

Town, SHA seek to rebuild trust over ambulance

Monthly EMS updates to be provided to Whitewood

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Representatives from the Saskatchewan Health Authority met with Whitewood town council on Jan. 27 to address ongoing concerns about ambulance availability, staffing challenges and communication around emergency medical services in the community.

Whitewood Mayor Chris Ashfield said the discussion was an important step in addressing community concerns following repeated ambulance outages.

“We felt there had been a breakdown of trust, and that’s why this meeting was important,” Ashfield said during the discussion. “Having clear information, having leadership in place, and understanding what the plan is going forward helps rebuild that confidence.”

Attending on behalf of SHA were Rod MacKenzie, Executive Director of Provincial Clinical & Support Services – Community Care; Evan Ulmer, Director of EMS (Provincial); and Dennis Tarr, Central East EMS Operations Manager.

MacKenzie said he attended the meeting specifically to follow up on earlier discussions and to ensure Whitewood had clarity around how EMS services are being managed.

“We wanted to come here in person to make sure things were kosher with the community after our fall discussion,” MacKenzie said. “EMS is only one part of my portfolio, but it’s an important one, and having the right leadership and communication in place is critical.”

SHA confirmed Tarr will now provide permanent management oversight for EMS operations in Whitewood, replacing interim arrangements

that had been in place since the fall. SHA officials said establishing stable, local leadership was a priority and a necessary step toward addressing both operational issues and workplace concerns that have contributed to staff turnover.

Service data shared at the meeting showed the Whitewood ambulance was out of service for 16 days in November and 14 days in December, though SHA noted some of those outages were partial days rather than full 24-hour periods.

From April 1 to Dec. 31, Whitewood recorded 374 EMS events. Of those, 343 were calls within the community and 31 were interfacility transfers. The local ambulance responded to 131 calls, while 212 were handled by ambulances from neighbouring communities under a provincial closest-available response model.

SHA officials emphasized that when the Whitewood ambulance is unavailable, coverage is maintained through nearby services using real-time vehicle location and dispatch systems. Residents were urged to continue calling 911 during emergencies.

“The message to residents is still to call 911,” MacKenzie said. “Even if the local ambulance is out of service, we will get an ambulance to you. We don’t want people delaying care or trying to drive themselves.”

Response times were also discussed, with SHA noting the provincial benchmark for rural emergency calls is under 30 minutes. During the period reviewed, Whitewood recorded 32 high-acuity Delta or Echo calls, with 29 receiving a response within 30 minutes. Response times ranged from as little as six minutes to just over the 30-minute



CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Trailer bearing fire

Whitewood Fire Department responded to a semi trailer fire east of town on Highway 1 on Jan. 29. A bearing on a semi flat deck trailer had overheated and started burning. The fire was quickly put out by firefighters with no damage to the trailer or cargo. See story on page 12.

threshold in one case.

To improve transparency, SHA announced plans to begin providing Whitewood with a monthly EMS “community dashboard,” pending final approvals. The dashboard will summarize call volumes, response times, which ambulance service responded, and updates on staffing and recruitment. SHA said the tool is currently being piloted in one other community and could be rolled out to Whitewood within weeks.

Ashfield welcomed the initiative, saying better access to information would help both council and residents understand what is happening locally.

“That kind of reporting is what we’ve been missing,” he said. “If we can see what’s happening month to month, we can answer questions from residents and have more informed conversations.”

Staffing challenges were a major focus of the meeting. SHA acknowledged difficulties recruiting and retaining paramedics in rural Saskatchewan, citing train-

ing timelines, temporary job postings and labour agreement requirements. MacKenzie outlined several strategies being used, including bursaries for rural paramedics, free training for emergency medical responders, and expanded access to Advanced Care Paramedic training through hybrid and distance education.

Council members also raised concerns about staff turnover and workplace environment. SHA representatives acknowl-

edged those concerns and said securing permanent management was intended to directly address those issues.

“We are aware of those challenges,” MacKenzie said. “That’s one of the reasons it was so important to get a permanent manager in place here, rather than continuing with interim coverage.”

The meeting also included discussion about public education and alternative health resources, including

HealthLine 811 and the province’s virtual physician program, which SHA said can help residents determine when emergency care is needed.

SHA representatives said they plan to continue regular communication with Whitewood as recruitment efforts continue and the new reporting tools are implemented, with the goal of improving service stability and restoring public confidence in local emergency medical coverage.

Whitewood murder suspect appears in court

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

The male youth accused in a murder that took place in Whitewood last November appeared in Broadview court on Jan. 28.

On Nov. 6, 2025, Broadview RCMP were called to a residence in Whitewood where they located an injured adult male. The individual was transported to hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Saskatchewan RCMP’s General Investigation Section and Major Crimes unit began investigating. A male youth was arrested and charged with one

count of first-degree murder in relation to the death of the adult male.

He appeared by video in Broadview court Wednesday, Jan. 28, but cannot be named according to the Youth Criminal Justice Act. The defense attorney informed presiding Judge Lynn Hintz that she had spoken with the accused and with the Crown’s representative prior to the court session. The lawyers requested that the matter be adjourned to Feb. 11 because the Crown attorney wants to meet with the Major Crimes unit before a decision is made. The judge approved the adjournment, and the youth remains in custody.

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More than \$78M in bridge construction happening

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

More than \$78 million in bridge projects are underway or planned across Saskatchewan between now through spring, as the provincial government looks to keep transportation routes open year-round.

In his first press conference since being named to the post, Highways Minister Kim Gartner highlighted the scope of winter bridge work Jan. 29 at the Highway Hotline Operations Centre in Regina, noting that while most road construction pauses once temperatures drop, bridges are different.

“Although the major road construction season runs from about spring to fall, bridge work continues as we move into and through winter,” Gartner said. “Motorists are reminded to be alert, obey all signage and check the Highway Hotline before heading out.”

Bridge construction can continue during colder months because it does not face the same challenges as major grading, earthworks, or paving, which require warm temperatures. Ministry officials say winter bridge projects allow improvements to Saskatchewan’s

transportation system to continue year-round.

Gartner said winter bridge work can also reduce environmental and economic impacts.

“Winter bridge work often takes place over streams, which helps minimize the impact on fish and migratory birds, as well as recreational waterway users,” he said. “Winter bridge work also lowers traffic impacts on farming activities such as spring seeding and fall harvest. It also encourages bridge repairs to happen in a timely manner.”

According to the ministry, exports from Saskatchewan reached more than 160 countries in 2024, with shipments valued at more than \$45 billion. Gartner said maintaining reliable transportation infrastructure is key to keeping that economy moving.

“Our bridge and other work at the Ministry of Highways helps keep the province export-based economy moving,” he said. “And in turn, that economy helps sustain Saskatchewan’s quality of life.”

Projects underway or recently completed span much of the province. In the Carlyle area north-east of Estevan, a \$650,000



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Bridge repairs
Highways minister Kim Gartner spoke at his first press conference Jan. 29, announcing over \$78 million in bridge construction.

project will replace concrete girders and repair abutments on the Highway 13 bridge over Moose Mountain Creek, with work expected to begin this month and wrap up in the spring.

Near Prairie River east of Tisdale, a \$2.7 million project replaced a failed culvert with a new bridge on Highway 3. That bridge opened to two-way traffic in January, with paving scheduled for spring.

Other winter or late-season projects in-

clude \$400,000 in repairs to the Highway 3 bridge over the Red Deer River east of Hudson Bay; \$150,000 in pier cap repairs on the Highway 925 bridge over the Dillon River north of Meadow Lake; and \$2 million to replace two bridges on the Leroy access road southeast of Humboldt, completed in December.

Several bridges damaged or destroyed by wildfires in the summer of 2025 have also been replaced, including structures near East Trout

Lake north of Prince Albert, Morin Lake west of La Ronge, Clarence Lake north of Prince Albert, and along Highway 165 near Beauval.

One of the largest projects is in Moose Jaw, where a \$33.7 million overpass is raising the height of Highway 2 over the Trans-Canada Highway. The new northbound bridge opened to traffic in October, while work on the southbound bridge is expected to resume this spring and continue into 2026.

Frederick Willis, a senior bridge project engineer with the Ministry of Highways, said winter construction is often possible because many projects use prefabricated components.

“The bridges that you see in the wintertime are generally smaller span modular bridges where we use precast components that we can fabricate in advance and then we assemble them on site - like a Lego set essentially,” he said, adding that spreading construction across the year also benefits motorists and contractors. “It keeps things busy and then it spreads that construction over the years, so it’s a little bit easier for the users. And we like to try

and time them, if we can, around farming activities so that we’re not interfering with the spring seeding and the fall harvest.”

The ministry oversees about 26,500 kilometres of highways and more than 700 bridges across Saskatchewan.

Gartner previously served as CAO for the Town of Macklin for 30 years and his background in municipal infrastructure has helped him quickly adapt.

“Highways are the connection between family, they’re between your services that you’re getting, but they’re also a connection to the economy,” he told Grasslands News. “When you put all that together, that’s what you have to take into account. Everything is important and safety is important as well.”

Motorists are encouraged to monitor conditions and construction updates through the Highway Hotline, the province’s road information system. With the most recent budget, the Saskatchewan government says it has invested more than \$13 billion in transportation infrastructure since 2008, improving more than 20,700 kilometres of highways across the province.

Report from the Legislature

Saskatchewan is showing no signs of slowing down, with recently released strong economic numbers. In 2025, our province’s labour market continued to deliver low unemployment and consistent job creation. According to Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan added 15,200 jobs and recorded the lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 5.2 per cent, well below the national average of 6.8 per cent. These results reflect the strength of our industries and employers, and the growing opportunities available here at home.

Positive momentum continues with new wholesale trade figures showing an increase of 15.3 per cent from November 2024 to November 2025. This ranks Saskatchewan first among all provinces for year-over-year growth. Strong performance in this sector signals consumer confidence in our economy. Our government remains focused on ensuring producers can reach the markets they need so more resources continue to flow within our provincial economy.

These strong economic results allow us to reinvest strategically.

Saskatchewan’s position as a global leader in crop exports is built on decades of research and innovation, and we continue to support that work. Our government is also investing in livestock research to help producers adapt, remain competitive, and succeed in an ever-changing industry.

Recently, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture David Marit and Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Heath MacDonald announced a \$9.7 million investment to support crop research in Saskatchewan. This includes \$2.5 million through the *Strategic Research Initiative* to study the long-term management of herbicide-resistant kochia and wild oats. It also includes \$7.2 million to support 39 new crop research projects through the *Agriculture Development Fund*.

the many ways we are doing this is by doubling the *Community Rink Affordability Grant* to \$5,000 per rink, representing an annual investment of more than \$3.2 million. Rinks are vital community hubs where people of all ages come together. Last year alone, more than 300 rinks, covering over 500 ice surfaces, benefited from this program. Full guidelines and the online application are available through the SPRA website at www.spra.sk.ca/funding.

We will continue to invest in priorities that support the people of Saskatchewan. While there is more work ahead, you can count on your Saskatchewan Party government to keep delivering what is best for everyone and our province. If you would like to share your thoughts or have any questions about a provincial program or service, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.



Hon. Warren Kaeding
MLA for Melville-Saltcoats
(306) 728-3881
warrenkaedingmla@sasktel.net

Travis Keisig
MLA for Last Mountain-Touchwood
(306) 334-3444
mla@traviskeisig.ca

Kevin Weedmark
MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre
(306) 435-4005
office@kevinweedmark.ca

Brad Crassweller
MLA for White City-Qu'Appelle
(306) 520-5018
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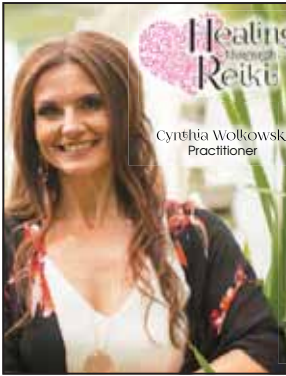
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Storing medication: are you making any of these 3 mistakes?

Medications are sensitive to several factors. If you store them incorrectly, they can lose their effectiveness or even become dangerous to your health. Therefore, it's essential to handle and store them with care. Here are three mistakes to avoid at all costs.

MISTAKE #1: NOT READING THE LABELS

Always check the storage instructions for your medication. Most pharmaceuticals must be kept:

- Away from direct sunlight
- In a room without risk of freezing or excessive heat
- Away from humidity
- In the refrigerator

You can find this information on the label, packaging insert or your prescription. Read it carefully before storing your medication.

MISTAKE #2: BLINDLY RELYING ON THE EXPIRY DATE

The expiry date of a medication only applies to unopened products stored in their original containers. In other words, if the container has been opened or stored under different conditions, the expiry date may no longer be valid.

MISTAKE #3: STORING THEM IN ONE OF THE WORST PLACES

Many people keep their medications in an unlocked cabinet above the bathroom sink, as you often see in movies and TV shows. Avoid this habit at all costs. The bathroom is warm and humid, which can damage your medications. Also, avoid storing them in your car's glove compartment or on a windowsill.

If you have any questions about storing a medication, ask your pharmacist for advice.



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Eight years in, Moe faces fire from NDP

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Usually, celebrations involving cake are cheerful occasions, but in this case, even the person being ‘celebrated’ was not in attendance. Saskatchewan NDP MLAs marked Premier Scott Moe’s eighth anniversary in office on Feb. 2 by accusing his government of worsening affordability, declining health care and record provincial debt, claims the Saskatchewan Party quickly rejected as misleading and politically motivated.

Opposition members gathered at the Legislative Building with what they dubbed an “accomplishment cake,” saying it was meant to highlight what they see as failures during Moe’s tenure as premier, which began in February 2018.

“Eight years of this failed premier and 18 years of this disastrous government, and the bottom line is things have never been worse in Saskatchewan,” said Jared Clarke, the NDP’s Rural and Remote Health critic.

Clarke accused the government of ignoring front-line health-care workers

and raised concerns about comments Moe has made regarding greater private-sector involvement in health care.

“We see a government that ignores and gaslights frontline health-care workers, and now this failed premier is openly talking about moving to a two-tiered American-style health-care system where inevitably his rich friends will be able to jump the line and everyone else will suffer,” Clarke said.

Asked about the cake metaphor, Clarke said the gesture was meant to be ironic rather than celebratory.

“We’re not really celebrating today. We are disappointed with the premier’s legacy after eight years, and I think a lot of Saskatchewan people are too,” he said, adding the display was intended to draw attention to issues the party says continue to resonate with residents.

NDP MLA Brent Blakley - Parks, Culture and Sport critic - said rising costs and public safety concerns have left many residents frustrated.

“I hope that the premier will reflect on his record today — there’s really nothing to be proud

of,” Blakley said. “Cost of living is up, homelessness up, violent crime up. I talk to people every day who are tired of this Sask. Party government.”

Blakley also pointed to the province’s debt, which he said has climbed to \$40 billion.

“They waste money at record levels, and that’s everyday Saskatchewan people that have to foot the bill,” he said.

Jacqueline Roy, the NDP’s Women’s Health and Status of Women critic, echoed those concerns, saying the growing debt load will have long-term consequences.

“It is future generations that will be paying the price for what Scott Moe is doing here today and has done after eight years,” Roy said. “People are tired of seeing health care in the tank. They’re concerned about their jobs, they’re concerned about the provincial debt, and we see them leaving the province in record numbers despite what that Premier claims.”

Roy said the NDP believes Saskatchewan needs a change in direction.

“It is absolutely time for a Sask NDP govern-



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Here’s to eight years

The NDP held a tongue-in-cheek celebration marking Premier Scott Moe’s anniversary as Premier. Seen here, Jacqueline Roy explains the gathering to a few reporters, flanked by fellow MLAs Brent Blakley (left) and Jared Clarke.

ment that fixes health care, creates a strong economy with good-paying jobs and affordability, and puts Saskatchewan people first,” she said.

The Saskatchewan Party dismissed the opposition’s claims, saying Moe’s eight years in office have brought economic growth, affordability and stability to the province.

“We appreciate the NDP’s celebration of Premier Moe’s eight years in office serving the people of Saskatchewan to keep our economy strong, our communities safe and our future secure,” the gov-

ernment said in a statement.

The statement highlighted Moe’s recent trade mission to China with Prime Minister Mark Carney, which the government said resulted in a deal providing relief to Saskatchewan canola producers.

It also pointed to economic indicators, saying Saskatchewan has one of the strongest economies in Canada and remains the most affordable province to live, work and raise a family.

The government said Saskatchewan has the best credit rating among provinces and the second-lowest net-debt-to-GDP ratio, metrics it said demonstrate fiscal stability. It also noted residents benefit from the second-lowest utility costs in the country.

According to the province, population, employment, exports and private capital investment have all

grown under Moe’s leadership, enabling continued investment in infrastructure such as highways, hospitals, schools and long-term care facilities.

The statement said the government has made major investments in health care and education since 2018, including 21 new schools or major renovations, and projects such as the Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital and urgent care centres in Regina and Saskatoon.

The government contrasted its record with previous NDP administrations, noting hospital and school closures that occurred during that period.

“The NDP continue to show time and time again that they cannot be taken seriously and have no plans to benefit Saskatchewan people,” the statement said.

Moe has not publicly responded directly to the opposition’s anniversary event.

Juno Awards nomination for area band

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Local area band Collect Assembly has garnered a Juno nomination.

The band’s recording ‘Outlaw Gospel’ is up for Contemporary Christian/Gospel Album of the Year.

“The band was surprised, but super excited to be recognized nationally in the Christian/Gospel category, because our music pulls away from what that music has been traditionally while still keeping the core,” lead

vocalist and guitarist Joel Ivey told Yorkton This Week.

The recording is one Ivey said was a collective effort, with the songs being written by Morgan Groenewald, and Joel Ivey but performed by the full band, and produced in Springside at Bright Lights Music by Adam Breitreuz.

The band includes Ivey, Morgan Groenewald (lead vox), Courtney Kostur (bgv, banjo, mando, guitar), Steve Gibson (guitar), and Breitreuz

(drummer, producer).

“Our song Walk With Me was picked up by Angel Studios for a movie trailer for the movie The Last Rodeo, and that song peaked so far at #12 on the CCRC chart. So that is probably our favourite song,” added Ivey.

It was Ivey who really led to the band’s creation, and the driver for putting the music out publicly.

He explained he was in a life-threatening farm accident in 2019 and felt God spurring him on to encourage people and help

them face the day-to-day struggle through hope and faith.

“When we first started recording, we started with a song that was supposed to sound like a traditional worship song, but then we added banjo and fiddle and that steered the direction for our sound and look,” he said.

The Juno call is one which can be foundational for a band.

“The nomination solidifies our choice in musical direction,” offered Ivey. “When we first released music in January of 2025, we went to the biggest radio station in Christian music, and they had their reservations because we use a banjo. They still don’t play us, but they are the only station in our nation that hasn’t.”

The Juno Awards of 2026 will be held on March 29 at TD Coliseum in Hamilton, Ont., and Ivey noted their “tickets are booked,” adding “the trip to the Junos is going to be expensive” so fans “can stream our music on any platform. We also have hard copies of the music and other merch available for purchase at www.collectassembly.com”

Ivey added “we are currently in the studio with our sophomore album and a Christmas E.P.”



The band includes Joel Ivey, Morgan Groenewald (lead vox), Courtney Kostur (bgv, banjo, mando, guitar), Steve Gibson (guitar), and Adam Breitreuz (drummer, producer).

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Study puts bison, not cattle, at heart of grazing science

By **Ryan Kiedrowski**
Grasslands News

A new University of Saskatchewan research project aims to fundamentally change how bison graze on the Prairies, replacing decades of cattle-based assumptions with science built specifically around the province’s growing bison herds.

Led by researchers at USask’s Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence, the multi-year initiative is examining how bison graze, behave and interact with soil and plants in fenced, intensive systems — conditions that traditionally dominated much of Saskatchewan’s commercial bison industry.

Researchers say the work is long overdue.

“The first step is to generate science-based information on how this grazing management affects forage and animal production, animal behaviour, the environment, and soil health,” said LFCE research scientist Dr. Eric van Cleef. “Then we’ll have new information that could guide us to the next level, like introducing new forage species to feeding systems.”

The project is being led by van Cleef alongside LFCE director Dr. Scott Wright and Dr. Trevor Crowe, acting dean of USask’s College of Agriculture and Bioresources. It is supported by Saskatchewan’s Agriculture Development Fund, a provincially and federally backed program designed to support innovative agri-food research.

At its core, the research is focused on grazing management — how bison

select forage, how their movement affects soil health, and how fenced systems influence animal behaviour and productivity.

Wright said the project builds on more than a decade of bison research already underway at USask, including genetics and disease studies conducted through the university’s Integrated Omics for Sustainable Animal Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship program.

There’s a vast difference between how cattle and bison graze, as Wright pointed out.

“Bison actually select different products in the forage than cattle do,” he told Grasslands News. “Only in the last 40 years, we’ve seen bison grazing on alfalfa, selecting for fibre. We’ve seen bison grazing on top quality pasture, selecting the dead stuff so that they balance off the quality in their rumen. In pen studies, we’ve been doing some backgrounding work and a little bit of finishing work last year. They adjusted their diet almost based on the fibre that was available, the functional fibre. Cattle will eat what’s sweet, cattle will go after the candy. Bison tend to go after something different.”

Seemingly, bison prefer balance over what’s simply placed in front of them, as van Cleef explained.

“Even with this climate, with a lot of snow, we observed that the bison has the ability to graze,” he said. “Even if we supplement them with bale and with concentrate diets, they go for the natural (source) on the ground.

And if we feed cattle the same way, they go for the bale, they go for the concentrate. So, they’re very different.”

The research herd is grazing at the Goodale Farm bison pasture near Saskatoon; some 500 acres of land divided into 12 grazing pastures and six holding paddocks. The site also includes 18 sorting and holding pens, and indoor handling facility, and a laboratory to analyze samples.

While not native prairie, Wright said the pasture has evolved over time and provides a valuable real-world environment to study long-term grazing impacts.

Over thousands of years, bison grazing helped shape prairie ecosystems, with researchers and Indigenous knowledge holders alike pointing to increased biodiversity linked to bison movement and feeding patterns. Wright said understanding those effects in modern, fenced systems could help producers improve both productivity and land health.

“Bison grazing over the millennia has been looked at as increasing biodiversity,” he said. “The combination of their social units and the way they interact, and then the way they graze on top of it - there’s a fair bit of anecdotal work out there pointing to enhanced biodiversity as we go.”

Economic questions are also central to the project. Van Cleef, who has a background in agricultural economics, is analyzing whether intensive grazing systems are financially sustainable for producers, and how bison can add value to rangeland beyond meat production.

“Is it economically feasible? Can it be profitable and sustainable at the same time?” van Cleef said. “How can we bring Indigenous communities and groups of producers on board and show them we can do this and be sustainable? I think that’s what’s important.”

Those broader values extend beyond economics into cultural and social considerations, particularly for Indigenous communities working to reintroduce bison to their traditional territories. Crowe said engaging Indigenous knowledge and experience is essential to the project’s success.

Candace Wasacase, CEO of the Kahkewistahaw Economic Management Corporation and a member of Kahkewistahaw First Nation, said bison are far more than livestock.

“There’s a re-emergence and a renewal of the bison spirit back to our community, and I think projects like this will help



CHRISTINA WEESE FOR USASK

Bison grazing

Bison grazing at the Goodale Farm bison pasture, associated with the University of Saskatchewan’s Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

the co-creation of a new knowledge base about bison, the land and all its people, First Nations and not,” she said.

Wasacase is working on a separate initiative to bring a bison herd to Kahkewistahaw First Nation and said the USask research could help ensure such projects are sustainable over the long term.

“Bison are a keystone

species on this land,” she said. “They’ve had a relationship with First Nations for thousands of years, and it’s important we treat them as the relatives they are.”

Saskatchewan’s bison population is estimated at between 50,000 and 60,000 animals, most of them raised on private farms. Wright said those figures may be conservative, not-

ing how frequently bison can be seen across the province.

The project is funded through the Agriculture Development Fund, which is supported under the five-year, \$3.5-billion Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership, a cost-shared federal-provincial initiative aimed at strengthening Canada’s agri-food sector.

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Yorkton

2026 bison event set

By **Calvin Daniels**
Grasslands News

Bison producers from across the Prairies will soon be converging on Yorkton for the 2026 No Borders Bison Show, Sale and Convention.

A joint event by the Saskatchewan Bison Association and the Manitoba Bison Association is set for Feb. 20 and 21.

SBA president Keegan Kitzul said the two-day event is expected to attract 200-250 registrants, with about 60 per cent of those from Saskatchewan, 30 per cent from Manitoba and the rest travelling from Alberta.

“It’s a pretty good mix,” he said.

A big part of the event will be a series of presentations, some focused on speakers and others being producer-panel based, said Kitzul.

Among the speakers will be Adam Ulbreicht from the National Bison Association in The US, and well-known for his “The Bison Insider” podcast.

Tanya Dubois from Big D Bison will present on creating social media content.

Veterinarian Deanne Wilkinson will speak on tuberculosis and traceability.

Both Manitoba Bison and Saskatchewan Bison will hold their AGMs as part of the event too.

The event will also highlight a breeding stock sale Saturday with about 60 animals, bulls and females on offer. Kitzul said online bidding will be available through Jack Auction Group for those unable to attend in-person.

Further details can be found at saskbison.ca

OPINION

A speech that echoed what many Canadians feel

When Jasmine Laine addressed delegates at the Conservative Party convention in Calgary over the weekend, her remarks landed with force not because they introduced new ideas, but because they articulated feelings many Canadians have carried quietly for years.

Laine, an award-winning former broadcaster and host of the podcast Over Opinionated, is not an elected politician. Yet her speech reflected a growing undercurrent in Canadian public life — one that helps explain why the Conservative Party increased its share of the popular vote in the last federal election, particularly among younger voters and working households. Voters may not agree on every policy solution, but many appear to agree on the diagnosis: daily life has become harder, more expensive, and less predictable, and official explanations no longer line up with lived experience.

Throughout her address, Laine returned to a simple premise: people do not feel something has gone wrong because they were persuaded by slogans or media narratives, but because they experience it every day — at the grocery store, at the gas pump, in housing costs, and in the difficulty of planning for the future. That disconnect between policy language and personal reality, she argued, has eroded trust and fuelled political realignment.

Her comments reflected a sentiment heard increasingly across kitchen tables and workplaces: frustration at being told that struggles are either unavoidable, exaggerated, or the result of individual failure. For many Canadians, particularly those under 40, the promise that hard work would reliably lead to stability now feels uncertain. Delayed home ownership, postponed family plans, and rising debt are not abstract concerns, but defining features of adulthood.

Laine suggested that public debate has often responded to these frustrations by questioning motives rather than outcomes — focusing on tone, intent, or moral positioning instead of whether policies are actually improving quality of life. That approach, she said, has left many Canadians feeling dismissed rather than heard. While framed from a conservative perspective, this criticism aligns with broader polling that shows declining confidence in institutions and political leadership across party lines.

Importantly, her speech did not dwell on partisan attack so much as on recognition. The applause in the room appeared driven less by ideology than by validation — the sense that someone had named the gap between official optimism and everyday experience. That sense of recognition helps explain recent electoral trends, where voters dissatisfied with the status quo have shifted support, even if they remain skeptical of politics as a whole.

Laine also spoke to why this shift has not necessarily translated into enthusiasm for government, but rather into a demand for accountability. The Conservative Party's recent gains do not appear rooted solely in policy detail, but in a broader perception that it has been more willing to acknowledge decline rather than reframe it as progress. Whether that perception holds under future scrutiny remains to be seen, but it has clearly resonated with a segment of the electorate.

Her closing message — that disengagement only entrenches the problems people are frustrated by — struck a civic note rather than a partisan one. Democracies, she argued, depend on participation, even when institutions feel distant or unresponsive. That idea, too, reflects a wider public conversation about how to rebuild trust and responsiveness in Canadian politics.

Laine's speech mattered not because it changed minds in the room, but because it gave voice to feelings already shaping electoral outcomes outside it. As Canada moves toward its next federal contest, parties across the spectrum would do well to listen carefully — not just to what voters are saying, but to why they are saying it.



Letter to Editor: Land, democracy and Canada's future at risk

Dear Editor,

This letter is now in the hands of all Members of our Federal Parliament.

Poking around the internet looking for that illusive and sacred truth has become a time-consuming exercise in futility.

Social media and talk-show hosts have become very popular while our WOKE politicians and a confused judiciary are fully engaged fragmenting and re-defining our country.

Carney's new world order is slowly coming into focus. As a long-time banker he knows money, but policy and direction is still in a dense fog. Arbitrarily awarding a bunch of non-Indigenous people veto powers over land use and resource development is simply incomprehensible.

Land ownership should be on top of the page. Ownership must be 'cut in stone', as it is the very foundation, we absolutely must have to stabilize our already fragile financial, socio-economic, and political environments.

Today the doors are wide-open for big multi-national corporations to scoop our precious and overpriced housing properties, making home ownership for Canadian middle-class workers completely out of reach.

Huge global corporations have been busy buying our land and housing properties, while Trudeau was busy transforming Canada into a world class refugee camp.

Economic immigrants we desperately needed to grow our economy are leaving through our back doors. About 1.25 million TFWs are taking their jobs, and more than half a-million people are collecting EI.

Total aggregate federal and provincial over-spending for 2025 – 2026 alone is projected to be in excess of \$113 billion, while about 80 per cent of so-called Indigenous residents still rely on social assistance. The Chiefs are getting the bulk of our resource royalties we need to build municipal, provincial, and federal infrastructure.

Our colonial political

system has left the doors wide open for radical changes in ownership of our land, and the destruction of our working middle class. Without the land, and the people to work it, we are truly screwed. We will all be tenants. We are well on our way.

A Proportional ballot is the only 'weapon' that completely destroys that incredible lock our Premier David Eby has on the BC Legislature.

Adopting, implementing, and using a Proportional ballot to pass legislation will require the support of at least

50 per cent of all eligible voters, not five per cent, and nobody will have veto powers.

Without that ballot we can kiss Canada as we know it goodbye and follow the US and the UK down that ugly colonial political sewer. The Eby's and the Carneys of the world do not want to perform their electoral mandate to govern, they want to Rule, and Carney wants a mandate to bury that truth we so desperately need to have closure on reconciliation.

- Andy Thomsen, Kelowna BC

(MORE LETTERS, PAGE 7)

Your opinions welcome!

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 to host SWF convention

Hunters, anglers, conservationists to meet Feb. 12-14

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation will hold its annual convention in Yorkton Feb. 12-14.

“This is an opportunity for conservationists, hunters and anglers from around the province to discuss the fish and wildlife issues impacting Saskatchewan today. This is where your voice is heard on matters that are near and dear to our hearts,” said Yorkton SWF spokesperson Laura Uhryn.

Speakers will be a big part of the event.

“We have a pile of interesting presentations,” said Uhryn.

Included among those presentations is keynote

speaker Bill Houston from the National Wildlife Federation.

“We also have the Wildlife Unit from the Ministry of Environment doing presentations on The Preliminary findings of the November elk hunt, Big Game Survey Results, Swift Fox Surveys and Wildlife Health,” said Uhryn.

“We will also be hearing from Fisheries. There will be presentations on Aquatic Invasive Species, the Provincial Fish Hatchery, Lake Sturgeon and Plains Sucker Research and Troutreach.”

Uhryn said many of the presentations have an educational element such as learning about the Wild Turkey Project in the province.

There will also be a

number of presentations from students from the University of Regina.

“Topics include their fish tagging program, how warm water affects walleye growth, northern crayfish in Saskatchewan and Bird and Mammal Diversity in Southern Saskatchewan,” said Uhryn.

Not all presentations are related to hunting and fishing either.

“We will hear about the impacts of forestry on Boreal Songbirds in Saskatchewan as well,” said Uhryn.

“Finally, we will have presentations from the Sask Ministry of Community Safety, the new home for Saskatchewan’s Conservation Officers. They will give a presentation on a few wildlife related cases that were investi-

gated and resolved over the past year.”

Uhryn said the event will be one of learning for the expected 250 delegates.

“A person definitely walks away with a stronger appreciation for hunting, fishing, conservation and all around outdoorsmanship,” she said.

One can register by contacting Uhryn directly via email, YorktonWildlifeFederation@gmail.com or visiting the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation website. The event offers one, two and three-day registration packages.

There is a banquet each night that people can register for as well. The Thursday and Saturday banquets are awards and recognition events, and Friday night is the fundraiser night.

“It is our biggest night as we have thousands of dollars’ worth of raffle prizes, live auction and silent auction items up for grabs,” said Uhryn.

“We also have live entertainment Saturday night courtesy of Saddles and Steel.”

The provincial convention was last held in Yorkton in February 2016.

Archives Week highlights province’s documentary heritage; marks 21 years

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists and many dedicated communities across the province are celebrating the 21st anniversary of Archives Week, which has been proclaimed by the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sports from Feb. 2 to 8.

This year will be a milestone year for SCAA and its members as Jan. 29 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Council’s amalgamation. This union brought together archivists, institutions, and advocates with a shared commitment to preserving and making Saskatchewan’s documentary heritage accessible.

We are once again proud to connect the vast amount of history and heritage our province has to offer and bring Saskatchewan’s archives into the spotlight. The SCAA has planned another virtual video event, whereby institutions have submitted short video clips showcasing their successes and achievements of the past year; and also displayed the hard work and dedication of archivists in preserving the vibrant history of the province. These videos were featured online each day during Archives Week.

For more details of other Archives Week events happenings in communities across Saskatchewan, we invite you to visit <https://www.scaa.sk.ca/public-awareness/archives-week/>

Letter to Editor: Support the Indian Head Research Farm

Dear Editor,

The recently announced closure of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Farm at Indian Head is devastating news! It is upsetting to me personally because I worked there for twenty-five years. But more important are the impacts on affected staff and their families, on our local community, on prairie agriculture as a whole and on the broad Canadian public who rely on a productive, sustainable and prosperous agriculture.

The Indian Head Research Farm has long been a key source of improved genetics for Canadian agriculture. The AAFC Seed Increase Unit (SIU) located on the Farm is the largest single source of Breeder Seed for the Canadian pedigreed seed system. Its national mandate is to produce and distribute Breeder Seed of crop varieties developed by AAFC scientists. Currently the SIU produces and distributes over 300 varieties of more than 30 cereal, oilseed, pulse, forage and special crops. These varieties represent a significant portion of crop production in Canada, a multi-billion-dollar industry. The specialized land, staff, equipment and facilities on the Indian Head Research Farm are ideal for this operation and would be difficult to replace or relocate.

The rich Class 1 soils at Indian Head provide an excellent site for testing new crop varieties. This was recognized as early as 1906 with development of the renowned spring wheat variety Marquis. Variety testing and plant breeding activities remain a significant activity on the Research Farm with technical staff of the Arid Prairie Wheat Breeding Program planting and harvesting tens of thousands of small plots of spring wheat and other cereals each year. The spring wheat varieties developed by this program are planted on more than half of all spring wheat acres in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. How’s that for success?

Crop management and agronomy have been studied at Indian Head since the Farm’s inception in 1887. The success of these efforts is evidenced by the productivity of diverse crops grown in this region using practices developed and perfected by agronomists at Indian Head. These specialists are highly sought after at workshops and field days which are always well attended. The themes of agronomic research here at Indian Head reflect issues of current and anticipated concern to producers. The Long-Term Rotation study managed by agronomy program staff has been running for nearly 70 years and is a one-of-a-kind benchmark study detailing the impacts of crop rotations and fertilizer use on

crop outputs and soil quality. Its termination would be a loss to the science which guides policy.

The crucial role of trees in the settlement of the prairies was demonstrated soon after the founding of the Indian Head Experimental (Research) Farm. This resulted in the development of the Tree Farm (Shelterbelt Centre) on a nearby site where the soil and water supply were better suited to growing trees. Although tree propagation and distribution were stopped with the closure of the Shelterbelt Centre, agro-environmental research continued with the transfer of scientists and technical staff to the Research Farm. This research includes studying the importance of perennial species in creating diverse environmental benefits and economic returns on land considered marginal for crop or livestock production. Research by the agro-environmental group shows the benefit of maintaining naturalized “pollinator strips” around farmland to support insect populations thereby improving pollination and increasing yield of crops such as canola. The economic impact of these results merits consideration by producers and policymakers alike.

The Indian Head Agricultural Research Foundation (IHARF) has been an invaluable partner for operations on the Research Farm since its founding thirty years ago. What began as a means of managing non-plot fields in the land rotation grew to include partnerships with diverse cooperators, annual field days attracting hundreds, the hiring of additional staff and the development of a multi-faceted applied research program involving AAFC scientists, individual producers, producer associations, the input industry and others in the agricultural community. The impact of IHARF’s activities are of significant economic benefit to prairie agriculture.

Aside from their meaningful work at the Indian Head Research Farm most of the staff and their families live in or near Indian Head. They contribute to the community’s vibrancy in so many ways: spouses are employed in the community, children attend local schools, family members participate in all manner of cultural, sports and volunteer activities. Their departure would create a void in public life.

There is a line from a song says that you don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone. The Indian Head Research Farm is not gone yet. It is still here and is an invaluable asset to our community, our province and our country. It deserves your support. Please add your voice to those resisting the closure.

- Dave Gehl, retired manager for Indian Head Research Farm

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NDP raises alarm over proposed SHA 'snitch line'

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan NDP is accusing the Sask-Party government and the Saskatchewan Health Authority of trying to silence frontline workers by seeking proposals for an anonymous reporting system, a move the Opposition says risks further damaging morale in an already strained health-care system.

The criticism follows a Saskatchewan Health Authority tender, posted Jan. 13 on SaskTenders, seeking an "Anonymous Reporting Mechanism." The service is described as a way for employees and others to anonymously report suspected violations of SHA policies, codes of conduct or conflict-of-interest rules.

NDP health critic Meara Conway said the timing and scope of the request for proposals raise serious concerns, particularly as health-care workers continue to speak publicly about overcrowded emergency rooms, staffing shortages and safety risks.

"At a time when Saskatchewan's health-care system is under enormous strain, when frontline workers are facing rising violence in the workplace, unsafe patient loads, and heartbreaking moral distress, Scott Moe and the Sask Party are more worried about saving face than fixing healthcare," Conway told reporters Jan. 21. "Let's be very clear about what this is, a snitch line. This is a heavy-handed tool, and I'm sure that the hope is that it will be used to silence healthcare workers who speak out about unsafe conditions at work."

The SHA explained that anonymous report-



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Who ya gonna call?

Opposition Health Critic Meara Conway is calling a proposed anonymous reporting system a 'snitch line'. She met with reporters at the Legislative Building on Wednesday, Jan. 21.

ing is nothing new to the health sector.

"Anonymous reporting is a widely used best practice across Canadian health systems and major employers, and it is intended to ensure staff have a safe reporting option to raise concerns without fear of reprisal, particularly when they may not feel comfortable coming forward through other channels," said the SHA in a statement to Grasslands News. "A 2024 report from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners found that organizations with reporting mechanisms were nearly twice as likely to detect fraud via tip as organizations without, illustrating the important role that reporting mechanisms play in detecting fraud."

As for motivation of gathering anonymous information, the health authority rejected claims of creating a 'snitch line'.

"The SHA currently

has a Request for Proposals publicly posted to explore an anonymous reporting mechanism for serious concerns such as fraud, conflicts of interest, or other wrongdoing," the SHA said. "This public RFP was initially posted in January 2025 and reposted on January 13, 2026, after no vendor submissions were identified that met the organization's requirements through the initial procurement process. This work supports The Publicly-funded Health Entity Public Interest Disclosure Act, passed in 2021, which protects employees of publicly funded health entities when they disclose wrongdoing in good faith and helps ensure concerns can be raised without fear of reprisal."

Provincial Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill has publicly stated that the proposed reporting mechanism is "another thing in the health-care system that the NDP has misrep-

resented and mischaracterized."

"Any large employer of any size, public or private, has a tool where employees can anonymously report issues," he said. "They may see violations of policy. People may not feel comfortable coming forward and sharing their name or speaking with their direct manager, but yet, if there's things that are going wrong, that are wrong, the SHA wants to investigate that and correct that if needed. So, this tool is to help with that, and I would say it's common across large organizations in the public and private sectors."

Prior to the initial public RFP posting in January 2025, the SHA noted they "engaged union partners to inform them of this work and seek input."

"As this work advances, we will continue engagement with union partners and communicate openly with health-care teams to ensure any

mechanism implemented supports a culture of honesty and trust," the health authority said.

Conway questioned those motives, noting the tender was posted one day after more than 200 workers at Saskatoon's St. Paul's Hospital publicly called for an immediate safety plan, and months after about 450 workers at Royal University Hospital made similar pleas. She called both actions unprecedented in Saskatchewan.

"We've highlighted some of the policies we're concerned that this would capture," she said. "Speaking to media, saying things that tend to damage the reputation of the SHA. This is also in the larger context of retaliations, threats of retaliation and real retaliation that we've seen."

Conway brought up the example of Glen Perchie, the former EMS Director/Chief – South who was removed from his posi-

tion before retirement and after a meeting with Whitewood Town Council.

"I'm more certain than ever that Glenn Perchie was fired because he spoke out," she said. "Even if you didn't fire him because he spoke honestly, that is the perception by everyone I've talked to. And I've been reached out to many people - especially in EMS."

While approached by Grasslands News for the reason of Perchie's dismissal, neither the SHA, Health Minister, nor local MLA could provide an answer.

The NDP argues the proposal could conflict with whistleblower protections intended to allow workers to raise concerns without fear of retaliation. Conway pointed to existing SHA policies that require staff to route media requests through communications and to protect the organization's reputation, suggesting those policies could be used to discourage public discussion of workplace conditions.

"You don't solve a staffing crisis by silencing those who are still showing up every day," Conway said. "You solve it by making healthcare safer, properly staffed and worthy of the people who dedicate their lives to it."

Meanwhile, the health authority reaffirmed their commitment to employees and the public.

"The SHA is committed to fostering a culture of safety and accountability, and to maintaining safe care environments and respectful workplaces for patients, families, and health-care teams," they said. "We trust and deeply value the work of our health-care teams, and we remain focused on supporting them in delivering high-quality patient care. As an organization of more than 45,000 employees and approximately 3,000 physicians, we continue to look at approaches that strengthen and support transparency and accountability."

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Report says province short about 21,000 childcare spaces

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan is on track to fall well short of its target for creating new affordable childcare spaces, according to a new report from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

The report, released this week, estimates the province has created 6,915 childcare spaces as of the third quarter of 2025, compared with a provincial target of 28,100 spaces by the end of March 2026. That leaves Saskatchewan approximately 21,000 spaces short of its stated goal.

The report also ranks Saskatchewan second-last among provinces in access to regulated childcare, estimating there are 3.5 licensed spaces for every 10 children requiring care. The national average is 5.9 spaces per 10 children.

Opposition figures say

the shortfall reflects a broader lack of progress on childcare access.

“Families and childcare providers have been raising concerns for years, and those warnings have gone unanswered,” said Joan Pratchler, the Saskatchewan NDP’s shadow minister for childcare and early learning. She said affordable childcare is both a family support and an economic issue, allowing parents to participate in the workforce.

Pratchler also criticized how childcare spaces are being counted, arguing the government is including programs that already existed or are not full-day options. She called on the province to provide greater transparency around childcare agreements and space creation.

Pratchler was joined at a Regina news conference by representatives from Childcare NOW, including Cara Werner, who questioned the lack of public detail around a recently signed federal-provincial childcare agreement.

“We know access to childcare has been a long-standing challenge in Saskatchewan,” Werner said, adding that families and providers want clarity on how new funding will translate into actual spaces.

The report estimates about 90 per cent of Saskatchewan families live in areas with insufficient childcare coverage, a situation advocates say is contributing to workforce shortages and increased pressure on household finances.

Premier Scott Moe and the Saskatchewan Party government have previously said expanding childcare access remains a priority, pointing to federal funding agreements and investments aimed at reducing fees and increasing capacity across the province.

In past statements, the government has also cited challenges including staffing shortages, infrastructure costs, and the pace at which new facilities can be brought online, particularly in rural and northern communities.

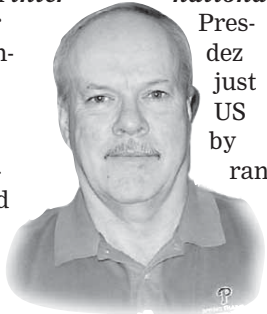
The Saskatchewan NDP said it would prioritize expanding childcare spaces if elected, arguing improved access is necessary to retain young families and support economic growth.

The Ministry of Education had not provided a response to the report by deadline.

Gene Hauta

It’s a Strange World

Honduras has put out an *international arrest warrant* for former president Juan Orlando Hernandez (president from 2014-22), days after his release from prison following a pardon President Trump. The war-cites money laundering and fraud charges linked to Hernandez’s first presidential campaign more than 10 years ago. Prosecutors allege that between 2010 and 2013, public funds were funneled through private foundations to finance political campaigns, including Hernandez’s 2013 bid for office. Hernandez, 57, is in hiding somewhere in the USA. President Trump’s pardon of Hernandez came after the former president sent Trump a letter claiming he was a victim of “political persecution” by the Biden administration. Hernandez had been arrested and extradited to the United States in 2022, then convicted on drug trafficking and weapons charges and sentenced to 45 years in prison. He was a key figure in a major drug-trafficking conspiracy. *“But Trump set him free* while ordering the military to blow Venezuelan boats (possibly manned by only fishermen) out of the water. Hypocrisy! I wonder what Hernandez offered Trump?”



Pres-dez just US by rant

A GoFundMe account was set up for actor Mickey Rourke, who was facing eviction. His friend said the fundraiser had been okayed by Rourke, but after \$47,000 had been pledged, Rourke spoke up and said that *he doesn’t even know what GoFundMe is*, and, for sure, “I wouldn’t ask for no f---ing charity.” He clarified that he’d rather die than ask fans for money. He urged fans to avoid donating to the page and said those who did should try to get their money back.

A Georgia father, Chris Johnson, didn’t just object to his 14-year-old’s new sleeve tattoo, he called the cops. Authorities say a woman and *unlicensed tattoo artist Walter Nesbitt were arrested* after the teen showed up with an arm-length tattoo that state law flatly prohibits for minors. The boy’s mother took him out on Dec. 28, and when he returned with the sleeve, his father, deemed it ‘very inappropriate’ and reported to the Bibb County Sheriff’s Office. Johnson has full custody of the teen. Eventually, the tattoo artist was tracked down and eventually admitted his role, adding that he is unlicensed and did not obtain a signed consent form from the mother. State law prohibits tattoos for anyone under 18 except when done by a licensed physician or osteopath for medical or cosmetic reasons. Both mother and artist face up to a year in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000 if convicted.

A Detroit suburb has agreed to a \$3.25 million settlement with the family of a young woman who had been *declared dead at home* but then gasped for air and opened her eyes when her body bag was unzipped at a funeral home. That would be a shock for all involved parties. Southfield paramedics were accused of gross negligence in how they responded to Timesha Beauchamp after a 911 call in 2020. The 20-year-old, who had cerebral palsy, was eventually rushed to a hospital and died two months later. Beauchamp was struggling to breathe when her family called 911. A medical crew tried to resuscitate her and also consulted a doctor, who declared her dead over the phone without going to the home. Later that day, a funeral home opened the body bag and found Beauchamp gasping for air. She was swiftly taken to a hospital but never recovered. Southfield fought the lawsuit and persuaded a judge to dismiss it based on governmental immunity. The Michigan Court of Appeals, however, overturned that decision in 2024. The Southfield fire chief had said Beauchamp’s situation might have been a case of “Lazarus syndrome,” a reference to people who come back to life without assistance after attempts to resuscitate have failed.

New dad, Reden Ramos *won \$1 million* on the Dec. 10 LOTTO 6/49 draw! Ramas was buying formula for his newborn baby son when he purchased the ticket. It took him a while to find out he had won because, in his words: he was busy! Besides the new baby, he is working three jobs. Ramos said the timing could not be more perfect for his growing family, calling it “a once in a lifetime thing!” It is nice to see a person like that win.

So, you’re saying there’s a chance for me? Mrs. Howta would ruin my day by pointing out that I need to buy a ticket first of all...

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Local credit unions could see new loyalty rewards after Sask. investment

By **Ryan Kiedrowski**
Grasslands News

A Saskatchewan-based venture capital fund is betting that modern loyalty programs can help credit unions deepen member relationships and better compete in a crowded digital banking landscape.

Conexus Venture Capital has completed a \$3 million oversubscribed fundraising round in Cyder, a Canadian fintech company that builds personalized loyalty platforms specifically for credit unions. Conexus Venture Capital’s CVC Fund #2 led the round, with participation from MaRS IAF, Graphite Ventures and Sprout Fund.

Jordan McFarlen, managing director at Conexus Venture Capital, said the investment aligns directly with the fund’s mandate to strengthen the credit union system through technology.

“We’re always hyper-focused on doing anything we can to support the credit

union system and improve credit unions across Canada,” McFarlen said. “Our work is investing in high-growth technology companies. The relationship came together over the past year in a number of connections and we feel like there’s a pretty exciting opportunity as it relates to loyalty in the credit union space and beyond.”

Cyder’s platform allows credit unions to design and operate their own branded loyalty programs without the cost and complexity traditionally associated with large bank rewards systems. The company says it already represents more than 1.5 million members across North America, with credit unions in both rural and urban markets either live on the platform or preparing to launch.

“We’re seeing a clear shift. Credit unions aren’t asking whether they need loyalty; they’re deciding how fast they can launch it. This round allows us to meet that demand,” noted Sukhman Dulay, CEO and Co-Founder of Cyder.

McFarlen said Saskatchewan members could eventually see locally tailored loyalty options rolled out across multiple credit unions.

“The hope would be that over time you start to see some great loyalty opportunities for members across a number of Saskatchewan credit unions,” he said. “Just further in-

tegration between credit unions and the amazing small, medium and large businesses that they support.”

Rather than a one-size-fits-all points system, McFarlen said credit unions can customize rewards to reflect local priorities.

“You can create a really interesting, localized loyalty program,” he said, pointing to potential partnerships with local bakeries, coffee shops, arts organizations or sports teams. “Which is pretty exciting.”

For Cyder, the investment represents both capital and validation from its core customers. William Christodoulou — Cyder’s CTO/COO and Co-Founder — said the idea for the company grew out of a belief that credit unions were an underappreciated alternative in Canadian banking.

“The best kept secret in the country is the concept of credit unions that have been around for 100 plus years,” he said. “My co-founder and I strongly believe that one mechanism that credit unions were lacking ... was their ability to create their own loyalty programs.”

Large banks, he said, have long been able to spend millions of dollars to launch rewards programs, a cost that was out of reach for most credit unions. Cyder’s solution was to build shared technology using a cooperative model. The

company has been operating in its current form for several years but only entered the market more recently after extensive development and testing.

“It takes time to build a financial institution ready product,” William said. “We’ve been in market for only a couple of years now, but we’ve been at it for four or five.”

He said the backing from Conexus Venture Capital and its limited partners is especially meaningful.

“The acknowledgement from our clients as investors ... is huge for us,” he said. “It’s a massive accelerator.”

Cyder says it is now servicing more than 20 credit unions, with additional growth expected in Canada and the United States. The new funding will be used to scale operations, expand marketplace partnerships and onboard more institutions.

Unlike traditional rewards programs focused mainly on credit card spending, William said credit union loyalty can be tied to a broader range of behaviours.

“When you think of loyalty in a financial institution, it’s the entire journey,” he said. “How do I bring the member in to make them feel like they’re getting the value that my credit union wants to provide?”

That can include incentives for saving, improving

credit scores, supporting local businesses or contributing to community initiatives.

“We create like credit union style loyalty campaigns,” he said.

Local merchants can also participate by sponsoring rewards, giving smaller businesses access to tools typically reserved for national chains.

“With the program that’s being brought in by the credit unions, these smaller shops are able to have some type of program that brings people in,” Wil-

liam said.

McFarlen said the investment will help Cyder keep pace with demand.

“This just allows them to go further faster and offer the service to more credit unions,” he said.

For Cyder’s founders the milestone is significant but not the end goal.

“You take the win you’re excited about it you’re members of the massive milestone and journey,” William said. “And then you mostly enjoy the journey itself, rather than the milestone itself.”

Sask tourists shun USA

By **Alan Hustak**
Grasslands News

The number of motorists going from Saskatchewan into the United States through Montana and North Dakota last year dropped by 30 per cent, resulting in an estimated \$35-million loss to the economy of both states.

Customs and Border Patrol report a significant drop in the number of entries into the United States last year, down on average to about 30,000 crossings at North Portal and Regway each month since Donald Trump took office for his second term, down from about the 42,000 visitors each month the previous year.

Tourism is North Dakota’s third largest industry worth \$3 billion each year and employs about 43,000 people.

Minot - which was once a popular U.S. shopping destination for Canadians - reports a 20 per cent drop in tourist activity and the Big Sky ski resort in Montana has recorded a 16 per cent drop.

“Financially, having the loss of Canadian traffic is massive,” says Brad Niva, CEO of Visit Big Sky. “In my community, it’s half a million dollars of lost revenue.”

Niva says the resort has stopped marketing efforts such as offering Canadian currency at par to attract Canadians. He believes some Canadian visitors plan to delay U.S. travel for several years because of Donald Trump and the current political and social climate in the United States.

Tourism officials in Montana, however, claim the boycott by Canadian visitors has not seriously affected the state’s 5.5 billion dollar industry because out of state visitors who visit major attractions such as Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks are well heeled, older, and now spend more money in the state than before.

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Melville, Grenfell 4-H clubs among recipients of FCC funding

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Local 4-H clubs in Melville and Grenfell are among those sharing in new funding aimed at strengthening youth leadership and volunteer capacity across Saskatchewan.

The Goodeve Multiple 4-H Club and the Melville Town 'N' Country 4-H Club, both based in Melville, along with the El Capo Light Horse 4-H Club of Grenfell, were named recipients of the 2025 FCC 4-H Club Fund - a national program delivered by 4-H Canada with support from Farm Credit Canada.

In total, 40 Saskatchewan clubs received grants of up to \$500 each in 2025 to help offset local program costs, support volunteers, and expand learning opportunities for youth involved in 4-H programs across the province.

"The Goodeve Multiple 4-H Club was so excited to hear that they were one of the recipients of a grant worth \$500 from the FCC," said a representative from the Goodeve Multiple 4-H Club. "When we applied for the grant, we had the idea of holding a grooming and showmanship day and bringing in a speaker with expertise in this area. We have many new members in our club this year and it was decided that we needed to focus on assisting these members to become better and more knowledgeable in grooming and preparing

Photo cutline correction

The photo of Murray Holzappel on page 19 of Grasslands News' Jan. 30 publications was incorrectly credited to Sarah Pacio. The photo was taken by Matthew Williamson. We apologize for this mistake.



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Grant Recipients

Pictured are members of the Goodeve Multiple 4-H Club. The Club is one of many 4-H Clubs across the province to receive a \$500 grant from the FCC 4-H Club Fund. The Goodeve Multiple 4-H Club plans on utilizing the grant to host a groom and showmanship day to assist new members with becoming knowledgeable in grooming and preparing their animals for showing.

their animals for the show ring."

The club explained that the funds will ensure the success of the future grooming and showmanship day.

"On behalf of all of the members of the Goodeve Multiple 4-H Club we want to thank FCC for all they do to support youth and 4-H throughout Saskatchewan and Canada," said the club representatives.

"FCC's long-standing partnership with 4-H Canada plays an important role in strengthening local clubs and the volunteers who lead them," said 4-H Canada CEO Christina Franc. "Through the FCC 4-H Club Fund, volunteers are better equipped to create engaging, safe, and inclusive spaces where young people can build confidence, leadership skills, and a strong connection to agriculture and their communities."

The FCC 4-H Club Fund is offered annually and supports clubs, districts, and regions nationwide. Funding can be used for a wide range of purposes, including volunteer training, promotion of 4-H programs, reducing barriers to participation, developing new or existing projects, purchasing

resources, or covering costs associated with local events.

A total of \$100,000 is available nationally each year through the program, with grants of up to \$500 awarded per club, district, or region. Applications are encouraged to align with one or more strategic pri-

orities, including growth, inclusion, and volunteer capacity building.

FCC chief purpose officer Todd Klink said the program reflects the organization's commitment to rural communities and agriculture.

"Supporting youth at the community level is es-

sential to building a strong and sustainable future for Canadian agriculture," Klink said. "Through the FCC 4-H Club Fund, we're helping local clubs deliver hands-on learning experiences that build leadership, confidence, and practical skills young people will carry with them

into the future."

For local clubs in Melville and Grenfell, the funding provides added support to continue delivering agriculture-based and life-skills programming that has long been a cornerstone of youth development in Saskatchewan communities.

Sask. parks camping reservations open April 13

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Campers can start planning for the 2026 season, with Saskatchewan provincial parks opening their reservation system in mid-April.

Seasonal campsite bookings across Saskatchewan Provincial Parks will open Monday, April 13, 2026. Reservations for nightly campsites, Camp-Easy yurts and group campsites will follow on a staggered basis from April 14 to 17.

"We are excited to welcome visitors back to Saskatchewan's provincial parks for another season of camping and outdoor activities," Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Alana Ross said in a release.

She noted new seasonal campsites, expanded programming and another summer of outdoor recreation across the province.

Reservations will open daily at 7 a.m. CST through the provincial parks website.

Under the 2026 schedule, seasonal campsites at all participating parks will be available starting April 13. Nightly, Camp-Easy yurt, group campsite and day-use facility reservations will be released as follows: April 14 for Candle Lake, Good Spirit Lake, Lac La Ronge, Meadow Lake, Rowan's Ravine and Saskatchewan Landing; April 15 for Blackstrap, Bronson Forest, Buffalo Pound, Duck Mountain, Moose Mountain and Porcupine Hills; April 16 for Crooked Lake, Cypress Hills, Danielson, Great Blue Heron, Greenwater Lake and The Battlefords; and April 17 for Douglas, Echo Valley, Fort Carlton, Makwa Lake, Narrow Hills and Pike Lake.

The province says 59 new seasonal campsites have been added across 11 parks, including Buffalo Pound, Danielson, Duck Mountain, Good Spirit Lake, Great Blue Heron, Greenwater Lake, Lac La Ronge, Makwa Lake, Meadow Lake, Moose Mountain and The Battlefords.

Some areas will remain closed as recovery continues from last year's wildfires. The Gem Lakes campground at Narrow Hills Provincial Park and the Wadin Bay campground at Lac La Ronge Provincial Park will not reopen for the 2026 season, though all other

campgrounds and day-use areas at both parks will be available.

A full slate of summer programming is also planned, with returning events such as Canada Day celebrations and Summer Cinema nights, along with signature events including Back in the Boreal at Meadow Lake Provincial Park and Trade Days at Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park. New offerings this year include additional guided hikes and a 40th anniversary celebration at Candle Lake Provincial Park. All events are free

with a valid park entry permit.

The province also announced a fee increase for Camp-Easy yurts for the 2026 season. Standard Camp-Easy yurts will cost \$99 per night, while Mongolian yurts will be \$135. Officials say the additional revenue will be reinvested into park facilities and infrastructure. All other fees, including nightly campsite rates, park entry permits, swimming lessons and day-use facilities, will remain unchanged, and firewood will continue to be provided at no charge.

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JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

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

These prestigious awards are given to youths who:

• Have a positive lifestyle

• Volunteer within their community and school

• Has overcome a personal life challenge (physical, emotional or environmental)

• Have a strong sense of caring and responsibility

• Are between the ages of 8 and 18

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

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR STEM AWARD

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

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

Building a Strong Saskatchewan through the Crown Sector

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms

Nominations close March 31, 2026



House fire

Melville Fire Department responded to a house fire in Bangor on Jan. 29 which saw the complete loss of the home. The family escaped uninjured.

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Rollover

Whitewood Fire Department responded to a single vehicle rollover on Highway 1 on Feb. 1. The driver and lone occupant were not hurt.

CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Collisions, structure fire keep Melville, Whitewood firefighters busy

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Melville and Whitewood fire departments responded to a series of motor vehicle collisions and a structure fire between Jan. 29 and Feb. 3, assisting police, emergency medical services and towing crews while working in challenging conditions. No serious injuries were reported in the local incidents.

Members of the Melville Fire Department were dispatched at about 3 a.m. on Jan. 29 to a structure fire in the Village of Bangor. Firefighters arrived to find a fire inside a wall that had spread into the attic. Despite extended efforts in extreme cold, the home could not be saved, and crews remained on scene until around noon. There is currently a fundraising effort underway for Johanna Ward and their family who lost their home in the fire. E-transfers can be sent to Johannas-friends2026@gmail.com.

While clearing that call, firefighters were also alerted to a single-vehicle rollover east of Melville on Highway #15. Command personnel conducted a patient assessment, assisted the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and remained on scene until a tow truck arrived, returning to service at approximately 12:59 p.m.

On Jan. 30, Melville firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision on Highway #9 that involved airbag deployment. Command staff provided traffic control, assisted with patient care and ensured towing operations were conducted safely. Crews were back in service shortly after 8 p.m.

Melville Fire Department crews were called again on Feb. 1 at about 11:48 a.m. to a two-vehicle collision on High-

way 10 involving a semi and a passenger vehicle. While firefighters were on scene, a second call came in for another two-vehicle collision within the City of Melville. Crews handled traffic control and worked alongside RCMP, EMS and towing services to ensure patients were treated and scenes remained secure. All units returned to service at approximately 2:20 p.m.

On Feb. 3, Melville Fire Rescue responded to an accident on Highway 9 at the rail-

way crossing at Waldron. At 7:30 a.m. Melville command was dispatched to a vehicle versus railway crossing sign. Dispatch updated the call to a vehicle versus train, so they sent a full crew. Command arrived on scene to see that the train had cleared the tracks and assessed the patient who was not injured. Command stayed on scene with RCMP and CN Police directing traffic until the towing company arrived on scene to remove the vehicle.

The Whitewood Fire Department also responded to multiple incidents during the same period. On Jan. 29 at about 8:45 a.m., Whitewood firefighters were dispatched to a semi fire roughly four kilometres west of town on Highway 1. Crews determined a bearing on one of the flat deck trailers had overheated and ignited. The fire was quickly extinguished, damage was limited to the bearing area.

While crews were on scene,

westbound traffic on Highway 1 was restricted to a single lane to allow firefighters to work safely. The scene was cleared within an hour.

On Feb. 1 at approximately 8:50 a.m., Whitewood firefighters were called to a single-vehicle rollover on Highway 1 near Whitewood. The driver and lone occupant escaped serious injury. Firefighters remained on scene until the vehicle was removed, with all units back in service by about 10:10 a.m.

Authors and artists share Indigenous culture

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Each February, a series of presentations at Saskatchewan schools and libraries highlights Indigenous culture.

Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples launched Saskatchewan Indigenous Storytelling Month in 2004. Through this initiative, guest speakers are invited to share their stories at libraries and schools throughout the province. This is made possible through LSSAP’s partnership with regional libraries, SaskCulture, and similar organizations.

“Storytelling empowers our people, heals our people and brings them together,” project coordinator Jessica Generoux explained in a press release. “Our goal is to create healthier communities by protecting and promoting these sacred stories. It’s revitalization, it’s reconciliation, and it’s our role to make sure that healing and growth through storytelling continues.”

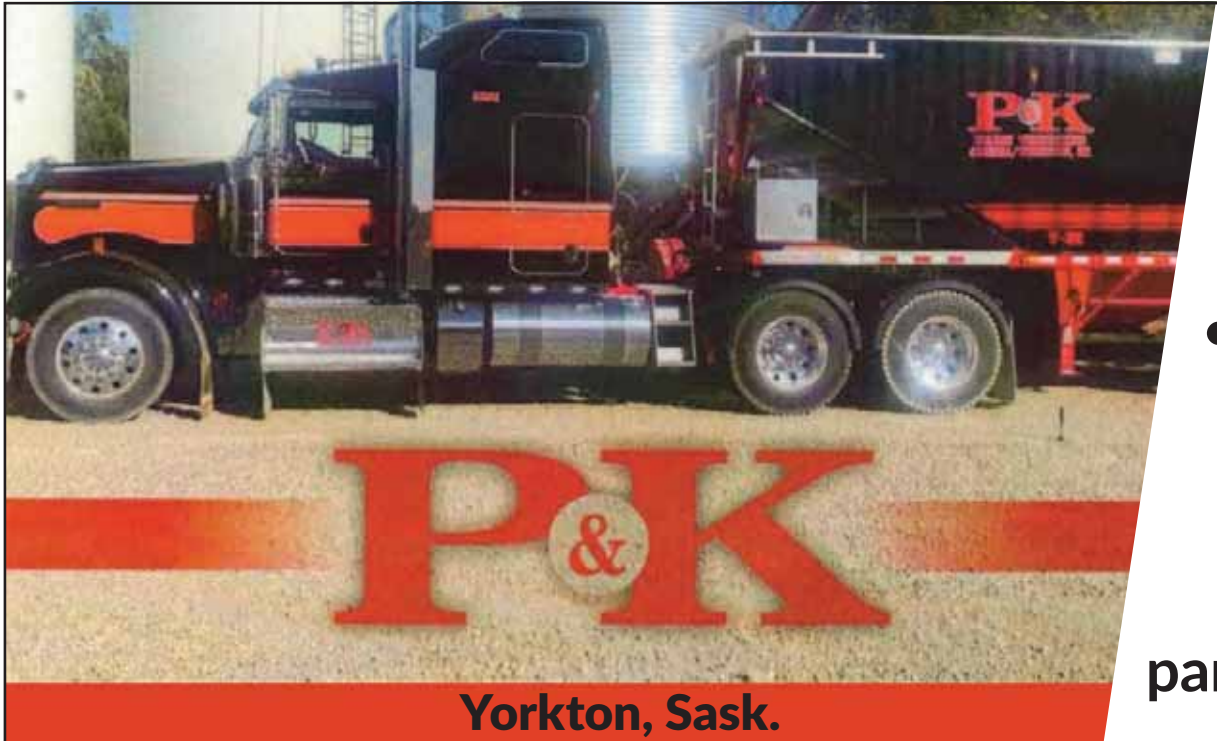
Over 100 events featuring authors, artists, and performers are scheduled to take place this month at locations across Saskatchewan. Tracey George Heese and Andrea Landry will visit

Southeast Regional Library branches and schools in the Grasslands News area.

Heese is an Indigenous artist and educator who has extensive experience facilitating sessions that foster cultural connection through storytelling, beading and other activities. On Feb. 10, she will visit The Grand Theatre in Indian Head and James Hamblin School in Qu’Appelle. She will also give presentations at Vibank Library and Montmartre School on Feb. 13; Emerald Ridge Elementary School on Feb. 26; Kennedy School and Kipling Library on Feb. 27.

Landry, an Anishinaabe woman from Ontario who resides on Poundmaker Cree Nation, is the author of the children’s book Rez Kid. She will visit Whitewood and Broadview Schools on Feb. 23; Wawota School on Feb. 24; and Wapella School on Feb. 25. Landry will spend Feb. 26 at the elementary school in Grenfell and the public library in Glenavon. On Feb. 27, she will visit Dr. Isman Elementary School in Wolseley and the public library in Pilot Butte.

For a full list of Storytelling Month programing in Southeast Library communities, visit <https://southeastlibrary.ca/storytelling>



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WFD honours firefighters’ service at annual awards night

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The Whitewood Fire Department recognized the dedication, service and commitment of its members during its annual awards night held Jan. 31.

The event highlighted the work of the department’s 19 active firefighters, who serve the Town of Whitewood, the RMs of Silverwood and Willowdale, Ochapowace First Nation and surrounding provincial highways.

Deputy Fire Chief and Whitewood Mayor Chris Ashfield, who served as master of ceremonies, said the department’s history dates back to 1956 and includes hundreds of volunteers who have responded to fires, collisions and other emergencies over the decades.

Fire Chief Bernard Brûlé told those in attendance that the current roster represents a combined 174 years of service to the community.

“This dedicated group of men and women sacrifice time away from their families, their jobs and their lives to respond day and night whenever they are called upon,” Brûlé said.

In 2025, the department responded to 65 calls for service, including 23 fires, 19 motor vehicle collisions, 12 alarms, nine assist calls,

one STARS air ambulance call and one natural gas incident.

While the average works out to just over five calls per month, Brûlé said the reality is far less predictable.

“We can go weeks without a call, then handle multiple calls in just a few days,” he said, noting the department was dispatched twice in a 24-hour period on seven occasions last year and handled three calls in a single day near year end.

Among notable incidents in 2025 was the department’s first response to an electric vehicle fire involving a car hauler, which firefighters were able to contain before thermal runaway occurred. Another major call involved a severe gas leak at Kakisew School that required evacuation of the school and surrounding area, compounded by multiple calls coming in within minutes of each other.

Brûlé also pointed to an increase in assist calls with EMS and RCMP and said some of those calls were particularly traumatic.

“Mental health is now one of our main focuses,” he said, encouraging firefighters to seek help when needed and noting the department has both internal and external mental-health supports available.

The chief also provided

an update on plans for a new fire hall. Over the past year, groundwork was completed on a 100-metre by 100-metre foundation pad on the south side of town, coordinated alongside construction for the nearby recreation park.

Brûlé said the project has since been revised from a multi-agency emergency response centre to a standalone fire hall after initial engineering costs showed the larger concept was not feasible.

“We chose realistic over luxurious,” he said, adding the new design will meet the department’s needs for the next 50 years and provide space for training local and regional firefighters.

During the evening, years-of-service pins and certificates were presented, including five-year service pins to firefighters Amanda Brûlé and Troy Brûlé. Fire Chief Brûlé himself was recognized for 35 years of service.

Years of Service certificates were also presented to all members. A special certification was also acknowledged, with Captain Braden Brûlé receiving his NFPA Fire Service Instructor Level 1 designation, qualifying him to instruct and certify firefighters.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Gord Johnson Memorial Firefighter of the Year Award, named in honour of former fire chief Gord Johnson, who dedicated 54 years to the department.

The 2025 award was presented to Jordan Giroux, recognizing his dedication, professionalism and consistent contribution to the department and community.

Brûlé said the selection was difficult given the number of deserving candidates but noted the recipient’s leadership on calls, commitment to training and extensive volunteer involvement.

The evening concluded with thanks to firefighters’ families for their ongoing



Firefighter of the Year
Whitewood Fire Chief Bernard Brûlé (left) and Deputy Chief Chris Ashfield (right) present Lt. Jordan Giroux with the Gord Johnson Memorial Firefighter of the Year Award during the WFD’s awards banquet on Jan. 31.

support and sacrifice, followed by closing remarks from Brûlé acknowledging the risks, responsibilities and commitment carried by volunteer firefighters year-round.

“You are shaping future leaders and future firefighters, and you are keeping the fire service strong,” he said.

Nominations close Feb. 11

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Time is running out for residents interested in seeking a seat on Whitewood town council, as nominations for the upcoming municipal by-election close next Wednesday.

The Town of Whitewood is accepting nominations to fill one vacant councillor position, with nomination papers required to be filed by Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, at 4 p.m. Submissions will be accepted that day between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Town Office.

Nomination forms may also be picked up and filed during regular business hours at the Office of the Town of Whitewood, 731 Lalonde Street, up until the close of nominations.

If more than one candidate is nominated, the town will proceed to a by-election, with voting details to be announced following the close of nominations.

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Battle of the Blades event lights up Whitewood ice

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

The Whitewood Community Centre was filled with energy on Jan. 29 as blades carved the ice and cheers echoed through the stands during the third annual Battle of the Blades, a crowd-pleasing showcase that paired hockey players with figure skaters for one unforgettable night.

Presented by the Whitewood Skating

Club, the event featured nine duos who were challenged to blend power, grace and teamwork into original on-ice performances. Each pairing brought its own flair to the rink, combining athleticism and artistry while vying for the 2026 championship title.

This year's teams consisted of Willow and Mike Grunerud, Jovi and Jordan Giroux, Sarah and Tyson Young, Riley and Dustin Ast, Frankie and Jack Mannle, Violet and Tyler Thompson, Miia and Aaron Aldous, Ivy and Kolt Raiwet, and Tessa Hayhurst and Cole Jacobs.

Judging duties fell to a well-rounded panel, with Darren Ottenbreit providing the hockey perspective, figure skating coach Leanne Sorenson evaluating technical skill and artistry, and community representative Jennalee Beutler rounding out the panel. All teams performed full routines in the opening half of the event, receiving scores and feedback from the judges, while audience votes were also factored into the final results.

While scores were tallied, the crowd was treated to special performances by members of the Whitewood Skating Club, keeping the momentum high and the atmosphere buzzing.

When the final numbers were announced, Ivy and Kolt Raiwet skated away with top honours, earning a combined score of 59.5 points. Violet and

Tyler Thompson claimed second place with 59.15 points, while Tessa Hayhurst and Cole Jacobs rounded out the podium in third with a score of 57.8.

Additional awards were also handed out, with Willow and Mike Grunerud taking home the Best Dressed title, and Jovi and Jordan Giroux earning Fan Favourite honours following strong audience support throughout the night.



Tessa Hayhurst and Cole Jacobs.



Ivy and Kolt Raiwet



Miia and Aaron Aldous



Violet and Tyler Thompson



Sarah and Tyson Young



Jovi and Jordan Giroux



Frankie and Jack Mannle



Riley and Dustin Ast



Willow and Mike Grunerud

Town council briefs

SaskTel outlines fibre timeline at Whitewood council meeting

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The council of the Town of Whitewood held a regular meeting Tuesday, Jan. 27, with all members present. Council approved the agenda and the minutes from its Jan. 13 meeting before hearing from delegates and dealing with routine business.

A representative from SaskTel told council that plans to bring fibre optic service to Whitewood are expected to move ahead soon, with a target launch date of May. Brian Eltom, assistant vice-president of SaskTel's fibre build program, addressed council by Zoom, noting the company continues to expand its Infinet service, now available in more than 160 communities.

Eltom said the project will replace the existing copper system with fibre to improve speed and reliability while helping keep costs down. He added most customers should not see price increases unless they choose

higher service speeds. Whitewood is expected to require about two fibre distribution hubs, located near the central office, with much of the fibre installed on existing utility poles that have recently been upgraded by SaskPower. Eltom also said repair times following outages are expected to be quick, often within hours, and said SaskTel appreciates working with council on the project.

Council also heard from delegates representing Provincial Services – Community Care with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, who provided updates and clarification on emergency medical services. That discussion is covered in a separate story on the front page of this week's Herald Sun.

Council later received reports from administration and staff. The facility management operator reported steady use of the community centre over the Christmas and New Year period, along with continued use of the outdoor rink. Council was informed the Commu-

nity Rink Affordability Grant for hockey and curling ice had been approved.

Council also heard that Shirley Blyth is completing Forever in Motion leader training and will begin sessions in February, and that planning will begin for the ParticipACTION Community Challenge scheduled for June, with a committee and volunteers to be organized.

Chief administrative officer Lisa Istace reported council will need to discuss kitchen rental fees for the senior bonspiel, particularly when kitchen equipment is not being used. Istace also noted challenges securing food trucks for the town's summer event, while confirming a band has been booked for Aug. 8.

Council was advised interviews have been completed for a general labourer position, with postings still open for a recreation technician. Seasonal positions, including lifeguard, pool supervisor and summer students, are also being posted.

Council approved cheque,

credit card and online banking payments totalling \$59,325.06.

Correspondence included a report from the Southeast Transportation Planning Committee, which was received for information. Council also agreed to continue sponsoring a \$500 bursary through Southeast College, and councillors volunteered to attend events hosted by Ochapowace-Whitewood School from Feb. 10 to 12. A waterworks compliance inspection report from the Water Security Agency was also received and reviewed.

Under old business, council discussed rental rates for the Western Prospect Hockey School, which uses the Whitewood Community Centre during the summer. While councillors said the school is beneficial to the community, they also cited rising costs for utilities and wages. Council reviewed a draft rate sheet based on facility usage, including kitchen and seasonal rates, to ensure consistency for all renters. A motion was passed

to increase the Western Prospect rate by 20 per cent over last year's \$21,000 fee, which includes kitchen use.

Council also approved a 10 per cent increase to the senior bonspiel kitchen rental rate, bringing it to \$495 for 2026.

In new business, council approved hiring TAXservice for a three-year term, passed the annual employee bond motion, and approved a tax credit refund related to a title change. Brady Stevenson was hired as a general labourer, while Kayla Rayner was hired as recreation technician and general labourer. A recreation technician position remains posted.

Council adopted a new Water Breaks/Leak Dig Policy outlining responsibilities and procedures for repairs on town and private property, and accepted the resignation of recreation technician Steve Breen.

Council later moved in camera. No motions followed the closed session, and the meeting adjourned after returning to open council.

SPORTS

Cobras stay perfect in the season with home tournament sweep

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Melville Comprehensive School junior girls' basketball team continues to give local fans plenty to cheer about.

The Cobras remained undefeated on the season this past weekend, sweeping all three of their games to win their own home tournament in convincing fashion. The four-team round-robin event saw Melville take down Yorkton Sacred Heart, St. Henry's and Esterhazy to finish on top of the standings.

Melville opened the tournament with a strong performance against St. Henry's, setting the tone early with great team defence and balanced scoring leading to a 53-26 win. The Cobras followed that up with a 51-26 win over Sacred Heart before closing out the weekend with a victory over Esterhazy 58-24, to secure the tournament title on home court.

The championship marks the third tournament win of the season for the junior girls, who have yet to suffer a loss in any competition this year. Their undefeated record reflects a team that has steadily improved as the season has progressed, combining strong fundamentals, teamwork, and consistent effort.

With conference playoffs and additional tournaments still ahead, the Cobras will look to maintain their momentum as they look forward to hosting the East Central District Athletic Association junior championships on March 6 and 7.

"Mr. Lechner and I are fortunate to be leading a group of talented, coachable young athletes who have steadily improved in our season play and spring program for the last couple of years," said coach Dan Alspach. "Their dedication to the sport and work ethic has put them in a position for success this year. We are hoping it culminates with a District championship win on our home court in March. These young ladies would certainly deserve it."



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Victorious and unbeaten

The Melville Comprehensive School Jr. Girls Basketball team took the top spot in their home tournament on Jan 30th and 31st. The team has yet to lose a competition this season.

PMHL schedule resumes for final regular season stretch

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

After a quiet stretch on the Prairie Men's Hockey League schedule, local teams are set to return to action this week as the 12-game regular season resumes.

No PMHL games have been played since Jan. 25, giving clubs time to regroup ahead of a busy run in early February. Indian Head entered the break sitting second in the standings at 6-3 with 12 points through nine games, while Ituna follows closely at 5-4 with 11 points in 10 outings. The Valley Warriors have had a difficult start to the season and sit at 1-8 with two points, while Cupar continues to lead the league.

Despite the results, the Valley Warriors

have seen strong individual performances. Jonas Thompson leads the club with 14 points in just four games, while Cain Thomson has added 13 points in eight appearances. Quaid Chief has contributed nine points, giving the Valley Warriors a trio that will look to spark a turnaround as the schedule picks up.

Indian Head has relied on balanced scoring throughout the first half of the season. Daulton Perillat and Mike Reiger share the team scoring lead with 16 points each, while Sylvester Webster sits close behind with 14 points. The Chiefs have averaged more than five goals per game and remain firmly in the hunt near the top of the standings.

In Ituna, Tyson Pryhitka has paced the Avalanche with 18 points in 10 games. Lane

Knapp has added 13 points, while Jayden Ritchie and Delon Smysniuk have also provided steady offence as Ituna continues to battle in the middle of the pack.

The return to play begins Thursday, Feb. 6, when Ituna visits the Valley Warriors. The Warriors will then head to Indian Head on Friday, Feb. 7, before traveling to Cupar on Feb. 13. Indian Head will host Cupar on Feb. 10 and welcome Strasbourg on Feb. 14, while Ituna is scheduled to host Strasbourg on Feb. 12.

With several head-to-head matchups among the Valley Warriors, Indian Head and Ituna over the next two weeks, the upcoming slate could play a key role in shaping the final standings as the PMHL regular season heads toward the stretch run.

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Her Game Summit celebrates female hockey

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

With the Saskatchewan Senior Women’s Hockey League entering playoffs in its inaugural season, female hockey in the province seems to be gaining traction. At the end of January, the Prairie Storm Minor Hockey Association hosted another inaugural event: the Her Game Summit.

On Jan. 24, every Prairie Storm female hockey team, ranging from U7 to U13, took to the ice at the Fort Qu’Appelle Rexentre to showcase their skills. The evening was capped off by a celebration and dance party at the White City Community Centre.

Channing Degelman, female director for Prairie Storm Minor Hockey Association, says this event was a long time in the making, and she hopes future events like this one will continue and grow in years to come.

“We hope to continue it for sure,” Degelman says. “I’ve had this dream of doing something like this for the last few years. It just feels like we’ve now reached a point where we have such a successful and large program, and we have enough girls and families interested. We felt like we reached a point where what we have accomplished needs to be celebrated, and to allow these girls to get together and see the role models in our community and in hockey now. The visibility of being in a room with other girls, to see that we are all in this together, it just felt like the right time. Next year, I think we will definitely do this again, and this was such a powerful way to put our program on a platform and say, ‘look what we have built together’.”

Currently, Prairie Storm Minor Hockey has 141 girls playing on all-female teams, consisting of two U7 teams, two U9 teams, three U11 teams, and two U13 teams. Over the years, Prairie Storm has worked to increase their female numbers through a commitment to recruit, develop, and retain these players.

“I have a daughter and she’s in her first year of U13 now,” Degelman says. “There has always been a demand for female hockey, but because co-ed hockey has always been so established, lots of girls just played on co-ed teams because it was there. There just weren’t the numbers for female hockey, so we really focused on trying to recruit girls to come and try hockey. We knew once we had the numbers, we could start putting female teams on the ice. Some of the girls don’t want to play with the boys; they want to play with the girls and play with their friends. So that would have been four to six years ago that we started really pouring attention into those lower age groups.”

Degelman says as the numbers grow, so will their age categories for their teams. Plans for U15 and U18 teams are in the works as their U13 players age up to fill those positions, although she says those teams may be a few years down the road.

“We have a male program as well that runs right through to U18,” Degelman says. “I think that if you start to really look at numbers, our program really starts to take off in the 2013 to 2014 age group. We have many fantastic hockey players in that age group, and we’ve had some great coaches that have really been dedicated to growing the program and growing these girls. They just really put our program on the map, and I feel like they are the role models. They understand they are the ones that go to these things and they rally the younger girls. They are the ones that the others look up to. I think they carry a little bit of weight with that. Hockey has given these girls a platform to be really good leaders, and it’s really special to see. They also understand that what is to come is because of them.”

Degelman says with the rise of professional female



SUBMITTED PHOTOS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Recognizing girls in hockey

On Saturday, Jan. 24, the first Her Game Summit was held in Fort Qu’Appelle and White City. The event celebrated the girls of the Prairie Storm Minor Hockey’s female program. Games were held in Fort Qu’Appelle, with all teams taking their turn on the ice throughout the day before the celebrations moved to the White City Community Centre for a pizza party and dance.

hockey in the province, and the growth of the Prairie Storm Minor Hockey female program, girls in the sport are breaking barriers and pioneering new paths for future generations in the province.

“I think that moving ahead with the professional women’s hockey league just gives these girls a stage, and allows our girls to start dreaming bigger,” Degelman says. “Before, girls just played because they loved the game, but there was an end point, and now that’s moved. It gives us something to dream about and also gives them more of an opportunity to play their sport longer. Before, if you didn’t get a college scholarship, you were just done. Now there are more girls playing, there’s more girls willing to join those teams at a later date. I feel like numbers are everything in female hockey. If you can get the numbers, it grows the program, and there is more opportunity for everybody involved.”

January’s Her Game Summit sold 220 tickets to their evening event, while the games during the day saw plenty of support. Degelman says the day was about celebrating the growth of their program while allowing the athletes to connect and support one another outside their teams. Passionate and Positivity Awards were presented to players from each age group who demonstrated a love for the game, positive attitude, leadership,

sportsmanship, and the ability to lift their teammates up both on and off the ice.

“The awards reinforced that success in hockey is not only measured by goals and wins, but also by character, effort, and how you show up for others,” Degelman says. “Celebrating these qualities was an important message for our athletes and a reminder of the values we strive to build within our program.”

While Degelman admits female player numbers ebb and flow, the focus will continue to recruit and retain players who love the game. In March, Prairie Storm will host another female try hockey day, where female athletes can come out and test their skills on the ice with other girls. Anyone interested in participating can keep up to date on those events by following the league’s social media pages or by emailing female@psmha.ca.

“It’s one of those things that we have such a great program where you have access to all these girls’ teams, and we have shown that it’s not male dominated,” Degelman says. “Girls do belong in the sport, and we put forward a pretty competitive program where our girls do play boys’ teams sometimes and they beat them, so I think that at the end of the day I encourage girls to try. I think that there is nothing better than girls playing together with girls and playing sports.”

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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

This week, after the cold weather finally broke, the prairies started to feel like they do every year prior to spring.

One can notice how the snow shrinks down as the sun gains more power, and how the walking paths and roads covered with snow and ice become even more slippery.

Within the next few days, there should be some fairly prodigious icicles forming on the sides of buildings, and they'll commence dripping, with that rhythmic 'plop, plop, plop' that many of us have heard for not only years, but decades.

The air almost smells different when real spring begins to kick off, which is still a few months away from happening.

If I could think of one thing that this time of the season reminds me of, it would be playoff season in the SJHL.

I easily recall the walk to the old Stadium, down the slushy streets and through alleys with mountains of snow piled up behind businesses in the downtown core.

Everyone would get to the rink early for the 8 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. games back in those days, and you could have a burger and a coke for well under five dollars, with the aroma of fresh popcorn and frying onions wafting through the lobby.

Kids would show up in numbers so large that they'd take up several sections, many of them with noise makers and posters, urging their beloved Millionaires on in a series against one of their South Division rivals.

As the outside warmed, so did the inside of the Stadium, and it wasn't uncommon to see brown spots form on the ice from the constant dripping of the roof from a combination of the snow up there and condensation.

These spots on the ice wouldn't do a lot to affect the skating ability of players, but it would often change the direction of a puck or two during a game.

The first few playoff games of the spring always had a lot on the line for the Millionaires, and the fans showed up and showed out accordingly.

The crowds were raucous and rowdy, with the odd disagreement between fans turning into full-fledged fist-fights some nights and the RCMP rousting a few fans out of the rink was common back in those days.

I can remember everything about the Stadium, from the crowds in the North end, a homegrown group who was always vocal in their cheering for the Millionaires, while the South end was reserved for folks who came from out of town.

It didn't matter who the Millionaires were playing, whether it was the Estevan Bruins or the Notre Dame Hounds or Weyburn Red Wings, they were instantly as hated as the Yorkton Terriers.

There was something about the sound of the public address system booming out pre-game tunes while folks found their seats and the make-shift Zamboni, pulled by a tractor, resurfaced the ice.

Of course, before that piece of equipment came on the scene, there was a brigade of volunteers pushing shovels and scrapers and leading the way for another group pushing blue barrels of steaming water with soaking wet, burlap sacks attached to ensure the ice was absolutely perfect for every period.

It wasn't uncommon for the seating area to be full to the top on all sides and all ends, with the final game against the Flin Flon Bombers some years later, being the largest crowd anyone had ever seen in that old arena.

Any place where you could fit a butt had one in it, and people were literally hanging from the lower rafters on the sides.

If you were there, you'll never forget and if you weren't, sorry for your luck.

Of course, times change, and now we have separate seats to sit in as opposed to wooden benches, and it's generally comfortable enough in the new arena to sit without wearing your parka.

And instead of running out to your car between periods for a wobbly pop – not that that ever happened – now you can purchase one and have it at your seat.

It's a state-of-the-art facility, with most of the bells and whistles that we never even dreamed of as kids.

Sure, they call it progress, but is it any more fun than it was back in the day?

It's not even close.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Spitfires vs U7

The cutest game of the year happened at the Grenfell rink on Jan. 25. The Senior Spitfires took on the U7 Spitfires, and it was a total runaway! The U7 team took the win with a 7-0 victory over the seniors. Everyone had fun taking part in this yearly tradition!

Mils defeat Stars, lose to Bombers

Back-to-back Home Games

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

The Melville Millionaires hosted two of the SJHL's top teams last weekend and came away with a hard-fought victory and a loss.

Flin Flon Bombers 3 at

Melville Millionaires 0 (Jan. 31)

Bombers' goaltender Charlie Tritt stopped all 31 shots he faced to earn the shutout as the Bombers scored twice with the man advantage and once with the teams at even strength to knock off the Mils on home ice.

The Millionaires' goalie, Preston Patenaude was solid and at times spectacular in the Melville crease, making 29 saves on 32 shots to take the loss.

The Bombers opened the scoring near the mid-way point of the second period and tacked on another prior to the periods end to take a 2-0 lead into the final frame, where they added one more tally.

Emotions were high in this contest and it showed in the penalty ledger as Flin Flon was whistled for nine of 17 minors and one of two fighting majors while the Millionaires were saddled with three of the game's five misconduct penalties.

Battlefords North Stars 2 at

Melville Millionaire 3 (Jan. 30)

After a sluggish first period, the Millionaires scored twice in the second and added one more in the third stanza and then basically held on until the end of the game.

Brayden Gourley got the Millionaires on track when he poked a loose puck past the Battlefords' goalie for his sixth tally of the season at 7:53.

Riley Craigen and Kale Margolis earned assists.

About six minutes later Maddox Shindle notched his second goal with the Millionaires as he floated a shot in from the top of the face off circle to give the Mils a 2-0 lead. Margolis and Gourley each

picked up a helper.

The Millionaires made it 3-0 early in the third frame, when Louis Nadeau blasted a slapper from the point past the North Stars' netminder.

Keil Schmalz and Jack Drake were credited with the assists on the power-play marker, Nadeau's fourth goal of the campaign.

The Stars managed to get a couple of pucks past Matt Spencer-Dahl but the Millionaires slammed the door after that as they sent a crowd of 903 fans home happy.

Spencer-Dahl earned the home ice victory, making 33 saves on 35 shots while Melville skaters had 41 shots on the Battlefords' cage.

Each team scored once on the powerplay with both clubs getting the gate for four minor penalties apiece.

The Millionaires are currently in seventh spot overall but will be looking to improve their spot in the standings on Feb. 6 when they visit Humboldt to battle the Broncos.

It doesn't get any easier on Feb. 7 when the red-hot Yorkton Terriers visit the

CN Community Centre to take on the Millionaires. Puck drop is 7 p.m.



DARCY GROSS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Emotions were high

Melville Millionaires forward Grady Carmichael lands a haymaker in a scrap with Flin Flon Bomber Natan Meunier during third period action at the CNCC on Jan. 31. The Mils lost 3-0 to the Bombers, but Carmichael came out on top in this tussle.

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Terriers inch toward top of SJHL Bunge Division

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

As the calendar turns to February the Yorkton Terriers are making a push toward top spot in the SJHL’s Bunge Division.

Battlefords North Stars 3 at Yorkton Terriers 5 (Jan. 31)

That effort was aided by a hat trick performance Saturday by Jye Zawatsky -- the first of his SJHL career – to help the Terriers to a 5-3 win over the Battlefords North Stars.

Zawatsky started his standout effort early opening the scoring 1:23 into the first contest, then added his second at 10:36 to give the home side a 2-0 lead through 20 minutes of play.

It was 4:18 into the middle frame Zawatsky completed his hat trick – a natural one for a 3-0 Yorkton lead.

William Leonard scored at 6:20 to make it 4-0.

The visitors finally got on the board as Carter Geysen scored at 14:16 and Josh Knittig added a short-handed effort to make it 4-2.

A powerplay effort by Vinay Junek made it 5-2 through 40-minutes.

Gavin Granger added one late in the third but that would not be enough for the Stars who lost 5-3.

Callum Creig was in net for the Terriers facing 21-shots in the win.

Spencer Michnik started in the Stars net allowing four goals on 21-shots, before being lifted for Kaeden Serpa who allowed one goal on 26-shots.

Nipawin Hawks 3 at Yorkton Terriers 4 (Feb. 1)

There was little time for the Terriers or their fans to celebrate as the team was back in action for a rare afternoon game Sunday, hosting the Nipawin Hawks at the Westland Insurance Arena.

The first period was a scoreless affair, but Gavin Bartha opened things with a

goal for the Terriers 5:53 into the second period.

Thomas Ries made it 2-0 at 7:23.

A goal by Mason Karakochuk at 17:43 put the Hawks on the board and cut the Terrier lead in half.

Sean Shields knotted things with a Nipawin marker 3:16 into the third.

An unassisted effort by Gabriel Courchesne at 5:59 edged the Terriers back in front 3-2.

Karakochuk scored his second of the afternoon at 6:19 to knot things 3-3.

Yorkton would finally find the game-winner off the stick of William Leonard at 11:12 for a 4-3 final.

Creig was in net again for Yorkton facing 26-shots in the win.

Colten Scott took the loss facing 24-shots for Nipawin.

With the two wins the Terriers improve their record to 25-13-1-1 for 52 points, only three back of front-running Weyburn, and holding a game in-hand in the Bunge Division. Estevan sits third with 45-points, now just two points up on fourth place Melville.

As the Terriers have pushed toward the top of the division a trio of Terriers have caught the attention of the league.

Jye Zawatsky was named the Canterra Seeds Saskatchewan Player of the Month for January.

Zawatsky’s January included four nights with three points or more as the team has climbed the standings.

The Bourgault Forward of the Month award for January went to Terrier William Leonard.

The Terriers ended the month on fire, but Leonard has been incredibly consistent throughout, posting five and four-point nights to kick off 2026.

In addition, the SGEU MVP of the Week for Jan. 26-Feb. 1, is Yorkton netminder Callum Creig.

The 2006-born goaltender has won seven of his last eight starts, and Yorkton is on fire as a result, with his stats over the week being 3-0, with a .900 SV percentage and a 2.33 GAA.



Play at the net
Yorkton Terriers’ Vinay Junek makes a play for a bouncing puck in front of the Battlefords’ net in SJHL action in Yorkton on Saturday, Jan. 31. The Terriers won 5-3.

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Bowling Scores - Yorkton			
MONDAY GA			
Men's High Single and Triple, Cam Louttit 294, 741.	Men's High Single, Gordon Sarafincian 290.	Men's High Triple, Cam Louttit 767.	Men's High Single and Triple, Kyle Marianchuk 194, 472.
Ladies' High Single and Triple Violet Woychesko 198, 524.	Ladies' High Single, Lee/Ruth 195.	Ladies High Triple Lee Harris 518.	Ladies' High Single and Triple, Crysty Marianchuk 192, 448.
Most Pins Over Average, Bryce/ Sherry +52.	Most Pins Over Average, Gordon Sarafincian +137.		Most Pins Over Average, Crysty Marianchuk +66.
TUESDAY YBC			
Men's High Single and Triple, Liam Hutchings 204, 459.	Men's High Single and Triple, Cody Lacelle 248, 660.		
Ladies' High Single and Triple Audraya Keyowski 138, 393.	Ladies' High Single and Triple, Tracy Horneman 510.		
Most Pins Over Average, Liam Hutchings +74.	Most Pins Over Average, Tyler Senchuk +84.		
STS			
Men's High Single and Triple, Cam Louttit 228, 631.	Men's High Single and Triple, Nolan Bucsis 226, 584.		
Ladies' High Single and Triple Bernie Draper 239, 563.	Ladies' High Single and Triple, Marcia Grunerud 179, 506.		
Most Pins Over Average, Liam Hutchings +74.	Most Pins Over Average, Ron Blommaert +58.		
WEDNESDAY GA			
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Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena			
MONDAY P.M. Jan. 26			
Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Angela Dobson, 213, 546, 169.	New	43	
Men's High Single and Triple, Doug Brewer, 224, 626. Men's High Average, Joe Wu, 187.	Blame it on Garry	43	
Team High Single and Triple, Ostlund, 833, 2466.	ST. HENRY'S Jan. 27		
Team	Ladies' High Single and Triple, Angela Morgan, 193, 543. Ladies' High Average, Pat Brown, 168.		
Dobson	Men's High Single, Gordon Ostlund, 245. Men's High Triple and Average, Chris Cheveldae, 626, 189.		
Ostlund	Team High Single, A Team, 1272.		
Bender	Team High Triple, CCJ, 3700.		
Stephens	Team	Pts.	
	Just 4 Fun	60	
MONDAY COMMERCIAL Jan. 26			
Ladies' High Single and Triple, Brenda Brooks, 272, 778. Ladies' High Average, Brandy Lechner, 228.	CCJ	45	
Men's High Single, Jory Erickson, 248. Men's High Triple and Average, Destin Kohlenberg, 621, 216.	A Team	26	
Team High Single and Triple, Blame t on Garry, 1393, 3889.	Drifters	00	
Team	TUESDAY YBC Jan. 27		
Professional Amateurs	Girls High Single and Triple, Amzlee Patterson, 128, 339.		
Gutter Girls	Boys High Single and Triple, Jakob Unterschute, 117, 328.		
Pinheads	Team High Single and Triple, Bowl Kings, 833, 2327.		
	Team	Pts.	
	49	49	
	45	42	
	45	33	
	44	28	

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Big 6 Hockey League

Kipling, Wawota head into playoffs

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

The regular season came to a close last week for the Big 6 Hockey League, with the Kipling/Wawota Oil Kings and Wawota Flyers both wrapping up their schedules and now turning their attention to playoff hockey.

The Oil Kings closed out the regular season on Jan. 28 with a 4-2 loss to the Midale Mustangs at the Harry O. Memorial Arena. Kipling fell behind early and was unable to recover despite a stronger second period, as Midale picked up just its second win of the season. The loss left the Oil Kings with a 4-11-1 record, finishing seventh overall in the eight-team league standings.

Wawota also finished its regular season on Jan. 28, suffering a tough 14-1 loss to the Redvers Rockets at the Wawota Forum. Redvers jumped out to a five-goal first period and never looked back on its way to securing first place overall. Wawota's lone goal came in the second period, but the Flyers were unable to slow Redvers' offensive surge. The Flyers finished the regular season with a 6-9-1 record, placing fifth in the standings.

At the conclusion of the regular season, Redvers and Moosomin sat tied atop the league with 28 points, followed by Oxbow and Carlyle at 20 points apiece. Wawota finished fifth with 13 points, while Carnduff placed sixth with 10 points, Kipling seventh with nine points and Midale eighth with two points.

The standings set the stage for the Big 6 quarterfinals, which begin this week in a best-of-five format.

Kipling enters the playoffs as the seventh seed and will face the second-place Moosomin Rangers. The series opens Tuesday, Feb. 3 in Moosomin, with Game 2 scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 5 at the Kipling Arena. Game 3 will return to Moosomin on Feb. 12, with a potential Game 4 back in Kipling and a deciding Game 5 slated for Feb. 15 in Moosomin if necessary.

Wawota opens postseason play as the fifth seed against the fourth-place Carlyle Cougars. Game 1 is set for Monday, Feb. 2 in Carlyle, with Game 2 taking place Thursday, Feb. 5 at the Wawota Forum. The series will continue on a home-and-home basis, with additional games scheduled as needed to determine who advances to the semifinals.

With the regular season now complete, both the Oil Kings and Flyers will look to reset and build momentum as playoff hockey begins, where every shift carries added importance and early success could prove decisive.

Prairie Men's HL Game Schedule

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

Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

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

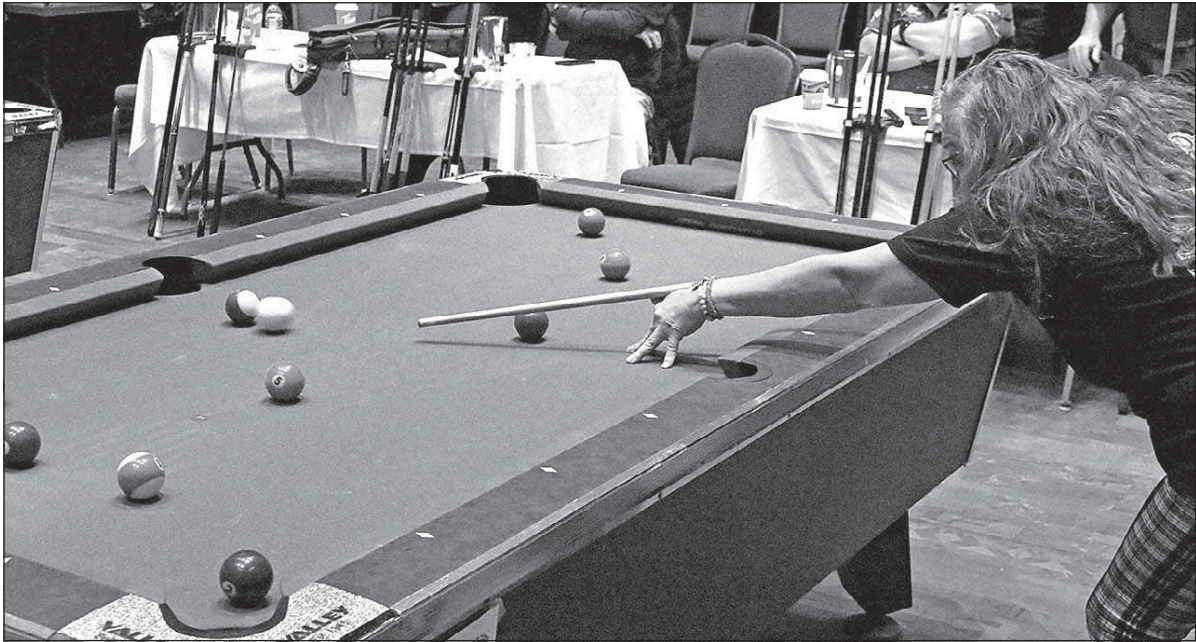
Fort Knox Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
FEBRUARY:
05- RPS Rebels at Fort Knox 7:30
07- PB Storm at Fort Knox 7:00
12- Fort Knox at R.Silver Foxes 7:30
14- RPS Rebels at Fort Knox 7:00
15- Fort Knox at EHR Regina Caps 6:45

Yorkton Terriers Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

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

Painted Hand Casino hosts YTC pool tourney



CALVIN DANIELS / GRASSLANDS NEWS

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Pool took over at the Painted Hand Casino on the weekend as tables were installed for a three-day event. The YTC Classic Pool Tournament attracted 10 teams challenging each other on the green felt.

When the final balls were pocketed, Cappo's 917 took top spot. The team included captain Yvette Cappo, Todd Peigan, Haydar Cappo, and Kamao

Cappo.

Second place went to the L8 Knights with captain Jonathan Nickel, Clarissa Abramyk, Mike Portelli, and Adrien Musqua.

Third place Winners were Gently and Gingerly with captain Terry Shingoose, Marvin Shingoose, Susie Genaille, and Sheldon Brass.

Finishing fourth was Hard to Beat with captain Jackie Johnson, Dale Gelowitz, Carmen Dobko, and Chris Stricker.

Grenfell, Balcarres settle QVHHL standings

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Grenfell, Balcarres and Balgonie wrapped up the bulk of the Qu'Appelle Valley Hockey League regular season battling through an 18-game schedule that saw all three clubs firmly in the playoff mix, while several local players finished among the league's top offensive contributors.

The Grenfell Spitfires closed out the regular season with a 10-7-0-1 record, good for 21 points and third place in the QVHHL standings. Grenfell finished with 97 goals for and 84 against, posting a plus-13 goal differential while averaging just over 5.3 goals per game.

Balcarres finished the year at 7-10-0-1 for 15 points, tied for fourth place in the standings. The Broncos scored 69 goals over 18 games while allowing 97, finishing with a minus-28 differential but showing improvement late in the season.

Balgonie sits at 6-11-0-0 for 12 points with one game remaining on its regular-season schedule. The Bisons have recorded 59 goals for and 94 against through 17 games, averaging 3.5 goals per contest while facing one of the league's tougher defensive slates.

Individually, Grenfell featured one of the league's most productive forwards in Donovan Neuls, who finished second overall in QVHHL scoring with 49 points on 11 goals and 38 assists in 18 games. Teammate Riley Kolesar also cracked the league's top 10 with 35 points, while defenceman Taylor Fisher added 28 points, giving the Spitfires multiple scoring threats throughout the lineup.

Balcarres was led offensively by Cory Kosloski, who finished the season with 30 points in 16 games, placing him among the league's top scorers. Riley Krane also made a strong impact for the Broncos, recording 25 points over the full 18-game schedule to provide consistent produc-

tion.

Balgonie's offence has been paced by Riley Woykin and Brendan Hunchak, who finished with 30 and 27 points respectively. Woykin's balanced scoring and Hunchak's steady play have given the Bisons reliable production through the middle of the lineup.

Balgonie will meet Raymore to complete their regular-season schedules, with the final game set for Feb. 6 in Balgonie. Following that matchup, all three teams will turn their attention to postseason play, carrying proven scoring depth and hard-earned experience into the QVHHL playoffs.

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PJHL playoff picture coming into focus for teams

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

With the Prairie Junior Hockey League regular season winding down, the focus is shifting from nightly results to playoff positioning across the Bill Johnston Division. Fort Knox continues to solidify itself as a contender near the top of the standings, Pilot Butte has locked up a postseason berth despite recent ups and downs, and Moosomin is playing out the stretch run after seeing its playoff hopes slip away.

Fort Knox

Fort Knox continued to show why they remain firmly in the playoff picture with a strong run through the final week of January and into early February.

On Jan. 29, Fort Knox edged the Regina Silver Foxes 5-4 at Doug Wick-enheiser Arena, rallying with four third-period goals to erase a one-goal deficit. Jonah Pinel opened the scoring for Fort Knox, while Devante Pratt-Fry and Tadem Anardi scored during the late surge to seal the win.

The following night, Jan. 30, Fort Knox rolled past the Moosomin Steelhawks 11-4 at Mike Schwean Arena. Cooper Buhay led the way with a goal and three assists, while Spencer Copeland and Kaden Plaquin each scored twice as Fort Knox capitalized repeatedly on the power play.

Fort Knox capped the stretch on Feb. 1 with a dramatic 4-3 shootout win over the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre. Henry Thunderblanket and Tanner Wiens scored in the shootout after Pinel tied the game in the



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Heated discussions

Fort Knox overcame a 1-3 first period deficit to win against the Capitals 4-3 in a thrilling shoot out Sunday, Feb. 1 at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre in Fort Qu’Appelle.

third period, handing the Capitals one of their few losses of the season.

Pilot Butte Storm

Pilot Butte split results over their most recent outings, showing flashes

of offensive depth while continuing to search for consistency.

On Jan. 28, the Storm earned a 7-4 home win over the Regina Silver Foxes. Jaxon Skiftun and Kayden Reeder combined for seven points, while Tyson Nakonechny sealed the win with a third-period goal.

That momentum stalled on Feb. 3, when the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels posted an 11-3 victory at the Pilot Butte Recreation Centre. The Rebels

jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, scoring five times in the opening period.

Despite the loss, Pilot Butte remains locked into a playoff position and will use the remaining games to fine-tune for the postseason.

Moosomin Steelhawks

Moosomin’s week was defined more by weather and scheduling challenges than by results on the ice.

The Steelhawks’ scheduled Jan. 31 road game against the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals at the Al Ritchie Arena was postponed due to weather, with a makeup date yet to be announced.

Moosomin last saw action on Jan. 30, falling 11-4 to Fort Knox at home. Kaden Plaquin scored twice for the Steelhawks, but Moosomin was out-shot heavily and struggled to contain Fort Knox’s offensive pressure.

While the Steelhawks have been eliminated from playoff contention, the focus remains on development and closing out the season with strong efforts.

Standings snapshot

In the Bill Johnston Division standings as of Feb. 3, the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals sit in first place with a 28-5-3 record and 59 points, having already clinched a playoff spot. Fort Knox is second at 24-12-0 with 48 points and has also secured a postseason berth. The Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels hold third place with a 20-15-2 record and 42 points, clinching a playoff spot as well. Pilot Butte Storm occupy fourth place with a 12-22-2 record and 26 points and have officially clinched the final playoff spot in the division. Moosomin Steelhawks are fifth at 5-27-5 with 15 points, while the Regina Silver Foxes sit sixth with a 3-34-0 record and six points, with both teams eliminated from playoff contention.

Final standings set, playoff series open this weekend in SEHL

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

With plenty on the line on the final night of the regular season, results across the Sask East Hockey League locked in the final standings and set the stage for next weekend’s playoff matchups.

Wapella closed the schedule in emphatic fashion, rolling past Churchbridge 11-3 to finish eighth in the standings, while Langenburg’s 8-4 win over Russell secured the Warriors first place overall. Those outcomes pushed Russell and Churchbridge into ninth and 10th respectively, with tiebreakers needed to separate the two four-win clubs.

Wapella wrapped up the regular season at 6-10, while both Russell and Churchbridge finished 4-12. The Rams and Imperials split their head-to-head meetings, forcing the league to go deeper into the tiebreak criteria. Russell finished with a minus-44 goals-for-against differential, compared to Churchbridge’s minus-46, giving the Rams ninth place and dropping the Imperials to 10th.

As a result, the opening round will feature two best-of-three play-in series next weekend. Seventh-place Cote will face 10th-seeded Churchbridge, while eighth-place Wapella will meet ninth-place Russell. If either series is tied after two games, sudden-death overtime will be played immediately following Game 2.

Langenburg, which finished the regular season with a league-best 26 points, will await the lowest remaining seed following the play-in round, while Canora, second overall with 25 points, will draw the other advancing team.

Two quarter-final matchups are al-

ready locked in. Third-place Swan Valley will take on sixth-seeded Theodore after the Axemen edged Rocanville 3-2 on Saturday night to clinch third place. The loss dropped Rocanville into fifth despite finishing tied with Esterhazy at 21 points. Esterhazy won the tiebreaker and will hold home-ice advantage in its fourth-versus-fifth best-of-three series with the Tigers.

Theodore secured sixth place with a dominant 16-3 win over Preeceville and owns the tiebreaker over Cote. All quarter-final series are expected to begin next weekend and must be completed by the end of the Feb. 14 weekend.

The final regular-season standings saw Langenburg finish first with 26 points, followed by Canora (25), Swan Valley (24), Esterhazy (21), Rocanville (21), Theodore (19), Cote (19), Wapella (12), Russell (8), Churchbridge (8) and Preeceville (0).

Playoff action begins Thursday, Feb. 5, when Wapella visits Russell in Game 1 of their play-in series. On Friday, Feb. 6, Theodore opens its series against Swan Valley, while Churchbridge hosts Cote. The second games of the play-in series are scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 8, with Russell travelling to Wapella and Cote visiting Churchbridge. Additional games will be played as required, including a Friday, Feb. 13 matchup between Theodore and Swan Valley if needed.

With matchups set and little separating much of the field, the league now turns its attention to what promises to be a tightly contested postseason.

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Rush’s Keenan reaches coaching milestone

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

For Derek Keenan life and lacrosse have largely been an intertwined thing.

The Saskatchewan Rush General Manager/Co-Head Coach has been involved in the National Lacrosse League for years starting as a player in 1992, winning Rookie of the Year and an NLL title in his first season as a Buffalo Bandits.

But as players often do, Keenan would hang up his jersey in lieu of a suit as he retired as a player. He stayed involved through coaching, initially as assistant coach for a Toronto Rock squad that would go on to capture four championships during a stretch of dominance between 1999 and 2003.

Keenan finally joined the Rush organization in 2009, where he has been something of an institution on the bench. He’s become both the winningest regular season coach in NLL history with 180, and the first head coach to reach the 300-game mark after a Jan. 2 win over the Halifax Thunderbirds.

It was a milestone Keenan admitted was not even on his radar.

“You’re right about it sneaking up because I had no idea,” he told Grasslands News, adding it was actually brought to his attention via a sideline interview.

Now with more than a month to digest the achievement, Keenan still remains modest.



Saskatchewan Rush co-head coach Derek Keenan.
PHOTO BY STEVE HISCOCK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

“It’s a testament to how long I’ve been involved in the league and the game,” he said, adding, “it also means I’m getting a little older.”

Keenan said his memories are more general in na-

ture than they are focused on single game milestones.

“I remember the championships. I remember the highs, and try to forget the lows,” he said, adding in that regard he has no specific recollection of something like career win 200 – “no one reminded me of that one.”

Keenan said as coach, his philosophy has always generally been that the next game is the one to think about.

“The league is a game-to-game, week-to-week thing. That’s the way I’ve always approached it,” he said.

Keenan did note that there are many factors in achieving things like 300 games as coach.

“It’s a bit of being with a really good organization for a long time,” he said, adding “been fortunate” to coach a lot of really good players who helped teams win a lot of games, and that helps a coach keep his job.

Of course, Keenan has played a role in the players on the team as GM, too.

“I’ve always liked it that way,” he said, adding it puts the success or lack thereof of the team entirely on his shoulders. “... It’s completely on me.”

So how does this current Rush team rate among the teams coached over 300 games?

“It’s hard to say yet,” said Keenan.

“We were really good last year,” he noted. As the team went the distance in the final before losing to Buffalo. “We just weren’t good enough.”

But with another year of experience and a few roster tweaks, the Rush are 7-1 to start the season.

“I think it’s a good start,” said Keenan, but then reminded “it’s a tough league to win in consistently.”

Sports Column

Lousy prognosticator picks U.S. to win hockey gold

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

Canada’s men’s Olympic hockey team begins its quest for gold Feb. 12 vs. Czechia and, of course, this calls for a bold prediction: Canada will not win gold.

Now, before you go talking to government officials to get me kicked out of the country or to have my citizenship revoked, an explanation is required: In my career as a prognosticator of sporting events, my record is horrendous. I believe it’s 3-672 over the years, which means I’m wrong 99.555 per cent of the time. If I were to be so bold as to pick Canada to win, and they lost, the blame would fall squarely on my shoulders and, deep down, I want nothing more than for Canada’s best to stick it to the rest of world, especially those loud-mouth Americans who were vanquished in last winter’s 4 Nations Face Off.

If things go as Vegas oddsmakers would have you believe, it will be Canada vs. the U.S. in the gold medal game at the Milano Santagiulia Ice Hockey Arena on Sunday, Feb. 22.

The U.S. team is favoured in many quarters primarily because its three goalies – Connor Hellebuyck, Jake Oettinger and Jeremy Swayman – are considered vastly superior to Canada’s troika of Jordan Binnington, Logan Thompson and Darcy Kuemper. But Binnington, whose stats this season with the woeful St. Louis Blues are enough to scare any Canadian hockey fan, pushed his ‘sensational’ button and combined it with his ‘spectacular’ switch last year and stopped the U.S. cold in the 4 Nations clinching game. Connor McDavid, the best player in the world, did the rest, potting the overtime goal on a pretty setup by Mitch Marner.

Those two will be back, along with Nathan MacKinnon and Sidney Crosby, two Tim Hortons commercial

stars who also play a little hockey.

It’s not a stretch to say the two North American hockey powers are fairly equal in strength. But Canada has history on its side – three out of the last four gold medals when NHL players were involved in the 21st century.

The Mario Lemieux-Steve Yzerman-Jarome Iginla-led team won in Salt Lake City in 2002; Crosby’s golden goal in 2010 in Vancouver will never be forgotten and the 2014 gold-medal game victory over Sweden confirmed Canada’s power in the game of ice hockey.

But while players from Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Germany and other European countries dot NHL rosters, the main hockey powers remain Canada and the U.S. Most of the players on the American roster are from northern U.S. states — Minnesota, Michigan, Montana — where the winters are so similar to Canada’s that those players are de facto Canucks. Jack Hughes, Auston Matthews, Jack Eichel, the Tkachuks and Clayton Keller, for instance, are players Canada would love to have on its roster. They can play, but will they have that Canadian-like je ne sais quoi it takes to win gold?

Probably. The Americans will win. (Wink, wink).

- Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: “The CFL, as a league, produced record revenues in 2025, \$10 million more than ever before. The Blue Jays, as a team, did about \$100 million more than budgeted for in the 2025 season.”
- Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, on the Leafs’ playoff chancers: “Turn off the oven. Pull the Leafs out, put them on a countertop and tent them with tin foil. This team is cooked.”
- Comedy writer Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: “Quinn Hughes said the Minnesota Wild are a better hockey team than the Canucks. The Wild then put a ‘CO’

on his jersey – Captain Obvious.”

- Rolfson again: “Bills’ owner Terry Pegula threw wide receiver Keon Coleman under the bus at a recent press conference. Fortunately for Coleman, the Bills’ bus is currently stuck in a snowdrift.”
- Norman Chad again, after Denver bypassed a field-goal opportunity to go up by 10 in the AFC title game and failed on its fourth-down attempt: “What’s wrong with a 10-0 lead in what is going to be a defensive game in deteriorating weather conditions playing with a quarterback who has not thrown a pass since Kirk Cousins had hair.”
- Greg Cote of the Miami Herald: “Bill Belichick is not perfect. Spygate happened. But when six Super Bowl wins isn’t enough for the Hall of Fame, the shame is on the voters and the Hall.”
- Super 70s Sports: “Cooper Flagg sets a new record by scoring 49 points in an NBA game as a 19-year-old. If you liked that, just wait till next week when some dude will probably set a new record by becoming the first 49-year-old to score 19 in an NCAA game.”
- Super 70s Sports again, alongside a photo of O.J. Simpson at his trial, on Bill Belichick’s Hall of Fame snub: “I’m just glad this man doesn’t have to share the Hall of Fame with Spygate guy.”
- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: “With the Jets losing 4-1 to the Lightning, I’ll spare them the electrical puns – like lacking a spark, feeling re-volted or Tampa being amped up. I will say this: Watt happened?”
- Headline at fark.com: “Todd Monken loses game of hot potato, forced to coach Cleveland Browns next season.”

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Rural Municipality of
North Qu’ Appelle No. 187
Proposed Boundary Changes

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

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

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

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

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

Issued this 30th day of January 2026

Charmain Wowk,
Chief Administrative Officer

Gardener’s Corner

Thoughts begin regarding spring planting

By Debbie Hayward
Grasslands News

Hands up if you are thinking about spring planting! I know I’m not the only one. My darling Mom used to start most of her plants indoors, and this would be the time when she would be starting to go through her treasure box of seed packages and pick out the lucky candidates.

Yes, it is early. Maybe some of you already have seeds going, too! You know how exciting it is to get started! Mom was one of those gardeners who truly loved plants and planting. And her love and dedication and magic gardening hands always had good luck with whatever she planted.

This amazing trait is not genetic! While I love plants and planting, the same magic doesn’t happen on our windowsills as it did on Mom’s. But I know that she is right with me as I peruse garden magazines and try to imagine which containers will hold which plants.

One of our favorite filler plants is rosemary. What’s that you say? That it’s a herb? Yes, it is, but a perfect example of thinking outside the box and using different plants as fillers in our containers. Rosemary is a full-looking plant, has a great upright shape, sturdy stems, and lovely dark-green leaves that look like needles on a spruce. The plant

is delicious in cooking (divine on pork chops or chicken, and in rosemary walnuts). And in time you will develop the habit that I have—every time I walk past the rosemary container, I run my hand over the stems for that amazing fragrance.

This beautiful herb is pretty easy care, and our rosemary from last year is now living on our kitchen cupboard. Rosemary likes sun and well draining soil, and because it comes from Mediterranean climes, it can withstand drier conditions. We should be careful not to over-water, allowing our rosemary to dry out in between waterings. (But in the house, over the winter, with the furnace running constantly, we have to remember to check it frequently to see if it is thirsty.) Just remember that plants are often more forgiving to us about being a bit dry, rather than being too soggy.

Cuttings can be taken from a rosemary plant. We can root them in a glass of water by choosing a piece of new growth, about four inches long. We should break off the lower leaves, then put these in a glass of water. It is advised to change the water every few days. Once the roots develop, we can plant them up and look forward to using them in our new plantings this spring. Mom often started cuttings using rooting hormone; cut slips the

same as above, but dip the end in the rooting powder, then plant. Be sure to keep the soil nicely moist, not wet.

Okay, let’s fast-forward now to spring. Our rosemary plants like a sunny hot location and can stand some drought. As a footnote, they are not needing or expecting wonderful soil, so that makes it even easier for us to use in our landscapes or containers. In fact, I read that if the soil is too rich, the plant will become leggy. So too much of a good thing is not good.

So if you’re starting a list of “look for this” at the greenhouse this spring, mark down rosemary!

Visit the Yorkton and District Horticultural Society at www.yorktonhort.ca The first meeting of 2026 is on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM at the Yorkton Public Library. The topic will be jellyroll-snail planting. It’s a fun idea so come find out more! Everyone is welcome! Thank you to our friends at Grasslands News for their fine work. Have a good week!



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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
Feb. 5: 7 p.m. Bible Study
Feb. 6: 7 p.m. Ignite Youth
Feb. 7: 10 a.m. M&M
Feb. 8: 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
10:30 a.m. Worship
Feb. 10: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Sunday, Feb. 8:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Feb. 15:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

MELVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
473 - 8th Ave. W.
Office Ph. 306-728-5022
Pastor Jon Pettinger
Associate Pastor: Jesse Darby
Sunday:
Connections at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Service at 11 a.m.
Online services can be found at:
www.melvillebaptist.com

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Melville Churches Welcome You

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001
Feb. 8: 10:30 a.m. Worship

ST. HENRY’S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
729 Main St. – Office
Ph. 306-728-5702
Res. Ph. 306-728-2305
111 - 8th Ave. W.
Father Melchor Samonte
Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. – Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, Feb. 8:
11:00 a.m. Divine Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Worship Service ~ 10:30 a.m.
Thursday - Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday Kids Club - 3:30 p.m.

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

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapathil
Sunday, Feb. 8:
9:00 a.m. Mass

ST. MARY’S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Feb. 8:
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, Feb. 8:
No Service

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, Feb. 8:
10 a.m. Worship Service

Indian Head Church Welcomes You

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



Kipling Churches Welcome You

KIPLING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
417 3rd Street South
Office: 306-736-8268
Sunday Services 10 a.m.
email: pipestoneparish@sasktel.net

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

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

ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
418 First St., Kipling
Priest: Father Joseph Villamartin
306-538-2163
Sunday, Feb. 8:
Mass 9:00 a.m.

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

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

PARKLAND BIBLE CHURCH
309 3rd. St. South, Kipling
306-736-2421
parklandagc@sasktel.net
Pastor Stephen Luff

Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday: 10 a.m. Mom's Group

Fort Qu’Appelle Churches Welcome You

**VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH** Fort Qu’Appelle
Sunday service 10:30 a.m.
Service is also available on YouTube and will be livestreamed
306-900-0600
Fort Qu’Appelle – valleyalliance.ca

ST. JOHN’S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

202 Bay Ave. S.,
Phone - 306-551-6213
Hall Contact - 306-563-7451

ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH
194 Bay St., Fort Qu’Appelle
Rev. Jo Mader, 306-332-4455
Sunday School & Service 10:30
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Pastor Tim Warkentin - 306-217-8222



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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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St. Mark The Evangelist Orthodox Church
160 Betts Ave., Yorkton, Sask
“Services in English”
www.stmarkyorkton.ca
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Saturday, February 7th: Vespers at 6:00 PM
Sunday, February 8th: Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM
“Be ashamed when you sin, not when you repent”
Priest: Rodion Luciuk Phone: 306-782-2482 Cell: 306-621-5341



“ Anger carried to excess begets madness... The outcome of anger is a mental raving, and therefore anger is to be avoided not for the sake of moderation, but for the sake of sanity.”
-Seneca

Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Orthodox Church
89 Bradbrooke Drive, Yorkton
SK S3N 2Y2 • 306-782-2998
Father Michael Faryna • 306-601-9043
Sun., Feb. 8 • 10.00 am - Divine Liturgy (Yorkton)
Wed., Feb. 11 • 10.00 am - Moleben (Yorkton Crossing)
Thurs., Feb. 12 • 10.00 am - Moleben (Yorkton Nursing Home)

CLASSIFIEDS

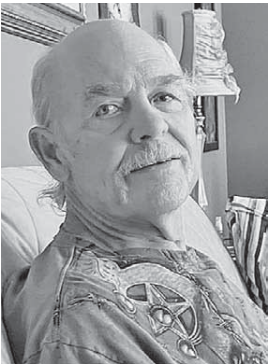


ONE AD, SIX NEWSPAPERS: All classified ads appear in the Fort Qu’Appelle Times, Indian Head-Wolseley News, Kipling Clipper, Melville Advance, Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun and Quad Town Forum

Obituary Richard Wayne Behnke

Feb. 18, 1952 – Jan. 31, 2026

Richard was born on Feb. 18, 1952, in Balcarres, SK. He was the oldest of four children and he grew up in Regina and Lipton. He graduated from Belfour High School in 1970. Richard met the love of his life Esther in July 1973 and they were married Dec. 28 that same year. Richard and Esther moved to the farm by Lipton and were blessed with four children: Calle, Tyrel, Lijah and Breanna.



Richard farmed with his dad, Alfred. They were best friends and that made running the farm a lot easier. Richard loved a good bargain and getting the best deal on everything. He loved the thrill of the hunt and along the way made many friendships. Richard loved to visit with family and friends, and he always had a fresh pot of coffee on.

Richard passed away in Royal University Hospital, in Saskatoon on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, at the age of 73 years.

Richard was predeceased by his parents Alfred and Zelmira (Trithardt) Behnke; infant son R. Aaron; parents-in-law John and Dorothy Dahms and brother-in-law Daniel Dahms.

He is survived by his loving wife Esther (Dahms) and their children: Calle of Saskatoon, Tyrel of Regina, Lijah (Carissa) of Saskatoon and Breanna (Gord) Bradford of Lipton; 10 grandchildren: Kyle and Rachel (Tyrel); Jayna, Anderson and Nola (Lijah and Carissa); Alex, Dexter, Logan, Katelyn and Danielle (Bre and Gord); two grandpups Daisy (Calle) and Samual (Bre and Gord); sister Dorothy (Jerry) Holfeld; brother Ron (Wanda) Behnke; sister Judy (Donald) Wesa; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

The funeral service will be held in the Lipton Evangelical Missionary Church, Lipton, SK on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026 at 2 p.m. with Pastor Lawrence Trafford officiating. The interment will take place in Lipton Memorial Gardens and coffee will follow in the Lipton Town Hall.

Please note that while the church is wheelchair accessible, there is no washroom option for wheelchairs until the gathering in the hall.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



Obituary Lillian Rose Miller

April 11, 1952 – Jan. 31, 2026

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Lillian, or as some people call her, “Lily” or “Diamond Lil”.



Lillian is survived by her partner, Fred Paus; her children, Nicole Kish, Chad Kish (Carol Anderson), Lisa Stewart (Doug), and her step-daughter, Carrie Paus (Scott Dupperon); grandchildren: Jane, Kyle, Victoria, Kayla and Justin Paus; sisters Karen (Ervin) Phillips and Catherine Miller; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Lily was predeceased by her parents, Johannas and Lillian Miller; her two brothers, Ronald and Kenneth Miller; and two of her sisters, Joanna Clement and Rosalie Nameth.

Lillian enjoyed the outdoors, including hunting, fishing, and gardening. Her other enjoyment was cooking and shiny things, hence “Diamond Lil.”

Lillian will be cremated, and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to Conley Funeral Home, Fort Qu’Appelle.

Obituary Elsie Wegner

Jan. 4, 1930 – Jan. 23, 2026

The family of Elsie Wegner, formerly of Yorkton and the Ebenezer area, beloved wife of the late Albert Wegner, announce her peaceful passing in Regina, SK on Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at the age of 96 years.

Elsie was born to Otto and Christina (nee Hemrick) Reimer on Jan. 4, 1930, in the Ebenezer District. She was the youngest of four children and received her education at the West Ebenezer School.

Elsie married the love of her life, Albert Wegner, on Sept. 23, 1949, in Yorkton, SK. They were blessed with four daughters: Sharon, Mavis, Janice and Cheryl.

Elsie’s life was fulfilled with activities like gardening, crocheting, quilting, puzzles and watching her favourite sports events – curling and the Toronto Blue Jays. Over the years she worked alongside Albert on the farm doing daily chores, hauling out meals, and bookkeeping duties on their farm, White Sand River Ranch, near Ebenezer, SK, before retiring and moving into Yorkton. After Albert’s passing, she remained in Yorkton until 2025, when she moved to Lumsden to be closer to her family. Elsie enjoyed being around her family, sharing stories of her childhood and life, leaving many cherished memories.

Elsie was predeceased by her husband Albert; her parents; her two brothers, Milton (Pat) and Gordon (Claire); and sister Laura (Adolph) Wegner. She leaves her four daughters and their families: Sharon (Doug) Fenske of Leduc, AB, Mavis (Kirby) Hugo of Claresholm, AB, Janice (Jay) Doty of Sundre, AB, and Cheryl (Terry) Deck of Lumsden, SK; grandchildren: Hal, Curtis, Cody (Kendra) Dana (Shayne), Mikayla (Harley), Owen (Taylor), Brady (Maranda), Shelby and Sara; and great-grandchildren Peyton and Lacey. Elsie also leaves to mourn her passing many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, from the Yorkton Memorial Gardens Family Centre with Crystal Bailey officiating. Shirley Pearson delivered the eulogy. Barb Wegner and Carmin Dawe recited scripture verses. The interment followed in the Yorkton City Cemetery with Harvey Wegner, Rodney Wegner, Darcy Wegner, Patrick Makowski, Les Pearson, and Rick Dawe serving as casket bearers. Memorial donations in memory of Elsie Wegner may be made to a Charity of One’s Choice as gifts of remembrance. Condolences may be left for the family at www.baileysfuneralhome.com



www.baileysfuneralhome.com



Memoriam



BERES – Albert.

10 years may have passed, but the void you left behind is still felt deeply.

Your spirit remains alive in our memories.

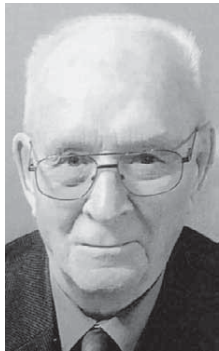
–Love, wife Frances, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

* * * * *

Love Lives On

Sadly missed along life’s way
Quietly remembered every day,
No longer in our life to share
But in our hearts, you’re always there.

–Tim, Shelly and family



In Loving Memory
Albert Erhardt

Dec. 20, 1927 - Feb. 7, 2020

This day is remembered and quietly kept.

No words are needed,
we shall never forget.

For those we love don’t go away
They walk beside us everyday.

Unseen, and unheard,
but always, near.

So loved by Agnes, children,
grandchildren, great-grandchildren
and their families.



WORONIUK, Nick –In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather, who passed away Feb. 7, 2005.

Your presence we miss
Your memory we treasure,
Loving you always
Forgetting you never.

–Lovingly remembered by wife Irene and family.

Card of Thanks

Bernice and her family would like to thank everyone who came to my 100th birthday party. Also a big thank you for the lovely flowers, cards and gifts. The day was a day to remember for me.

–Bernice Sharp

Many Thanks

Because of you, several families had warm meals this month, and didn’t have to worry about what to put on the table! Your encouragement + donations = real change. Simple math, amazing results! Thank you!

On behalf of the Kipling Food Bank, Kipling & District Lions Club and the Kipling Volunteer Fire Department, we are extremely grateful for your participation in our second annual Kipling Food Drive. We are overwhelmed by the continued generosity of our communities! We collected over 3,100 pounds of food and the monetary donations exceeded our expectations by far. Special thanks to all volunteers:

•To the Minor Hockey parents and players that brought joy and smiles to the homes as they made their way up and down the streets.

•To the sign makers, route mappers, truck drivers and many volunteers – the day couldn’t happen without you.

•To the surrounding community organizations, Kipling school and local businesses that initiated their own mini drives and graciously donated their proceeds to our Food Drive.

•To Charla and Kipling Library for hosting Santa and being our drop off station prior to and week following our Food Drive.

•To the many hands that made light work off-loading the trailers and weighing and sorting the food donations collected.

•To Carolyn and Rob Poirier for their creative art work, printing and assistance.

•To our media personnel for graciously putting our story out there. Thank you for helping us continue our service in the community.

Hyundai For Sale

FOR SALE – 2012 Hyundai Santa Fe, all-wheel drive, very good condition. Regular maintenance, 144,000 kms. Phone Roxi, 1-306-542-8625 or Neil, 1-306-542-8132.

SUV For Sale

FOR SALE – 2009 SUV Ford Flex with good rubbers and tires. All-wheel drive, entertainment centre included. Completely loaded with all bells and whistles. Phone Ross, 306-562-7228.

Van For Sale

FOR SALE – 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

For Rent

FOR RENT – 2 bedroom apartment in Melville. Equipped with fridge, stove, AC, off-suite storage, plug-in parking and free laundry. **306-260-7447** for inquiries. M32-4p

Services

**Indian Head Library
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effective Feb. 17, 2026

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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

9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

CLOSED Sunday and Monday

Phone: 306-695-3922

tfc

Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Estate of **James Albert Pigeon**, late of Abernethy, Sask., deceased.

All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 20th day of February, 2026.

KREKLEWICH & CHAMBERS
Barristers & Solicitors
147 Third Avenue East
P.O. Box 2000
Melville, SK S0A 2P0

Solicitors for the Estate.

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(based on 25 words or less)



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Tuesdays 12 Noon

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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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GELBVIEH BULL SALE

RED DEER COUNTRY Alberta

Feb. 17th

2026



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Assessment Roll

Rural Municipality of Wolseley No. 155

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll of the Rural Municipality of Wolseley No. 155 for the year 2026 has been prepared and is now open to inspection at the office of the assessor from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday February 6th to March 9th, 2026.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required. All fees must be submitted to the local assessor at the RM of Wolseley No. 155.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal with: Nicolle Hoskins, which can be sent electronically to: secretary@westernmunicipal.ca or to RM of Wolseley No. 155 at P.O. Box 370, Wolseley, SK and forwarded to the Secretary of the Board of Revision by the 9th day of March, 2026.

A notice of appeal, accompanied by a \$100.00 appeal fee, must accompany the notice of appeal. Appeal fees will be returned if the appeal is successful.

Dated this 6th day of February, 2026.

Rose Zimmer, Assessor

Notice of Poll

Notice of Advance Poll

Village of Montmartre

Municipal Election 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that a vote will be held for the election of:

Councillor: Village of Montmartre

The Advance Poll will take place on:

Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office at 136 Central Avenue in Montmartre, SK

Election Day will take place on:

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office at 136 Central Avenue in Montmartre, SK

I will declare the results of the election at the Municipal Office at 136 Central Avenue in Montmartre, SK on the 5th day of March, 2026, at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Dated this 6th day of February, 2026.

Dale Brenner
Returning Officer

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Producers, gov't frustrated by strychnine denial

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan producers and rural leaders are urging federal regulators to reconsider a decision that will again leave farmers without access to strychnine for controlling Richardson's ground squirrels, a pest they say causes millions of dollars in crop and pasture damage each year.

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency has denied a joint emergency-use request from Saskatchewan and Alberta to allow the use of two per cent liquid strychnine for the 2026 growing season, prompting sharp criticism from the province, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, and producers across the Prairies.

"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



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Strychnine denied

Gophers won't need to worry about being poisoned this year after the PMRA decided to deny the use of strychnine.

PMRA's decision and ask them to reconsider this decision."

The province and Alberta submitted the emergency-use application on Oct. 1, 2025, citing concerns that currently registered alternatives, such as zinc phosphate and anticoagulant baits, are not effective enough to manage growing ground squirrel populations. Officials from both provinces met repeatedly with PMRA during the review process, saying they provided strengthened mitigation

measures to reduce risks to non-target species.

Those measures included narrower application windows, mandatory training, enhanced reporting requirements and improved stewardship practices. PMRA ultimately ruled the measures did not sufficiently reduce environmental risks.

The decision means producers will not be able to use strychnine during the upcoming growing season, a move that Saskatchewan Legislative Secretary for Agricul-

ture James Thorsteinson called deeply frustrating.

"We're extremely disappointed," Thorsteinson told Grasslands News. "The Richardson's ground squirrel costs our producers millions of dollars every year. It's something that we need to get a handle on."

Ground squirrels typically emerge in late winter and early spring, feeding on newly seeded or emerging crops at a time when plants are most vulnerable. In dry years, producers say losses can be especially severe.

Thorsteinson said strychnine has long been viewed by producers as the most effective and economical control option when used properly, particularly as a last resort after other methods fail.

"There are other ways we can try and control them with zinc phosphate or anticoagulant baits," he said. "But strychnine just seems to be the most effective."

SARM President Bill Huber echoed that view, calling the PMRA decision a major setback after months of work by municipal, provincial, and industry officials.

Huber said strychnine's effectiveness has been demonstrated repeatedly on Saskatchewan farms, including his own.

"In our own farming operation, I've used strychnine myself for many, many years," he said. "It works. It's been proven year after year. It's not an easy task poisoning gophers. It's time consuming and there's no robotic equipment or AI intelligence to poison gophers."

He said alternatives often fail to significantly reduce populations, discouraging producers

from even attempting control.

"It's devastating the damage that they do early in the spring, especially on early emerging crops," Huber said.

Huber also criticized what he described as a disconnect between federal regulators and conditions on the Prairies.

"When you sit around that table in Ottawa, 90 per cent of those people have never been west of Winnipeg," he said. "Until they get their feet on the ground and actually walk a field and see the devastation, it's hard for them to realize how bad it is."

Saskatchewan maintains it responded to all PMRA requests during the review process and says the denial highlights broader concerns about how pest-control decisions are made.

The province says it will now pivot to a broader Richardson's ground squirrel management strategy, including continued advocacy at federal-provincial-territorial tables, targeted extension efforts to improve the

performance of registered alternatives and new investments in research focused on best management practices and population monitoring.

Support will also continue through the Gopher Control Program, administered by SARM. Thorsteinson said the program will again be available for the 2026 season.

"At this point it is," he said. "Producers can contact their RM office or an agriculture extension office for more information."

While the program helps offset some costs, both Thorsteinson and Huber say it does not come close to covering the economic losses producers face, particularly in drought-stricken regions.

Both the province and SARM say they will continue pushing Ottawa to revisit the issue.

"We're not going to give the fight up," Huber said. "The old saying is the squeaky wheel gets the grease. If we keep hammering on it long enough, maybe we'll get some results."



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.



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

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LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Land Description:

Four (4) Quarters located in the RM of Silverwood No. 123 and legally described as:

SE 32-13-02 W/2 - Surface Parcel #107732213 – 90 cultivated acres

SW 32-13-02 W/2 - Surface Parcel #107732224 – 128 cultivated acres

NW 29-13-02 W/2 - Surface Parcel #107732145 – 124 cultivated acres

NE 29-13-02 W/2 - Surface Parcel #107732156 – 120 cultivated acres

**Cultivated acres taken from SAMA field sheets.*

No usable buildings or other improvements located on any of the quarters.

Current owner will need access to remove some personal items after spring thaw.

No surface / windmill leases; no mineral rights included.

Prospective Buyers are advised to conduct their own due diligence on the land.

Terms and Conditions:

1. Land Free and Clear of all Encumbrances other than utility or other encumbrances not affecting marketability.
2. Possession 30 days following acceptance of winning bid or unless otherwise mutually agreed. Balance of tender amount to be paid on or before possession.
3. Interest at 5.0% on any amount not paid at possession.
4. Seller has paid taxes to Dec. 31, 2025. Buyer responsible for land taxes from and after January 1, 2026.
5. Buyer pays Land Titles transfer fees, seller provides Transfer Authorizations to transfer to buyer.
6. Bids may be submitted on individual quarters or as a package for all 4 quarters.
7. All Tenders must be in writing and include bid deposit of 5% of bid price by way of bank draft or certified cheque ONLY payable to "Trobert Gilliss Law Firm – Trust".

HIGHEST OR ANY BID NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPTED.

Inquiries relative to land to Stewart Dayle @ 306.435.9124 or James Trobert @ 306.634.2616. Tenders must be submitted **on or before FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026 at 4 p.m.** in a sealed envelope marked "**DAYLE LAND TENDER**", c/o Trobert Gilliss Law Firm, #1339 4th Street, Estevan, Saskatchewan S4A 0X1. Tenders will not be accepted by email.

Local Southeast Regional Libraries offer full slate of February programs

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Local Southeast Regional Libraries are “More than just your average library” as they offer not only books, but a multitude of sources to gain knowledge and entertainment for all ages. Every month, the libraries work to sponsor various events of interest for their communities.

Broadview Library
Feb. 11 and Feb. 18 at 3:30 p.m. is a fun and new challenge to “Make your own Recycled Paper.” This involves getting messy and using a blender! Suitable for teens.
Feb. 23 from 2 – 3 p.m., as part of Saskatchewan Indigenous Storytelling Month, Andrea Landry will be at Broadview School (Library on Location). Andrea Landry is Anishinaabe from a small community called Plays Pat First Nation in Northwestern Ontario but currently resides on Poundmaker Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. She’s a mother, a life skills coach through Red Echo Associates, a university instructor and a freelance writer. She is also the author of recently published children’s book, “Rez Kid” (2025).

Feb. 27 at 10:30 a.m. is a Sensory Bin Workshop with Mobile Early Learning. This is a free workshop for families who want to build their own Sensory Bin. A sensory bin is a container filled with materials like rice, sand, or water, plus various objects, designed to provide children with a hands-on, open-ended play experience that stimulates their senses (touch, sight, sound) and helps develop important skills like motor control, problem-solving, and language. They offer a calm, focused way for kids to explore different textures, colors, and concepts, fostering creativity and learning through play. You will get to take home your bin and a book. One bin per family. This event is for families with children ages 3 – 5. All children must be supervised. First come first served. Contact Librarian Erica to reserve your spot by Feb. 20

A Chill Vibes Hangout is held every Wednesday after school. Drop-in from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. There are free snacks and activities such as LEGO, coloring, board and card games, friendship bracelets, sewing, embroidery and monthly Workshop Kits. Suited for those over 6 years old who can participate independently in a public space.
Also offered is the Free Trees for Kids through Neighborhood Forest. Scan the QR code on the Library Facebook site and select one of the options: 1. Register child for a free tree; 2. Purchase trees (Buy one, fund one); 3. Make a donation.

Neighborhood Trees will be shipped to the local library prior to Earth Day (April 22) and you will be contacted when trees are ready to be picked up. Register by March 15th!

Whitewood Library
On Feb. 10 there will be Chair Yoga from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. led by Corinne Sippola. Suitable for ev-

eryone! No experience or special gear necessary. Registration required due to limited seats.
Feb. 12 and 26, the Community Needle Craft Group meet from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. You are invited to share ideas and showcase your sewing, crochet, knitting and embroidery projects. Registration

required due to limited seats/tables.
Feb. 17 is another day of Kids Zone from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. and, also on Feb. 19 is the Teen Squad Hangout from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Bring some buddies and explore games, crafts, and activities. Free snacks and drinks.

Saskatchewan Indigenous Storytelling Month will also be celebrated at Whitewood School (Library on Location). On Feb. 23 at 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., Andrea Landry will be at Whitewood School Library. Andrea Landry is Anishinaabe from a small community called Plays Pat First Nation in

Northwestern Ontario but currently resides on Poundmaker Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. She’s a mother, a life skills coach through Red Echo Associates, a university instructor and a freelance writer. She is also the author of recently published children’s book, “Rez Kid” (2025).



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