

Standing Buffalo water treatment plant opens



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Ribbon cutting
Standing Buffalo Chief Rodger Redman helps little warrior Chekiyapi Redman cut the ceremonial ribbon held by junior princess Violet Redman (left) and senior princess Neveah Yuzicappi (right) to inaugurate the Dakota Nation's new water treatment plant.

Resort Village of Fort San turns deaf ear to proposed PCTC rehab centre

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

The Resort Village of Fort San has denied a request from representatives of the Calling Lakes Wellness Centre to appear before the next meeting of council to make their case for opening a rehabilitation centre in the former Prairie Christian Training Centre.

Legal counsel for the village has advised the wellness centre that council “sees no particular benefit” to hear from a delegation until “ongoing and persistent building code and bylaw contraventions are addressed and remedied.”

The village has issued a stop work permit on the property. It says that the development permit granted in 2023 has expired and that the Wellness Centre never applied for an extension or for a new permit to complete the work. And in documents obtained by Grass-

lands News, the village is considering its “legal options” against consultant Stephen Low for making what it claims were “wilfully inaccurate statements” to the Fort Qu'Appelle Times and for hiring staff “notwithstanding the fact that the property does not have an occupancy permit.”

Mayor Jack Huntington would neither confirm nor deny the findings and a gag order has been imposed on councillors which prevents them from expressing an opinion. However, sources close to the Calling Lakes Wellness Centre say the village has exceeded its authority by making threats against a private company engaged in providing rehabilitation services by suggesting that it cannot hire its own staff to do so.

In an e-mail, legal counsel for the resort village, Lauren Wihak denies making such a threat. “The issue, as it has

- SEE NECESSARY PERMIT, 12

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

After enduring boil water advisories for decades on Standing Buffalo Dakota First Nation a new state of the art water treatment plant opened on the reserve last Saturday, Nov. 29.

The \$13.6 million facility financed by the federal government features two new water wells and a biological filtration system designed to provide clean and reliable drinking water to residents on the reserve west of Fort Qu'Appelle. The method treats contaminated water by filtration then uses a system of reverse osmosis to further purify the water.

“Clean water strengthens our sovereignty and protects our people. This facility reflects our commitment to building healthy, long-lasting infrastructure guided by our own values and long-term community vision,” Chief Rodger Redman told the crowd of dignitaries who gathered in a heated tent for the event. “We will continue to advance projects like this that honour our responsibil-

ity to future generations and support a stronger, more self-determined nation.”

A statement from Buckley Belanger, Canada's Secretary of State for rural development, and the province's only Liberal Member of Parliament said Ottawa was pleased to support a project the provides infrastructure that lasts. “When families can trust the water coming out of their taps it supports everything else – health, learning, local jobs and a strong future for kids and grandkids.”

Cheri Moreau, the federal governments associate regional director general, Saskatchewan's Environment Minister Travis Keisig, who is MLA for the riding, Jacqueline Roy, the NDP member for Regina Northeast, David Pratt, the vice-chief of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations and Fort Qu'Appelle Mayor Brian Strong were among the guests invited to the opening.

The engineering and construction companies that worked on the project donated \$5,000 to the Tatanka Najin School Children's Christmas fund.

The new treatment plant replaces an obsolete facility built in the 1950s.

Cram the Cruiser a success

3rd annual event sees 55% rise in donations

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

The Grinch may think that Christmas is “stupid, stupid, stupid,” but deep down in his grumpy green heart he wouldn't want to see anyone to go hungry.

The Grinch turned up at the Prairie Co-op in Fort Qu'Appelle last Friday to help Staff. Sgt. Drew Wagner cram the Royal Canadian Mounted Police cruiser with a \$20 ready to go hunger bag. The third annual campaign exceeded expectations and collected 55 per cent more bags than it did last year.

“We got 436 bags, a way lot more than last year,” said Food Banks manager Sheila Hala. “The contents are pretty much all the same, - soup, cereal, pasta and pasta sauce and some baby food. We are so grateful for any and all donations. They will go a long way in our efforts to fill the food hampers we hope help to reduce food insecurity.”

The food hampers, which will be distributed

on December 15, won't include bacon, eggs or milk as they did last year. Instead, recipients will receive a \$25 gift certificate to buy a ham, turkey or other provisions they may wish to choose.

Toys for the children will be given out on the 9th of December and a Christmas Dinner will be held at the Friendship Centre on the 18th of De-

cember. Registration for the food hampers ends on Friday, Dec. 5th.

According to the most recent Poverty Report Card about one in four residents of Saskatchewan don't get enough to eat, one of the worst rates in the country. Food banks provide short term relief but don't provide a long-term solution to the problem.



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A helpful Grinch
Even the Grinch helped Cram the RCMP Cruiser with his donation of a hunger bag to Staff/Sgt. Drew Wagner.



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Childcare agreement extended, operators remain skeptical

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan and the federal government have reached a long-awaited agreement to extend the Canada-wide child-care program, ending months of uncertainty that child-care operators say pushed the sector to the brink and left families anxious about their futures.

The announcement came Thursday, Nov. 27 with Saskatchewan Education Minister Everett Hindley and federal officials confirming a five-year extension to the Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement beginning in 2026-27. A separate bilateral agreement and infrastructure funding were also extended.

While the government touted the deal as “a better, long-term agreement” for families and operators, the path to the announcement was marked by political acrimony and deep concern among child-care providers.

During question period earlier in the week, NDP Childcare and Early Learning critic Joan Pratchler pressed the government on delays, arguing families and operators had been left twisting in the wind as Saskatchewan became “the second-last province” to sign on.

“Child-care makes life more affordable, and it’s good for the economy,” Pratchler said in the legislature. “There was so much anxiety and worry for families. Centres have nearly closed. We desper-

ately need more child-care spaces, and we have child-care deserts everywhere.”

She demanded the minister apologize for what she called months of chaos.

Hindley rejected that characterization, saying he would “not stand and apologize for negotiating a better deal on behalf of every single family in this province.”

Outside the chamber, however, child-care operators said the uncertainty was real – and growing.

Cara Werner, director of Dream Big Child Care in Rocanville and advocacy lead for the Southeast Saskatchewan Directors Association, spoke with reporters at the Legislative Building. She said centres are still waiting to understand how the new agreement will stabilize a sector she describes as stretched to its limits.

“I’ll believe it when I see it,” Werner said. “We’re still looking at the same problems that we were looking at before. It’s still creating chaos, it’s still creating problems for the sector. And then we don’t have the emergency funding that we need. We’re looking at potential closures across the sector already if they don’t get this emergency funding because of the system that we have in place right now. So, there’s still a lot of work that needs to be done.”

Werner said many centres are operating on earmarked grants – funding restricted to specific

uses such as maintenance or outdoor play spaces – rather than support that covers day-to-day operations.

“Centres could potentially close because they can’t afford operating costs, with money in the bank from grants that are earmarked for something else,” she said.

Frozen parent fees and stagnant operating funding have compounded the problem. Under the province’s current model, families pay \$217.50 per month, with government funding covering the rest – based on 2021 rates.

“We’ve seen a ton of inflation since then,” Werner said. “No adjustments have been made. That’s causing problems in people being able to afford to keep their doors open and affording operating costs. We need an equitable funding model. I would love to see an official wage grid so that our EC wages aren’t running off of grants; that there’s something official, there’s some structure there, there’s some stability.”

Werner said the stakes are high for small communities like Rocanville, where parents routinely face two- to three-year wait lists. That shortage affects local growth and economic development.

“We see people that are wanting to move into the area, phoning our centre and asking for spaces,” she said. “And we have to tell them, ‘I’m sorry, but we have a two, three-year waiting list’. So, we’re seeing it already.”

Federal minister Patty



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Lions support Sunshine Learning

The Fort Qu’Appelle and District Lions Club and individual club members have raised \$3,477.50 for the Sunshine Learning and Day Care Centre. Proceeds from a fundraising spaghetti dinner on Nov. 17 attended by more than 200 people contributed \$1,765.63 to the endeavor. The 50-50 brought in another \$585, and the winner of the draw Dwayne Simmons turned over his share of the draw to the cause. Lion Alvin Matechuk who owns Matty’s Motor Sales chipped in \$541.87. Together, the school was given almost \$3,500. The director of the learning centre, Elaine Altiga said she was grateful for the donations and that the money will go to programming for the 73 children who are enrolled in the kindergarten classes.

Hajdu framed the extension as both an economic and social investment, saying reliable child-care “helps families earn more and helps the whole province stay competitive.”

Lower fees, Hajdu said, have already saved Saskatchewan families thousands of dollars.

Hindley said the province has created thousands of new spaces

since 2021 and remains committed to expanding the system. He said the renegotiated agreement will reflect “the flexibility of Saskatchewan’s child-care landscape” and better support operators across the province.

Details of the renewed agreement – including funding formulas, wage measures and any changes for for-profit

operators – were not released Thursday and are expected to be outlined in full in the coming days.

For now, parents across Saskatchewan remain on lengthy waiting lists, educators are bracing for the unknown, and the province’s child-care sector is hoping the long-delayed deal brings the stability it has been seeking for years.

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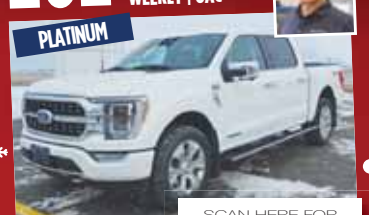
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Mosaic invests \$4M in education

Churchbridge, Esterhazy big winners

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The Mosaic Company is making a major push to strengthen Saskatchewan’s future mining workforce, announcing a \$4 million investment aimed at supporting rural, Indigenous, and youth training programs that feed into the province’s potash sector.

The funding has a primary focus on its world-class facility near Esterhazy and was announced Dec. 2 at Mosaic Stadium before provincial ministers, educators and industry representatives, and will support new and expanded trades training at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Suncrest College and the Good Spirit School Division. Mosaic will also relaunch a targeted program to prepare Indigenous learners for entry-level mining roles at its Esterhazy operations.

Bruce Bodine, Mosaic’s president and chief executive officer, said the investment is designed to ‘mine local talent’ as industry projections show an urgent need for skilled workers in the coming decade.

“Mosaic is pleased to invest \$4 million to grow our future workforce,” Bodine told attendees. “Our investment will strengthen our talent pipeline by mining local talent in the communities where we operate and provide opportunities for rural and Indigenous students to grow their careers.”

Mosaic employs roughly 2,000 direct staff and another 800 contractors in Saskatchewan, producing more than nine million tonnes of potash annually between its Esterhazy and Colonsay facilities. Bodine said retirements, competition for skilled trades and a growing critical minerals sector are tightening the labour market.

“We have a very proud history here in Saskatchewan,” Bodine said, pointing to the over six decades of presence in the province. “As many know, our sector supports thousands of jobs and contributes hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes

and royalties each and every year. Those funds help build critical schools, hospitals, provide public services, and improve roadways across the province. Mosaic is committed to Saskatchewan, and we want to make sure Canada’s potash industry remains strong and competitive into the future.”

A Saskatchewan Mining Association forecast estimates the provincial sector will need about 15,000 additional workers over the next decade. Additionally, a recent Deloitte labour market report warns that shortages are likely to continue, driven in part by population movements and an aging workforce. Bodine said those trends pose a significant challenge in high-demand trades such as mining technicians, underground equipment operators and millwrights.

“These are the very roles that keep our operations running day in and day out,” he said. “Without them, we cannot make the potash the world needs to feed a growing population.”

The single largest portion of funding — \$1.5 million — will support enhanced trades training at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Upgrades include new equipment and improvements to the Industrial Mechanic workshop at the Joseph A. Remai Saskatoon Campus and trades facilities at the Moose Jaw campus.

Sask Polytech president and CEO Dr. Larry Rosia said the investment will improve training conditions for students preparing for roles as industrial mechanics, welders, electricians and instrumentation technicians. In recognition, the Industrial Mechanics shop in Saskatoon will be re-named the Mosaic Industrial Mechanics Workshop.

“Mosaic’s contribution will have a lasting impact,” Rosia said. “Our programs prepare students for diverse careers that power Saskatchewan’s vital mining in-



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Four million reason to smile

The Mosaic Company announced \$4 million in funding for local education facilities last week. Seen here (from left) are Sask Polytech President and CEO, Dr. Larry Rosia; Suncrest College President and CEO, Alison Dubreuil; Mosaic President and CEO, Bruce Bodine; Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Career Training, Jim Reiter; and Good Spirit School Division Director of Education and CEO, Quintin Robertson.

dustry—roles like industrial mechanics, instrumentation technicians, welders and electricians. In recognition of Mosaic’s generous \$1.5 million gift, the Industrial Mechanics shop in Saskatoon will be re-named the Mosaic Industrial Mechanics Workshop, with additional recognition in the skilled trades area at our Moose Jaw Campus. This contribution will have a lasting impact on Sask Polytech and will ensure future trades graduates are well prepared to become our province’s mining workforce.”

Another \$1.5 million will go to Suncrest College in Esterhazy to expand training capacity and modernize its trades spaces, including state-of-the-art lab equipment and technology for the Industrial Mechanic (Millwright) Apprenticeship program.

Suncrest president and CEO Alison Dubreuil said the investment aligns naturally with the college’s location in “the heart of Mosaic’s mining operations.”

“This investment enhances our ability to attract top Industrial Mechanic talent by delivering high-quality, apprenticeship-level training that aligns with industry needs,” she said. “Our partnership is deeply rooted in the local community and will support Mosaic’s world-class potash facility while driving economic growth across rural Saskatchewan.”

She also noted the symbiosis between the close communities.

“It’s a great pathway for students in rural Saskatchewan to be able to get this education at home is phenomenal,” Dubreuil told Grasslands News. “We know that our learners thrive when they study close to home. So having this partnership with Good Spirit School Division as well, and we’ve had a partnership for a number of years with Good Spirit, be able to ladder students from the Church Bridge programming to Esterhazy campus and out

- SEE MOSAIC, 5





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Snowplows get the spotlight as province urges safer winter driving

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

In anticipation of winter weather settling in across Saskatchewan, the provincial government used the opening week of Canadian Western Agribition to launch its annual winter safety campaign, urging drivers to check road conditions and show patience around snowplows.

Standing in front of a shiny plow truck on display in the Machinery Mall, Highways Minister David Marit said the message is simple: “The right call beats a close call.”

Taking a minute to check the Highway Hotline app before travelling can prevent dangerous situations on highways where conditions can change within minutes.

“The Highway Hotline has various features to help you make an informed decision on your winter travels, whether it’s road condition information, cameras, or Track My Plow,” Marit said. “Remember to check the Highway Hotline early and often to help you make an informed decision before you travel.”

The campaign includes new online ads and a video that will play in Saskatchewan theatres ahead of movies throughout the winter season. The ads emphasize waiting for plows to pull over before passing, as operators typically move aside every 10 to 15 kilometres to allow traffic through.

The ministry’s information system has also expanded, with two additional Highway Hotline camera

sites added near Rush Lake on the Trans-Canada Highway and near Stoughton on Highway 13. More than 50 camera locations now allow drivers to visually assess highway conditions before travelling. The Hotline can be accessed through a free mobile app, online map or by calling 511.

“It really helps the public to be informed of what the conditions are like,” Marit told Grasslands News. “Everything we’re trying to do is for the safety of the driving public.”

The emphasis on safety was underscored by equipment operator Danika Potié of Big River, who shared her experience of a near-collision while clearing Highway 55 four years ago.

During whiteout conditions, Potié said she noticed a loaded log truck approaching from behind, travelling too fast to slow down in time. She attempted to accelerate to avoid being rear-ended but was struck moments later.

“The front of his truck hit the rear of my truck and actually dented the truck that I drive today,” she said. “Every day when I walk by the truck, I see that



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Keeping roads safe
Equipment operator Danika Potié is seating in one of the many snowplows keeping Saskatchewan roads clear.

dent. Luckily, his truck did not force my truck into the ditch, and we managed to slow our trucks down in time to pull over in a safe place.”

Both Potié and the other driver were able to walk away from the incident unharmed, albeit shaken from the experience.

“We checked on each other, and everyone was okay in the end,” Potié said. “No one was injured, but the semi sustained enough damage that it had to be towed, and the load of logs transferred.”

Potié said the crash was caused in part by the “snow zone” — the mini blizzard created by plows as they clear snow and ice. Another unsafe practice is attempting to pass a plow on the right-hand side, which is quite dangerous considering that is where snow and ice from the highway is being moved into the ditch.

“We may not see somebody behind us right away or on our right-hand side when you’re passing, we might not notice you right off the hop,” she said. “So just remember that the more space you give, the better it is, because then we’re not going to slide in or hit somebody by accident. If you can’t see, you’re too close. Don’t crowd the plow.”

Passing in unsafe areas is another frequent problem, she said, noting drivers often attempt to overtake plows on hills, curves, and even at intersections.

Potié, who has operated plows for 12 of her 14 years with the Ministry of Highways, said operators call in road updates throughout the day, feeding information directly into the Highway Hotline.

Marit said Saskatchewan’s long winters make early reminders crucial.

“We’re just getting into it,” he said. “We’ve had fog. We’ve had snow in different parts of the province. Our economy moves on the road system, and we need to make sure it’s safe.”

He added that many drivers only see plows during storms, unaware that operators often miss

holidays and family time to keep highways open.

“I have the greatest respect for our employees,” Marit said. “They’re out there when the weather is at its worst, not when it’s good.”

Potié echoed that sentiment, saying operators want the same thing as everyone else on the road.

“We want to get home at the end of the night to our families and friends,” she said. “If people give us the room we need, everyone should make it home.”

The province’s winter safety information, including videos demonstrating the snow zone, is available online.

As emcee James Thorsteinson, MLA for Cut Knife-Turtleford, reminded those in attendance, winter driving comes down to preparation and patience.

“Download the app, check the roads, and when you’re driving on the highway, give snowplows the room they deserve,” he said. “Our weather can change in a heartbeat.”

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Mosaic donates \$4 million for education in Sask.

- continued from page 3

the doors and hopefully to Mosaics operations.”

The Good Spirit School Division will receive \$1.05 million to build a new Practical and Applied Arts lab at Churchbridge High School. The facility will double the program’s current capacity and help fast-track students entering trades pathways after graduation.

Quintin Robertson, the division’s director of education and CEO, said the funding will benefit students across Churchbridge, Langenburg and Esterhazy — communities closely tied to Saskatchewan’s potash industry.

“At the Good Spirit School Division, we believe in creating bright futures, and investments like this help make that possible,” Robertson said in his remarks. “Mosaic’s commitment will expand programming, upgrade equipment, and support instructors, giving students from the Churchbridge, Langenburg, and Esterhazy areas the skills they need for rewarding careers. This partnership puts students first by bringing high-quality learning opportunities to our communities.”

Robertson said Mosaic has long been more than an employer in the region, describing the company as a partner intertwined with the economic and cultural fabric of rural east-central Saskatchewan.

Mosaic will also revive its Potash Mining Readiness Program in February 2026, in partnership with Morris Interactive. The initiative, first launched in 2022, supports Indigenous learners preparing for entry-level operations roles at the company’s Esterhazy site. The refreshed curriculum is part of Mosaic’s broader commitment to reconciliation and workforce inclusion.

The event opened with a land acknowledgement and recognition of partnerships with Indigenous nations, which Mosaic’s local public affairs director, Marnell Jones, said is integral to how the company approaches development and training.

Deputy Premier and Immigration and Career Training Minister Jim Reiter, speaking on behalf of the provincial government, said Mosaic’s investment complements the province’s labour market strategy and long-term economic goals.

“These investments will help ensure

Saskatchewan remains one of the top mining jurisdictions in the world,” Reiter said. He called Mosaic’s commitment an example of strong collaboration between employers and training institutions.

Reiter noted that helping residents access opportunities close to home — especially in rural communities — is a key focus for the province.

“The funding that’s being provided to Saskatchewan Polytech, Suncrest College, Good Spirit School Division, and into the Mosaic Potash Mining Readiness Program will also help to meet the growing demand for skilled trades workers across this great province. These investments will allow local residents to stay in their communities while they advance in their careers. They’ll provide young people with a chance to explore new opportunities and take advantage of the quality jobs being created by our strong and growing economy. These commitments are also examples of the amazing collaboration and partnership that occurs between training providers and employers in Saskatchewan,” he said

Esterhazy Councillor Maggie Rowland was in attendance for the announcement, highlighting the importance of receiving such advanced training close to home.

“It’s good for Esterhazy, it’s good for the whole surrounding area,” she said. “It’s going to hopefully keep our people in Esterhazy. If they don’t have to go away to get their education, then it’s quite possible they’ll just stay.”

Building on Rowland’s response, Esterhazy CAO Tammy MacDonald emphasized the long term relationship with Mosaic, which began in 1962.

“A lot of students and youth in our area, their parents are miners, so they know mining,” she said. “They know what the lifestyle is, they know what it takes to do the job, and now they can get their education at home, stay at home, and become second and third generation miners.”

Secondary and tertiary industries related to mining will also benefit as well.

“The supporting contract workers that work in mine as well, the more opportunities they can have to grow those supporting trades as well is huge for the region as a whole,” MacDonald said.

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Town of Kipling

Council Meetings: The second Monday of each month. Town Council Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. All Council Meetings are open to the public.

EMAIL CONSENT FORM

WITH THE MAIL STRIKE THE TOWN OF KIPLING OFFICE HAS AN EMAIL CONSENT FORM FOR TAXES, UTILITIES, ASSESSMENT NOTICES, RECEIPTS, AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER ON MAKING PAYMENTS TO THE TOWN OF KIPLING

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE:

*ONLINE – THE CORNERSTONE CREDIT UNION & THE TD BANK – BILL PAYMENTS *TELPAY

*AT THE TOWN OFFICE, 301 6TH AVENUE BY CASH, CHEQUE, DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD

*NEW E-TRANSFER ADDRESS - TRANSFER TO etransfers@townofkipling.ca. PLEASE INCLUDE THE FIRST AND LAST NAME OF THE ACCOUNT YOU ARE PAYING, CIVIC ADDRESS AND WHAT THE PAYMENT IS FOR (EXAMPLES: WATER, PROPERTY TAXES, SWIMMING LESSONS, POOL PASSES, ETC.).

2025 TAXES

THE TOWN OF KIPLING TAXES ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 31, 2025 TO AVOID INTEREST CHARGES.

COMPOTE SITE- CLOSED

THERE HAS BEEN METAL, APPLIANCES AND GARBAGE DUMPED AT THE SITE; IT IS FOR COMPOST ONLY.

MUNICIPAL BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

HAVE YOU EVER DREAMT OF BECOMING A MUNICIPAL BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER? DO YOU HAVE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT SKILLS, AND ARE ORGANIZED? THE TOWN OF KIPLING HAS RECEIVED A TRAINING GRANT WITH THE TARGETED SECTOR SUPPORT FUND FOR ONLINE MUNICIPAL BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING. CALL OR STOP INTO THE TOWN OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

HANDY VAN

THE HANDY VAN IS DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR MORE DRIVERS AND THE TIME COMMITMENT CAN BE ONCE A MONTH TO TWICE A WEEK! CALL THE TOWN OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST.

LEISURE SERVICES

FRIENDLY REMINDER ALL LEISURE FACILITIES MUST BE BOOKED WITH THE OFFICE AT 1-306-736-2515 GOING FORWARD.

WINTER WALKING - WINTER WALKING IS TAKING PLACE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 7 A.M. TO 1 P.M. BRING YOU INSIDE SHOES, HEADPHONES AND WALK OUT YOUR FRUSTRATIONS! THIS IS OPEN FOR ALL AGES!

CONTACT US:

Town Office: 306-736-2515

Email: info@townofkipling.ca

Leisure Services Department: 306-736-8440

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed over lunch.

STICK AND PUCK AT THE ARENA - CHECK THE TOWN FOR KIPLING WEBSITE FOR THE CALENDAR FOR STICK AND PUCK TIMES.

PUBLIC SKATING TIMES - CHECK THE TOWN FOR KIPLING WEBSITE FOR THE ALL TIMES!

FACILITY PASSES FOR THE SKATING - NEW THIS YEAR, THERE IS A FAMILY FACILITY SKATING PASS FOR \$100.00 PER FAMILY OR \$50.00 FOR ONE.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

DO YOU HAVE A COMMUNITY EVENT COMING UP? CONTACT THE TOWN OF KIPLING OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT 306-736-2515 OR EMAIL info@townofkipling.ca

KIPLING AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB- PARADE OF LIGHTS - THE KIPLING AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB PARADE OF LIGHTS IS ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH, 2025 STARTING A 6:00 P.M.

KIPLING FOOD BANK DRIVE - THE KIPLING FOOD BANK DRIVE IS TAKING PLACE BEFORE THE PARADE ON DECEMBER 7TH, 2025 FROM 2 P.M. TO 4 P.M. LISTEN FOR THE FIRE TRUCKS. THE TOWN OFFICE WILL HAVE A BIN FOR DONATIONS OF FOOD DROP-OFFS FOR THE MONTHS OF MID OF NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER.

KIPLING LIBRARY- SANTA’S COMING TO TOWN, SUNDAY DECEMBER 7, 2025 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. WITH FREE PICTURES WITH SANTA.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB- THURSDAY IS CARD GAMES, AND FRIDAY THE THRIFT STORE IS OPEN.

HOLIDAY FAIR- IS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AND THE KIPLING SCHOOL ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29TH, 2025 FROM 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M. COME ON DOWN AND GET A START ON YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

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LOCATED 4 MILES SOUTH ON THE 605 GRID. CONTACT FOR SITE HOURS. PHONE: 306-736-8494

EMAIL: REDCOATWASTE@SASKTEL.NET WEB: WWW.REDCOATWASTE.CA

DID YOU KNOW:

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR EVENTS OR UPDATES, PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT THE TOWN OF KIPLING WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.



www.townofkipling.ca



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.”

Sask’s debt curve is bending the wrong way

Saskatchewan is spending nearly a billion dollars this year on interest charges alone — and if that number doesn’t stop you in your tracks, it should.

A new report from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation lays out, in stark detail, what many economists and financial analysts have been warning for years: the province’s debt load is growing at an unsustainable pace, and the bill is coming due for Saskatchewan families, communities, and future generations.

This isn’t a political talking point. It’s math.

Since 2017, Saskatchewan’s provincial debt has ballooned from about \$10 billion to an estimated \$23.9 billion. That’s a 136 per cent increase — without a major natural disaster, resource crash, or global economic meltdown to explain the growth. This is not a crisis thrust upon us. It is one created by choices.

Even more troubling is the cost of carrying that debt. Nearly \$878 million will be paid this year in interest alone. That is money that will never build a road, support a classroom, upgrade a hospital, or reduce taxes. It will never return value to Saskatchewan people. It is simply gone — paid to lenders because we are overspending.

To put that in perspective: Saskatchewan will spend more on interest payments than it does on multiple government ministries combined. Every resident’s share of those annual interest costs now sits around \$695. Families are already feeling the strain from inflation and high borrowing costs; adding government debt interest to the household burden only tightens the squeeze.

And yet, despite this troubling trajectory, the province has no plan to reduce the debt. In fact, the CTF report shows that Saskatchewan is projecting another 22 per cent increase over the next five years, pushing total debt above \$35 billion by 2029-30.

It is one thing to acknowledge periods when borrowing is necessary — for infrastructure, for emergencies, or to sustain essential services in tough cycles. Saskatchewan people understand those realities. But it is quite another to borrow aggressively during stable years with no accompanying plan to reverse course.

Debt is not abstract. It is not something “the government” pays. It is something we pay — through higher taxes, reduced services, or missed opportunities. Every dollar lost to interest is a dollar that cannot support rural healthcare, local policing, or education in growing communities. It is a dollar not invested in economic diversification, innovation, or affordability.

A government that spends more than it brings in cannot indefinitely promise both low taxes and high-quality services. Eventually, something breaks. The CTF report warns, bluntly, that the current path erodes Saskatchewan’s long-term financial resilience and limits our ability to respond to future crises.

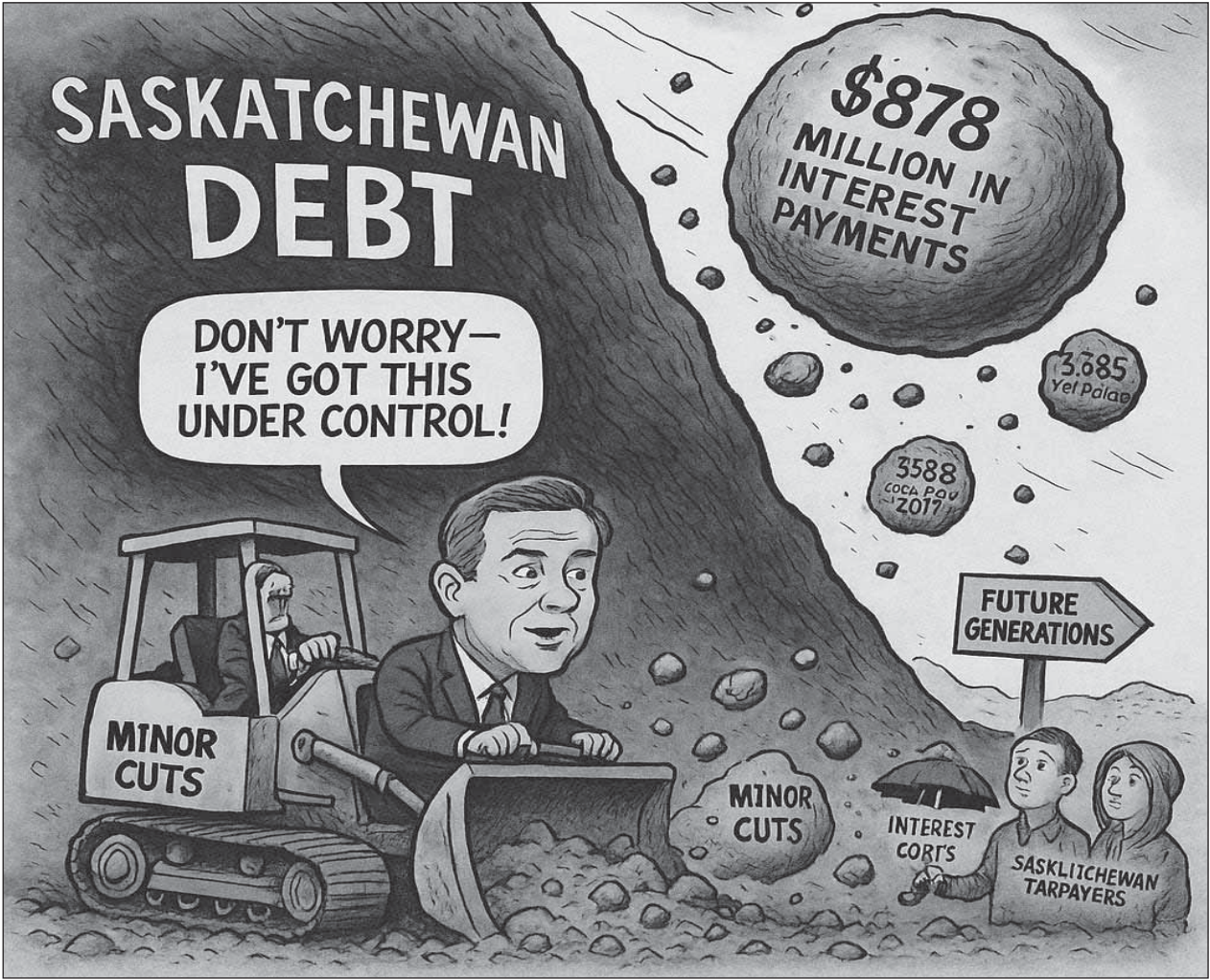
Saskatchewan people deserve a government that treats their money with the seriousness it deserves. That means finding savings, setting priorities, and charting a responsible path to balance — not simply pushing the payments onto the next generation.

Debt doesn’t disappear. It compounds.

And right now, Saskatchewan’s debt is compounding faster than the political will to address it.

If the province does not change course soon, taxpayers will feel the consequences long after today’s politicians have moved on. It’s time for a plan — a real one — before this “mountain of debt” becomes impossible to climb.

- Chris Ashfield, GNG



Namaste...right here on the floor

I’ve come to the stark realization lately that I am indeed not nearly as bendy as I once was. While some folks are as flexible as a willow branch, my skeletal confines allow about as much give as a 2x4.

One of those century-old 2x4s that you find proudly bearing the weight of an ancient house. Maybe that’s an analogy too close to home!

Granted, I have nobody else to blame but myself. I used to keep a half-decent exercise routine, prompted each morning with a good 20 minutes or so of yoga. Initially, I got into this stretching practice after a back injury eons ago when I figured lifting something heavy all-arms-and-no-legs would be a smart idea.

Yeah. There were audible noises from the spinal area that would make Stephen King cringe.

For several years, I made the morning ritual of stretching a thing, then I got into cycling a few years back, which was another big uptick to the old health and fitness regime. For a time, I was in the best shape of my life!

Alas, as with so many well-intentioned health nuts, I fell off the wagon. Not quickly, it was one of those slow-motion free-falls like you see in the movies, complete with a

protracted Wilhelm scream. There just seemed to be so many better things to occupy my time than movement.

Now, there’s a belly that hides the view of my feet, and when I bend over to tie the shoes en-casing those extremities, a series of snap, crackle, and pops emit — which were once noises the breakfast cereal made instead. The washing machine even shrunk all my clothes — how rude!

I’ve vowed to return to the yoga routine this morning, small steps back onto this path of health. The results of the first round readily showed the condition of this inflexibility.

My sun salutation was more of a half-hearted high-five. My downward dog was downright dismal. Child pose? Heck, I couldn’t make it much past the table-top pose. Savasana was on point, though, so gold star for that one!

Admittedly, there was a moment of ‘how did it get this bad?’ But there is no sense in wallowing in this lament. No, what was uncovered is the starting point. I know tomorrow will see all those stretches and poses come a little bit easier, stronger, and fluid. As long as there is forward momentum — no matter how incre-

mental — the improvements will come.

Re-framing a mindset is a large part of the battle, so I vow to relish in the small victories and embrace the current out-of-practice state. Besides, it can — and will — be changed.

- Ryan Kiedrowski, GNG

Your opinions are welcome!

Grasslands News encourages and accepts opinion pieces from our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor. Topics can be about local, provincial or federal topics that relate to or have an affect our local communities.

To submit a letter, email it to:
editor@gngnews.ca.

grasslands
NEWS | PRINTING



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Province unveils major overhaul to municipal laws

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan’s municipal rules are in for a significant update. Last week, Government Relations Minister Eric Schmalz introduced a sweeping package of legislative amendments designed to modernize the way local governments operate — changes the province says will strengthen transparency, improve governance, and cut down on outdated red tape.

The new legislation, titled The Municipalities Modernization and Red Tape Reduction Act, proposes updates to The Cities Act, The Municipalities Act, and The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010. Schmalz said the reforms are necessary to keep pace with the expectations of

today’s ratepayers and the growing workload of local councils.

“Saskatchewan residents rely on the services provided by municipal governments every day,” Schmalz said. “It is vital that we review and update provincial legislation so it evolves with the expectations of ratepayers and the responsibilities of mayors, reeves and councils. Thank you to all residents and municipal representatives who provided their feedback as we continue modernizing our legislation.”

The Bill outlines several notable shifts that will affect municipalities large and small across the province:

- **Greater public access to municipal information:** Starting in 2027, all municipalities will be

required to post meeting minutes, bylaws, and financial statements on a public website. To help Saskatchewan residents gain easier access in the meantime, the provincial government will begin publishing municipal financial statements on Saskatchewan.ca beginning in January 2026.

- **Stronger support for council members:** Municipalities will be required to provide orientation training after each general election. The goal, officials say, is to ensure elected officials—many often new to public roles—have the knowledge and resources they need to govern confidently and effectively.
- **Cutting outdated red tape:** A number of procedural and administrative changes are aimed at improving efficiency and fairness. These in-

clude streamlining property assessment appeals, providing municipalities with better tools to deal with dangerous animals and illegal dumping, and simplifying how rural municipalities can levy taxes by replacing special service areas with a more straightforward taxation model.

The Bill also eliminates duplicate forms for newly elected councillors and removes unnecessary reporting requirements to the province.

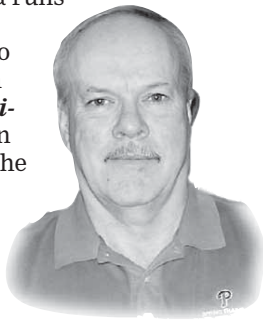
The Ministry of Government Relations launched public consultations in 2024, engaging municipal leaders, administrators, and residents. Feedback gathered during that process shaped the amendments being introduced today.

If passed, most of the changes would take effect immediately. The ministry says it will continue working with municipalities to roll out supporting regulations and to provide education and technical guidance.

Gene Hauta It’s a Strange World

Chilukuri Paramathama runs a pharmacy in Nalgonda, Telangana, India. He was so concerned over medication errors stemming from *terrible doctor handwriting* on prescriptions that, in 2014, he filed a Public Interest Petition in the High Court in Hyderabad arguing that hand-written prescriptions should be banned.

Not much progress has been made in the 11 years, so he posts particularly bad examples online, where they have often gone viral. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has finally taken up the cause, ruling that “legible medical prescription is a fundamental right.” My source stresses that the ruling was from a criminal case, not due to Paramathama’s petition, because the judge could not read a doctor’s report for the case, “as not even a word or a letter was legible,” wrote Justice Jasgurpreet Singh Puri in his decision. “At a time when technology and computers are easily accessible, it is shocking that government doctors are still writing prescriptions by hand which cannot be read by anybody except perhaps some chemists.” Thanks to This is True for this!



A high-speed *crash on Calgary’s Deerfoot Trail* has left police and residents stunned after officers uncovered a suitcase filled with \$1.5 million in cash from the wreckage. The bright-yellow Lamborghini Huracán was travelling at extreme speed before losing control and slamming into a concrete barrier near the Peigan Trail interchange. Miraculously, the 34-year-old driver from Edmonton sustained only minor injuries. Investigating the scene, a Calgary Police Service (CPS) sergeant noticed a heavy, fire-resistant suitcase partially buried beneath debris. When officers pried it open, they discovered *stacks of Canadian hundred-dollar bills* bundled with elastic bands. The driver provided inconsistent explanations about the source of the money, claiming first that it belonged to a “business associate” and later that he had been “paid to deliver it.” The investigation continues because he was up to no good.

John Dewar & Sons makes a great 12-year-old Scotch, but the supply might be a little tougher to find this year after an incident at one of their Glasgow distilleries. A mechanical fault *“mis-routed” 12-year-old reserve into a factory drainage system*, along with waste water and rainwater. Reports estimate the flush was the equivalent of more than 5,000 bottles of whiskey (worth about US \$269,300). Dewars’ parent company, Bacardi, says there was no environmental impact from the incident, as all of that waste would be treated and purified before being returned to the environment. The company insists that no whisky was discharged into the River Clyde and there has been no safety or environmental impact. “And yet,” remarked Mike Straw, “there are a lot of people bottling River Clyde water now.”

Take a Chance: Police in Fullerton, Calif., report that an officer pulled a driver over for running a stop sign. In addition to the requested license, registration, and insurance information, the driver handed over a *Get Out of Jail Free “Chance” card* from a Monopoly game. The officer “had a good laugh”, but that wasn’t enough to avoid a citation.

A palliative care nurse at a hospital in Germany has been handed a life sentence, convicted for the *murder of 10 patients* and the attempted murder of 27 more. Between December 2023 and May 2024, the man injected mostly older patients at a hospital with lethal doses of painkillers or sedatives, including morphine and midazolam, to ease his workload during busy night shifts! Prosecutors accused the man, who was arrested in 2024, of playing “master of life and death” over patients in his care.

Derek Huffman, 46, of Texas, was so disgusted at how “woke” American society was becoming, he moved his wife and children to Russia. To “earn his place” in Russia, he vowed to “put my body on the line for Russia ... our new country,” and joined the Russian Army as a repair battalion welder, which would also expedite the family’s citizenship. He was told he would not be going straight to the front lines to fight Ukraine. He did get three weeks of training, in infantry combat, not repair. *He was headed to the front lines*, and never even got his signing bonus. He did get a paycheque, but was required to “donate” to pay for his own supplies. Nearly 1 million Russian soldiers have been killed or injured in the country’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Randy Cassingham reminds us that in 1950s America, the sentiment was “Better dead than red.” In 2020s America: “Better red than woke.”

Keep reading...

12th Annual

TIS THE SEASON
CHRISTMAS CRAFT,
TRADE AND BAKE SALE

Sunday, December 7th, 2025

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

CN Community Center
Melville, Sask.

ADMISSION \$2

Santa Photos
Tons of Raffle Prizes
Proceeds go to Magic Moments
Playchool

Plan a safe ride home

Submitted
Grasslands News

The holiday season is here, a time to reconnect with family and friends and a chance to enjoy quality time with those who matter most.

But do you know how you’ll make it home safe? SGI’s December Traffic Safety Spotlight comes with a list of safe ride options (and we checked it twice)!

“The holiday season brings plenty of reasons to gather and celebrate, and many of us will be attending fun, festive events,” said Kwei Quaye, Vice President of Traffic Safety. “As you make your plans, remember to choose a safe ride home—let’s all do our part to keep the roads safe for everyone.”

In 2024, impaired driving was a factor in 583 collisions, 350 injuries and 45 deaths in Saskatchewan. It’s more important than ever to use one of the many safe ride options available:

- Designate a sober driver or volunteer to be one.
- Call a sober friend or family member.
- Catch a cab, use a designated driving service, or order a ride-share.
- Use public transit.
- Stay the night.

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One in four Sask. residents now without a family doctor

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan’s health-care system is facing a breaking point, with a new Angus Reid survey revealing that more than 300,000 residents — one in four people in the province — do not have a family doctor. The figure places Saskatchewan at the bottom of the national pack among major provinces and paints a grim picture of a system unable to meet even basic patient needs.

The survey exposes widespread difficulty accessing care across the province: 57 per cent of

respondents said they struggle to receive emergency treatment, while 56 per cent reported that getting an appointment with a specialist is either very difficult or impossible.

The crisis worsened over the weekend when Regina’s Community Gardens Health Centre abruptly closed due to a physician shortage, leaving roughly 5,000 patients without primary-care access. The Saskatchewan NDP says it repeatedly urged Premier Scott Moe and Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill to take action to prevent the shutdown — warnings the party says were ignored.

The NDP argues the situation is the direct result of years of declining capacity under the Sask. Party’s leadership. Deputy Shadow Health Minister Keith Jorgenson said the numbers confirm what many already experience daily: a health system unable to keep up with demand and a government without a meaningful plan to stabilize it.

The fallout is being felt in critical areas such as cancer care. Saskatchewan led the country in negative responses regarding oncology services, with 44 per cent of residents saying cancer patients receive “not very

good” or “terrible” care.

Women’s health is also being hit hard. According to the NDP, missed breast-cancer screenings, pap tests, biopsies and pelvic-pain assessments are becoming increasingly common as patients struggle to access family physicians and gynecologists. Many women are unaware

of updated cancer-screening protocols, something critics say reflects inadequate public communication from the province.

NDP Shadow Health Minister Meara Conway accused the government of failing to understand or respond to the severity of the situation, saying the administration is “igno-

rant to the chaos on the frontlines” and more focused on deflecting criticism than addressing root problems.

The Saskatchewan NDP says it will continue consulting residents on what it calls “big, bold” reforms through its YourCareYourSay.ca initiative.



CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Piece by piece
Progress continues on the demolition of the Parrish & Heimbecker elevator in Langbank. The elevator, originally built as a Cargill elevator in the late 1970s was closed in 2018 when it was determined that a structural failure inside the building was irreparable.



MELVILLE
S A S K A T C H E W A N

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Public Notice

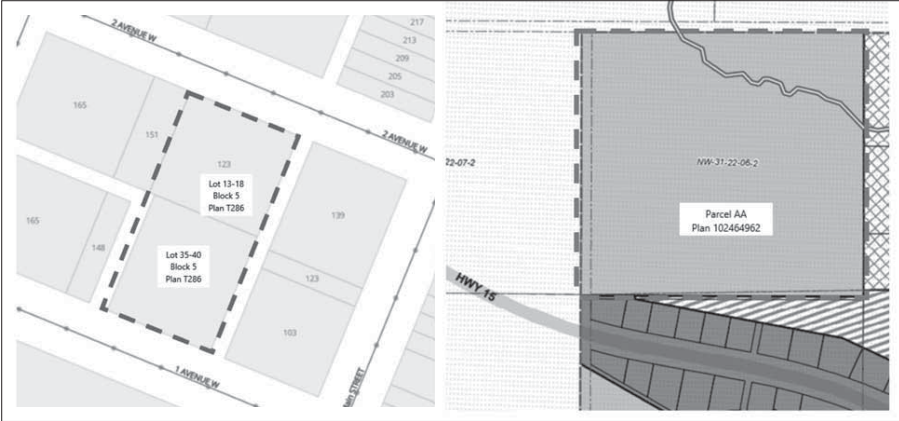
PUBLIC NOTICE Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Melville intends to adopt a bylaw under The Planning and Development Act, 2007 to amend Bylaw No. 4-2013, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT: The proposed bylaw no. 10-2025 will,

- include special provisions for **secondary, garden and garage suites** and,
- include **garden and garage suites** as a discretionary use in the Residential (R1) and Residential (R2) Zoning Districts.¹
- include **Resource Development: renewable natural gas (RNG) production facilities & feedstock processing facilities** as a discretionary use in the Industrial (M) Zoning District.²
- amend the zoning map to rezone lands from UH Urban Holding District to M Industrial District and lands from CS Community Service District to C1 Central Commercial District.³

AFFECTED LAND: The proposed bylaw will affect,

- ¹ all the R1 and R2 residential zoned land within the incorporated area of the City of Melville.
- ² all the industrially zoned land within the incorporated area of the City of Melville.
- ³ the lands legally described as Parcel AA, Plan 102464962, NW 31-22-06-2 and Lots 13-18 & 35-40, Block 5, Plan T286, 123 - 2nd Avenue W.



REASON:

- ¹ To update to the Zoning Bylaw where it already allows for Secondary Suites to include Garden and Garage Suites as a discretionary use (subject to the review and approval of City Council) in R1 and R2 Residential Districts. The amendment will encourage development to align with Saskatchewan Secondary Suite Incentive Grant Program (SSI).
- ² To support and facilitate future industrial development in the northwest area of the city. The amendments define renewable natural gas (RNG) production facilities & Feedstock processing facilities and include resource development as a discretionary use (subject to the review and approval of City Council) in the Industrial Zoning District.
- ³ To generally unlock higher land value and expand development potential.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaws at the City of Melville office located at 430 Main Street in Melville, SK. during regular office hours. Copies of the bylaw are available at cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 15 at 6:05 p.m.** at City Hall Council Chambers located at 430 Main Street in Melville, SK. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Public Works and Planning Services Department before Thursday, December 11, 2025.

Issued at the City of Melville this 5th day of December 2025.

Dawn Oehler | Planning Manager | City of Melville



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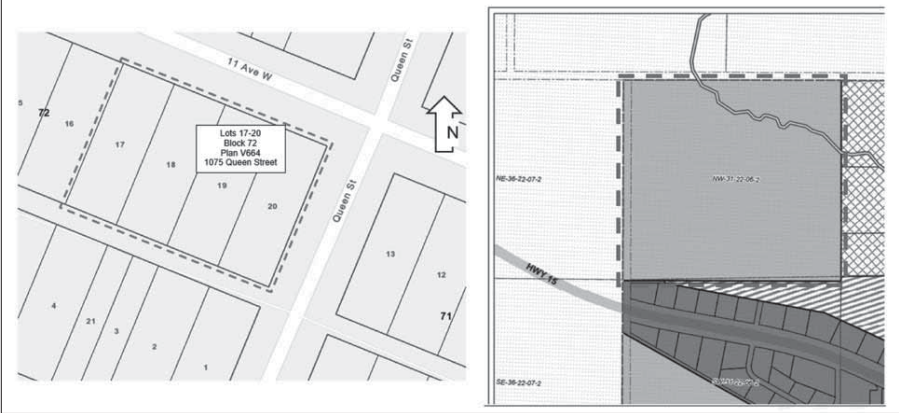
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Website: www.melville.ca

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Melville intends to adopt a bylaw under The Planning and Development Act, 2007 to amend Bylaw No. 3-2013, known as the Official Community Plan.

INTENT: The proposed bylaw no. 09-2025 will amend the future land use map to redesignate lands from ‘existing residential’ to ‘existing central commercial’ and lands from ‘Urban Holding’ to ‘proposed industrial’.

AFFECTED LAND: The proposed bylaw will affect the lands legally described as Lot 17-20, Block 72, Plan V664, 1075 Queen Street and Parcel AA, Plan 102464962, NW 31-22-06-2.



REASON: To align OCP and Zoning Bylaw to bring into effect zoning bylaw amendment 02/2025 approved by Council April 9/25 to rezone Lot 17-20, Block 72, Plan No. V664 from R1 to C1; and to extend the Industrial Land Use Designation for NW 31-22-06-2 directly adjacent to proposed and possible Industrial Land Use Designations.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaws at the City of Melville office located at 430 Main Street in Melville, SK during regular office hours. Copies of the bylaw are available at cost.

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Issued at the City of Melville this 5th day of December 2025.

Dawn Oehler | Planning Manager | City of Melville

Fort Qu’Appelle RCMP recruits another constable



CST. JINI THOMAS

Fort Qu’Appelle Detachment S/Sgt. Drew Wagner

Fort Qu’Appelle detachment dealt with 110 occurrences over this past week.

New Constable

The RCMP detachment in Fort Qu’Appelle has filled another vacancy in the detachment. Cst. Jini Thomas is originally from Kerala, India, but most recently made Regina his home.

Traffic

Traffic tickets and

warnings issued were for operate an unregistered vehicle, disobey stop sign, speeding more than 35km/h over posted limit, speeding, excessive damage to windshield, follow a vehicle closer than is reasonable and safe, and fail to use headlights at night.

A 25-year-old male has been charged for impaired driving and exceeding 80mg% after a complaint of an erratic driver on Highway #10 east of Balcarres. In addition to these charges, officers located three rifles and ammunition insecurely stored in the vehicle. The accused

also felt it necessary to threaten the investigating officer as well.

Three collisions with wildlife occurred, no drivers were injured.

Reminder – National Safe Driving Week has begun. Officers will be focusing on impaired driving, distracted driving, speed/aggressive driving and seatbelt misuse. Don’t be surprised if you come across a check stop or two. Further proactive traffic strategies will continue through the remainder of the month.

Mischief

Twenty occurrences of mischief occurred. Majority of the incidents were individuals being disruptive in a residence while a few involved property damages.

Crimes Against the Person/Property

Four incidents of assault were reported this past week. A 38-year-old was charged for assaulting a youth. Both accused and victim are known to each other. A domestic assault was reported, but the victim was not located. This matter is still under investigation. Another

domestic assault was reported between two-eighteen-year-olds. The female has been charged for assaulting causing bodily harm while the male was also charged for breaching youth probation order. Lastly, a 22-year-old victim reported they were bear maced but could not identify the suspect. A short time later, the victim was arrested for mischief for causing property damage while inside a residence.

Two incidents of uttering threats were mediated without charge as all parties were known to each other.

Local flax straw company inks deal with Agribition

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Livestock at future Agribition events will rest easier, thanks to a new partnership. Canadian Western Agribition has named Prairie Clean Flax Bedding as its future livestock bedding partner starting in 2026, a move the organization says will enhance animal comfort while highlighting made-in-Saskatchewan innovation. The announcement came during a busy week at Agribition, which noted an attendance record this year with 151,037 visitors.

Prairie Clean Flax Bedding is produced in Weyburn by Prairie Clean Enterprises, a Regina-based company that has spent the past several years developing what it describes as an ultra-low-dust, high-absorbency bedding product made entirely from Canadian flax straw. The flax is pelletized, engineered to reduce airborne particles and designed to cut down on stall cleaning by as much as two-thirds compared to traditional livestock bedding.

Mark Cooper, president and CEO of Prairie Clean Enterprises, said the agreement with Agribition represents the culmination of years of work to get the Weyburn processing plant operational.

“We’ve been talking with Agribition for a couple of years as we worked to get our Weyburn plant up and running,” Cooper said in an interview. “It made sense for us to kick off that partnership this year, which will be at least a five-year partnership.”

Cooper said the company views Agribition as the ideal venue to showcase a product it believes outperforms existing bedding options. Animals at the 2026 show will be bedded exclusively on the flax bedding.

“We knew we had the best bedding product on the market and we wanted to showcase it at the best show in the market,” he said.

Although PCE had hoped to have product available for this year’s event, commissioning at the Weyburn facility ran one week behind schedule. Production is ex-

pected to begin next week, with shipments going out before Christmas.

Cooper said interest from producers has been strong, even before the first full production run. The company purchased about 24,000 tonnes of flax straw this year from growers in the Weyburn area, its first season of commercial intake.

“We actually had to turn away a bit this year because it’s our first year and we’re not going to be running 24-7 right away,” Cooper said.

The new facility will begin with a single shift operating roughly 40 hours per week. PCE expects to add additional shifts through next year, with the goal of running around the clock by the end of 2026. At full production, the plant could process 40,000 to 45,000 tonnes of flax straw annually.

Beyond bedding, the company produces several products from the same material stream, something Cooper said helps diversify markets and minimize waste. The plant processes roughly 10 bales of straw per hour, converting most of that into us-

able material.

Cooper said the facility’s location has proven strategic, sitting at a transportation hub with access to major highways and a rail spur into the property. Seven employees currently work at the plant, most from the Weyburn area, and staffing is expected to grow to about 30 as production expands. Additional jobs — including baling and hauling — are created through the company’s supply chain.

CWA CEO Shaun Kindopp said the partnership aligns with the show’s goals and its longstanding commitment to Saskatchewan suppliers.

“At CWA, we strive to foster innovation and support local businesses, so this was a natural fit for us,” Kindopp said in a statement. “We’re grateful to partner with Prairie Clean Enterprises, bringing this innovative product to the producers who call this show home for one week over the year.”

“We’ve been telling this story for five years, and now it’s actually happening.”



Town of Fort Qu’Appelle

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Council Meeting

Your Town Council is gearing up for upcoming meetings, and you’re invited! Wednesday, December 10th – 7 p.m. – Town Office is the date, time and place. Doors are open, seats are waiting, and your council is ready to get to work! Come see local decision-making in action – your voice matters, and your presence makes the difference!

Office Closure

The Town Office will be spreading Christmas cheer and taking a holiday break from noon on December 24, 2025, until January 4, 2026. We’ll be back and ready to assist you on January 5, 2026! Wishing you a magical holiday season filled with joy, laughter, and warm moments!

Garbage & Recycling

Garbage and recycling dates for November are as followed:
Area A Garbage – December 5 & 19 | Area B Garbage – December 12 & 26
Area A Recycle – December 12 & 26 | Area B Recycle – December 5 & 19

E-transfer Payment

Please be advised that our E-transfer email address has changed to manager@fortquappelle.com Reminder to residents that when making an e-transfer payment to the Town Office, please specify your civic address and what payment you are making. If you are making a donation to the McDonald House, please ensure to include our mailing address in the memo field so we can mail your receipt.

Voyent Alert! – Keep Informed!

For Mobile App Alerts: Download and install Voyent Alert! App from the Apple or Google Play Store.
For Email, Text Message or Voice Call Alerts: Register online at http://register.voyent-alert.com
Or you can come to the Town Office and we will register for you!! Please sign up as there is no cost to the user!

2025 Property Taxes

Just a reminder that 2025 taxes are due December 31st. Payments need to reach our office by the due date, so if you’re using online or mobile banking, please send your payment at least five business days early to ensure it processes on time.
A 15% interest charge will be added to any taxes not paid by December 31, 2025. E-transfers can be sent to manager@fortquappelle.com ONLY.

Email Changes

We changed our e-mail addresses:
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Samantha Gillies, Assistant CAO/Office Manager – manager@fortquappelle.com
Tiffany Koch, Utilities – utilities@fortquappelle.com
Donny Rokosh, Public Works – publicworks@fortquappelle.com
PLEASE NOTE OUR E-TRANSFER EMAIL IS
manager@fortquappelle.com
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Cheer on your favourite teams, soak in the rink energy, and treat yourself to delicious eats crafted by AC Catering. Hockey + great food = the perfect combo!
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Ice time is now available! Ready to book your slot? Contact Jarrod at fortrec@sasktel.net to snag your time before it’s gone. See you at the rink!

Year-End Reminder – December 31, 2025

Please be advised that, pursuant to The Municipalities Act, any water/sewer account with an outstanding balance as of December 31, 2025, will be transferred to the tax account as arrears and will incur the applicable penalties.
Payment options include online banking, preauthorized debit, cash, cheque, debit, and credit.
For customers enrolled in preauthorized debit, a final withdrawal for the year will occur on December 16, 2025. Any remaining balance after this withdrawal must be paid to bring the account to \$0.
All EFT payments should be directed to manager@fortquappelle.com.

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The Prairie Co-op Rexentre is excited to offer skate sharpening — so you can hit the ice with confidence and glide like a pro.
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• Or score a punch card: 6 for just \$50!
Whether you’re gearing up for practice, public skate, or game day, our team has you covered. Swing by and chat with Rexentre staff—they’ll get you set up in no time!

Office Hours

Reminder that the office is closed over lunch from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Barrel of fun: A rodeo clown’s POV

By **Ryan Kiedrowski**
Grasslands News

After more than 25 years in the arena, rodeo clown and barrel man Matt Merritt says he still can’t quite believe the life he gets to live – travelling the world, dodging bulls and delivering laughs. But as he worked the Maple Leaf Circuit Finals Rodeo during the Canadian Western Agribition, he admitted the job takes equal parts nerve, timing and a very specific kind of personality.

Merritt, recently named Professional Bull Riders Entertainer of the Year, said last year marked the busiest stretch of his career. He logged 195 performances across four countries – the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand – a schedule that convinced him he’d finally “validated all the work” he has put in since he first stepped into an arena at 15.

“I get to work premier events all over the world and bring joy and happiness to people,” he said. “That’s my job. It’s awesome. And I get hit by bulls.”

The Louisiana-born entertainer is quick to downplay the danger of the job, crediting the bullfighters – who in Canada often work through the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association system – for the true life-and-limb work.

“They’re the warriors,” he said. “I always compare them to Navy SEALs. I’m the guy who jumps in the barrel when things go bad. They protect the athletes. I don’t ever want to make it sound like I’m the tough guy.”

Even so, the hazards are unavoidable. Merritt has suffered numerous ankle injuries, concussions and heavy bruising over the years. But he said the biggest risk these days is simply getting sick while travelling.

“Man-flu hits hard when you’re on an airplane breathing everybody’s air,” he joked.

Despite the glamour of international bookings, Merritt said only a small group of people do this work professionally. Of the roughly 100 PRCA-carded clowns, he said fewer than half work even a single performance in a year.

“It takes one kind of bravery to be around animals,” he said. “It takes another to dress like a moron and tell jokes. When you fail doing what I do, it’s as painful as getting physically hurt.”

Though aspiring clowns sometimes reach out on social media, he hasn’t yet found a protégé. Timing, he

explained, is everything – knowing when not to speak during a key ride is just as important as knowing how to deliver a punchline.

After 26 years in the industry, Merritt said the biggest adrenaline rush now comes from trying new material. The animals can be intimidating, but it’s the microphone that makes him most nervous.

His long career includes more than laughs and close calls. Merritt is also a cancer survivor, marking five years cancer-free this month after receiving confirmation from his doctor. “They told me I’m totally free and clear,” he said. “It’s a good day.”

Given Merritt’s quick wit and ability to easily read a room, one natural progression might be stand-up comedy.

“I have kind of toyed around with it,” he admitted. “I have a really good buddy of mine from Montana, he’s very funny and we write material together and we share it back and forth. I don’t really know that I will want to do that because I have a great spot right now, but I want to see him do it and help him write. It’d be a cool thing to do, but man, I think that’d be very scary: me, standing in front of a single microphone, looking at all the people! At least with rodeo, I have an announcer and a music director that I can work with, and if I fail, they’ll sweep the floor behind me.”

While thoughts of retirement are far into the future, Merritt looks forward to quieter days at home with his wife of 21 years. He expects he’ll still take the occasional rodeo booking, but only on his terms.

“I’ll do some hunting, some fishing,” he said.

Maybe once Merritt hangs up the red nose for good, the only barrel he’ll be in is that famous southern restaurant, Cracker Barrel.



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Awesome job
With over a quarter-century of rodeo clown experience under his belt, Matt Merritt still believes he has the best job around.

Muskowekwan receives funds to advance bison project

By **GNG Staff**
Grasslands News

Muskowekwan First Nation is one of 14 Saskatchewan recipients selected for major federal support through the 2025

FCC AgriSpirit Fund, securing \$25,000 to help expand its community-driven bison project — an initiative aimed at restoring traditional food sources and strengthening long-term food sovereignty.

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) announced Tuesday that it is investing \$1.5 million into 81 rural and Indigenous projects nationwide this year. The AgriSpirit Fund, now in its 22nd year, supports capital projects in communities under 150,000 people, including First

Nations, Métis and Inuit governments. FCC senior vice-president of ag production André Surprenant said the fund highlights what rural communities can achieve when local leadership and national support align.

Muskowekwan First Nation’s project will use the funding to purchase fencing supplies, equipment and solar-powered water basins to support the growth and sustainability of its bison herd. The initiative focuses on restoring bison as a traditional food source, im-

proving community food sovereignty and strengthening cultural identity through hands-on, land-based learning. It will also create opportunities for youth involvement and future educational programming built around the sustainable reintroduction of bison.

FCC highlighted Muskowekwan’s proposal as a strong example of Indigenous-led food projects that contribute to both cultural renewal and economic resilience. The improvements funded this year will help create a more stable herd environment and support long-term planning for harvesting, herd health and community use.

Across Saskatchewan, 14 groups are receiving between \$10,000 and \$25,000 through the AgriSpirit program this year, including projects in Coronach, Biggar, Yorkton, Humboldt, Arcola, Shellbrook, and Rose Valley. Initiatives range from new community gardens and playgrounds to facility upgrades, greenhouse expansion and school nutrition improvements.

Since its launch 22 years ago, the FCC AgriSpirit Fund has invested \$24 million into 1,778 rural and Indigenous capital projects across Canada. FCC encourages rural municipalities, First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments, and non-profit organizations to learn more or apply at www.fccagrispiritfund.ca

Muskowekwan First Nation’s bison project was among this year’s top Saskatchewan-funded initiatives, reflecting growing momentum behind community-led food security and cultural revitalization efforts throughout the province.



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Clint Peterson
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Salesman/Foreman
Brian Rathgeber
306-730-9225

Office Manager
Virginia Vargo
306-783-9437
Fax: 306-782-4110

UPCOMING SALES

DECEMBER

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Presort Sale	10AM
Friday, December 5th	
Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	11AM
Wednesday, December 10th	
Presort Sale	10AM
Friday, December 5th	
Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	11AM
Wednesday, December 17th	
Slaughter Sale (Cow & Bulls only)	9AM
Bred Cow & Heifer Sale to follow	



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How to map a province - over 2,200 copies sold

By **Ryan Kiedrowski**
Grasslands News

Alex McPhee of Pronghorn Maps is by far my favourite Saskatchewan cartographer. He's also the only cartographer that I know, but he's still my favourite. This wildly witty man hailing from the vast metropolis of Val Marie in the southwest corner of the province has made waves with the intensive wall map of Saskatchewan he released a few years back. Then, his second version printed in 2023 sold like hotcakes.

"My 3x6' Saskatchewan wall map has sold about 2,200 copies," he told Grasslands News. "People order some every week, so I've been keeping the Val Marie post office busy!"

When one embarks on such a vast project, a whole wealth of information comes flooding through the gates. McPhee has become somewhat of a walking encyclopedia of Saskatchewan with all he's learned from traversing the province, meticulously documenting data other sources may have either missed or discarded.

"The interesting thing has been the social aspect," he said. "I can try as hard as I like to make it perfect from the comfort of my desk. Now, it's been released into the wild and people are coming to me."

These interactions prompt even more conversation, ideas, and ultimately changes. McPhee noted one of the larger edits to rise out of public feedback came from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities convention.

"One of my biggest changes on the second edition is also what was most requested at SARM," he explained. "My wall map already has the claim to fame of being the only map that has RM names. Every RM has a name and number, and the province puts out a base map with numbers only. In my experience, most people are more familiar with the names, but a lot of people at SARM said, 'could you also show the numbers'."

Another big change to the second edition is the inclusion of nine insets: appearing in northwest Manitoba on the map.

"Originally my thought was curriculum compatibility," McPhee said. "Teachers are expected to touch on an insane variety of topics in the course of one school year."

Drawing from feedback gained from several teacher's conventions, McPhee eventually narrowed down a laundry list of interesting statistics that ought to have a place in the second edition.

"I went through the learning outcomes, and I looked at this mind-bending list of things that we're expecting Grade 4 kids to have heard of by the end of the year," he said. "There's a lot of topics that I wanted to touch on but are hard to show in a big map like this. I was really happy to shoehorn in nine more interesting topics that didn't fit so well into the main map, but I thought explained a lot about what Saskatchewan is."

Back when the second map was first released, I asked McPhee if he anticipated a response similar in popularity to his inaugural edition.

"I think the sales of my second edition will hopefully be sufficient to keep my Credit Union happy," he replied.

As with any major labour of love, there are things on McPhee's wish list to enhance the second edition, but one of the most challenging restrictions for a cartographer is space.

"I wish that there was room to include all 5,000 one-room schools in Saskatchewan on my wall map," he said. "Even though my map is six feet tall, there's not enough room for 5,000 dots. One of the other things that I left off - because I thought it wasn't quite mainstream enough - my big wall map has never shown cemeteries.



I'm fixing that by putting out a 3x3' map of nothing but

The Map Guy

RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Alex McPhee is a cartographer from southwest Saskatchewan, famous for his meticulous wall map of the province. We caught up with McPhee at his premiere appearance in Regina's Agribition.

Saskatchewan cemeteries; and we have 2,200 of those, at least."

The latest pieces to flow out of McPhee's large scale printer are historical farm maps – a project he launched at this year's Agribition in Regina.

"Not a lot of people know that before we had spy satellites, the government flew and took aerial photos in the 1950s - not just of yards, but of all the land in Saskatchewan," McPhee said. "I had a couple of locals come to me and say, 'could you pull these 1950s aerial photos for all our land?'"

Soon, McPhee was able to venture back in time – all from the comfort of his Val Marie office.

"These historical farm maps have 1950s imagery," he explained. "All the buildings, road cuts, drainage is as it was in the 50s."

Additionally, McPhee was able to add names of all the first homesteaders on each quarter-section.

"Whether you have one quarter or more, turning back the clock 70 years has been super interesting," he said.

For those folks out there, that subscribe to the idea that 'Saskatchewan is difficult to spell, but easy to draw,' creating a detailed map involves a lot of work – McPhee spent about a year-and-a-half and over 1,000 hours working on his original Saskatchewan map, for



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instance.

"These farm maps, luckily, can be done a bit faster," he said.

Perhaps it's all the time spent on the road researching this province and attending trade shows to promote his maps, or the hours of conversation with interesting people from a multitude of backgrounds, or even the quiet contemplation surrounding McPhee in that gateway to Grasslands National Park he calls home, but his stoic outlook on wanderlust is contagious.

To order one of McPhee's maps (which make a great Christmas gift, incidentally), visit pronghornmaps.com.

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Standing Buffalo Chief reaffirms Nation’s legal role in IR80A

Dispute delays \$150-million settlement

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation is urging clarity, unity, and respect among the eight First Nations connected to the Last Mountain Lake Indian Reserve 80A, following a public statement issued Nov. 28 by Chief Rodger Redman. The statement, shared on the Nation’s social media page, outlines more than a century of history, legal rulings, and ongoing disputes surrounding the reserve — and affirms Standing Buffalo’s legally recognized status as a full beneficiary.

Chief Redman’s message traces the origins of IR80A back to 1889, when the federal government established the land as a fishing station for Indigenous peoples from the Touchwood Hills and Qu’Appelle Valley. While seven First Nations

eventually became formal beneficiaries, Standing Buffalo maintains it has always been part of the original communities that used and occupied the land.

The statement highlights longstanding concerns with the way Canada managed IR80A after a 1918 surrender intended for sale — not long-term leasing. Instead of selling the land as required, federal officials leased most of IR80A to outside interests for decades, a practice later deemed questionable even by government officials.

By 1972, internal federal correspondence acknowledged that leasing IR80A without proper authority risked being invalid. Rather than fixing the original issues, Ottawa sought a new “surrender for lease,” leading to the creation of the Kinookimaw Beach Association, a Saskatchewan-incorporated entity designed

to receive a head lease and sub-lease the lands to cottage owners, golf course users and campground operators.

Chief Redman notes that seven First Nations passed Band Council Resolutions in June 1972 consenting to amend the 1918 surrender so leases could proceed. Standing Buffalo did not. The Nation did not sign, consent to, or benefit from the head lease that continues today and was extended to 2056.

“For more than fifty years, IR80A has been administered and leased through a corporate structure that excluded the very Nation that was always meant to be part of IR80A,” Redman said.

After decades of challenges from elders and leaders, the matter reached the Specific Claims Tribunal, which in 2019 ruled that Standing Buffalo was an intended beneficiary of IR80A and that its exclusion violated the honour of the Crown. The Federal Court of Appeal upheld that decision, and in March 2025 the Supreme Court of Canada declined to hear further appeals.

“The matter is settled in Canadian law,” Redman stated. “Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation is, and always was, a beneficiary of IR80A.”

However, the conflict is far from re-

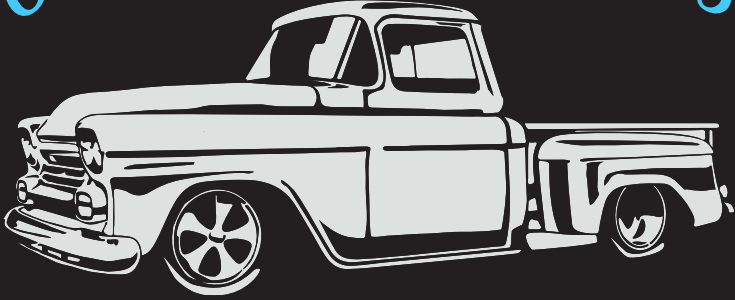
solved. Chief Redman revealed that three of the original beneficiary Nations have launched a judicial review asking Ottawa to remove Standing Buffalo from the list of beneficiaries, despite the Tribunal’s final findings. That challenge has stalled the distribution of approximately \$150 million tied to the IR80A claim, which must now be negotiated among all eight recognized Nations, including Standing Buffalo.

Redman stressed that Standing Buffalo is not seeking division but fairness, transparency, and recognition after more than a century of exclusion. The Nation is advancing additional claims regarding both the 1918 surrender and the head lease era and has requested full disclosure from both Canada and the KBA.

“Now that the truth has finally been acknowledged in law, we will not be pushed aside again,” Chief Redman said. “Our intention is not to divide. Our intention is to bring the truth into the light and ensure that every Nation is treated with respect and fairness.”

The Chief concluded by reaffirming that Standing Buffalo will stand firm in asserting its rightful place at IR80A “today and for generations to come.”

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Necessary permit in the works

continued from front

been throughout, is the lack of necessary permits, and makes no statement that can be taken as a prohibition on Calling Lakes from hiring staff. As of this moment there are three stop work orders issued in May 2024 under the authority of the Construction Codes Act, each of which identify several serious deficiencies and building code violations, as well as work that has been done without a valid building permit. These stops work orders were not appealed. Further, the development permit expired in January 2025, and no new or extended permit has been obtained... these deficiencies remain unaddressed.”

As previously reported in The Fort Times, the chief executive officer for the Calling Lakes Wellness Centre, Wayne

Hellquist, argues that “a number of permits” were issued as work progressed but that since 2023 no building permits were needed since the stop work order has been respected and no further construction has been done on the building since then except for routine repairs and maintenance.

From information obtained by Grasslands News, it would appear that the underlying issue is a change in the building code in which the property was originally zoned as a “training facility” not a “rehabilitation centre.”

The Municipal Appeal Board previously ruled that the planned use of the building by the Wellness Centre falls “within the scope of a rehab centre.”

The Calling Lakes Wellness Centre has re-applied for the necessary permit

and has hired an architect to satisfy council’s requirements. “We are stymied by all of this,” says the Centre’s consultant Stephen Low, “We want to be good corporate citizens and work in collaboration with the village council to redevelop the property and put it to good use. We would just like to know what the perceived deficiencies might be.”

Correction

An incorrect first name of Councillor Ron Shordee’s wife Delores appeared in his obituary in last week’s Fort Times. We apologize for the error and extend our sincere apologies to his widow and family for the mistake.

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Don, CAO is now **cao@fortquappelle.com**, swapping out **fortcao@sasktel.net**.

Sam, ASSISTANT CAO/OFFICE MANAGER is rocking **manager@fortquappelle.com** instead of **fortreception@sasktel.net**.

Tiffany, UTILITIES, hit up **utilities@fortquappelle.com** (yep, your utility bills will pop up from there now) and say goodbye to **forttown@sasktel.net**.

Donald, PUBLIC WORKS? Catch them at **publicworks@fortquappelle.com**, ditching **fortutilities@sasktel.net**.

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SPORTS

From rural rinks to national podiums with gold medal

Wolseley's Tristan Taylor and skating partner Miyu Yunoki win gold

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Figure skater Tristan Taylor, formerly of Wolseley, has returned to the podium. Taylor and his skating partner Miyu Yunoki from Osaka, Japan, earned gold at the Skate Canada Challenge in Calgary last week.

Taylor began skating as a child in Wolseley where his parents initially enrolled him in hockey. After watching his older sister at a skate clinic in Whitewood one summer, Taylor expressed interest in figure skating. His parents and others quickly observed that he greatly enjoyed skating and had a natural ability for the sport. Young Taylor began competing in small rural events and later trained in Regina, eventually becoming one of the best junior level singles skaters in the province.

Taylor's coach recommended that he expand his skills and begin training with Ashlyn Schmitz. Taylor skated with Schmitz in the novice and junior pairs category for a few seasons and the pair met with great success.

In February 2019, the pair earned bronze for pre-novice pairs at the Canada Winter Games. During the 2019-2020 season, they were novice pair gold medalists at the Skate Canada Challenge. They were also silver medalists at the North American Cup and Canadian National Skating Championships.

In September 2022, Taylor and Schmitz attended the Junior Grand Prix in Latvia and placed third. A few weeks later they won gold for junior pairs at the 2022 Ice Challenge in Austria. They earned gold again at the 2023 Skate Canada Challenge. They fell just short of the podium at the 2023 Canadian National Skating Championships, finishing in fourth place.

In 2024, the pair competed in the senior category at the National Championships for the first time. They scored 13 points higher than the previous year but finished in ninth place.

For the 2025-2026 season, 23-year-old Taylor is returning to some of the same competitions but in the senior category with Miyu Yunoki. They are affiliated with Skate Regina and attended the Skate Canada Challenge in Calgary from Nov. 27 to 30.

The pair presented their short program last Thursday evening and earned 55.66 points. This was followed by the free program on Friday afternoon where they scored 107.68 points. The combined score of 163.34 earned Taylor and Yunoki a first-place finish in the senior pairs category. Eliana Secunda and Thierry Ferland from Quebec placed second with 145.20 points.

Taylor and Yunoki's success in Calgary qualifies them to compete at the 2026 Canadian National Skating Championships. This is scheduled to take place in Quebec, Jan. 5 to 11.



Gold skaters
Tristan Taylor, right, and Miyu Yunoki earned gold medals in the senior pairs category at the Skate Canada Challenge in Calgary last week.

PHOTO COURTESY SKATE CANADA-SASKATCHEWAN FACEBOOK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Millionaires pick up two road wins before falling in overtime

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

The Millionaires played three road games in four nights and picked up five of a possible six points.

Melville Millionaires 1 at Battlefords North Stars 2 (OT, Nov. 29)

This was the lone blemish on the three game stretch, as the Stars picked up the game winner in overtime, allowing the Mils to earn a single point for the regulation tie.

The Millionaires led 1-0 after the first period with the North Stars getting the equalizer in the second.

Melville was on the hook for six of the game's nine minor penalties.

Captain Boston Harkness scored the lone goal for the visitors, his seventh of the campaign.

Matt Edwards and Kale Margolis were credited with assists.

Noah Sinagowitz got the start between the pipes and was saddled with the loss despite making 28 saves.

The Millionaires out-shot the Stars 35-30.

Melville Millionaires 3 at Battlefords North Stars 1 (Nov. 28)

Brayden Gourley notched his first two goals as a member of the Millionaires, and Preston Baerwald's fifth of the season stood up as the insurance marker as the Millionaires earned a couple of points in one of the leagues' toughest rinks.

Yibin Yoo, Jackson Lee, Keil Schmalz and Jaden Kokosha each counted an assist for the visiting Mils.

The Millionaires out-shot the Stars 31-29 with newcomer Matt Spencer-Dahl standing tall in the crease to earn the victory.

Melville led 1-0 after the first with the North Stars drawing even in the middle stanza before putting it away in the third.

The Millionaires were collared for five of the match-

up's nine minor infractions.

Melville Millionaires 3 at Warman Wolverines 0 (Nov. 26)

Spencer-Dahl stopped all 23 shots he faced to earn the shutout in his first start with the Millionaires, while Kale Margolis led the offence with his 11th and 12th tallies of the season as the Mils kicked off their three-game roadie.

Schmalz chipped in with his third of the season to round out Melville's scoring as Harkness and Rylan Oatman each collected a helper for the Mils.

The Millionaires scored a single goal in each period to come away with the three-goal win.

Warman was handed seven of the game's 11 minor penalties and the teams split two majors and game misconducts as the result of some first period fisticuffs.

The Millionaires look to continue their northern success on Dec. 5 when they battle the Mustangs in Melfort with the 'Stangs back in Melville on Dec. 6th at 7 p.m.



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Big weekend, big scores as men’s senior teams hit mid-season stride

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Senior men’s teams across southeast Saskatchewan pushed through another demanding weekend as league play ramped up in both the Qu’Appelle Valley Hockey League and the Big 6, Prairie Men’s and Sask East circuits. Clubs from Grenfell, Balcarres, Balgonie, Kipling, the Valley Warriors, Indian Head, Cupar, Ituna and Wapella all saw action as standings begin to tighten heading into mid-December.

Big 6 Hockey League

The Kipling KW Oil Kings dropped to 1– 4 after a 5 – 2 loss to Oxbow on Nov. 29. The game was tied after the first before Oxbow pulled away with three unanswered third-period goals, including both special-teams’ markers. Kipling remains seventh with a –15 goal differential and now readies for a Dec. 6 road game in Moosomin before home dates with Wawota (Dec. 13) and Carlyle (Dec. 14).

Qu’Appelle Valley Hockey League

Grenfell, Balcarres and Balgonie each battled through a tough three-day stretch as momentum swung across the QVHHL schedule.

Grenfell continued to chase their first win of the season but showed offensive touch in a 6–3 loss to Raymore on Nov. 29. Kyle Bocek opened the scoring late in the first before Raymore took control with a strong middle frame. Third-period markers from Tyler Bird and Allen Kilback narrowed the gap, but the Rockets sealed the result with three goals in the final 20 minutes. The Spitfires sit seventh at 0-3-1 with nine goals for and 26 against. They host Raymore on Dec. 5 and the undefeated Lumsden Monarchs on Dec. 6.

Balcarres endured a challenging back-to-back, falling 6–1 to Bethune on Nov. 29 and 8–3 to Lumsden on Nov. 30. Jared Martin provided the lone marker in the Bethune loss, while Cory Kosloski, Kaden Smith and Brady Pouteau scored against Lumsden. Despite generating offence, the Broncos were overwhelmed by shot volume, including a 63-shot night faced by goaltender Curtis Meger. Balcarres sits fourth at 3-3-0 with an –11 goal

differential and now prepares for a Dec. 6 home matchup against Southey.

Balgonie picked up their first win of the season with a 3–1 road victory over Bethune on Nov. 28, scoring twice in the opening period before Dylan Simank extended the lead. The Bisons weathered penalty trouble but held firm behind a steady performance from Hunter Lollacher. Balgonie sits sixth at 1-3-0 with a –8 differential and returns home Dec. 5 to face Lumsden.

Prairie Men’s Hockey League

The Valley Warriors struggled again in a 15–1 loss to the league-leading Cupar Canucks on Nov. 29. Desmond Desnomie produced the lone Warriors’ goal short-handed as the team now sits at 1–3 with a –28 differential. They return to action Dec. 7 against Strasbourg.

Indian Head strengthened their hold on second place with a 4–2 win over Strasbourg, improving to 3–1 with a +15 differential. Daulton Perillat, Sylvester Webster and Rylan Bechard powered the offence while Trevor Viergutz allowed just two goals in a composed outing. The Chiefs face Ituna on Dec. 6 before a marquee showdown with Cupar on Dec. 12.

Cupar remains perfect at 4–0 with an overwhelming +32 differential, once again showcasing explosive scoring in the win over the Valley Warriors. Dane Bonish, Travis Orr and Kody Macknak led the attack, combining for a dominant performance that maintains the Canucks’ position as the league’s top threat. Ituna, still seeking their first win at 0–2, returns home Dec. 6 against Indian Head before hosting Strasbourg on Dec. 13.

Sask East Hockey League

Wapella split its weekend with an 8–5 win over Esterhazy on Nov. 28 followed by a 9–6 loss to Russell on Nov. 29. Rory Poole registered a hat trick against Esterhazy while Jaden Shewchuk scored twice as the Blackhawks improved to 2–3. The following night saw another high-scoring contest, with goals from Cole Hayhurst (2), Logan Sauve, Ryland Maier, Evan Armstrong and Shewchuk, but Russell capitalized on a four-goal second period to secure the victory. Wapella, now fifth in the SEHL South at 2–3, visits Theodore on Dec. 6 before hosting Preeceville on Dec. 12.

Annual Carter Bear Memorial Tournament to be held Dec. 20

Last year for tournament

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The fourth Annual Memorial Hockey Tournament for Carter Bear

will be held Sat., Dec. 20 at the Whitewood Community Arena. Carter Bear, a Grade 12 student at Whitewood School, died on Dec. 20, 2020, while at the outdoor skating rink

in Moosomin with friends. He was a member of the Jets U18 team and an AP for the Melville U18 team. This will be the final year for the memorial tournament for Carter.

There is a limit of six teams only with a \$350 entry fee. Games start at 9 a.m.

First place winners will receive hoodies and \$300 in prize money. Second place winnings will be \$200 with first and second place MVP Awards presented. All players get a hat and game start tees.

Also taking place that day will be a raffle table, 50/50 draw and Chuck A Puck.

Carter is survived by his parents Raquel and Tom Bear and his siblings: MacKenzie, Cody and Connor.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Unusual outcome

On Nov. 17 Team Herman scored an 8-ender during a Senior League game. Congratulations “Team Herman” on your 8-ender. Pictured, from left to right are, throwing Skip stones Lori Cyca, Third Sheila Jarocki, Lead Naomi Herman, and Second and calling the game Greg Herman.

Broadview curlers will hurry hard this winter

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Curlers in Broadview will have ample opportunity to “hurry hard” this winter. Broadview Curling Club members met for their annual meeting on Nov. 25 and a few days later announced plans for the upcoming season.

Starting in the new year, league curling will be held on Mondays and Thursdays. Games will begin at 7 p.m. on Jan. 5 and continue until March 5 in the rink on Nina Street. Players can join as a team or individual and may attend one or both weekly sessions. The club is accepting registrations for league curling until Dec. 15.

Starting Jan. 7, there will be drop-in curling on Wednesday and Fridays at 1 p.m. Teams will be organized each day, and regular sessions will continue until March 4.

The season membership fee for Broadview Curling Club is \$100 per person, and there is no cost for students. The drop-in fee for non-members is \$10 per day.

Broadview will host two bonspiels this season. The annual Farmers’ Bonspiel is scheduled for Jan. 23 and 24, and the team entry fee is \$100. A Doubles Bonspiel is scheduled for March 6 and 7, with a \$50 team entry fee.

To register for either bonspiel or league curling, contact Lenore Bryant at 306-696-7878 or David Bettschen at 306-696-7870.

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S.W.F. Measuring Night

Melville Fish & Game will hold its Annual “Horn/Antler” Measuring Night at Melville Community Works 800 Prince Edward St.

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025

5 to 8 p.m.
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Call 306-730-6671
2026 Memberships can also be purchased.

Entries for fish, birds or photos are now being accepted.

Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

My love of sports and my respect for those who play came from a special place.

As a child growing up, I spent countless hours in rinks, at the golf course and at many baseball diamonds, learning about the corresponding sports, and, also life itself, and my source for the knowledge that I acquired came from my father.

Whenever I was interested in a game or sport, it was my dad who taught me about the games, even hockey.

And the reason that hockey seems like an after-thought, is because my dad didn’t know how to skate.

Still, he managed to teach me to stick-handle, made sure I understood the value of playing at both ends of the ice – even though I didn’t always do it – and ensured that I knew what to do to get myself better at hockey, which was to listen to my coaches.

Baseball was a little bit different, because it was a sport he had played.

I can recall being a young ballplayer, taking on an extremely talented Regina team in provincial play-offs one year, when a fellow from the Queen City ran toward me at second base, with arms stretched skyward, screaming in an attempt to break up what should have been a double play.

Not wanting to hit my opponent with the ball, I simply hung on to it.

As I got to the bench after the opposition’s at bat and sat down, I felt two hands on my shoulders, and, of course, it was my father who leaned in and said, “Just throw it next time.”

My explanation as to why I hadn’t fell on deaf ears.

“Don’t worry Darce,” he said, loud enough for me to hear, but no one else. “He’ll get outta the way.”

In a later inning, another player did exactly the same thing, except I didn’t simply hang on to the ball. I looked the base runner in the eyes and unleashed a side arm throw.

The base runner simply threw out the anchor and went down before the ball could hit him.

Once someone tells you something like that in a sports situation, your trust level can rise about 200 per cent.

But he wasn’t done with me yet.

He turned me into a switch-hitter, since he knew that I could swing right-handed as well as my natural way, left-handed.

He knew I could swing that way, because he bought me right-handed golf clubs.

The skills weren’t all he taught me about sports.

He also taught me sportsmanship, which came in handy when we’d play against some kids from smaller centers who didn’t have the same advantages we had in Melville.

Those lessons in humility, good sportsmanship, being a good teammate and a good person, were also reinforced by a mother who believed everyone deserved a fair shot, no matter what their circumstances were.

My dad may have taught me about the games, but my mother taught me about the players, the coaches and the officials.

While there were still run-ins with all of the above, being fair to everyone involved in the games continued to be at the top of the list.

After all, those same people would be the business people, school friends, acquaintances of my parents, and on and on.

Knowing how to lose with class and win in the same manner took priority over scoring goals, bragging about what a terrific player I may have believed I was, and wherever I stood in the batting order or the scoring list.

I’m thankful daily for the lessons taught to me by my parents, because they stuck with me.

In turn, I had the opportunity to pass those lessons onto my kids and their friends, from time to time.

Being a good friend and being a good teammate always took precedent over trying to be better than everyone else.

Last weekend, my dad would have turned 90, had he not passed on after a day of shoveling snow, exactly 25 years ago.

I think he’d be proud of how myself, and my peer group, have conducted ourselves over the years, for the most part, anyway.

And now some of his words live on in another generation of children that I get to call my grandkids.

That those lessons are remembered and passed on down will be the biggest compliment I’ll ever receive.

I’m sure my dad would feel the same way.

Sports Column

Young superstars belong on Olympic team

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

In hockey-mad Canada, fans spend their time watching hockey, thinking about hockey, talking about hockey and mentally planning Canada’s roster for the 2026 Olympic Games in Italy.

Only a couple of weeks remain before the Dec. 31 deadline for Hockey Canada to submit its roster and while a number of players’ names are automatic, a couple of others are subject to quite the controversy.

Such as: Should Connor Bedard and Macklin Celebrini be part of Canada’s team that tries to win another gold medal for the No. 1 hockey country in the world? A 3-0 victory over Sweden in the 2014 gold-medal game was the last time Canada’s team was comprised of National Hockey League players.

A disagreement between the NHL Players’ Association, the International Olympic Committee and the International Ice Hockey Federation kept NHL players out of the 2018 Winter Olympics and the COVID-19 pandemic was responsible for their

absence in 2022.

Now the NHL is back, offering Olympic Games’ fans the absolute cream of the world’s hockey crop ... or is it? If Bedard, 20, and Celebrini, 19, are not on Canada’s team, are fans truly being treated to best-on-best?

Arguments against including Bedard and Celebrini include the value of experience in international hockey. Okay, if experience is that vital, why not get over that hump in ’26 so when the 2030 games come around, they’ll have already conquered that intangible.

At last look, Celebrini was second in the NHL scoring race, trailing only Nathan MacKinnon, while Bédard was fourth. Both have led their respective teams to NHL relevance after years of hanging around the bottom of the standings. Both are clearly among the top 14 forwards in the NHL; the only drawbacks are their age. It’s hard to argue that a lack of international experience should be a factor in keeping them off the team when in their immediate pre-NHL years, they’ve dominated Canadian U-17 and World Junior teams

in international play.

If Canada gets solid goaltending, as Jordan Binnington provided in last winter’s 4 Nations Cup, it has enough firepower up front and on defence to allow for the inclusion of Bedard and Celebrini and win gold. Perhaps Anthony Cirelli and Mark Stone can offer better defensive play, but they can’t come close to generating offence like Bedard and Celebrini. If Tampa Bay’s Brayden Point is a projected member of the Olympic team due to his offensive prowess, how can Canada’s hockey hierarchy justify the fact that at the end of November, Point had played in 21 of Tampa’s 25 games but stood 222nd in the NHL scoring race with 11 points? Perhaps Tampa coach Jon Cooper, one of the Team Canada bosses, is exerting too much influence on Canada’s roster.

Dump Point. Dump Cirelli. Add the two young superstars and fill the net in Italy. Remember, the best defence is a good offence and if Bedard and Celebrini are currently filling NHL nets surrounded by a plethora of ordinary players, how good could

they be surrounded by fellow superstars?

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfesen of Vancouver: “Blue Jays’ Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., won MLB’s first entertainer of the year award, beating out Taylor Swift and the San Diego Chicken.”

• Torben Rolfesen again: “Saskatchewan Roughriders players say they’ve got the greatest fans in pro sports. One of them said he got recognized in Walmart. Uh, dude, that’s their job. They’re called people greeters.”

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: “A former Olympic coach on deciding who your third goalie is: ‘If you need your third goalie at the Olympics, you’re already in trouble.’”

• Norman Chad, on ‘Gambling Mad’: “Drake Maye could be the latter-day Tom Brady, without the supermodel wife, special diet and deflated footballs.”

• Scott Matia, on Bluesky: “Connor McDavid took less money and all he got in return was Trent Frederic and a kick square in the (unmentionables).”

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M. <i>Nov. 24</i> Ladies' High Single and Triple, Linda Bender, 234, 600. Ladies' High Average, Angela Dobson, 164. Men's High Single, Triple and Average, Joe Wu, 278, 756, 193. Team High Single, Bender, 862. Team High Triple, Stephens, 2462. Team Dobson 26 Ostlund 24.5 Bender 24.5 Stephens 19	THURSDAY YBC <i>Nov. 27</i> Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 188, 524. Boys High Single, Braxton Hollinger, 242. Boys High Triple, Blaine Curylo, 641. Team High Single and Triple, Hollinger, 853, 2417. Team Curylo 25.5 Wurts 24.5 Kohlenberg 19.5 Hollinger 21.5
MONDAY COMMERCIAL <i>Nov. 24</i> Ladies' High Single and Triple, Branda Brooks, 263, 637. Ladies' High Average, Brandy Lechner, 224. Men's High Single and Triple, Ray Kaufman, 295, 745. Men's High Average, Destin Kohlenberg, 216. Team High Single and Triple, Blame it on Garry, 1389, 4066. Team Gutter Girls 31 Pinheads 31 Professional Amateurs 30	TUESDAY YBC <i>Nov. 25</i> Girls High Single and Triple, Amzlee Patterson, 159, 423. Boys High Single and Triple, Jakoob Unterschute, 202, 534. Team High Single and Triple, Squishmellows, 905, 2503. Team Squishmellows 26 Bowl Kings 22
THURSDAY YBC <i>Nov. 27</i> Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 188, 524. Boys High Single and Triple, Adien Lavergne, 218, 581. Team High Single and Triple, Bravehearts, 877, 2512. Team The Enders 29 Bravehearts 27 Everything 22 Bowling Superstars 18	SATURDAY YBC <i>Nov. 29</i> Girls High Single and Triple, Ashyah Davies, 141, 370. Boys High Single and Triple, Adien Lavergne, 218, 581. Team High Single and Triple, Bravehearts, 877, 2512. Team The Enders 29 Bravehearts 27 Everything 22 Bowling Superstars 18

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Mustangs split weekend action with Wizards, Aviators



By Stephen Scriver
Grasslands News

It was feathers on Friday and chicken on Saturday as the Wolseley Mustangs split a pair of games, losing 7-1 on Friday to the Emerald Park Wizard at home and then visiting the Caronport Aviators on Saturday and taking away a 6-3 victory.

On Friday the Wizards dominated the game from the opening face-off, virtually playing keep-away with the Mustangs for the first two periods and leading 2-1 and 6-1 in the first 40. In the past few seasons, games between these two teams have always been contentious and tight, and the Mustangs have more often than not come out on the long end. This night the Wizards would not be denied, and it seemed there was little the Mustangs could do about it.

In the third period the Mustangs found their legs and the play was more balanced, but many good Mustangs' chances were spoiled by errant shots or sloppy passes. The Wizards weren't seven times better than Wolseley, but this was their night, and it was the biggest loss suffered by the Mustangs for many seasons.

Wolseley also took the worst of the penalty parade, with new recruit Robert Williamson taking a match for a hit to the head. He'll sit for three games.

The measure of a good team is how they bounce back from adversity, and the Wolseley Mustangs passed this test with flying colours when they travelled to Caronport on Saturday night and handled the hometown Aviators 6-3, carrying the play for most of the game. Period scores were 3-0 and 5-1.

Maguire Kopp led the Mustangs with a pair of goals, with singles coming from Tyler Powell, Landon Obleman, Owen Ross and Cohler Faubert. Cohler now has four goals as an affiliated player. Special mention was made of Terrance Thomson, who made some timely saves when the Aviators had some good chances early in the game. Only seven minors were called by the refs, four to the Mustangs.

Lone goal

The arrow shows the small space that Blake Robertson (#16) hit to score Wolseley's only goal last Saturday, Nov. 29 (held in Wolseley) against the Emerald Park Wizards. The game ended 7-1 for the Wizards.

STEPHEN SCRIVER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Storm strike twice, Knox slips, Steelhawks suffer

PJHL highlights

By Provincial
Grasslands News

The past week in the Prairie Junior Hockey League delivered a mix of highs and lows for the Fort Knox, Pilot Butte Storm and Moosomin Steelhawks, as all three clubs continued their push toward the mid-December schedule. Pilot Butte put together one of its strongest weeks of the season, Fort Knox battled hard but came up short in a heavily lopsided shooting effort, and Moosomin faced another challenging stretch on the road.

Fort Knox

Fort Knox generated an impressive 56 shots on goal but were unable to turn that pressure into a win, falling 4-1 to the Pilot Butte Storm on Nov. 29. Spencer Copeland

scored their only goal late in the second period, but the Storm added two more in the third to put the game out of reach. The loss leaves Fort Knox in second place in the Bill Johnston Division with a 13-6-0-0 record and 26 points as they prepare for a road game against the Southern Rebels on Dec. 3 before returning home to host the Regina Silver Foxes on Dec. 7.

Pilot Butte Storm

The Pilot Butte Storm enjoyed a strong and productive weekend, picking up wins over both the Regina Silver Foxes and Fort Knox. Their 6-3 victory over the Silver Foxes on Nov. 28 featured a powerful showing from the special-teams unit, which scored three times on the power play. Tate Olson recorded two goals, Jaxon Skiftun added four points

and Kaden Perron stopped 41 shots for the win. The following night, Pilot Butte carried its momentum into a 4-1 win over Fort Knox, with Skiftun scoring twice and Brady Carr turning aside 55 shots. With these back-to-back victories, the Storm improved to 7-10-0-2 for 16 points and remain in fourth place heading into games against the Silver Foxes on Dec. 4, the Saskatoon Westleys on Dec. 6 and the Martensville Chiefs on Dec. 10.

Moosomin Steelhawks

The Moosomin Steelhawks endured another tough road swing, beginning with an 8-1 loss to the Carrot River Outback Thunder on Nov. 28. Deagan Reister provided Moosomin's lone goal, but Carrot River dictated the pace with four goals in the second period and three

more in the third. One night later, Moosomin was shut out 5-0 by the Saskatoon Westleys despite a strong 47-save performance by Joshua Blair. The two losses extended the Steelhawks' losing skid to seven games, leaving them at 4-17-0-2 with 10 points and sitting fifth in the Bill Johnston Division. Moosomin now turns its focus to a Dec. 5 home game against the struggling Regina Silver Foxes as both teams look to pick up needed points.



U18 Mils Tournament

The U18 Melville Millionaires held their home tournament from Nov. 28 to 30. The tournament featured seven teams. Pictured is the game between the Mils and the Foam Lake Flyers on Nov. 28.

JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

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Two nations, one big weekend at Southern Showdown 2025

26 teams take part in tournament

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Ochapowace and Kahkewistahaw joined forces last weekend to co-host the 2025 Southern Showdown Volleyball Championship, a two-day event that brought together elite athletes and enthusiastic crowds. The tournament was

the result of several months of joint planning by the recreation departments from both Nations.

A total of 26 teams participated, including 15 women’s teams and 11 men’s teams. Fans were treated to fast-paced rallies, powerful hits, and strong defensive play that kept the gym energized throughout the weekend. The level of talent on display drew constant reactions

from the crowd as teams battled for top placings.

In the men’s division, Standing Buffalo claimed the championship title, Bigstone finished in second place, Kahkewistahaw placed third, and Pasqua earned fourth place. In the women’s division, George Gordon captured the championship, Kahkewistahaw finished second, Lac La Ronge took third place,

and Makwa rounded out the top four.

Organizers expressed appreciation to the many volunteers who assisted with gate admissions, score-keeping, and other duties that helped the event run smoothly. They noted that the tournament strengthened partnerships between Ochapowace and Kahkewistahaw and highlighted the growing profile of Indigenous volleyball in the region

Wathcing the December night skies - Winter Solstice starts Dec. 21

By James Edgar
For Grasslands News

The Moon presents a waxing gibbous phase as the month begins, with the full phase appearing on Dec. 4. Also on the fourth, the Moon drifts just north of

the stars of the Pleiades (M45). The full moon, at perigee of 356,963 km, generates high tides at coastal areas. On Dec. 7, Jupiter is four degrees south of the waning moon, One day later, the moon is 1.4 degrees north of the Beehive Cluster (M44). Dec. 10 sees Regulus 0.7 degrees south of our satellite; this is an occultation for

most of Canada. Last quarter comes a day later, on Dec. 11. On Dec. 14, Spica is 1.4 degrees north of the moon. Dec. 17 sees Luna at apogee of 406,322 km. The next evening has the moon 0.4 degrees south of Antares; another occultation, but in the Southern Hemisphere. The moon is new on Dec. 19. For those seeking an observing challenge, Pluto is 0.6 degrees south of the Moon—an occultation in eastern Canada—on the Dec. 22. By the 27th, the two large planets Saturn and Neptune are four degrees and nine degrees, respectively, south of the first-quarter moon. Once again, the waxing gibbous moon is 0.9 degrees north of the Pleiades.

Mercury appears in the eastern dawn sky for the best morning apparition of 2025 for Northern Hemisphere viewers.

Venus is too close to the Sun to be seen.

Mars is too close to the Sun to be seen.

Jupiter rises in the east shortly after sunset, presenting a favourable opportu-

nity for Northern Hemisphere viewing. Dec. 7 sees the waning gibbous moon four degrees north of the gas giant planet. A double shadow crosses the disk on the morning of Dec. 24.

Saturn is among the stars of Aquarius, slowly beginning prograde motion. The ring system opens up a little during the month, so we can see more of the south side. The first-quarter moon glides by on Dec. 27.

Uranus is well placed for viewing all through the night.

Neptune and Saturn are a pair in the western evening sky, but far enough apart that they’re in separate constellations—Pisces for Neptune and Aquarius for Saturn.

The Geminid Meteors peak on the morning of Dec. 14

Winter Solstice is on the morning of Dec. 21.

The Ursid Meteors peak on the morning of Dec. 22.

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Grenfell Museum hosts Christmas tea fundraiser

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Ladies sat enjoying tea and dainties in the dining room at Grenfell Museum last Wednesday afternoon. They had gathered for the annual Christmas Tea fundraiser that was held Nov. 25 and 26.

The museum was originally built in 1904 as a private home for Edward

Fitzgerald and his family. The Queen Anne-style house is well-suited for a whimsical holiday party and the Christmas Tea has become a popular tradition in the community. Two sittings were hosted each day, where friends chatted about community events and holiday traditions as volunteers refilled teacups decorated with yellow roses.

Guests enjoyed the festive atmosphere, surrounded by antiques and vintage items while vinyl records played familiar Christmas tunes. Along with the chance to socialize, museum visitors also had an opportunity to enter a raffle for a hand-knitted elephant set donated by Andrea Christie. Suzette Stone won the draw for the plush toy.



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Christmas Craft fair supports local food bank and school

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

More than 30 vendors participated in a Christmas Craft Show at Broadview Community Hall Nov. 29. They offered an array of handcrafted items, making it easy for residents to purchase locally made gifts for everyone on their Christmas list, whether they sought candles, food, home décor, jewelry or other special presents.

Booths also featured skin care products, stuffed animals and greeting cards. Courtney Bach-

told offered photos taken in front of a Christmas scene, along with a selection of books for sale from her shop in Whitewood. Additional tables provided information about Broadview Lions Club and raffles to benefit Broadview Library and Broadview Museum. Along with supporting local entrepreneurs, organizations and artisans, the event supported food security and education. Rather than charging an admission fee, shoppers were encouraged to bring donations for the local food bank and

School Community Council (SCC). Folks attending the Craft Show responded generously, contributing non-perishable food items and \$250 for Broadview Food Bank. An additional \$1,835 will support Broadview SCC in purchasing new chairs for the school and hosting a Family Christmas Dance. The SCC ordered 154 chairs, to replace old wooden seats, and audience members will be able to use them at the school Christmas Concert later this month.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

New chairs purchased
More than 30 vendors participated in the Broadview Christmas Craft Show on Nov. 29. Proceeds from the event support the local food bank and SCC initiatives such as the purchase of 154 new chairs for school events.

Fundraiser tea
Ladies enjoyed tea and dainties at Grenfell Museum's annual Christmas Tea fundraiser held Nov. 25 and 26.

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www.stpaulsmelville.ca
Saturday, Dec. 6:
4:30 p.m. The River Church
Agape Meal at MCW
Sunday, Dec. 7:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
and Sunday School
* * *

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Sunday, Dec. 7:
*7 p.m. Worship at Trinity Lemb

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306-720-0589
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Dec. 7:
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5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Sunday, Dec. 7:
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with Communion

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:
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10:00 a.m. Coffee and Welcome
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
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Recorded messages
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GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
Dec. 4: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Dec. 5: 7:00 p.m. Youth Group
Dec. 6: 10 a.m. Men's & Mugs
Dec. 7: 9:15 a.m. Choir
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Dec. 8: 7:00 p.m. Comm. Choir
Dec. 9: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day
Dec. 11: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
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Sunday, Dec. 14
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

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Associate Pastor: Jesse Darby
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Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Service at 11 a.m.
Online services can be found at:
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Melville Churches Welcome You

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

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapathil
Saturday, Dec. 6:
4:00 p.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Dec. 7:
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
2nd Sunday of Advent

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, Dec. 7:
12:00 Noon Communion Service
Followed by Potluck

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, Dec. 7
2:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

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2nd Tuesday of the Month

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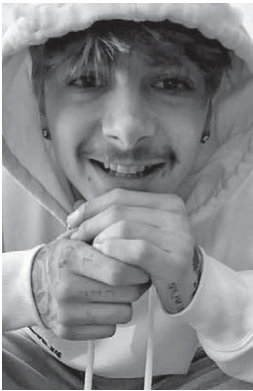


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Obituary

Brayden Franson
May 9, 2007 – Nov. 6, 2025

With deep sadness, we announce the passing of Brayden William James Franson, who left us far too soon on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025. Born on May 9, 2007, Brayden touched countless lives with his loyalty, his humour, and quiet, steady kindness that made him impossible to forget.



Brayden was a devoted father to his daughter, Riley Shaylyn Doehl-Franson, the brightest light of his life. He was a loving partner to Bailey Doehl, who stood by him through everything and shared a bond built on laughter, stubbornness, and unconditional love.

Brayden is survived by his father, Paul Franson; his mother, Brandy Schile; grandfather Wesley Nelson; aunt Jennifer Kindlein; uncle and aunt Marc and Tish; uncle Wayne; cousins Shelby, Whitney, Samantha, and Miranda; auntie Pam (Warren), and Ann Clarkson, who each held a special place in his heart.

Brayden is reunited in the next world with his grandmother, Cindy Nelson; grandfather Leo Schile, and Bill Clarkson, all of whom welcomed him with love.

Brayden was known for dropping everything to help anyone, no matter the hour or the need. He was thoughtful, kind, and endlessly willing to give more of himself than he ever asked for in return. He was handsome, stubborn in the funniest ways, and exactly as those closest to him would say a little shit head, in the most lovable, unforgettable sense.

Brayden could make people laugh when they didn’t think they could. He showed up for others even when he was struggling himself. He loved hard, cared deeply, and left an imprint on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

To honour Brayden’s memory, we share a verse from Lil Peep that captures the way he lived and the meaning he carried in the lives of those who loved him:

“Look at the sky tonight. All of the stars have a reason.”
Lil Peep

Brayden will be remembered with love, laughter, and the stories that will keep his spirit shining forever.

A graveside service was held for Brayden on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025, in the Whitewood Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Whitewood and Melville.



Obituary

Alice Friesen
Nov. 8, 1937 – Nov. 28, 2025

It is with deep sadness that the family of Alice Friesen announce her peaceful passing on Friday, Nov. 28, 2025 at Preston Special Care Home in Saskatoon, SK.

Alice was born Nov. 8, 1937 in Melville, SK. Her parents Isaac and Mary (Rempel) Friesen had five children. Her siblings were Kathleen, George, Bruce and Harvey. Alice was the baby of the family. She attended school in Melville.

Alice married Albin Knezacek in March of 1959. Albin and Alice had seven children - Dennis, Donna, Donald, Ardell, Brenda, Bernice and Darwin. They raised their children in Esterhazy, later moving to Yorkton in 1973.

Alice’s greatest joy was always her children, and later grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Alice’s foundation for her life was always God. She believed that Jesus would return one day to restore love in the world.

Alice is with God in heaven. Her body is pure and without pain. Her heart is full of the love of Jesus. Alice taught all of her children the path to God is through Jesus and that God is real.

Alice’s spiritual name is “Gift of Forever”. Her children knew the gift of heaven was for eternity. Alice was preceded in death by her parents, four siblings and her grandson Adam Cumming.

In lieu of flowers please consider giving your heart to Jesus. Alice’s focus in life was for everyone to know God’s great love and become a disciple.

Funeral service and interment will be in Melville, SK at a future date.

To share memories and condolences please visit www.parkfuneral.ca

Arrangements entrusted to Park Funeral Home.

Obituary

Roy Dennis Selland
April 13, 1945 – Nov. 23, 2025

Roy Dennis Selland of Melville, SK, beloved husband of Janice (Beres) Selland, was born on April 13, 1945, to Eddy and Margaret (Ness) Selland and entered eternal rest with his family by his side on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025, at St. Peter’s Hospital, Melville, at the age of 80 years.

Roy attended the one-room country school Success for Grades 1 to 8 and Grade 9 by correspondence. Attending Melville High School for Grades 10 to 12 required unique transportation before Bunny Halyk had his first bus route for Roy’s Grade 12. For Grade 10, a taxi took the five local high school students to town, and Grade 11, a neighbourhood car pool with Roy driving the five locals the last part of the trip. Roy graduated high school in 1963.

Roy enrolled in the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture in 1963, but health issues caused him to discontinue. In 1965 he resumed his first year of College of Agriculture.

Roy worked for Doug Wotherspoon during the summer of 1963. He also worked for Don Ruff in 1966. In 1967 he attended the School of Agriculture before hiring on with the PFRA from 1968 to 1973. He drove a road grader for the RM of Cana from 1974 to 1985.

Throughout the years, Roy had many interests. He was involved with the 4H beef club, was treasurer for the Success Recreational Co-operative and served on the Plain View Zion Lutheran Cemetery Board. Roy was an elected delegate for Sask. Wheat Pool and APAS representative for the RM of Cana. In addition to grain farming, he also did custom baling. Roy preferred raising cattle, and he could walk among them and pet almost any one. His favourite one was named Ruby Red. In 2004, Roy received the Family Farm Award, being the third generation on the original farm.

Roy met his wife, Janice, in 1970, and they were married on Oct. 7, 1972. They were blessed with two sons, Kevin and Keith.

Due to his declining health, Roy and Janice moved into Melville in August 2018. In June 2021, Roy became a resident at the Pioneer Lodge Care Home in Ituna.

Roy leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife of 53 years, Janice; his sons, Kevin (Brandi) and Keith; three grandchildren, Vienna, Erik and Leo; his sister, Betty Parr; his mother-in-law, Frances Beres; five brothers-in-law; four sisters-in-law; many nieces and nephews; and a very special cousin, Richard Berg (Maureen). He was predeceased by his parents, Eddy and Margaret Selland; his grandparents, Ivor and Birgit Selland and John and Olga Ness; his brother-in-law, Calvin Parr; his father-in-law, Albert Beres; aunts, uncles and cousins.

A celebration of Roy’s life was held Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Melville, with the Rev. Ron Shumba officiating. Roy’s sister, Betty Parr, gave the eulogy. Readers were Leo Selland and Ken Beres, and music was supplied by Marilyn Senyk, Brandi Ottenbreit and Erik Selland. Fellowship followed with the Good Shepherd ladies preparing lunch.

Interment took place in St. Henry’s R.C. Parish Cemetery, Melville. The pallbearers were Andrew Artymowicz, Harry Artymowicz, Larry Moen, Kevin Selland, Keith Selland, Erik Selland and Leo Selland.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.



Obituary

Robert Louis Heidt
March 31, 1964 – Nov. 28, 2025

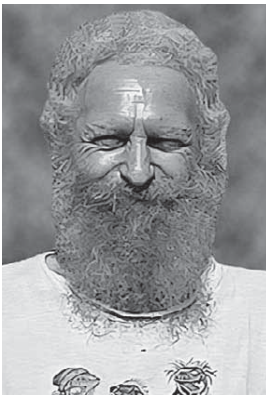
In loving memory of Robert Louis Heidt who passed away peacefully in his sleep in Broadview, SK.

Celebration of life will be held in the spring of 2026 on the Rienks Family Farm.

Robert was predeceased by his parents Louis Heidt and Angela Dove; grandchildren: Averyl Rienks, Leon and Anthony Heidt; brother-in-law Bill Martin and ex-wife Denise Brule.

Left to cherish his memory are his children: Amanda (Terry Rienks), Spenser (Jenny), Nicole (David Bartok), Melissa (Derek), David Patterson and Chantel Patterson; grandchildren: Terri Lynn (Shane Okeymasim), Aussin, Kinnda (Ryland), Layne, Mylo, Karp, Megan, Jayden, William, Owen, Tyler, Hayley, Ian, Cody, Veronica (Tynan), Payton, Elise, Ivan, Kayden, Izabella, Willow and Jaicee; great-grandkids: Zola, Wilson, Tony and Ronan; special friend Tammy Hofley; ex-wife Donna Vigar; sisters: Marion (James), Joan (James) and Carol; brother John (Theresa) and Robert’s aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, numerous cousins and many friends.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



Obituary William Graham Munro

April 16, 1939 – Nov. 25, 2025

Graham Munro, 86, formerly of Kennedy, SK passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025, after a long courageous battle of cancer.

William Graham Munro was born April 16, 1939, at the Munro Homestead, south of Kennedy, to Hugh John and Irene (Bowden).

Graham was predeceased by his parents, Hugh John and Irene; sister Jean and in-laws Maurice and Gilette Zebiere.

He is survived by his wife, of nearly 64 years, Denise; their sons: Scott, Dale (Kass), Maurice (Terry) and Kevin (Joanne); grandchildren: Melissa (Steve), Matthew, Brandon (Sydney), Riley, Davan (Casey), Jaimie (Pierce), Kayla (Nick) and Parker; great-grandchildren: Hayden, Lorraine, Laekyn, Scarlett, Isobel, Bram and Hexton; brother Don; sister-in-law Lucy; brother-in-law Lionel and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family want to thank the staff at Kipling Integrated Health Center and Kipling Home Care for all their care and support.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



Memoriam

YOUNG, LORENZ – In loving memory of a dear Dad and Grampa who passed away Dec. 5, 1980. Thinking of you Dad, but that is nothing new I thought about you yesterday, and the day before that too. I'll think about you tomorrow, and as the years come and go I'll think about you forever, because I loved so. –Always loved, remembered and sadly missed by Laura, Denis, Julie, Leanne and Janlyn.

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Card of Thanks

The family of the late Roy Selland wish to express their heartfelt gratitude for all the love and support we received during this difficult time.

Thank you for all the food, flowers, cards, gifts, phone calls and text messages. Thank you to Pastor Ron Shumba of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the guidance and prayers. Thank you to Betty Parr for the lovely eulogy for her brother; also Leo Selland and Ken Beres for the readings, Marilyn Senyk, Brandi Ottenbreit and Erik Selland for the music. Thank you to the pallbearers and all who attended and those who travelled from far to be with us. Thank you to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ladies for the lovely lunch. Thank you to Matthews Funeral Home for their professional and compassionate services.

Last, but not least, to the staff at the Ituna Lodge for the wonderful care Roy received in the four years plus that he was a resident. Your kindness will never be forgotten. May God bless you all.

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Tender

The Village Kennedy offers for sale the following property. **Property Description:**
Lot 1, Block 2 Plan AL2307
SEALED TENDERS must be submitted in an envelope marked "Property Tender" addressed to the Village of Kennedy: Box 93, Kennedy, SK S0G 2R0. Tenders must be postmarked by 3:00 p.m. on December 31, 2025. Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted. Successful bidder will have 90 days to provide payment of the property purchase.
Dated the 13th of November, 2025.

Jennifer McMillan
Administrator
Village of Kennedy

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PUBLIC NOTICE
RESORT VILLAGE OF FORT SAN
Notice of Discretionary Use Application

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Resort Village of Fort San that pursuant to section 55 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* gives notice that a discretionary use application has been received and the details are as follows:
Discretionary Use Permit: Short-term Rental Lot A, Block 1, Plan FS560
INTENT: The applicant is seeking approval to operate a short-term rental property.
PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the application at the Village of Fort San Office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Tuesday to Thursday, excluding statutory holidays.
PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on December 16, 2025 at 4:15 pm. The public hearing will be held at the Fort San Village Office at 120 Broadway Street W Fort Qu'Appelle, SK. Any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed application is welcome to attend or to submit comments prior to the meeting. Council will consider all comments received.

Issued at the Resort Village of Fort San November 26, 2025.
Amy Railton, CAO

PUBLIC NOTICE
RM of Stanley No. 215

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Stanley No. 215 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend its Zoning Bylaw.
Intent: The purpose of the proposed bylaw is to add the Special Service Area of Duff to the Hamlet District of the Zoning Bylaw.
Affected Land: The amendment will affect all lands located within the boundaries of the Special Service Area of Duff.
Reason: This amendment is required to reflect the restructuring of the former Urban Municipality of Duff into a Special Service Area under the Hamlet jurisdiction of the RM of Stanley No. 215. The zoning change ensures appropriate land use regulation under the current municipal structure.
Public Inspection: The proposed bylaw may be inspected by any interested person at the RM of Stanley No. 215 office during regular office hours. Copies of the bylaw are available at cost.
Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 10 a.m. The public hearing will be held at the RM office in Melville, SK. Any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw is welcome to attend or to submit comments prior to the meeting. Council will consider all comments received.
Issued at the RM of Stanley No. 215 November 7, 2025. Rhonda Schmaltz, Administrator

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Local fire crews honoured for heroism in brutal wildfire season

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Fire departments from across the Grasslands region have been formally recognized by Premier Scott Moe for their critical role in battling Saskatchewan’s unprecedented 2025 wildfire season—one that burned nearly three million hectares and forced evacuations in more than 50 communities across the province.

At a ceremony held Tuesday in Regina, local departments from Balcarres, Melville (representing the RM of Britannia), Redvers, the RM of South Qu’Appelle / McLean, and Carlyle were among 64 volunteer and municipal fire departments honoured with the Premier’s Commendation. Firefighters and department leaders received both the commendation medallion and

a personal letter signed by the Premier, thanking them for their service.

Each fire department was presented with a Commendation Medal and pin, while firefighters who assisted in fighting wildfires were presented with a Commendation pin and certificate. In the letter presented to the recipients, Premier Moe emphasized the severity of the season, noting that 514 wildfires burned nearly triple the area affected in 2024, stretching fire crews, communities, and emergency agencies to their limits. Some communities endured repeated evacuations as conditions worsened throughout the summer.

Local firefighters played a key role in this province-wide response. Volunteer crews from the southeast worked long hours under dangerous conditions—often alongside neighbouring departments, SPSA personnel, and Indigenous fire teams—to protect farms, ranches, homes, and critical infrastructure.

“The contribution of your fire department was invaluable in protecting communities at risk,” Moe wrote, acknowledging the coordinated efforts of the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs, Saskatchewan

Volunteer Fire Fighters Association, Prince Albert Grand Council, Meadow Lake Tribal Council and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency.

For many local departments, the commendations reflect not only the scale of the crisis but the people behind the response. The RM of South Qu’Appelle/McLean Fire Department was represented by Captain Lucas Rydzik, Firefighter Matt Haider, and Firefighter Jordan Chrunik, with Fire Chief Ashley Thompson accepting the medal on behalf of the department. The Balcarres Fire Department was recognized for the service of Fire Chief Charlie Milne, along with firefighters Jeff Lowe and Mason Onrait, who contributed to wildfire efforts.

Melville Fire Chief Aaron Buckingham also received recognition for his two deployments with the RM of Britannia during the height of the fire season. The Redvers Fire Department’s commendation acknowledged the work of Deputy Chief Doug Bennett, Captain Brenden Gaudent, and Firefighter Channce Joannette, with Fire Chief Brad Hutton accepting the medal for the department.

Carlyle Fire Chief Don VanMeer accepted honours on behalf of the numerous Carlyle



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Premier’s Commendation
Local firefighters from Balcarres, Melville, Redvers, McLean and Carlyle were recognized with a Premier’s Commendation along with 64 fire departments for their contributions during the 2025 wildfire season.

firefighters who spent significant time battling northern wildfires throughout the summer.

Premier Moe praised all firefighters for their “unwavering commitment” to residents, noting that their quick action and steady leadership helped keep Saskatchewan com-

munities safe during one of the most volatile summer seasons on record.

For departments across the southeast—where volunteer firefighter numbers remain tight and crews regularly balance emergency duties with day jobs and family life—the recognition highlights

the dedication, sacrifice and professionalism that carried Saskatchewan through its most destructive wildfire season in years.

SPSA Type-1 firefighters and support personnel will receive their commendations at a separate ceremony in early 2026.

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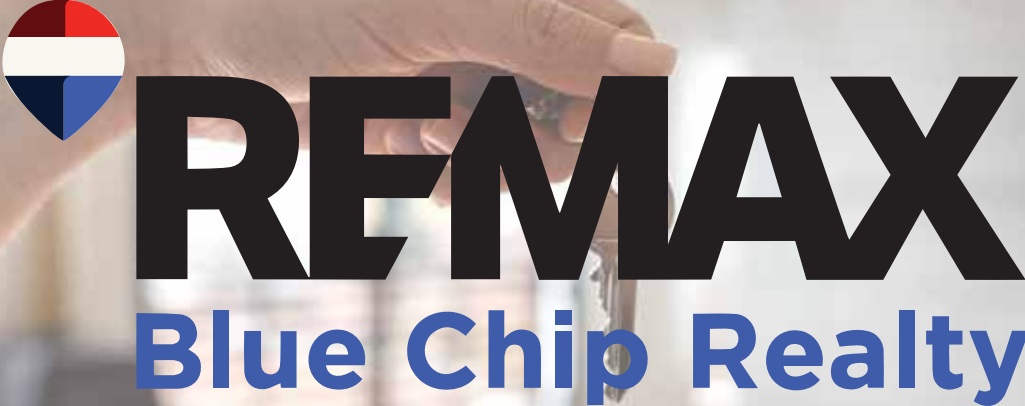
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*Bonus price adjustments of \$500 available on select in-stock 2024 KONA N Line trims only, on lease, finance and cash purchase from July 3, 2024 to July 30, 2024. Price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be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



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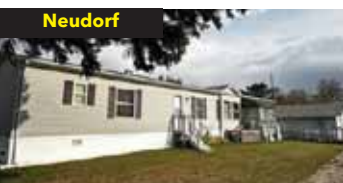
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Mayor Brian Strong is smudged by Councillor Kory McNabb in memory of Councillor Ron Shordee who died in November.

ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Staff Sgt. Drew Wagner who has assumed command of the Fort's RCMP detachment was introduced to council and briefed the meeting on his plans for the force. He reported that four vacancies on the force are expected to fill two vacant

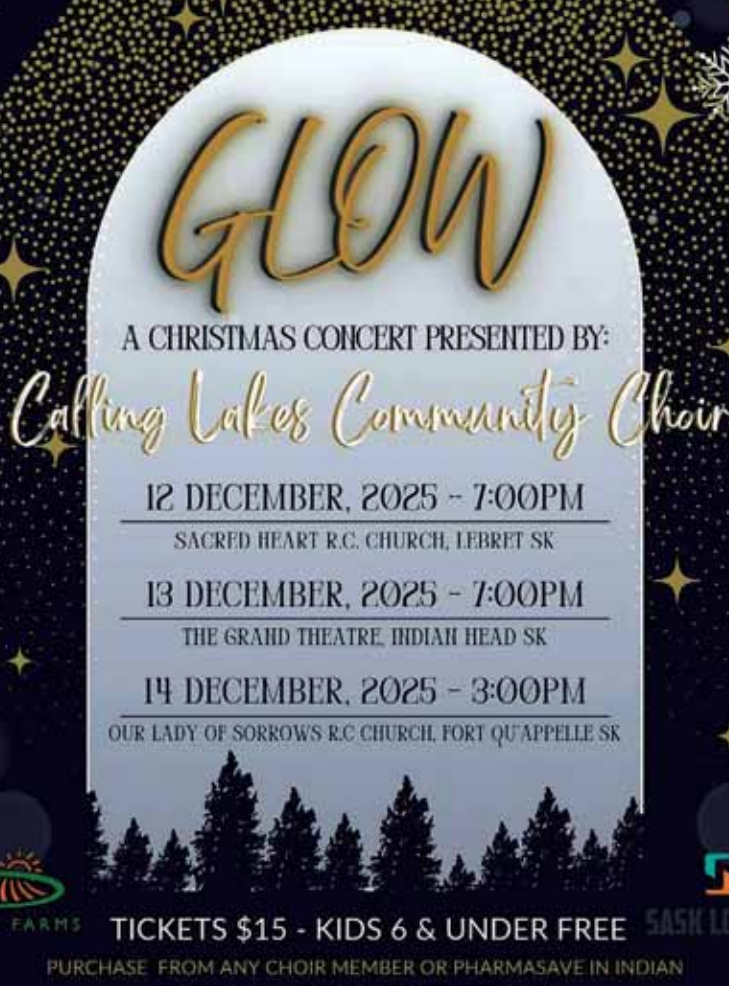
2025. To ensure residents can meet the tax deadline while the office is closed, cheques can be deposited through the mail slot at the administration office, on line through a financial institution, or by e-transfer to manager@Fortquappelle.com. Payments must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2025, to avoid applicable penalties.



A group of police officers standing in front of a large yellow and blue sign that reads "FILE HILLS FIRST NATION". The sign features a Native American headdress. The officers are wearing dark uniforms, and one officer in the foreground is wearing sunglasses and a light blue shirt with a tie.

ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEW

Detachment commander Staff Sgt. Dean Lerat, Cpl Larry Bigknife and constable Terrell Benoit were among the police officers on hand for the meet and greet at the renovated Carry the Kettle Police Station.



GLOW

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