

Moosomin-Montmartre

Doctor staffing restored at local hospitals

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Residents in communities across southeast Saskatchewan — including Kipling, Indian Head and Whitewood — are seeing improved stability in local emergency care, with hospitals in the region once again staffed by physicians and open for emergency services. In situations where temporary physician shortages arise, additional supports such as Saskatchewan's Virtual Physician Program are being used to ensure emergency departments remain open and accessible.

All four of these hospitals are once again staffed with doctors and are open for emergencies, according to MLA Kevin Weedmark.

In situations where there may be a doctor shortage for some periods of time, the Virtual Physician Program is in use in the emergency departments of both the Wolseley Memorial Integrated Care Centre and Broadview Union Hospital.

"The virtual physician program is a temporary strategy that supports the health-care team (in Wolseley and Broadview) to continue providing safe, patient-centred care and address the emergent medical needs of patients presenting at the ER," Saskatchewan Health stated.

"Using existing HealthLine 811 technology, the virtual physician program allows the local nursing team to consult remotely with experienced ER physicians located elsewhere via voice or video. Together, they assess ER patients and determine the appropriate course of action."

Wolseley, Broadview and Kipling, are among the 20 communities that have utilized the virtual physician program to support safe, ongoing access to ER services.

MLA Kevin Weedmark informed Grasslands News when contacted about health care services in the communities that, "This does not mean emergency care in these communities is always being provided virtually. The Virtual Physician Program provides the local health-care team with remote access to a physician located elsewhere who can safely and effectively assess, triage and provide treatment to patients in the emergency department to avoid a service disruption."

Weedmark also commented on another health care support. "All pharmacies can prescribe for over 30 minor ailments and self-care conditions and, in specific circumstances, extend prescriptions, helping to avoid unnecessary hospital visits for medication refills," Weedmark also informed Grasslands News.

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy information site states, "Saskatchewan pharmacists who meet certain conditions are able to prescribe drugs in these circumstances including for minor ailments or conditions, for emergency prescription refills, to renew/extend prescriptions or to change drug dosage/formulation."

As a broader effort to improve primary care access in Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Health launched a pilot project in 2025 in which participating pharmacists could conduct point-of-care testing for strep throat and/or ear infections. The Pharmasave, located at 521 Grand Avenue in Indian Head, is participating in this pilot project.

Moosomin and District Health Care

Of interest to area readers may be the report from the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation meeting held on Jan. 5 presented to the Whitewood Town Council at their meeting on January 13 by Mayor Chris Ashfield, who attended the meeting.

Ashfield reported the Moosomin & District Health Care Foundation received encouraging updates on physician recruitment, primary care staffing, and expanded health services during its meeting. Discussions focused on improving access to care while reducing pressure on acute and emergency departments.



CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Frozen firefighters

Whitewood Fire Department responded to a large landfill fire on January 23 which saw firefighters spend over seven and a half hours battling not only the blaze but also temperatures of -35°C and windchills of -50°C. See story on page 17.

Physician Recruitment and Staffing

The Foundation was advised that three new physicians are beginning work this month, including two full-time female physicians. While the additions strengthen local healthcare capacity, the community continues to navigate staffing challenges. Currently, two physicians are on medical leave, and one physician is expected to depart in July.

To support long-term stability and continuity of care, several initiatives are underway. The resident physician program will be expanded by one additional resident, further strengthening the local training pipeline. Plans are also progressing for the enrollment of a physician assistant, with training and support frameworks being developed. In addition, recruitment of an advanced practice nurse has been completed, with the position scheduled to begin in February.

The Foundation also confirmed that a Ministry of Health grant has been approved to fund additional healthcare positions. These include two nursing positions, one family practice nurse role, an integrated dietitian and social worker supports. These roles represent new investments in the local system and are not reallocations from other areas. Some position postings have been delayed due to internal administrative processes.

Service Expansion and Care Model

Committee members discussed a comprehensive approach to improving patient access and modernizing the local care model.

Plans include extending clinic hours with a target of approximately 12 hours per day, providing greater flexibility and improved access for patients. The integration of allied health professionals into family practice and

satellite clinics is also underway, allowing for more coordinated and team-based care.

A phased approach is being taken to develop local medical homes, including nurse-supported satellite locations such as Whitewood and Alton. This model is designed to enhance chronic disease management, mental health and addictions services, and preventative care. By strengthening primary care services in the community, the initiative aims to reduce reliance on hospital emergency departments for non-emergent concerns.

Community Pharmacy Collaboration

Limited pharmacy hours were identified as a significant factor affecting acute and emergency services. Closed pharmacies during clinic hours have been noted to increase pressure on emergency departments when patients are unable to access medications or pharmacy support.

To address this issue, a ministerial grant has been secured to support enhanced collaboration with community pharmacies. Discussions are ongoing with individual pharmacies to explore options for extended and weekend hours to better align with clinic operations.

A meeting was scheduled for January 19 with Friendly Family Pharmacies to further discuss extended services, clinic alignment, and improved coordination of care, including services for First Nations patients.

The committee also received an update regarding the condition of kitchenettes and dining spaces within four long-term care pods in Moosomin.

The Moosomin & District Health Care Foundation remains committed to strengthening local healthcare services through recruitment, strategic partnerships, and innovative care models that prioritize patient access and community well-being.

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Online game costs Whitewood woman nearly \$10,000

Sends warning to other parents to be watchful of what comes up on screen

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

It seems difficult to believe that the online gaming platform known as Roblox is marking 20 years. The popular realm focused on user-created games boasts 151.5 million daily active users according to third-quarter 2025 numbers. Roblox is home to 3.5 million developers who made more than \$597.94 million in the first six months of 2025 alone with some 35.8 million monthly

paying users. More than half of those users are kids with an estimated 56 per cent under the age of 16. With all the millions made by Roblox, not all transactions have final approval from parents. In fact, as one Whitewood woman discovered, it’s very easy for a hefty sum to be accumulated with no way to recoup the money. Chantel Boutin describes her son as an avid fan of Roblox, noting “every kid plays it, right?”

One portion of the online world includes a chat feature where pop-up ads interfere with the user experience. In order to bypass the ad, one must click a small ‘x’ to minimize it. However, unbeknownst to Boutin and her son, every time the ‘x’ was clicked, it cost real-world money and not the game currency known as Robux. “Every time he clicked the ‘okay’ - which he thought was the X - it would take money out of my account,” she explained. “That would make that ad go away.” Between Nov. 17 and Dec. 28, a total of \$9,987 was charged to Boutin’s credit card, which she also did not realize was linked to her son’s device – an old smartphone. “I never noticed it because it was in the Christmas season,” she explained. With Christmas shopping transactions and e-transfers coming in and going out, the Roblox charges went unnoticed. “I did not check my bank

account, which is on my part wrong, but I knew I had a cushion,” Boutin said. “I went to go for lunch one day and I looked at my bank account with \$25 to my name.” The activity was not flagged by Boutin’s bank, and the credit card company claimed they couldn’t help either as the transactions were technically pre-authorized. There were no confirmation emails as other online transactions use, the only indication that the money had moved out of Boutin’s account were the labels AppleCom Billing, ONCA and YouTube Super Chat. Reaching out to Roblox and Apple yielded no results either. “You cannot talk to Roblox,” Boutin said. “When you phone into Roblox, you have to leave a voicemail with your e-mail Roblox account. You’ll get an e-mail back and all it states is if your purchase was made through providers such as Apple, iTunes, Microsoft, PlayStation, MetaQuest, or Amazon, they

have to refund you.” Roblox states they do offer to work with unauthorized charges and refund requests in certain cases. “Whenever possible, we work with parents and customers directly as part of our permissive refund policy to provide a refund for unauthorized purchases,” noted Roblox. “However, some third-party payment processors require refunds go through their support services and Roblox is unable to refund charges for those providers.” So far, Boutin has not been able to recover any of the nearly \$10,000 taken from her account. As for advice to other parents out there, she recommends updating or even initiating the parental controls on smart devices. “Do not have your bank information on any of your phones that your kids have access to; or iCloud,” Boutin said. “Trust nothing because your money’s gone in a flash and nobody will help you.”

Fatal snowmobile rollover

GNG Staff
Grasslands News

On Jan. 25 at approximately 5:30 a.m., Southey RCMP received a report of a single snowmobile rollover on Main Street in Bulyea. Officers responded along with local fire and EMS. The sole driver of the snowmobile was declared deceased by EMS at the scene. He has been identified as a 58-year-old male from Bulyea. His family has been notified. Southey RCMP continue to investigate.

BRANDED CONTENT

WORKSAFE SASKATCHEWAN: Building psychologically safer workplaces in Saskatchewan

When we think of workplace safety, hard hats, steel-toed boots and harnesses often come to mind. But safety isn’t only about preventing physical harm—it’s also about protecting our psychological health. Across Saskatchewan, more workers and employers are recognizing the importance of psychological health and safety. Yet many still ask: where do we start? How do we create workplaces where people feel safe, respected and supported, both physically and psychologically? The’s where the Psychological Health and Safety Resource Centre comes in.

A trusted hub for workers, employers and leaders

- WorkSafe Saskatchewan, the injury prevention partnership between the WCB and the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety, developed a free, easy-to-use online hub with practical tools to help workplaces strengthen psychological health and safety.
- The Resource Centre provides straightforward guidance for organizations at every stage, whether they’re beginning to explore workplace psychological health or enhancing existing programs. Resources include:
- Guides and templates to help employers build psychological health and safety into their policies and practices.
 - Webinars and workshops tailored to Saskatchewan workplaces.
 - Worker resources to understand rights, build resources and find support.
 - A directory of community supports to connect individuals to services close to home.

“Our goal is to make sure workers and employers in Saskatchewan have access to credible, practical tools that support psychological health and safety,” says Kevin Mooney, vice president of prevention and employer services at the WCB.

A growing challenge

Psychological injury claims have been steadily rising in Saskatchewan. From 2020 to 2024, the WCB accepted 1,209 psychological injury claims—numbers that continue to grow. While these claims still account for a small portion of all workplace injuries, their impact is significant with psychological injury claim durations higher than overall claim durations. Behind every statistic is a worker, a family and a workplace affected by stress, trauma or burnout. Psychological health issues can impact focus and productivity but more importantly, they can affect people’s quality of life.

“Over the past several years, we’ve seen Saskatchewan workplaces dealing with unique psychological health and safety challenges,” said Mooney. “That reinforces the importance of providing Saskatchewan workers and employers with the tools they need to support psychological health and safety in their workplaces.”

A trusted partner

WorkSafe Saskatchewan developed the Resource Centre with guidance of Dr. Joti Samra, a national leader in workplace psychological health and safety. Dr. Samra played a key role in developing the National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace, the first of its kind in the world. “Research statistics don’t lie,” said Dr. Samra. “Conservatively, one out of five of us will experience a psychological or mental health issue or illness every single year. Now, more than ever, we have a critical imperative to take action.”

Practical tools, real impact

The Resource Centre isn’t just about awareness. The site provides resources that are simple, credible and easy to use, including:

- Step-by-step resources for leaders to begin developing a psychologically safe workplace.
- Self-assessment tools to help organizations identify strengths and gaps.
- Educational videos and toolkits designed to fit the realities of Saskatchewan workplaces.
- Links to provincial psychological health services, making it easy to find additional help when needed.

For example, an employer might use the templates to integrate psychological safety into their safety program, while a worker might download resources to manage stress or seek community support.

Why psychological health matters

Research shows that workplaces that prioritize psychological health and safety see fewer injuries, reduced absenteeism and higher productivity. In a province where nearly 90 per cent of workplaces report zero injuries and zero fatalities each year, addressing psychological health is the next frontier in prevention. “Ultimately, healthy, resilient and thriving organizations and teams are comprised of healthy, resilient and thriving workers—both physically and psychologically,” Dr. Samra noted.

Take the first step

Building psychologically healthy workplaces takes all of us—workers, employers, unions, industry associations and safety leaders. By starting conversations, reducing stigma and using the free tools available, we can create workplaces where people feel safe bringing their whole selves to work. Visit worksafesask.ca/phsrc today to explore free tools, connect with community supports and begin building a stronger foundation for psychological health and safety in your workplace. Because when workplaces protect both physical and psychological health, everyone thrives.

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worksafesask.ca/phsrc.



SARM joins discussion on traceability regulations

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

Recently the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities released its statement concerning the expanded traceability regulations for the livestock industry being proposed by the CFIA, emphasizing the need to prevent “one-size fits all requirements” from being “downloaded onto producers.”

“SARM supports the decision to pause publication of the expanded CFIA traceability regulations for the time being,” says SARM President Bill Huber. “We’d like to see them stop it entirely, but

a pause at least gives the industry a chance to hopefully have some impact into further discussion and consultation on these things.”

While stating that SARM “supports effective traceability” as “essential for disease response and for maintaining our markets,” Huber insists that “any new rules must reflect reality in rural Saskatchewan.”

“We as producers - and I have been a producer myself for years - recognize the importance of trade,” he says. “We don’t want to see border closures like we have in the past with a major outbreak and right now we already have a

pretty good traceability system in place. If the CFIA thinks that there needs to be more changes, we’re open to listening to that. But they have to listen to us too. We must be involved in the process and have our say, before any expanded rules and regulations are put into place.”

Huber points to the “feasibility of the proposed rules,” particularly the seven-day deadline for completing the required reporting, as being the one of the top concerns producers are bringing forward.

“Producers have flagged significant concerns about these tight timelines for reporting being proposed and the extra workload that this would involve,” he explains. “There is a shortage of help in the agricultural community, even for large ranching outfits and purebred producers. Expecting pro-

ducers to complete the reporting that would be required within seven days is not realistic. They already have enough of a workload to keep them busy for most of the waking hours they have. We don’t need to be making more book work for these people.”

As well, Huber says that uneven access to Broadband service makes compliance with these timelines impossible for producers in some parts of the province.

“There are real concerns in Saskatchewan about Broadband service,” he observes, “because there are a lot of areas, especially in ranching communities in the south, southwest and west-central areas where there is very little connectivity. And when you get into that country south of Val Marie and close to the Montana border, there is virtually none at all. So, how are producers supposed to do this reporting within seven days?”

Huber adds that “we have great people representing us in our cattle associations who are very familiar with the wants and needs of the industry,” and maintains that

it is “very important that the CFIA reaches out to these people before they make those changes.”

Moving forward, Huber encourages producers to consider the CFIA decision to pause the publication of these expanded traceability regulations as a chance to ensure that their concerns are addressed before the proposed changes become reality.

“It’s important that the CFIA live up to its commitment to consider

producers’ concerns before proceeding with any new regulations,” he says. “And we’re hopeful that will happen, because as producers we are generally optimistic people, that’s why we’re in this business. So, we’re encouraging producers to treat this pause as an opportunity to help shape and have some input into a new system that protects animal health and market access while still remaining workable on the ground.”

Racine arrested

By **GNG Staff**
Grasslands News

On Jan. 24, Brandon Police Service located and arrested Robert Racine who was wanted on warrant by Yorkton RCMP for being unlawfully at large.

Racine is scheduled to appear in Brandon Provincial Court on Feb. 2 on charges laid in Manitoba. A court date for his charges from Saskatchewan has not yet been set.

On Jan. 14 at approximately 11:40 a.m., Yorkton RCMP received a report of an escaped prisoner. Investigation determined the prisoner was serving a sentence at the White Spruce Training Centre, and last seen on Ball Road in Yorkton five minutes prior to the call.

As a result of continued investigation, Racine was charged with one count being unlawfully at large.

Officers had asked the public to report all sight-

ings and information on his whereabouts.

He has connections to the Regina and Brandon area.

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Swedish travel writers spotlight Stockholm, Sask

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

All roads lead to Stockholm, after a pair of Swedish writers featured the Saskatchewan version of their country’s capital namesake in a list of top tourist destinations. Swedish journalists and authors Ola Liljedahl and Lena Nyblad Liljedahl recently featured Saskatchewan — with a strong focus on Stockholm — in Vagabond magazine, Sweden’s largest travel publication. The province placed sixth on the magazine’s annual list of the “15 best places to visit 2026.”

Ola has worked at Expressen, which is Sweden’s largest daily newspaper, and Lena has a background with Swedish National Radio. Currently, they’re promoting their latest book on Pablo Picasso (Picasso in the Swedish Public Home) and how five of the artist’s 16 concrete sculptures stand in small towns in Sweden. Ola also co-wrote Börje Salming’s autobiography with the former Maple Leaf defenceman, currently available on Amazon.

The couple’s connection to Saskatchewan began during a recent six-week summer road trip across Canada.

“When we started planning at our kitchen table in front of a Canadian map, we noticed that Saskatchewan looked empty,” Ola told Grasslands News. “We even talked about skipping driving through the province and instead fly over it”

However, they recognized a familiar name in the southeast corner and were intrigued to learn more about the prairie version of - a small community founded in 1905 by Swedish immigrants.

“But during the research we found the small town of Stockholm and decided to make a visit there,” Ola said.

The couple booked a room at Stockholm’s Arbor Bed and Breakfast, which ended up being the only accommodation planned ahead of time on their cross-country trip.

“That was actually the only nights we booked in advance,” Ola said. “When we do a road trip story, we prefer to see what happens. Immediately we felt that Stockholm was something special.”

Through their stay at the local B&B, the writers were connected with residents and arranged meetings throughout the area.

“Samantha and Jamie at the Stockholm Arbor B&B came up with ideas who we should meet and made a schedule for our days – and invited us to have dinner with their family,” Ola said.

During their stay, the writers met residents with Swedish ancestry, learned about local history, and shared meals and stories.

“We met so many nice and interesting people who gave us both their time and freshly baked Swedish thin bread from an old recipe,” Ola said.

The visit included time at the local cemetery, where the writers said the province’s immigrant history came into focus.

“We got tears in our eyes when we saw all the Swedish names on the gravestones in the cemetery,” Ola said. “What brave people who left at the time from poor Sweden to start a new life in another part of the world!”

Stockholm became a key part of their Vagabond feature, but the writers said their experience in Saskatchewan extended well beyond the community.

“Stockholm became an important part of our story,” Ola said. “But we also found out that there is much more to see in Saskatchewan.”

They travelled to Yorkton, and attended a powwow in Fort Qu’Appelle, which they described as a significant experience.

“A true memory for life – and interesting for our travel story of course,” Ola noted.

The writers also spent time in Saskatoon, initially for an unrelated interview.

“We went to Saskatoon,” Ola explained. “Actually, to do an interview with an electrician for another Swedish paper.”

While there, they learned about the city’s cultural significance, including how both Joni Mitchell and Gordie Howe grew up there.

“In a travel story, when you haven’t planned a lot in advance those spontaneously meetings always take you in new directions,” Ola said.

One such meeting led them to Swift Current to watch the Broncos hit the ice.

“Our next day plan changed when we met a young woman in a restaurant,” Ola said. “She talked about her hometown Swift Current. So, the next day we were sitting in an ice hockey arena to watch Swift Current Broncos in a game.”

The following morning, a visit to a farmers’ market resulted in another unexpected invitation.



PHOTO COURTESY OLA LJEDAHL | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Swedish

Swedish writers Ola Liljedahl (left) and Lena Nyblad Liljedahl said “hej från Sverige (hello from Sweden)” over the summer, visiting Stockholm during a cross-Canada tour. They wrote an article in Sweden’s top travel magazine, placing Saskatchewan in the top 10 places to visit globally.

“They were Hutterites and invited us to visit their colony the next day,” Ola said. “So, we spent the next day with them.”

By the end of their journey through the province, the writers said Saskatchewan had left a lasting impression.

“As you understand we could go on forever like this,” Ola said. “We really fell in love with the southern part of Saskatchewan: the people, the open landscape, the skies.”

Their ‘Little Stockholm on the Prairie’ story later helped inform Vagabond’s annual travel ranking.

“When the editor wanted us to contribute to the magazine’s annual list, ‘The 15 best places to visit 2026’, we didn’t hesitate a second to choose Saskatchewan with Stockholm,” Ola said. “And it came in sixth place.”

Mumbai, India ranked first; followed by Basel, Switzerland; Busan, South Korea; Pemba, Tanzania; Northumberland, England; Stockholm, Saskatchewan; Sifnos, Greece; Halsingland, Sweden; Galway, Ireland; South Greenland; Kanazawa, Japan; Aland, France; Naples, Italy; the Basque country in France; and Kosovo.

“When fewer and fewer Swedes dream of traveling to the USA, partly as a result of Donald Trump’s politics, Canada appears as a destination that is all the more pleasant as an alternative Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver ... or why not Saskatchewan?,” posed the article.

In the published list, Saskatchewan was introduced to Swedish readers as a lesser-known destination.

“Canada’s most unknown province is said to be ‘so flat that you can see your dog run away for several hours,’” the article stated. “It is prairie, prairie, prairie most everywhere in the province – which is almost 1.5 times as large as Sweden but with only just under one million inhabitants.”

Delvin and Louise Szumutku are well-known for their giant horses at Clydesdale Creek near Stockholm, and they became friends with Ola and Lena.

“I think Saskatchewan’s got a lot to be proud of to get to that point in this magazine,” Szumutku said. “And I thought it deserves some recognition.”

He said the experience highlighted how residents often underestimate what surrounds them; while what may be seemingly mundane to locals is unique to travellers.

“I find we take a lot for granted in this province,” Szumutku said. “They’re blown away by some of the stuff we have in this province. We look at our Qu’Appelle Valley

every day and we don’t think anything of it, and they’re blown away by some of the stuff we have in this province.”

Szumutku explained how they gave the Swedish travellers a tour of the area, taking in all the Swedish and Hungarian sites in and around Stockholm.

“They visited these sites, took pictures, and got to know the community,” Szumutku said.

Local tourism is important to Szumutku, who is chair of the Stockholm Historical Museum committee.

“We’re getting a museum done in Stockholm here, and we’re to the point of opening it pretty soon now,” he said of the over 120-year-old first school in town. The group has been fundraising over the past couple years to finance repairs to the building.

In addition, the building has been busy gathering artifacts to display, providing a step back in time to this area settled in the 1880s; when New Stokholm was the largest Swedish settlement.

Warren Kaeding, who not only serves as the provincial Export and Trade Minister, MLA for Melville-Saltcoats, but also longtime friend of the Szumutku’s said the type of international recognition from the Vagabond article helps reinforce the province’s appeal.

“Being recognized for this province’s natural beauty and provincial attractions by another country is quite the honour,” Kaeding said. “So often we need someone from outside the area to remind us to appreciate the incredible things we have near us.”

According to numbers from June 2024, travel spending in Saskatchewan reached nearly \$2.85 billion in 2023, which grew from the \$2.4 billion in spending generated the year previous. Domestic travel showed a 21 per cent increase in overnight visitation during 2023, the highest of all provinces. The Conference Board of Canada believes the province will hit \$3.57 billion in annual visitor expenditures by 2028.

In terms of job creation, around 62,200 Saskatchewan residents are employed in the tourism sector, making up 12 per cent of the total employment for the province.

As for the writers, they hope the story encourages more Swedes to explore the province.

“Hopefully it will get more Swedes to visit your wonderful part of the world,” Ola said. “We will, for sure, do that one day.”

Next for the travelling writers is an assignment seeing them bound for Australia.

Planned upgrade to Yorkton’s Agripavilion

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

With the passage of Yorkton’s 2026 capital budget, final planning to upgrade the Agripavilion to broaden its potential use for sport training can commence.

Taylor Morrison, Director of Recreation & Community Services at City of Yorkton, told Grasslands News that with budget approval they now “hope to start this fall after the Yorkton Exhibition Harvest Showdown.”

The actual work will include installation of semi-permanent turf,

which Morrison explained would go in in the fall for winter use primarily focused on the Agripavilion being “an indoor training facility” over the winter months for sport groups such as the local archery club, and minor baseball or football.

Morrison added the decision to undertake the work came out of discussions with sport groups which “identified a need for training space.”

The turf would then be removed in time for exhibition events such as the Spring 4-H Show and stay in storage over the summer.

What the exact turf will be is still to be determined after additional consultation with potential user groups, said Morrison, adding there are options such as turf that comes in a roll, much like carpet, or in sheets which interlock as placed.

In addition to the turf a webbing will be placed along exterior walls to protect them.

Other work as part of the project will be a sound system to allow announcements while events are held, and a retrofit of bathrooms at the Agripavilion.

The overall work is budgeted at \$350,000.

Government orders a hospital security review

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan government has launched an independent review of hospital safety and security, saying it is needed to protect patients, visitors and staff. In response, the Opposition accuses the province of ignoring years of warnings about violence and weapons in health-care facilities.

The Ministry of Health announced recently it will lead the selection of a third-party expert to conduct a system-wide review of security across Saskatchewan Health Authority facilities. The review will examine how Protective Services are delivered and provide recommendations to improve safety, including physical security measures and culturally safe care environments.

“Patients, visitors, and staff must be safe in health care facilities in Saskatchewan,” Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said in a news release. He said safety enhancements already underway at several hospitals will help ensure that goal, while the independent review will assess current security and identify improvements.

The government said rising concerns from staff and patients, combined with an increasing volume and complexity of Protective Services interventions, highlighted the need for a comprehensive review. The work will look at existing standards and delivery models, training and infrastructure needs, partnerships with Indigenous organizations and other health partners, and lessons learned from past incidents.

“I have the opportunity to regularly visit hospitals across the province and speak directly with frontline healthcare workers to hear their experiences and ensure their concerns continue to guide our work to improve patient care and working conditions,” Cockrill said. “The safety of patients, visitors and staff in Saskatchewan hospitals is a top priority for our government. Anyone who enters a healthcare facility in the province

deserves to feel safe. That is why this announcement for an independent review is an important step in strengthening hospital safety and security province wide. The review will consider how Protective Services respond to incidents in ways that protect patients and staff while supporting culturally safe, respectful care environments.”

While the review is being prepared, immediate measures are already in progress. Metal detectors are being installed at emergency department entrances in Saskatoon, Regina, North Battleford and Prince Albert. The SHA has also issued a request for proposals for third-party security services in eight communities, including La Loche, Swift Current, Moose Jaw and Weyburn.

SHA chief executive Andrew Will said the review will help ensure security approaches keep pace with changing needs. “Safety in our hospitals is essential to delivering quality care,” Will said. “This independent review will ensure our security approaches continue to evolve to meet the needs of patients, families and staff, while reflecting best practices and cultural respect. We remain committed to accountability and to ensuring a safe care environment in SHA facilities.”

The NDP argue the government is revisiting issues that have already been well documented. At a news conference Jan. 26, health critic Meara Conway said multiple auditor and ministry reports have warned of a growing safety crisis for years, with little action taken.

Conway pointed to the Ministry of Health’s 2024–25 annual report, which found more than 300 critical incidents in Saskatchewan hospitals between 2023 and 2025. Of those, she said, at least 17 involved criminal acts against patients, including one abduction. The report also found violent incidents in hospitals doubled between 2022–23 and 2023–24 and were underreported.

“Even one of these incidents is unacceptable,”

Conway said. “Healthcare workers have been sounding the alarm about that for years.”

She also cited a 2024 follow-up report from the provincial auditor, which found that 17 of 20 safety incidents investigated had “weak planned corrective action.” According to the auditor, the ministry’s own critical incident review committee recommended stronger measures such as patient pat-downs and metal detectors to prevent weapons from entering emergency rooms.

Instead, Conway said, the corrective action taken was a policy stating weapons were prohibited — a measure the auditor described as ineffective. She noted it took more than 400 days after that recommendation for the government to announce a metal detector at St. Paul’s Hospital in Saskatoon.

NDP labour critic Nathaniel Teed said recent incidents highlight the consequences of those delays. He referenced images released showing tables of knives and other weapons seized from a single entrance at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, as well as an incident at St. Paul’s where a patient was found with three knives and a firearm.

“It took over a year between the auditor calling for metal detectors to keep patients safe and the Sask. Party to act,” said Teed. “In that time, weapons entered emergency rooms, healthcare workers faced violence and threats. Their inaction made hospitals less safe for patients and staff.”

According to the Ministry of Health, installation of the metal detectors was not mandatory.

“It is worth noting, the 2024 Auditor’s Report - Volume 2 does not call for deployment of metal detectors at health care facilities, it suggested metal detectors as a potential solution alongside other options,” the Ministry said. “The deployment of metal detectors to urban emergency departments (in Saskatoon and Regina) last week follows a successful metal detection pilot at the joint emergency department entrance at Royal University Hospital and Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital in Saskatoon. The pilot project detector was installed in late summer 2025 and began operations in fall 2025. The pilot involved comparing traditional metal detection methods with new metal detection technology to determine viability of the different metal detection methods available.”

In recent years, more than \$6.4 million has been earmarked for security in



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Security issues

NDP health critic Meara Conway and labour critic Nathaniel Teed met with reporters last week for reaction to the government’s hospital security review.

health facilities.

“In 2023–2024, the SHA budgeted \$3,974,000 to support enhanced security levels at Lloydminster Hospital, Battleford Union Hospital, La Ronge Health Centre, Prince Albert Victoria Hospital, Pasqua Hospital and Regina General Hospital,” the Ministry noted. “This was made possible through \$3.9 million in funding from the provincial government. In 2024–2025, the SHA

budgeted \$2,500,000 in additional funding from the province to support protective services in Kam-sack, Melfort, Moose Jaw, Nipawin, Swift Current, Weyburn, Shellbrook and La Loche.”

The Opposition also raised concerns about staffing and pay for Protective Services. They said security positions pay about \$23 an hour, vacancies remain unfilled, and staff are often pulled

away from metal detectors to respond to incidents elsewhere in hospitals. NDP members questioned the SHA’s move to seek private security services, warning similar efforts in the past have failed.

The government has not provided a timeline for the independent review or detailed how frontline workers will be consulted.

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OPINION

Tragedies are not all film material

When news broke that a film project inspired by a tragedy similar to the Humboldt Broncos bus crash was moving ahead, many in communities like ours felt a familiar tightening in the chest. Not because stories of hardship should never be told — but because some wounds are not historical footnotes. They are living, breathing grief.

The Humboldt bus crash was not simply a headline. It was 16 lives lost. It was families shattered. It was teammates, classmates, and entire towns learning how to navigate an unbearable silence where young voices once filled rinks and school hallways. Across Saskatchewan and beyond, it marked us. For many, it still does.

Turning such a tragedy into entertainment — even under the banner of “inspiration” or “awareness” — raises serious ethical questions. Who benefits from retelling this story? Is it the families who must relive the worst day of their lives? The survivors who continue to carry physical and emotional scars? Or production companies and streaming platforms seeking compelling, emotionally charged content?

There is a profound difference between documentary storytelling driven by consent and careful collaboration, and dramatization designed to capture ratings. Dramatizations, by nature, reconstruct trauma. They cast actors in the roles of real people. They recreate hospital scenes, phone calls, and final goodbyes. However sensitively done, they risk reopening wounds for those who have spent years trying to heal.

Communities that have endured tragedy are not obligated to share their pain on a cinematic timeline. Grief does not expire once public attention fades. It does not become public property simply because the event was widely reported.

Supporters of such projects often argue that storytelling keeps memories alive and honours those lost. That can be true — but only when those most affected are fully supportive and actively involved. Even then, timing matters. Respect matters. Tone matters.

There is also the broader concern of tragedy fatigue. In an era where true-crime series and disaster dramas dominate streaming platforms, we must ask ourselves whether we are becoming too comfortable consuming real-life heartbreak as content. At what point does awareness cross into commodification?

The Humboldt tragedy brought out the very best in Canadians — compassion, unity, generosity. Sticks were left on doorsteps across the country in tribute. Jerseys were worn in solidarity. People grieved together.

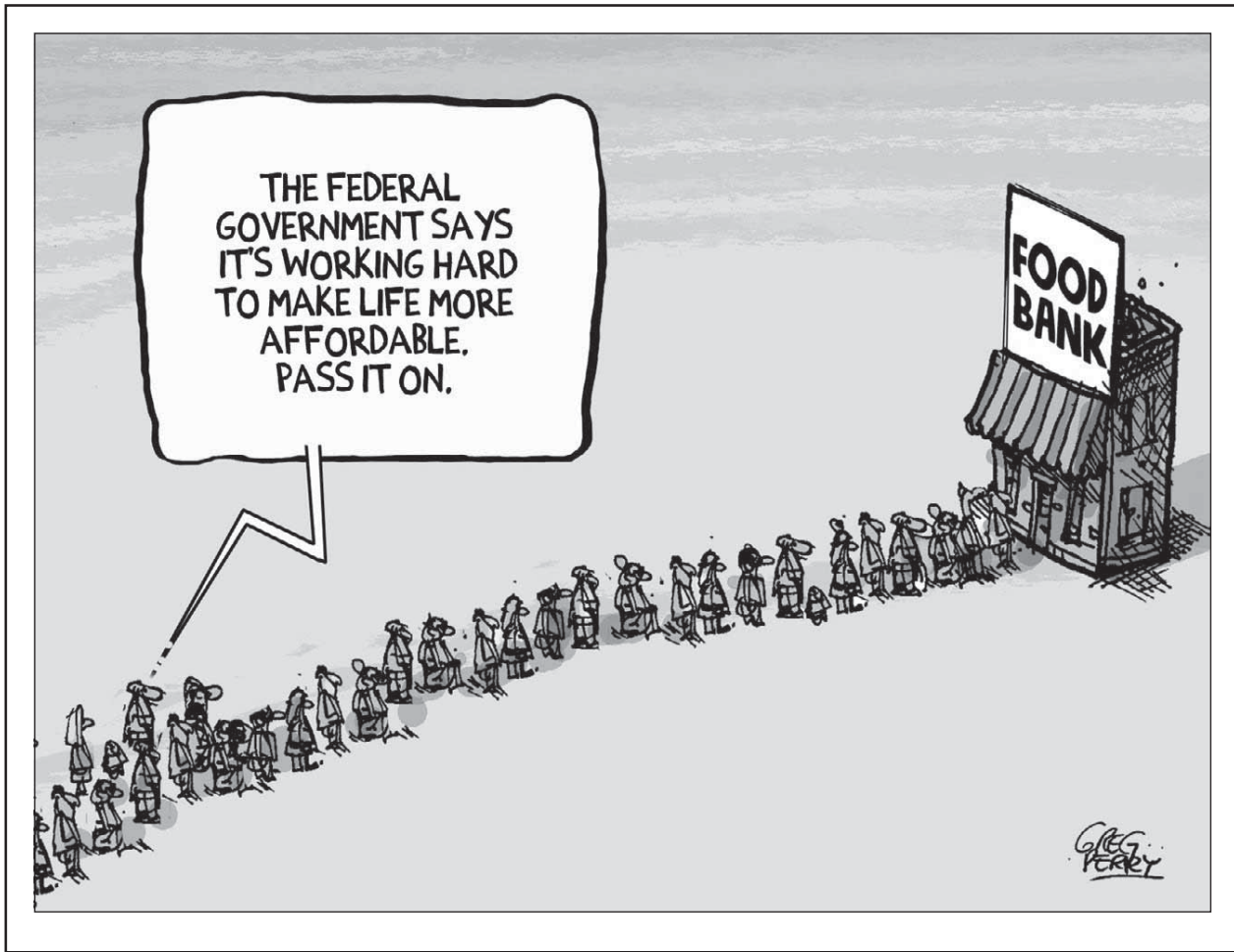
Perhaps the more powerful legacy lies there — in the quiet acts of community and resilience — rather than in reenactments of the crash itself.

Communities should have a voice in how their stories are told. Families should never feel blindsided by a production announcement tied to the darkest chapter of their lives. Sensitivity cannot be an afterthought; it must be the foundation.

Some stories deserve to be handled with extreme care. Some deserve to rest.

As a province, and as a country, we must be cautious about how we transform tragedy into narrative. Because for those who lived it, this is not a script. It is their reality — and it always will be.

- Grasslands News



Trust the spleens: Sask.'s most reliable forecast

Weather is a hot topic in this land, and for good reason. What conditions develop determine not only the pass or fail of a crop but affect all our livelihoods across the province — and across various industries.

It's no surprise that so many signs and signals passed down through generations to help interpret and predict weather patterns.

In our house, calendars were often scribed with '90 Days' to indicate when a possible shot of moisture could be anticipated; three months after a foggy morning.

Sun dogs observed in the winter months is another harbinger of change, down to how prominent they are in the shy and distance from the sun.

I can't recall exactly what those determinants were, just that sun dogs meant a change. And it was usually accompanied with a 20-degree dip of the mercury!

However, there is one tried and true predictor in this fair province so reliable you can set your watch by it. I'm talking about that famed soothsayer of Tomkins, SK Jeff Woodward who can tell what the next six months will bring just by looking at a few pig spleens.

Woodward's uncle Gus Wickstrom is perhaps Saskatchewan's most famous pig spleen prognosticator, but the genetic predisposition for interpreting the weather is strong.

Disclaimer: the winter forecast as laid out by Woodward concerns a 200-mile radius of Tomkins, formulated through the inspection of many pig spleens collected from area farms. By looking at the spleens, Woodward can give a surprisingly detailed account of what will come from the skies between January and the end of June.

So what are the spleens telling Woodward this year? It's going to be a highly unusual winter.

Rapid shifts in temperature, rain in winter, and a 'notable event' in June — we're in for a wild ride, folks. Spring will be wet and cold, but the spleens say wise producers ought to seed ASAP to take advantage of the early moisture.

"The summer will be dry, so the earlier the better," says Woodward.

It may seem strange to put so much emphasis on an centuries-old practice of prediction, but I've personally noticed the Tomkins foresight align to the day when storms are to strike.

It's uncanny.

Granted, it's still for entertainment purposes only, just like year-old Easter eggs. Not sure if anyone else ever did this, we would utilize a hard-boiled egg at Easter as a general guide to the coming year. The egg in question was chosen at random from the batch of hardboiled eggs consumed during the holy observance and placed in a kitchen

cupboard and forgotten about til the following Easter.

Then came the annual cracking of the egg — outside, of course, in case of a rotten year ahead!

Interestingly, the contents of these year-old Easter eggs usually weren't all that disgusting. Some looked as though one could consume it — if they dared!

There was no real professional indication of what the egg would predict, we based our scholarly insights on the obvious condition of the contents. Usually followed by confirming 'yup's. But it made for good fodder around the coffee shop pundits.

And we typically forgot what the egg was supposedly enlightening us as to coming conditions. But a fun tradition, nonetheless.

- Ryan Kiedrowski,
Grasslands News

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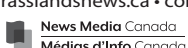
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Teachers get rare look at Sask. mining through GeoVenture

Applications open for professional development experience

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Applications are now open for a coveted summer program that takes teachers deep into the heart of the province’s mining industry, offering a week-long, hands-on look at operations that many residents pass by every day without fully understanding what lies beneath the surface.

GeoVenture, run by the Saskatchewan Mining Association (marking their 60th anniversary this year), is accepting applications until May 27 for its 2026 session, scheduled for Aug. 8 to 14. The professional development opportunity allows up to 20 educators from across the province to travel, learn and connect with industry leaders. Over the course of a single week, participants travel from uranium operations in the far north to coal and potash sites in the south, experiencing the sheer scale of the province.

Essentially, it’s like winning the PD lottery for teachers.

“We’re at 10 already,” said program manager David Potts-Schwinghamer of applications already received in the span of a week. “It is exciting to see them come in. I always anticipate in that 40 to 50 range is how many we expect to see, with room for 20 seats. I would encourage any teachers who are on the fence, it’s always worth applying.”

The program has been running since 1977, and organizers aim to create a balanced cohort that reflects both different grade levels and geographic regions of Saskatchewan

through those lucky 20 selected.

“Mining is province-wide,” Potts-Schwinghamer said. “Someone from the north might be very familiar with uranium mining, but potash is a whole different world. And someone from the Esterhazy or Rocanville sees a potash mine every day, but uranium mining and the realities of life in the north are very different, too.”

GeoVenture is structured as a moving, week-long conference that includes site visits, presentations, and travel across large swaths of the province. Even time spent in transit becomes an opportunity for learning and networking.

“I can’t say enough good things about the teachers who’ve come on the trip with us the past few years,” said Potts-Schwinghamer - a former teacher himself - who noted conversations are always abuzz with the participants during travel time between locations. “I think it’s hard for teachers to turn off the part of them that wants to improve themselves. When they get together and start talking, they’re sharing ideas and strategies. It’s so special to be a part of it...it’s a privilege to be with them for a week.”

While there is no cost to apply, accepted participants are asked to pay a \$50 commitment fee. Potts-Schwinghamer said the modest charge helps ensure that those who are selected are able to attend, reducing the chance of last-minute cancellations. The remainder of the costs — including travel, accommodations and program-



IMAGE COURTESY DAVID POTTS-SCHWINGHAMER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Big bucket

No, those aren’t tiny people; the bucket is just that big! Participants in the 2025 GeoVenture program visited the Westmoreland Poplar River mine near Coronach as one of many stops during the week-long tour.

ming — are covered by the SMA.

One of the program’s highlights returning in 2026 is the “Drill and Grill” barbecue, a banquet-style event that brings teachers together with industry representatives. Last year, organizers moved the event closer to the end of the trip, a change Potts-Schwinghamer said made a significant difference.

“They got to gel with each other, get comfortable in the group and the place, got to see the sights,” he explained. “And then to talk to the industry people after - the conversations went all night long!”

The mining sector in Saskatchewan continues to attract attention, with major investments like the multi-billion-dollar BHP project at Jansen, the \$4 million investment by Mosaic into local education, plus growing interest in critical and rare earth minerals. Potts-Schwinghamer said GeoVenture helps educators move beyond headlines and buzzwords.

“You hear terms like ‘critical minerals’ on the news,” he said. “But to spend a week actually exploring some of these things and industries here in the province is pretty special.”

Teachers often report that the experience changes how they see their own communities. Last summer, Grasslands News heard from Langenburg Central School teacher Laura Sveinbjornson, who was eager to share her experience during GeoVenture.

“With my Grade Seven Science course and Social Studies course, we talk a lot about resources and wealth, how provinces and communities have money, or what does power look like?” she said, noting how what she learned over the course of a week translated so fluidly to course material. “We often talk about our resource sector and there’s so much that we have to offer. Now, I have new things to add to that list, things that I can better explain.”

In addition to all the knowledge gained during the GeoVenture experience, Sveinbjornson also

went home with some physical items for teaching purposes.

“They gave us so many resources, and I get to now update my unit, because you do your best with the knowledge that you have, but now I actually have the pictures, I have the tactile material, I have the people I can contact, to right now, I know exactly who to ask if I have questions, if I want more resources. It’s super relevant to what I’m doing.”

The timing of the program, late in the summer, is also intentional.

“August is when teachers start thinking about lesson planning and new ideas,” Potts-Schwinghamer said. “For us, it’s one of the most special

weeks of the year, and we’re incredibly grateful to the teachers who choose to spend part of their summer learning with us.”

Even those who live near mining operations are frequently surprised by what they learn.

That was also his own experience growing up near a potash mine.

“I grew up next to Mosaic Belle Plaine and didn’t really know anything about it,” he said.

“Understanding what your neighbours do, the kinds of careers involved — millwrights, power engineers, heavy-duty mechanics — it really broadens your sense of what Saskatchewan careers look like.”

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Broadview elects three councillors

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

When Broadview town council held its first regular meeting of 2026, Trevor Andres, Carol Mills and Charleen Wennberg joined Mayor Colleen Umpherville, and Councillors Wes Bagsund, Jacob Louison and Terri Lynn Bolink at the table. The three newcomers were appointed during a byelection on Jan. 21.

The byelection was scheduled after three town councillors resigned last summer and fall, citing various reasons such as health concerns or relocation to another community. Four residents were nominated to take part in the poll last week. When votes were cast on Wednesday, the results showed a close race. Charleen Wennberg received 65 votes; Carol Mills, 57 votes; Trevor Andres, 56 votes; and Kathryn (Kate) Ecklund 51 votes.

Although council met quorum and was able to carry on municipal business until the vacancies were filled, they are

glad to have a full table again.

“I’m looking forward to working with the three new members,” Mayor Umpherville told Grasslands News the morning after the election. “Congratulations to them! Their interest in our community and doing the best for it is commendable.”

Regular council meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month, but the January session was postponed to the 27th to allow the newly elected members to participate. When Grasslands News spoke with Mayor Umpherville last week, she said the meeting would begin with a briefing on council procedures. Then they would “get right in the midst of it” preparing the annual budget, understanding roles in the town’s recently approved Emergency Safety Plan and proceeding with various projects in the community.

“It’s exciting to start with these new people,” Mayor Umpherville said. “They always bring their talents. Their opinions and expertise in different areas are great to have at the table.”



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Thom Weir’s ag roots show through in volunteer efforts

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Yorkton’s Civic Recognition Award winner in the adult category has very much focused his life on agriculture.

Those efforts seem to have their roots in Thom Weir’s youth.

“I grew up on a small grain farm in west-central Saskatchewan,” he told Grasslands News. “As a youth, I was involved in 4-H. After graduation from Grade 12, I went to the University of Saskatchewan where I graduated with a bachelor’s degree in plant science.”

From there Weir’s career focused on agriculture as a Professional Agrologist, a career that sprouted many related roles through the years.

Weir served as Vice Chair of the Indian Head Agricultural Research Foundation; served eight years on the Board of the Certified Crop Advisor Prairie Provinces Board, including a term as the Chair; and six years on the International Certified Crop Advisor Board, also as the Chair.

And such efforts gained him recognition as well.

In 2002, CCA Prairie Provinces recognized his efforts for promoting and providing training for the CCA program.

In 2004, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Agrologist Award from the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists for

his service to the agriculture industry.

So when retirement came it was no surprise Weir simply became more involved in the Yorkton community -- he and his family arrived in Yorkton in 1990 – beginning an active involvement in a number of organizations and projects as a volunteer, most still agriculture-related.

Weir may be most recognized from his efforts to launch and then maintain Crops of the Parkland – an area crop plot planted annually adjacent to the Tourism Yorkton building where they can educate visitors to what farmers producers locally.

“Former Mayor Phil deVos and I came up with the concept for what is now Crops of the Parkland at a local coffee shop,” related Weir. “I’m an ideas kind of guy and this is one I got excited about.”

From two guys drinking coffee the idea caught on.

“Phil (deVos) got the city on board, Randy Goulden at Yorkton Tourism was there from the start as was the Chamber of Commerce,” recalled Weir. “I was working for Westco Fertilizers at the time. Their owner, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool got on board and their R&D team seeded the plots for the first 10 years.”

Asked if he was surprised by the interest of travellers in crop plots, Weir responded, “Yes and

no,” adding “tourists are a curious lot.”

In recognition for his efforts, Weir received the Fred Heal Tourism Ambassador Award from Tourism Saskatchewan in 2004.

Today the plots remain relevant in Weir’s mind.

“Today’s consumer is engaged with the food they eat and feed their children,” he said. “This demonstration helps fill part of the circle - the safe and nutritious grains our farmers grow.

“From there, we are creating a display at the Interpretative Centre at the Mill. This display shows how simple grains such as wheat, oats and canola are processed into flour, rolled oats and canola oil.”

In mentioning the ongoing brick mill expansion in Yorkton, Weir is speaking of another of his volunteer passions. He currently serves on the Board as both a member and Vice Chair with the Yorkton Brick Mill Heritage Society.

The mill involvement relates back to Weir’s overarching view on the importance of education – often as it relates to sharing knowledge related to agriculture.

“Producing crops and processing them into foods is the fundamental foundation to what we refer to as civilization,” he said. “Yorkton and dare I say Saskatchewan would not exist without grain production and food process-



Ag roots

Yorkton’s 2026 Civic Recognition Award winner in the adult category, stands beside agricultural research equipment—reflecting a lifelong commitment to agriculture, education and community service rooted in decades of work as a professional agrologist and volunteer.

ing.”

That view seeps through in Weir’s efforts as a volunteer with the Yorkton Exhibition Association, where he has served many years on several committees including the Grain & Forage Show; Agriculture Education program; and was on the first committee to establish the Canola and Crops Show.

Education just naturally attracts his efforts because Weir said it is just

so important.

“Farmers do a great job producing the food they eat and world needs. And they do it, for the most part, in an environmentally sustainable manner. I feel strongly that this is a story that needs to be told,” he said.

And that need just seems to grow.

“I see that there has been a disconnect,” said Weir. “A generation ago, most people in this area grew up on a farm, had a

grandfather or uncle who farmed. This is no longer the case. Most people no longer know how farms operate or how food is produced.

“With my knowledge and experience, I feel obligated to educate.”

That obligation flows back to Weir’s roots.

“For the past 40-plus years, I have been educating farmers, students, agronomists etc. It is a love and a passion of mine,” he said.

Charitable gaming grants deliver funding to local community groups

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

More than \$329,000 in charitable gaming grants has been distributed to community groups across Saskatchewan, with several organizations in southeast and east-central communities receiving funding in the third quarter of the 2025-26 fiscal year.

According to figures released by Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan, grants were paid out between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025, supporting more than 300 nonprofit and charitable organizations province-wide. The grants represent 25 per cent of net proceeds raised through licensed charitable gaming activities.

Locally, funding was delivered to community groups in Balgonie, Cupar, Dysart, Esterhazy, Fort Qu’Appelle, Grayson, Kipling, Lemberg, Melville, Pilot Butte, Wawota and White City.

In Balgonie, the Prairie Storm Minor Hockey Association received \$3,457.97, while Cupar organizations shared \$1,970.69, including support for the Cupar Playground and Pool Project and Cupar Minor Hockey. The Dysart Golden Years Club received \$62.50, and in Esterhazy, grants totalling \$1,020.50 went to the Esterhazy Golden Jets and St. Anthony’s Health Care Auxiliary.

Community groups in Grayson received \$729, while Kipling organizations, including the Kipling and District Pal-

liative Care Committee and the Kipling Band Parents Association, shared \$1,368.86. Lemberg received \$955 for the Community Hall Complex Board, and Melville groups received a combined \$3,051.58, supporting youth sport and gymnastics programs.

In Pilot Butte, the Pilot Butte and District Lions Club received \$546.80. The Royal Canadian Legion in Wawota received \$96, while White City groups received \$425.63. In Fort Qu’Appelle, a grant of \$96.13 was paid to Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 35.

“These gaming grants support charitable and nonprofit organizations involved in a diverse range of activities, including arts, culture and sport, hospital foundations and service clubs,” said Jeremy Harrison, minister responsible for LGS, in a prepared statement.

Provincewide, the grants reached more than 100 communities. Larger urban centres received \$49,911 in Saskatoon and \$47,054 in Regina, while other regions — including Melville and area — received funding to support local programs and services.

The grants are calculated and administered by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority based on financial reports submitted by eligible organizations. To qualify, groups must be in good standing and conduct licensed charitable gaming activities such as bingos, raffles, break-open ticket sales, poker tournaments or Monte Carlo events.

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More land needed to grow
Suncrest College East Central Research Foundation research farm plot tours take place each summer. The Suncrest College–East Central Research Foundation research farm near Yorkton has reached full capacity, with officials saying additional land will be needed to allow the program to grow and expand future agricultural research projects.

Research farm looks to city for more land to grow

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Suncrest College East Central Research Foundation made a presentation to Yorkton Council Monday detailing its efforts and making one request of the city. Foundation vice-chair Gwen Machnee explained the research farm is a joint venture between

Suncrest College and the East Central Research Foundation. The mission of the research farm is to provide independent, high-quality, relevant information to the agricultural industry in the east central region of Saskatchewan, detailed material circulated Monday. Machnee also thanked the city for its support

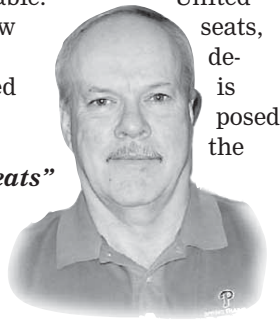
for providing land for the research for the past 12 years. She said since 2013 the city has leased 100 acres to Suncrest College at no cost, adding without the land the research farm could not exist. As it stands that land base allowed 35 research projects to be completed in just 2025, with an annual expenditure of \$350,000, said Machnee, adding external funding over the past three years has been \$800,000. Overall, the research farm supports regional agricultural competitiveness, and supports regional agrifood processors, while attracting external funding into the community, said Machnee. It also positions Yorkton as a centre for applied ag innovation. However, Machnee said they could do more, but that would require

additional land, as the existing land is fully utilized and there are limitations in terms of how land is used. For example, you can’t put plots on previous plots for three years, said Machnee. More land would not only enhance research opportunities, but it would also allow for predictable planning. The research farm needs a predictable second land location from year to year for program planning, said Machnee. As a result, Machnee asked Council as leases become available to consider allocating additional land to the Suncrest College ECRF Research Farm to enable it to have consistent predictable land with different stubble types for use each year. The report was filed by Council pending further possible opportunities.

Gene Hauta

It’s a Strange World

This is simply unbelievable. Airlines still hawks window but they have changed the description just a little. United seeking to dismiss a pro-class-action lawsuit with argument that “*window seats*” *don’t necessarily have windows*. Huh? United argues that the term “window seat” simply refers to a seat next to the wall of the aircraft, and is not intended to be a promise that the seat will have an exterior window view. I repeat my intellectual comeback...Huh? “Whatever the motivation for buying a window, had plaintiffs and the punitive class members known that they were buying windowless window seats, they would have not selected them at all, much less paid extra for them,” the complaint states.



United seats, de-is posed the

A recent routine rescue operation turned into a sensational discovery when a yacht arriving from the Caribbean ran aground near the eastern shore of Nova Scotia. The vessel, carrying two Canadian couples and their children aged 6 to 14, was taking on water when the Coast Guard arrived. During the rescue, officers discovered *a suitcase containing \$1.5 million* in cash. It was eventually determined that the people were early investors in FinoTrazé, an AI-driven trading platform co-founded by Elon Musk and supported by prominent Canadian banks and business leaders. According to Musk, the platform is designed to “turn anyone into a millionaire within six months” and requires no prior skills or knowledge. The passengers admitted the cash was profits from the platform but failed to declare it upon entering Canada, a violation of currency reporting laws. They were fined and placed on probation.

Flights at Lithuania’s main airport in Vilnius were disrupted on two successive nights in the latest of a string of incidents involving suspected sightings of *balloons used to smuggle cigarettes* from neighboring Belarus. Prime Minister Inga Runienienė has warned that Lithuania may have to consider shutting its border with Belarus for a longer period. Her government is also considering tougher penalties for smugglers. The head of Lithuania’s border guard said that since smuggling balloons were first sighted in 2023, there has been no known case of their being used to transport anything other than illegal cigarettes.

“Power is like being a lady... if you have to tell people you are, you aren’t.” — Margaret Thatcher
Rescuers reported detecting signs of life in an *avalanche of garbage* that killed at least four workers and left more than 30 others missing in a central Philippines landfill. Twelve workers with injuries have been rescued from the huge mound of garbage that collapsed among the low-slung buildings of a waste management facility in the village of Binaliw in Cebu City. Dozens of rescuers will continue the search, hoping to find more survivors. The cause of the collapse of the mountain of garbage remains unclear.

Another witless thief was arrested after posting selfies “dripping in diamonds.” The problem is that she is accused of stealing \$170,000 worth of diamonds, gold, and silver from the jewelry store where she worked. Lucy Roberts has been sentenced to more than two years in prison in the UK. Co-workers knew she was leaving work with jewelry, but she said she was simply continuing the work of sorting stock.

This is a nice story in a land where good stories can be hard to find. Cantor Fitzgerald lost 658 employees on 9/11, the most of any company. CEO Howard Lutnick survived because had to drop off his son at Kindergarten. He *promised families 25% of profits* for five years and 10 years of health care. By 2006, he had paid out \$180 million in full. Although I despise a lot of the Trump policies, I have respect for this Lutnick move. He was a fundraiser for Donald Trump’s presidential campaigns and a vocal proponent of Trump’s tariffs. As Trump’s secretary of commerce, he has advocated for tariffs and made controversial statements regarding Social Security payments. Time listed Lutnick as one of the *world’s 100 most influential people* in 2025.

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

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SaskEnergy Network Member

LENNOX

Saskatchewan signs nuclear development MOU with UAE

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan has signed a three-year memorandum of understanding with the United Arab Emirates aimed at advancing nuclear energy research, technology and workforce development, a move the province says strengthens its position as a global player in the nuclear sector while supporting long-term energy security.

The agreement, announced Jan. 16, brings together the Saskatchewan Research Council, the Global Institute for Energy, Minerals and Society Inc. and the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company. The MOU establishes a framework for collaboration on the development of a nuclear energy program in the UAE, including the evaluation of small modular reactors and micro-reactors, nuclear plant efficiency, reliability and emerging technologies.

“With our vast uranium deposits, skilled workforce, and cluster of experts, Saskatchewan is the best region in the world to partner with

on nuclear innovation,” Trade and Export Development Minister Warren Kaeding said. “The UAE shares many energy transition goals with us, and our international trade and investment office in Dubai paired with our investment attraction efforts have been instrumental in forging this partnership. I look forward to seeing how this new MOU will advance technologies that benefit both our regions.” Beyond reactor technologies, the partnership will include joint work on nuclear waste management, technology transfer, innovation and adoption, as well as the application of artificial intelligence and robotics in nuclear operations. Capacity building and knowledge exchange between Saskatchewan institutions and ENEC are also key components of the agreement.

ENEC has over 20 years of experience in the nuclear sector, employs more than 3,000 people from 50 countries, and is regarded as a world-class civil nuclear organization.

“Rising global electricity demand, fueled by AI, data centers, and energy-intensive industries, underscores the urgent need for global collaboration in advancing nuclear energy technologies,” ENEC managing director and group chief executive officer Mohamed Al Hammadi said. “Our collaboration with SRC and GIEMS aligns with ENEC’s strategy to responsibly expand civil nuclear energy worldwide, leveraging col-

lective expertise and innovation to deliver secure, reliable, and sustainable energy solutions.”

GIEMS was established at COP28 in Dubai, and acts as a pipeline for innovation and talent through Saskatchewan’s largest post-secondary institutions, including the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

“This MOU establishes a framework that connects Saskatchewan’s post-secondary research and training institutions with ENEC’s nuclear innovation priorities,” GIEMS executive director Tom Kishchuk said. “It supports shared learning, knowledge transfer and capacity building.”

SRC president and chief executive officer Mike Crabtree said the council’s long history in applied nuclear research positions it well to contribute.

“SRC brings decades of applied nuclear research experience to this collaboration, including nearly four decades of operating the SLOWPOKE-2 research reactor,” Crabtree said. “This MOU creates a strong foundation for sharing expertise and evaluating advanced reactor technologies.”

In an interview with Grasslands News, Kaeding said the agreement is expected to deliver tangible benefits for Saskatchewan’s research sector while helping the province build capacity as it considers its own nuclear future.

“It’s going to very much support our research sector, but it’s also going to help us develop that sector to be more able to inform our province as we’re moving ahead in the whole nuclear industry,” Kaeding said. He pointed to SRC’s experience as the province’s only licensed nuclear reactor operator and GIEMS’ role in bringing together academic expertise.

Kaeding said Saskatchewan’s trade office in Dubai played a key role in facilitating the MOU, highlighting the importance of maintaining an international presence in strategic markets.

“Nuclear energy is certainly poised to help support a lot of these growing economies in their energy security needs,” he said. “We’re pretty blessed to have the uranium deposits that we do. We’re very blessed to have some pretty significant companies that are participating in this industry here and their connections and linkages now internationally, we’re going to help support the nuclear industry around the world.”

The MOU with ENEC is valid for three years, with the option for renewal, and provincial officials say it reflects Saskatchewan’s broader strategy to leverage its natural resources, research expertise and international partnerships to support economic growth and the global energy transition.

Tariff talks ‘a good start’

The nuclear announcement comes as Saskatch-

ewan leaders welcomed a separate trade breakthrough between Canada and China that is expected to significantly reduce tariffs on Canadian agricultural products. Under the deal, China is expected to lower tariffs on Canadian canola from 84 per cent to 15 per cent by March 1, while removing anti-discrimination tariffs on canola meal, peas, lobster and crab.

Premier Scott Moe called the agreement “very good news” for Saskatchewan producers, saying it would help restore trade volumes and open new opportunities.

“Today demonstrates the importance of foreign trade missions and shows what can be achieved when the federal and provincial governments and our export industries work together to strengthen our trade relationships,” he said.

Kaeding agreed with the Premier’s sentiments, describing the deal as a “game changer” for the agriculture sector, providing reassurance to farmers planning the next growing season.

While some tariffs, including those on canola oil and pork, remain in place, Kaeding said the agreement lays important groundwork for future discussions and broader trade relations, including in energy.

“We still have tariffs on canola oil,” he said, explaining how China is not a big buyer of Saskatchewan canola oil, and work will need to continue for a solid agreement for the

pork industry also.

“It does lay the groundwork to certainly support the canola oil industry and the pork industry, which we still obviously have work to do on reducing or eliminating tariffs for them,” Kaeding said of the tariff talks. “But I think the other message that we got from both Prime Minister Carney as well as our Premier is this is also laying the groundwork for supporting China in their energy needs.”

Kaeding noted how China is going to need uranium to support their nuclear industry, not to mention a market for Saskatchewan oil.

“We’re starting to see the Trans Mountain pipeline starting to pay dividends now with the oil export numbers starting to increase significantly off the west coast,” he said. “That predominantly is going into Asia, and I would expect China is going to be one of the biggest beneficiaries of that. With all the dynamics happening with Venezuela and the US right now, oil is still very important to this province, and we need to make sure that we’ve got alternatives for our oil.”

For a nation of 1.4 billion, China is “certainly going to be one of those very hungry, voracious customers for our energy supply,” according to Kaeding.

“Saskatchewan can supply a lot of those needs,” he said. “Again, really exciting times for us, for the future for the province as well.”

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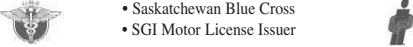
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RCMP Seek public assistance following break-in and gun theft

Broadview and Moosomin

Detachment
Sgt. Damien Grouchy

Reporting period: Jan. 16 to Jan. 23

Some of the calls for service included seven 911 calls, one assault call, 19 traffic related calls, two impaired calls amongst numerous others.

Some calls for service:

- Domestic: Members received a complaint of a female stating her partner would not let her out of the vehicle and smashed her head into the window. Members made extensive patrols but could not locate the vehicle. Members later learned the vehicle stopped at Indian Head Detachment and members spoke with the female. The female did not provide a statement and there was no physical evidence to proceed with criminal charges.
- Break and Enter: On Jan. 18 it was reported that two unknown individuals broke into a residence near Maryfield. The unknown persons stole a gun locker containing several firearms. Broadview/Moosomin RCMP are asking the public if they recognize the persons in the photo named Break and Enter: On Jan. 18.
- False Alarm: Members were dispatched to an alarm at the Whitewood School. The Key holder attended before members arrived and advised the building was secure.
- Fraud: Members received a call from a victim who reported receiving a call from a person who said they were with TD Bank and the victim’s card had been jeopardized. The scammer then directed the victim to purchase \$2,500 in gift cards and give them the codes so they could look into the matter. Unfortunately, there was nothing further that could be investigated.
- Theft: Members received a report of a stolen iPhone from a business located in Grenfell. The victim was tracking her iPhone and it last showed in Lipton. RCMP continue their investigation.
- Fraud: Members received a complaint of a possible fraud. The victim reported lending their friend a substantial amount of money, but the friend is not following the agreement and has not paid the money back. The victim was told this was a civil matter that would have to be resolved through civil court.

- Fraud: Members received a call of an attempted fraud, the complainant reported receiving a call from an unknown female stating she was her niece, fortunately, the complainant recognized this was a scam and did not provide any information or send money.
- Mischief: Members received a complaint of damaged property at a residence located on Cowessess First Nation. The victim reported that their door had been kicked in. There are no known suspects currently. RCMP continue their investigation.
- Mischief: Members were dispatched to a residence on Cowessess First Nation. The victim reported her friends brother smashed their windshield. Members located the suspect hiding behind a shed. Upon arrest the suspect was found in possession of Methamphetamine.
- Impaired: Members were dispatched to a complaint of a possible impaired driver on Sakimay First Nation. Members made patrols but were unable to locate the suspect vehicle.
- Hit and Run: Members received a complaint of a hit and run at a residence in Whitewood. No known suspects at this time.
- Theft: Members received a complaint of a suspicious person going through vehicles at the rink in Moosomin. Members attended and located and arrested the female. The female has been remanded and was charged with Theft under \$5,000, Fail to comply with undertaking and possession of property obtained by crime.
- Impaired: Members received a third-hand complaint of a possible impaired driver. Members were told a black two-door car was hung up on a snowbank. Members did not locate the suspect vehicle.

Report information and tips:

- If you have any information regarding the incidents above and would like to make an anonymous complaint, information can be submitted through CrimeStoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com
- If you have information about any of the above incidents or have a crime to report, please contact Moosomin RCMP by calling 306-435-3361, 310-RCMP(7267) or Broadview RCMP 306-696-5200 or call 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- Report some complaints such as damage/mischief to property under \$5,000, theft of bicycle under



BREAK AND ENTER: ON JAN. 18

\$5,000, theft under \$5,000, theft from vehicle under \$5,000, lost or found property and damage/mischief to vehicle under \$5,000 online here: <https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/saskatchewan/en>

Fraud safety

Scammers evolve and new frauds and scams are always appearing. Some safe tips to protect yourself.

- Don’t be afraid to say no
- Do your research
- Don’t give out personal information
- Beware of upfront fees
- Protect your computer
- Be careful who you share images with
- Protect your online accounts
- Recognize spoofing

For a full list of steps to take in protecting yourself and to become familiar with past and present frauds/scams visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website.

Mental Health

As we all work together to end the stigma surrounding mental illness, now more than ever, every action counts. Whether you take the time to listen to a loved one, encourage a friend to ask for help, or educate yourself about mental health challenges. Be the solution. Be kind. Educate yourself. Listen and ask. Talk about it. Let’s change the way we view mental illness. If you or someone you know is struggling, Reach out. If you or someone you know is in crisis or has thoughts of self harm, take action.

- Call 9-1-1
- Go to the nearest hospital or emergency department
- Call Crisis Services Canada at 1-833-456-4566.

Moosomin RCMP is urging the public who consumes illicit drugs to take special precautions when using:

- Never use alone,
- Let someone you trust know of your plans to use,
- Always carry a Naloxone kit. They are available free of charge at many locations in the province,

Joke of the Week:

What is the difference between the Toronto Maple Leafs and a mosquito?

A mosquito stops sucking...

P.S. I am a huge Maple Leafs fan I am just venting my frustration this season!!!!

Have a safe week and take care, from your friendly Broadview/Moosomin RCMP.

Sgt. Damien Grouchy

Family, friends gather for Sharp’s 100th Birthday

By Judy Hershmillier
Grasslands News

Sharp turns 100

Bernice Sharp celebrated her 100th birthday in style, as family and friends gathered at the Balcarres Golden Age Centre.

The multitude of guests

attended the birthday party, enjoying visiting with Bernice and her family and friends before granddaughter Tara Walker, who was the emcee, welcomed everyone.

Tara in a very moving address outlined Bernice’s years in the century of her life, her three chil-

dren, and their occupations, nine grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren who call her GG, and two GGG grandchildren making five generations. Bernice has been active in the community, “quietly giving back.” Grandma’s door is always open, and visitors are treated to her butter tarts and muffins,

or jars filled with love that “get better with time.” Her house is a safe place of love, and she is renown as a story teller.

The large attendance was measured by how loved and well known Bernice is.

Barry Trapp spoke of some happy memories, as did Pat Lyster, long time friends.

A champagne toast “Happy Birthday Bernice” followed by the enjoyment of birthday cake. Bernice quietly thanked everyone and her family for such a happy day.

Balcarres Seniors

Coffee time continues Tuesday mornings at 9:30, and Thurs. afternoons at 2 p.m.

The monthly birthday party was very well attended by 21 people on Jan. 21. Senior member who had a birthday in Nov., Dec. and Jan. were all in attendance and wished a happy year.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

Feb. 1: Plans are underway for a turkey supper for members.

Feb. 17: Pancake and sausage supper open to the public from 4:30 to 7:00 on. Admission is \$12. Plan to attend.

Feb. 24: Meeting to follow coffee time.

April 30: Soup and bun/biscuit luncheon. More information to follow.



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Bernice Sharp celebrated 100 years!

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JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Over the past four decades, the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, has recognized the youth of Saskatchewan through the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

These prestigious awards are given to youths who:

- Have a positive lifestyle
- Volunteer within their community and school
- Has overcome a personal life challenge (physical, emotional or environmental)
- Have a strong sense of caring and responsibility
- Are between the ages of 8 and 18

This year, four deserving youths will receive a **\$3,000 bursary**, provided by SaskPower, to use towards their post-secondary education.

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR STEM AWARD

Introduced in 2025, The Junior Citizen of the Year STEM Award will recognize a Saskatchewan youth who contains all the same qualities of a Junior Citizen of the Year but **has an aptitude for science, technology, engineering, or mathematics**. This award is eligible for all students, including but not limited to, young women, and underrepresented communities.

This year, one deserving youth will receive a **\$3,000 bursary**, provided by Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan, to use towards their post-secondary education.

Building a Strong Saskatchewan through the Crown Sector

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2026

Melville Fish and Game annual sportsman awards

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Melville Fish and Game hosted their annual awards night on Jan. 23, 2026, at Melville Community Works.

There was a total of 27 awards handed out for 2025.

Melville Fish and Game held their Horn/Antler measuring night at the Melville Community Works Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025. The event saw a good crowd with people coming and going throughout the night. There was a total of 32 heads and 11 sheds brought in for measuring in. In 2025 there were 21 whitetail, zero mule deer, four moose, three antelope, zero bear, and four elk and 11 youth white-tail sheds. According to Melville Fish and Game this number is down when compared to 2024, when they recorded 40 heads.

Melville Fish and Game noted that a number of awards went unclaimed this year such as no archery and the four bird categories. They reminded people that even if they're not sure they'll win, it's always a good idea to submit an entry and have a field photo.

Memberships have to be purchased prior to April 1st Bear and August 1st for all other big game. Entry deadline for scoring is horn measuring night and before fish caught and May 1st to be eligible for awards. Deadline to enter fish, bird, and photo awards is Dec. 31st. Get you memberships early

The trophy plaques and engraving were purchased from Lady Di's Crafty Creation and Engraving. All big game harvested must be measured during or prior to the Horn Measuring Night and animals that are legally harvested after Horn Measuring Night must be scored and submitted by December 31.

Melville Fish and Game encouraged people to take pictures of their game, birds and fish which then can be transferred to plaques of winning recipients.

The top two fish entries were submitted to central office for 2025 Provincial Awards.

Entries for fish are to be weighted on a digital scale. The fee for provincial fish entries has been waived to encourage more entries.

The branch winning photos will be submitted to the SWF convention for the provincial competition.

Provincial Angling and Henry Kelsey Awards will take place in Moose Jaw on April 25, 2026. Melville Fish and Game still has a few copies of the latest Henry Kelsey book available for \$40 each.

The annual Melville Fish and Game Banquet is scheduled for March 14, 2026. Contact a member of the executive to get your tickets.

Big Game - Rifle			
Competition	Sponsor	Winner	Score
White-tail Deer - Typical	Jack Allen Memorial	Brandon Ludwar	158 1/8
White-tail Deer - Non Typical	Scotty's Towing	Jamie Senyk	177
White-tail Deer - Youth	Jerry Molnar Memorial	Zach Curylo	147 3/8
White-tail Deer - Ladies	Tim Chaban	Shauna Schultz	139 4/8 WTD Typ
Elk - Ladies	Phillip Graff	Abigail Cherneski	89 4/8
Elk	Pee Wee Hills - Rudy Englot	Ken Gold	253 6/8
Pronghorn Antelope	Bernie Mang Memorial	Martina Senyk	71 4/8
Moose	Henry Broda Memorial	Jaeger Yelle	155 2/8
Big Game - Best Overall			
All Species	Gene Senyk Memorial	Brandon Ludwar	158 1/8 WTD Typ
Deer Symmetry (Right vs Left)			
White-tail Deer Typical	Neil & Elaine Parker	Johathon Hovestad	WTD Typ 123 .1.19 %
Big Game - Best Overall			
Ruffed Grouse	Dr. Henry Kolesky	Glenn Leier	1 lb. 7 oz.
Fish: Open (All Lakes Sask./Man.)			
Walleye	Royal Drug Mart	Glenn Leier	3 lb. 12 oz.
Perch	Alex Mazur	Glenn Leier	1 lb. 2 oz.
Rainbow Trout	O.G. Lysechko Memorial	Ken Somogyi	9 lb. 6 oz.
Lake Trout	Merv Ozirny	Tyler Somogyi	5 lb. 6 oz.
Brown Trout	Ken Somogyi	Dale Westvelt	2 lb. 14 oz.
Tiger Trout	Dale Westvelt	Ken Somogyi	2 lb. 12 oz.
Catch & Release	Sask. Environment	Carter Yelle	31 lb. Lake Trout
Fish: (16 and under)			
Northern Pike	Larry & Marion Hanowski	Daxen Somogyi	5 lb. 3 oz.
Walleye	Jim Thrun	Ryan Pylypchuck	1 lb. 11 oz.
Perch	Karl Tank Memorial	Ryan Pylypchuck	13-1/4 oz.
Lake Trout - Catch & Release	Melville Home Hardware	Jaeger Yelle	27 lb. 8 oz.
Master Angler			
All Species	Dale Parker Memorial	Ken Somogyi	18 Points
Youth Master Angler			
All Species	Tom Bruch	Daxen Somogyi	13 Points
Fly Fishing			
All Species caught on a fly	Joe Kondel Memorial	Dale Westvelt	Rainbow 4 lb. 7 oz. Royal Coachman
Photography			
Scenery	Ray Bailey	Christine Herman	Chalet
Wildlife	Natural Splendor - Sandy Baber	Mario Gaudet	Great Owl



Ryan Pylypchuk (left) accepting his award for Youth Perch from Glen Tank.



Carter Yelle with his award winning 31 lb Lake Trout.



Jaeger Yelle with his award winning moose.



Ken Somogyi (right) accepting his award for his rainbow trout from Philip Graff.



Martina Snyk with her award winning pronghorn antelope.



Shauna Schultz with her award winning white-tail deer.



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Forster new Yorkton Chamber of Commerce president

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce has elected Doug Forster as its 2026 president at the January Board of Directors meeting.

Forster told Grasslands News he felt it an honour to take up the leadership role.

“After serving for three terms as a director, the opportunity to step in as president presented itself, and I accepted it with gratitude,” he said. “I am truly humbled by the confidence my peers placed in me by electing me to the Chamber’s top chair.”

It’s also a chance to contribute in a larger way for Forster.

“Giving back to my community is very important to me and the Chamber provides a meaningful way to do that,” he said. “This role allows me to advocate for local business while representing my employer, Legacy Co-op, and to help ensure Yorkton continues to grow as a strong and sustainable future for Yorkton and our trading area.”

As Forster looks ahead, he said much of his immediate plan is to hold the course of what the Chamber is already doing.

“Looking forward to the months ahead, 2026 will build on the momentum of 2025,” he of-

fered. “Alongside our outstanding board of directors, we will continue to advocate strongly for our members while working collaboratively with all orders of government.”

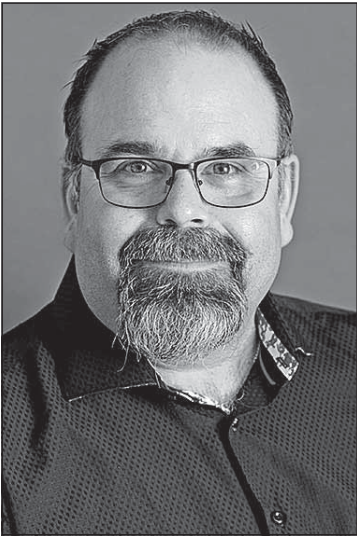
Advocating for business has always been a paramount role, added Forster.

“The Chamber has never shied away from its advocacy role, particularly on matters that directly impact our local business community,” he said. “I fully expect that we will continue to thoughtfully and constructively voice our perspectives on local initiatives like the Grain Millers Drive project, Yorkton’s waste water treatment plant, and the local economic spin off associated with the potential development of the Port of Nelson, as well as any other potential opportunities that support economic growth and long term prosperity in Yorkton.”

Forster also noted the Chamber will continue to recognize the successes of their members with their annual Business Dinner, and their 2026 Celebrate success awards.

Forster also noted he is confident about what lies ahead for Yorkton.

“Yorkton continues to position itself as a leader in the Agri-food industry, and there are several encouraging devel-



DOUG FORSTER

opments on the horizon,” he said.

“Our local economy is poised to benefit from the completion of the canola and pea plant expansions, along with the reduction of foreign tariffs that have been delaying key business decisions not just locally but also across Western Canada.

“Yorkton is fortunate to be home to some of the industry’s finest organizations, from internationally recognized businesses to locally rooted operations whose commitment to quality, innovation, and customer service, have helped put our community on the map. Infrastructure investment will

further strengthen that momentum.

“The completion of Grain Millers Drive will provide a significant lift for local investment, and with Legacy Co-op’s planned investment of a nearly \$20 million in a new travel center along that corridor, it’s clear there will be strong interest in both retail and industrial development in that area.

“The opportunities ahead for Yorkton are substantial.”

At the same time the Chamber remains an important factor in whatever business potential lies ahead, suggested the new president.

“The Chamber of Commerce plays a vital role in supporting and strengthening our local businesses,” said Forster. “We serve as a collective voice for businesses of all sizes, intentions are to ensure concerns, ideas, and priorities are heard by decision makers within all orders of government.

“Beyond our role as advocates, the Chamber fosters connection and collaboration as we bring businesses together to share ideas, build relationships, and grow collectively as we work toward a strong and vibrant local economy.”

Forster added “the Chamber of Commerce offers tangible benefits that support businesses of all sizes. One of those is ac-

cess to a group insurance plan that can be a valuable resource for employers and their teams.

“I encourage any business interested in learning more to connect with a Board member, or with anyone of our dedicated Chamber staff. The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce represents a diverse business community, including retail, commercial, agricultural and agri-business, hospitality, and home-based businesses.

“No matter the size or the sector of your business, the Chamber is here to work for you and to help you succeed.”

The Chamber’s Board is currently comprised of 16 elected members, who in turn, elect the Executive.

Joining Forster on the Executive are Mike Stackhouse as vice president and Chair of the Policy Committee; Bob Knox as Chair of the Business Development Committee; and Stephanie Buckle as chair of both the events and marketing and communications committees. Sunil Shah will serve as the past president.

The purpose of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce is to ensure the local business environment is open to investment and fosters business growth.

The Chamber represents over 430 members and is celebrating its 128th year in 2026.

Bluesy concert next up for Yorkton Arts Council on Feb. 9

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

If you like your music bluesy then you will want to mark Monday, Feb. 9 on

Sunny Side Up God keeps on giving grace

By Kathleen Gibson
Grasslands News

We had only one pet, the summer of 2013 - a large green parrot named Ernie. The Preacher felt that was enough, so he ignored the stray kitten hanging around our backyard. As much as I wanted to keep it, I didn’t broach the subject of adopting the gangly tabby. I went to work most days anyway—the care and raising would be his job.

But my darlin’ man liked something even less than the notion of a housecat. A house mouse. On spotting one making itself at home in our closet (while I was at work) he made a quick decision. Suddenly the idea of keeping the cat didn’t seem terrible. Entering the kitchen after work that day, I found a collection of cat-specific items on the kitchen counter. He’d gone shopping. The deed was done. Commitment made.

It seemed an act of grace, on both Rick’s and God’s parts. I called our new pet Grace. And when the backyard cat came indoors, any backyard mice, ever after, remained outdoors.

Despite his often tiger-like attitude toward me, Grace lived with us for a decade, choosing Rick as his top favourite human. But one autumn day he dashed out the momentarily open back door and left the way he’d come. No forwarding address. We searched long, haunted the alleys and lost and found pages. And we grieved.

Then, miles from home, someone found an identical stray. I brought him back. He knew me, the house, the dog, and he fawned over Rick. By the time we

your calendars.

That’s the night Calgary’s Ollee Owens rolls into Yorkton as part of the Yorkton Arts Council concert series – this event at St. Andrew’s United Church..

realized he was an imposter, the name had stuck. Then came the report of another look-alike. I rescued that one too, certain I’d got it right that time.

I didn’t. We adopted both doppelgangers. Named the last one Glory. Our daughter, recalling the words of a favourite hymn about God’s grace teased, “You’re not done collecting Graces yet, Mom. The hymn says, ‘He giveth, and giveth and giveth again.’”

Barring the unlikely return of old GraceCat, we are indeed done cat-collecting. But we’ll never stop needing or making room for God’s grace. As John Newton wrote in the hymn, Amazing Grace, that grace, “saved a wretch like me.”

But sometimes we forget that salvation and forgiveness of sins are only half of God’s grace-work. As writer Frank McEleny writes, “Grace in the New Testament is not merely pardon after failure. It is power for obedience. It is the power to overcome (temptation). Grace does not merely arrive after the wreckage. Grace, when obeyed, prevents the wreckage.”

German pastor and author Deitrich Boenhoffer called the kind of grace that is good only for forgiveness ‘after the wreckage,’ cheap grace.” Fake grace, like our imposter cats.

We have all sinned. When we repent, God forgives us. But his Holy Spirit provides grace to obey, to live free from destructive sinful patterns. That’s God’s real, amazing grace. And that’s his glory, too.

“The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:2)

When Grasslands News caught up with Owens she was singing the blues in Ireland which seemed a long way from a church in Yorkton. But she said it isn’t so far musically.

“Going to Ireland from Canada felt like arriving in a friendly town where the people are warm and welcoming,” she said. “The Irish have a great love of music, and our shows here were very well received. We had people singing and clapping along with us and enjoying themselves.”

Owens said that is a response she recognizes is rather universal.

“I’ve had these same experiences in many places right here at home and I am very much looking forward to playing in Yorkton,” she said.

And the music seems to please wherever Owens goes to.

“The majority of what I write and perform touches on things we all go through and I find that anywhere I go, people resonate with the songs,” she said.

“However, I do make an effort to learn about the regions I am going to play in so I can customize the shows in small ways, whether it’s in the actual set list or the stories shared in-between the songs.”

Even the miles, whether by air or bus is something Owen – who was recently nominated for Emerging Blues Artist of the Year through the Canadian Blues Music Awards which are being held March 30, in Toronto, said she expected and enjoys.

“I have always wanted to travel beyond my home base to play music,” she said. “It’s been great to go beyond Alberta and now Canada to share my songs abroad.”

Still, it left a question of how she found the blues growing up in rural Manitoba?

“I was raised with a lot of music playing in the house from southern rock, country, and gospel,” explained Owen. “I discovered blues with my little brother in my teens, and it really resonated. We bought a cassette tape by Rev Dan Smith who played a delta hill country style blues.

“Then I discovered Mahalia Jackson, Etta James and Mavis Staples - the powerful, emotive and expressive nature of



OLLEE OWENS

their voices touched me deeply.

“There was an honesty in this music that gave voice to struggle and hardship both of which I am no stranger to. I love all kinds of music, but kept being drawn back to blues and gospel, both of which find way into my own songs.”

And even on the Canadian Prairies the blues finds friendly ears.

“Willie Dixon once said, ‘expressed in word and song, inspiration and feeling and understanding – the blues are the true facts of life’,” said Owen. “My sound is heavily influenced by the blues, as well as all the other music I grew up with.

“Some have said my shows feel a lot like a Bonnie Raitt show, where you have strong blues elements as well as beautiful ballads and story songs.

“As a result, my shows appeal to a wide variety of folks who enjoy blues, country, gospel and soul - as a result it is not too difficult to find an audience on the prairies.

“I write and sing about the human experience. As an artist, songs are my way of capturing this through lyrics and music.

“When building out a show, I give consideration to the whole evening; knitting originals and my interpretations of cover songs that fit together in a way that I hope will leave folks glad they came.”



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Are you storing your toothbrush correctly?

If stored incorrectly, your toothbrush can become a breeding ground for bacteria, which can be harmful to your health. It can even cause re-infection after a cold. Here's a quick reminder of the best storage practices.

- After brushing, rinse your toothbrush thoroughly to remove toothpaste and debris. Clean both the bristles and the handle.
- Place your toothbrush upright in a holder or glass so excess water can drain away.
- Make sure toothbrushes belonging to different household members don't touch each other.
- Keep the toothbrush holder or glass about one metre away from the sink and toilet to prevent contaminated droplets from landing on the toothbrushes.

Adopt these healthy habits today. Your smile will thank you for it!



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January 30 - February 5, 2026
Next Council Meeting:
Monday, February 23, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.



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Find more low or no cost ways to stay active all January at
shapeyourcity.yorkton.ca/active-living-month

Throughout the month of January, the City of Yorkton encourages the community to participate in active living opportunities by providing low or no cost options.

- FREE indoor walking track admission all month
- BOGO Access Communications Water Park offers on select programs & public swims
- Fitness classes and clinics for all ages
- FREE racquetball & squash admissions
- Try Lifesaving Sport for FREE
- FREE coffee pass promotion with Soup & Such at the Gallagher Centre



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GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE
for culture, recreation & sport

Your non profit group or project may be eligible for funding of up to

\$5,000

Deadline to apply is October 1st

shapeyourcity.yorkton.ca/communitygrantprogram




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The Gallagher Centre, Yorkton, SK.

Pool Party!

FREE ADMISSION | Sunday, February 15th | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The first **300 guests** will receive an Access gift and tasty snacks! Join us for a fun day and discover more about Access and enter for a chance to win an exciting prize! Make a splash and join the fun!

Grenfell school remains a priority for Prairie Valley

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Prairie Valley School Division continues to seek provincial funding for capital projects in Grenfell and Indian Head.

Each year, the Ministry of Education accepts requests from Saskatchewan school divisions for capital funding. Three projects estimated at over \$10 million each can be submitted to the Major Capital Program. Two projects that cost between \$1 million and \$10 million and can be completed within two years may be submitted to the Minor Capital Renewal Program. Approved projects will be funded by the Ministry of Education and delivered through the Ministry of Saskatchewan Builds and Procurement.

Last week, PVSD released its list of projects that will be submitted to provincial government for funding consideration in 2026. For the fourth year in a row, consolidation of the elementary and high schools in Grenfell continues to be included on PVSD’s list of proposed major capital projects. A new school in White City and a new elementary school in Lumsden are also on this year’s major projects list. The White City school was previously submitted for consideration in 2023; Lumsden was a priority for PVSD in 2024 and 2025.

PVSD will once again request funding for minor capital projects at Indian Head Elementary School and Robert Southey School. These have been submitted to the Ministry annually since 2023.

“As a rural school division, we have the unique challenge of balancing aging infrastructure across the division with population growth in specific areas,” PVSD Board Chair Janet Kotylak commented in a statement. “Our priority is to ensure safe, welcoming, and high-quality learning environments for every student. Advancing these capital projects is an important step in supporting students and families across the division throughout their educational journey.”

SaskTel 2026 expansion Whitewood to receive fibre internet upgrade

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

High-speed fibre internet service is coming to Whitewood as part of SaskTel’s 2025-26 infiNET build, bringing faster internet, improved television services and enhanced connectivity to homes and businesses in the community.

SaskTel will upgrade its broadband infrastructure in Whitewood by extending fibre optic cable directly to customer properties through its infiNET network, a fibre-to-the-community system designed to replace older copper-based services. The work will serve both residential and business customers and will be completed using a combination of aerial and buried construction methods, depending on location.

According to information presented by SaskTel, aerial construction will involve upgrades to SaskPower poles, followed by the installation of fibre between poles and then from the pole to individual

homes and businesses. This work is expected to have minimal impact on private property, as all construction is done overhead.

In areas requiring buried infrastructure, construction will be completed in two phases. The first phase focuses on upgrading the main distribution network between underground pedestals, while the second phase involves connecting fibre from those pedestals directly to individual properties using directional drilling. SaskTel says contractors will work to repair any disturbed areas once construction is complete.

Once connected to the infiNET network, customers will have access to significantly faster internet speeds, with download speeds of up to 940 megabits per second and upload speeds of up to 500 megabits per second, depending on plan availability. The fibre network also supports enhanced TV services, including additional HD channels, 4K programming, and multi-room PVR options, as well as improved reliability for home phone services.

Businesses in Whitewood are expected to benefit from symmetrical upload and download speeds, unlimited data usage and improved performance for services such as video conferencing, cloud storage and large file transfers.

SaskTel will act as the general contractor for the project, with inspectors and quality managers overseeing construction and customer conversions to ensure safety and quality standards are met. Customers will receive advance notice of construction activity through letters, door-to-door notices and other communications outlining what to expect and when work will take place.

Residents will be notified when their properties are eligible to book fibre conversion appointments. SaskTel encourages customers to convert once notified to avoid future service interruptions as older DSL services are phased out.

Grenfell council hears from wildlife club, updates water leak policy

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Grenfell town council held a regular meeting on Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Lilac Room adjacent to the Town Office.

Delegation

Council welcomed a delegation from the Grenfell Wildlife Federation, the local branch of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation.

The delegates explained the non-profit organization’s role in local conservation and education efforts. They described the club’s participation in the Fish in Schools program, which provides Grenfell students with opportunities to learn about life cycles and habitats as they raise trout to stock a pond on the west side of town. They shared information about youth archery and pheasant release programs as well. Federation membership costs and fundraising initiatives were also mentioned. Councillors appreciated the opportunity to meet with GWF representatives and found the discussion very informative.

The organization and town have a longstanding arrangement allowing the Wildlife Federation to use space in the Community Hall for meetings, storage, and youth archery programming. Following their discussion, council approved a motion permitting the GWF to continue using the Community Hall for a monthly fee of \$50, subject to review in 2027.

Fire Department Report

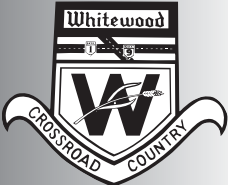
Fire Chief and Town Councillor Dwayne Stone reported that the fire department’s Gator is being serviced this winter. A foam and water fire suppression system is being installed on the Gator. Grants and fundraising initiatives covered the cost of upgrading the equipment. Stone informed council that, if it works well on the Gator, then the department may consider adding a similar system to its utility truck.

Pool Equipment

The floating tarp used to cover the town’s outdoor swimming pool each night during summer operations needs to be replaced before the upcoming season. Council reviewed quotes for various options from Acapulco Pools and Pleasureway Sales. Council approved the purchase and installation of a two panel cover from Acapulco, with a three-year warranty, at a cost of \$12,392 plus taxes.

Policy Update

In March 2025, council approved a policy outlining responsibilities for maintenance and repairs associated with water meters in private buildings. At last week’s meeting, council approved a motion to add a clause to the policy stating, “The Town will not be responsible for damaged equipment if the water, electricity or heating has been turned off, disconnected or neglected or if the building is unoccupied or has been unoccupied.”



Town of Whitewood

Email: general@townofwhitewood.ca
Web Site: www.townofwhitewood.ca

306-735-2210
731 - Lalonde St.
P.O. Box 129
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S0G 5C0

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town of Whitewood Council meets at the town office.
Upcoming Council Meeting Date: Feb. 10 and 24 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held via Zoom.

Council Meeting Update - Zoom Attendance Protocol

Due to disruptions during our last council meeting, we are implementing new procedures to ensure a respectful and productive environment for all participants.

- If you wish to attend a council meeting via Zoom:
- You must email cao@townofwhitewood.ca by noon on the day of the meeting to request the Zoom link.
- You must log in with your full name clearly visible prior to the meeting start time.
- Only named participants will be admitted from the waiting room.

We appreciate your cooperation -Town of Whitewood Council

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Whitewood is accepting applications for the positions:

**Recreation Technician
Summer Students
Lifeguards, Lesson Instructors and
Pool Supervisor**

Town of Whitewood
For full details or submit a resume – contact Lisa at 306-735-2210 or cao@townofwhitewood.ca or listed on our website www.townofwhitewood.ca

NOTICE FOR CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2026 MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION

FORM H (Section 66 of the Act)

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

1. Councillor for the Town of Whitewood Number to be Elected-One (1)

Will be received by the undersigned on the 11th day of February 2026 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Office of the Town of Whitewood, 731 Lalonde Street and during regular business hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. commencing Tuesday, January 6th, 2026, to Wednesday, February 11th, 2026. Nomination forms may be obtained at the following location:
Office of the Town of Whitewood, 731 Lalonde Street
Dated this 6th day of January 6th, 2026.

Lisa Istace,
Returning Officer

GARBAGE / RECYCLING

Residents are reminded that Garbage or Recycling Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on collection days.
Upcoming **Recycling** Date: Wednesday, Feb. 4 and Feb. 18.
Upcoming **Garbage** Date: Wednesday, Feb. 11 and Feb. 25.

TOWN OFFICE INFO

We welcome your comments, questions and feedback. The Town office is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m.
Phone: 306-735-2210 - Fax: 306-735-2262
Email: general@townofwhitewood.ca

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR RINK & FIRE PIT

Located by the Tennis Courts, near the Pool

This outdoor rink is a special extra project we’ve created for our community to enjoy together. Our staff will do their best to clear snow as time allows, but we’d love your help! When you visit, please consider bringing a shovel and lending a hand with snow removal if needed. We’d love to leave shovels on-site, but they tend to “grow legs” and wander off. Your support helps keep the rink safe, welcoming, and fun for everyone. There is also a fire pit with firewood available—perfect for warming up and enjoying the rink atmosphere. If you notice anything that needs repair, please let us know and we’ll do our best to fix it quickly. Please remember to play, skate and stay warm at your own risk. Thank you for helping us care for this community project and making it a place where everyone can have fun!

RESIDENTIAL LOTS FOR SALE

The Town of Whitewood has completed development of Heritage Crescent located within town limits. This 27 lot development includes power, water and sewer to all lots. Cost of a lot is \$2,500. Contact the town office at 306-735-2210 to get full details.





Whitewood Landfill

Firefighters battle landfill blaze through extreme cold

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Firefighters with the Whitewood Fire Department endured brutal cold, frozen equipment and a marathon overnight-battle while knocking down a large garbage fire at the Whitewood landfill late Jan. 23 into the early hours of Jan. 24.

The department was dispatched at about 6:15 p.m. after a large pile of garbage ignited at the landfill. With temperatures dipping to nearly -35°C, crews were immediately pushed to the limit.

“This was one of those calls where everything is working against you — the cold, the equipment, the water supply — but the firefighters never backed down,” said Fire Chief Bernard Brûlé.

Firefighters spent more than 7.5 hours on scene, battling frozen water lines, frozen trucks and the constant risk of equipment failure. To keep crews safe and effective, firefighters worked in shifts, rotating between active fire suppression and warming up inside the department’s command post truck.

“You’d have firefighters fighting the fire until their gear started to freeze up, then cycling into the command unit to warm up before heading back out,” Brûlé said. “It was the only way to keep people functioning in that kind of cold.”

Due to the extreme temperatures, two fire trucks were forced to rotate back and forth to town to refill with

water and thaw before returning to the landfill. The cold also limited mutual aid, as three neighbouring departments were unable to respond with water tankers because of freezing concerns.

The fire was finally brought under control with critical assistance from Whitewood landfill employees, who worked alongside firefighters throughout the night. Three dozers, a track hoe, loaders and a dump truck were used to spread burning material and haul snow and dirt to smother the flames.

“That heavy equipment made all the difference,” said Brûlé. “Without the landfill staff and their machinery, this fire would have gone much longer. It was a true team effort.”

Many firefighters responded straight from home or work and remained on scene without having eaten supper, staying until about 1:50 a.m. when the scene was turned back over to landfill staff and equipment returned to the fire hall.

“These calls are incredibly hard on our gear, but even tougher on our volunteer firefighters,” Brûlé said. “Despite the conditions, they showed up, stayed the course and got the job done. I couldn’t be prouder of this department.”

The Whitewood Fire Department also extended its thanks to landfill employees for their overnight support, noting the incident highlighted both the challenges of winter firefighting and the dedication of local emergency responders.

“These calls are incredibly hard on our gear, but even tougher on our volunteer firefighters.”

- Fire Chief Bernard Brûlé



CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Fighting fire and cold
Firefighter Johnny Gilchuk is surrounded by smoke as he sprays water on a fire at the Whitewood Landfill on Jan. 23. Whitewood Fire Department spent over seven hours battling the fire in -35°C temperatures.



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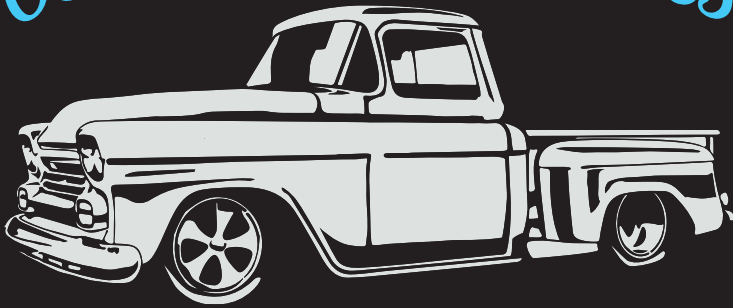


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SaskTel TelCare program directs nearly \$5,000 to Yorkton-area charities

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Local charities and schools in the Yorkton area were among the beneficiaries of SaskTel's TelCare program in 2025, receiving nearly \$5,000 in employee-driven donations.

SaskTel announced Jan. 27 that its TelCare program raised \$185,850 for 47 charitable and non-profit organizations across Saskatchewan last year, combining employee payroll donations with a 50-per-cent corporate match. In the Yorkton and

District area, a total of \$4,950 was distributed to four community organizations.

Local recipients included the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan, SIGN Kamsack Family Resource Centre, The Soup Haven Lunch Program Inc., and Yorkdale Central School.

TelCare is a volunteer initiative supported by SaskTel employees who contribute through automatic payroll deductions, with the company matching 50 cents for every dollar donated. More than 500 employees across nine provincial districts participated in the program in 2025, raising

\$123,900 before the corporate match was applied.

"Through TelCare, SaskTel employees are turning their voluntary contributions into support for organizations that keep communities in Saskatchewan strong, safe, and secure," said Jeremy Harrison, minister responsible for SaskTel, in a release.

SaskTel president and CEO Charlene Gavel said the program reflects the commitment of employees to the communities where they live and work.

"The funds distributed through this program, matched by SaskTel, are more than

donations; they're tangible steps toward our mission to enrich everyday life for the people of Saskatchewan," Gavel said.

Provincewide, donations were spread across communities ranging from Regina and Saskatoon to smaller centres such as Yorkton, Weyburn, Swift Current, and North Battleford, supporting organizations focused on health care, food security, education, and community services.

SaskTel said the TelCare program continues to be an important way for employees to make a direct, local impact while strengthening community organizations.







January 30 - February 5, 2026

Next Council Meeting

Monday, February 23, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Unit.							Adv. & Admin Costs	Total Arrears & Costs
Roll No.	No.	Lot	Block	Plan No.	Ext.	Title No.	Arrears	
515049200		38	4	7023		124194506	773.73	52.00 825.73
515050850		5	5	7023		150757757	2,069.39	52.00 2,121.39
515053500			X	98Y06019		124145513	142,961.73	52.00 143,013.73
515057100		2	76	00Y08076		151453065	1,590.88	52.00 1,642.88
515101450		6	9	87Y05786		134544674	112.49	52.00 164.49
515101700		12	9	97Y12192		124157370	7,968.97	52.00 8,020.97
515102000		1	10	87Y05786		124147728	34,242.19	52.00 34,294.19
515110000		20	8	99Y10140		140880966	8,686.07	52.00 8,738.07
515115500		26	9	102049949		140431137	320.52	52.00 372.52
515140000			G	99Y07086	1	151695793	35,006.92	52.00 35,058.92
515201450		16	2	101973023		157057779	2,136.48	52.00 2,188.48
515208000		H	3	65Y08125		145073459	1,631.97	52.00 1,683.97
515209400		A	3	CD3175		155372890	8,371.74	52.00
515209400		D	3	60V03709		155372902		2.00
515209400		NE	S36T25	R04W2	25	155372913		2.00 8,427.74
515217400		7	4	65Y08125		151270275	3,036.80	52.00 3,088.80
515218700	1			102164655		146020755	18,816.57	52.00 18,868.57
524701050		15	47	66Y09711		151913268	3,004.81	52.00 3,056.81
524702250		52	46	66Y09711		151012482	2,584.36	52.00 2,636.36
524703350		73	46	66Y09711		112577115	164.51	52.00 216.51
524703800		83	46	68Y02394		150748173	689.27	52.00 741.27
524705100		9	62	68Y02394		127706104	373.25	52.00 425.25
524706100		37	59	68Y02394		153842205	493.52	52.00 545.52
524706200		39	59	68Y02394		152150622	3,280.43	52.00 3,332.43
524706400		43	59	68Y02394		148822038	3,846.49	52.00 3,898.49
524706450		44	59	68Y02394		142820311	3,267.75	52.00 3,319.75
524706600		47	59	68Y02394		157918898	752.90	52.00 804.90
524708300		12	60	68Y02394		128025514	2,421.28	52.00 2,473.28
524708900		32	53	101704946	27	124104653	588.44	52.00
524708900		33	53	101704946	28	124104664		2.00 642.44
524710250		45	53	68Y02394		134645036	3,588.30	52.00 3,640.30
524711050		15	53	66Y09711		158597117	1,964.91	52.00 2,016.91
524711150		17	53	66Y09711		154146236	3,323.60	52.00 3,375.60
524711400		5	54	66Y09711		153003675	3,007.38	52.00 3,059.38
524712200		22	54	66Y09711		130521406	3,044.50	52.00 3,096.50
524713700		19	48	66Y09711		124106150	3,785.22	52.00 3,837.22
524720800		3	50	66Y09711		156571353	801.33	52.00 853.33
524720820		3	50	66Y09711		156571353	163.69	52.00 215.69
524721900		15	50	66Y09711		140388475	3,656.81	52.00 3,708.81
524722430		26	61	91Y01736		134112327	2,955.56	52.00 3,007.56
524722600		32	61	101707017	10	158297215	3,823.28	52.00
524722600		33	61	101707017	11	158297237		2.00 3,877.28
524722650		30	61	101706971	12	128040533	372.34	52.00
524722650		31	61	101706971	13	128040544		2.00 426.34
524723100		12	61	68Y02394		156444677	250.99	52.00 302.99
524723350		7	61	68Y02394		130103514	154.21	52.00 206.21
524725200		7	56	66Y09711		155975585	2,127.86	52.00 2,179.86
524725800		7	57	66Y09711		154764940	3,480.24	52.00 3,532.24
524727150		9	58	68Y02394		124376205	1,205.65	52.00 1,257.65
524728700		116	46	68Y02394		147163619	1,041.10	52.00 1,093.10
524729000		110	46	68Y02394		152681845	4,423.34	52.00 4,475.34
524805700		25	1	79Y07074		146738368	997.49	52.00 1,049.49
524807400		12	A	78Y09106		156441551	3,849.88	52.00
524807400		19	A	101682019	3	156441528		2.00 3,903.88
524808550		7	10	79Y09101		136509431	4,341.98	52.00 4,393.98
524809250		8	8	76Y07074		156331256	4,580.30	52.00 4,632.30
524818000		4	12	102198843		130384920	3,511.36	52.00 3,563.36
524900300		6	E	CE6408		158671604	1,014.47	52.00 1,066.47
524901700		16	A	CE6408		124274628	273.43	52.00 325.43
524904300		7	D	CE6408		145768999	3,493.44	52.00 3,545.44
524905450		1	3	AA1366		155016211	192.35	52.00
524905450		2	3	AA1366		155016222		2.00 246.35

Unit.							Adv. & Admin Costs	Total Arrears & Costs
Roll No.	No.	Lot	Block	Plan No.	Ext.	Title No.	Arrears	
524905650		5	4	AA1366		146228496	1,528.92	52.00
524905650		6	4	AA1366		146228485		2.00 1,582.92
524906250		14	B	CE6408		136499631	105.95	52.00
524906250		26	B	101727895	5	136499642		2.00 159.95
524906400		23	A	CE6408		138948261	3,877.28	52.00 3,929.28
525001600		4	A	CF4480		124232532	2,436.37	52.00 2,488.37
525001750		1	A	CF4480		155994968	452.65	52.00 504.65
525002600		2	27	CE3845		139181902	2,730.54	52.00
525002600		3	27	CE3845		139182004		2.00 2,784.54
525004300		5	25	AA3397		124126714	1,863.12	52.00 1,915.12
525005700		5	30	CE3845		158814041	4,346.43	52.00 4,398.43
TOTALS							\$1,283,423.35	\$17,326.00 \$1,300,749.35
Dated this 26th day of January, 2026.							Raelyn Knudson	
(SEAL)							Collector of Taxes	
							City of Yorkton	



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SPORTS

Holzapfel celebrates 50 years reffing hockey

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

When Murray Holzapfel looks back on the past 50 years, he says, “I don’t think there’s a rink in southern Saskatchewan where I haven’t skated.”

This remarkable legacy as a hockey referee was celebrated during a puck drop ceremony in Indian Head on Minor Hockey Day, Jan. 17. Grasslands News spoke with Holzapfel afterwards about his career as a sports official in Saskatchewan.

A Canadian Pastime

Murray Holzapfel was born and raised in Indian Head. He worked as a supervisor at the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) tree nursery for 39 years; retiring when the PFRA was closed in 2013. From his youth and throughout retirement, sports have been a significant part of his life.

He started playing hockey at age nine and continued as a goalie until his 20s. He played with the Chiefs and Marauders, winning two senior championships, and competed at the provincial level. In addition to playing hockey, Holzapfel also served as a coach for youth teams. He remembers coaching David Karpa and watching Karpa’s career develop as he played for Notre Dame and then the NHL.

“We always had good hockey in this town – senior hockey, minor hockey, lots of tournaments, lots of hockey,” he recalled. “Competition was good back then. Saturday night was a full house; everybody looked forward to going to the



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Referee honoured

Murray Holzapfel (centre) was honored for 50 years as a hockey referee during a puck drop ceremony in Indian Head on Saturday, Jan. 17.

rink Saturday night.”

Growing as a Ref

Around age 13, Holzapfel began refereeing for younger hockey teams. As he grew older, he started officiating for senior games as well. He said his experience as a player provided valuable insight to the new role.

“I like it and it was a good way to keep involved,” Holzapfel added. “I didn’t want to keep playing hockey, I was getting older, so I figured I could ref and they said I was pretty good.”

The excitement of competition and the interaction with players, coaches and fans drew Holzapfel back to the rink day after day. He refer-

eed at regular games for minor hockey and adult teams, officiating for the Highway Hockey League, Qu’Appelle Valley Hockey League, Triangle Hockey League, and the Big Six. He was even called to referee for league finals and ten provincial finals.

Holzapfel became known to many as “Hozie,” and he appreciated the camaraderie that developed among the referees as they travelled and worked together at games in Indian Head, Fort Qu’Appelle, Balcarres, Wolseley, Grenfell, Oxbow, Raymore and elsewhere.

“On the average, I did 100 games a year and I was pretty well on the road every night, because

there wasn’t many of us that would go all over Saskatchewan – all over the south. I’ve been in every rink,” he said.

Mentoring the Next Generation

Holzapfel is now 73 years old and during his five decades as a referee he has naturally witnessed some changes to hockey regulations. These include an increase to the number of referees on the ice during a game and changes to penalty calls. He views these as positive improvements since they removed pressure from younger officials.

Holzapfel recognizes the value of investing in the next generation. He was a referee supervisor

for Hockey Sask and is glad to see young athletes involved.

“Me and a few other guys would take the kids out on a Saturday and show them signals and watch their games when they refed and help them out with the calls,” he commented. “People helped me along the line, so I give back now to the young ones.”

From Rink to Field

Holzapfel’s enthusiasm for officiating sports games extends beyond the rink to the ball diamond.

“We played ball in the summer and hockey in the winter,” he explained. “This is a good community for hockey, football, baseball.”

After playing for several years with the Indian Head Rockets, Holzapfel transitioned to umpiring for baseball and then softball games in Regina and eventually across Canada. Several of his acquaintances from the rink kept a similar schedule, so he enjoyed refereeing with them in the winter and umpiring with them in the summer.

Lasting Legacy

Holzapfel’s impact on players, coaches and fellow officials has not gone unnoticed. Indian Head Minor Hockey Association summarized his contribution in a social media post last week: “Murray Holzapfel’s career represents more than just longevity — it represents leadership, integrity, and a lifelong commitment to hockey. Thank you, Murray!”

Holzapfel has been unable to referee this season since he is recovering from a lengthy illness. Yet, he is still passionate about sports and eager to serve the community as a referee or umpire when his health permits. When he walked onto the ice for the puck drop ceremony held in his honour earlier this month, he was supported by fellow officials, but he is optimistic that he may skate again next winter. He shares this enthusiasm with others, advising them to become a referee or umpire as a means of continuing their involvement.

“It’s been a long, good career; it’s a good pastime,” Holzapfel stated. “It’s a good way to keep busy and keep involved if your time as a player is over.”

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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

The Winter Olympic Games are coming up and I’ve noticed that when it comes to Canada’s men’s hockey team, the way it’s chosen seems to have become an area of debate.

While many Canadian hockey fans will simply watch and cheer for whoever Hockey Canada picks to flesh out a lineup, there are differing philosophies on how that team should be built.

There are many who want to see some of Canada’s younger stars, players like Connor Bedard and Matthew Shaefer, in order to have some sort of succession plan, so you’re always having a few players who have been in that huge Olympics moment, who have played under the brightest of spotlights.

This seems like an obvious thing for many, while others have a different idea of who should be playing on the 2026 version of Team Canada.

Personally, I feel as if the players on that roster should be the absolute best we have, regardless of how many hockey seasons they have under their belt.

Both sides of this issue should be completely understandable to everyone.

While having the dynamic youthful players such as Bedard and Schaefer on the roster certainly wouldn’t hurt the Canadian team to a great degree, this is a best-on-best tournament, and if these guys aren’t the best we’ve got, why choose them?

The Olympics and the National Hockey League have always butted heads when it comes to NHL stars playing in the Olympics, even though the boon it provides the NHL is undeniable, especially in terms of visibility.

Plenty of people get really hyped up for any sort of international hockey, but when it’s best on best, everyone is watching and interested in the games.

If you weren’t interested, people would probably shout you down for being un-Canadian.

There’s nothing better for the hockey fan, than to sit down and watch the best of the best face off for gold, and the NHL knows it.

This time around, there’s a contract for the NHL to be involved in the 2030 Olympic Games, but in the past, you never really knew if the NHL was going to be involved or not.

The problem has always been the NHL team owners, worried about their players getting injured playing for their country and not being able to perform, or help their team win during the season.

Face it, players from every country salivate at the chance to suit up for their homeland, whether they’re Swedes, Canadians, Americans or Finns, or any other nationality.

It’s a huge source of pride for any player, and when they’re playing for gold, they let it all hang out, and sometimes guys get hurt.

If a player the calibre of Connor McDavid was to get injured while playing in the Olympics, there would be a call for owners to think about not allowing their best players, who are under contract, to play for their respective teams.

This has always been the scenario that no real hockey fan wants to see unfold.

Emotions are going to be running high for this Olympic tournament, especially after the tremendous showing at the Four Nations tourney last year.

This time around, it’s doubtful that there will be any fisticuffs, but just in case, Canada has added Tom Wilson to the lineup and the American team has so much buy-in that the games are going to be rough and tumble affairs, that they’re leaving their top two scorers at home – for now.

As a Canadian, it would be a terrific ending for Canada if Sidney Crosby could stand on that Olympic podium one more time, and have a gold medal draped around his neck when everything is said and done.

He’s done so much for the game and he’s been Canada’s top player for a number of years, and seeing him score another golden goal would be fantastic theatre, as well as great hockey.

However this all shakes down, if you don’t know a lot about it, there will be experts every way you turn when the games begin, and Canada is by no means a shoo-in to win all the marbles.

Like all international competition, it will be different, and the team that comes out on top will be the club that can create the necessary chemistry in a hurry.

If you aren’t excited about it, you’re not really a hockey fan.

Busy week on the ice for local SEHL teams

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

It was another eventful week in the Sask East Hockey League, with teams from Wapella, Esterhazy, Churchbridge, Langenburg, Canora and Theodore all seeing significant action as the regular season continues to take shape.

In Wapella, the Blackhawks delivered one of their strongest offensive performances of the season Jan. 21, rolling past the Esterhazy Flyers 10-3 at Wapella Arena. Marshall Wilton led the way with a five-point night, while Keigan Callander and Nathan Murray combined for eight points as Wapella built a commanding 5-0 first-period lead and never looked back.

Wapella was back on home ice three days later but came up just short in a 7-6 loss to the Cote Selects. After falling behind early,

Prairie Men’s HL Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
JANUARY:
31– Valley Warriors at IH Chiefs 8 pm
FEBRUARY:
06– Valley Warriors (Fort) at Cupar 8 pm
07– Strasbourg at Ituna Avalanche 2 pm
08– Ituna at Valley Warriors (Fort) 6 pm
14– Strasbourg at IH Chiefs 8:00

Fort Knox Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
JANUARY:
24– Fort Knox at S'toon Quakers 8:00
29– Fort Knox at Regina SF 7:45
30– Fort Knox at Moosomin SH 8:00
FEBRUARY:
01– ExHRegina Caps at Fort Knox 3:00
05– RPS Rebels at Fort Knox 7:30
07– PB Storm at Fort Knox 7:00
12– Fort Knox at R.Silver Foxes 7:30
14– RPS Rebels at Fort Knox 7:00
15– Fort Knox at EHRRegina Caps 6:45

Yorkton Terriers Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
All Games 7 p.m. unless otherwise stated
JANUARY:
31– Battlefords at Yorkton
FEBRUARY:
01– Nipawin at Yorkton 3 p.m.
06– Estevan at Yorkton
07– Yorkton at Melville
11– Yorkton at Weyburn
13– Warman at Yorkton
16– Yorkton at Humboldt 3 p.m.
20– Humboldt at Yorkton
25– La Ronge at Yorkton
27– Nipawin at Yorkton
28– La Ronge at Yorkton

Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
All Games 7 p.m. unless otherwise stated
JANUARY:
30– Battlefords at Melville
31– Flin Flon at Melville
FEBRUARY:
06– Melville at Humboldt 7:30
07– Yorkton at Melville
13– Weyburn at Melville
14– Warman at Melville
16– Melville at Weybur 3 p.m.
20– Melville at Flin Flon 7:30
21– Melville at Flin Flon 7:30
24– LaRonge at Melville
27– LaRonge at Melville
28– Melville at Estevan



the Blackhawks surged in the second period with five goals, including two from Dawson Garvey, before Cote pulled away late in the third.

For Esterhazy, the week was a mix of highs and lows. After being handled by Wapella, the Flyers rebounded with a dramatic 3-2 overtime win in Rocanville, with Spencer Trapp scoring the winner just over a minute into extra time. Esterhazy then followed that up with an emphatic 11-4 victory over Churchbridge at Dana Antal Arena, powered by a dominant eight-point performance from Trapp.

Churchbridge also had a tough stretch, falling 8-5 on the road to the Russell Rams despite multi-point games from Dryden Jean-

not and Eamon Milligan. The Imperials remain competitive night-to-night but have struggled to turn effort into wins as the season progresses.

In Langenburg, the Warriors saw their strong season record take a hit with a 6-4 loss to the Rocanville Tigers. Langenburg received goals from Jaymes Knee, Mason Dregger and Tyson Zimmer, but Rocanville’s depth proved decisive late in the contest.

Meanwhile, Canora continued to assert itself as one of the league’s top offensive teams. The

Wolseley Mustangs Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
JANUARY:
31– Yellowgrass at Wolseley 8:00

Cobras dismantled the Preeceville Pats 8-1 before following up with a 14-4 win over the Theodore Buffalos the next night, firing an eye-popping 71 shots in the latter contest. Derrick Schwartz and Scott Mickoski both recorded five-point performances against Theodore.

As of this week, Canora sits atop the North Division with an 11-3-1 record and 23 points, while Theodore remains firmly in the playoff mix at 8-6-1. In the South Division, Langenburg continues to lead the way at 12-2, followed closely by Rocanville and Esterhazy. Wapella and Churchbridge are currently tied near the bottom of the South standings, but both teams have shown flashes that suggest they could still play spoiler down the stretch.

With the playoff picture beginning to sharpen, every point is becoming increasingly valuable as SEHL teams head into the final weeks of the regular season.

Pilot Butte Storm Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
JANUARY:
31– Rebels at PB Storm 7:45

Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M.		Pinheads		44		THURSDAY YBC	
<i>Jan. 19</i>		New		39		<i>Jan. 22</i>	
Ladies' High Single, Linda Bender,		Blame it on Garry		38		Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi	
208. Ladies' High Triple and Average,		ST. HENRY'S				Hollinger, 168, 531.	
Angela Dobson, 552, 168.		<i>Jan. 20</i>				Boys High Single and Triple,	
Men's High Single and Triple.		Ladies' High Single and Triple,				Zachary Curylo, 203, 529.	
Gordon Ostlund, 199, 545. Men's High		Angela Morgan, 204 531. Ladies' High				Team High Single and Triple,	
Average, Joe Wu, 188.		Average, Pat Brown, 170.				Curylo, 881, 2488.	
Team High Single and Triple,		Men's High Single and Triple, Joe				Team	
Bender, 818, 2271.		Wu, 311, 717. Men's High Average,				Pts.	
Team		Chris Cheveldae, 188.				Curylo	
Pts.		Team High Single, CCJ, 1283.				Wurts	
Dobson		Team High Triple, Just 4 Fun, 3700.				Hollinger	
Ostlund		Team				Kohlenberg	
Bender		Pts.					
Stephens		CCJ					
		Just 4 Fun					
MONDAY COMMERCIAL		A Team				SATURDAY YBC	
<i>Jan. 19</i>		Drifters				<i>Jan. 24</i>	
Ladies' High Single and Triple,		TUESDAY YBC				Girls High Single and Triple, Ashyah	
Brenda Brooks, 221, 567. Ladies' High		<i>Jan. 20</i>				Davies, 135, 364.	
Average, Brandy Lechner, 228.		Girls High Single and Triple, Amzlee				Boys High Single and Triple, Remi	
Men's High Single and Triple, Lucas		Patterson, 132, 376.				Schneider, 268, 708.	
Litzenberger, 288, 694. Men's High		Boys High Single and Triple, Jakob				Team High Single and Triple, The	
Average, Destin Kohlenberg, 216.		Unterschute, 127, 366.				Enders, 891, 2583.	
Team High Single, Professional		Team High Single and Triple, Bowl				Team	
Amateurs, 1300. Team High Triple, New,		Kings, 837, 2451.				Pts.	
3739.		Team				The Enders	
Team		Pts.				Bravehearts	
Professional Amateurs		Bowl Kings				Everything	
Gutter Girls		Squishmellows				Bowling Superstars	

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Extended game time needed for Millionaires’ wins

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

Injuries and illness caught up to the SJHL Melville Millionaires last week.

Melfort Mustangs 3 at

Melville Millionaires 2 (S0, Jan. 24)

After a couple of road victories up north, the Millionaires returned home for a game with the Melfort Mustangs on Jan. 24.

With eight regulars unable to dress for the contest, the Mills needed four affiliated players to flesh out a lineup, and at the end of the day, they ran out of steam and dropped a tough 3-2 shootout decision.

The Mills got on the board first, with Jack Drake notching his fourth goal of the season with Wesley Olson and Matthew Edwards picking up assists.

The Millionaires took a 1-0 lead into the middle frame and went ahead 2-0 when Nathan Taylor fired his fifth tally of the campaign. Rylan Oatman and Devon Winder collected setup points.

The Mustangs got on the board before the end of the second and tied it in the third.

The Mills had more chances in overtime, but couldn’t dent the twine, sending the game to a shootout that went three full rounds before the Mustangs got a goal past Preston Patenaude for the win.

Patenaude made 39 saves on the night for the Millionaires with Melville skaters

testing the Melfort netminder 23 times.

The Millionaires were called for five of the matchup’s nine minor penalties.

Melville Millionaires 1 at

Melfort Mustangs 0 (OT, Jan. 21)

This goaltenders’ battle was one for the ages, as neither squad was able to get on the scoreboard in regulation time.

Louis Nadeau scored the game winner for the Millionaires in the extra frame with Kale Margolis and Boston Harkness each garnering an assist.

Patenaude kicked out all 36 Mustangs’ shots he faced to earn the shutout, while Melville skaters steered 22 shots on the opposition goal.

The Mustangs had five of the game’s nine minor infractions.

Melville Millionaires 6 at

Nipawin Hawks 5 (S0, Jan. 20)

This was an up and down contest that saw the Millionaires take a big lead early, only to see it slip away late.

The visitors led 3-1 after the first stanza and 4-2 after 40 minutes, adding a goal in the third to go up 5-2 before the Hawks came roaring back with three of their own to send it to overtime.

After overtime solved nothing, it was Margolis who found mesh and gave the Millionaires the 6-5 win in the shootout.

Jaden Kokosha and Brendan Gourley each had a goal and a helper for Melville with Maddox Shindle, Grady Carmichael and Taylor rounding out the Millionaires’ scoring.

Margolis and Oatman each collected a

pair of assists for the Millionaires with Harkness and Drake each picking up a helper.

Matt Spencer-Dahl got the start between the pipes for the Millionaires and earning the road triumph with the Hawks out-shooting the Millionaires 29-22.

The Mills were on the hook for four of the six minors assessed, with the teams each getting the gate for a fighting major and a misconduct.

Ice Chips

In the Millionaires’ game at home with the Melfort Mustangs the injury and illness list was long, leaving the Millionaires shorthanded, but some guys could be ready to step on the ice by the weekend.

Big blueliner Wesley Golden should be in uniform for a single game on the weekend, with the hope being that Zane Normand should also be able to suit up for a game.



DARCY GROSS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

PEEK-A-BOO

Melville Millionaires’ goalie Preston Patenaude had to do some maneuvering to see between teammate Keil Schmalz, left, and Melfort Mustang Austin Shepherd in SJHL action on Saturday, Jan. 24. Unfortunately for the Mills, it was the Mustangs turn to finish with the 3-2 shootout victory.

Wolseley Mustangs struggling to win

By Stephen Scriver
Grasslands News

The Wolseley Mustangs came out of the Christmas break with various roster problems because of employment and family commitments, icing as few as 11 skaters for one game and 13 for two others. However, excuses aside, they’ve been playing an uninspired brand of hockey, losing four games and tying one, finding themselves solidly in third place in the QVJHL.

In each of these five games, the Mustangs have failed to score more than two goals, not the formula for success in a Junior C league. As usual, the Mustangs can be relied on to play a solid defensive game, but their offense is not finding any consistency from the neutral into the offensive zone.

After four straight losses, the Mustangs traveled to White City to meet the

first-place Emerald Park Wizards at the Communiskate last Saturday. They actually led 1-0 and 2-1 in the first two frames, but couldn’t hold off the Wizards, who tied the score with less than four minutes left. Emerald Park didn’t take long in the overtime, scoring the winner at 3:46. Hopefully, it’s the start of a new level in the Mustangs’ game, as they played without their captain, Jackson Baran, and their assistant captain, Tyler Powell.

Goal scorers for the Mustangs were Conner Webster, unassisted, and Cohler Faubert, assisted by Lachlan Pollock. These long-time bitter rivals played a quiet game, with Wolseley taking three minors to the Wizards’ one. Jackson Baran leads the Mustangs’ scorers with 15 points in 15 games, with Conner Webster tallying 14 points in 15 games.

Next action is Saturday night for the last league game of the season as Yellowgrass visits Wolseley.

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Yorkton Terriers split with visiting Kindersley Klippers

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The temperature was low and the wind biting but the games still went on.

The Kindersley Klippers climbed on the bus and crossed the province to take on the Yorkton Terriers in a pair of SJHL games.

Kindersley Klippers 3 at Yorkton Terriers 5 (Jan. 23)

The teams hooked up first on Friday at the Westland Insurance Arena in a game where the teams seemed content to trade goals as the game progressed.

The Terriers' Ryder McDonald opened the ledger scoring at 6:42 of the first period, but a goal by Rylan Wieler tied things and the teams headed to the dressing rooms.

In the second period the Klippers started things as Pryce Thiessen scored at 11:18, only to have Terrier Vinay Junek knot things 2-2 with a goal 28-seconds later.

In the third Gavin Bartha edged Yorkton ahead



Calvin Daniels | Grasslands News

All in a line

Yorkton Terriers William Leonard, 22, appears to be leading an avalanche of players in action Saturday, Jan. 24 against Kindersley Klippers at the Westland Arena in Yorkton. The Klippers won the game 4-3.

at 5:58, but Brock Evans tied things 3-3 with a goal at 11:48.

Gabriel Courchesne edged the Terriers back in front at 18:26, which would be the one Kindersley could not respond to.

Drew Heil added an

empty netter to round out a 5-3 home side win.

Callum Creig was in net for Yorkton for the win facing 25-shots.

Brett O'Halloran took the loss facing 36-shots.

Kindersley Klippers 4 at

Yorkton Terriers 3 (Jan. 24)

The two teams were back at it Saturday evening, and the home side Terriers had a hot run mid first period.

Jye Zawatsky scored at 9:20, Ryder McDonald

46-seconds later, and then he added another – this one short-handed – at 11:42 and Yorkton was up 3-0.

Bryson Carlyle put the Klippers on the board late, scoring a powerplay goal at 19:23.

In the middle frame it

would be Kindersley on a hot streak mid period.

Russ Demo started things with a man-advantage goal at 12:24.

Just a tick over a minute later – at 13:25 – Bryson Aikens tied the game.

Then just a tick over two-minutes later – at 15:26 – Brock Evans scored on the powerplay, a go-ahead goal which proved the game-winner as it would be a scoreless affair the rest of the way.

Mattias Radke had the win in the Kindersley net facing 47-shots, while Alexandro Montoya took the loss facing 20.

Even with the loss the Terriers would head into the final week of January having edged into second spot in the SJHL Bunge Division with 46 points based on a record of 22-13-1-1 to go ahead of Estevan with 45. (The teams were scheduled to meet Wednesday after publication).

The Weyburn Red Wings still soar above the division with 53 points, while Melville dwells in the cellar with 41.

Fort Knox, Storm, Steelhawks battle through busy PJHL stretch

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

A demanding mid-January stretch in the Prairie Junior Hockey League tested the depth and resilience of Fort Knox, Pilot Butte and Moosomin, with the three local rivals trading wins, absorbing tough losses and continuing to jockey for position as the regular season pushes toward its final weeks.

Fort Knox

Fort Knox split a pair of recent outings, earning a hard-fought 5-3 road win over the Pilot Butte Storm on Jan. 21 before running into a disciplined Saskatoon Quakers club in a 4-0 loss on Jan. 24.

Against Pilot Butte, Fort Knox leaned on balanced scoring and a strong opening period, building early momentum and responding whenever the Storm threatened to swing the game. The effort showed the club's ability to generate offence against physical opposition.

The matchup with Saskatoon was a different challenge. Despite generating chances, Fort Knox was unable to solve Quakers goaltending and surrendered two power-play goals in the shutout loss.

Fort Knox will travel to Regina to face the Silver Foxes on Jan. 29 before closing the month with a road matchup against the Moosomin Steelhawks on Jan. 30.

Pilot Butte Storm

Pilot Butte endured a tough stretch against familiar opposition. The Storm dropped the Jan. 21 decision to Fort Knox but rebounded with a convincing 5-2 victory over Moosomin on Jan. 23.

Against the Steelhawks, Pilot Butte jumped out early and controlled play for long stretches, limiting Moosomin's offensive chances and capitalizing on scoring opportunities at even strength.

The mixed results reflected a Storm team that remains dangerous offensively while continuing to tighten its defensive structure as the season progresses.

Pilot Butte will host the Regina Silver Foxes on Jan. 28 before welcoming the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels to the Pilot Butte Recreation Centre on Jan. 31.

Moosomin Steelhawks

Moosomin faced one of its most challenging weeks of the season, taking on some of the league's heavier offensive teams in quick succession.



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NEWS

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NHL great to speak at Terrier celebrity dinner

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

During the early 1990s Jeremy Roenick was known as an offensive force in the NHL, and as a player who spoke his mind too.

So, one can imagine he would be a dynamic speaker today as he looks back on a career which encompassed more than 1,500 games – playoffs included.

A career that long and one so successful it earned Roenick an induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2024, there must be stories – many stories that those attending the upcoming Yorkton Terriers Celebrity Sports Dinner presented by the Kinsmen Club of Yorkton Feb. 21, should be well-entertained.

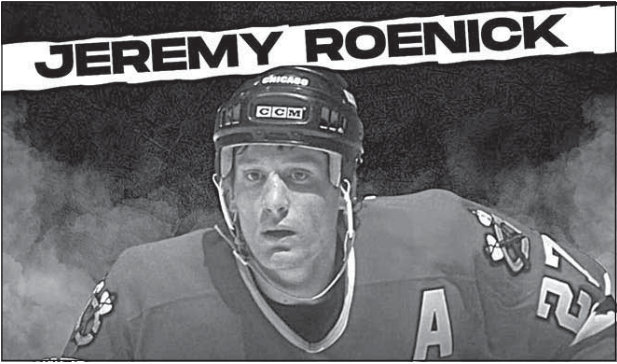
While Terrier supporters are no doubt excited by the prospect of the evening so too is Roenick.

“To be totally honest, one of my favourite things to do when not with family,” he said of speaking engagements like the one upcoming in Yorkton.

Roenick, who was drafted eighth overall in the 1988 NHL Entry Draft by the Chicago Blackhawks, said he so appreciates “the respect and the appreciation” which he receives from fans attending such events.

From a player’s perspective Roenick called such an event, “an awesome opportunity” to share “what it was like to be a professional hockey player.”

Roenick had a sort of duality to his game. On the one hand he was a powerhouse on offence. He scored more than 500 regular season goals – becoming only the third American to hit that mark – Joe Mullen and Mike



Modano hit the mark before him -- and 1,200 points.

But Roenick also did it with a chip on his shoulder with a rep of being something of a bad boy – especially as a Blackhawks who he played as from 1988 to 1996. He would also play for the Phoenix Coyotes, Philadelphia Flyers, Los Angeles Kings and San Jose Sharks in his 20-season career in the league.

“I really believe that my game was built around ego – built around confidence,” he said, adding he needed that because he was not the biggest player on the ice (185 cm and 96 kgs). “I had to set a persona, an image of yourself that was larger than life.”

In that regard Roenick said he “played the game differently from anybody else . . . with a lot of passion.”

However, the way he played didn’t always serve his reputation well.

“I did it with an arrogance that hurt me,” he said, adding he takes much of the responsibility for that, although media pushed things too.

Today, Roenick is a different person.

“I’ve learned over the years to be more humble,” he said.

Interestingly, while Roenick might be expected to have been one of the foundational talents to really grow a deep interest in hockey in his native land, he says it still hasn’t achieved that level.

“I think you have to have a level of love for the game I have,” he said, adding that hasn’t happened yet, largely because there is not what he terms “an historical respect for the game.”

It is something Roenick said he feels is eroding across sports in general, a recognition of how culturally important it is.

And Roenick said he still believes in the game of hockey.

“It’s the best game on the planet with the best athletes on the planet,” he enthused.

And it remains a game of most loved north of the border.

“This is a Canadian game... (where) it’s a way of life,” said Roenick.

That is something he said young players need to understand that because it is so Canadian they must always respect the game. From there young players must “play the game the way it’s supposed to be played...”

“The game is bigger than you. You’ve got to work hard to earn your place in that game.”

Ricketson takes over as Yorkton Kinsmen Lady Gridder head coach

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Yorkton Kinsmen Lady Gridders will have a new head coach at the helm in 2026.

Melanie Ricketson is moving into the role which she says has her looking forward to the new football season ahead.

“I’m excited to step into this role,” she told Grasslands News. “It is a huge opportunity to be able to work with a dedicated group of coaches and an enthusiastic, talented group of players.”

Ricketson said with the excitement comes the realization it will be a big job.

“There is a lot of responsibility on and off of the field and I feel ready to take it on due to my experience and the supportive group of coaches I have around me,” she said.

That said Ricketson does have experience on the sidelines to draw upon.

“I have been involved with Yorkton Minor Football since 2020; most of those years were with the Lady Gridders as a positional coach,” she said.

“I got involved with the program initially because there was a need for coaches. I had never coached football, but I had experience coaching other sports so I thought I would try it and see how it went.

“It didn’t take long to realize I loved football and watching the growth and development of the players and have been looking forward to football seasons ever since.”

Now Ricketson said she will look to expand her influence which she added has to go beyond the Xs and Os of the game.

“As a head coach, aside from football knowledge, you need to be able to

communicate well with players, staff, and parents,” she explained. “You also need to be able to see things from all angles and be planning ahead.

“I think my flexibility, organization skills, communication and football knowledge will be my strengths in this role.”

And, while wins of course matter, Ricketson said her philosophy will extend beyond the scoreboard too.

“The philosophy I will be bringing to the team is the goal of developing respectful, resilient, hard-working young women who not only learn the game but learn skills that they can use throughout their life in relationships, school and careers,” she said.

“I believe great football programs not only produce great players but great individuals as well! As coaches we want to support athletes in becoming people with a strong work ethic and a sense



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

New head coach

Melanie Ricketson will roam the Yorkton Kinsmen Lady Gridder sidelines as head coach in 2026.

of responsibility to work hard and be good to those around you.”

So how does that all add up in the coach’s mind that a young girl should be interested in playing football.

“If your daughter is

thinking about joining football, The Kinsmen Lady Gridders have an excellent program with knowledgeable, dedicated coaches who care about your daughter’s development, safety and well-being,” offered Ricketson.



ATTENTION Town of Fort Qu’Appelle TOWN RESIDENTS

Bylaw 01-2026 - Changes to the Water and Sewer Bylaw 03-2025

1. The changes are being made to reduce administrative costs associated with sending out the notices to residents who do not pay their bills within 30 days of receiving the bills.

There are as many as 300 residents who do not pay their bills within the 30 days. To send letters to them costs approximately \$1,000 per quarter. This includes the time to process, paper, envelopes and postage.

Moving forward there will be no notification from the Town that you have not paid your bill. Water will be shut off without notice and will be off for 24 hours. There will be a \$60.00 fee for turning your water back on during business hours and a \$150 fee for after hours or on weekends.

To alleviate this problem, you can go on the PAD (pre-authorized debit) which draws 1/3 of the quarterly billing from your account every month. Like a mortgage or car payment. You are never in arrears and never have to worry about your water being shut off.

To read the full text of the bylaw amendment please see our website - Bylaw 01-2026.

Payments to the Town

Currently the use of credit cards costs the Town approximately \$6,000 per year. To help offset this cost POLICY GG - 003 was passed at the recent Council Meeting:

1. Effective immediately the Town will except the following for payment of accounts:

- Cash with no more than \$20 in rolled coin
- Debt Cards
- Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF - Payments via online banking) PAD
- Credit Cards with a 2.4% transaction fee.



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President - Lorne Scott

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Rural Municipality of
North Qu’Appelle No. 187
Amend Zoning Bylaw 13-08

Public notice is given that the Council of the RM of North Qu’Appelle No. 187 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act*, 2007 to amend Zoning Bylaw No. 13-08.

INTENT: To allow a reduction of minimum site frontage in limited circumstances in the A – Agriculture District.

AFFECTED LAND: All land within the A – Agriculture District.

REASON: To provide flexibility for existing private access roads serving agricultural and agricultural residential development, where safe and appropriate access is already established, and to avoid unnecessary subdivision denials.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: The bylaw may be inspected at the municipal office, 136 Company Avenue South, Fort Qu’Appelle, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday (excluding holidays). Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 10:15 a.m. at the Council Chambers, 136 Company Avenue South, Fort Qu’Appelle. Anyone may speak or submit written comments prior to or at the hearing.

Issued this 23rd day of January 2026.

Charmain Wowk,
Chief Administrative Officer

QVHHL Action

Spitfires surge while Broncs, Bisons look to regroup

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Momentum continues to swing in different directions for Qu’Appelle Valley Hockey League rivals Grenfell, Balcarres and Balgonie as the regular season pushes toward its final stretch, with Grenfell climbing the standings while

Balcarres and Balgonie battle to stay within reach of playoff contention.

Grenfell Spitfires

Grenfell has been one of the league’s hottest teams in recent action, rolling to a 9–4 road win over the Southey Marlins on Jan. 22 before following up with a convincing 6–3 home victory against the Bethune Bulldogs on Jan. 24.

The Spitfires weren’t done there, edging Southey again on Jan. 25 with a 6–5 win at the GRPA to complete a three-game win streak.

Those results have Grenfell sitting third in the QVHHL standings with a 9–6 record, firmly in the playoff picture and closing ground on the teams ahead of them. Grenfell will look to keep that momentum going when the Spitfires travel to Southey on Jan. 31, then continue into early February as they push to lock down postseason positioning.

Balcarres Broncs

It was a tough stretch for the Broncs, who dropped a physical 7–4 decision on the road to Raymore on Jan. 23 before falling 9–3 at home to the league-leading Lumsden Monarchs on Jan. 24.

The losses have Balcarres sitting fourth in the standings at 6–9, with the Broncs now in a tight race with several teams behind them as the playoff race tightens.

Balcarres will have an opportunity to gain ground in a crucial home-and-home series against Balgonie, travelling to Star Dome on Jan. 30 before hosting the Bisons at Balcarres Centennial Arena on Jan. 31 in games that could have major implications in the lower half of the standings.

Balgonie Bisons

Balgonie ran into a dominant Lumsden squad on Jan. 23, falling 10–3 at Star Dome in a game that quickly tilted in the Monarchs’ favour.

The Bisons currently sit sixth in the QVHHL standings at 5–10 and are in need of points as the regular season winds down.

Balgonie will host Balcarres on Jan. 30 before making the return trip to Balcarres the following night, Jan. 31, with the back-to-back set offering a chance to close the gap in the standings ahead of the Feb. 7 stretch of games.

Playoff race heats up Big 6 hockey

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Moosomin Rangers continued their strong Big 6 Hockey season with a 3–1 road win over the Kipling-Wawota Oil Kings on Jan. 24 at the Kipling Arena.

Moosomin opened the scoring late in the first period when Bud Holloway finished a play set up by Josh Elmes, and after a scoreless second period the Rangers pulled away in the third. Carter Sawchuk scored twice in the final frame, including an empty netter in the closing minute, while Taylor Hoedel accounted for the lone Oil Kings goal midway through the third period. The teams combined for just three minor penal-

ties and both power plays were held scoreless in a tightly played contest.

Despite the loss, the Oil Kings remain in the play-off hunt as the regular season winds down. Kipling sits sixth in the Big 6 standings with a 4–10–1 record for nine points, having scored 51 goals while allowing 88 through 15 games. The Oil Kings have been competitive at home but have struggled to find consistency away from Kipling Arena as they look to close the gap on the teams ahead of them in the standings.

Kipling’s schedule is light down the stretch, with one remaining regular-season game on tap. The Oil Kings are set to travel to Midale on Jan. 28

for an 8:30 p.m. matchup with the Mustangs, a game that will provide a final chance to build momentum heading toward the postseason.

Wawota, meanwhile, enters the final week of the regular season holding fifth place in the standings with a 6–8–1 record and 13 points. The Flyers have shown flashes of offensive ability this season but have faced a challenging stretch in January, including recent losses to Moosomin and Carlyle. Still, Wawota remains firmly in the middle of the Big 6 pack and within reach of improving its playoff positioning.

The Flyers will wrap up their regular season at home on Jan. 28 when they host the Redvers Rockets at the Wawota Forum, with puck drop scheduled for 8 p.m. That game looms large as Wawota looks to finish strong in front of its home fans and carry confidence into the postseason.

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RM of Willowdale No. 153

is currently accepting applications for the position of

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Duties include operating a grader to perform road maintenance, grading and other related tasks. The successful candidate may also be required to carry out other duties including, but not limited to, assisting with culvert installation, equipment repairs and maintenance, shop work as well as other duties as assigned by the Foreman.

The position offers the possibility to operate tractors, mowers, trackhoe, dozer and gravel trucks therefore preference will be given to candidates with heavy equipment operating experience and/or a 1A license.

Applicant must be organized, motivated and able to take direction.

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The RM wishes to thank all applicants for their interest however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Tax Enforcement List

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act*, that unless that arrears and costs appearing opposite the land described in the following list are fully paid before the 2nd day of April, 2026, a tax lien will be registered against the land.

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

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY			Total	Costs	Total Arrears & Costs
LOT	BLOCK	PLAN	Arrears \$	Advertising \$	Total Owning \$
30-32	11	AS2619	\$2,681.32	\$17.50	\$2,698.82
2	E	84R39105	\$3,257.81	\$17.50	\$3,275.31
1	B	60R02010	\$2,892.26	\$17.50	\$2,909.76
5	14	80R05162	\$1,867.50	\$17.50	\$1,885.00
28-30	12	AS2619	\$529.04	\$17.50	\$546.54
31-32	12	AS2619	\$2,139.28	\$17.50	\$2,156.78
27-28	04	AS2619	\$2,770.00	\$17.50	\$2,787.50
32	06	AS2619	\$1,570.00	\$17.50	\$1,587.50
33-35	12	AS2619	\$2,561.12	\$17.50	\$2,578.62

Dated this 30th day of January, 2026.

Christine L. Galbraith, Treasurer

PMHL race tightens as Cupar leads, Indian Head close behind

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Prairie Men’s Hockey League playoff picture continued to take shape late in January, with the Valley Warriors, Indian Head Chiefs, Cupar Canucks and Ituna Avalanche all playing key roles in the standings race.

The Valley Warriors remain in a tough place this season and currently sit fifth in the league with a 1–8 record and two points. Valley Warriors were on the ice Jan. 24 in Lipton, where the Warriors dropped a 9–3 decision to the Ituna Avalanche. Earlier in the week, the Valley Warriors also fell 7–5 on the road to Strassbourg, despite flashes of offensive production that showed the club’s depth. The Warriors will look to regroup when they visit Indian Head on Jan. 31, followed by a road game in Cupar on Feb. 6.

Indian Head continues to hold second place in the league with a 6–3 record and 12 points, trailing only Cupar in the standings. The Chiefs were scheduled to host the Canucks on Jan. 24, but that game was cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date. Indian Head returns

to action Jan. 31 at home against the Valley Warriors, a matchup that gives the Chiefs another chance to strengthen their position near the top of the table.

Cupar remains the team to beat in the PMHL, leading the league with an 8–1–0–1 record and 17 points. The Canucks also boast the league’s best goal differential and most potent offence. Although their Jan. 24 game in Indian Head was postponed, Cupar will look to maintain momentum when it hosts the Valley Warriors on Feb. 6.

The Ituna Avalanche sit third overall with a 5–4–0–1 record and 11 points, firmly in the playoff mix. Ituna earned a convincing win over the Valley Warriors on Jan. 24 but followed that performance with a 5–2 loss to Strassbourg the next afternoon. The Avalanche will host Strassbourg again on Feb. 7 in a game that could have a significant impact on final playoff seeding.

In the standings overall, Cupar leads the league with 17 points, followed by Indian Head with 12, Ituna with 11, Strassbourg with nine and Valley Warriors with two as the regular season heads into its final stretch.

ShowStoppers annual derby set for Feb. 7

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Looking for something to do for an outdoors weekend and have a snowmobile? Then the ShowStoppers derby is an event for you.

The Melville ShowStoppers are hosting their fourth annual derby on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Melville Agri-Park.

Registration for the event will take place from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with all riders back at 4 p.m. at the Agri-Park.

Hands will be \$20 per hand or \$40 for three hands, with prizes being \$1,000 for first, \$500 for second, and \$250 for third.

The derby will run along the North trail system, going to the Mark Lalonde Shelter, the Dog House Shelter and the Leech Lake Shelter.

Along the trail at the halfway point there will be a \$5 lunch available.

Later in the event at 5 p.m. there will

SHOWSTOPPERS

be a raffle table, progressive 50/50 draw, and the hand winners will be announced. There will also be kid prizes.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be a perogies and sausage supper supplied by the Agri-Park, with the price being \$15 per plate. Tickets will be available at registration, and you do not need to be registered for the derby to attend supper. Tickets for the supper will be sold by texting (306) 730-8317.

The organization is also actively looking for sponsors to help with the purchase of a new groomer.

For more information on the derby or to sponsor contact Melville ShowStoppers at 306-728-8357 or by email at melvillesnow@gmail.com.



Have information?

LEAVE A TIP!
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saskcrimestoppers.com

Former Terriers find happy home in senior league

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

If you are a fan of the Yorkton Terriers of the SJHL, do you ever wonder where players end up after their junior days?

Well for about a dozen former Terriers they continue to play the game as members of various teams spread across the local region in the Sask East Hockey League.

Josh Garbutt is one of the veterans of the senior loop with the Theodore Buffalos.

Garbutt, now 41, won an SJHL league championship playing with the Terriers back in 2004-05, and has been toiling in senior hockey for 15 years after graduating out of junior.

“I saw this as a great opportunity to still compete at a high level of hockey locally and still remain in the game and also get some great exercise, but I would ultimately say my biggest reason was to enjoy the dressing room with all of the boys as its sacred and really the reason a guy keeps doing it and the biggest thing you miss when you leave the game,” he told Grasslands News.

Dylan Johnson is a famed Terrier with a huge goal in the teams’ lone RBC Cup win back in 2014. Now he is in Theodore – winning a league title in 2023.

“I decided to keep playing competitive after college hockey because of the love of the game,” he explained. “I’ve been playing for close to 20 years. The drive to try to be the last team on top at the end of the year keeps me going. I also coached hockey for a few years because of the love of the game and trying to give back.”

But it goes beyond the game too for Johnson.

“It’s the teammates, coaches, staff, rec board and fans,” he said. “They all put in a lot of time and money and are the reasons we can keep playing so, putting in a hard effort for them every game is pretty easy. There have been some Mondays that have been tough to get up for, especially three-game weekends now, but it’s worth it to keep playing...

“(But), it’s still pretty easy for me to get up for games. I have a lot of fire left in me and since the league has gotten so much better every game means something and those are the games you want to play in. Nobody likes blow-out games on either side and there’s a lot less of those kinds of games now which makes it easy.”

Nathan Murray is a long-time senior vet too. A Terrier



Nathan Murray - Wapella Blackhawks

SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

back in 2009-2013, the 33-year-old, said the league still excites him.

“There’s still a lot of good players playing, so it’s a lot of fun,” said the Wapella Blackhawk, who added he sees concerns ahead. “I think the leagues are in some trouble shortly though as more and more are retiring and it doesn’t seem like the younger players have been coming in as steadily as senior teams would like. It’s a challenging game to balance as it seems like us old guys are prolonging our senior days to help fill gaps on teams across Saskatchewan.”

That said, Murray said right now the game is maybe in its modern Prime.

“Senior hockey in Saskatchewan is probably at its peak right now,” he said. “I think the senior leagues would beat certain pro teams from the US in some of the lower-level leagues. I do think it’s going to drop off quite a bit in the next two-three years however, but while it’s good and strong there’s no better time to be playing than right now.”

Warren Shymko guarded the Terrier net back in 2010-12 and now does the same thing with Langenburg.

“The initial reason I decided to keep playing after my CIS career was because I wanted to stay close to the game. I had the opportunity to go overseas but chose to take a job opportunity and start my life back home with my wife instead,” he said.

“The competitive side of me wants to continue to play but there will come a time which probably will be next year when the equipment needs to be hung up for good, and my focus would then shift to following my kids with any of their sports or activities as they continue to get in-



Taylor Thompson - Langenburg Warriors

SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

volved in everything.”

Taylor Thompson is now a 32-year-old farmer who also suits up with the Langenburg Warriors for his third year of senior hockey.

“I still love playing the game and still have fun getting the competitive juices flowing,” said the forward who played with the Terriers from 2011-14. “I’ve got two young kids now, too, so they get fired up watching dad play so that’s fun having them get excited and into hockey as well... after playing pro and coming home to farm I don’t think that fire for the game really goes away that easy. Maybe us hockey guys are just wired a bit goofy.

“It’s different for sure. You have some guys who’ve played locally, some who went to play junior, some who went college or pro. So different skill levels. But every guy’s out there competing, giving it their all and wanting to win so it’s definitely fun and fun to watch.”

Shymko said when the puck drops you are into it.

“When it comes to game days, it’s easy to get your mind ready to play -- if you still enjoy it enough,” he related. “Getting the body ready is another conversation. Being a father of two kids, when you can play in front of them and see their smiles, mix in a wave here and there, that’s all that this is about for me. The game gave me so much throughout my career, whether it was networking for job opportunities or creating lifetime relationships. I want the same for them. Sports can open many doors for you if you choose to walk through them.”

Zach McIntyre is a more recently minted Terrier playing in the 2021-2022 season, and now in his fourth season with Theodore.

“I wanted to stay around town, be with my family after being away for a few years for junior hockey. Lots of friends in Theodore growing up with were there and fit in perfectly,” he said. “I got to go to school and come home for hockey on weekends. Was nice to have that option of continuing to keep playing competitive hockey nice and close to home.

“For continuing to keep putting my body through the hits & bumps and bruises is just the love for the game, and nice to get exercise and still be a part of a team and have a locker room with the fellas weekly as I grew up my whole life being a part of a team so it’s extremely lucky to continue being a part of a team to battle with.”

Dakota Odgers toils in his fourth year of senior hockey with the Rocanville Tigers.

Odgers who had a couple of Terrier stints in the mid 2010s, said for him hockey is just so deep in his blood he has to play somewhere.

“For myself personally, my childhood was growing up around the senior hockey dressing room in Rocanville with my dad, Jeff, being involved in the team for close to 20 years,” he related. “It was always something I held a lot of pride in was the community and the team and it was important for myself if I was home to give back to the community and one day be a part of it locally.”

So, suiting up is just natural for Odgers.

“It always comes back to what the team needs,” he said. “I have always prided myself on being a guy that will do whatever it takes to win a hockey game whether that’s blocking shots, taking a hit to make a play and just trying to be the best teammate possible. I still love the competitiveness of playing and challenging yourself every night. The league is very strong and every night you’re out there, you are still challenging and testing yourself to try and win games and help the team. . .

“For myself I still have the fire going strong. There are definitely some days where it’s harder with trying to balance but the fire is still lit and easy to get going.”

It helps that senior hockey remains a competitive thing that fuels players who have played the game at a high junior level.

“I think Saskatchewan in particular to senior hockey is extremely special as it is very celebrated and extremely relevant in all the communities,” said Garbutt. “I mean there is a very popular podcast (Monday Noon) dedicated to Saskatchewan senior hockey. You have many great players that could be still playing pro hockey somewhere but choose to stay home and get on with life and get to work and still get to compete at high levels of senior hockey in front of fully pack small town rinks. It really is

a different beast senior hockey in Saskatchewan, and we shouldn’t take it for granted.”

Of course, Senior is its own breed of hockey too.

“It’s definitely an adjustment just in the style of the game, especially coming from junior or in my case university your first year back is challenging just with not only the lifestyle of working all day and then playing a game but also the hockey in general,” said Odgers. “I know for myself and my style even something simple of just having a bit more time to make a play or the systems that are in place it takes a while to get used to, but it’s awesome to still be involved in the game. There are a lot of strong players in the league, so you always have to be at your best to keep up and compete.”

The competitive nature of the players and the league also make it easy to get excited to stay involved.

“For the most part its always easy to get excited to play as season schedules are short and typically every game matters standings wise, but let’s also be honest you have to love to play the game as well when its pitch black and -30°C mid-January in Saskatchewan and you are travelling down the road to the next small town,” said Garbutt. “With that being said you get into the room with the boys, and it reminds you pretty quick why you are there.”

“It’s not hard at all to get up and go battle with the Theodore Buffalos,” offered McIntyre. “It is an awesome organization, who take care of us players extremely well; it is awesome. With the group of guys we have on this team makes it much easier going to the rink and playing.”

Murray said it’s all about atmosphere.

“Back in the day when I was fresh out of junior with the Terriers, we had Tyler Geibel, Kale Thompson, Lance Herauf and a good swath of other guys who just quit pro or junior, it was a blast,” he said. “The small-town bars were constantly packed. You don’t see that much anymore other than in the South East Hockey League.”

“Some days the body’s a bit more sore than other days as you get older, but the fires still lit,” offered Thompson. “I think it is in all those guys in the league who are still playing or else they wouldn’t do it...you go out on the ice and work hard with those guys. Then after you get to have a good visit, share a couple stories and a few good laughs in the locker room.”

Shymko said it comes down to team.

“Your team’s dressing room is the best part of playing senior hockey; the stories, jokes and laughs make it much easier to keep playing,” he said. “Everyone is in the same boat; you are all having to get up for work the next day or in some cases, having to get up to play dolls or hot wheels at 6:30 a.m.

“The league continues to get better and that’s great for this area. These small towns have awesome volunteer groups who fundraise continuously year after year to keep the teams going. It’s a thankless job yet the most important job. If it wasn’t for them, none of us would be able to play.”

McIntyre said he’s just glad to still be on the ice.

“I stay for both the hockey and the camaraderie in the room and the shenanigans afterwards as well,” he said. “I am extremely thankful and blessed to have the chance to continue playing the game I loved growing up and still do. Building relationships and memories is awesome. Having the chance for my family to continue to support me after putting all the road trips and money into me playing the game I love.”

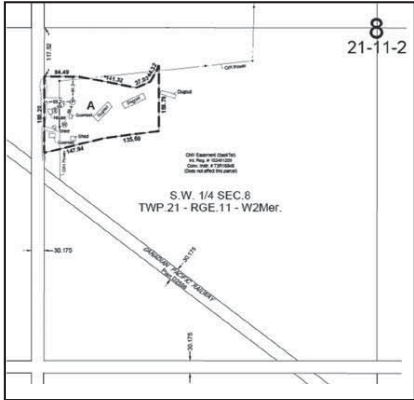
PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of Abernethy No. 186

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Abernethy No. 186 has received the following discretionary use application and subdivision application in accordance with Bylaws 2003-01 known as the Basic Planning Statement, 2003-02 known as the Zoning Bylaw and 2005-3, 2017-04, 2023-04, bylaws to amend Bylaw 2003-02.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION:

1. Residential Subdivision of 10 acres at SW 08-21-11-2.



PUBLIC HEARING

Council will discuss the above noted subdivision application at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026 in the Council Chambers of the RM of Abernethy No. 186, 201 Main St., Abernethy, Saskatchewan. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing, or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at the RM of Abernethy this 16th day of January, 2026.

Karissa Lingelbach, Administrator

RM of Abernethy 186

P.O. Box 249, Abernethy, SK S0A 0A0

Broadview, Grenfell, Whitewood teams compete in bonspiel

Submitted
Grasslands News

Eighteen teams participated in the 2026 Farmer's Bonspiel hosted by Broadview Curling Club on Jan. 23 and 24.

Players braved bitterly cold weather to attend the bonspiel, travelling from surrounding communities to

join Broadview teams. The first draw began at 5 p.m. on Friday and games continued throughout the following day, with finals taking place on Saturday evening. Jason Krupski of Whitewood and his team won the A Event against Broadview's Delmar Mayor and his team. Darren Ottenbreit of Broadview and his team won the B Event, with Team Rohler finishing in second place. In the C Event, Shawn Markwart of Broadview and his team took the win over Grenfell's Mike Kardash and his

team.

The annual bonspiel drew many Broadview residents who supported the curling club by watching the games, participating in fundraising raffles and enjoying perogies and other tasty treats from the rink kitchen. Club members appreciated the participation of players and community members, volunteers and spectators who contributed to the event's success.



A Event
Brett Tollefson, Tara Restau, Jason Krupski and Braden Restau.



B Event
Todd Miskiman, Daryl Francis, Jay Rink and Darren Ottenbreit.



C Event
Shane Kemp, Connor Kemp, Darby Bryant and Shawn Markwart.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

New Tai Chi classes offer gentle path to wellness in Yorkton

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

As people look for pathways to better health, a new option in Yorkton are Tai Chi classes with instructor Dawn Oehler.

“This felt like a good time to offer Tai Chi classes because people are looking for ways to stay active that are also supportive of overall wellness,” Oehler told Yorkton This Week. “Tai Chi helps with balance, flexibility,

and stress reduction, and it's something people can continue practising long-term.

For those who may not be familiar, Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese practice that uses slow, flowing movements combined

with relaxed breathing and focus.

“While it began as a martial art, many people today practice Tai Chi for its health and wellness benefits - things like improving balance, mobility, and helping people feel calmer and more centered. It's very gentle, low-impact, and accessible to beginners,” said Oehler.

Oehler herself is a long-time martial arts

practitioner with close to 25 years of experience through International Mantis Kung Fu Canada.

“Our club is based in Melville, and we've been offering classes and all-ages and fitness level programming in Yorkton for almost as many years, in partnership with the Yorkton Martial Arts Training Center,” she explained. “Tai Chi has always been an important part of my

own training, and I really enjoy sharing it in a community recreation setting.”

While the weather Friday was cold, the turn out for the first class was good.

“I was really encouraged by the level of interest,” said Oehler. “There's clearly a lot of curiosity about Tai Chi, especially when it's offered through an accessible program like City recreation.

“Also, I'd like to give a shout-out to Community Connector, Jan Cochrane as she was the catalyst for helping move this forward as part of the Social Prescribing Saskatchewan initiative.”

Oehler also noted that the classes will be for those trying Tai Chi for the first time.

“The classes will focus on mindful movement - slow, relaxed motions with attention to posture, breathing, and awareness. The emphasis is on the gentle, meditative, and wellness-oriented aspects of Tai Chi, and the sessions are designed with beginners in mind,” she said.

“For anyone who hasn't tried it yet, Tai Chi is a great way to move more, slow down, and reconnect with your body in a calm, supportive environment. You don't need any prior experience or a high level of fitness — just an openness to try something new.”

Oehler noted there has been some interest online about virtual classes, but at this time there are no plans for that.

“Tai Chi is best learned in person, where movement, posture, and pacing can be guided more effectively. In-person instruction is definitely the preferred approach,” she said.

This session is currently full, but there is a wait list available through the City of Yorkton Recreation Department. Anyone interested is encouraged to add their name, as future sessions may be offered based on demand.”

Form 2—Section 4

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

Village of Kennedy—Province of Saskatchewan

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before the 2nd day of April, 2026, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

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

Lot	Block	Plan	Title	Total Arrears	Costs	Total Arrears & Costs
23	4	N334	106847107	\$1,506.80	\$12.84	\$1,519.64
24	4	N334	106847129			
19	3	N334	148620764	\$3,450.04	\$12.84	\$3,462.88
20	3	N334	148620775			
21	3	N334	148620797			
22	3	N334	148620810			
23	3	N334	148620821			
4	4	N334	155829280	\$3,226.16	\$12.84	\$3,239.00
5	4	N334	155829314			
6	4	N334	155829336			
7	4	N334	155829381			
4	5	N334	155828290	\$2,867.14	\$12.84	\$2,879.98
7	3	AL2307	142235029	\$2,071.06	\$12.84	\$2,083.90
8	3	AL2307	142235052			
1	8	N334	154156024	\$1,098.44	\$12.84	\$1,111.28
2	8	N334	154156068			
3	8	N334	154156103			
13	9	AL2307	157819809	\$3,694.35	\$12.84	\$3,707.19
14	9	AL2307	157819797			
4	8	N334	148044977	\$1,314.05	\$12.84	\$1,326.89
5	8	N334	148044988			
31	8	101258210	148044999			
4	4	AL2307	158489038	\$2,013.29	\$12.84	\$2,026.13
5	4	AL2307	158489049			
25	4	N334	158545389	\$1,660.04	\$12.84	\$1,672.88
26	4	N334	158545402			
15	2	AL2307	157386077	\$1,586.47	\$12.84	\$1,599.31
16	2	AL2307	157386044			
	A	77R35153	135254662	\$339.75	\$12.84	\$352.59
	P	101257949	130436692	\$2,342.58	\$12.84	\$2,355.42
	U	101257950	140580558	\$343.50	\$12.84	\$356.34
15	9	AL2307	155399013	\$1,176.94	\$12.84	\$1,189.78
16	9	AL2307	155399035			
20	2	N334	127469740	\$1,641.56	\$12.84	\$1,654.40
21	2	N334	127469784			
17	7	AL2307	148313583	\$1,433.28	\$12.84	\$1,446.12
21	4	N334	159045004	\$2,442.88	\$12.84	\$2,455.72
22	4	N334	159044968			
1	5	N334	158063182	\$1,621.18	\$12.84	\$1,634.02
2	5	N334	158063193			
3	5	N334	158063205			
	K	65R19707	158126902	\$1,928.88	\$12.84	\$1,941.72
16	5	N334	145973469	\$1,951.39	\$12.84	\$1,964.23

Dated this 29th day of January, 2026.

Jennifer McMillan-Treasurer

RM of Willowdale No. 153

For Sale By Tender

TAKE NOTICE THAT the RM of Willowdale No. 153 is currently accepting tenders for the sale of the following parcel of land:

Surface	Parcel No.	Title No.	Legal:
114100580	158023694	Blk/Par B, Plan 101250504	

The property is approximately 0.85-acre on SE 27-17-02-2-W2 (St. Luke's Hall).

All tenders must include bidders name, address, phone number and email. Highest or any other offer not necessarily accepted.

Offers to be clearly marked as "Property Tender" and must be received by 4 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026 at:

RM of Willowdale No. 153
711 Lalonde Street, P.O. Box 58,
Whitewood, SK., S0G 5C0
email: rm153@sasktel.net

RM of North Qu'Appelle No.187

SASKATCHEWAN

Valley of Festivals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Rural Municipality of North Qu' Appelle No. 187

Proposed Boundary Changes

Public notice is given that the Council of the RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187 proposes changes to RM division boundaries under Boundary Review Policy GG2022.05.

INTENT: To adjust division boundaries within the RM based on the boundary review proposal.

PURPOSE OF HEARING: To receive submissions and hear from anyone wishing to speak regarding the proposed changes.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Proposed boundary changes may be reviewed at the municipal office, 136 Company Avenue South, Fort Qu'Appelle, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday (excluding holidays). Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 136 Company Avenue South, Fort Qu'Appelle. Anyone may speak or submit written comments prior to or at the hearing.

Issued this 30th day of January 2026

Charmain Wowk,
Chief Administrative Officer

Gardener’s Corner

Jellyroll-snail planting at Yorkton Public Library

By Debbie Hayward
Grasslands News

Gardeners, the first meeting of 2026 for the Yorkton and District Horticultural Society is on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Yorkton Public Library. The topic will be jellyroll-snail planting. It’s a fun idea so come find out more, gardeners never stop learning! Everyone is welcome!

Chinese New Year is Tuesday, Feb. 17. This is the year of the Fire Horse. The zodiac calendar of animals and elements is based on a 60-year cycle, so the Fire Horse hasn’t been galloping on the scene since 1966.

This holiday is very in tune with plants especially flowers and fruit. If we want to share in the celebration and symbolism that mark the occasion for over 1.5 billion people, we can join in by sharing a special floral gift for Chinese New Year!

Because oranges look like the sun, they represent happiness and abundance. A gift of the interesting pomelo will bring good luck to a home. If you give a gift of pome-los, give two, because that represents family unity. (P.S. — I have also seen them called sumo mandarins, which are cousins to the satsuma). Kumquats are gold in color and represent wealth and good luck. Apples mean peace and harmony; a green apple means money. Grapes mean wealth and prosperity.

The message of luck and good fortune is the main thought behind all well-wishes. So gardeners can choose plants to decorate our homes, plants like azaleas for abundance, mums for longevity, kumquat trees for wealth, or

orchids for luxury and elegance to further celebrate the message of good luck!

Looking for flowers? Flowers send a message of new beginnings and positive energy. Not only the bloom but the color is part of the message, whether for success in business, in love, in marriage.

Beautiful orchids represent abundance, while dainty peach blossoms mean growth. Giving the gift of a peony gives riches and honor, especially a red peony. Pussy willows mean the coming of new prosperity. Calla lilies in white or purple bring harmony, and fragrant jasmine represents grace and good fortune. The scent brings positive energy, and white jasmine represents spiritual growth. Glads represent a strong character and determination to overcome obstacles.

Gardeners could make an arrangement of some of these flowers (we can use silk for convenience!) in a green, red or yellow vase, the lucky colors, for a Chinese New Year meal.

Even foods have meaning - rice dumplings celebrate the gift of family togetherness, peanuts for vitality, and if you have a recipe for walnut cookies, bring it out again after Christmas baking and make walnut cookies for happiness!

And here’s a little factoid. Because Chinese New Year is seen as a very important family time, guess how many travellers there are moving from place to place over the holidays? I read an article from last year that said there were approximately three billion interprovincial trips in China during the traditional forty-day period of time before, during, and

after this amazing holiday. It is called the largest annual human migration in the world.

However you celebrate Chinese New Year, gardeners, enjoy health and a prosperous and productive garden this year! Visit the hort society at www.yorktonhort.ca and have a great week!



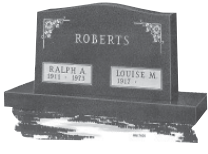
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ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
238 - 3rd Ave. E.
Office Ph. 306-728-2551
Office Hours: Mondays 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Clergy: Deacon Kevin Prouten
www.stpaulsmelville.ca
Sunday, Feb. 1:
9:00 a.m. Worship at St. Paul's
* * *
-- at Neudorf/Lemberg --
Sunday, Feb. 1
*9 a.m. Worship at Christ Neud
*11 a.m. Worship at Trinity Lemb

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
306-720-0589
*Services Every Second Sunday
Feb. 1: 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Sunday, Feb. 1:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service with Rev. B. Mee

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
Jan. 29: 7 p.m. Bible Study
Feb. 1: 10:30 a.m. Worship
Feb. 3: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Sunday, Feb. 1:
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Feb. 8:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

MELVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
473 - 8th Ave. W.
Office Ph. 306-728-5022
Pastor Jon Pettinger
Associate Pastor: Jesse Darby
Sunday:
Connections at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Service at 11 a.m.
Online services can be found at: www.melvillebaptist.com



Melville Churches Welcome You

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001
Feb. 1: 10:30 a.m. Worship

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. - Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpcastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, Feb. 1:
No Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

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

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

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapatil
Saturday, Jan. 31:
5:30 p.m. Mass

ST. MARY’S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Feb. 1:
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, Feb. 1:
12:00 noon Communion Service
Followed by Lunch

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, Feb. 1:
10 a.m. Worship Service

Indian Head Church Welcomes You

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

***Growing in Faith Together**
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Kipling Churches Welcome You

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

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

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

ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
418 First St., Kipling
Priest: Father Joseph Villamartin
306-538-2163
Saturday, Jan. 31
Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Fort Qu’Appelle Churches Welcome You

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

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

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
194 Bay St., Fort Qu’Appelle
Rev. Jo Mader, 306-332-4455
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St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church
155 CATHERINE STREET
306-783-4594
Pastor - Fr. Basil Malowany
Phone 306-783-4594 or 306-783-7778

Saturday - 5:00PM (English)
Sunday - 9:00AM (English & Ukrainian)

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“Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them.”
-Proverbs 26:12 NIV

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Pastor Laurel Wiebe - 306-898-2099
Pastor Tim Warkentin - 306-217-8222



St. Mark The Evangelist Orthodox Church
160 Betts Ave., Yorkton, Sask
“Services in English”
www.stmarkyorkton.ca

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
Saturday January 31st – Vespers 6:00 PM
Sunday February 1st – Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Priest: Rodion Luciuk Phone: 306-782-2482 Cell: 306-621-5341



Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Orthodox Church
89 Bradbrooke Drive, Yorkton
SK S3N 2Y2 • 306-782-2998
Father Michael Faryna • 306-601-9043
Fri., Jan 30 • House Blessings (Yorkton)
Fri., Jan 30 • 5:00PM – Perogy Supper (Yorkton)
Sat., Jan 31 • House Blessings (Yorkton)
Sun., Feb 1 • 10:00AM – Divine Liturgy (Yorkton)
Mon., Feb 2 • 10:00AM – Divine Liturgy (Yorkton)
Mon., Feb 2 • 7:00PM: Parish Council meeting

CLASSIFIEDS



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

Obituary

Ileen Marie Alberts
(nee Gerger)
1929 - 2026



It is with profound sadness that the family of Ileen Alberts announce her peaceful passing on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026 at the age of 96 years in Edmonton, AB.

Ileen will be lovingly remembered by her children: Sharon (Don), Francie (Marv), Cathie (Chris), Denise (David) and Jeff (Leizel); her grandchildren: Frank, Kurt (Christy), Dale (Rachelle), Alexandria, Abigail, Gillian and Oliver; two great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Mavis Alberts; and several nephews and nieces.

Ileen was predeceased by her husband, Edward John Alberts; infant daughter, Lois Mary; parents Herman and Maria Gerger; brother Herman, Jr.; sister Anna (Gerger) Reid; their spouses; parents-in-law Frank and Florence Alberts; as well as several brothers- and sisters-in-law, nephews, and nieces.

Ileen was born near Springside and lived her formative and early teaching years in rural communities such as Theodore and Jedburgh. Ileen and Ed spent their early married years, raising Sharon and Francie, in Melville before moving to northern Saskatchewan, then northern Alberta; eventually residing in St. Albert, AB and the surrounding area. Ileen fondly remembered her years visiting family and friends throughout Saskatchewan, most notably in and around Melville, Yorkton, Saskatoon and Regina; ensuring that upon being widowed her three youngest children grew up familiarized with their family roots, particularly the Alberts, Gerger, Griffith and Groff families.

A Celebration of her Life will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the Heart & Stroke Foundation, a mental health or Pride organization of your choice.

To share photos, memories, and condolences, please visit www.connelly-mckinley.com

Connelly-McKinley Funeral Home
Downtown
(780) 422-2222

Obituary

George Lazurko
March 7, 1933 - Jan. 20, 2026

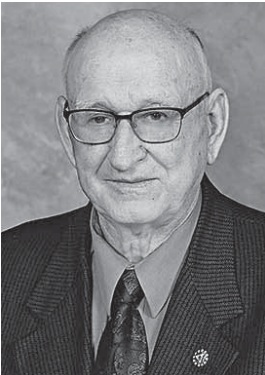
George Lazurko of Yorkton, formerly of the Willowbrook district, husband of the late Mary Lazurko passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026. He was 92 years of age.

George was born on March 7, 1933 on the family farm in the Jedburgh district. He was the youngest of five children.

George worked first on his Willowbrook farm, met Mary Prymak, and they were wed July 15, 1956. They were blessed with two boys, Kelly and Brent. After Mary passed in 1968, George moved his family to Yorkton, where he worked at many different ventures. On Dec. 25, 1995 George was introduced to Stella Halldorson and developed a friendship that lasted over 30 years. He was blessed with the love and support of Stella and her family over this time.

George was selfless and always put family above all else. He loved to tease, play (and cheat) at cards with Stella, his family, and friends. It was always more fun when George got caught and pouted if he lost. He lived a long life filled with hard work, family, and plenty of laughter. Known for his sharp wit, and great sense of humour, George could always be counted on for a clever remark, a joke, or a perfectly timed one-liner that left everyone smiling.

George leaves behind family and friends who will



forever cherish his memory, his humour, and the life lessons he passed down. He will be remembered with love, smiles, and stories that will continue to be shared for years to come.

George was predeceased by his parents Theodore and Julia (nee Kozie); brothers Pete, Laudy and Jerry; his wife Mary (nee Prymak) in March 1968, granddaughter Catherine, December 1991; and his son Brent, March 1998.

He leaves to mourn his passing, and cherish his memory, his only sister Olga, and loving partner, Stella. He leaves his son Kelly (Karen); grandchildren Jillian Lazurko, Madelaine (Justin) Chappell, Victoria (Rick) Bryksa and Thomas (Tia) Lazurko. George will be especially missed by his great-grandchildren Ty George Lazurko, James Brent Chappell, Isabella Lynn Bryksa.

Вічна Пам'ять - Eternal Memory

Prayer service, preceded by the Rosary led by members of the Knights of Columbus, Father Delaere Council Brother Stanislaus Assembly, was held on Jan. 22, 2026 from St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yorkton, SK. The funeral liturgy was held on Jan. 23, 2026 also from St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church with Rev. Fr. Leonid Malkov, CSsR as the Celebrant. The epistle was read by Richard Prybylski, Madelaine Chappell served as the cross bearer and Sharon Koch shared words of remembrance, with members of Knight of Columbus Third and Fourth Degree, Brother Stanislaus Assembly serving as the Honour Guard. The interment followed in the Garden of Crucifixion, Yorkton Memorial Gardens with Bill Prybylski, Josh Prybylski, Ronnie Lazurko, Dale Lazurko, Evan Labas and Courtney Tyschinski serving as casket bearers. Memorial donations may be made to St. Mary's Church Building Fund as gifts of remembrance. Messages of condolence may be shared at baileysfuneralhome.com



Obituary

Patricia Ruby Miles
March 18, 1945 - Jan. 3, 2026

Patricia "Pat" Miles passed away peacefully in Calgary, AB, on Saturday, Jan. 3, after many years of courageously facing the deteriorating effects of Parkinson's disease.

Pat was born on March 18, 1945, in Canora, SK, to Patrick and Elsie Fernets.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Frank Miles (2011); and by her parents, Elsie and Patrick Fernets. Pat is survived by her brother Curtis Fernets and his wife Debralee; her nieces Elyse and Jessica, and her nephew Matt Fernets.



The family moved to Saskatoon in 1960, where Pat completed her formal education at Mount Royal Collegiate, excelling in drama and art classes. In 1964, the family relocated to Yorkton, Saskatchewan. When the family later moved back to Saskatoon in 1966, Pat chose to remain in Yorkton, a decision that would shape much of her life. There, she met and married the love of her life, Frank Miles, in 1967.

Pat began her working career with Saskatchewan Government Telephones before moving on to Employment Canada. She later transitioned to its provincial counterpart, where she worked as a counsellor until her early retirement due to health reasons. Pat pursued and advanced her career by completing many professional courses over the years. She took great pride in her work, greatly enjoying the challenges it provided and the opportunity to help others.

Pat had a lifelong passion for animals of all kinds. Over the years, she shared her life with many horses, dogs, and cats, each deeply loved. She and Frank purchased a cabin at Lady Lake, SK, where they spent countless summer and winter vacations, creating cherished memories well into their retirement years. Pat and Frank shared a passion for the outdoors, including fishing and kayaking. Her hobbies also included a lifelong passion for creating and collecting local art of all types.

In May 2022, Pat moved to Calgary to be closer to her brother and his family, a connection that meant a great deal to her in her later years. She was particularly grateful for the care provided by the associates of the Royal Park Carewest long-term care home during the waning years of her life.

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Judy Bernat of Yorkton for her unwavering kindness and countless hours of support, including shopping and assistance while Pat resided at the Crossing Retirement Residence.

Pat will be remembered for her quiet strength, her deep compassion for animals, and her enduring love for family.

Obituary

Doris Eleanor Rusnak
July 22, 1927 - Jan. 15, 2026

The family of Doris Rusnak of Yorkton, beloved wife of the late Michael Rusnak, sadly announce her passing on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026. Doris was 98 years of age.

Doris Eleanor Rusnak was born July 22, 1927, to Roy and Annie (nee Larson) Davidson. She was the third of three children born in the Naicam District of Saskatchewan where her parents farmed with her mother's brother, Sigurd Hogan. Anne used her father's last name, whereas some of her brothers took the farm name from Norway as their last name.



Doris attended grades 1 to 9 in Pinkham and then they moved to Colville for Grades 10 and 11. The family eventually moved to the homestead in the Ininger district where she attended school in Theodore for Grade 12. Doris met the love of her life, Michael, at a fastball tournament in Theodore in 1946 when they jumped into a car together to get out of the rain, she was 19 at the time and they got engaged on her 21st birthday on July 22, 1948. They married on Oct. 24, 1948, a bond that lasted 71 years.

Their first home was on the farm in the Ininger district which had no running water or indoor plumbing. Wayne and Joann both lived in the farmhouse before Doris and Michael moved to Yorkton in 1954, where David was born. Doris was Michael's secretary and social convener for many of the years he worked with Mutual Life and its successors. They worked as a team with Doris running the household and ensuring there was always meals ready when Michael brought a client home unexpectedly for dinner or supper. Doris's tradition of having everything necessary to serve a beautiful meal continued throughout her life and included friends of her children, grandchildren, and finally great-grandchildren. All were greeted with open arms and a friendly smile. Doris was also Michael's farmhand, hauling grain, picking rocks, making lunches and anything else that needed to be done until the boys got big enough to help out during their active years of farming.

Doris was an avid church goer and dedicated countless hours to the Presbyterian Church and later when the family joined Westview United, she participated in the choir, fall suppers, funerals and many other events in support of the church.

Doris's life after Michael's passing in 2019 continued at Yorkton Crossing where she was presented with an award for her generosity in sharing her talents of growing flowers and doing crafts with all other residences at the facility. She was loved by all that encountered her. Doris's care for her older brother, Arnold, which continued throughout their adult life was perhaps the basis of her compassion for others. This was a characteristic that shone through her lifetime with family, friends and strangers, all who felt her immediate warmth when they interacted with her. She was able to instill this philosophy through her actions in others.

Doris is survived by 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, having lost great-grandson Grayson at the young age of 9-½ months. Doris was predeceased by all members of her and Michael's siblings and spouses; Doris's siblings, Lynos aka Dave (Margaret) Davidson and Arnold aka Busty Davidson. Michael's brother, Nick (Ruth) Rusnak, Bill (Fae) Rusnak, and John (Olga) Rusnak, Michael's sisters, Mary (Wasył aka Bill) Koshman, Ann (Nick) Kopan, Kay (Steve) Hnatiuk, Sophie (Steve) Husulak, Margaret (Dave) Davidson, Iris (Wasył aka Bill) Rusnak and Michael's kid sister Olga Rusnak.

Doris was the ever-present wife and mother, grandmother and great-grandmother that made the Rusnak household run with precision and ease. She never lost her love for her family and continued to express it right up to the last hours of her life. She will be truly missed. She had 98-½ years with her family spending countless hours both working and playing with all members leaving opportunity for memories to be forged that will never be forgotten.

Doris leaves her three children and their families; son **Wayne** (Diane) Rusnak, their four children; Lee (Jodie) Rusnak, Emma, Ali, Ty; Brett (Claudia); Lara (Shawn) Veroba, Dylan and Bryn; Todd (Kim) Rusnak, Holt, Cozie, and Gigi; daughter **Joann** (Barry) Zapshalla, their three children; Jake (Brittainy) Zapshalla, William, Katie; Brock, and Logan; son **David** (Laurie Anne) Rusnak, their three children; Christopher (Beth Farmer) Rusnak; Janna Lee (Justin) Yawney, Isla, Maddux; Cassandra (Cameron) Rieger, Elliahna, Grayson (pre-deceased), Avalynn, and Jameson. In addition, Doris leaves numerous nieces, nephews and greats that she had a very close relationship with.

Visitation was held on Monday, Jan. 19, 2026 from the Chapel of Bailey's Funeral Home and from Yorkton Memorial Gardens Family Centre.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. from Westview United Church. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Doris Rusnak may be made to Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation, the Cancer Research Foundation of Canada, or to Westview United Church Backpack for Kids Program as gifts of remembrance. Messages of condolence may be left for the family at www.baileysfuneralhome.com



Obituary

Mildred Novakoski (nee Beres)
Dec. 6, 1930 – Jan. 16, 2026

Mildred Novakoski, beloved wife of the late Peter Novakoski, of Foothills, AB, passed away on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, at the age of 95.

Millie was born in Melville, SK, on Dec. 6, 1930. She married the love of her life, Peter, in 1951, and they resided in Acme, AB, in the late 1970s before moving to Foothills, AB, in 2006.



She is survived by her son, Lyall Novakoski (Valerie), daughters, Donna Meyers (Brad), and Gwen Lockwood (Davin); grandchildren, Terry Meyers (Sasha), Laura VanderSpoel (Derin), Tanner Lockwood, and Nathan Lockwood; and her great-grandchildren, Raegan, Vivian, William, Daisy, and Fredrick.

Millie was a light to everyone she encountered. Her charm resonated with young, old, family, and friends alike. You could always count on a colourful conversation, cookies and Jell-O for the kids, snacks for the puppies, cold beer to refresh the worker, and a rye and water for herself.

She will forever inspire with her indelible optimism and inner strength. The warm scents of her hand-kneaded white bread and pierogies healed your heart and filled your belly. Although her memory will live on in recipes to grace future family feasts, we will miss her random calls to check in on how we were doing and her endless appreciation of life.

“GG” lived a healthy and independent life nearly up until the moment of her passing, and she went on to her reward peacefully.

A private graveside service was held on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, with a memorial get-together planned for this summer.

Condolences, memories, and photos may be shared and viewed with Mildred’s family at www.MHFH.com.

In living memory of Mildred Novakoski, a tree will be planted in the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area by McInnis & Holloway Funeral Homes.



McInnis & Holloway
403-243-8200

Memoriam

HALYK, Max – Feb. 17, 1931 to Feb. 4, 1994.
Your guiding hand on our shoulders
Will remain with us forever.
—Lovingly remembered by
Bryan, Jane and family
Brenda and family

Card of Thanks

I would like to thank everyone who visited, sent cards or condolences, phoned or texted, or sent memorials to a charity. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated during this past month as I navigate living without my life partner. A huge thank you to the staff at Broadview Union Hospital. The care and compassion, for Edwin as well as our whole family, was exemplary.
—Elaine Wyatt

Hyundai For Sale

FOR SALE – 2012 Hyundai Santa Fe, all-wheel drive, very good condition. Regular maintenance, 144,000 kms. Phone Roxi, 1-306-542-8625 or Neil, 1-306-542-8132.

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FOR SALE – 2009 SUV Ford Flex with good rubbers and tires. All-wheel drive, entertainment centre included. Completely loaded with all bells and whistles. Phone Ross, 306-562-7228.

Van For Sale

FOR SALE/MISC – 2007 Chevrolet Express 2500 cargo van, 4.8L, V8. One owner work van bought new. 453,600 km. \$9,000. Call Colin 306-621-0147, Yorkton

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Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Estate of **James Albert Pigeon**, late of Abernethy, Sask., deceased.
All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 20th day of February, 2026.

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Solicitors for the Estate.

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Discover the benefits of cultural conferences

Are you a pre-retiree, retiree or simply someone aged 60 or older looking for a new hobby? Cultural conferences offer a rich variety of options worth exploring. Here's why.

Learn about a wide range of topics

Cultural conferences are often held in colleges, community centres or municipal halls, bringing together experts from diverse backgrounds. You might attend a talk on the Italian Renaissance, join a photography workshop or explore the ideas of ancient philosophers. Because culture encompasses a vast range of topics, these events may cover countless subjects, from artistic movements to literary trends and beyond.

Plan your participation around your schedule

Cultural conferences can easily fit into most schedules. Whether the sessions take place during the week or on the weekend, in the morning or in the evening, many speakers offer multiple times for the same presentation. You can choose the time slot that suits you best without disrupting your routine. Even better, many organizations now offer virtual options via video chat, making attendance easier and more accessible than ever.

Stimulate your brain

These conferences get your brain working, whether

you engage with art, read documentation on a topic or listen to a presentation from a passionate expert. Research shows that lifelong learning can help stimulate the mind and could help slow down age-related cognitive decline.

Expand your social circle

Group learning also provides an opportunity to expand your social circle. What better way to meet new people who share your interests—you may even form valuable friendships!

Would you like to attend a cultural conference? Contact your local council to find out what options are available in your area.



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Older adults are frequently reminded how important it is to keep physically active, maintain social connections and look after their cognitive health. Is there one activity that can support all three goals? According to some experts, dancing is a surprisingly effective option.

Physical benefits

Whether it's salsa, contemporary dance, cha-cha-cha, line dancing or swing, dancing is widely recognized as an excellent way to keep the body moving. Not every style dramatically boosts cardiovascu-



lar fitness, but all forms of dance work the joints. Dancing engages the feet, legs, hips and arms, helping to improve flexibility,

strengthen muscles and support bone health.

Cognitive benefits

Every time you coordinate your movements to

the rhythm of the music, your brain stays active and alert. Combined with the positive emotions that music brings, this sensory stimulation strengthens neural connections. This is a major protective factor for maintaining cognitive function as you get older.

Social advantages

Loneliness is a harsh reality many seniors face, but gathering in a group one or more times a week for an enjoyable activity fosters a sense of belonging and helps prevent social isolation. Staying connected with others helps keep you mentally and physically healthy, proving the old saying true: "Healthy mind, healthy body!"

Do you want to stay active and age well? Contact a local dance school or community recreation centre.

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OUR NEXT FEATURE - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Silver Circle Monthly Gatherings - Safe at Home

Submitted
Grasslands News

Harry Wilkins, Deputy Fire Chief for Yorkton Fire Protective Services was the guest speaker for January's monthly gathering. He gave an excellent overview on safety at home, especially with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

When was the last time that you checked your

monitors? Ideally, they should be replaced after 10 years, especially if they are changing color. Dust and grease can get into the system, making them less effective.

Other tips include:

- Place smoke detectors on every level close to sleeping area
- Carbon monoxide detectors should be placed lower to the floor
- Vacuum around the detectors to prevent dust build up
- The best time to purchase new detectors and fire extinguishers is in October during Fire Prevention Week.
- Both carbon monoxide and smoke detectors can be purchased in one unit

Do you have a fire extinguisher?



Know where it is? Had it checked lately?

- They too, need to be replaced. Look for the expiration date on the bottle.
- Make sure that the gauge is in the green zone.
- 2 lb weight is sufficient for in the home
- Fire blankets can be used and purchased at the fire hall. They are better than baking soda as you don't have to get too close to the fire.

Other tips for winter:

- Don't work space heaters too hard. Don't plug them into an extension cord as they need their own electrical source. Unplug them when you are not using.
- Make sure that vents are not clogged with snow.
- Electric heating blankets typically last about 10 years. After that, they've done their job—the internal wires can become brittle and may break. Avoid leaving them on all night, and don't tuck them in, as trapped heat needs room to dissipate safely. Do not use if they are wet.
- Keep your driveway and steps free of ice. In an emergency, quick access matters, and paramedics need a safe path to reach you.

Thanks to our partners for this month, Victory Church for the space and Jean Remezoff, Seniors Horizons for the delicious snacks.

Silver Circle monthly gatherings are targeted to older adults to learn something new as well as find out about the resources in the community. They are free and offer coffee. Everyone is invited. The next event is on February 17th at Suncrest College Trades Building 273 Dracup Ave North. Come join us!

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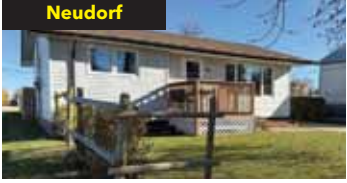
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