadview RCMP attend numerous calls

Broadview and Moosomin Detachment
Sgt. Damien Grouchy

Reporting period:
Oct. 31 to Nov. 6

Some of the Calls For Service

- **Domestic:** Members were dispatched to a complaint of an assault at a commercial building in Whitewood. Members arrived on scene and learned the male and female had since left the establishment. Members obtained witness statements and made efforts to locate the male. Members continue their investigation.

- **Assault:** Members responded to a report of

an assault at an establishment located in Broadview. Members arrived and learned an intoxicated male got into an altercation with a female. The male was pushing and grabbing the female. Members made patrols for the male as he had since left the scene. Members located the male a few blocks away. The male was subsequently arrested and charged for assault and two counts of failing to comply with his probation order.

- **Breach of Peace:** Members were dispatched to a report at a residence located in Moosomin. Members were told a male at the residence was acting strange, the male was angry, in a state of delusion and demanding money. When members arrived, members spoke with the male in question, he was calm, members had a conversation with the male. No further calls were received.

- **Causing a Disturbance:** Members were dispatched to a parking lot located in Moosomin around midnight. It was reported that approx. 20 youths were playing loud music and causing a disturbance. Members arrived and learned the youths were waiting for rides home. Members did not ob-

serve the youth's causing any issues.

- **False Alarm:** Members received an alarm at a business located on Main Street; members determined it was a false alarm.

- **Mischief:** Members were dispatched to an intoxicated female refusing to leave a residence located in Broadview. Members called the complainant back and were advised the female left and were no longer needed.

- **Mischief:** Members received a call of mischief on Highway 1 near Broadview. The complainant reported while they were traveling on Highway #1, a male who was standing on the side of the highway threw a black heavy object at the complainants vehicle causing minor damage. Members continue their investigation.

- **Impaired:** Members received a 911 call from a motorist traveling on Highway #1 reporting a possible impaired driver and then hung up. No details were given. Members called the complainant back, but they did not answer.

- **Traffic Offence:** Members received a complaint of a van that almost hit some kids who were walking on Cowessess First Nation. The female did not

leave her name or any significant details regarding the incident. Call attempts were made but the female did not answer her phone. Members made patrols for the van but were not successful.

- **Traffic Offence:** Members were dispatched to a complaint of an erratic driver who was all over the road. The complainant advised the vehicle was a Budget Rental cube truck. Members were not able to intercept but passed the information to Indian Head RCMP, they located and stopped the vehicle. The driver was not impaired, they were issued a warning.

- **Impaired:** Members received a report a male who was passed out in a vehicle on the Highway #201, members arrived on scene and the driver advised he had been drinking. Members obtained a breath sample from the roadside screening device. The result was a warning. The driver was issued a roadside suspension.

- **Collision:** Members were called to a deer MVC that occurred on Highway #1 in the RM of Martin. Fortunately, there were no injuries to the lone occupant. The deer however was not as lucky.

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Discover the other Mary Simon live at the QVCA

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

With the chilly winds of November, something in the air sends us looking to discover the comfortable sounds of a music we haven't heard before, to warm us.

With her strong stage presence and rich whisky voice, pop country singer Mary Simon is certainly a talent that will make your heart sing when she performs at the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts on Nov. 22.

Simon, (not to be confused with the Governor-General), is a songwriter and musician originally from Burlington, Ont. where she began singing in a church choir when she was still a teenager.

"I grew up doing a lot of music in the church. I even went to Briercrest in Saskatchewan one sum-

mer, but I left the church when I was 33 years old. I couldn't stand the judgment anymore," she told The Times in a telephone interview.

She started taking voice lessons when she was 17 and learned how to breathe. That she says "changed my life. It made a big difference."

With an undeniable talent to surprise audiences with her emotionally charged lyrics, Simon is the lead vocalist with Mississippi Bends, a backroads country rock and blues band from Hamilton, Ont.

"I've always tried to make a living from my music, but it has been a real tough go."

The way she approaches song writing differs with each recording. She cites Neil Young, Tom Petty and Cheryl Crowe as her musician influences. "Sometimes I work with a co-writer, sometimes I write on my own."

During the Covid epidemic she and a friend moved into a trailer and wrote songs, including her signature tune, *Heart Sing*, with its provocative beat and lyrics.

"It'll make your heart sing, rolling with the ebb and flow we don't have to tippy toe anymore, I don't care what people say, we're going to do it anyway."

Simon has performed on Princess and Carnival Cruise ships and has just returned from playing a festival on an island near Cancun, Mexico.

When she isn't touring she gives voice, piano and guitar lessons in Hamilton and is currently working on a new album.

Mary Simon plays at the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts in Fort Qu'Appelle on Sunday, Nov. 22. Admission is \$25. Doors open at 7 p.m., concert starts at 7:30.



SUBMITTED/ GRASSLANDS NEWS

Concert Nov. 22

Singer Mary Simon is on a Home Roost tour of Saskatchewan.

McDonald's is pouring community support one cup at a time

for Camp Easter Seal set for Dec. 2

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Be sure to stop by McDonald's in Melville or Yorkton on Dec. 2 as a portion of proceeds from every McCafé coffee and soft drink sold are in support of Camp Easter Seal.

McDonald's restaurants in Melville and Yorkton have entered a partnership with the Yorkton Branch of SaskAbilities to raise money for individuals experiencing disability, for the opportunity to attend Camp Easter Seal.

Each summer, more than 600 children, youth, and adults experiencing disability take part in Camp Easter Seal's welcoming and engaging environment designed to build confidence, connection and joy.

Over the years, thousands of individuals have attended camp and made it their home away from home. As the only fully wheelchair accessible overnight camping facility in Saskatchewan, Camp Easter Seal provides a safe, fun, and barrier-free experience for campers to participate in recreational, social, and

personal development activities.

Camp Easter Seal is a truly magical place where campers put their daily challenges aside and just have fun making memories with friends to last a lifetime.

On average, it costs \$2,000 to provide one individual experiencing disability with a life-changing opportunity to attend Camp Easter Seal. Through corporate and individual donations and the efforts of countless volunteers, camps are subsidized, allowing campers to attend free of charge.

Local franchisees, like Vishal Sukhadiya, find partnerships and causes that are meaningful to their guests, crew and neighbours.

"SaskAbilities and Camp Easter Seal make such a big, positive impact on so many families in Saskatchewan and we know how much this organization means to our community. To us, it's a natural partnership," said Sukhadiya.

"We're very excited for our first Coffee Day for Camp Easter Seal this December, where our crew and guests in Yorkton

and Melville will help get more people to camp."

"We are excited to partner with the local McDonald's locations to raise funds for Camp Easter Seal. The funds raised will allow us to continue providing experiences that foster new friendships and create lifetime memories.

We invite everyone to join us on December 2nd in making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals experiencing disability," explains Aleks Hoerber, Regional Director of the Yorkton Branch of SaskAbilities.

On December 2nd, community members are encouraged to stop by participating McDonald's locations in Yorkton and Melville, enjoy their favourite cup of McCafé coffee or a refreshing soft drink, and know that their purchase will make a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of individuals experiencing disability and their families. Pre-orders and delivery will also be available that day.

Participating locations include 290 Prince William Dr, Melville, 94 Broadway St W, 207 Broadway St E and 240 Hamilton Rd, Yorkton.

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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Sunday, Nov. 16:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday, Nov. 17:
7 p.m. Council Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 18: MACC Meets
Thursday, Nov. 20:
5 p.m. MACC Com. Outreach Supper at St. Paul's

-- at Neudorf/Lemberg --

Saturday, Nov. 15:
*7 p.m. Worship at Trinity Lemb with Holy Communion
Sunday, Nov. 16:
*9 a.m. Worship at Christ Neud

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
306-720-0589
*Services Every Second Sunday
Nov. 16: No Service

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

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

Sunday, Nov. 16:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service with Rev. Brian Mee

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER

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

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
Nov. 13: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Nov. 14: 7:00 p.m. Youth Group
Nov. 15: 10 a.m. Men's & Mugs
Nov. 16: 9:15 a.m. Choir
10:30 a.m. Communion Service
Nov. 17: 7:00 p.m. Comm. Choir
Nov. 18: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day
Nov. 20: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102

Sunday, Nov. 16:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Nov. 23:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

MELVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Melville Churches Welcome You

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH

5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001

Sunday, Nov. 16:
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

ST. HENRY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. - Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpcastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, Nov. 16:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Worship Service ~ 10:30 a.m.
Thursdays - Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday Kids Club - 3:30 p.m.

EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY

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

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Tomy Mandapathil
Sunday, Nov. 16
11:00 a.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday, Nov. 16:
10:30 a.m. No Service

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA

Sunday, Nov. 16:
10:00 a.m. Communion

Indian Head Church Welcomes You

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

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



Kipling Churches Welcome You

KIPLING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

417 3rd Street South
Office: 306-736-8268

Sunday Services 10 a.m.
email: pipestoneparish@sasktel.net

KIPLING UNITED CHURCH

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

KIPLING PEOPLE'S CHURCH

701 3rd Street - 306-736-8992
Website: kiplingpeopleschurch.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, Nov. 16:
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.

BEKEVAR

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

PARKLAND BIBLE CHURCH

309 3rd St. South, Kipling
306-736-2421
parklandagc@sasktel.net
Pastor Stephen Luff
Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday: 10 a.m. Mom's Group

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH

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

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
202 Bay Ave. S.,
Phone - 306-551-6213
Hall Contact - 306-563-7451

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

194 Bay St., Fort Qu'Appelle
Rev. Jo Mader, 306-332-4455
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CLASSIFIEDS



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

Obituary Mervin Peter Buddick Oct. 20, 1960 - Feb. 4, 2023



His family are heartbroken to learn that our dear brother and uncle, Mervin Peter Buddick, of Neudorf, SK, passed away Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at 63 years of age. Mervin was the sixth child born to Steve and Christina Buddick.

He had three brothers: Raymond (deceased), Larry Buddick (Carol) of Winnipeg, Vincent Buddick of Nanoose Bay, BC. He had three sisters: Christine (Bob) Scott of Calgary. He was predeceased by Shirley Montgomery of Carman, MB, and Beverly Buddick of Winnipeg. His three older sisters took on a motherly role to young Mervin, supporting and helping him throughout his adult life, often housing him when he was homeless.

Also mourning his passing are two nieces: Debb Roeke (Colin) of Calgary, Star Courtoreille (Justin) of Grand Prairie, AB, and two nephews: Gordon Montgomery (Korea), and Jamie Montgomery (Brandon, MB).

Mervin was raised in a strong Catholic family, attending Mass every Sunday. He was a charming, sweet and kind boy who loved animals, especially his pet cat Muffin.

A near-fatal car accident in his youth left Mervin with devastating facial deformation, a severe brain injury and mental illness. In 2007, after an aunt's inheritance, he bought a home in Neudorf, where he resided until his passing.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mervin's memory may be made to the Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan.

For Sale

FOR SALE – First rate treadmill, paid \$1,400, asking \$600; Rotary Foredom Flexshaft tool, paid \$400, asking \$175. Both in good working order. Phone 306-760-1945, Melville. M24-2p

Laundromat for Sale

BROADWAY Laundromat for Sale in Fort Qu'Appelle. \$195,000. Call or text, 306-501-7078.

For Rent

FOR RENT – 1- and 2-bedroom apartments in Squire's Court, Melville. Appliances included. Phone Steve at 306-730-7242. M23-6p

FOR RENT – 2 bedroom apartment in Melville. Equipped with fridge, stove, AC, off-suite storage, plug-in parking and free laundry. 306-260-7447 for inquiries. M8/tfnc

Janitor Wanted

JANITOR WANTED at Broadway Laundromat in Fort Qu'Appelle. Evening cleanup. Call or text, 306-501-7078. F13-4p

\$ Paying Cash \$

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

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Town of Balgonie
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT BYLAW NO. 482/2025
Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Balgonie intends to adopt a Bylaw, under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, to amend Bylaw No. 374/2014, known as the Zoning Bylaw.
INTENT:
The proposed Bylaw will:
• Simplify the definition for corner site;
• Add a definition for irregularly-shaped (non-rectangular) lots; and
• Add considerations for reducing yard setbacks on irregularly-shaped lots.
REASON FOR THE AMENDMENT:
The proposed amendment will provide clarification in Bylaw regulations and accommodate a proposed residence on an existing residential site.
PUBLIC INSPECTION:
Any person may inspect the Bylaw at the Town of Balgonie Municipal Office Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost at the Town Office.
PUBLIC HEARING:
Council will hold a public hearing to receive submissions on the proposed Bylaw on December 15, 2025 at 7 p.m. at the Town of Balgonie Council Chambers. Council will also consider written submissions received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing. For further information, please contact the Town Office at 306-771-2284.
Issued at the Town of Balgonie this November 14, 2025.
Karen Craigie, Administrator

Memoriam



In loving memory of our Dad
Elmer Wassill

Oct. 4, 1927 - Nov. 16, 2000
Man is mortal, but the love for them is immortal. Though you are not present here with all of us, your memory is stored in our mind.
-Leonard, Dennis and Michelle

Card of Thanks

The family of the late Edna Brock wish to extend their sincere thanks to everyone for cards, messages, food, flowers, visits and the many offers of assistance.

Thanks to Margaret-Anne Yost for conducting at the visitation and Deacon Kevin Prouten for conducting at the funeral service and interment. Thanks also to Brenda Lee Cottrell for the music and beautiful solo; readers Dorothy Sagan and Judith Silverthorne; Kristyn, Lauren, Nicole and Lance for their tributes to their Grandma; pallbearers, Richard, Edward, Jack, Rob, Brian and Aldon; and St. Paul's Lutheran Church ladies for providing and serving at the lunch; donations to charities; and to Matthews Funeral Home for the arrangements and for their understanding and kindness at this most difficult time.
-Jim, Lloyd and Val Schmidt and family.

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(based on 25 words or less)

Obituary Deadline Tuesdays 12 Noon



1 week: \$15.00 • 2 weeks: \$20.00 • 3 weeks: \$25.00 • 4 weeks: \$30.00
Additional weeks: \$7.50 • Deadline: Tuesdays at 12 noon

1-844-GNG-NEWS

Local teachers secure innovation funding for new classroom projects

By Chris Ashfield

Grasslands News

The provincial government has announced nearly \$1.4 million in new funding for 37 teacher-led projects through Saskatchewan's Teacher Innovation and Support Fund (TISF) — and several schools in the Melville, Whitewood, and Broadview area are among the recipients.

The Good Spirit School

Division's Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) will receive \$47,230 for its project titled "Crafting Connections: The MCS Reconciliation and Building Community Initiative."

The initiative focuses on blending technology and reconciliation education, helping students use digital tools and creative projects to explore relationships, history, and shared community learning.

In the Prairie Valley School Division, two schools in the region were also successful in their applications. Whitewood School will receive \$50,000 for "Supporting Student Well-Being Through a Dedicated Sensory Space," a project that aims to create a calm, inclusive environment where students can regulate emotions and focus on learning.

Similarly, Broadview School secured \$30,000 for "Our Sensory Room: Nurturing Minds & Emotions," which will provide resources and equipment designed to improve student mental health and engagement in the classroom.

Education Minister Everett Hindley said the fund continues to highlight the creativity and

leadership of Saskatchewan teachers.

"These approved projects represent the best kind of ideas our teachers bring to their classrooms to enhance learning," he said. "We're proud to support them and the students who benefit from these innovative approaches."

Established in 2024, the TISF allows teachers to apply for up to \$75,000 in funding for projects that promote innovation, well-being, reconciliation, or technology-based learning.

Since its launch, 136 projects province-wide have received funding totalling nearly \$2.5 million.

The three local projects — in Melville, Whitewood, and Broadview — are part of that growing network of teacher-driven initiatives helping Saskatchewan classrooms evolve through creativity, culture, and student-focused support.

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All section 23-20-10-W2

Approximately 775 cultivated Acres, use of granaries negotiable.

Prospective bidders must rely on their own research of property to determine acreage, condition, improvements and assessments.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Please submit a certified cheque for \$2,500.00 with tender, payable to Lewans & Ford in Trust and in a clearly marked envelope "BARNSELY RENT TENDER".

Tenders will close Friday November 21st, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Forward Tenders to:

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Ph.: 306-642-4520 – Fax: 306-642-5777

Office@lewansford.ca



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The successful candidate will have:

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- experience with word processing, excel spreadsheets and accounting and tax software.
- a high level of motivation and the willingness to work overtime hours when required.
- a positive attitude of success and the ability to interact and communicate with others.

Please send your resume in confidence to:

Prairie Strong

Chartered Professional Accountants

Attention: B.M. Van Caesele, Managing Partner

Box 1660 Melville, Sk. S0A 2P0

email: bmvancaesele@prairiestrong.ca

Apply by November 14th.

Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

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TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST VILLAGE OF LEBRET

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

Description of Property	Title No.	Total Arrears*	Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
LOT 9-BLK/PAR Y-PLAN 93R35180 EXT 0	106512229	\$7,039.99	\$448.00	\$7,487.99
LOT 7-BLK/PAR Y-PLAN 93R35180 EXT 0	131335613	\$2,475.00	\$392.00	\$2,867.00
LOT 4-BLK/PAR Y-PLAN 93R35180 EXT 0	130446008	\$2,952.52	\$448.00	\$3,400.52
LOT 11-BLK/PAR B-PLAN 83R23421 EXT 0	152920155	\$2,842.31	\$448.00	\$3,290.31

*On January 1, 2026 the 2025 taxes will become arrears and be added to the amount required to remove the property from tax enforcement proceedings. Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.

Dated this 5th day of November, 2025

Ronda Heisler, Acting Administrator

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TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

VILLAGE OF KENDAL PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	TITLE NO.	TOTAL ARREARS*	COSTS	TOTAL ARREARS AND COSTS
LOT 1-BLK/PAR 2-PLAN FX4863 EXT 0	153003057	\$1,239.02	\$451.00	\$1,690.02
LOT 2-BLK/PAR 2-PLAN FX4863 EXT 0	153003068			
LOT 3-BLK/PAR 2-PLAN FX4863 EXT 0	153003079			
LOT 8-BLK/PAR 4-PLAN BI3796 EXT 0	155445431	\$1,077.18	\$451.00	\$1,528.18
LOT 9-BLK/PAR 4-PLAN BI3796 EXT 0	155445442			
LOT 10-BLK/PAR 4-PLAN BI3796 EXT 0	155445453			
LOT 11-BLK/PAR 4-PLAN BI3796 EXT 0	155445464			
LOT 20-BLK/PAR 4-PLAN BI3796 EXT 0	156451383	\$2,434.63	\$451.00	\$2,885.63
LOT 21-BLK/PAR 4-PLAN BI3796 EXT 0	156451361			
LOT 22-BLK/PAR 4-PLAN BI3796 EXT 0	156451350			
LOT 12-BLK/PAR 7-PLAN BI3796 EXT 0	144040902	\$1,635.69	\$451.00	\$2,086.69
LOT 19-BLK/PAR 7-PLAN BI3796 EXT 0	141564887	\$3,087.57	\$451.00	\$3,538.57
LOT 20-BLK/PAR 7-PLAN BI3796 EXT 7	141564898			
LOT 24-BLK/PAR 7-PLAN 101319858 EXT 6	141564865			

* On January 1, 2026 the 2025 taxes will become arrears and be added to the amount required to remove the property from tax enforcement proceedings. Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2025.

Leticia Gould, Administrator

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

Village of Fenwood Province of Saskatchewan

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before January 14, 2026, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

Description of Property	Title Number	Total Arrears*	Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
LOT 9-BLK/PAR 5-PLAN T932 EXT 8	136240185	\$1,093.26	\$442.00	\$1,535.26
LOT 10-BLK/PAR 5-PLAN T932 EXT 0	136240231			
LOT 1-BLK/PAR 8-PLAN T932 EXT 0	150026105	\$962.68	\$442.00	\$1,404.68
LOT 2-BLK/PAR 8-PLAN T932 EXT 0	150026138			
LOT 3-BLK/PAR 8-PLAN T932 EXT 0	150026149			
LOT 4-BLK/PAR 8-PLAN T932 EXT 0	150026150			
LOT 5-BLK/PAR 8-PLAN T932 EXT 0	150026161			
LOT 6-BLK/PAR 8-PLAN T932 EXT 0	150026183			
LOT 9-BLK/PAR 8-PLAN T932 EXT 0	150047063	\$111.43	\$381.00	\$492.43
LOT 10-BLK/PAR 8-PLAN T932 EXT 0	150047096			
LOT 11-BLK/PAR 8-PLAN T932 EXT 0	150047221	\$111.43	\$381.00	\$492.43
LOT 12-BLK/PAR 8-PLAN T932 EXT 0	150047232			
BLK/PAR 15-PLAN 101713250 EXT 19	158787938	\$1,174.24	\$442.00	\$1,616.24
LOT A-BLK/PAR 13-PLAN CF2155 EXT 0	150047108	\$881.36	\$381.00	\$1,262.36

* On January 1, 2026 the 2025 taxes will become arrears and be added to the amount required to remove the property from tax enforcement proceedings. Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2025.

Angela Dobson, Administrator

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

TOWN OF QU'APPELLE, PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of the *Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

Assessment #	Lot	Block	Plan	Title #	Arrears	Advertising	Total Arrears
505114800-01	2	155	OLD83	140496655	\$12,043.33	\$34.00	\$12,077.33
	3			140496699			
	4			140496712			
	5			140496745			
505074600-01	7	135	OLD83	137077746	\$10,654.09	\$24.00	\$10,678.09
	8			137077757			
	9			137077768			
505048750-01	15	123	OLD83	107978956	\$9,236.09	\$16.00	\$9,252.09
	16			107978978			
505122900-01	7	163	OLD83	154271257	\$9,071.70	\$24.00	\$9,095.70
	8			154271291			
	9			154271268			
505125450-01	19	164	Old83	142175651	\$8,449.29	\$24.00	\$8,473.29
	20			142175673			
	44			142175628			
505112850-01	1	154	OLD83	153870105	\$5,386.26	\$16.00	\$5,402.26
	2			153870138			
505060250-01	23	132	OLD83	139420324	\$5,704.10	\$40.00	\$5,744.10
	24			134778741			
	25			134778774			
	26			134778796			
	27			134778819			
505071250-01	C	133	FK4383	140481862	\$5,321.31	\$8.00	\$5,329.31
505141150-01		ALL 191	OLD83	153209066	\$1,343.59	\$8.00	\$1,351.59
505117800-01	44	156	101324696	155882661	\$3,913.98	\$24.00	\$3,937.98
	46			155882672			
	48			155882706			
505118550-01	4	157	76R10289	139973798	\$3,753.99	\$8.00	\$3,761.99
505114750-01	1	155	OLD83	144654082	\$1,709.58	\$8.00	\$1,717.58

Dated this November 4, 2025.

Angela Robertson, Administrator

Canada Post outlines transformation plan

Commits to protecting rural and small-town service

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Canada Post has submitted a major transformation plan to the federal government outlining how it intends to modernize operations, cut costs, and ensure long-term financial sustainability — while pledging to maintain vital postal services in rural and small-town communities like those across southeast Saskatchewan.

The plan was delivered Friday to Joël Lightbound, Canada's Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement. It follows new federal direction issued in late September that lifted long-standing barriers to reform and ordered the Crown corporation to find solutions to meet modern demands and avoid becoming a financial burden on taxpayers.

Among the proposed measures are the contin-

ued conversion of remaining door-to-door delivery to community mailboxes, modernization of post office networks, adjustments to delivery standards for letter mail, and reductions in administrative overhead.

Canada Post President and CEO Doug Ettinger said the plan is designed to help the postal service adapt to a rapidly changing economy driven by digital communication and e-commerce.

"The comprehensive plan we have submitted responds to our challenges and modernizes the postal service to support today's economy while serving all Canadians," Ettinger said. "Canadians deserve a postal service that is strong, stable and focused on meeting their changing needs."

The company emphasized that the plan includes safeguards to maintain accessibility for rural, remote, and Indig-

enous communities — a key concern for towns and villages where the local post office remains a central hub.

Once the federal government reviews and endorses the proposal, Canada Post says it will share details publicly with customers, employees, and communities.

The corporation's renewal strategy is guided by five principles: maintaining reliable and affordable service, proceeding thoughtfully, treating employees with respect, keeping Canadians informed, and remaining flexible to evolving needs.

For smaller communities, the coming months may determine how these commitments translate into practical changes — particularly for rural mail delivery and the future of local post offices that continue to anchor many main streets across Saskatchewan.

Bail hearing adjourned in shooting death

By Ryan Kiiedrowski
Grasslands News

Chris Fahlman will be spending a little more time behind bars as his bail hearing has been adjourned. Appearing via video in Regina Provincial Court on Nov. 6, the 42-year-old learned that his

matter would be set over to Nov. 14, allowing his defence lawyer more time to prepare. While Fahlman's lawyer Sharon Fox did receive a brief disclosure on Nov. 6, she noted it "created more questions than answers," and that the defence was not ready to proceed at the time.

Fahlman is facing charges of manslaughter with a firearm, careless use of a firearm, carrying a weapon for the purpose of committing an offence, and occupying a motor vehicle knowing there is a firearm inside.

Those charges stem from the Sept. 12 shooting death of Tanya Myers, 44, of Weyburn while she was the passenger of a vehicle driven by her friend, Andrea Morrice.

The 46-year-old said she and Myers were on their way home to Weyburn after spending the day at

a psychic fair in Regina. With only a few miles left in their journey along Highway 39 around 8 p.m., the black SUV Morrice was driving was fired upon.

First responders tried to revive Myers, but she was pronounced deceased moments after their arrival, despite lifesaving efforts.

After seven weeks of investigation, Fahlman was arrested Nov. 1 in Regina, appearing in Provincial Court a few times over the following week.

Fahlman is known to many throughout southern Saskatchewan as a home inspector with a business based out of Qu'Appelle. After news of his arrest broke on Nov. 2, the Saskatchewan REALTORS® Association was quick to confirm they had severed ties with Fahlman.

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27th Annual Holiday Train skirts area this year

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Between Nov. 19 and Dec. 21, the Holiday Train tours North America in an effort to raise money, food, and awareness in support of food banks across the continents. Professional musicians perform concerts free of charge at stops along the way and CPKC makes donations at each community.

For locals, the 2025 edition might mean a little bit of a road trip. The Canadian train crosses the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border on Dec. 6, pulling into Bredenbury around 10:30 a.m. The Holiday Train continues to Yorkton, arriving just after noon, then up to Foam Lake around 3 p.m. Performers on this train are slated to be Jade Eagleson and Teigen Gayse.

However, if you happen to be busy on Dec. 6, the American train will be stopping in Regina on Dec. 20 for a 6 p.m. show featuring Lanco and Tiera Kennedy.

“The holiday train is without a doubt highly requested and highly anticipated, and every year we try to reach as many communities as possible,” said Terry Cunha, Media Relations Officer with CPKC. “Throughout the year with the numerous requests we receive from community members, we try to visit as many as possible and that’s why



IMAGE COURTESY CPKC | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Tradition on the tracks

The CPKC Holiday Train is traveling through Saskatchewan soon. Local stops include Bredenbury on Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m., Yorkton just after 12 p.m. and then Foam Lake at 3 p.m.

people will see that our stops do vary from year to year.”

Since the Holiday Train began in 1999, over \$26 million has been raised and around 5.4 million pounds of food donated.

When asked about his favourite part of riding the rails with the Holiday Train, Cunha noted it’s the stops along the way; visiting the various communities and helping the local food banks.

“I’m very fortunate to

have the opportunity to see and visit new communities which each year that passes by,” he told Grasslands News. “It’s just the opportunity to see the excitement from

the community members who are in attendance. It’s a great opportunity to celebrate the season with your friends, neighbours and colleagues.”

Of those 196 total stops,

14 locations are in Saskatchewan this year.

“Be sure to tell your friends, and don’t forget to bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank!” Cunha said.

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Remembrance Day 2025

Services held at both Kipling and Kennedy Langbank Schools

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

Students, staff and members of the community gathered at both Kipling and Kennedy Langbank Schools last Friday for the annual Remembrance Day Service.

Veteran Allen Hourd shared his thoughts on the sacrifices made by those who have served in Canada's Armed Forces both "in times of declared war and in times where war was trying to be avoided."

"Henry David Thureau once wrote 'The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it,'" said Hourd. "Canada exchanged a great deal of life to ensure that the world and the country remained free. Since 1867, 111,249 Canadians have died protecting the world or Canada itself."

Hourd went on to point out that Canadians in the military have served from the prairies to the east coast within Can-

ada. They have served in the sands of the middle east and Africa, the jungles of the far east, the plains and rolling hills of Europe, and the snows of the arctic" and observed that "So many never returned home again. These are the people we are here today to remember. We remember them so that what they have done for us in the past might help us strive for peace in the future. We remember them and talk about them to ensure that their sacrifice for us is not forgotten by those who come after us."

Those gathered at the service also heard three soldier's stories.

Dawson Shoemaker shared the story of Corporal Frederick George Topham, "a fearless Canadian soldier who would serve in WWII and save the lives of injured soldiers by putting his own life at risk" and was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery and selflessness.

Rein Porol explained that, "Every year on Remembrance Day, my family honours my great grandfather, Bruce Ward,

and his service in WW2." She went on to observe that, "My great grandpa enlisted to provide for his future family. He suffered from emotional and mental trauma after the war, now known as PTSD, but he still remained full of love, laughter, and life after everything he experienced at the end of WWII. He raised a family and lived every day with gratitude, reminding us that even after all that we've been through, we need to be thankful for what we have and always look forward to what we can create."

Nigella Logrono recounted the story of Leo Major, "an honorable soldier that used his bravery to play a crucial role in WWII and the Korean war" who "was known as the only Canadian to win the Distinguished Conduct Medal of two separate wars."

During the service, students in Grades 1-3 sang *Light a Candle for Peace* while the Grades 4-5 students recited *In Flanders Fields* and Sophie Cowan shared her original poem entitled *The Silence at Eleven* in which she observes that:

*A mother's tear, a soldier's prayer,
An empty chair still waiting there.
So, we wear this poppy, to remember the lost,
To honor peace, to mark the cost.
The soldiers fought in wind and rain,
With courage that pushed past the pain.
And here we stand, hearts bowed and true,
For the peace they dreamed, for me and you.*

Because Kennedy no longer has an active Legion, the Remembrance Day Service at Kennedy Langbank School also served as the service for residents in that area.

"The people in Kennedy, Langbank and area appreciate the service" says teacher Denise Singleton. "So, we had a great crowd attending again this year."

Teaching empathy is extremely difficult. But Singleton says that senior students at KLS shared a project during the service which offered them a way to try and understand something of what those living through the two World Wars might have experienced.

"The Grades 6, 7, and 8 students did original compositions that were read out during the service. The students got together in small groups to write these compositions, which were personal narratives written from the point of view of soldiers, a nurse, and a child whose father had gone off to war. I'm sure that writing those compositions and reading them out gave students some insight into what the experiences of these people might have been like.

Singleton went on to say that the younger students also had the opportunity to understand a bit more about the sacrifices made by those who have served and say that some of the youngest shared their pride in having the opportunity to remember those sacrifices.

"Students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 read an excellent poem which had won the Canadian Legion Literary Contest entitled *Where My Hero Lies*. It was truly a remarkable poem and one that left everyone with much to think about. And our youngest students sang a song by Lisa Gillam called *It's Remembrance Day*. The song was about wearing a poppy to show we're thankful to be free to learn, sing and play. I really think that the song helped those very young students understand a bit about the significance of Remembrance Day. Some of them told me that they were so excited to be wearing their first poppy. There was no way you could keep tears from coming to your eyes when you hear that."



CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

A poem of Remembrance

Kipling School student Sophie Cowan shares an original poem during the Remembrance Day Service held at Kipling School last Friday.



CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Recitation

Kennedy Langbank School Grades 3/4/5 students Luke Berglund, Jake Gallinger, Marshall Gallinger & Jayden Ludick take part in reciting the poem *Where My Hero Lies*.

The Clipper

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