

Fort on hunt for official town bird

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

According to bird watchers, 300 species of birds inhabit the Qu'Appelle Valley. As part of the town's 75th anniversary celebrations this year Fort Qu'Appelle wants the public to choose an "official" bird for the town. The choice for a favourite is endless: white pelicans, red-throated loons, mallards, eagles, blue jays, hawks, and even vultures.

The Americans have the eagle and while the Canadian Senate has promoted the grey jay or whisky jack (said to be the smartest bird around) as Canada's national bird the authorizing legislation has not yet been passed by Parliament.

Saskatchewan's official bird is the sharp tailed grouse. Mayor Brian Strong thought Fort Qu'Appelle should have its own avian emblem.

Although Communities in Bloom favoured the pelican with a sculpture to celebrate "Fort Qu'Appelicans" that was unveiled outside the tourist booth last year no bylaw declaring an "official" town bird has been enacted (you can also find the late Ken Woytiuk's steel pelican sculpture in one of the planters at the four corners).

Ornithologist Jared Clarke who regularly leads bird-watchers on tours through the valley said he likes the idea of "an official town bird" but said he would need time to consider his options before coming up with a suitable choice.

Residents who have made up their minds are invited to submit their choice to manager@fortquappelle.com and then select the official town bird from the shortlist between Feb. 18 to 25.

The winner will be announced at the Winter Festival on Feb 28.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Paralympic medalist

Murray Bedel's bronze medals are on display at Mission Ridge. The local area resident area man competed in the 1984 Paralympics in Australia where he won a bronze medal as a member of the Canadian Disabled Alpine Team. Bedel had lost his arms in a hay baler accident in 1974.

Resident recalls 1984 bronze win at Paralympics

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

The opening of the 2026 Milano/Cortina winter Olympics this week kindled fond memories for Paralympic skier Murray Bedel who took home the bronze at the 1984 games in Innsbruck, Austria.

Bedel had been married for a year and farmed near Lebreton with his father in 1974 when he lost his both arms in a hay baler. While he was convalescing, John Smith - who then owned Mission Ridge Ski Park in Fort Qu'Appelle - suggested that it might be therapeutic if he helped a disabled woman learn

how to ski. "She was pretty discouraged, but I told her if I can do it, so can you. I said let's get it done. With that everything fell into place," Bedel told Grasslands News.

He took to the slopes, trained for the sport and never looked back.

In 1984 the Canadian Disabled Alpine Team invited him to Austria. Fundraising events were organized in town to help pay travel expenses for him and his wife Janet.

At the time the Paralympic games were not officially part of the Winter Olympics, but rather a demonstration of what athletes who were disabled during

“I must have taught thousands – Kids don’t care if I don’t have arms as long as you can teach.”

- Murray Bedel on teaching kids to ski for 46 years

World War II could do. It wasn't until 1992 that the winter games in Albertville, France, included them as part of the IOC's official Olympic program.

Bedel never expected to come back with a medal.

"I saw the competition. The competition was super good. Some of the athletes in Europe are amazing," he recalled. "They live on the hill. They are phenomenal people. When we went, I was just hoping to have a good time and have a good record."

The condition of the slopes when he arrived was miserable. "We didn't have enough snow," he remembers. "They shut the run down, got the army in and reset it. The course was really tough. The run really iced up. A lot of skiers didn't make it."

Bedel recorded a combined time of 1.21.62 which left him in fifth place. But two of the

competitors were disqualified and later that evening, while he was in a crowd partying in the Olympic village, Bedel was told he had won the bronze.

"I was in shock, that's all I remember. I would have been happy to be fifth in the world," he said.

His bronze medals are now in a display case at Mission Ridge where Bedel has been teaching children to ski for 46 years.

"I must have taught thousands, I don't know how many. Kids who I've taught who are now married have kids of their own that I teach. Kids don't care if I don't have arms as long as you can teach."



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Stakeholders strategize to save research farm

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Researchers, municipal leaders and provincial representatives are united in their opposition to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s plan to shutter the Indian Head Research Farm. Stakeholders met last Friday afternoon to discuss how they could advocate together for the farm’s continued operation.

Impending Closure

Indian Head Research Farm was established through Canada’s Experimental Farm Station Act of 1886. For the past 140 years, the facility has been an integral part of the community and the broader agriculture sector. The research farm employs about 30 full-time staff, along with about 20 summer students every year. Masters students also spend time at the facility, and seven individuals from the Indian Head Agricultural Research Foundation work closely with the government employees to complete various studies and share findings with the public.

The federal government is requiring budget cuts across various departments and the AAFC, which oversees the farm in Indian Head and similar facilities across the country, has been tasked with achieving a 15 per cent savings in costs over the next three years. As a result, AAFC announced in January that it would close three research and development centres and four satellite research farms, including the one in Indian Head.

Support for Continued Operations

Community leaders, scientists, producers, provincial and federal politicians have voiced their objection to AAFC’s decision. On Feb. 6, representatives from the community and government met at Memorial Hall to consider what course of action could be taken to ensure the Indian Head farm continues its crucial role in Canadian agriculture.

Indian Head Mayor Steven Cole welcomed the group, which included Regina-Qu’Appelle MP Andrew Sheer; RM of Indian Head Reeve James Woidyla and councillors; and Danny Petty, the Executive Manager for IHARF. Two former staff members from the farm, retired manager Dave Gehl and retired biologist Laura Poppy, also attended. They were joined by Chris Procyk, Vice Pres-



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Discussing options

Retired biologist Laura Poppy (far right), retired farm manager Dave Gehl (centre), and several others spoke with MP Andrew Scheer (far left) about the impact that closing the Indian Head Research Farm would have on the Canadian agriculture sector.

ident and District One Director for the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS); Dion McGrath, Executive Director for APAS; Jean-Marc Nadeau, CEO for Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association; and Bob Moulding, Division One Director for Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM).

Following introductions, Scheer invited participants to share information about the research farm. Their responses demonstrated the far-reaching and valuable impact of work done in Indian Head. Scheer listened attentively, noting information that would be useful when he speaks with federal leaders on behalf of the community.

Unique Facility

Retired manager Dave Gehl explained that property for the Indian Head Research Farm was originally purchased from the Bell Farm and now the facility includes approximately 1,170 acres of arable land.

“The work here is done in the field and it’s very high quality, Class 1 land. It’s a great environment for plant breeding and varietal testing,” Gehl said. “We are located in the transition between the parkland and the grassland, so the results are applicable in a broad area. Because it’s heavy clay land, drought stress

tends not to be as big an issue. The land is really irreplaceable.”

His colleague Laura Poppy concurred, stating that programs undertaken in Indian Head would not be viable at other AAFC facilities in Saskatchewan.

“Swift Current’s in a drought zone so it would take longer to do this kind of research there. There’s years when you just don’t get anything because of drought; you don’t have that issue here,” Poppy said. “Saskatoon, they don’t have the land there; we have the land here.”

Extensive Impact

Agroforestry, agroecosystem, agronomy and breeding programs take place at the Indian Head Research Farm. There is also a Seed Increase Unit that propagates the newly developed varieties to be sold to seed growers and farmers. Using recently published crop insurance figures, Gehl calculated that 178 varieties, or 64 per cent, of the insured commercial acreage across the Prairies and Peace River regions could be traced to the Seed Increase Unit at Indian Head. This constitutes 19.6 million acres of wheat, barley, oats and other crops.

Relocating the SIU would put Saskatchewan producers at a severe disadvantage, with a multi-year delay on access to new, improved crop varieties. Gehl explained that it would take three

to four years to prepare land at another site, freeing it of wild oats to make it suitable for the SIU program. IHARF’s Danny Petty added that the University of Saskatchewan has estimated that just one year without the SIU would result in a \$400 million loss to the agriculture sector.

Others around the table agreed that closing Indian Head Research Farm would have far greater consequences than meeting federal budget goals.

“On the global markets, Canada commands a premium for what we produce; buyers want what we have,” observed Dion McGrath from APAS. “We wouldn’t have what we have if it wasn’t for research farms so, if this is about economic growth, we’re going to lose long term on those international markets for what every farmer in this province produces because of the research farms and what they do.”

Next Steps

The time for spring seeding is quickly approaching, and this gave a sense of urgency to the discussion last Friday. After confirming the farm’s essential role, the group considered practical ways it could advocate for AAFC to reconsider closing the site.

Scheer acknowledged that the federal government should trim its budget, but said he intends to recommend alternative spending cuts because the farm is “so practical and beneficial for our lives.” He assured stakeholders that he would present what he’d learned about the situation at an upcoming agriculture committee meeting. He also hoped to speak directly with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

“We’re going to put as much pressure as we can to get a reversal on this decision,” Scheer said.

To further support this, Director Bob Moulding recommended that the RM of Indian Head council prepare a resolution to present at SARM’s annual convention in March. Additionally, the group determined to circulate petitions so that community members, producers, and others with a vested interest could express their desire for continued operation of Indian Head Research Farm.

As they prepared to take these steps, the group agreed to maintain open communication and expressed the hope that their efforts would yield positive results.

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Duo arrested in Yorkton kidnapping remain in jail

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Two Alberta men will remain behind bars in Saskatchewan for at least another week after being denied release during their most recent court date.

Preston Carroll, 24, and Dante Douglas, 20, both of Fort McMurray were arrested in relation to a suspected kidnapping in Yorkton back in January. They appeared in Yorkton Provincial Court on Feb. 4 and were ultimately denied release and remanded back into custody until their next court date later this month on Feb. 23 in Yorkton.

Their charges stem from an incident on Jan. 20 when Yorkton RCMP received a report of suspicious activity, including that someone had been

kidnapped.

“Investigation determined a male victim was in a parked vehicle outside a residence on Fourth Avenue North in Yorkton,” RCMP noted. “Two men wearing face coverings approached the victim, forced him out of the vehicle, placed him in a separate SUV, and drove away. The men threatened the victim and pointed a firearm at him. The firearm was not discharged.”

Moments after receiving the call, police found the suspect vehicle on Highway 10 heading towards Melville. While RCMP activated their emergency equipment to initiate a traffic stop, the SUV fled from police instead.

“Shortly after, the SUV entered the ditch,” RCMP said. “The vehicle occupants were arrested at the scene. The victim,

who was one of the vehicle occupants, reported non-life-threatening injuries to police.”

Through their investigation, RCMP confirmed the victim and suspects were not known to each other.

“During a subsequent search of the vehicle, officers located and seized a loaded firearm, a firearm magazine, ammunition, approximately 88 grams

of cocaine, approximately 88 grams of methamphetamine, and approximately 16 grams of fentanyl,” RCMP noted.

As a result, Carroll and Douglas were jointly charged with three counts possession for the purpose of trafficking (cocaine, methamphetamine, and fentanyl); plus single counts kidnapping with a firearm, unauthorized possession of a firearm,

possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle, careless use of a firearm, possession of a firearm when knowing possession unauthorized, and possession of a prohibited weapon when knowing possession unauthorized.

Carroll was also charged with two counts uttering threats; and single counts of assault, disguised with intent to commit an offence, and

pointing a firearm.

Douglas was additionally charged with single counts of flight from a peace officer and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.

Yorkton RCMP continue to investigate, and Saskatchewan RCMP’s Police Dog Services plus the Yorkton Forensic Identification Section assisted in this investigation.

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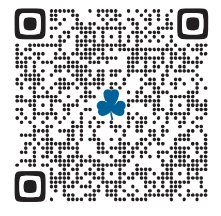
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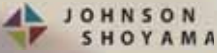


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Archives exhibit revives Sask. artists’ voices from 1973

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Arts in Saskatchewan

Belinda Harrow, consultant for the SaskArts Permanent Collection, introduced the trio of Saskatchewan artists on panel to discuss the current climate of art in the province. The panel was comprised of (from left) Echo Lake’s Vera Saltzman, plus Regina-based Yuji Szero Lee and Patrick Fernandez.

Archives collection for safekeeping.”

The Provincial Archives digitized the recordings, which had previously been inaccessible, allowing them to be shared publicly for the first time in decades.

“It was decided that we would work together in partnership,” Harrow said, adding the University of Regina Archives was invited because it holds many individual artists’ fonds.

The exhibit features recordings, artwork, and archival materials connected to six artists: Vic Cicansky, Lorraine Malach, Art McKay, Wynona Mulcaster, Marguerite Van Wersum, and Russ Yuristy.

“Sadly, five of the six artists that we featured in the exhibition are no longer with us, with the one remaining, Russ Yuristy, who lives in Ottawa,” Harrow said.

During the launch, a short audio reel played excerpts from the 1973 interviews, offering a glimpse into how artists of that era understood their work and its relationship to reality.

“I don’t think art is an escape from reality, but it’s an acceptance of reality,” Malach in 1973 told the audience.

Included in the exhibition that runs until July 31 are QR codes taking the viewer to some of that 50-plus year-old audio, giving one the essence of the artist traveling through time. Yuristy - who was born in Goodeve, had a studio in Silton, and was friends with fellow Saskatchewan artist Joe Fafard – mused how art is a journey of discovery.

“What I like happening, it’s something that comes from beyond conscious intellectual thing,” he said. “You get physically involved with the medium and then you make a thing that surprises you. You learn something about yourself. You learn something about the world.”

Yuristy is also known for his humour, plus incorporating the animals and landscape around him in his work.

“It’s nice when somebody likes your work and for the right reasons,” he said. “They like the work and they’re not trying to impress you or something or ‘be hip.’ I really get off on that and sometimes it’s critics, people in the art game. But I really get off when some farmer comes in and says they like something - or kids, because they really look at it without any art glasses - they just look at it with their own eyes.”

In keeping with the spirit of the original project, the evening also featured a live panel with three contemporary Saskatchewan artists — Patrick Fernandez, Vera Saltzman, and Yuji Szero Lee — who were invited to respond to similar questions posed more than 50 years ago.

Fernandez, a Regina-based visual artist originally from the Philippines, said his interest in art began early.

“I grew up seeing my dad work from home,” he said, adding he would watch his cartographer father closely. “That kind of ignited my passion on creating

that you can create something out of those small items and be able to create these intricate maps.”

Fernandez described moving to Saskatchewan in 2017 and encountering the prairie landscape for the first time.

“I think it’s a blank canvas for me,” he said. “It’s a blank canvas like waiting to do something.”

Saltzman, a photographer based near Fort Qu’Appelle, said her path to art came later in life, shaped by relocation and a desire to connect.

“The camera became a tool for me to connect with people,” she said of her early photographic work. “It gave me a reason to talk to people.”

Lee, a Regina-based visual artist working primarily in drawing, said art offered an outlet for expression from an early age.

“Drawing was kind of my go-to activity because I could easily entertain myself,” Lee said. “When I learned that art could be something that I do for a living, I just kind of felt like, yeah, I have to do this.”

Asked about Saskatchewan’s influence on their work, the artists offered varied perspectives. Saltzman said the province

shaped her entire photographic career.

“For as long as I’ve had a photographic, artistic career, my work has always been about Saskatchewan, for the most part,” she said.

Fernandez said the landscape inspired a major body of work created in Regina and later exhibited in the Philippines.

“It was made in my tiny basement studio in Regina,” he said. “It’s inspired by the landscape of Saskatchewan.”

Lee described a more complex relationship with place and identity.

“I don’t really want people to make that assumption about me or the overall arts community here as if it’s like the only type of work that’s made here,” Lee said, reflecting on being labeled a Saskatchewan artist.

The panel also revisited a central question from the 1973 interviews: how art relates to reality.

“Your reality dictates your productivity as an artist,” Fernandez said. “Art and reality are, you know, have this big correlation to each other.”

Saltzman said she focuses less on literal representation and more on emotional truth.

“I’m trying to capture a feeling and it’s my feeling because it’s the reality that I’m living with,” she said.

Lee said art remains inseparable from contemporary social and political realities.

“I don’t think we can or should try to completely, I guess, separate being an artist from being like a human or a community member,” Lee said.

The *Art Realities* exhibition is now open in the Provincial Archives Gallery, offering visitors a chance to hear artists of the past speak in their own voices while considering how those ideas continue to resonate today.

Other participating artists in the 1973 project were Douglas Bentham, Donovan Chester, Robert Christie, Jack Cowin, Reta Cowley, Stanley Day, James Ellemers, William Epp, Joseph Fafard, Mina Forsyth, Edward Godwin, Ricardo Gomez, Beth Hone, Anne James, Beverly Lambert Kelly, Marilyn Levine, Ernest Lindner, William Perehudoff, Warren Peterson, Judith Poole, Otto Rogers, Allen Sapp, Jack Sures, and James Thornsbury. Unfortunately, no recordings were obtained with Hone, Perehudoff, and Sapp.



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More spaces for addiction recovery announced amid overdose surge

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan government says it is expanding access to addictions recovery services in Regina, even as opposition MLAs call for emergency action following a recent spike in overdoses in the city.

The province is adding 16 new second-stage sober living treatment spaces in Regina, funded through an annual investment of \$863,000. The spaces will be operated by Pine Lodge Addiction Recovery and are intended for adults who have completed initial treatment and are continuing their recovery in a structured, substance-free environment.

“Sober living treatment is an important part of addictions recovery,” Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr said. “These new spaces will enable more individuals struggling with addictions to access the care they need and to live healthier, safer lives in recovery.”

The expansion comes days after the Ministry of Health issued an overdose alert in Regina, following reports from police of 46 overdoses and four suspected overdose deaths between Feb. 2 and Feb. 9. The ministry said the substances involved could include opioids, though the specific drugs have not been confirmed.

The latest numbers from the Saskatchewan Coroners Service shows that while there were 335 confirmed and suspected drug toxicity deaths through 2025, that number is actually part of a downward

trend when compared with the two years previous (346 in 2024, 455 in 2023). Most of the overdose deaths last year were accidental (215 confirmed), with fentanyl being the most frequently identified substance in confirmed opioid-related deaths.

The Saskatchewan NDP says the most recent surge highlights the need for more urgent and comprehensive action from the government.

“These numbers are shocking — what else does this government need to finally take this issue seriously?” Saskatchewan NDP Leader Carla Beck said. “How many more people must die before an emergency is declared and a real plan is put forward to address this crisis?”

The NDP says the drug crisis is killing nearly one person per day in Saskatchewan and has repeatedly called on the government to declare a public health emergency, expand treatment capacity and improve access to frontline supports.

“People are waiting too long to get into treatment,” said Betty Nippi-Albright, the NDP’s shadow minister for mental health and addictions. “We need real investment in frontline supports to help people suffering from substance use harms and resources to lock up drug dealers who are pouring these poisons into our communities.”

“Too many young people are dying, too many parents and communities are grieving, and everyone on the front lines keeps telling me that things are getting worse.”

Second-stage sober living programs

are designed to help prevent relapse by providing counselling, peer support and connections to community and cultural resources. Participants typically transition from more intensive treatment into housing that emphasizes accountability, stability and long-term recovery planning.

Pine Lodge Executive Director Andrew Love said the additional beds will help bridge a critical gap between treatment and independent living.

“The addition of 16 new post-treatment beds expands program capacity and supports a smoother transition for participants moving from intensive treatment into stable, recovery-focused housing,” Love said. He added the expansion places a strong emphasis on structured day programming and vocational opportunities, while allowing staff more flexibility to provide individualized supports and relapse-prevention services.

The new sober living spaces are located in two homes separate from Pine Lodge’s main facility and will be available to residents from across Saskatchewan. Intake for 10 of the new spaces began Feb. 1, with intake for the remaining six scheduled to start in March.

The province says the expansion supports its Action Plan for Mental Health and Addictions, which commits to cre-

ating 500 new treatment spaces by 2028. With the addition of the Pine Lodge beds, the government says 297 of those spaces are now available.

Other recent expansions include inpatient treatment, withdrawal management, post-treatment housing and virtual care spaces in communities across the province, including Saskatoon, Lumsden, North Battleford, Lloydminster, Estevan and Onion Lake Cree Nation.

“The Saskatchewan Health Authority is pleased to continue its partnership with Pine Lodge,” said Zoe Teed McKay, executive director of provincial mental health and addictions services with the authority. “Post-treatment housing plays a critical role in helping people safely transition back into their communities while building the supports and skills needed for long-term recovery.”

The government says the 2025-26 provincial budget includes \$623 million for mental health and addictions programs and services, which it describes as the largest investment in the province’s history.

The NDP argues that despite those investments, recent overdose numbers show existing measures are not keeping pace with the scale of the crisis and that more immediate action is required to prevent further deaths.

Survey finds many Sask. residents report difficulty accessing primary care

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Nearly two-thirds of Saskatchewan residents report having little or no access to a family doctor and a similar proportion say they lack confidence they would receive timely care in a medical emergency, according to new survey results released recently.

The findings come from public opinion polling conducted by the Angus Reid Institute, which also found more than half of respondents who needed a specialist appointment said it was difficult or impossible to secure one. The survey reported that 71 per cent of respondents believe the quality of health care in Saskatchewan has declined over the past decade to 15 years.

The Saskatchewan NDP cited the results during a news conference in Saskatoon, where MLAs were holding consultations with health-care workers and residents as part of the party’s “Your Care, Your Say” initiative.

“Primary care is in crisis,” NDP health critic Meara Conway said, attributing responsibility to the provincial government and calling for renewed investment in public health care.

Rural and Remote Health critic Jared

Clarke said access to doctors and reliable emergency services remains a major concern in smaller communities across the province.

“We hear every day from people in rural Saskatchewan that there is no doctor available close to home and that they can’t rely on the closest emergency room to be open,” Clarke said.

According to the survey results, 63 per cent of Saskatchewan respondents reported having no family doctor or difficulty accessing one, while the same percentage said they were not confident they would receive timely care in an emergency. Fifty-two per cent of respondents who required specialist care reported difficulty obtaining an appointment.

The Opposition also pointed to the closure of Regina’s Gardens Community Health Centre last fall, which it said affected about 5,000 patients who lost access to primary care services.

The Saskatchewan government did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the survey findings Thursday.

The Angus Reid Institute survey results were released as political parties and health-care organizations continue to debate physician recruitment, emergency room staffing and access to primary care across the province.

Record turnout for wing night fundraiser Stockholm Fire Department

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

The Stockholm Fire Department’s annual Wing Night fundraiser drew a record crowd Friday, selling more than 240 orders of wings and forcing organizers to restock supplies twice during the evening.

Firefighters said the Feb. 6 event, held at the Reg Banga Memorial Communiplex, more than doubled wing sales from last year and became the largest Wing Night the department has hosted.

The SFD stated that they had sold out of their original supply of wings by about 7 p.m. Additional wings were secured from Esterhazy Family Foods, Esterhazy Freshmart, and Stockholm Foods Liquor and Convenience Store, but those supplies were also sold out by approximately 8:30 p.m.

“We have the best community ever,”

the fire department said in a statement following the event. “We’re truly amazed by the support we receive day in and day out.”

Despite selling out of wings, Slim’s Saloon, the arena’s lounge, remained busy throughout the evening as the fundraiser continued with a recreation hockey game being held.

In total, the event raised \$3,559 for the department, including proceeds from a 50/50 draw which saw the winning ticket holder receive \$665.

Following the success of the fundraiser, the department thanked local businesses and community members for their support, including Richardson Pioneer, which donated frying oil used during the event.

The Wing Night is an annual fundraiser for the department that helps supporting equipment, training, and money for a new fire hall.

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PINION

What really drove the Tumbler Ridge shooter?

The country was rocked with a horrendous tale out of Tumbler Ridge, BC in the wake of a mass shooting that left 10 people dead and 25 injured. The internet quickly went aflame with word that the suspected shooter, later identified as Jesse Strang, was a young trans individual, who turned the weapon on themselves and family members during the rampage.

Of course, every internet troll that ever existed became hyper focused on the fact that the alleged shooter was transgender, spewing forth all sorts of awful obscenities; blaming the horrific act on the young person's "mental dysfunction;" that they were trans.

The real question here is not what gender this individual was, whether or not they preferred to dress a certain way, or align with a particular group. The issue is what drove them to lash out in such a way?

We hear all the time how seemingly sympathetic the world has become toward mental health; how it's safe to reach out and talk to someone. Acceptance has been the catchword everywhere in schools, workplaces, and public events these days.

But are we as a society actually accepting of people grappling with mental health? It's a nice sentiment, but in reality, people continue to struggle alone. Those seeking help or even an understanding ear are still met with intolerance and mockery – at the very least. Those fears of what might happen if one were vulnerable enough to admit they are struggling and need help are soon realized with ridicule, possibly even violence.

My belief is that is the underlying cause of what drove this young person to the extreme act in Tumbler Ridge. Bullying and torment for being labelled different hasn't gone anywhere, it's more than prevalent in this so-called modern era of understanding.

I may not be affiliated to the same group as this young shooter in BC, but I can certainly understand how a person can be driven to such actions if all they know is hate just for being who they are.

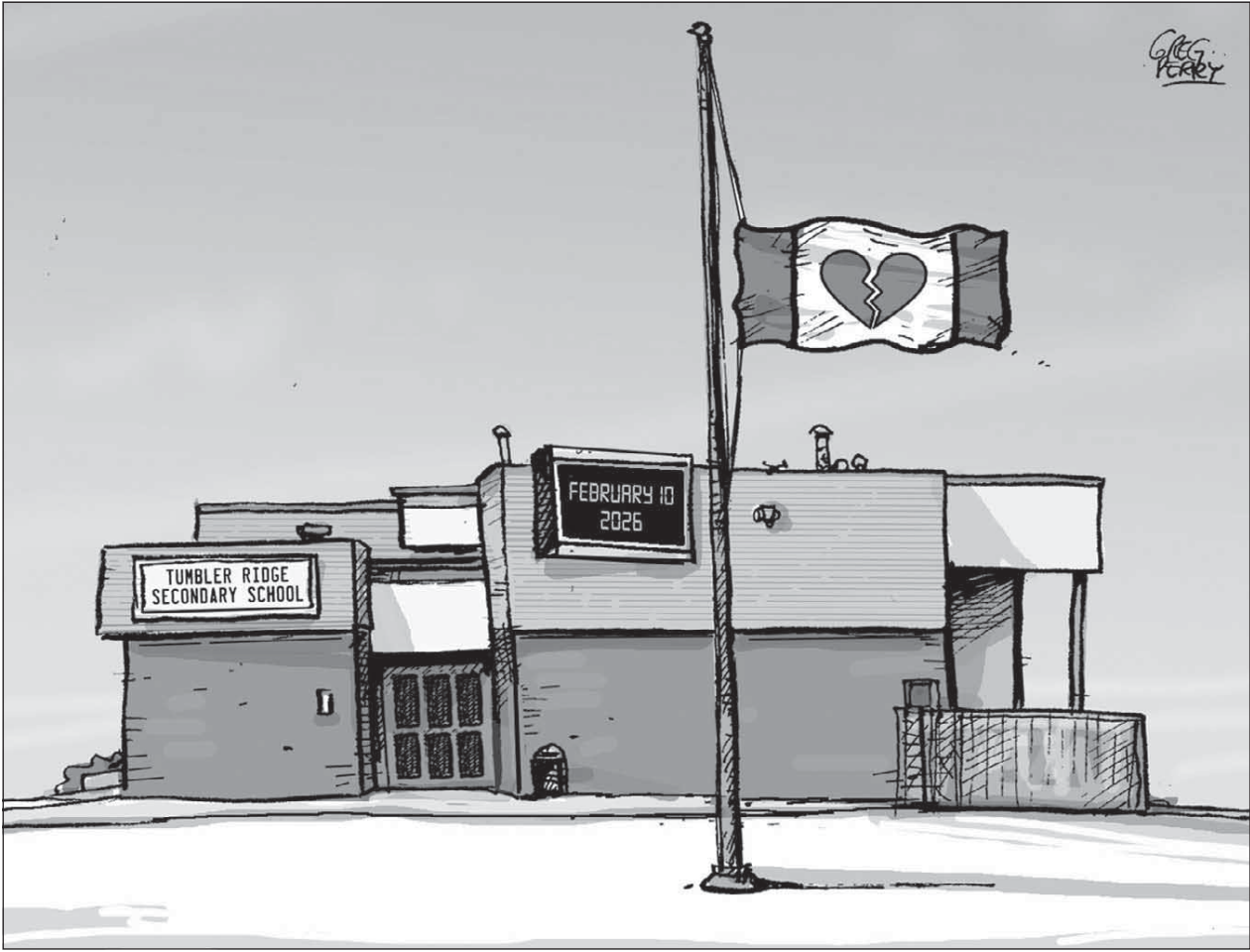
Whenever we hear of someone dying by suicide, a common reaction is shock; that if they had only reached out, maybe there would have been one conversation that helped them come back from that edge. So what about this young person in Tumbler Ridge? How do you gauge the value of a life? If they had someone to open up to with vulnerability, would this tragedy have happened?

Instead of throwing labels and hatred around, how about just an ounce of empathy. It doesn't matter what political stripe or sports team you favour, we all have a role to play in this thing – even if it's not perpetuating awful things found on the internet.

Personally, I've had the good fortune to encounter thousands of people with different backgrounds and beliefs as my own. Learning their point of view is far more interesting than remaining sheltered in one little worldview, only guessing and vilifying anything contrary to the narrow amount of knowledge. Tolerance, acceptance, grace – these are values greatly lacking these days. How about we change that.

On a final note, we all mourn and offer our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of the victims that were killed and who survived, as well as to the first responders who also endured having to witness such a horrible tragedy.

- Ryan Kiedrowski/Grasslands News



A greener Lent for a wounded planet

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Ash Wednesday comes out of left field this year as Christians prepare for an early Easter. For those who observe the 40-day period which begins on Feb. 18, it's a time for a meditation on the meaning of life, a cycle of soul searching and reflection not only on the ramifications of the harm we have done not only to each other, but to our environment.

If that sounds like a downer, its not. Lent is a reminder that life is short, that all our days are numbered and that each of us must strive to celebrate and live each day to the fullest. It is rooted in the biblical figure Job's struggle to accept his misfortune "in dust and ashes," but it also reflects Socrates' secular assertion that "an unexamined life is not worth living" and that we must make the conscious effort to understand our values, choices and motivations. Lent is not unique to Christians. Jews observe Yom Kippur and Muslims Ashura, similar days of reflection.

In years past the question as Lent approaches was often "So, what are you giving up for lent - alcohol, smoking, or sweets?"

In recent years however the question is not so much about depriving ourselves of material comforts rather what we can give of ourselves as a sacrifice to help others, to alleviate poverty, comfort the afflicted and make a real impact on the environment by becoming better stewards of the earth.

Many faith communities inspired by Pope Francis have adopted a so called "greener" Lent program or an eco-Lent framework to understand and care for our increasingly wounded planet. It takes its impulse from a prayer by St. Francis, "Praise to you Lord, through our sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us...."

In writing about care for our common home, Pope Francis says "Our sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by the irresponsible

use of all the goods with which God has endowed her... symptoms of sickness in the water, in the air, and in all forms of life. We have forgotten that we ourselves are the dust of the earth, our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breath her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters,"

A Green Lent initiative is no longer a question of giving up little luxuries but of engaging with others to condemn those who abuse power, maltreat their fellow human beings and of finding new ways to contribute to those in need of food and fresh water.

Your opinions are welcomed!

Grasslands News encourages and accepts opinion pieces from our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor.

They can be on local, provincial or national topics of interest.

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

Yorkton model builder group welcome more participants

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

If you enjoy the hobby of putting together models, then you want to join a dedicated group meeting monthly in Yorkton to share their interest.

The group meets the last Wednesday of the month – excluding July and August – at Skies the Limits Fireworks and Toys at 6 p.m.

Will Woods is the man behind the gathering. With decades of involvement in modelling he explained he thought it would be a good idea to bring like-minded individuals together to share the interest.

While the group has been meeting for some months, it remains a small one, but Woods said he knows others in Yorkton and area share an interest in modelling, they just hope they eventually walk through the door to take in a gathering.

“My hope is to keep it going,” he said, adding he holds out hope others will eventually join them. “I know

there are others out there.”

In that respect the group is wide open in terms of what they model.

Woods focuses mainly on vintage aircraft, in a hobby he said he ‘thinks’ he started 58-years ago, adding it hasn’t been a continuous involvement “as life gets in the way.”

Jack Ecklington is from Regina, driving monthly for the camaraderie and shared interest in modelling he finds in Yorkton. He said his interest extends back nearly seven decades, starting with annual Christmas gifts from a cousin.

Each year from age six-to-12 a model arrived, and by the time the gifts stopped, Ecklington’s interest simply continued.

Ecklington admitted to a wide-ranging interest running from aircraft to military vehicles to cars – enough to fill multiple shelves in two garages converted to displaying his collection.

Woods and Ecklington note at one time making models was typically something youth did, but today it actually seems dominated by adults, some having stuck with it through the years, and others who got away from it for a time but then found their way back.

Of course there are still youth involved such as Or-

land Pineda.

Pineda is the youngest of the modellers who regularly meet in Yorkton at age 15, and his interest reflects that. He models Gundams – mechs for Japanese manga and anime. While involved in the hobby for less than a decade he admitted the shelves in his bedroom are near capacity with models.

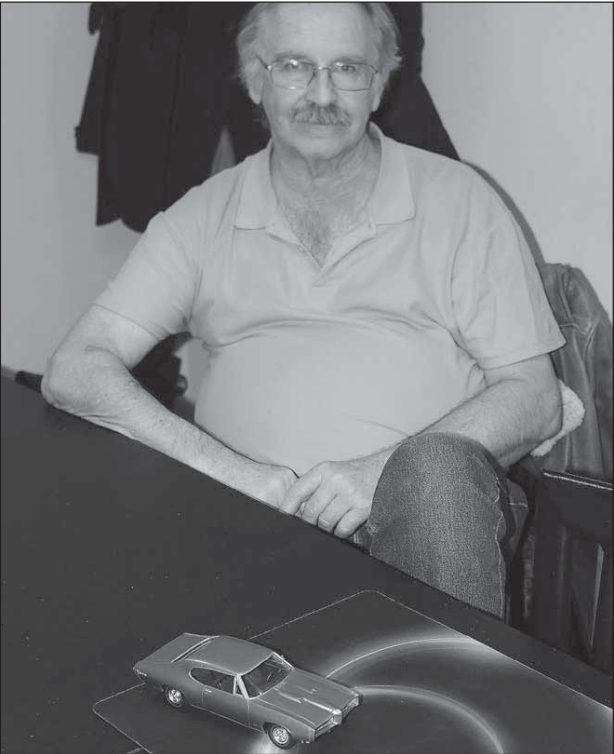
So how many exactly?

“I do not count,” said Pineda.

But he has been modelling for several years already after becoming interest in the ‘massive mechs’ via Netflix.

And now Woods says he has a Gundam ready to put together thanks to Pineda’s influence.

That is what the gathering is all about. Sometimes they just share knowledge and talk certain models, but most nights they bring models to tinker with too as they collectively enjoy the hobby, said Woods, adding anyone is welcome to stop in on a meeting night to check out what they do in person.



Jack Ecklington

CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS



Orland Pineda

CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS



Will Woods

CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

SHA warns of measles exposure risk in SE Saskatchewan communities

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan Health Authority is warning residents of potential measles exposure in Carlyle, Arcola and Wawota following confirmation of a measles case.

In a news release issued Tuesday, the SHA said individuals who were at several public locations on Feb. 4 and Feb. 5 may have been exposed to the virus and should monitor for symptoms for up to 21 days after the possible exposure.

Potential exposure locations include Wawota Town Hall on Feb. 4 from 1 p.m. to 4:40 p.m., the Arcola Medical Clinic on Feb. 5 from 1 p.m. to 3:10 p.m., Carlyle Pharmasave on Feb. 5 from 1:20 p.m. to 3:20 p.m., and the Rural Municipality of Moose Mountain office in Carlyle on Feb. 5 from 1:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The health authority advises anyone who was present at those locations during the identified times to contact HealthLine 811 if they are unvaccinated, unsure of their vaccination status, or develop symptoms.

Symptoms of measles include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, fatigue, irritability, small white spots inside the mouth and throat, and a red blotchy rash that typically begins on the face and spreads down the body several days after symptoms start.

The SHA says individuals who are unvaccinated, pregnant, under one year of age or immunocompromised may be eligible for preventative treatment within six days of exposure.

Residents experiencing symptoms are asked not to visit a clinic in person. Those requiring urgent medical care should call ahead to an emergency department or inform 911 dispatchers of possible measles exposure so precautions can be taken.

Measles is a highly contagious airborne disease that can remain in the air or on surfaces for up to two hours after an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can spread from four days before a rash appears until four days afterward.

The SHA says vaccination remains the most effective protection against measles. Two doses of measles vac-

cine are nearly 100 per cent effective and are available free of charge in Saskatchewan.

More information about measles exposure alerts, immunization and symptoms is available through the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

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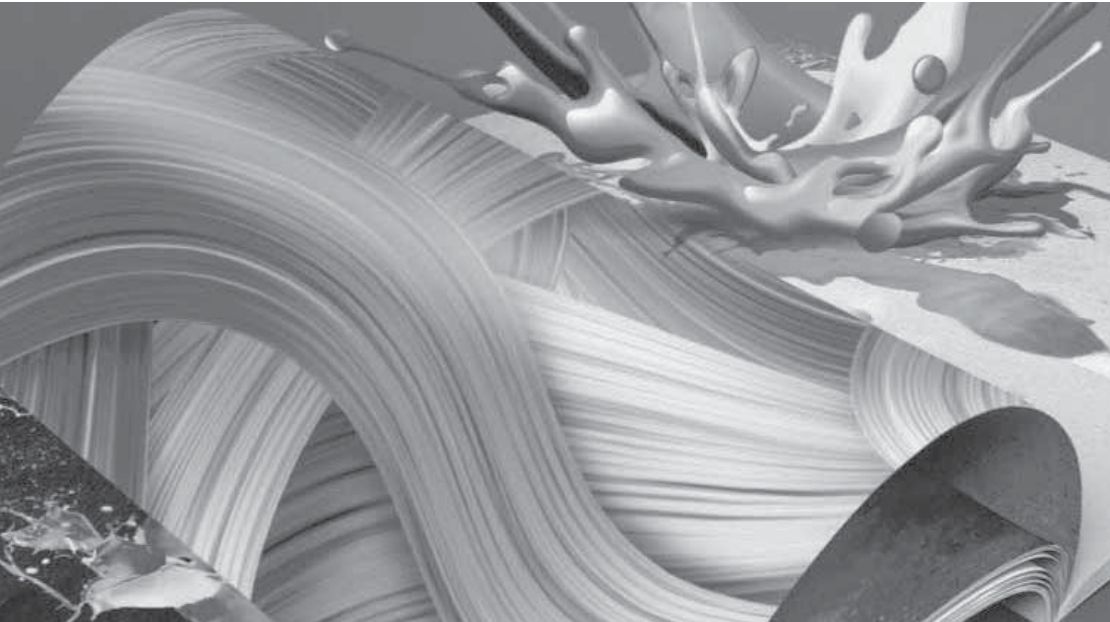
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Jobs surge in Yorkton-Melville region; 15,000 jobs added in Sask

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Yorkton MLA David Chan says Saskatchewan is doing well in terms of jobs.

The Saskatchewan Party MLA said 15-thousand full-time jobs were created in the province in January, 2,400 of those in the Yorkton-Melville region.

The newest unemployment figures are also out indicating the province's jobless rate dropped 1.1 per cent last month, from 6.4 per cent in December, to 5.3 percent in January.

Interestingly, Chan told a small gathering at a media conference in the city Feb. 6, job numbers have not seemed to be impacted by tariff issues the country is experiencing with countries such as the United States and China.

Overall, 2,400 full-time jobs were created in the Yorkton-Melville region in January, part of 15,000 provincially.

Locally, there are projects on the horizon which should continue a positive trend in job numbers including upgrades to Grain Millers Drive, which the province announced they are ready to cost share with the city and RM.

Chan added that project has already led to additional efforts as Legacy Co-op has already announced a truck stop project at the intersection.

Overall, Chan called 2025 a year of incredible growth for the province, noting that the number of jobs in the Yorkton-Melville region rose nine per cent from 2024 to 2025.

In addition, Statistics Canada's latest labour

force numbers show that the labour market in Saskatchewan remains strong with the second lowest unemployment rate amongst provinces at 5.3 per cent, well below the national average of 6.5 per cent. 15,000 jobs were added year-over-year in January, an increase of 2.5 per cent, the second highest amongst provinces.

"Saskatchewan is starting 2026 off with 15,000 jobs added to our economy," Immigration and Career Training Minister Eric Schmalz said in a government release. "Our government is working with industry and employers to ensure that they have access to the workforce they need to fill the jobs they are creating."

Year-over-year, full-time employment in Saskatchewan increased by



CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Job numbers surge
Yorkton MLA David Chan speaks during a Feb. 6 media conference in Yorkton, where he highlighted new provincial labour force figures showing job growth in Saskatchewan and the Yorkton-Melville region.

19,600, an increase of four per cent.

According to the release, major year-over-year gains were reported for healthcare and social assistance, up 11,200, an increase of 11.6 per cent. Other

services such as personal and repair services were up 5,000 (an increase of 20.6 per cent) and accommodation and food services, were up 2,900 (an increase of 9.8 per cent).

SaskTel plans phase-out of its 3G wireless service

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

SaskTel says it will shut down its 3G wireless network in October 2027 as part of a broader transition to newer mobile technologies.

In a news release issued Tuesday, the provincial telecommunications provider said its 3G network will be turned off on Oct. 1, 2027. After that date, devices that rely on 3G service will no longer function on the SaskTel network, and wireless devices that are not compatible with Voice over LTE (VoLTE) will lose access to voice services.

SaskTel said it will work with customers — including those using its Lum Mobile service — to transition to 4G LTE and 5G or 5G+ networks ahead of the shutdown.

"We remain firmly committed to delivering high-quality and reliable communications services to the people of Saskatchewan, however as technology and customer needs evolve, it becomes necessary to turn down legacy networks," SaskTel president and CEO Charlene Gavel said in a statement.

The company said discontinuing the 3G network will allow it to repurpose wireless spectrum to increase capacity on newer networks and focus investment on emerging technologies.

SaskTel noted that 3G wireless technology is being phased out globally as equipment becomes more difficult and expensive to maintain. The company added that many Canadian roaming partners have already begun shutting down their own 3G networks, which could affect SaskTel and Lum Mobile customers travelling outside Saskatchewan if they continue using older devices.

Customers using 3G or non-VoLTE devices are encouraged to upgrade to compatible smartphones in the coming months to avoid service disruptions.

More information about SaskTel's 3G network shutdown and affected devices is available on the company's website.

Winter hoar frost wrapped in both folklore and science

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Hoar frost, the delicate white crystals that cling to trees, fences and rooftops on still winter mornings, has long inspired both scientific curiosity and storytelling across cultures.

While the shimmering ice formations are a familiar sight during Prairie winters, they are also deeply rooted in folklore and tradition. For generations, heavy hoar frost has been viewed as a sign of weather yet to come. One of the most common "old wives' tales" suggests that a thick frost in winter predicts heavy rain or snowfall months later — sometimes six months to the day. Farmers once looked to such signs as guidance for the

growing season, though meteorologists say there is no scientific connection between a frosty morning and precipitation far in the future.

In mythology, hoar frost is often linked to imagination and legend. British and Norse stories attribute the intricate, feathery patterns to Jack Frost — or the Norse figure Jökul Frosti — a mischievous spirit said to paint windows and landscapes overnight. The word "hoar" itself comes from the Old English har, meaning grey or white with age, inspiring comparisons to the beards of elders or watchful winter spirits in folklore.

Hoar frost also appears in religious imagery. Biblical passages describing manna — the food believed to have been provided to

the Israelites — compare its appearance to frost on the ground, symbolizing both divine care and the fleeting nature of beauty.

Despite its rich cultural associations, hoar frost is a straightforward scientific phenomenon. It forms when water vapour in the air changes directly into ice crystals — a process called deposition — on clear, calm nights when temperatures fall below freezing and humidity remains high. It is often mistaken for rime ice, which develops when freezing fog or liquid droplets accumulate on surfaces.

Unlike the myths that portray it as magical or enduring, hoar frost is fragile. A light breeze or the first rays of sunlight are often enough to make the crystals disappear, sometimes within minutes of sunrise.

Though science explains how hoar frost forms, its brief appearance continues to capture attention each winter — a reminder that even ordinary weather can carry both natural beauty and centuries of storytelling.



ELAINE ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Frosty mornings
Hoar frost clings to the spokes of an old wagon wheel at the Whitewood Rodeo Grounds, transforming the weathered relic into a delicate winter scene on a calm, frigid morning.

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Breach of trust charge upgraded as CTK chief headed to trial

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation Chief Scott Eashappie will stand trial on financial charges following a judge's decision Feb. 9.

A two-day preliminary inquiry was held, initiating in Indian Head Provincial Court on Dec. 16, then brought to Regina Provincial Court to expedite the conclusion. During both dates, a strong showing of community members filled the gallery.

The charges against Chief Eashappie stem from an ongoing financial crimes investigation by the File Hills First Nations Police Service. Chief Eashappie was arrested by FHFNPS March 5, 2025, charged with fraud over \$5,000, theft over \$5,000, money laundering, and criminal breach of trust, which have yet to be proved in court.

During the Feb. 9 proceedings, Judge Lane Wieggers

decided Chief Eashappie will stand trial for the fraud charge, but the single count breach of trust was upgraded to breach of trust by a public official. As for the remaining theft and money laundering charges, they were adjourned to Court of King's Bench for decision.

The goal of the two-day preliminary inquiry was to see if evidence gathered by the Crown against an accused person is sufficient to proceed to trial. During such a judicial hearing, a judge's decision does not denote the guilt or innocence of the accused, rather that a jury could ultimately deliver a verdict based on evidence presented during a trial. Satisfying that condition, the legal proceedings can continue.

Testimony provided during the preliminary inquiry, details, and evidence heard from the two-day proceedings are covered by a publication ban.

Chief Eashappie is scheduled to appear in the Regina Court of King's Bench on March 20 for a pretrial hearing.

Fire crews respond to multiple vehicle incidents near Melville and Whitewood

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Firefighters from Melville Fire Rescue and the Whitewood Fire Department responded to several vehicle-related incidents over the last week, including rollovers, a vehicle fire and a two-vehicle collision.

Melville Fire Rescue was first called out Sunday, Feb. 8 at 9:51 p.m., to a single-vehicle rollover east of Melville. Firefighters worked alongside EMS, RCMP and a towing service at the scene before all units returned to service at 11:38 p.m. No further details on injuries were provided.

Early the next morning, Feb. 9 at 1 a.m., Melville Fire Rescue responded to a vehicle fire on Little Bone First Nation. Fire command attended the scene with RCMP and cleared the call by 2:10 a.m.

Later that day, at 6:01 p.m., crews were dispatched to a two-vehicle motor vehicle collision on Highway #15 about three kilometres west of Melville. Firefighters found one vehicle on the roadway and another in the ditch upon arrival. Crews established traffic control and assisted with patient assessment before clearing the scene. Units returned to service at 8:11 p.m.

Meanwhile, the Whitewood Fire Department responded to a single-vehicle rollover on Ochapowace First Nation on Feb. 7 at about 10:15 p.m. The incident occurred west of the arena. Firefighters assessed one adult and three youth occupants, none of whom re-

quired medical attention.

After securing the vehicle, firefighters turned the scene over to RCMP while awaiting a tow truck. Road conditions were reported to be icy with fog present at the time of the rollover. Whitewood firefighters returned to service at approximately 11:30 p.m.

Fire departments in both communities reminded motorists to use caution when travelling during winter driving conditions.

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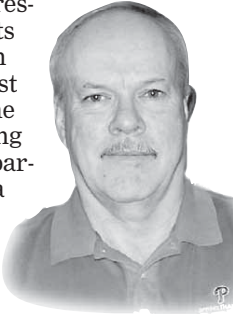


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Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

Red baseball caps spoofing President Trump's iconic MAGA hats have become a symbol of Danish and Greenlandic defiance against the US leader's threat to seize the frozen territory. The caps reading "Make America Go Away" – parodying Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan – have gained popularity along with several variants on social media and at public protests



Dutch police **arrested two teenaged boys** as they investigate the death of a 60-year-old man they believe was possibly assaulted after a row over snowballs. The victim was found in a field near the city of Schiedam and security video shows two boys and they are being questioned about the role they played.

The closest living relatives of an 84-year-old B.C. widow who left her \$1 million estate to a much-younger "professional companion and male escort" have been given the go-ahead to challenge the will.

Janet Henry executed her final will and testament in August of 2021, three months before she died, leaving the "bulk of her estate" to a man named Simon Garstin. Jillian and Ross Sutherland McCrone, Henry's niece and nephew, are seeking to have the will overturned, which would open the door for them to potentially inherit the money.

The thrust of the case is that Garstin subjected the woman to undue influence. Henry had no children and her husband died 17 years before she did. "Following her husband's death, the deceased apparently enjoyed retaining and paying for the services of various male escorts for the purpose of companionship and sexual services," Justice Gary P. Weatherill wrote. The relatives' notice of civil claim argues that the will should be set aside because Henry was vulnerable and lonely – particularly due to COVID-19 restrictions – and that her relationship with Garstin was a transactional one where he was "in a position of dominance and control." Garstin, in his response, argued that the opposite was true. His claim said Henry was an "independent single woman who enjoyed his company on her terms," Garstin added that the fact that Henry paid him made him financially dependent on her, meaning from his point of view, "the deceased was in a position of dominance over him."

A Virginia restaurant is reeling after thieves got into the wine cellar and **stole six bottles of one of the world's most rare and expensive wines valued at about \$42,000.** The incident at L'Auberge Provencale happened Nov. 19 at a quiet time when "the first table had just sat down," sommelier Christian Borel explained. A man and woman, posing as representatives for a picky Canadian wine collector, asked to see the wine cellar, which houses more than 350 selections, including the ultra-rare Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, which Borel describes as wine for those with the top .01% of wealth, "not the 1 percenters." While the woman distracted the sommelier with questions about local wines, her accomplice slipped the expensive bottles into what appeared to be a specially tailored coat, substituting them with "pretty poor replicas." British citizen Natali Ray, 56, was pulled from the vehicle and is facing charges including grand larceny and defrauding an inn. One of the bottles was valued at \$24,000. I bet I never tasted that one!

Director James Cameron has spoken bluntly about relocating to New Zealand, where he both lives and spent years working on the "Avatar" movies. "After the pandemic hit... [New Zealand] had eliminated the virus completely," Cameron said about his reason for getting out of the U.S. "They actually eliminated the virus twice. The third time when it showed up in a mutated form, it broke through. But fortunately, they already had a 98 per cent vaccination rate. This is why I love New Zealand. People there are, for the most part, sane as opposed to the United States where you had a 62 per cent vaccination rate, and that's going down – going the wrong direction." To Cameron it all makes sense. "Are you kidding me? Where would you rather live? "A place that actually believes in science and is sane and where people can work together cohesively to a common goal, or a place where everybody's at each other's throats, extremely polarized, turning its back on science and basically would be in utter disarray if another pandemic appears." He also criticized what America had become under Donald Trump, saying: "I see a turn away from everything decent. America doesn't stand for anything if it doesn't stand for what it has historically stood for. It becomes a hollow idea, and I think they're hollowing it out as fast as they can for their own benefit."

"Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me," warned Argus Hamilton. "Fool me 350,000 times, you're the weatherman..."

It least the weather channel isn't trying to fool us. They said it would be cold...

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Police lay organized crime charges after \$650K drug seizure

Moosomin and Stockholm women part of arrests

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Four people are facing a lengthy list of drug- and criminal-organization-related charges following a five-month trafficking investigation led by the Regina Police Service.

Police say the investigation was carried out by the Regina Police Service Drug Unit and Regina Crime Reduction Team, with assistance from the Brandon Police Service Organized Crime Unit and the Saskatoon Police Service.

On Feb. 7, officers executed four search warrants under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act at locations in Regina, Davidson, and Brandon. Two of the warrants were carried out in Regina.

As a result of the searches, police seized what they described as significant quantities of illicit drugs and cash, including 5,276 grams of cocaine, 1,089 grams of fentanyl, 183 grams of methamphetamine and \$25,705 in cash. Police estimate the total street value of the seizure to be more than \$650,000.

Four people were arrested in connection with the investigation. Arrests were made in Moosomin, Regina, Davidson and Brandon.

Glenda Dale Nedow, 54, of Moosomin is charged with commission of an offence for a criminal organization. She also faces conspiracy charges related to the trafficking of fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine and proceeds of crime.

Bernadette Gunn, 56, of Stockholm is charged with instructing the commission of an offence for a criminal organization and commission of an offence for a criminal organization. He also faces multiple conspiracy charges related to trafficking fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine and proceeds of crime.

In addition, Gunn is



REGINA POLICE SERVICE PHOTO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Major bust

Multiple police groups seized more than \$650,000 in drugs and cash after a five-month investigation. Four people were arrested including Moosomin's Glenda Dale Nedow and Stockholm's Bernadette Gunn.

charged with possession of fentanyl, cocaine and methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking, as well as possession of proceeds of crime over \$5,000.

Timothy York, 43, of Edmonton, is charged with instructing the commission of an offence for a criminal organization and commission of an offence for a criminal organization. He also faces multiple conspiracy charges related to the trafficking of fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine and proceeds of crime.

York is further charged with possession of fentanyl and methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking and

possession of proceeds of crime under \$5,000.

Sean Timothy Hogan, 50, of Regina, is charged with commission of an offence for a criminal organization, along with conspiracy charges related to the trafficking of fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine and proceeds of crime. Hogan also faces charges of possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking and

possession of proceeds of crime under \$5,000.

Police say the charges stem from what they allege was an organized effort to traffic large quantities of illicit drugs across multiple communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

All four accused made their first appearance on the charges in Regina provincial court on Feb. 9 at 9 a.m. The allegations

have not been proven in court.

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Homicide investigations stay elevated in Saskatchewan

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan RCMP investigators continued to face an elevated homicide caseload in 2025, a year after the force recorded the highest number of homicide files in its jurisdiction.

The RCMP Major Crimes Branch investigated 33 manslaughter and murder files involving 39 victims in 2025, down from 41 files with 43 victims during the year previous. Of those, 31 files with 34 victims occurred within the Saskatchewan RCMP's jurisdiction, while two murder investigations involving five victims took place in File Hills First Nations Police Service territory.

"While 2024 marked the highest number of homicide files we've investigated, the volume in 2025 remained elevated," said Supt. Josh Graham, officer in charge of the Saskatchewan RCMP Major Crimes Branch. "The work doesn't stop for our teams, homicide files in our jurisdiction are at a rate that requires significant investigative capacity."

Over the past five years, homicide investigations within Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction have remained relatively steady, with notable fluctuations. Investigators handled 31 homicide files with 36 victims in 2021, 33 files with 43 victims in

2022 — including victims from the mass casualty event — and 31 files with 31 victims in 2023. That number rose sharply in 2024 before easing somewhat in 2025.

The Homicide Investigation Unit, part of the Major Crimes Branch, is responsible for investigating murders and manslaughters in RCMP-policed areas. The unit also supports front-line officers by consulting on sudden or suspicious death investigations.

Graham noted how these investigations are not just statistics, each one represents a loss felt in the community.

"Behind every homicide statistic is a person who has been taken from their loved ones, and a family living through an unimaginable loss," he said. "Our investigators are always mindful that their job is to uncover the truth, give a voice to victims, provide answers to families. The cases we take on aren't easy, they stay with our officers, but our teams remain committed to investigating with professionalism and compassion."

The age range of victims in 2025 spanned multiple generations. Three victims were children aged 12 and under, three were teenagers, and 12 were in their 20s. Ten victims were in their 30s, six in their 40s, four in their 50s and one person was in their 60s.

Geographically, most of the victims lived in the north, five were reported in the RCMP South District, 11 in Central District and 18 in North District. An additional five victims were reported in File Hills First Nations Police Service jurisdiction.

In addition to current-year cases, investigators continued working on at least 30 unsolved homicide or suspicious death files from previous years.

Despite the heavy workload, police laid charges against 28 individuals in connection with 2025 homicide investigations. Charges included seven counts of first-degree murder, 17 counts of second-degree murder and four counts of manslaughter.

Of those charged, 25 were male and three were female. Eight were youth between the ages of 13 and 19, while nine were in their 20s. The remaining accused included individuals in the 30s through 60s age range.

Investigators solved 23 of the 33 homicide files from 2025, with 10 cases still under investigation. Twelve files were solved within 24 hours, six within one week, three within one month and two in less than six months.

Police say the pace and unpredictability of homicide investigations placed significant pressure on resources throughout the year. On three separate occasions, two homicide or manslaughter files occurred on the same day in different communities. In the final two months of 2025 alone, investigators handled 11 files involving 14 victims.

"In a calendar year, our investigators responded to single, dou-



Museum brings Italy home
White Butte Museum celebrated Italian heritage at the end of last month. Events included a focaccia making workshop at the Balgonie Seniors 50 Plus Club, hosted by the Balgonie Public Library, as well as a Salute to Italy Evening at the White City Community Centre. The latter evening included a meal, as well as music from the Regina Mandolin Orchestra.

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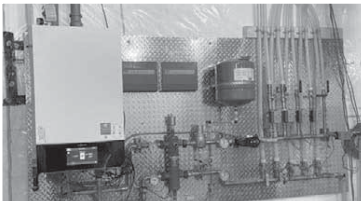
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ble and triple homicides, and a quadruple murder scene," Graham said. "This shows just how unpredictable and complex our work is."

He said periods of intense investigative activity place immediate strain on personnel and systems.

"Periods of intense investigative activity test every part of our system," Graham said. "Our teams' demands escalate immediately."

During one particularly busy period in November, the Homicide Investigation Unit relied on assistance from the Serious Crimes Unit to manage the workload.

"Despite the pressures, our teams remain focused on the important role these investigations play in public safety and ensuring every victim and family receives the thorough investigation they deserve," Graham said.

HIU investigators operate out of Regina and Saskatoon and provide a 24-hour response across Saskatchewan. In 2025, investigators travelled to more than 30 communities, ranging from Weyburn to Wollaston Lake and from Pelican Narrows to Swift Current.

Teams often travel long distances, sometimes by air, to reach remote northern communities.

"Behind every file are

broad and evolving challenges that our investigators navigate every day," Graham said. "Much of this complex work happens out of view from the public."

As 2026 begins, investigators have already responded to one homicide

file involving one victim.

"We know the demands won't stop in 2026," Graham said. "As we continue investigating unsolved files and managing any new cases, we'll remain focused and committed to serving communities across Saskatchewan."

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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.

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A hobby in motion: Display evolves from generation-to-generation

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Hobbies tend to pass generation-to-generation like a family inheritance or legacy. Such is the case for the Landry family.

Father Dan Landry said he has been collecting Hot Wheels and other die-cast toys for decades.

“I’ve been at it 30 years,” said the MacNutt collector as he sat watching over a display at the recent Yorkton Farm Toy Show. Then he adds his sons have been involved for the last decade.

What makes that notable in that Julien is 14 and Duke 12 -- so they started young.

Now the trio are into the hobby in a significant fashion but have kept it small scale – at least in terms of the size of toys collected – Hot Wheels cars across the expanse of the display interspersed with 1/64th scale equipment.

Dan Landry said he focused on Hot Wheels initially because they were affordable, 50 cents could add something to the collection.

And as the sons started wanting to participate – low cost was still a factor without limiting the hobby’s appeal.

“There’s a lot of fun in it,” said Dan.

A big part of the fun is not the collecting – although they still seek out new additions – Dan points to one car hidden between a scale tree and a grain bin, and notes the car which is sort of



CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Generational display

Duke Landry looks over part of the miniature farm and community display he has built with his brother Julien and father Dan, a collection of Hot Wheels cars, die-cast equipment and handcrafted scenery the family has expanded together over the years and recently showcased at the Yorkton Farm Toy Show.

scratched up and well played with was found at the show for a dollar – fitting into the display as a ‘junker’ pulled into the hedgerow.

The display is a sectional one, with squares added over time, and as ideas come to the trio.

It started out as a typical farm display, but now has elements of a town, and the town now has a fairground. The fairground has a food truck, and there is a demolition derby about to start.

The sons have created logs around the demo derby infield with pencils. Tiny people sit on

bleachers created out of popsicle sticks waiting to see the four beat up demo cars Duke has fashioned get into action.

Modifying cars to fit into the display is part of the fun, as the trio admit

to tinkering with things practically everyday – fine tuning the display.

“We’re always playing with it,” said Dan, his sons nodding in agreement.

Dan said that there are always ideas out there.

“They (the sons) get them off YouTube,” he said with a grin. “We always have visions.”

In fact, the display has been created to accommodate growth.

“We built it so we can

add on,” said Dan.

Dan and the boys have been attending the Yorkton event for years, and this year decided to bring their display “to show it off.”

Saskatchewan is disappointed as Ottawa denies strychnine use for 2026 gopher control

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan producers will not have access to liquid strychnine for Richardson’s ground squirrel control during the 2026 growing season, following a decision by Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency to deny an emergency use request submitted by Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The decision has drawn sharp criticism from the province, which says farmers across Saskatchewan – including in southeast regions – are running out of effective tools to manage gophers that damage crops, pastureland and equipment.

“Saskatchewan producers have been clear about the challenges they face in managing Richardson’s ground squirrels with the limited tools available,” Agriculture Minister David Marit said in a statement. “We are extremely disappointed by PMRA’s decision and ask them to reconsider. We need a federal regulatory system that considers the economic impacts felt by producers and the realities on the ground.”

Saskatchewan and Alberta jointly submitted the emergency use request on Oct. 1, 2025, seeking approval for two per cent liquid strychnine for the upcoming season. The application followed continued concerns from producers, rural municipalities and agricultural groups about the effectiveness of currently registered alternatives.

Throughout PMRA’s review, provincial officials met with federal regulators to address scientific and technical questions and to emphasize the urgency of the issue for producers heading into the 2026 crop year. The province says its submission included strengthened mitigation measures, such as tighter application windows, mandatory applicator training, enhanced reporting requirements and improved stewardship aimed at protecting non-target species.

PMRA ultimately determined those measures did not sufficiently reduce environmental risk, a conclusion Saskatchewan disputes. Provincial officials maintain all federal requests were addressed and say the decision leaves producers without a proven tool during a critical period.

With strychnine off the table for 2026, Saskatchewan says it will shift its focus to alternative supports through a broader Richardson’s ground squirrel management strategy. That plan includes continued advocacy at federal-provincial-territorial tables, expanded research into best management practices and improved population monitoring.

Producers will also continue to receive support through the Gopher Control Program administered by the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, which works with rural municipalities to help offset control costs.

The province says additional extension efforts will focus on improving the on-farm performance of registered alternatives while investing in research on environmental risk mitigation and predictive modelling.

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Reading fun

On Wednesday, Feb. 4, students and their families attended Vibank Regional School for their K-3 Literacy Night. Various literacy stations were set up around the gym, allowing families to enjoy fun, hands-on activities, and learn together.

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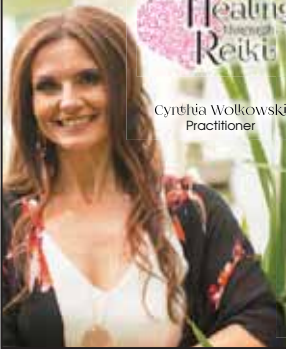
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Essential oils: don't underestimate the health risks!



Essential oils are everywhere—in household cleaners, cosmetics, mosquito repellents, perfumes, bubble baths and even food and medications.
However, even though they come from plants, these fragrant substances aren't 100 per cent harmless. The use of essential oils, especially as ingredients in home-made skincare products, can cause high levels of exposure when they're inhaled, ingested or applied directly to the skin.
People with lung disease should avoid diffusing certain essential oils in their home, as they can irritate the respiratory tract. In addition, some essential oils can make the skin more sensitive to sunlight or even burn it if they're not properly diluted.
That's not all! Careless use of essential oils can:

- Be toxic to the liver
- Cause convulsions
- Cause hallucinations
- Trigger allergies
- Harm your pets' health

In short, it's important to learn about essential oils before you use them. Don't take the risks lightly.

Children, individuals with severe allergies or chronic illnesses and pregnant or breastfeeding women should exercise extra caution with essential oils. Always seek advice from a healthcare professional before using them.

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Prairie Co-op

Expansion begins at Fort’s grocery store

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Crews with SaskPower and SaskEnergy were busy preparing the groundwork for the expansion of the Prairie Co-op store in Fort Qu’Appelle. The gas line, down the entire alley behind the store running all the way to Central Avenue is being removed and SaskPower is ripping up existing lines to make way for new internet and electrical service. SaskPower’s Erich Choument says

once the work is completed and out of the way Prairie Co-op construction of the store’s new wing can begin in the spring. Fort Qu’Appelle’s town council permanently closed the lane behind the store between the parking lot and Bay Ave a year ago to allow the Co-op to expand. Co-op has not responded to requests for information about its plans for the site, and so far the Town of Fort Qu’Appelle has not received an application for a construction permit.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Work underway
Underground power and gas lines are being replaced to allow for construction to begin this spring on an expansion of the Food Store at the Co-op in Fort Qu’Appelle.

Quadruple homicide update

Fourth person is charged in CTK homicide

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

One year to the day after the tragic events that unfolded on the Carry the Kettle Nakota Nation, a fourth arrest has been made in relation to the quadruple homicide. This time, it was a senior citizen from Carry the Kettle. In a combined effort from police officers with Saskatchewan RCMP’s Homicide Investigation Unit, part of the Major Crimes Branch, and officers from File Hills First Nations Police Service, an arrest was made on Feb. 4 of a 67-year-old man. Lauren Elvis Hotomani faces a single count of accessory after the fact to murder. Hotomani made his first appearance in Fort Qu’Appelle Provincial Court on Feb. 5, and his matter was adjourned to Indian Head Provincial Court on Feb. 17 in order to seek legal counsel. “Over the past 12 months, investigators ensured every lead was chased down and all avenues were explored, as they do with every file

they take on,” said Insp. Ashley St. Germaine, Senior Investigative Officer with the Saskatchewan RCMP’s Major Crimes Branch. “The persistence and skill of our investigators drove this case forward. Ultimately, their commitment to meticulous investigative work allowed us to piece together the circumstances surrounding this case and give the victims’ families some answers.” On Feb. 4, 2025, at approximately 11:15 a.m., File Hills First Nations Police Service received a report of sudden deaths at a residence on Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation. Officers immediately responded, locating four deceased persons in the residence. Saskatchewan RCMP Major Crimes took carriage of the investigation and investigated the deaths as homicides. RCMP later released the names of the four victims, Tracey Hotomani, 34, and Terry “Fats” Jack, 51 – both from Carry the Kettle and Sheldon Quewezance, 44, of Zagime Anishinabek and Shauna Fay, 47, of In-

dian Head. “Today marks one year since the tragic loss on our nation of Terry, Tracey, Sheldon and Shauna,” noted Chief Scott Eashappie in a recent social media post. “Our community still carries the grief of this event heavily in our hearts. I want to acknowledge the mothers, brothers, sisters, children and relatives they left behind. Cherish the memories and good times and remember them in a good way always.” “They will be forever missed,” Chief Eashappie continued. “I can’t help but think of all the teasing, laughing and good times I have spent with them.” The first two arrests related to the tragedy were made Feb. 8, 2025, when Saskatchewan RCMP Major Crimes located and arrested 18-year-old Darius Racette in Yorkton. A 15-year-old male youth was also arrested by RCMP on Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation that same day. Both Racette and the youth are each charged with four counts of first-degree murder in relation



The victims of a quadruple homicide at Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation were Tracey Hotomani of Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation, Sheldon Quewezance of Zagime Anishinabek, Shauna Fay of Indian Head and Terry Jack of Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation.

to the deaths of Tracey Hotomani, Quewezance, Fay and Jack. Racette was scheduled to appear by video in a pre-trial date in Regina King’s Bench on Feb. 10, and in Regina Provincial Court the following day. The third arrest was made on Dec. 10, 2025, when the Major Crimes Unit and Indian Head RCMP Detachment executed a search warrant at a residence on Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation with the assistance of officers from File Hills First Nations Police Service. A second youth – a 17-year-old male – was arrested by police at the residence. The youth was also charged with four

counts of first-degree murder in relation to the quadruple homicide. He was also charged with a single count of attempted murder after police investigation determined an altercation occurred between the youth and a fifth individual at the residence. The teen has made numerous court appearances via video, with his latest scheduled for Feb. 12 in Regina Provincial Court. The identities of the two teens cannot be revealed under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. File Hills First Nations Police Service, Regina Police Services and Saskatchewan RCMP’s Serious Crimes Unit (formerly known as the

General Investigation Section), Forensic Identification Services, Historical Case Unit, Saskatchewan Enforcement Response Teams, Indigenous Policing Services, and local RCMP detachments all assisted with this investigation.

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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.

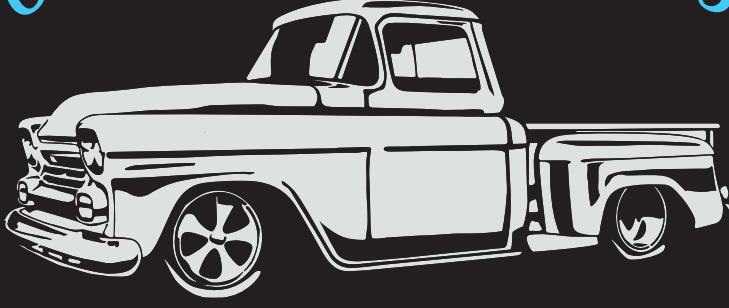
To read the full text of the bylaw amendment please see our website - Bylaw 01-2026.

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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:

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Love is in the air at Echo Lake Provincial Park

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Follow the trail of hearts into the woods at Echo Lake Provincial Park for a romantic evening of ice skating this St. Valentine’s Day weekend.

The skating loop in the park west of Fort Qu’Appelle has been transformed into an ideal space for an amorous rendezvous with miles of twinkling lights. It also good for a dreamy snowshoe safari with a loved one. If it gets too chilly, a

wood burning fire in the tipi allows visitors an inviting space to lace up or duck into from the invigorating night air.

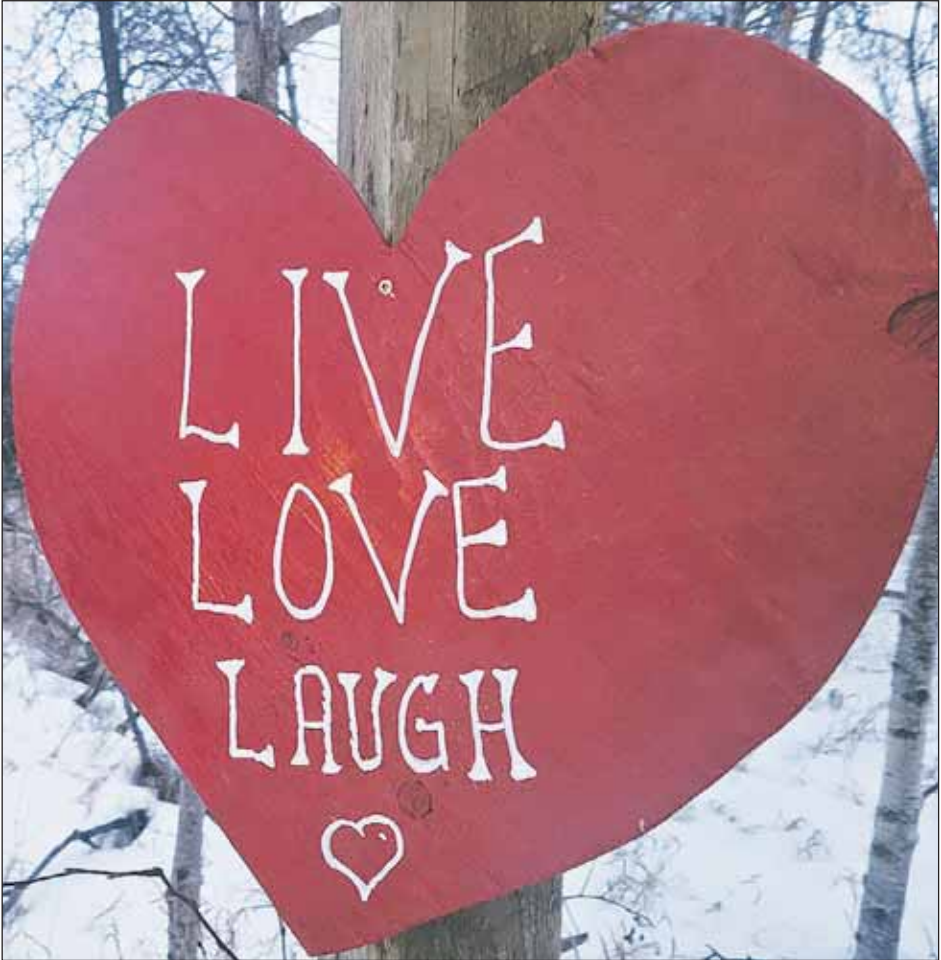
“It’s a unique way to chill out and spend some time with a partner,” said Caitlin Kovach who came from Melville on the weekend with her partner Javen Wiegiers and two other couples from Balcarres to experience the outdoor adventure.

Valentine’s Day traditions have evolved over the years. It wasn’t always an explosion of hearts, chocolates and

roses. No one can pinpoint when it became associated with young lovers, but it is rooted in the old pagan festival of Lupercalia which was celebrated in mid February to celebrate fertility.

Sometime in the 5th Century, the

Roman Catholic Church appropriated the day to honour of a priest called Valentine who was martyred on Feb. 14 for challenging the emperor’s ban prohibiting Roman soldiers to marry.



Trail of hearts
Savannah McKay and her partner Austin Krienke from Balcarres take a break from skating with Caitlin Kovach and Javen Wiegiers, a couple from Melville (seated) and their friends Lucky Nwafor and Maia McKay from Balcarres.

ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

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SPORTS

Yorkton Terriers ascend to top of Bunge Division

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Yorkton Terrier surge upwards in the SJHL Bunge Division continued last week.

In fact, the team is now in the lofty position of top spot in the Bunge with 58 points based on a record of 28-23-1-1, two points up on Weyburn with 56. Melville and Estevan now sit tied for third each with 45 points, but the Millionaires hold two games in-hand.

Yorkton Terriers 3 at Estevan Bruins 1 (Feb. 4)

As for the week’s action, things started on a positive note when the Terriers visited Estevan Feb. 4.

While letting the host Bruins hit the scoreboard first – a goal by Rylan Williams 1:01 into the game – the rest of the contest went the way of the Terriers.

Gabriel Courchesne tied the game at 2:26, and Thomas Ries edged the team ahead with a powerplay marker at 5:20.

The middle stanza was scoreless, but Tylan Henrikson potted an insurance marker at 18:39 of the third period into an empty net to salt away a 3-1 road win.

Alexandro Montoya was in net for the Terriers facing 22-shots for the win, while Bruin Dylan Adams was tagged with the loss.

Estevan Bruins 4 at Yorkton Terriers 5 (Feb. 6)

The two teams met again Friday this time at the Westland Insurance Arena in Yorkton.

Yorkton opened the ledger first as Jye Zawatsky scored on the powerplay 5:31 into the game.

The Bruins responded as Bennett Muller tied the game at 8:32, and then Drew Beasley scored for an Estevan lead 2-1 headed to the second period.

Aidan Vallance scored at 8:08 to tie things 2-2, but the Bruins inched back ahead as Nathaniel

Harvey scored at 15:23. In the third Thomas Ries scored at 4:04 and the game was tied again – this time 3-3.

Again, Estevan inched ahead as Oliver Kramp scored at 7:53.

At 8:21 Cash Lanigan scored to knot things 4-4. The game appeared destined for overtime until Ries scored his second of the frame with just three ticks left on the clock to secure a 5-4 Terrier win.

Callum Creig secured the win in the Terrier net facing 32-shots, while Nathan Kam was bombarded with 50-shots in the Bruin net to be tagged with the loss.

Yorkton Terriers 4 at Melville Millionaires 3 (Feb. 7 OT)

The Terriers then climbed back on the bus Saturday to travel down Highway #10 to face rival Melville.

The host Mills were not particularly gracious in the first period jumping out to a 2-0 lead.

Brayden Gourley opened things with a powerplay marker at 7:08, and Grady Carmichael added an even strength goal at 11:42.

In the middle period only one goal was notched that by Terrier Brett Buckley in the final minute to cut the Melville lead in half.

Vinay Junek would tie the contest 2-2 with a goal at 11:17 of the third period.

But the Mills were not done as Maddox Shindle scored at 16:05 to inch the team back ahead by a single marker.

That single goal was matched by Terrier Gabriel Courchesne who scored at 18:35 with Yorkton netminder Alexandro Montoya on the bench for an extra attacker.

The game would head to overtime where Yorkton would salt away their sixth straight win (eighth-of -10) on a goal by Jye Zawatsky at 1:30. The game ended 4-3 in overtime.



CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Goal attempt

Yorkton Terriers’ #22 William Leonard shovels the puck on Estevan Bruins’ netminder Nathan Kam in action in Yorkton last Friday, Feb. 6. The Terriers defeated the Bruins 5-4.

Balcarres, Balgonie pick up early wins in QVHHL playoffs

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Balcarres Broncos are off to a strong start in their Qu’Appelle Valley Highway Hockey League playoff series with the Southey Marlins after back-to-back victories to open the match-up.

Balcarres edged Southey 5-4 in Game 1 on Feb. 6 in Southey. Kolton Shindle scored twice while Cory Kosloski added two goals and an assist for the Broncos. Randen Schmidt contributed a goal and two assists, and goaltender Curtis Meger made 36 saves in the win.

The Broncos followed up with another 5-4 victory in Game 2 on Feb. 10 at Balcarres Centennial Arena. Justin Bernhardt had a goal and three assists, Riley Krane recorded a goal and two assists, and Cory Kosloski added a goal and a helper. Brian Slywka scored in the third period to help secure the win, while Meger again earned the victory in goal.

Game 3 of the series is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb.

18 in Balcarres.

Meanwhile, the Balgonie Bisons opened their series against the Bethune Bulldogs with a convincing win. Balgonie defeated Bethune 6-1 on Feb. 6 at the Star Dome. Riley Perkins scored twice, while Brendan Hunchak had a goal and two assists. Riley Woykin and Easton Johns each had a goal and an assist, and Hunter Lolacher picked up the win in net.

The Bethune Bulldogs and Raymore Rockets opened their series Wednesday night in Raymore, but the result was not available by press time. Game 2 is scheduled for Friday in Bethune, with Game 3 set for Feb. 18 back in Raymore.

In the other first-round match-up, the Grenfell Spitfires and Balgonie Bisons began their series Wednesday in Grenfell, but the result was not available by press time. The teams are scheduled to meet again Friday in Balgonie, with a third game, if necessary, listed for Monday.

The first round of Qu’Appelle Valley Highway Hockey League playoffs continues through next week as teams battle for spots in the semifinals.



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Broadview/Grenfell firefighters place fourth at provincials

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Members of the Broadview and Grenfell fire department returned home with a strong finish after competing at the

Saskatchewan Firefighter Provincial Curling Championship, capturing the C-event title and finishing fourth overall out of 11 teams in Swift Current, SK.

The team consisted of Mike Kardash and Dustin Dyke from Grenfell Fire De-

partment and Bowman Bryant and Evan Richter from Broadview.

The team battled through the week-end draw to earn the C-side victory against Humboldt, marking a solid showing against departments from across the province in the annual firefighter competition.

“We blew a big lead in a rematch of last year’s semifinal (against Borden) which would’ve given us the easy road to the final, but regrouped and still finished strong,” said Kardash.

The Saskatchewan Firefighter Pro-

vincial Curling Championship brings together fire departments from communities across the province for a weekend of competition and camaraderie on the ice.

Next year’s event will be held closer to home, as the Grenfell Curling Club is set to host the firefighter provincials. Organizers say the event is open to any fire department in Saskatchewan and players must be an active member of a fire department for at least one year or a retired member.

Esterhazy rink competing at U18 National competition

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The National U18 Curling playoffs are taking place this week in Timmins, ON and an Esterhazy team is competing in the male division, one of two teams representing the province of Saskatchewan.

Team Weiss of Esterhazy is competing against 20 other male teams from across the country in hopes of securing the National title against the strong list of competitive teams. Skipping for Team Weiss is Brandon Weiss, Josh Lussier is 3rd, Tyler Derksen is 2nd and lead is

Carter Nelson. Coach of the team is Mark Weiss.

Weiss and Lucier curl out of Esterhazy and Derksen curls from Martensville and Nelson from Avonlea. Coach Weiss is also from Esterhazy. Lussier has also curled previously on the Quinn Snow rink from Saskatoon that is also representing Saskatchewan as team #2 at the competition.

There are also 21 entries in the Female National Competition being played at the same time, February 8 – 14th.

Team Weiss competed in Nationals in 2025, recording 5 wins and 3 losses

for a 9th place finish.

This year, as of press time on Wed., Feb. 11, the Weiss rink has secured 2 wins and 2 losses.

Sunday, Feb. 8, SK#1 played MB#2, recording a 7-6 win and also played NS#2 for a final score of 10-3. Monday, the team fell to NO#1 with a final score of 4 – 10. Tuesday the rink threw stones against AB#2, recording a 2 - 5 loss. Wednesday play was against B.C. and was not available prior to going to press.

Team Weiss sits in 2nd spot of Pool C. Playoffs start Thursday, Feb. 12. Watch for final results in next week’s paper.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

C-Event Champions
Mike Kardash, Dustin Dyke, Bowman Bryant and Evan Richter pose following their C-event victory at the Saskatchewan Firefighter Provincial Curling Championship in Swift Current, SK.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Off to Nationals
Team Weiss of Esterhazy are competing this week in Timmins, ON in the U18 national curling competition after winning a spot at the Sask. finals.

SEHL hands out regular-season awards for 2025-2026

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Dakota MacIntosh of the Cote Selects captured three major honours to headline the South East Hockey League’s regular-season award winners.

MacIntosh was named the league’s most valuable player, top forward and rookie of the year following a standout debut season. Carter Cockburn of Swan Valley and Taylor Thompson of Langenburg were runners-up for MVP, while Cockburn and Tyson Zimmer of Langenburg finished behind MacIntosh in top forward voting. Ross Hawryluk of Canora and Trey Sauder of Swan Valley were runners-up for rookie of the year.

Between the pipes, Churchbridge goaltender Colby Entz earned top goaltender honours after a strong season. Hawryluk of Canora and Carter Olson of Rocanville were named runners-up in that category.

On the blue line, Spencer Trapp of Esterhazy was recognized as the league’s top defenceman. Brett Hope of Rocanville and Evan Werle of Langenburg were runners-up.

Behind the bench, Rocanville’s Noah Lemoine was named coach of the year. Gene Vestby of Swan Valley and Darren Schwartz of Canora were runners-up.

Langenburg’s Josh Peppler was selected as the league’s most improved player, with Zach Korchinski of Theodore and William Hauber of Canora named runners-up.

League officials also recognized the contributions of on-ice officials. Skyler Hladun received the top referee award, while Logan Halarewich was named top linesman.

The awards recognize regular-season performance across the league, as teams have now transitioned into postseason play.



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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

Canadian baseball fans will no longer hear the musings of colour man extraordinaire, Buck Martinez.

Martinez, now 77 years of age, has decided to step away from his career as a broadcaster for the Toronto Blue Jays and sail off into the sunset.

Buck got his start in baseball with the Houston Astros, in 1968, in a career that would see a number of twists and turns, that would eventually bring him to the Jays for a six-year stint as their catcher..

Following his retirement as a player, Buck managed the Jays for a year and for more than four decades, Martinez has been one of the voices of his beloved Toronto Blue Jays.

He's been through all the ups and downs with the team over the years, and he wasn't afraid to call out poor fielding or batting habits, despite not being the best hitter on the planet.

It was refreshing to hear Buck's take on issues that catchers were having, whether it was in calling pitches or what he would characterize as lazy play.

He wasn't afraid to speak his mind and did so on many occasions.

Buck's voice was like an old pair of jeans.

It was comfortable and comforting, yet reliable and battle tested.

When umpires would make suspect calls, Buck would call them out or at least wonder out loud why they did what they did.

As a player, Buck will go down in history for one of the greatest plays any catcher has ever made.

While catching for the Jays, Buck suffered multiple injuries in a home plate collision in Seattle, in July of 1985. With a broken leg and a dislocated ankle, Martinez attempted to throw out a base runner, and his errant throw went into left field, prompting the runner to try and score.

Unable to get up, Martinez caught George Bell's throw home and tagged out the runner for one of the greatest double plays of all time.

Anyone see the opening ceremonies for the Winter Olympics in Cortina, Italy?

The ceremony itself was weird, how you'd expect, but the clothing worn by the Canadian Olympic team was off-the-charts strange.

These outfits, which were apparently made by lululemon, were absolutely hideous.

Some of the social media posts I've seen with them as the subject have been hilarious, many of them comparing them to an emoji of something a dog might leave on your lawn if left unattended.

The athletes looked like little kids carrying brown sleeping bags to camp, and speaking of brown, when did that become a colour that Canada is known for?

The Super Bowl was held on the weekend, and it's fair to say it wasn't exactly an instant classic.

After 60 minutes of football, it was the Seattle Seahawks who came out on top to earn their second NFL championship, winning by a score of 29-13 over the New England Patriots.

The story of this game was the Seattle defence and the fact that the Patriots couldn't get anything going offensively.

Even when the Pats looked like they had a chance to score in the first half, the Seahawks' defence amped things up a notch and slammed the door time after time.

In the first half, it looked as if the game was going to be a defensive struggle, with neither team able to do a lot with possession of the football.

At the half, it was 9-0 Seattle and it looked like the Patriots would never score, but eventually they'd get on the scoreboard after the Seahawks went ahead 19-0 in the fourth quarter.

New England would add another touchdown, but this game was never in doubt.

It wasn't one of those games that fans will talk about for years and years, rather, it was one of the more boring games in recent history.

It's difficult to say whether Seattle was that much better than New England, or if New England was finally exposed as being one of the luckier teams to ever make it to the league final.

At the end of the day, the Pats had the NFL's easiest schedules, and they followed that with a relatively easy road through the playoffs, meeting the under-achieving Chargers and the under-performing Texans before winning the AFC title over a Denver Broncos' squad that was forced to play without their starting quarterback.

Looks good on Seattle, and it's a good thing, because there's no way that they should have lost against a team as weak as the Patriots.

Fort Knox, Storm split; Steelhawks fall in PJHL action

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Fort Knox picked up two wins in Prairie Junior Hockey League play last week, while the Pilot Butte Storm and Moosomin Steelhawks each experienced mixed results during a busy stretch of games.

Fort Knox defeated the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels 3-2 on Feb. 5 at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre. Madden Wallis scored twice, including the game-winner on a third-period power play, while Devante Pratt-Fry added the other goal. Brady Carr made 50 saves in the win.

The club followed that up with a 4-0 shutout victory over the Pilot Butte Storm on Feb. 7. Carter Hirsch opened the scoring in the first period, Kai Bridgeman added the second-period marker, and Tomas Hauber and Josh Heistad scored in the third. Drew Pereyma stopped all 30 shots he faced for the shutout.

Fort Knox's momentum stalled Tuesday, however, when the Saskatoon Royals earned a 5-0 win at Clavet Arena. Brodie Scopick led the Royals with a goal and two assists, while Ethan Rathgeber made 41 saves for the

shutout.

Meanwhile, the Pilot Butte Storm opened the week with a 7-2 victory over the Moosomin Steelhawks on Feb. 4. Owen Boswell had a goal and two assists, while Colton Pushie scored twice as Pilot Butte built a 6-1 lead through two periods.

Pilot Butte later earned a 6-3 win over the Richardson Pioneer Southern

Rebels on Feb. 10. Sutter Baily scored three times to lead the Storm offence, while Jaxon Skiftun contributed a goal and an assist.

Moosomin struggled against the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals in back-to-back games. The Capitals defeated the Steelhawks 8-3 on Feb. 6, despite three-point performances from Deagan Reis-

ter and Kaden Plaquin.

Two nights later, Regina posted a 13-1 victory at the Al Ritchie Arena, with Lukas Borne scoring four goals and adding an assist.

The Steelhawks' lone highlight during the stretch came from Kohl Stephen, who scored shorthanded in the Feb. 8 game.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Knox team celebrates

Stellar goal tending by Drew Pereyma contributed to a 4-0 Knox win at home over the Pilot Butte Storm Saturday, Feb. 7.

Chiefs split games as Avalanche, Canucks post PMHL wins

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Prairie Men's Hockey League schedule produced a busy stretch of games involving the Valley Warriors, Indian Head Chiefs, Cupar Canucks and Ituna Avalanche over the past week.

The Ituna Avalanche opened the run of games with an 8-2 victory over the Valley Warriors on Feb. 6 in Lipton, powered by a four-goal performance from Mike Bzdel and three assists from Delon Smysniuk. Cain Thomson and Kian Potrais scored for the

Warriors, while Chase Desnomie recorded two assists in the loss.

The following night, the Indian Head Chiefs defeated the Valley Warriors 10-2 in Indian Head, scoring five times in the opening period and never looking back. Jesse Manastyrski and Mike Reiger each scored twice for the Chiefs, with Rylan Bechard and Daulton Perillat adding three-point performances. Jonas Thompson and Cain Thomson replied for the Valley Warriors.

Indian Head returned to the ice Feb. 10 but was handed a 7-1 loss to the Cupar Canucks. Zach Cardiff scored twice for Cupar, while Dane Bonish and Brett Boha each recorded three-point nights in the win. Unick Dwayne scored the lone goal for the Chiefs on a first-period power play.

The recent results leave the Valley Warriors searching for momentum after back-to-back losses, while Ituna and Cupar both picked up important wins in league play.

Upcoming Prairie Men's Hockey League action continues this week with Strasbourg visiting Ituna on Feb. 12, Valley Warriors travelling to Cupar on Feb. 13, and Strasbourg returning to Indian Head on Feb. 14.

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Yorkton Terriers Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

*Home/Away Games
All Games 7 p.m.
unless otherwise stated*

FEBRUARY:
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*

FEBRUARY:
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

Prairie Men's HL Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
FEBRUARY:
14- Strasbourg at IH Chiefs 8 p.m.

Fort Knox Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
FEBRUARY:
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

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Melville tops Indian Head to win Heartbreaker Classic

Submitted
Grasslands News

Melville Comprehensive School’s senior girls’ basketball team had a solid

performance this past weekend winning the Indian Head Heartbreaker Classic and improving their season record to 18 wins and 3 losses.

As their coach, I’m proud of how the

girls competed. We started with a strong performance against Lumsden, a win over Assiniboia and then held on for a close 51-49 victory over the host Indian Head team in the final. It was a tough, well-played game that came down to the wire.

Indian Head is a top team in the 3A category and coach Clark always has them well organized and competing at a high level by this point in the season. It was great experience for our team to play a close game where the lead changed back and forth, there were multiple pressure-filled possessions in the last couple minutes and every decision mattered. Games like that will help us prepare for what will be hopefully a playoff run that gets us to Hoopla in 4A.

What continues to stand out for us is our team quickness, strong on-ball defence and presence in the post. Those elements have been consistent all season – they help us pressure opponents, force

turnovers, get out in transition and get inside scoring in the half court. In the Lumsden game, we built an early lead by moving the ball well, getting stops, and having balanced scoring from different players. That win keeps us undefeated against 4A competition this year, including important wins over Moose Jaw Central and Vanier who finished third and fourth provincially last season. If we can continue to hold our current position, we should host a regional playoff in Melville which is reserved for the top four seeds.

The girls have put in the effort starting from day one of the season, and it’s rewarding to see it come together on the court. The goal is to continue to improve each week and keep our ranking inside the top four. We’re grateful for the support from our school, families, and community here in Melville. Hopefully, we can provide them with the opportunity to watch some regional playoff basketball at MCS on March 20th and 21st.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Winning team

The Melville Comprehensive School Senior Girls Basketball team won the Indian Head Heartbreaker Classic recently. Front row, left to right, are, Brynn Alspach, Sarah Powell, Ariel Buzash, Jahm Ciano and Amelia Gayle. Back row, left to right, are, Malia Pettinger, Dominique Gartner-Davis, Ahmelia Brown, Jorryn Kreklewich, Michaela Sojila and Coach - Dan Alspach. Missing: Delaney Alspach, Simone Maybanting, Lucy Almasi and Kendra Jenkin.

Bowling Scores - Yorkton

MONDAY GA Men's High Single, Nolan Bucsis 282. Men's High Triple, Cam Louttit 274, 748. Ladies' High Single and Triple Violet Woychesko 230, 558. Most Pins Over Average, Nolan Bucsis +93.	WEDNESDAY GA Men's High Single and Triple, Cam Louttit 274, 748. Ladies' High Single and Triple, Ruth Loucks 187, 506. Most Pins Over Average, Art Loucks +41.	SPECIAL O Men's High Single, Kyle Marianchuk 213. Men's High Triple, Scott Weinheimer 446. Ladies' High Single, Nadia Semenuik 179. Ladies' High Triple, Stacey Pasloski 433. Most Pins Over Average, Nadia Semenuik +56.
TUESDAY YBC Men's High Single Paxton Buckle 190. Men's High Triple, Liam Hutchings 470. Ladies' High Single and Triple Audraya Keyowski 133, 389. Most Pins Over Average, Paxton Buckle +49.	HOSPITAL Men's High Single and Triple, Cody Lacelle 229, 550. Ladies' High Single and Triple, Tracy Horneman 160, 439. Most Pins Over Average, Randy Bodnaryk +37.	HANCOCK PLUMBING Men's High Single Regan Kitz 309. Men's High Triple, Rob Asmus 724. Ladies' High Single, Janice Zwirsky 280. Ladies' High Triple, Sharla Schrader 739. Most Pins Over Average, Janice Zwirsky +111.
STS Men's High Single, and Triple, Cam Louttit 308, 762. Ladies' High Single and Triple Bernie Draper 192, 541. Most Pins Over Average, Dale Lazurko +89.	LEGION Men's High Single and Triple, Jerry Gromnisky 226, 583. Ladies' High Single, Lavern Dumka 177. Ladies' High Triple, Marcia Grunerud 470. Most Pins Over Average, Jerry Gromnisky +46.	SATURDAY YBC Men's High Single and Triple, Emry Lozinski-Gage 225, 586. Ladies' High Single and Triple, Elyssa Thompson 174, 467. Most Pins Over Average, Emry Lozinski Gage +51.

Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M. <i>Feb. 2</i> Ladies' High Single and Triple, Linda Bender 263, 623. Ladies Average, Angela Dobson, 170. Men's High Single and Triple, Doug Brewer, 246, 583. Men's Average, Joe Wu, 186. Team High Single, Bender 861 and Triple, Ostlund, 833, 2466. Team Ostlund 47.5 Dobson 46 Bender 37.5 Stephens 27	Gutter Girls 46 Pinheads 46 New 46	Squishmellows 30.5
MONDAY COMMERCIAL <i>Feb. 2</i> Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Brandy Lechner, 344, 863, 231. Men's High Single, Andyn Goebel, 280. Men's High Triple, Ray Kaufman, 645. Men's Average, Destin Kohlenberg, 215. Team High Single, Gutter Girls, 1363 and Triple, New, 3804. Team Professional Amateurs 51 Blame it on Gary 47	ST. HENRY'S <i>Feb. 3</i> Ladies' High Single, Linda Bender, 210. Ladies' High Triple and Average, Pat Brown, 556, 169. Men's High Single, Triple and Average, Chris Cheveldae, 276, 757, 192. Team High Single and Triple, CA Team, 1335, 3751. Team Just 4 Fun 61 CCJ 48 A Team 30 Drifters 00	THURSDAY YBC <i>Feb. 5</i> Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 168, 528. Boys High Single and Triple, Blaine Curylo, 224, 592. Team High Single and Triple, Wurts 861, 2556. Team Wurts 44.5 Curylo 39.5 Kohlenberg 39 Hollinger 37
TUESDAY YBC <i>Feb. 3</i> Girls High Single and Triple, Amzlee Patterson, 165, 429. Boys High Single and Triple, Ty Deren, 100, 195. Team High Single and Triple, Bowl Kings, 858, 2493. Team Bowl Kings 49.5	SATURDAY YBC <i>Feb. 7</i> Girls High Single and Triple, Ashyah Davies, 144, 347. Boys High Single and Triple, Remi Schneider, 234, 558. Team High Single and Triple, Everything, 884, 2548. Team The Enders 51 Bravehearts 44 Everything 35 Bowling Superstars 30	

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U14 Broomball Provincials heat up the ice in Odessa

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

Broomball provincials are in full swing across the province, and the Odessa Community Rink was packed last weekend as it hosted the U14 Broomball Provincials. Players from Odessa, Debden, Bruno, and Big River took to the ice for a full weekend of exciting matchups.

Around 102 players were in attendance, with two boys' teams and four girls' teams competing. In the end, the Bruno Axemen took first over the Odessa Bandits in the boys' division, while the Bruno T-Birds won their girls' division over the Debden Roadrunners, who came in second, and the Odessa Flames, who took third. The Big River Crusaders played a good game but, in the end, walked away in fourth.

On Sunday, awards were handed out to the top players. Local talent Owen Moser from Odessa and Jace Token from Regina (both Odessa Bandits) were named to the boys' all-star team. On the girls' side, Odessa Flames players Ellie Wild from Odessa and Yvonne Hounjet from Aberdeen were named to the girls' all-star team.

Chris Wild, coach of the U14 Odessa Flames, says while the lead-up to the event was full of excitement, last weekend was the culmination of months of dedication and hard work on the side of his players.

"As a coach, our team has just been practicing all season," Wild says. "It's probably like any other winter sport where we practice all year. We don't have a league we play in—we just play tournaments all year, and that was the lead-up to this weekend. This was the big event for the girls and boys of the U14. It's been a lot of practice and exhibition tournaments to get to this point."

Wild says that, unlike hockey, where players enter the game at a young age, broomball is a sport often played by older kids in the area, which makes it a bit tougher to recruit for—especially in lower age groups where hockey schedules tend to dominate the winter months. Because of this, most of the kids playing this weekend were entering their very first provincial competition in the sport.

"Everyone seemed pretty excited for the weekend," Wild says. "It was a big build-up and a lot of kids have never played in a provincial final like this, so there was a lot of excitement not only from the kids, but also the grandparents that come to watch and people in the community coming into the rink to see what's going on. It was a pretty full rink for the weekend, which is exciting to see. People like to be a part of it."

The Rec Board in Odessa put in a bid to host the U14 provincial games. In March, they will also host the senior mixed men's and ladies provincials, where 11 teams will be in attendance for the weekend's matches. The teams will consist of three



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Provincial Silver Medal

The Odessa Bandits U14 Broomball team took second place this weekend in provincials hosted on their home ice.



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Provincial Bronze Medal

The Odessa Flames U14 Broomball team took third place this weekend in provincials hosted in Odessa.

men and three women from each team on the ice at the same time and will include a banquet to cap off the event.

"There are hotel blocks we have to reserve for these teams, because a lot of them are from the north, so they are staying in surrounding communities like White City and Emerald Park," Wild says. "The biggest thing is lining up all the volunteers to work time clocks, kitchen shifts, and be rink supervisors. It's a lot of volunteer organizing to get everybody lined up to cover all the shifts and make sure the weekend runs smoothly. We've hosted quite a few of these in the past, and generally know what's going on. We are hosting the mixed up here in March, so we have a blueprint to follow to host one or two groups every year for a provincial tournament."

Wild says broomball has made a comeback in recent years after a dip in its popularity. While still competing with hockey, Wild believes broomball offers a

great opportunity for kids to play a team winter sports.

"It's been a real up-and-down sport," Wild says. "I still play senior, but when I was younger it was quite popular. There were a lot more teams than there are now,

and it did start fading off, but we are seeing our younger age group numbers are starting to pick up again, so it's on a bit of an upswing.

"The majority of the kids aren't playing hockey. They are doing one or the other, and that's always the big competition sport for broomball. If they weren't playing broomball, a lot of them wouldn't be able to be on any team, so it's good to have that option—especially out here for girls. It's an option to play a girls-only team, where hockey out here is tough because we don't have a girls-only program. They have to travel to play in a girls-only program. So it gives them an opportunity to play a team sport with only girls and not have to travel outside the community. They are practicing in Odessa every week instead of travelling to Weyburn, Balgonie, or the Regina area to practice. It opens up that avenue."

While broomball provincials continue across the province, this was the final weekend of the sport for the U14s. Overall, the season will wrap up in April as the other age groups play for top provincial positions.

For Wild, the end of the season is a time of reflection on the changes he has seen in the girls on his team.

"They've changed quite a bit," Wild says. "I told them after our final game that they have changed and grown from the first tournament we went to, to this last one at provincials now. For a big chunk, this was their first year playing the sport, so it was a very big learning curve—from positions to how to shoot, move the ball, and control it. So from the beginning of the year to the end, it changed a lot, and that just comes from being on the ice, being able to practice, and showing they are dedicated. It proved to pay off."

The U20 Odessa Bandits are up next, playing in Debden on February 14 and 15, followed by the U17 Bandits playing provincials in Big River on February 21 and 22, and the senior provincials in Bruno from February 27 to March 1.

Crooked Lake Classic returns March 8

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Ice anglers from across southeast Saskatchewan are set to descend on Crooked Lake next month for the return of the Crooked Lake Classic.

The sixth annual catch-and-release ice fishing derby will be held Sunday, March 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Qu'Appelle Junction on Crooked Lake, offering more than \$15,000 in cash and prizes.

Organizers say the event will award cash prizes for the largest perch, walleye and northern pike, with payouts across three placements in each species. First-place winners will receive \$1,500, second place \$500 and third place \$250 in each category.

All fishing holes will be pre-drilled, and participants are required to have a five-gallon pail. Cash prizes will be paid out for the largest fish measured during the derby.

Entry fees are \$40 per person, with an optional additional hole available for \$40. Early bird participants can purchase an

additional hole for \$20, with early bird pricing ending March 6. Early bird access to the ice begins at 10 a.m.

An early bird prize draw will include a Charbroil oil-less turkey fryer and a \$250 gift card for fishing gear. Additional raffle tickets will be sold throughout the day for a Hummingbird Helix 7 fish finder, donated by Crooked Lake Marine Service Inc.

New for 2026, organizers have added three hidden holes on the lake, each offering an instant \$250 cash prize.

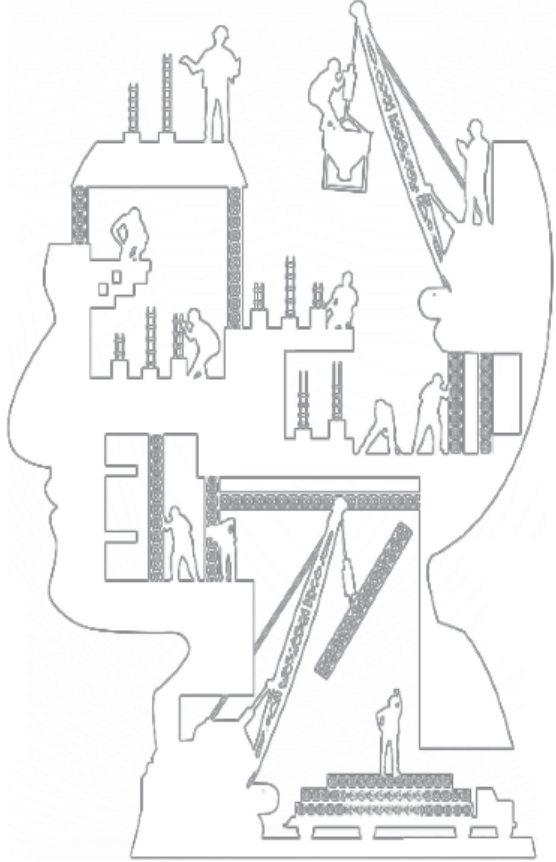
Youth anglers will also have a chance to win, with an additional \$500 prize for the top youth participant. Parkland Outfitters of Yorkton is listed as the youth prize main sponsor.

Early bird registration is available online by scanning the QR code on event posters or by purchasing tickets in person at Ottenbreit's Meats.

Proceeds from the event will support the Grayson Fire Department and the community skating rink.

More information is available by calling 306-730-9693 or through the event's Facebook page.

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SEHL playoffs open with sweeps and comebacks

By GNG News
Grasslands News

The Wapella Blackhawks rallied twice in their best-of-three series to eliminate the Russell Rams and move into the quarter-final round of the Sask East Hockey League playoffs.

Keigan Callander scored twice in the third period and Dawson Garvey netted the winner with 21 seconds remaining Sunday as Wapella defeated Russell 7-6 to complete the series sweep. The Blackhawks scored four unanswered goals in the final period after trailing 6-3 entering the third.

Marshall Wilton scored three goals and added an assist in the deciding game, while Ryland Maier had a goal and two assists. Russell was led by Josh Thompson and Landyn Cochrane with two goals each.

Wapella opened the series with a comeback of its own, defeating the Rams 5-4 in overtime Feb. 5 after scoring three third-period goals and getting the winner from Maier in the extra frame.

The Blackhawks now move on to face the Langenburg Warriors in the quarterfinals, with game one scheduled for Thursday in Langenburg, game two set for Feb. 15 in Wapella, and a deciding game three, if necessary, slated for Feb. 17 back in Langenburg.

In another play-in series, the Cote Selects eliminated the Churchbridge Impe-

rials with back-to-back wins.

Cote defeated Churchbridge 8-5 on Feb. 6, scoring six times in the third period, led by Dakota Macintosh with three goals and Tony Apetagon with a goal and two assists.

The Selects completed the sweep with a 9-3 win Feb. 8 in Churchbridge. Apetagon finished with three goals and three assists, while Eli Halcrow scored three times and Hayden Lacquette added four assists.

Cote now advances to face the Canora Cobras in the quarter-final round, with game one scheduled Wednesday night in Cote.

Meanwhile, the Theodore Buffalos became the first team to reach the league semifinals, sweeping the Swan Valley Axemen in their quarter-final matchup.

Theodore earned a 6-5 road win Feb. 6 behind two goals from Dylan Johnson and a four-point night from Brett Pepper.

The Buffalos followed with a 6-3 victory at home Feb. 8, again paced by Johnson, who scored twice and added two assists.

Theodore will face the winner of the Langenburg-Wapella series in the semifinals.

Elsewhere, the Esterhazy Flyers opened their playoff run with a decisive 10-3 win over the Rocanville Tigers on Feb. 9. Taylor Sanheim recorded six points, while Parker Johnson added two goals and three assists for the Flyers.

Mustangs make statement in final league game

By Stephen Scriver
Grasslands News

The Wolseley Mustangs made a statement as they finished the QVJHL regular season with a 10-3 win over the Yellowgrass Wheat Kings on Saturday at home. This ends a concerning slide by the Mustangs since the Christmas break in which they struggled to put together a full competitive roster and lost four games before meeting the first-place Emerald Park Wizards last week and losing in overtime. Saturday's victory puts Wolseley in third place, which gives them home ice advantage against the Lumsden Jaxx in the first round (best-of-three) of the playoffs.

Mitchell Sexsmith led the way for the Mustangs with two goals, singles going to Conner Webster, Kye Englot, Cohler Faubert, Ty Nagy, Tyler Powell, Maguire Kopp, Lachlan Pollock and Adam Thauberger. Conner, Blake Robertson and Owen Ross each had two assists. Conner Webster's three points earned him the

team scoring title.

The Wheat Kings were in last place, but they had beaten the Mustangs in their last meeting in Yellowgrass. This night, Wolseley had a full roster of 15 skaters, and Ty Muhr had another stellar performance in goal, something the Mustangs have come to expect from the rookie. The Mustangs came out strong, playing a better game from the neutral zone in, and led 3-1 and 9-1 by periods. Their usual strong defensive game was in effect, and two of Yellowgrass's goals were scored in the late going "garbage time" of the game. Yellowgrass had six minors to Wolseley's five, and each team took a misconduct.

Caronport and Yellowgrass (8th and 9th place) have played the elimination series and Caronport now meets Emerald Park in the first round of the QVJHL playoffs. Wolseley's series against sixth place Lumsden starts this coming Saturday, Feb. 14. The second game will be in Lumsden on Monday, Feb. 23 and if a third game is necessary, it will be back in Wolseley on Saturday, Feb. 28.



Denting the twine
Wolseley Mustangs' Adam Thauberger (#3) scored on this deflection. Line-mates Owen Ross (#2) and Maguire Kopp (#10) look on. The Mustangs defeated the Yellowgrass Wheat Kings 10-3 on Saturday, Feb. 7

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Team recognized
A special presentation was made during the recent East Central Senior Curling Districts held at the Great Canadian Oil Change Curling Arena on the weekend in Yorkton. Every year, in all school sports teams under the SHSAA, there is an additional award to a nominated team – that is the SaskMilk Sportsmanship Award. Usually after Provincials, teams are nominated on the SHSAA website for this award by spectators, officials, other athletes and coaches. Teams would have displayed the value of sportsmanship throughout the season / event and become a worthy recipient for this award. Unfortunately, this team did not get the proper presentation last season, so it was acknowledged at districts on the weekend. The Yorkton Regional High School Mixed Team made up of Mara Vogel, Hunter Nagy, Kolton Yewsuk, Nate Wasylenchuk, and Coach Mandie Foster was awarded the SaskMilk Sportsmanship Award, the banner being presented last Friday, Feb. 6.

Provincial senior hockey playoffs underway across Saskatchewan

By GNG News
Grasslands News

Opening-round action in the SGI Canada Provincial Senior Hockey Championships is underway across multiple divisions, with several local teams already advancing while others prepare for decisive games later this week.

In Senior A, the Foam Lake Flyers opened their series with a 5-2 victory over the Theodore Buffalos on Feb. 7 in Theodore. Game 2 is scheduled for Feb. 15 in Foam Lake, with a third game, if necessary, set for Feb. 16.

The Redvers Rockets have already advanced after defeating the Langenburg Warriors in two straight games, winning 4-2 on Feb. 6 in Langenburg and 5-3 at home on Feb. 7.

The Round Lake Bears and Moosomin Rangers split their first two games, forcing a deciding Game 3 scheduled for Feb. 13 in Ochapowace. The Bears won the opener 3-2 before the Rangers responded with a 6-2 victory in Game 2. Fans may want to take in game three of this series as game one saw the winner of the 50/50 draw take home \$6,785.

In Senior B, the Rocanville Tigers will host the Balcarres Broncs in Game 1 on Feb. 14, followed by Game 2 Feb. 15 in Balcarres and a possible Game 3 Feb. 21 back in Rocanville.

The Canora Cobras are set to host the LeRoy Braves in Game 1 on Feb. 13, with

Game 2 scheduled for Feb. 15 in LeRoy and a deciding game, if necessary, on Feb. 21 in Canora.

In Senior C, the Wapella Blackhawks will open their provincial series against the Craik Warriors on Feb. 14 in White-wood. The best-of-three matchup continues Feb. 21 in Craik, with a third game, if necessary, scheduled for Feb. 22 in Craik. The series is part of the opening round of Senior C provincial playoffs, which are scheduled to be completed by Feb. 23.

In Senior D, several opening-round series have already been decided.

The Kipling Oil Kings advanced past the Rouleau Ramblers, rebounding from a Game 1 loss to win the series with victories including a 6-1 win in Game 2.

The Fort Qu'Appelle Valley Warriors eliminated the Milestone Flyers with consecutive wins, including a 12-7 victory in Game 2 after a 7-1 opening win.

The Wawota Flyers also moved on after defeating the Indian Head Chiefs with wins of 8-2 and 9-2.

Meanwhile, the Carnduff Red Devils opened their series with a 12-6 victory over the Ochapowace Thunder, while the Lafleche Flyers and Kipling Oil Kings split their first two games to force a deciding Game 3 scheduled for Feb. 15 in Lafleche.

The Ituna Avalanche dropped Game 1 of their series 8-3 to the Allan Flames, with Game 2 scheduled for Feb. 14 in Ituna.

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High school district curling hosted in Yorkton

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

High school curling took centre ice at the Great Canadian Oil Change Curling Arena on the weekend as the East Central Senior Curling Districts were held.

Teams competing included: Girls - Yorkton Regional, Sacred Heart, Churchbridge, Esterhazy, Preeceville, Sturgis. Boys - Yorkton Regional and Sturgis. Open Mixed - Yorkton Regional 1, Yorkton Regional 2, Sacred Heart, Canora, Churchbridge, Melville, Esterhazy. Open Doubles - Sturgis and Norquay.

The top two teams in each category move onto Regionals in various locales hoping for a berth at provincials, explained Nathan Bewcyk, Senior Curling Head Coach at Yorkton Regional High School.

YRHS was the host of the event this year.

In boys' action since there were only two teams in this category -- Sturgis and YRHS -- both of them advance to Regionals in Estevan. However, the teams did play a best-of-three to determine gold and silver on the weekend, with Sturgis winning in two straight, said Bewcyk.

It was the same scenario in Open Doubles with only Sturgis and Norquay competing with both advancing to Regionals,



CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Stone cold concentration

Sacred Hearts' Kaden Kinaschuk throwing with his front-end prepared to sweep if needed. The curling games were held at the Great Canadian Oil Change Curling Arena in Yorkton over the weekend.

also in Estevan.

In their best-of-three Sturgis won in two games.

The girls' side was moved to competitive with six teams playing a double knockout format.

Sacred Heart won the A-Event and YRHS won the B-Event.

As both teams had only one loss, there was an A/B tiebreaker game to determine the gold medal champion, which YRHS won, defeating the reigning Dis-

trict Champions, noted Bewcyk.

Churchbridge would win bronze.

Seven teams were involved in the mixed competition, again playing a double knockout format.

YRHS Vogel won the A-event and Canora won the B-event.

In the A/B tiebreaker game played to determine the gold medal champion YRHS Vogel won. They also beat the reigning District Champions, said Bewcyk.

Sacred Heart would win Bronze.

"There were a lot of great games," said Bewcyk, adding "it is unfortunate there wasn't a great turnout for Boys and doubles teams."

Bewcyk said they are "hoping it will grow in the future, especially for next year as the East Central District will be hosting Senior Curling Provincials -- in Yorkton, Melville and Saltcoats."

Still, "the skill level is top notch in our district," he added. "Last year, we had three teams from our district go all the way to Provincials and win a Provincial medal. We are hoping for that this year too."

"All in all, great weekend. Much thanks to all the school teams that participated, the spectators for watching and supporting the EC District Curling, and a special thanks to the Yorkton Curling Club for being our host location."

Sports Column

Reputations stained, but greatness memories linger

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

The two most dominating athletes of my lifetime celebrated significant birthdays in the last couple of weeks, which sent me down Sentimental Drive on the way to Nostalgia Avenue.

Wayne Gretzky turned 65 on Jan. 26; Tiger Woods got to the half-century mark, the big 5-0, on Dec. 30. Both accomplished greatness but suffered reputational stains.

It was circa 1968-69 when the CBC National News ran a broadcast feature on a skinny little kid with blond hair from Brantford, Ont., who was setting the hockey world aflame. The kid, Wayne Gretzky, was eight or nine years old and he was playing in a league among 13-year-old boys, far bigger, stronger, quicker. But this Gretzky kid was scoring eight, 10, 12 goals a game against the older opponents, and the CBC reporter chuckled through his report as grainy video showed the youngster dippy-doodling through the opponent's defence and putting a move on the goalie that resulted in another tally.

How did he get so proficient at such a young age? His dad, Walter, said he flooded the back yard every winter and Wayne would spend hours on the ice, almost having to be dragged inside for bed. Would he grow up to be just as good? Would the bigger kids catch up when he was a teen? Would the greatness last for-

ever?

It did. He dominated junior hockey at age 16. He turned pro at 17, with Indianapolis Racers of the outlaw World Hockey Association. He was sold as an 18-year-old to Peter Pocklington, owner of the Edmonton Oilers, and the rest is history. Gretzky went on to set professional scoring records that will never be matched. His 2,857 total points are 936 more than his closest rival, Jaromir Jagr.

Today, Gretzky is 65, living in the U.S., and not as adored in Canada as he once was. He still has legions of fans, but many lament his close association with fellow celebrity Donald Trump. Gretzky was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada in 2009 but has yet to attend a ceremony to acknowledge the honour, one of the highest a Canadian can receive. His light has dimmed north of the 49th parallel.

Woods, meanwhile, was another child wonder who did, in fact, blossom into an ultra-superstar. His 82 victories and 15 major championships in a career dulled by injuries and scandal are unlikely to be threatened. As a 50-year-old, his star is shining brighter than it was when he was enmeshed in tabloid extramarital scandal 15 years ago. These days, he is playing a complementary role in steering the PGA Tour to a brighter future. He's caddying for his talented golfer son Charlie in junior tournaments and standing pitch-side at daughter Sam's soccer games. Reportedly, he is in a committed relationship

with his latest girlfriend, the ex-wife of Donald Trump, Jr.

Two superstars. Two humans growing old. We witnessed all the accomplishments and all the flaws. We should perhaps remember the athletic greatness and ignore the rest.

- Columnist Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "Question for Gavin McKenna: You're 18 years old. The legal drinking age in the U.S. is 21. Never mind what happened in the bar —shouldn't you know better than to even be in the bar?"
- A groaner from RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "QB Teddy Bridgewater once turned down a possible starting gig in Miami to stay with the Saints to back up Drew Brees. It was the same old song: a Brees over troubled Bridgewater."
- John K, on X, on LIV defections: "Brooks (Koepka) and (Patrick) Reed have sent a very clear message: 'You couldn't pay me enough to play exhibition golf around the globe.'"
- Super 70s Sports: "James Harden is a first ballot franchise killer Hall of Famer. Good for the local strip club economy, bad for your franchise."
- Cathal Kelly the Globe and Mail, on Olympic 'moments' vs. medals: "I am guessing when I try to remember which

medal Jon Montgomery won in Vancouver, but my recollection of watching him chug a pitcher of beer on the street is in Technicolour."

- Another one from Kelly: "These are the stick-it-to-Trump Games. Each Canadian medal is a thumb in the eye to every dullard who, upon hearing you are Canadian, leads with a 51st state joke."
- Columnist Norman Chad, on comments overheard from the four-legged competitors at the Westminster Dog Show: "My Uncle Scruffy loves to tell the story about the time his dog-obedience class took a field trip to Washington, D.C., and he did his business on the White House lawn."
- Headline at onion.com: "Rifle-Wielding Chair Umpire Asks Crowd If Making Noise During Australian Open Truly Worth Dying For"
- Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "The curling venue in Cortina was built in 1957 for the 1956 Olympics."
- Rolfson again: "Anthony Davis was traded from the Mavs to Washington Wizards in an eight-player NBA deal. He'll fit right in in D.C. with all the people who don't show up for work."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Family Day Weekend allows for free fishing

Submitted
Grasslands News

Free Fishing Weekend lands right in the heart of ice fishing season over Family Day weekend, February 14-16. Saskatchewan residents and visitors can drop a line on all provincial waterbodies that allow sportfishing without buying an angling licence, making it the perfect time to try ice fishing or bring a friend along.

Please be aware that Bundle up, drill a hole, ice fishing shelters left and enjoy winter fishing.

This excludes federal waters, e.g., Prince Albert National Park.

For more information about fishing in Saskatchewan, check the Anglers Guide. All other fishing regulations remain in effect, including possession limits and reduced limits on some waterbodies. Anyone planning to transport fish out of province must have a valid Saskatchewan angling licence.

Please be aware that Bundle up, drill a hole, ice fishing shelters left and enjoy winter fishing.

must have the owner's full name, address and phone number in legible letters that are at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) high on the outside of the shelter.

Ice fishing shelters south of Highway #16 must be removed from the ice no later than March #15. Shelters north of Highway #16 must be removed from the ice no later than March 31. If necessary, owners may be directed to remove ice shelters earlier than these dates.



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Shrove Tuesday

Pancake suppers planned for Feb. 17 at local churches

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

You are invited to gather for food, fellowship and a meaningful tradition at the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. at St. Mary’s Anglican Church Parish Hall, Whitewood, as well as at Grenfell United Church, where supper starts at 5 p.m.

The Whitewood event will feature an all-you-can-eat menu of pancakes, bacon, sausage, ice cream and strawberries. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Organizers note that proceeds from the supper will be donated equally to the Whitewood Food Bank and Plan International, supporting both local families and global humanitarian efforts.

Free handi-van rides will be available from 5 to 7 p.m. Whitewood residents wishing to access transportation are asked to call the Town office to book a ride in advance.

The Grenfell event will provide pancakes and sausage for \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6 - 12 years and 5 and under are free.

The Meaning of Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday, often known as Pancake Day, is a long-standing Christian tradition observed the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. The word “shrove” comes from the old English word “shrive,” meaning to confess and receive absolution. Historically, it was a day for reflection, repentance and preparation before the solemn season of Lent.

Lent is a 40-day period leading up to Easter, traditionally marked by prayer, fasting and acts of charity. In centuries past, households would use up rich ingredients such as eggs, butter and sugar before the Lenten fast began. Pancakes became a popular and practical way to use those ingredients, giving rise to the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper tradition that continues today.

While customs have evolved over time, the spirit of Shrove Tuesday remains rooted in community, generosity and preparation. Events combine the historical meaning of the day with a modern expression of fellowship and charitable giving.

Sunny Side Up

Take a moment to ponder love – then speak it

By Kathleen Gibson
Grasslands News

She’s a faded memory now, the recent high school grad in spectacles and seer-sucker, standing at the edge of Rome’s massive Trevi Fountain. Me. Tossing a coin over my shoulder. Spinning to see where it landed.

I can’t remember what, or even if, I wished anything, all those decades ago. For health? For love? For a return to Rome? A safe flight home to Vancouver? I really don’t recall. But if I wished for love (as do millions of others whose coins are fished from the fountain every few weeks) that wish has been granted. I am a blessed woman – but not by Oceanus, the pagan god that inspired the Trevi Fountain in 1762. No, my blessings flow from the hand of Yahweh, eternal God and Father of all mankind. And they have been many.

Five years after that day in Rome, now married to the Preacher and expecting our first child, I crafted Valentine cards for our birth families. Simple cards. I didn’t have the tools available today. A gold paper doily on red construction paper. Roses cut from a magazine. A tiny heart punch and a white pencil crayon.

“There are too many things that need to be said more often,” I’d printed. “One of them is so important there is a special day set aside to remind us to say it. We could not let today go by and not tell you...WE LOVE YOU. Rick and Kathy.”

Decades passed. My parents passed. Years later, while sorting through some of Mom’s saved papers, I found that card. Saved. Still pristine. And her voice still echoes, “I love you too, Kathleen.”

The Preacher and I will mark five decades of marriage later this year. Our union has produced two children and six grandchildren. The love that has followed our family, the life we’ve lived, has included quiet seas and rough. I’m grateful I couldn’t see any of that when I romanticized beside that magnificent Roman fountain.

In the Trevi, statues of Tritons guide Oceanus’ shell chariot, illustrating the theme ‘taming the troubled waters.’ But over the years, I have seen a different hand steering our family boat. Sometimes Jesus has calmed our troubled waters. But sometimes he has let the storm rage, holding us steady until it passed.

February has a reputation as the month we celebrate love, primarily romantic love. But allow me to broaden that here. Find some quiet moments. Put down your devices. Thank God for the loves in your life, for His love that has followed you. Saved you. Kept you. Then pick up that device and call someone you love. Several someones. Say those words. “I. Love. You.” We are never guaranteed another opportunity to speak them.

P.S. For a complete and perfect definition of love, how to identify it, how to practice it, read 1 Corinthians 13 in God’s book.

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Tuesday, Feb. 17:
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*5 to 7 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. Paul's Lutheran
Wednesday, Feb. 18:
*7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service at St. Paul's Lutheran
Thursday, Feb. 19:
*5 to 6:30 p.m. MACC Community Outreach Supper at First United Church
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Feb. 14: 10 a.m. M&M
Feb. 15: 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
10:30 a.m. Worship
Feb. 17: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day
Feb. 18: 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

ST. GEORGE’S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Sunday, Feb. 15:
4 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Feb. 22:
11:30 a.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. 15: 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 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 10 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. – Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, Feb. 15:
11 a.m. Worship Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9 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 Mandapathil
Sunday, Feb. 15:
9 a.m. Mass

ST. MARY’S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Feb. 15:
2 p.m. Service

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, Feb. 15:
10 a.m. Communion Service

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, Feb. 15:
No 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



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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, Feb. 14:
9 a.m. Mass
Wednesday, Feb. 18:
9 a.m. Ash Wednesday

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

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
bkbernat@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
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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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- 1 John 4:8

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St. Mark The Evangelist Orthodox Church

160 Betts Ave., Yorkton, Sask

“Services in English”

www.stmarkyorkton.ca

Sunday of the Last Judgement

Saturday February 14th – Vespers 6:00PM

Sunday February 15th – Divine Liturgy 10:00AM

“Be ashamed when you sin, not when you repent”

Priest: Rodion Luciuk Phone: 306-782-2482 Cell: 306-621-5341



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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February 16 - February 21: Priest’s Vacation
Thurs., Feb. 12 • 10:00 AM - Moleben (Yorkton Nursing Home)
Sun., Feb. 15 • 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Yorkton)
Wed., Feb. 18 • 10:30 AM – Moleben (Foam Lake Nursing Home)
Thurs., Feb. 19 • 2:00 PM – Moleben (Theodore Nursing Home)

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 Ronald Arthur Armstrong

June 19, 1937 – Jan. 25, 2026

It is with sadness and heavy hearts, that we announce the sudden passing of Ronald Arthur Armstrong, age 88, at his home in Yorkton, SK on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026.

Ron was born at Fillmore, SK on June 19, 1937 to parents Blanche and Donald Armstrong, and he grew up in Moosomin, SK.

In the early 1960's he moved with his family to Thompson, MB where he was employed by International Nickel for over 30 years.

Upon his retirement in 1992, he settled in Good Spirit Acres, SK, with his wife Wilma (Willie).

He loved his retirement home at Good Spirit Acres, working in the yard, woodworking, fixing things, chatting with friends and neighbours, or just tinkering in the garage.

He also spent time helping with community work parties and events, golfing in the summer, cross country skiing in the winter, and enjoyed a four year term as councillor representing the hamlet of Good Spirit Acres in the R.M. of Good Lake.

Ron was predeceased by his parents Blanche and Donald Armstrong; sister Virginia Heal (Terry); son Brent of Thompson, MB; aunts and uncle Florence Hopper, Ethel Clark, and Doug and Illene Redfern who are all from Moosomin, SK.

Ron is survived by his wife Wilma; granddaughter Jamie; grandson Austin; great-grandson Shea of Sioux Lookout, ON; brother-in-law Terry Heal; nieces Janine (Don) and Michelle of Regina; and sister Janice.

Ron is also survived by his five stepchildren; five step-grandchildren and their large extended families.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no funeral. He will be cremated, and a memorial gathering of immediate family to spread his ashes is to be held at a later date to be determined by his family.

In lieu of flowers, if so desired, please consider lighting a candle, planting a tree, or giving to a charity of your choice in his memory.

Christie's Funeral Service and Crematorium in care of arrangements.



Obituary Donald James Kalamán

Aug. 27, 1939 – Feb. 2, 2026

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Don after a long battle with cancer.

Don is survived by his brother and best friend, Wayne; his sister and brother-in-law, Shirley and Phillip Phayre; his sister and brother-in-law, Irene and Martin Dittrick; brother-in-law Bob Toczak and sister-in-law Anne Kalamán; as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and many special friends.

Donald was predeceased by his parents, James and Elizabeth Kalamán; brothers Albert and John, and sister Ethel.

Donald enjoyed the outdoors while farming, tending his cattle, hunting and fishing, but he also made time for his favourite game of horseshoes, winning many, many trophies over the years. Don also loved going to the casino, having lots of luck there.

As per Donald's request, there will be no funeral service. His final resting place will be in the Whitewood cemetery. We would like to thank the Whitewood Community Health Centre for the care and compassion they provided for Donald during his stay there.

Arrangements entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Whitewood and Melville.



Obituary Eileen Yasinski

April 19, 1953 – Feb. 4, 2026

With heavy hearts, the family of Eileen May Yasinski of Saltcoats, beloved wife of Lorne Yasinski, share the news of her passing on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at the Regina General Hospital with her family at her side. She was 72 years of age.

Eileen was born to Mike and Lena (nee Tulik) Rudnitski on April 19, 1953, in Canora Hospital, and raised in Buchanan, SK.

Eileen and Lorne were married Dec. 2, 1972, and in January 1973, their life in the hospitality business started with the purchase of the Kuroki Hotel in Kuroki, SK. They made several wonderful friends and built a good reputation over the years in various businesses in Imperial, Dinsmore, Assiniboia, Melfort, Weyburn, Grenfell, and then in employment and retirement in Yorkton and then Saltcoats. After the hotel business, Eileen worked for many years for the Saskatchewan Health Authority in Grenfell and in Yorkton.

Eileen always brought a smile and a good helping of hard work and the truth to anything she was a part of. She was a cherished wife and mother, a wonderful cook, and the best grandma with a magical pantry that was never empty. It is worth noting that Eileen's Pickled Egg Recipe is still in the #1 spot in many cupboards in kitchens all over. Hundreds of patrons over the years will still recall the best jar of eggs on a counter somewhere. And further to that, there are some that will never have another potato salad and be satisfied ever again. Hers truly was the best.

Mostly, she will be missed by so many for her heart, her love, her humor, her patience and acceptance. A hug from mom cured almost everything.

Eileen was predeceased by brother-in-law Henry Mamer, Brother and sister-in-law Don and Phyllis Yasinski, Parents Mike and Lena Rudnitski, and parents-in-law Mike and Helen Yasinski.

Eileen is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, Lorne Yasinski, daughter Cassandra (Mason) Bradford (grandchildren Nash and Kamden), son Derek (Rona) Yasinski (grandchildren Aela, K.C., (Ryder), Ron (Nica) (great-grandchildren Elerie and Enzo). Siblings Marlene Mamer, Don (Sharon) Rudnitski, Fedor (Theresia) Rudnitski, sister-in-law Vivian Buchinski, brother-in-law Wayne Yasinski, and numerous loved nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. from the Yorkton Memorial Gardens Family Centre. A family interment will take place in the Saltcoats Cemetery.

Eileen had many cherished pets over the years, those wishing to make a memorial donation in Eileen's memory can do so to the Yorkton SPCA or an animal rescue of their choice as gifts of remembrance. Condolences may be left for the family at www.baileysfuneralhome.com



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1-844-464-6397

Obituary Mary Popowich

July 10, 1926 – Jan. 27, 2026

The family of Mary Popowich of Yorkton, beloved wife of the late William Popowich, sadly announce her passing on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026. Mary was 99 years of age.

Mary was born in the Good Spirit area on July 10, 1926, to John and Extima (née Skwarchuk) Drabiuk. Her family lived on a farm, and growing up in the 1920s and 1930s was challenging. All family members had to share in the workload to survive. From an early age, Mary helped with farm chores and household duties. She learned to cook, knit, and sew, and was often sent to work for neighbours – babysitting and doing housework and chores – to earn money for the family.

In the 1940s, her oldest brother, Bill, took her to British Columbia, where she worked and met her husband-to-be, William Popowich. After a courtship, they were married on Nov. 17, 1946. Mary and William acquired a farm north of Springside, where they farmed until retiring in 1983 and moving to Yorkton.

During the years on the farm, Mary became a homemaker, a devoted mother, and a full-time helping hand in the farming operation. Two children were born to them: Donald in 1947 and Adeline in 1949.

Many farm tasks were done with toddlers and growing children close at hand. Mary helped William in the fields, especially hauling and stacking thousands of square alfalfa bales. Her duties also included milking cows, separating cream for sale, and using it to make exceptional cheese and butter. Cattle were the only livestock raised, though hogs, chickens (mostly from setting clucking hens), ducks, geese, and often turkeys were also part of the operation. Mary loved the roosters – they were her alarm clock at 4 a.m. Many items she purchased over the years had a rooster theme, and she built a large collection of rooster ornaments that brought her great joy. Her house and yard were always immaculate, with beautiful flowers everywhere. Her gardens were huge and bountiful, with rows as straight as an arrow and not a weed to be found. Mary's cooking and baking were exceptional, and she was often asked to be the head cook at weddings and other functions. Mary was very personable and truly enjoyed spending time with neighbours and family, both at the farm and in Yorkton. Besides her many talents – sewing, crafts, culinary skills, and gardening – Mary was remarkably wise and intelligent, especially with mental math. Her long-term memory was extraordinary, and she could recall the names and birthdays of nearly everyone she knew. Mary had a keen sense of humour and gravitated toward people who embraced lightheartedness and did not take themselves too seriously. Her greatest joy in life was her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who always felt her love and warmth in a uniquely special way.

Mary was predeceased by her husband, William; her parents, John and Extima; her beloved daughter, Adeline; her siblings, Bill, Mike, Steve, George, and Sophie; sisters-in-law Lena, Margaret, Nellie, and Marj; and brother-in-law Bill.

She is survived by her son, Don (Joan); grandchildren Ron (Kim), Darrel, Michael (Sass), Tanya (Kevin) Gullion, Peter Steranko, and Tara (Carey) Novak; great-grandchildren Kirsten, Connor, Nathan, Zachary, Danika, Alexis, Cameron, and Matthew; son-in-law Ron Steranko; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, from the Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Orthodox Church with the Very Reverend Archpriest Michael Faryna officiating. Jason Kopan served as cantor. Tanya Gullion served as cross bearer. Don Popowich and Ron Steranko delivered the eulogy. The interment followed in the Yorkton City Cemetery with Ron Popowich, Peter Steranko, Carey Novak, Kevin Gullion, Barry Popowich, and Randy Popowich serving as casket bearers. Tara Novak, Michael Popowich, Darrel Popowich, Shirley Zuravlov, Laurie Heshka, Ron Skwarchuk, Donna Skwarchuk, Brenda Hoffman, Steven Steranko, Dave Adolfson, Marlene Vander Griendt, and Violet Wert served as honorary casket bearers.

Memorial donations in memory of Mary Popowich may be made to Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Orthodox Church or to a Charity of One's Choice as gifts of remembrance. Condolences may be left for the family at www.baileysfuneralhome.com.

Вічна Пам'ять - Eternal Memory



Memoriam



REITENBACH – Jack. In loving memory of our Dad, Grandpa and Great-Grandpa who passed away 10 years ago, Feb. 12, 2016. We thought of you with love today But that is nothing new, We thought about you yesterday And days before that too. We think of you in silence We often speak your name, Now all we have are memories And your picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake With which we'll never part, God has you in His keeping We have you in our hearts. *–Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by Debbie and Gloria and their families.*

Memoriam



ERBACH – Harold – (Oct. 5, 1929–Feb. 12, 2016). In loving memory of my dad, our grandfather & great-grandfather. A decade without you feels like a lifetime Your memory is the treasure that keeps us going Ten years later, we hold you close in our hearts. *–Forever missed and loved by Donna, Brandi & Jason, Traci & Colan, Derek & Amanda & families.*

Classifieds Work

Van For Sale

FOR SALE – 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

Bulls/Heifers For Sale

FOR SALE – One 2-year-old Black Angus bull; two 1-year-old Black Angus bulls; two 1-year-old Black Angus heifers. Phone 306-516-7461 Yorkton area.

Bull Sale March 5

ANDERSON CATTLE Co. **Bull Sale**, March 5, 2026, Swan River, MB. 60 Red and Black Angus and Simmental Angus yearling bulls. Bred females. 204-281-3560, www.andersoncattle.ca

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Caretaker Needed - Yorkton - Looking for a compassionate live-in caregiver for an elderly woman. Includes personal care, overnight care, companionship, meals & light housekeeping. Accommodation + competitive pay. Please call 306-621-4572 to apply.

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Coming Event



A 100th Birthday Celebration is being held on Saturday, Feb. 21 2026 for Doreen Cooper at the Legion Manor Common Room, in Melville, SK. The family is hosting a Come and Go Social from 2 to 4 p.m., welcoming those who know Doreen and would like to celebrate this milestone with her, join us for cake and tea or coffee. M36-2p

Services

Indian Head Library

NEW HOURS

effective Feb. 17, 2026

TUESDAY

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – 1 - 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; 1 - 5 p.m.

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; 1 - 5 p.m.

FRIDAY CLOSED

SATURDAY

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for Hiring of Janitorial Services

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Melville SK currently invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Janitorial Services. The successful bidder will be required to perform the following duties as per the contract:

- cleaning of the entire church once per week or more depending on the week's schedule
- tending to the lawns/flower beds
- minor repairs/maintenance
- setting up/taking down tables and chairs for functions
- other duties as required.

Contract to begin on April 1, 2026. The successful bidder will be required to pass a criminal record check prior to the start of the contract. For more information, please call 306-730-7236.

Bids can be mailed to P.O. Box 400, Melville SK, S0A 2P0 or emailed to c.chair@sasktel.net and must be received by no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, February 20th, 2026. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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matthewsfuneralhome.ca

Gardener's Corner

Flowers are always part of Valentine's Day

By Debbie Hayward
Grasslands News

The next meeting of the Yorkton and District Horticultural Society will be on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Yorkton Public Library. Our topic will be Jelly-Roll Planting. Everyone is welcome!

Valentine's Day is Saturday, Feb. 14. There are so many ways that flowers and plants say, "I love you". Probably one of the first flowers that come to mind are roses, more specifically, red roses. But there are many exciting flower ideas for Valentine's Day!

I'll share a funny little story with you - my darling Mom's birthday was on Feb. 14. I always ordered her birthday flowers well in advance, and on this particular birth-

day, I was going to stop in at the florist's and pick them up on my way home from work.

Picture it: I walk into the florist shop, and there was a long line of men leading up to the counter. The cooler had some pre-wrapped packages that were ordered ahead, like mine, and then several buckets of roses, carnations, and other assorted flowers.

As I stood in line, the flowers in the buckets were growing more sparse with every gentleman's purchase. Soon, some were emptied completely. The line moved forward slowly.

When my turn came, the lady at the counter said, "I'll get your flowers", and as I glanced over my shoulder, the looks on the faces behind me ranged from moderate



anxiety (those near the front of the line) to almost outright panic (those who just walked in and saw the near-empty cooler).

Moral of the story? Plan ahead with flower purchases but be open to and consider exciting new floral gift ideas, ideas that will delight the receiver! I've read several articles that talk about new floral avenues for this special day: some are bouquets that incorporate traditional flowers, some with more unusual and exotic flowers, and some are plants. There are no rules! Many plants can make beautiful gifts, like the ex-

otic heart-shaped blooms of the anthurium (likes indirect but bright light and well-drained soil); an elegant orchid (comes in a variety of colours and sizes, long-lasting blooms, and is easy to grow); Syngonium red heart (low or indirect light, let dry

between waterings) or monstera deliciosa (large, stunning leaves, likes indirect light and looks exotic in any home); air plants in unique containers; succulents planted in romantic collections, or breath-taking little dish gardens with plants like African violets, maiden-hair ferns, or miniature ivies.

And because each person is different, some may prefer the longevity of a stunning houseplant over a bouquet of flowers. No one knows better than you what floral message your special someone might enjoy!

Make any floral gift personal, if you can. I read a lovely story about

a floral bouquet made up of sunflowers; not a traditional Valentine flower by any means, but one that was personal to the couple because sunflowers were the first flowers he ever gave her, and he wrote a lovely note to accompany the bouquet, stating that the day they met changed his life. Now, that's planning ahead and giving flowers with heart!

I send Valentine wishes to all of you, dear gardeners, and a very special Valentine bouquet of love to my sweetheart, Keith.

Visit the horticultural society at www.yorktonhort.ca, a bouquet of "thanks" to Grasslands News for their fine work and have a good week!



Royal Canadian Legion
Indian Head Branch No. 114
General Meeting 2nd Thursday at 2 p.m.
at the Indian Head Memorial Hall
President - Lorne Scott
Contact Ken Turpin 250-661-8812 and Myrna Scott 306-727-3733



Town of Broadview Employment Opportunities

Public Works Summer Employee

The Town of Broadview is looking to fill a Public Works Summer Employment Position.
The position will require working under the direction and guidance of the Town's Public Works Foreman.
A valid driver's license is an asset.
Applications will be accepted at the Town office until positions are filled.

Permanent Part-Time Public Works Maintenance & Equipment Operator

The Town of Broadview is accepting applications for the position of Permanent Part-Time Public Works Maintenance and Equipment Operator.
Applicants must possess a minimum Grade 12/GED, valid Class 5 drivers license and be willing to acquire any certification necessary. Willing and able to learn and become part of the water treatment plant personnel. See Job Duties below.

Seasonal Full-Time Public Works Maintenance & Equipment Operator

The Town of Broadview is accepting applications for the position of Seasonal Full-Time Public Works Maintenance and Equipment Operator.
Applicants must possess a minimum Grade 12/GED, valid Class 5 drivers license and be willing to acquire any certification necessary. See Job Duties below.

Job duties:
Here are some of the main activities and tasks that Public works maintenance equipment operator and related workers have to perform, and some of the physical demands they involve:

- Operate street cleaning equipment such as street sweepers or other vehicles equipped with rotating brushes to remove sand, litter and trash.
- Operate snowplows or trucks fitted with plow blades to remove snow from streets, highways, parking lots and similar areas.
- Operate sewer maintenance equipment such as sewer jet cleaners to maintain and repair sewer systems.
- Operate trucks equipped with apparatuses for spreading sand, salt or abrasives on roadways.
- Operate chainsaws and other clearing equipment to fell trees and cut back vegetation .
- Operate riding mowers to maintain Town owned property and private custom work.
- Check, lubricate, refuel and clean equipment and report any malfunctions to supervisor.

Individuals that are self-motivated are encouraged to apply. Previous experience in operating and maintaining large equipment also preferred. Must be bondable. We will accept Resumes until we have filled the position.

Submit Resumes and References to:
Town of Broadview
P.O. Box 430,
Broadview, Saskatchewan S0G 0K0
Phone 306-696-2533
Fax 306-696-3573
Email: info@broadview.ca

The Town of Broadview would like to thank all who apply, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



List of Lands in Arrears

FORM 1 (Section 3)
Town of White City - Province of Saskatchewan
List of lands with arrears of taxes as at March 3rd, 2025

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 15th day of May, 2026, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Description of Property				Total	Advertising	Total
Lot	Block	Plan	Title No.	Arrears	Costs	Arrears and Costs
X	1	82R49170	142448474	\$12,079.55	\$9.69	\$12,089.24
GG	2	101375614	150061542	\$5,493.61	\$9.69	\$5,503.30
11	2	101375164	157388237	\$6,638.65	\$9.69	\$6,648.34
9	6	74R15542	135492554	\$5,129.42	\$9.69	\$5,139.11
4	7	74R15542	152270142	\$5,858.23	\$9.69	\$5,867.92
12	2	76R05619	154156271	\$5,563.62	\$9.69	\$5,573.31
10	3	76R05619	104419818	\$5,767.58	\$9.69	\$5,777.27
16	11	101909189	153757086	\$6,181.34	\$9.69	\$6,191.03
6	3	101893899	141584676	\$2,145.73	\$9.69	\$2,155.42
9	29	101919450	145519881	\$2,973.75	\$9.69	\$2,983.44
43	16	102049635	142470389	\$3,122.82	\$9.69	\$3,132.51
25	36	102095692	154361471	\$8,369.42	\$9.69	\$8,379.11
44	36	102095692	149816289	\$4,808.32	\$9.69	\$4,818.01
11	38	102095692	158922670	\$2,756.93	\$9.69	\$2,766.62
Y		102056093	147308913	\$2,123.48	\$9.69	\$2,133.17
B		101516240	155723519	\$28.98	\$9.69	\$38.67

Submitted to the head of council this 2nd day of February, 2026. Ken Ritsco, Treasurer



PUBLIC NOTICE - TOWN OF PILOT BUTTE

Notice of Intent to Amend Bylaw No. 02-2023

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Pilot Butte intends to amend the Zoning Bylaw No. 02-2023 and adopt Bylaw No. 01-2026, under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*.

INTENT:
To rezone a portion of the Hillside Park, located on Lafarge Street, from R1 – Single Detached Residential District to R2 – Urban Country Residential District to allow the development of **three large Single-Detached dwellings, with one dwelling on each lot**. The lands are legally described as Lots 10, 11, and 12, Block/Parcel 29, Plan 86R17347.



Fig. 1: R1 – Single Detached Residential District



Fig. 2: R2 – Urban Country Residential District

PUBLIC INSPECTION:
Any person may inspect the proposed Bylaw **No. 01-2026** at the Town Office, located at 222 Diamond Place, Town of Pilot Butte, during regular office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies of the proposed bylaw are available for inspection at the Town Office.

REPRESENTATIONS:
The Municipality is open to accepting any representations from the public that state their concerns or comments regarding the proposed Bylaw No. 01-2026. Written, online, or any other representations shall be submitted with your full name and address no later than **March 2, 2026**, to the Town Office or email to planner@pilotbutte.ca

PUBLIC HEARING:
Council will hold a public hearing for the proposed Bylaw **No. 01-2026** on March 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., in the Town's Council Chambers to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Please call or send us an email with your full name and civic address no later than **March 2, 2026**, to confirm your participation in the public hearing.

For further information, please send an email or contact the Town Planner at **(306) 781-6250**.

Dated this 10th of February 2026, at the Town of Pilot Butte, Saskatchewan.

Felicia Opoku, Municipal Planner

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

This Saskatchewan Holiday weekend everyone will be able to fish for free without a license. Several ice fishing der-

Normally ice fishing

shelters in Saskatchewan south of Highway #16 must be removed by March 15, but anglers are advised to exercise caution this year because warming temperatures may not keep the ice as solid as it should be. There are hefty fines for people who abandon their fishing shacks and let them break up and wash up along the shore creating environmental hazards.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Great day of fishing

Great catch, this ice fishing angler caught 24 fish in two hours last Sunday, Feb. 8.

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A NEWS
SCOOP?**

Send it our way!

newstips@grasslandsnews.ca

grasslands
NEWS | PRINTING



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2026 TUCSON
Lease^a the Preferred AWD:

\$0 down

\$97 | 3.49%
weekly for 48 months

Includes 2% Loyalty rate reduction for qualifying customers^a

Essential model shown*

2026 VENUE
Lease^a the Essential from:

\$0 down

\$74 | 5.99%
weekly for 60 months

Includes 1% Loyalty rate reduction for qualifying customers^a

Essential FWD model shown*

2026 KONA
Lease^a the Essential FWD from:

\$0 down

\$79 | 5.59%
weekly for 60 months

Includes 1% Loyalty rate reduction for qualifying customers^a

Essential FWD model shown*

2026 ELANTRA
Lease^a the Essential from:

\$0 down

\$78 | 3.49%
weekly for 48 months

Includes 2% Loyalty rate reduction for qualifying customers^a

5 Year New Vehicle Limited Warranty
 Peace of mind comes standard

100,000 km
New Vehicle Limited Warranty

100,000 km
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February 5 - 25, 2026

RURAL ROUTES

SAVE OVER \$360

MILWAUKEE M18 CORDLESS COMBO KIT (6-TOOL)

Includes 1/2" hammer drill/driver (2607-20), 1/4" hex impact driver, sawzall reciprocating saw, 6-1/2" circular saw, 4-1/2" cut-off/grinder and work light. Includes 2 M18 REDLITHIUM XC Extended Capacity Batteries. (4101531)

599⁰⁰
KIT
WAS \$959.99

SAVE OVER \$110

MILWAUKEE M18 CORDLESS LEAF BLOWER (TOOL ONLY)

500-cfm, 120-mph. 3017-20 (5711 494)

149⁹⁷
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WAS \$259.99

SAVE OVER 30%

BERNE KNIT CUFF TOQUE

100% acrylic rib knit. One size fits most. Cedar (4086 567), Black (4086 575), Brown (4086 583) or Plum (4086 559)

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SAVE OVER \$35

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Available in sizes 6-13

74⁹⁷
EACH
WAS \$109.99

SAVE OVER 15%

HOME BASE® SNOW PUSHERS

19" (4277 182)
22" (4277 190).....24⁹⁷

22⁹⁷
EACH
WAS \$27.99

SAVE OVER 40%

PRO FUSION PTC HEATER, 11-IN.

1500-W. 12-hour timer. (5187 554)

34⁹⁷
EACH
WAS \$59.99

SAVE OVER \$30

ALLIED HEATED PET WATER BOWL

Thermostatically controlled. Tip-proof. 6' cord with chew protector. 0.25-gal. (6058 572)

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EACH
WAS \$109.99

SAVE OVER \$10

ALLIED HEATED PET MAT

Built-in thermostat. Medium 17" x 24" (6017 693)

184⁹⁷
EACH
WAS \$194.99

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Yorkton
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Theodore
306-647-2241

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306-896-2533

Prices in effect February 5 - 25, 2026, while quantities last.

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REPORT FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

SASKATCHEWAN CANNOT AFFORD MARK CARNEY'S EV SCHEME

Do you feel like subsidizing someone else's purchase of a \$50,000 electric vehicle? That's what Mark Carney is forcing you to do.

Carney wants you to believe that he is scrapping Justin Trudeau's unpopular EV mandate. Trudeau's plan was to outright BAN the sale of gas and diesel vehicles by 2035. Carney is PRETENDING he's lifting the ban, but he's really using a sneaky series of rules to force car dealerships to effectively end the sale of internal combustion engines by imposing strict regulations that only EVs can meet. Its effectively the same outcome. Regular cars and trucks will still become more expensive, and harder to find.

Carney also announced a taxpayer-funded subsidy of \$5,000 for those wealthy enough to afford EVs. That means working people who cannot afford EVs will see their tax dollars go to those who can.

If that isn't bad enough, the overwhelming majority of EVs are manufactured in foreign countries, especially the USA. That means Mr. "Elbows Up" Carney is effectively taxing you to subsidize AMERICAN auto jobs. At a time when Donald Trump's tariffs are damaging Canada's own auto sector, it makes absolutely NO sense to send tax dollars to American auto companies.

People in Saskatchewan deserve the right to choose which car, truck, or minivan suits them best. Many people need trucks and SUVs that can haul thousands of pounds of equipment without complaint, tow trailers over muddy back roads in spring or snow-covered highways in winter, and maintain their range even on the coldest of days.

Mark Carney's Liberals ignores these basic facts. They keep trying to take away consumer choice, and are effectively recycling Trudeau's failed policy under a different name.

Conservatives have a plan to make purchasing vehicles more affordable, support jobs in Canada, and protect your right to choose your own vehicle.

Our plan removes the GST on vehicles assembled in Canada so tough, reliable trucks and SUVs cost less and stay within reach for hard-working Saskatchewan families like yours.

For example, our plan would save the buyer of a \$52,000 truck assembled in Canada \$2,602 in GST. That saved money stays local. It can help pay for maintenance, upgrades, or other essentials that keep the farm and family moving forward.

Liberal policies have already damaged our auto sector badly. Thousands of jobs have vanished, production numbers have dropped by nearly half since the peak years, and communities that depend on those plants feel the pain every day.

Mark Carney's rebate sends Canadian tax dollars to foreign manufacturers instead of supporting our own workers. Rural Saskatchewan should not be taxed to subsidize American and Chinese EVs that do not suit our land, our weather, or our way of life.

The choice is clear: Carney's costly rebate program that bans your favorite vehicle and subsidizes foreign made EVs, or broad based tax relief on all kinds of new vehicles that supports Canadian manufacturing. As always, only Conservatives are on Saskatchewan's side.

As always, my staff and I are available to answer questions and assist constituents in Regina-Qu'Appelle at the phone number below.



**Andrew
SCHEER**
MP ~ REGINA-QU'APPELLE

(306) 790-4727
www.andrewmp.ca

ALWAYS ON SASKATCHEWAN'S SIDE!