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Survivors to shape healing foundation at Fort consultation

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

A chapter of Canada's health-care history is being brought into focus as survivors of the Federal Indian Hospital system are being asked what they want to see from a new national healing foundation.

Fort Qu'Appelle was home to an Indian Hospital from 1936 to 1981, and the community will host one of a series of consultations being held across Canada to gather ideas for the future Indian Hospital Healing Foundation.

Dr. Mike DeGagne, the lead facilitator for the consultation process, told Grasslands News the work stems from a settlement agreement addressing trauma suffered by former patients of the federal Indian hospital system.

The settlement has its roots in a class-action lawsuit launched in 2018 by Ann Cecile Hardy on behalf of people seeking to address harms they suffered while admitted to a Federal Indian Hospital. Three similar proposed class actions were subsequently filed in Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Alberta, with the claims eventually being dealt with collectively under Hardy.

The Federal Indian Hospitals Settlement Agreement was reached Feb. 28, 2025, and approved by the Federal Court later that same year on June 24.

The agreement includes compensation for claims of abuse experienced by people admitted to one of 33 hospitals included in the settlement. DeGagne said the Indian hospital system, however, remains largely unknown to many Canadians compared with the residential school system.

"If you go into a crowded room and say, 'Hey, has anybody heard of residential schools?' And everybody puts their hand up, right?" he said. "But if you say, 'Have you heard of Indian Hospitals?' Almost nobody does."

The settlement agreement has two components - the first addresses individual claims related to trauma suffered in Indian hospitals. DeGagne said that process is separate from the consultation work now taking place.

The second component calls for the creation of an Indian Hospital Healing Foundation, with funding set aside to establish the organization.

Before the foundation is created, however, former patients are being asked what they believe it should do.

"They agreed in the settlement to form an Indian hospital healing foundation," DeGagne said. "And so, they put money aside and they said, before we set this thing up, we want some people to go across Canada to places where there were Indian Hospitals, and we want them to ask former patients what they would like to see this Indian Hospital Foundation do."

The federal government has committed $385.5 million to the foundation through two funds. The Healing Fund will provide $150 million for healing, wellness, reconciliation, language and cultural protection, education, and commemoration.

Another $235.5 million Research and Commemoration Fund is intended to support research and education, preserve the history of federal Indian hospitals and help locate burial sites associated with the hospitals.

In addition to the foundation funding, Indigenous Services Canada has received another $150 million to expand existing mental health and wellness services for survivors and their families during implementation of the settlement agreement.

DeGagne said the foundation funding will be held as an endowment, allowing investment income to support programming over the long term.

"You invest that money and annually you would probably draw between 12 and 15 million dollars."

Woodworking talent

PHOTO BY MANDY BEACH

Blaze Beach sits among some of his recent creations in the workshop behind his family's Fort Qu'Appelle business. Beach spent the summer developing his woodworking skills and continues to take on increasingly complex projects as he considers a future in the skilled trades. See story on page 14.

DeGagne said consultations have already taken place in several communities, particularly in northern areas. The process is not primarily intended for survivors to recount their experiences at the hospitals, instead the focus is on what programs and services could help communities and former patients moving forward.

"It's not the kind of place where this meeting is to come and tell your story about what happened to you," he said. "That's more on the compensation side. This is more about what you'd like to see a service provided to you."

A number of ideas have already emerged from consultations, ranging from preserving burial grounds to supporting education, research, and historical records. DeGagne said some former Indian Hospital sites have graveyards that are poorly maintained.

"Someone was saying that with a lot of these former Indian Hospital sites, they have graveyards associated with them, and those graveyards are not well kept," he said.

"And they said, why don't we have a fund to fix up the graveyards and to have appropriate ceremonies set over them to do this in a good way and for those who have passed."

Other suggestions have included developing school curriculum about Indian Hospitals, a national museum, and offering scholarships to graduate students researching the history of the hospital system.

"Maybe a writer's fund where people who want to write a story of their particular hospital can apply to, you know, get some money to fund and publish a book," DeGagne explained. "Maybe scholarships for graduate students who want to do some work on Indian Hospital history."

DeGagne said one of the most significant challenges raised by former patients involves accessing medical and hospital records. Unlike modern health-care records - which can often be accessed through centralized systems - records from the Indian Hospital era can be scattered among universities, archives, and other institutions.

"The thing with Indian Hospitals is there's not one place where there's lots of records," he said, describing one discussion in which a university had records from some Indian Hospitals but not another.

"Somebody in the meeting said, 'I know another college that has a whole archive on that hospital,'" he said.

He believes the foundation could help develop a network that makes it easier for former patients to locate their records.

"I think what'll happen is that some work can be done on like a network of data places, a network of places where you can go to get your hospital records," he said. "We have heard from people who said, I went to the hospital. I don't even know why I was there; I'd love to see the records."

The Indian Hospitals initially developed as part of the federal response to tuberculosis among Indigenous people, but DeGagne said the system continued beyond that original purpose.

"The whole idea of finding a place to send Indigenous people, First Nations, Métis, Inuit who had TB, that was sort of the genesis of the system," he said. "But then it carried on as an independent system after that."

Saskatchewan had two such hospitals in operation, The Fort Qu'Appelle Indian Hospital operated from May 1, 1936, until Dec. 31, 1981, and the North Battleford Indian Hospital ran from 1949 to 1977.

Estimates suggest more than 100,000 people across Canada may have passed through the Indian Hospital system, although it is difficult to determine how many former patients were connected specifically to the Fort Qu'Appelle hospital.

The consultation process is intended to help determine how the foundation can respond to the experiences and priorities of those survivors, their families and their communities.

DeGagne said the foundation could operate relatively modestly, with a small regional board of directors and a couple of staff members.

"So that would be plenty to do a couple of interesting projects for a couple of years and then do something different," he said. "It would be a modest operation, but you could do some really interesting programming with it."

The consultation process is expected to continue until the end of the fiscal year on March 31.

"We want to do enough consultations to make the report, you know, robust and rich, but we don't want to do so many that we're waiting an extra year or something for the foundation to get set up," he said.

A consultation meeting is scheduled for Oct. 8 in Fort Qu'Appelle, with details about the venue and time still being finalized, but interested participants asked to register through the Indian Hospital Foundation website ihfes.ca.

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Thousands gather to mark Treaty 4 anniversary

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

The annual Treaty 4 Gathering is taking place in Fort Qu'Appelle this week, drawing thousands of people to the community to commemorate the historic treaty signing.

On Sept. 15, 1874, the Canadian government and 35 of the Plains Cree, Saulteaux and Assiniboine Nations signed Treaty 4 in the area now known as Fort Qu'Appelle. Forty years ago, elders encouraged Treaty 4 nations to mark the anniversary in September by meeting on the land where the treaty was signed. Initially a two-day event, the gathering has expanded to include a full week of activities that recall the shared history and offer opportunities to move toward a positive future. File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, which includes 11 First Nations, takes responsibility for organizing much of the Treaty 4 Gathering. However, many other nations that were signatories to the treaty in 1874 also participate in the annual events.

This year the gathering takes place from Sept. 14 to 20. Each day this week has started with a traditional pipe ceremony and flag raising. A ceremonial feast was held on Monday. Due to rain, participants gathered in the Bert Fox Community High School gym instead of at the powwow arbour as originally planned. Over the following days, individuals from First Nations and non-Indigenous communities joined together for activities that fostered connections and positive relationships.

From Tuesday through Thursday, hundreds of students from around the region visited the Treaty 4 grounds on Sioux Ave. They came from Prairie Valley School Division, Regina and First Nations' schools to engage in cultural and educational programs. Dozens of teepees were arranged around the perimeter of the powwow arbour and facilitators at each teepee provided instruction on a variety of topics. Students had opportunities to listen to elder teachings, learn about hide tanning, practice beading and play Indigenous games. Organizations such as the public library, FHQTC Health Services, Saskatchewan Science Centre and Water Security Agency also offered educational information and fun activities. Over the noon hour each day there was dancing, drumming and singing with many youth participating. As each dance was introduced, the announcer provided an explanation of the history and traditional significance to increase students' understanding of the powwow. Behind the Treaty 4 Governance Centre across the road, additional booths enabled students to try archery and explore other topics. Many also enjoyed hiking to the top of a ridge to look out across the Qu'Appelle Valley.

For part of this week, a career fair was arranged alongside the student activities at the Treaty 4 grounds. Forums for elders, chiefs, and citizens were held in the nearby Governance Centre at various times. Young adults were also invited to attend a forum about climate change on Thursday. The event was expected to feature guest speakers Dr. Kathy Walker, Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan; Dr. Peter Leavitt, University of Regina; Sonia Pacin, Climate Lead at Universities Canada; Dr. Robert Hamilton, University of Calgary, and youth representatives from Treaty 4 territory.

Opportunities to gather in Fort Qu'Appelle and honour the long history of Treaty 4 will continue throughout this weekend with a parade and powwow on Saturday and Sunday. A dry dance in Balcarres on Thursday evening and a comedy show in Lebret on Friday night were also organized in conjunction with the Treaty 4 Gathering.

A full schedule is available under the "Events" tab at fhqtc.com and on the "Treaty 4 Gathering" Facebook page.

SARAH PACIO I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Treaty 4 Gathering
Students from around the region took part in a variety of cultural and educational activities this week at the annual Treaty 4 Gathering in Fort Qu'Appelle.

Report from the Legislature

A new school year is always a meaningful time for Saskatchewan families. Classrooms are once again filled with students setting new goals, teachers are prepared for another year of learning and school communities coming together. It is also a reminder that the investments we make in education today help shape the opportunities available to young people in the years ahead.

One of those priorities is ensuring students develop strong literacy skills early in their education. Reading proficiency by the end of Grade 3 is one of the strongest predictors of future academic success and high school graduation, which is why Saskatchewan continues to focus on improving literacy outcomes. We also continue to expand the Specialized Support model to 50 additional schools this year, bringing the total to 108 schools across all 27 school divisions. With additional resources and specially trained staff, the model helps students build self-regulation skills and supports positive learning experiences.

The opportunities available to students do not end when they leave the K-12 system. This fall, Saskatchewan is reaching an important milestone in health professional training with the first students beginning the new *Master of Occupational Therapy and Master of Speech-Language Pathology* programs at the University of Saskatchewan. A $37 million provincial investment has made it possible to bring this training to Saskatchewan. With 80 students forming the first cohorts, these programs will significantly increase the number of people who can train for professions that are essential to our health care system.

Creating those opportunities is especially important as Saskatchewan continues to attract people who want to live, work and raise their families here. That growth is reflected in our housing numbers. In 2025, Saskatchewan recorded 6,150 new housing starts, the highest level since 2014 and a 42 per cent increase from the previous year – the strongest growth among the provinces. With housing remaining the largest single expense for many families, our government continues to invest more than $60 million each year in programs that increase housing supply and support affordability.

These investments are about building a Saskatchewan where people can succeed and where families can feel confident about their future.

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.

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Health workers deliver 99 per cent strike mandate

Potential job action could affect hospitals, long-term care and community health services

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan could be facing significant labour action in the health-care system after members of CUPE Local 5430 voted overwhelmingly in favour of a strike mandate.

More than 99 per cent of members who cast ballots supported job action during the strike vote held Sept. 8 to 14. More than 13,000 health-care workers participated in the vote, which CUPE is calling the largest health-care strike vote in Saskatchewan history.

CUPE Local 5430 represents approximately 14,000 health-care workers employed in hospitals, long-term care homes, community health facilities, laboratories and other health services throughout Saskatchewan.

The workers have been without a new collective agreement since their previous contract expired March 31, 2023. According to the union, members have also gone more than four-and-a-half years without a general wage increase.

CUPE 5430 President Bashir Jalloh said the overwhelming vote sends a strong message to the provincial government about the frustration among health-care employees.

"These incredible strike vote results send that minister and his government a message that our members are done waiting, are united, and ready to fight for a fair contract," Jalloh said in a statement.

The union has identified wages, recruitment and retention, contracting out and proposed changes affecting where employees may be required to work as major concerns in bargaining.

CUPE says Saskatchewan health-care workers have fallen behind the rising cost of living. The union says the cost of living in Saskatchewan increased 33.7 per cent between 2012 and 2025, while CUPE 5430 members received general wage increases totalling 14.32 per cent over the same period.

The Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO), which is bargaining with CUPE, has disputed some of the union's positions during negotiations. Earlier in September, SAHO reported that some movement had occurred during August negotiations but said disagreements remained over issues including movement of employees, working outside an employee's territory and contracting.

The 99 per cent strike mandate does not mean an immediate strike will occur. Rather, it gives the union a strong mandate from its membership to pursue job action if negotiations fail to produce an agreement.

Jalloh said withdrawing services is not the union's preferred outcome and described job action as a last resort. Bargaining is expected to resume Sept. 24. As of Sept. 15, no date or specific form of job action had been announced.

The dispute comes at a time when Saskatchewan's health-care system continues to face staffing pressures. CUPE has argued that wages and working conditions are contributing to difficulties recruiting and retaining employees, leaving existing workers dealing with vacancies, overtime and increased workloads.

The size of the strike vote means any eventual labour disruption could have implications for health facilities across Saskatchewan, including rural hospitals, long-term care facilities and community health services.

For now, however, negotiations remain the focus. The Sept. 24 bargaining session could become an important point in determining whether the two sides can move toward a new collective agreement or whether Saskatchewan health-care workers move closer to job action.

Strike raises concerns for rural health Care

Saskatchewan's already strained rural health-care system could face another challenge after members of CUPE Local 5430 voted overwhelmingly in favour of a strike mandate.

More than 99 per cent of ballots cast supported job action, with 13,358 CUPE health-care workers participating in voting held from Sept. 8 to 14. CUPE has described it as the largest health-care strike vote in Saskatchewan history.

CUPE Local 5430 represents approximately 14,000 health-care employees working in hospitals, long-term care homes, community health facilities, laboratories and other health services throughout Saskatchewan.

For rural Saskatchewan, the importance of these workers extends far beyond the larger hospitals.

CUPE members work in hundreds of classifications, including nursing, clerical, technical and support positions. They include continuing care assistants, licensed practical nurses, laboratory and diagnostic workers, home-care employees and many of the support workers required to keep hospitals and care homes functioning.

That means any eventual job action has the potential to be felt in communities throughout southern Saskatchewan, where health facilities frequently serve not only the town in which they are located but residents from a large surrounding rural area.

Communities such as Whitewood, Moosomin, Indian Head, Grenfell, Broadview, Kipling and Wolseley are among those identified by the province as rural or remote locations for health-care recruitment incentives.

The strike vote does not mean workers are immediately walking off the job.

No date or specific form of job action had been announced as of Sept. 15. CUPE president Bashir Jalloh said bargaining is scheduled to resume Sept. 24 and emphasized that withdrawing services is considered a last resort.

Essential services required

Before legal strike action could occur, essential-services requirements would also have to be addressed. The Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) has said an Essential Services Agreement must be in place before CUPE can legally strike or take job action. Such an agreement is intended to ensure the public continues to have adequate access to essential medical care.

Even with essential services maintained, however, reduced staffing or other forms of job action could have particular significance in rural communities.

A large urban hospital may have considerably more staff and services available to respond when individual departments are under pressure. Smaller facilities often operate with much leaner staffing levels, making the availability of each nurse, continuing care assistant, laboratory employee, diagnostic worker, dietary employee, maintenance worker or other support employee important to daily operations.

Rural services already under pressure

CUPE has already raised concerns about rural staffing. In November 2025, the union pointed to temporary emergency department closures in communities including Kipling and Wolseley as examples of pressure facing rural health services. The union also expressed concern about situations where emergency departments could be considered open despite limited on-site staffing or support services.

A labour disruption could potentially be felt outside emergency departments as well.

Long-term care homes depend heavily on continuing care assistants and other frontline and support employees for residents' daily care. Home-care programs allow seniors and people with disabilities or medical needs to remain in their own homes rather than requiring hospitalization or institutional care.

Laboratory and diagnostic imaging services are another critical part of the rural system. Reduced access to blood testing, X-rays or other diagnostic services could mean patients have to travel farther or wait longer before receiving a diagnosis or treatment.

Those concerns have already been raised in the Yorkton area, where Saskatchewan NDP health critic Jacqueline Roy said a potential disruption could affect home care, public health, mental-health and addictions programs, laboratories and diagnostic imaging. Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill, meanwhile, has said negotiations remain ongoing and pointed to government recruitment efforts and proposals that include wage increases and retroactive pay.

The dispute is about more than wages, according to CUPE.

The union says recruitment and retention, staffing levels, contracting and proposals concerning movement of employees are among the outstanding issues.

Wages, staffing among key issues

CUPE argues that its members have gone more than four-and-a-half years without a general wage increase and says the cost of living increased by 33.7 per cent between 2012 and 2025 while members received general wage increases totalling 14.32 per cent during that period.

SAHO disputes the union's characterization of some employer proposals. In an August bargaining update, SAHO said its proposals were not intended to allow employees to be involuntarily moved anywhere in Saskatchewan at the employer's discretion. SAHO also reported that CUPE-represented employment had grown since the previous agreement expired and maintained that bargaining should remain focused on reaching a negotiated settlement.

For rural Saskatchewan residents, that negotiated settlement may be particularly important.

Rural communities have spent years trying to recruit and retain health professionals while dealing with temporary service disruptions, vacancies and the difficulties that come with providing health care across large geographic areas.

When a service is unavailable in a city, another facility may sometimes be only a short distance away. In rural Saskatchewan, the alternative can mean travelling dozens — and sometimes considerably more — kilometres to another community.

That makes the outcome of the CUPE negotiations an issue that reaches well beyond the bargaining table.

With more than 99 per cent of participating workers supporting a strike mandate, CUPE enters the next round of negotiations with strong backing from its membership. At the same time, both sides continue to have an opportunity to reach an agreement before job action occurs.

For residents of rural Saskatchewan, particularly seniors and families who depend on local hospitals, long-term care, home care, laboratories and other community health services, the hope will be that an agreement can be reached without adding another layer of uncertainty to health-care services already facing significant staffing pressures.

Bell AI data centre expansion to quadruple, reach $52B investment

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Supporters and opponents alike of the Bell AI Fabric Data Centre near Regina heard an announcement Sept. 14 that made their collective jaws drop. The 300 MW project being constructed in the RM of Sherwood is now anticipated to quadruple in capacity to 1.2 GW.

The provincial government says the expanded Bell project will represent more than $50 billion in capital investment and create thousands of jobs.

"This historic investment will create thousands of good jobs and new opportunities for Saskatchewan people," Premier Scott Moe said in the government announcement. "It will also strengthen Canadian data sovereignty by keeping Canadian data here at home, stored by a Canadian company and protected under Canadian rules. When it comes to data storage, keeping that home ice advantage means Canadians set the rules and remain in control."

The government says the project will retain the original 300 MW from the provincial grid while Bell provides up to 900 MW of additional capacity under Saskatchewan's Bring Your Own Power principle.

The expansion is expected to create up to 500 permanent jobs connected to data-centre operations and power generation, along with an estimated 3,000 additional jobs in areas such as security, logistics and maintenance. The AI Fabric headquarters is also expected to include about 100 management positions.

"This historic $52 billion expansion is one of the largest private-sector investments in Saskatchewan's history and a powerful endorsement of our province's economic potential," Crown Investments Corporation Minister Jeremy Harrison said.

"Bell's decision to invest at this scale reflects confidence in Saskatchewan as a place to do business, grow and succeed," he continued. "This investment will create jobs, drive economic activity and deliver long-term benefits for communities across our province."

The opposition NDP continue to be unconvinced that data centres in Saskatchewan are a good fit, calling for a moratorium on hyperscale artificial-intelligence data centres after news of the expansion hit. One day after Moe and Bell Canada CEO Mirko Bibic announced the expansion, NDP leader Carla Beck cautioned holding back on the project until more questions can be answered about the proposed framework.

"I question even the feasibility of that if this is a bring your own power project," she said during a media availability. "There are no answers right now at this point, simply in terms of where that power is coming from. Suggestions that it perhaps could be natural gas, that again is just one of the lists of questions that people have that ought to be answered."

Beck said her concerns are directed at the provincial government rather than Bell.

"My concern is with the province - with the Government of Saskatchewan and with their absolute failure to provide any transparency and clarity when it comes to the initial announcement and certainly this latest announcement to quadruple the scope of this hyperscale data center," she said.

The government says the expansion was approved under its Data Centre Framework, released last month. The framework establishes six principles for major data-centre investments, including Canadian ownership and headquarters, data sovereignty, local jobs and partnerships, operating experience, Bring Your Own Power and centralized provincial intake.

The government says applicable municipal permitting processes and bylaws will apply to the development. Projects meeting the definition of a development under applicable legislation may also be subject to an environmental impact assessment.

Beck said the six-point framework does not go far enough.

"Frankly, it's not sufficient," she said. "And I would also say the federal government has a role to play here in a more robust framework as well."

Beck said municipalities - particularly rural municipalities - need greater support when dealing with projects of this size.

"We have rural municipalities trying to navigate these deals, trying to navigate with multinationals," she said. "They need support. They need the ability to have a provincial framework, to have resources at the provincial and frankly the federal level as well."

The provincial announcement says the project is intended to strengthen Canadian data sovereignty and security while supporting Saskatchewan's technology sector.

"This nation-building project will help safeguard the digital infrastructure our families, businesses and public services depend on, while helping Saskatchewan build and power Canada's digital future for generations to come," Moe said.

Beck said she is not opposed to potential investment or the use of artificial intelligence but wants the province to demonstrate the benefits and establish rules before projects of this scale proceed.

"I trust the people of this province, given the opportunity to express concerns over where they see opportunity, that we can build a path here in this province," she said. "But that's not what we're seeing here. Just plowing ahead with this decision is not going to quell the concerns, the frustration, the anger that we see out there. In fact, I think it is fueling it."

Repair Café hosted at Yorkton Library

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

What has become an annual event in the city, the Repair Café was held in Yorkton Saturday.

The idea of the 'Café' is a simple one, rather than throwing something not working into the trash bin where it ends up in the landfill, why not seek out some help to fix it?

Each year people are invited to bring items such as small electronics, computers, bikes, clothing and textiles, where people were on hand to hopefully effect some small repairs.

This year Brent Washington with Yorkton Men's Shed, the local partner alongside Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council, said they were getting all sorts of items needing some 'fix-it' attention to save it from heading to the landfill. Items included a vacuum, propane heater element, dresses and jewellery, he said.

The Repair Cafe concept brings together local volunteers – Washington said nine people were out sharing their skills this year willing to try and fix and repair various items.

With the help of volunteers that will be offering their knowledge and skills, Repair Cafes encourage us to consider repairing items rather than throwing them away.

Repair Café is a pop-up, one day event where the public can bring in household items to be fixed for free by volunteers, held in various communities across the province – 15 scheduled in 2026.

The 'café' was hosted by Affinity Credit Union and the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council and was held at the Yorkton Public Library.

Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council promotes circular economy principles, including keeping materials in use at their highest value as long as possible. Repair is key to that effort, as the organization works to foster a culture of repair, and Repair Café events are one way to establish that culture.

CALVIN DANIELS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Repair not throw away

A Repair Café volunteer works on an electronic items at the event at the Yorkton Public Library. This yearly program invites people to bring items such as small electronics and more to be repaired.

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

Rural Municipality of Willowdale No. 153

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before the 18th day of November, 2026, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

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

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Part of Lot / Part of Section	Lot / Sec.	Blk. / Tp.	Plan / Range	Meridian	Title Number	Total Arrears	Advertising Costs	Total Arrears & Costs
SE	09	17	01	2	153410127	$ 1371.91	$28.13	$1,400.04
NE	24	17	01	2	150715458	$ 1973.39	$28.13	$2,001.52
NW	08	17	02	2	128572993	$ 1031.02	$28.13	$1,059.15
		A	101198178		106377891	$ 82.37	$84.39	$166.76
					106377903			
					106377914			

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Chrissy Bodnarchuk, Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE

Rural Municipality of Kingsley No. 124

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the R.M. of Kingsley No. 124 intends to adopt **Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1-2026** (OCP) and **Zoning Bylaw No. 2-2026** under The Planning and Development Act, 2007. Once adopted, the new OCP and Zoning Bylaw will replace the existing Bylaw No. 1-1998 and Bylaw No. 2-1998, respectively.

Intent

The proposed OCP and Zoning Bylaw will establish a policy and regulatory framework for guiding land use, economic, environmental, social and cultural development as well as the delivery of infrastructure, services, and utilities in the RM. The purpose of the new bylaws is to comply with Provincial legislation, the Statements of Provincial Interest and to ensure future development aligns with RM priorities. The Zoning Bylaw will include the following zoning districts that provide standards for development within specific areas within the municipality. They are summarized as follows:

AR – Agricultural Resource District: which is intended to provide for agricultural land uses and for low density residential development and other compatible developments.

RR- Rural Residential District: which is to provide opportunities for the subdivision and development of smaller non-farm residential sites in appropriate locations within the RM.

M1 – Commercial- Industrial District: which is intended to provide for commercial and industrial land uses and other compatible developments.

EC – Environmental Conservation District: which is to protect environmentally sensitive and ecologically valuable lands. The EC Zoning District may also be applied to hazardous lands, such as those prone to instability, flooding, or nearby to hazardous uses.

Affected Land

All land within the RM boundaries. The OCP also includes inter-municipal policies for collaborating with neighbouring municipalities and other partners in the region.

Public Inspection

Any person may inspect the bylaws at the RM office during regular office hours Monday to Thursday from 8:00am to 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

Public Hearing

Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 10th, 2026 at 10:00 am in the Council Chambers at 603 Main Street, Kipling, SK, to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaws. Council will also consider any comments that are received in writing at the office or emailed to rm124@sasktel.net by 2:00 pm the day prior to the hearing.

Issued in the Town of Kipling this 18th day of September, 2026.

Holly Heikkila, Administrator

PVSD enrolment steady, but local school numbers vary

GSSD enrolment numbers expected to be released later this month

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Student enrolment across Prairie Valley School Division is virtually unchanged from last year, but individual schools in the Grasslands News coverage area are seeing considerably different trends.

Preliminary enrolment figures collected Sept. 9 show 8,752 students attending PVSD schools for the 2026-27 school year.

That is just nine students more than the division projected and nine more than were enrolled at the same time last year.

While the overall number has remained stable, several local schools have recorded increases while others have experienced declining enrolment.

Broadview School recorded one of the larger increases compared with projections. The school has 255 students this fall, 18 more than the 237 projected by the division and 13 more than its enrolment of 242 last year.

Grenfell's two schools are also above projections.

Grenfell Elementary School has 131 students, eight more than the projected 123 and four more than last year's enrolment of 127.

Grenfell High Community School has 161 students this fall. That is 13 above its projected enrolment of 148 and 16 more students than the 145 enrolled last year.

Combined, the two Grenfell schools have 292 students, compared with 272 last year — an increase of 20 students.

Balcarres Community School is also above projections, with 328 students compared with the 318 anticipated by the division. Its enrolment is three students higher than last year's 325.

Fort Qu'Appelle Elementary Community School has 361 students, 11 above the projected 350 and eight more than the 353 students attending last year.

Bert Fox Community High School in Fort Qu'Appelle has 185 students, which is seven below the projected 192 and five below last year's enrolment of 190.

That puts the two Fort Qu'Appelle schools at a combined 546 students, compared with 543 last year.

Vibank Regional School has also exceeded projections. Its enrolment stands at 236, five students above the projected 231 and seven above last year's 229.

Other communities have seen enrolment move in the opposite direction.

Whitewood School has 295 students this fall, three below its projected enrolment of 298 and nine fewer than the 304 students attending last year.

Kipling School has 376 students, seven below the projected 383 and 15 fewer than last year's enrolment of 391.

Indian Head Elementary School has 262 students, compared with a projection of 265 and 263 students last year.

Indian Head High School has 221 students, five more than projected and five more than last year's enrolment of 216.

Wolseley High School has 144 students this year, compared with the projected 145 and 146 students last year.

The preliminary figures provide PVSD with an early indication of where enrolment differs from the numbers used during the division's budget and staffing process.

Across Prairie Valley, actual enrolment of 8,752 is almost exactly in line with the division's projection of 8,743 students.

Comparable fall enrolment figures for Good Spirit School Division are not yet available. GSSD uses its Sept. 30 enrolment count for its enrolment and pupil-teacher-ratio reporting, meaning updated figures for schools in communities including Yorkton, Melville, Canora, Esterhazy, Churchbridge, Langenburg, Kamsack, Preeceville, and Sturgis are expected after the end of the month.

Those numbers will provide a broader picture of how student populations are changing across east-central Saskatchewan for the 2026-27 school year.

PVSD's Sept. 9 figures remain preliminary and can change as student registrations and withdrawals are finalized early in the school year.

The Prairie Valley enrolment report was included in material being presented to the Board of Education at its Sept. 16 meeting.

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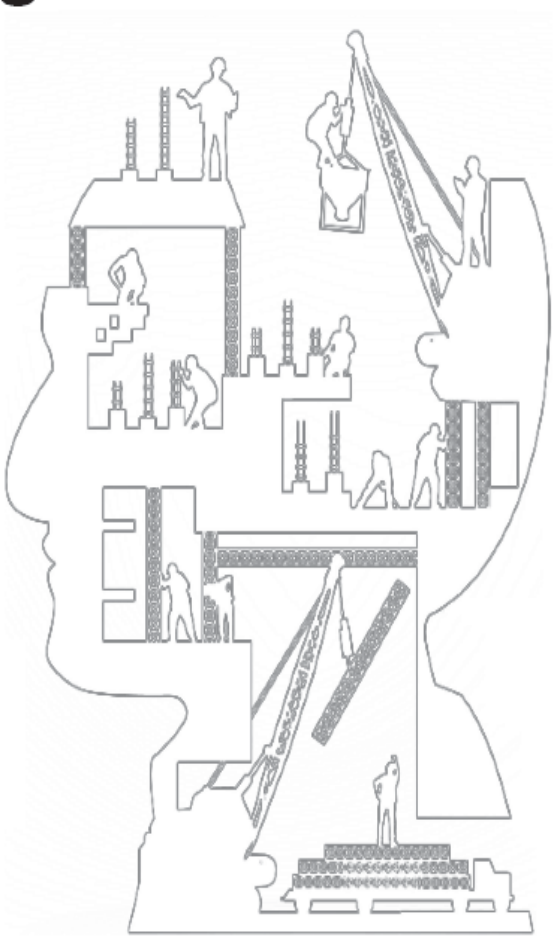

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OPINION

"For the cause that needs assistance;
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the future in the distance and
the good that we can do."

Still more questions than answers in MLA's 'flights of fancy'

There's been a lot said recently about Moosomin-in-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark's use of a private jet to attend events across the province. Not in the newspaper he owns mind you – but the jet-setting ways have raised many questions from potential 2028 voters.

Not that we'll discover any solid answers, apparently. Despite numerous interview requests with Weedmark and others who jumped to his defense on social media, everyone seems pretty reluctant to face questions from unbiased journalists.

For those who may not be familiar with this fiasco, the opposition NDP came upon some videos on social media (since removed), posted by Ashley Bochek - Weedmark's employee from the World Spectator. The first clip the NDP leapt upon was filmed Aug. 27 and documented a 'day in the life' aboard a private jet that took Weedmark and Bochek from Moosomin to Lloydminster to attend a government announcement, then to Saskatoon for lunch and shopping before a quick stop in Regina to drop Bochek off before Weedmark returned to Moosomin.

At one point in her video, Bochek commented on the "luxury snacks" provided during the flight, to which the ever-astute provincial political guru Murray Mandryk correctly observed, "those look like Costco snacks!" Thanks for the giggle at that one, Murray!

A second video the NDP released was from a year prior when Weedmark and Bochek toured the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, using the jet to fly round trip from Moosomin to Saskatoon.

They also tried to pin a third flight on Weedmark from June 2025 to attend the first minister's conference, but the MLA and Air Andrew both denied a flight occurred that day.

Weedmark has also claimed paying for the flights out of his own pocket, but no actual proof has come to light. Local Moosomin businessman (and Weedmark's financial agent during the 2024 election) Tyler Thorn posted quotes on social media from Air Andrew obtained Sept. 11 that simulate the flight paths of the two dates in question, revealing a total far less than what the NDP claim it cost to fly around the province, but whether it's $100,000 or $25,000; who's footing the bill and is this even necessary?

Let's look at the Lloydminster jag – Weedmark was there to emcee an event to announce 20 additional sober living spaces coming to that community. Part of his justification for using a private jet was to attend the event he committed to that was far outside his riding, even though local MLA for Lloydminster (and provincial energy minister) Colleen Young was in attendance and would have been more than capable to handle ribbon-cutting duties herself. Heck, even in the press release, Weedmark was not mentioned - rather a quote from Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr, which makes sense. So, what was the purpose of him being there and what's the return on investment for the trip?

The questions remain: what is with all the travel outside of Weedmark's constituency? I think it's great to see an MLA visible in the local area and I can understand attending events in Regina while the Legislative Assembly is sitting, or committee work calls a member to the Queen City, but the opening of the Gardiner Dam? The Patient's First Healthcare announcement in Saskatoon? Ripping up to La Loche for the groundbreaking of a hotel? Numerous visits to Saskatoon – why? And who is actually paying for all this?

Maybe all this private jet silliness has something to do with why the Member Accountability Statements are taking so long to become public – perhaps there's going to be some White Out on certain papers (possibly others that just get lost – or better yet, were sucked out of the jet while en route to the next photo op) when they are finally posted next month.

Another troubling detail is Weedmark's apparent insistence that all these appearances, visits from ministers, and documentation of events be secluded to the newspaper he owns. Case in point, a visit to the Nutrien potash mine in Rocanville – Bochek was the only reporter there, travelled with Weedmark to the tour, and wrote about it in their paper. No other media were invited or in attendance. Premier Scott Moe came to Moosomin last summer for the opening of their new water treatment plant – we were given details about it the night before via text message and were denied access to other portions of the trip that included stops in Grenfell, Whitewood, and a function after the water plant opening.

But Weedmark was there with his reporter.

This whole private jet schmozzle was a great example for those in PR circles of how not to handle a scandal. By saying next to nothing and avoiding accountability at all costs, that silence handed over the chance to construct (and control) the narrative to the NDP. Vague statements that eventually came from the SaskParty Caucus were not enough to smooth this over, and there wasn't much of a defence from Weedmark's keyboard warrior clique on those social media channels he admires. A weak defence since this all broke has cemented the picture painted by the opposition - so much that any attempt at redemption now is likely useless.

Instead of selfies, luxury jets, and vast accounts of how busy he's been this week, maybe Weedmark could focus on accountability and inclusion. This current blunder might stick around for a while longer than anticipated, but here's the chance to repair things – instead of surface level photo ops and promises to take concerns raised back to Regina, get to work closer to home. And invite all the media to tell the story – not just the one you own. That fact alone will add credibility to the reparation efforts.

- Ryan Kiedrowski, Grasslands News

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Football injury leaves teen in intensive care

Greenall student remains in intensive care following on-field injury causing brain bleed

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

There was a terrifying situation in Swift Current last week after Balgonie Greenall Griffins player Hunter Gronick collapsed shortly after exiting the field.

Gronick and his team had travelled to Swift Current for their Thursday night matchup against the Swift Current Comprehensive High School Colts, when Gronick was injured during a play. The Grade 12 student, in his third year on the team, hit his head against the turf during the play. He walked off to the sidelines, where he collapsed shortly afterwards.

His mother, Sabrina, watched from the stands and did not know at first that it was her son who had been injured. She found out when she went over to the sidelines to offer assistance to the fallen player. A registered nurse, she approached after seeing staff with the player for a couple minutes. It was then that she realized it was her own child.

Gronick was rushed to Cypress Regional Hospital in Swift Current before being airlifted to Regina, where he remains in surgical intensive care due to a brain bleed sustained on the field. The player had a portion of the right side of his skull removed to relieve pressure and swelling in his brain. The teenager has responded to painful stimuli in his legs and one hand. His prognosis remains unclear however, an update posted on his GoFundMe page on September 12 states "Hunter is very slowly showing positive signs of recovery. He isn't awake yet - but that will take time."

It is anticipated that Gronick will spend a couple of weeks in the intensive care unit. His sister, Emily, started the GoFundMe campaign with a goal of $55,000. As of Tuesday, over $49,000 had already been raised to help Gronick and his family during his recovery.

Support across the province was swift, and not just monetarily. During the Queen City Marathon this weekend, Greenall classmate and Regina Victoria's U18 player Angelica Linklater-Rattai ran her 10 km race in her football jersey, carrying a sign reading "Running 4 Hunter Gronick," with a QR code directing people to his GoFundMe page.

"Hunter is surrounded by his family, and we are incredibly grateful for the support and love that has already been shown to him," Gronick's sister, Emily, wrote on his GoFundMe page. "He has an amazing group of friends, teammates, coaches, and family members who are all pulling for him."

"Right now, our family is focused on Hunter and getting him through the days ahead," her post reads. "There are still many unknowns about what his recovery will look like, how long he will be in the hospital, and what kind of care and rehabilitation he will need afterward."

Money raised from the GoFundMe will be used to ease some of the financial burden associated with Gronick's injury, hospitalization and recovery, including travel, accommodations, meals, medical and rehabilitation-related costs, and lost wages.

Anyone wanting to help support the family can donate at gofundme.com/f/help-hunter-gronick-and-his-family-during-his-recovery.

SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Documentary filming in Pilot Butte

Recently, the Town of Pilot Butte played host to a documentary film crew, which set up in the pit near the corner of Highway 46 and the Access Road to film SAS vs. The Nazis. The project is being developed for National Geographic and will be available on Disney+. According to the Town of Pilot Butte, SAS vs. The Nazis will feature never-before-seen interviews with members of the British Special Forces, along with historical reenactments.

Additional charges laid in Whitewood sex assault case

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Two more charges have been added in the case of a Whitewood man facing two counts of sexual assault and one of forcible confinement. The man cannot be named at this point after a court-imposed publication ban on Sept. 2 to protect the identity of the complainant.

Appearing in Broadview Provincial Court on Sept. 16, a second information containing single counts of assault and sexual assault were added to the list. Subsequent appearance dates were not known at press time.

The initial charges stem from a report to Broadview/Moosomin RCMP of an alleged sexual assault on July 20 in Whitewood. Following their investigation, RCMP arrested a man with his first court appearance in Broadview on July 22. He has since been released from custody.

The allegations have not been proven in court, and the man is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SALTCOATS NO. 213

Public notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

Councillor for Division No. 2, RM of Saltcoats No. 213
Councillor for Division No. 4, RM of Saltcoats No. 213
Councillor for Division No. 6, RM of Saltcoats No. 213

will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during regular office hours until Wednesday October 7th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office, 104 Commercial Street, Saltcoats, Sask.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Ronald R. Risling,
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
RM of Hazelwood No. 94
Municipal Elections

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

Councillor: RM of Hazelwood No. 94, Division No. 2
Councillor: RM of Hazelwood No. 94, Division No. 4
Councillor: RM of Hazelwood No. 94, Division No. 6

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Municipal Office located on the outskirts of Kipling, Saskatchewan on Highway No. 48 east, and during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) on the 18th day of September 2026 to the 7th day of October 2026 at the Municipal Office located on the outskirts of Kipling, Saskatchewan on Highway No. 48 east.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following location:
At the Municipal Office located on the outskirts of Kipling, Saskatchewan on Highway No. 48 east.

Dated this 9th day of September 2026.

Tracy Joorisity,
Returning Officer

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NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
The Rural Municipality of Silverwood No. 123

Public notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:
Councillor for Division No. 2
Councillor for Division No. 4
Councillor for Division No. 6

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the R.M. of Silverwood Office, and during regular business hours from September 21st to October 6th at the R.M. of Silverwood Office.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following location:
R.M. of Silverwood Office, 721 Lalonde St., Whitewood, SK.
OR
By requesting that the forms be sent via email by contacting rm123@sasktel.net.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Jennalee Beutler, Returning Officer

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Sask. made bison jerky headed to outer space

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

And if you attended the Sunflower Arts & Craft Market in Yorkton you could have sampled the same treat that astronauts living on the International Space Station at the end of 2012 enjoyed.

Trails End Bison Ranch's Buffalo Stix – Cranberry Craze was one of 12 uniquely Canadian foods to head into space through the Canadian Space Agency's Snacks for Space competition. The competition was held in honour of Chris Hadfield, the Canadian astronaut, who took the helm of the International Space Station at the end of that year.

Twila Wedrick and Shianna Smart with Trails End said the selection of the 'buffalo stix' through the competition was a thrill.

"We're honoured we got selected," said Wedrick, adding it's great that they could be recognized on such a national scale from a small town in southwest Saskatchewan.

The 'stix' were actually submitted by someone without the partners knowing so when they were informed of the snack's selection, it was very much a surprise.

While the contest was created for the Canadian astronaut, Wedrick added all the crew had the opportunity to try the stix.

The exposure of the stix in space is something of a marketing boon, admitted the duo, who said they are working on ways to incorporate the contest selection and the flight to the station of their stix into advertising and packaging.

It was also something which continues to be exciting. The pair were actually expecting to miss Sunflower as they were scheduled to attend the launch Sept. 12, which would carry Canadian Space Agency astronaut Joshua Kutryk to the SpaceX Crew-13 mission to the International Space Station, but the launch was postponed.

"We were supposed to fly out last Wednesday," said Wedrick.

So, they called and were able to secure a table for the Yorkton show.

As for the Gull Lake, Sask.-based company, Trails End Buffalo Stix was founded in 2004 by Kevin and Judy Wilkinson.

Working directly with food scientists, Trails End "developed a delicious, low-fat, protein-packed snack made from ground smoked bison, cranberries, and brown sugar that contains zero gluten, soy, and nitrates. In fact, we are currently the first federally inspected jerky product in Canada that has been approved to not use nitrates as an ingredient," detailed the company website at www.trailsendbuffalostix.com

"We do everything, so we're federally inspected," said Wedrick, adding that allows them to market across the country.

CALVIN DANIELS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Out-of-this-world snack

Twila Wedrick and Shianna Smart of Trails End Bison Ranch showcase their Buffalo Stix at the Sunflower Arts & Craft Market in Yorkton. Their Cranberry Craze bison snack was selected to travel to the International Space Station.

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Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

The head of a Swiss assisted-dying group has died after trying to climb Japan's Mount Fuji, underscoring renewed safety concerns on the country's highest peak. The ***58-year-old hiker lost consciousness*** during the ascent and was pronounced dead at a hospital. Swiss euthanasia organization Exit identified the man as its managing director, Bernhard Sutter. With the mountain plagued by overcrowding and underprepared tourists, local officials have tightened trail caps, introduced climbing fees and are urging hikers not to push their limits.

A former Wendy's general manager in Manheim Township, Pennsylvania, ***created a completely fictional employee*** and collected nearly $20,000 in wages over the course of almost a year. Linda Johnson invented a worker named William Bright and manually clocked him in and out for a total of 128 shifts between June 2021 and May 2022. Because she held the position of general manager, she was the only person with the authority to enter those shifts into the system. Cheques were issued in Bright's name and deposited directly into Johnson's Cash App account. Other staff members later told investigators they had never worked alongside anyone by that name. One employee recalled seeing a time card but never actually meeting the person. Johnson stated she used the funds to help support her children. The restaurant's insurer covered approximately $15,800 of the loss. Although Johnson's whereabouts are unclear, ***she has been charged with theft by deception***.

Two men in rural Australia thought they'd uncovered a murder, but it turned out to be a convincing fake. The men were driving near the village of Oallen, about 140 miles southwest of Sydney, when they pulled over and found an abandoned suitcase that appeared to hold human remains. Responding officers were fooled, as well, and police announced a homicide investigation was underway. It wasn't until about 20 hours later that ***forensic testing established the 'body'*** was actually a highly realistic doll, complete with clothing, hair, a nose ring, and markings that looked like bruises.

A young driver was pulled over in Foothills County (AB) and found to be violating the conditions of their learner's licence. Not only was the kid speeding, but he also did not have the required supervision. It was the third time the driver had been charged for driving with a Class 7 learner's license without a valid supervising driver. He was ***fined $469*** for going 139 km/h in a 100 km/h zone ***and $243*** for failing to produce a driver's licence, and will need to appear in court for driving without supervision and operating a motor vehicle without the correct operator's licence.

A pair of ***street racers near Saskatoon*** are facing steep fines and licence suspensions after being caught travelling more than 100 km/h over the speed limit. Members of Combined Traffic Services Saskatchewan in the Corman Park area witnessed two vehicles travelling at a high rate of speed and appeared to be racing one another. Using a "laser speed timing device", the drivers were caught travelling at a speed of 202 km/h in a 90 km/h zone. Each driver was issued more than $2,000 in tickets and a 60-day vehicle impound, along with 14-day licence suspensions.

Sault Ste. Marie lawyer, Jeff Broadbent suggested renaming Trump Lake in Northern Ontario. After Trump's attempt to rename Lake Ontario, he suggests a more ***appropriate name might be "Little Dictator Lake,"*** "Crooked Lake," "Ego Lake," or "Grifter Lake". Broadbent emphasizes finding humor in stressful times, calling Trump's order to establish Lake America offensive and meaningless, while still urging people to take his influence as a very dangerous person seriously.

Argus Hamilton noted, "So we're in an economic War with Canada who ***makes all of our toilet paper*** just while we're in the middle of an explosive diarrhea epidemic due to the Mexican food to which we are addicted. I see what's going on here. Trump is planning to stage a reenactment of Custer's Last Stand, and he promises it's going to be the biggest and best Last Stand in all human history!" To perhaps clarify, the US imported $328m worth of toilet paper from Canada in 2024, making it by far the largest exporter of the product to the US. Though American toilet paper and tissues are often made domestically, they heavily ***rely on lumber-rich Canada for raw materials***.

The US accounts for more than 20 per cent of global tissue consumption despite having only four per cent of the world's population. The average American uses 141 rolls of toilet paper per year, making them No 1 for No 2s globally, just ahead of Germans, each using an average of 134 rolls annually. Who counts their rolls of T.P.?

Keep reading between the lines…

Balcarres to hold 'Ugliest Boulevard Tree' contest

By Judy Hershmiller
Grasslands News

Not all of Balcarres' boulevard trees are beautiful. There are a few around town that just might qualify for being downright UGLY. For just $5 you can vote to have your least favourite boulevard tree removed this fall when the Dutch Elm Disease trees are being removed.

Stop by the town office. Buy a $5 yellow caution-tape ribbon and tie it around the boulevard tree you think deserves that Ugliest Boulevard Tree. The tree with the most votes will be removed. All proceeds go to the Balcarres in Bloom committee to help purchase flowers for 2027.

Speaking of the Balcarres in Bloom Volunteers and Community Supporters…..

A big thank you to Lori Bacon, Earl Bacon, Bonnie Dubiel, Sandy Korchinski, Dana Lowe and Gail Machniak for their hard work in organizing and bring Balcarres in Bloom back to the community.

The flowers and plants throughout Balcarres looked beautiful this year and added a wonderful splash of colour to our streets and public places.

Appreciation to the RBC Balcarres Branch for its generous donation of $1,500 to Balcarres in Bloom. Thanks to this support and the efforts of our volunteers even more flower pots and plantings are planned for 2027. Recognition also to Wilf Walker Trucking, Machniack Excavating and RW and Sons for their generous donations of time and materials, and to the local businesses that added their own flower pots, planters and displays around town.

New Councillor

Balcarres Town Council welcomes newest councillor Rob Desnomie on board. Rob moved to Balcarres on June 14, 2024 and has immediately thought how to contribute to his community by joining the town council. He joins Mayor Kirby Korchinski, councillors Gord Michayluk, Scott Temple, Chris Petrichuk, Curtis Geisler and Lois Dixon.

Council meetings are open to the public and are normally held on the third Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. The planned schedule for council meetings for 2026 are as follows with times of 5 p.m.: Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Autumn is just around the corner, and with that comes yard clean-up. The following items are accepted at the Town Transfer Station: bare wood (not painted or stained), metal or used appliances (fridge, washer, dryer, etc.), concrete or cement, leaves, grass clippings, and garden waste.

To visit the Transfer Station please call ahead to the Town Office at 306-334-2566 to book an appointment.

Golden Age Seniors

The Balcarres Golden Age seniors had a busy summer with their Garage Sale that took place at the end of June during the time when a new sidewalk was installed in front of their front doors. This made the garage salers a little confused until they realized there were deals to purchase if they came in the back door.

We are excited to announce that during July the Center received a fresh coat of paint, the carpet was removed and plank flooring was installed. Furniture and fixtures were moved back in position and members are especially appreciative of help from Kirby, Fred, Earl and Rick. A new 50 in. TV was also purchased so it can be utilized for exercise mornings, and other planned activities. It is now ready for rentals. The rate is $150 per day with members enjoying a special rate. To rent the Centre contact Lori Bacon at 306-331-9804.

Coffee time has resumed every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m., and Thirsty Thursdays at 2 p.m. Free to attend and open to the public.

Recently a perogy-making bee took place with 14 members having fun teasing each other while they worked. A record 1,362 perogies were made and packed up for sale. Potato, cheese and onion, and potato, cheese only were made.Contact Sandy at 306-331-7285. Saskatoon, apple and rhubarb pies are also available by contacting Sandy.

At the recent meeting other planned Golden Age Activities include:

Sept. 28: Community barbecue 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy a burger, chips and drink for $12. Everyone welcome

Oct. 20: Members Planned Potluck Supper 5 p.m.

Nov. 20, 21: Christmas Themed Garage Sale

Dec. 4: Bake Sale with Soup and Biscuit Supper 4 to 7 p.m.

Dec. 16: Members Christmas Party and Entertainment 5 p.m.

Lions, Lioness Update

The Trip of the Month tickets and draws are back for 2026-2027!

Only 350 tickets are available. Contact a local Lions or Lioness member or stop by the town Office to purchase your ticket.

The first draw will be on Dec. 31 at 12 noon at the Balcarres town office. The following draws will be held at 8 p.m on the second Tuesday of each month at the Golden Age Centre. Proceeds support the Balcarres ball diamonds, Balcarres & Community Foundation, Balcarres Hall and Balcarres Lions Park. Lottery Licence #RR24-0234.

Cash Calendar

The BICC is fundraising in the form of a cash calendar for the month of October. Purchase a cash calendar ticket and receive your lucky number which is entered into the draw every day from Oct. 1 – 31, 2026. If your number is drawn you win that day's cash prize. Your number goes back into the draw after every draw so the same ticket can win more than once. All proceeds go towards supporting the recreational events, activities and outings for the residents.

* * *

Sincere sympathy to Dr. Ron Brandow and family on the passing of Lana Brandow of Regina. Ron and Lana lived in Balcarres for many years operating the animal clinic prior to its closure. Sympathy is also extended to David McVicker and family on the passing of his wife Donna, and to David Hyndman on the sudden passing of his wife Evelyn.

* * *

Balcarres library hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 12 noon to 6 p.m. Closed all statutory holidays. Follow the library on Facebook. Mobile book delivery and pick-up service is available to in-town residents. Contact Amanda at 306-334-2966 for more information and to arrange details.

AB men receive prison sentences

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

After several months of court appearances, two Fort McMurray, AB., men pleaded guilty to their roles in a January kidnapping in Yorkton. Preston Carroll, 24, and Dante Douglas, 20, appeared in Yorkton Provincial Court on Sept. 8.

Carroll was sentenced to serve 1,292 days (approximately 3.5 years) in custody after pleading guilty to charges of kidnapping while using a firearm, unlawful possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle, carrying tools to break into coin-operated machines without valid reason, assault, and uttering threats against a person. An additional 22 charges were stayed, part of a joint sentencing submission between Crown and defence.

Douglas pleaded guilty to charges of kidnapping while using a firearm, possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle, possession of a prohibited weapon knowing he was not authorized to possess it, and flight from a peace officer. He was sentenced to 1,112 days (three years) in custody with a further 18 charges stayed by the Crown as part of the resolution.

The charges stemmed from an incident on Jan. 20 when Yorkton RCMP received a report of suspicious activity on Fourth Avenue North in Yorkton. Police initially received information that a person may have been kidnapped.

According to the RCMP, the male victim was in a parked vehicle outside a residence when two males wearing face coverings approached the victim, forced him out of the vehicle, placed him in a separate SUV, and drove away. The two men threatened the victim, and while a firearm was pointed at him, no shots were fired.

"Shortly after receiving the initial report, Yorkton RCMP located a vehicle matching the SUV's description on Highway 10, heading towards Melville," RCMP said. "Officers activated their vehicle's emergency equipment and initiated a traffic stop. The SUV did not stop; it fled from police."

RCMP said the SUV entered the ditch after a brief pursuit, allowing officers to arrest the occupants.

"The victim - who was one of the vehicle occupants - reported non-life-threatening injuries to police," RCMP said, adding that the suspects and victim were known to each other.

Police searched the vehicle, seizing a loaded firearm, ammunition, approximately 88 g each of cocaine and methamphetamine, plus around 16 g of fentanyl. Drug-related charges were among those stayed by the Crown.

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McLean man gives back to community with new 24-hour public access defibrillator

AED installed at longtime Christmas lights organizer's property for cardiac emergencies

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

Ian Moats and his generosity are no secret to the community of McLean. For 10 years, Moats has dazzled visitors every December with his annual Christmas lights display, with donations raised from the event providing extra comfort and care items to patients staying on Unit 1D, Inpatient Mental Health at Regina General Hospital.

The fundraiser began after Moats' daughter struggled with her mental health and spent time on the unit. Since then, Moats has delivered flowers, arts and crafts supplies, hygiene products, and other comfort items not covered within the unit's main budget.

"I saw that they were lacking things," Moats says, remembering the time his daughter spent on the unit. "I decided to have some friends and family over and sit around a bonfire. At that time, my neighbours thought I was crazy because I had about 30,000 lights around my bonfire pit."

"We had friends, family and neighbours come over, had hot chocolate and asked for donations," he continues. "We raised $1,380 and used it to buy arts and crafts supplies, games, and things for the mental health unit. That's where it started."

This winter will mark the 10th year of the display, with around $150,000 raised over the years.

"It's the little things that mean the most to the patients," he says. "Everything I do directly benefits the patients. The patients tell me it works really well and they appreciate it, so I just keep it going."

With his annual lights display drawing thousands of visitors each year, and his daughter now recovered and living in Ontario, Moats has turned his attention to the people of McLean and giving back to the community that has supported him throughout the last decade.

"It started with my Christmas light fundraiser every December," he says. "So many people come out and help, and so many people from the community give me support. I just thought it was time that I did something, or saw if I could do something, to give back to the community."

Moats reached out to McLean Fire Chief, Ashley Thompson, looking for ideas on ways he could give back.

"I thought I'd start with the fire department to see if there was anything they needed or anything I could do," he says. "It wasn't instantly decided what it would be. She was thinking about it, and I was thinking about it. It turned out that although there are other AEDs in McLean, none of them are available 24 hours. There's one in the school and there are some in businesses, but nothing is available 24 hours."

Automated External Defibrillators are portable electronic devices designed to assist in saving lives during cardiac arrest. They analyze a person's heart rhythm and, when necessary, deliver an electrical shock to help restore an effective rhythm. Designed for use by people with little or no medical training, AEDs are commonly placed in public spaces.

There are several AEDs in the village, but according to Thompson, none are accessible to the public 24/7.

"We have one within the school for the students," she says. "Our hall is attached to the school, and the hall side has one. I've heard the daycare has one, and the First Responders have one. We actually have a substantial number of them, but I can't say for sure whether those ones are registered with the PAD program."

The Public Access Defibrillation program is designed to improve public access to AEDs during cardiac emergencies. Through 911 dispatch, callers can be directed to registered AEDs nearby.

"Ian sees so many people at his place in December," Thompson says. "On a slow year, I think it's around 10,000 people. It gets very, very busy. We're very proactive out here in emergency services, but things happen. Minutes matter. The AED was the idea where we thought, 'This might be a good way to go.' Once we did some investigating and got some quotes, we approached Ian with the price. He didn't even think twice. He said, 'Absolutely, let's do this.' That's where it stemmed from."

At first, Moats says they debated mounting the AED on Main Street in McLean but worried about theft and vandalism. While Moats' property is half a mile south of the community, the decision was eventually made to place the device there.

"Seeing that my event in December has more people than McLean does, at least in December, it made sense for it to be here," he says. "I told them I would commit to making it available to the community, and we decided my place was probably the best spot for it. I don't know if it shows up yet on the PAD program. The PAD program is a listing of all the AEDs, so if somebody phones 911, they'll know that it's at my place and Ian's Christmas Lights is also on Google Maps, so it's findable."

The device will be mounted on the outside of Moats' garage. To protect it from Saskatchewan's winter temperatures, Moats cut a hole in the wall to create a heated space for the AED without sacrificing the security of his garage and workshop.

"You can't let them freeze because the battery will quit," he says. "I'm a renovation guy, so that part wasn't hard. It was just figuring out where it would work best. The new insulated door that's going on has a big AED logo going on the door. It's pretty in-your-face lettering I put on it. It's right under the light of the garage and beside my door, so it's not buried around the corner. It's right in the front and easy to find."

A motion camera above will offer an extra bit of security, along with the dogs that roam the property.

"They would probably lick somebody to death before they would stop them from taking it," he jokes.

Thompson says the location offers additional security while still making the AED available when needed.

"There were a few of us involved in getting everything set up," she says. "I'm a dual member of the fire department and First Responders. The two teams are separate, but they work together a lot. Because this was on the medical side of things, I approached the medical team and asked if this was something we would be interested in working with him on. That includes making sure monthly checks are being done, replacing pads if they're used, and making sure the AED is always operational. The First Responders jumped on board 100 per cent."

Once the machine is registered with the PAD program, dispatch will be able to direct people in need to its location.

"The machine itself is currently available, and locals know about it and where it is," Thompson says. "I know of an instance where dispatch called a place and said, 'Can you take your AED to this location?' It was across the street and down the block, and they brought it over."

Thompson says the McLean First Responders will handle the care of the device going forward.

"I believe they're also going to pick up the financial side afterward if anything has to be replaced, such as the AED pads," she says. "I'm actually surprised that in all the years Ian has had his Christmas lights, we've never had a medical call out there. With the number of people coming in and out, that's pretty amazing. For years - especially during COVID - the fire department and First Responders helped Ian with things like parking and traffic direction during the Christmas lights. He really appreciated that. This is his way of giving back. He's always thinking of other people."

For the ever-humble Moats, however, there were no second thoughts about reaching out and placing the device on his property. Raised on a farm, by parents who lived during the hard-hit years of the Dirty Thirties, Moats says looking out for one another was simply how he was raised.

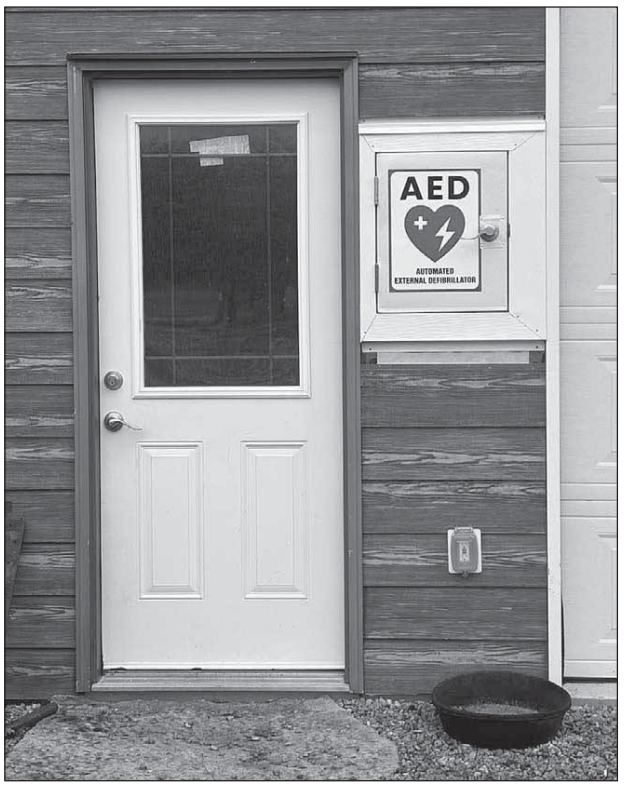
"I don't feel special for what I do," he says. "I just do it. I have a hard time getting accolades because that isn't what I'm doing things for, if that makes sense. I don't know how to explain it other than lots of people help me, so I just do something to help them back. That's the whole purpose of why this happened."

While Moats may have a hard time singing his own praises, Thompson does not.

"He's simply one of a kind and truly amazing," she says. "We need more people like him in this world. He would give the shirt off his back to anybody - no questions asked. He's just genuinely a good person. We need more individuals like him."

In the event of a cardiac arrest, where an AED is needed, Moats says to call 911 first. If more than one person is present, one person should remain on the line with dispatch while another retrieves the AED. First responders will also carry an AED when available.

"Hopefully it never gets used," Moats says. "But it's one of those little things. If I can help somebody somewhere along the line, maybe it'll even help me out. Who knows?"



Helping save lives IAN MOATS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

A new AED device is being made available for the residents of McLean, with 24/7 access. Installed by Ian Moats, the device is intended to give back to the community.

Sayer trial date set

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

A trial date for Tyrone Sayer has been set.

Sayer, 44 of Regina, appeared in Melville Provincial Court via video on Monday, Sept. 14, where the Crown withdrew all counts except for count two, and set a trial date for the other counts for Jan. 5, 2027, in Melville.

Sayer was one of three people charged after a search warrant was executed on May 22 at a home on 2 Ave. East in Melville. RCMP received a report that a male robbed and assaulted another person, also discharging a firearm. The victim did not report serious physical injuries to police.

A total of five people were arrested at the scene, where they seized a pair of BB guns, cash, and a small amount of cocaine and methamphetamine. Two bicycles that had been reported as stolen from a business during the day prior were also recovered.

The charges against Sayer have yet to be proven in court.

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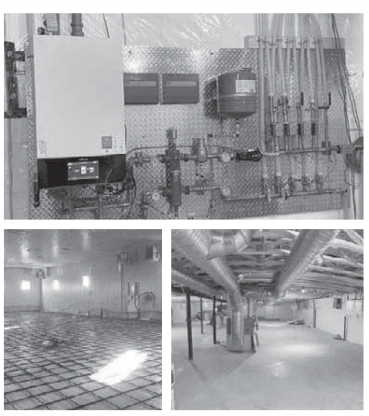
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City of Yorkton

"Where Good Things Happen!"

City News

Sept. 11 - Sept. 17, 2026

Next Council Meeting will be temporarily held at the Gallagher Centre Monday, September 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m

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Discover. Connect. Thrive.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026 | 4 PM - 7 PM

GALLAGHER CENTRE CONVENTION PLACE

FREE ADMISSION

www.yorkton.ca/silvercircleexpo

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Bring a friend, bring your questions, and come see what Yorkton and area has to offer people 55+.

Meet friendly local organizations, gather great information, and discover opportunities to stay active, connected, and involved.

Stories Among the Stones

Yorkton Cemetery at 130 years.

A come & go celebration & exploration.

Friday, October 2, 2026 - 10 am - 12 pm

Cemetery Entrance - HWY 9 S & King St E

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Find the fitness program that fits you best at **www.yorkton.ca/register**

City of Yorkton Cemetery Est. 1896

Fall Clean Up

Our staff is preparing the Cemetery grounds for winter. Please remove all personal items not placed in attached monument vases by **October 15th**.

To claim any items not collected by this date, contact our administrative office at 306-786-1750 or cemeteryadmin@yorkton.ca.

www.yorkton.ca/cemetery

Decorations, including solar lights, are subject to removal without notice.

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City of Yorkton

"Where Good Things Happen!"

City News

Sept. 11 - Sept. 17, 2026

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Age-Friendly 101 Building a More Inclusive Yorkton

Join us to walk through the updated Age-Friendly Communities manual and take part in practical, interactive activities.

With **Wendy Thienes**, Age-Friendly Communities Staff, Sask Senior Mechanism

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Yorkton Public Library - 93 Broadway St. W. - Programming Room

4:00 p.m.

Free Event | Supper Provided | Registration Required

RSVP at parksandrec@yorkton.ca by Wednesday, September 23

Find out more: www.agefriendlysk.ca parksandrec@yorkton.ca

YORKTON CULTURE DAYS

September 18 to October 4, 2026

Culture Days is a national celebration that brings communities together through free, hands-on arts and culture events every fall. From coast to coast, people of all ages get creative, go behind the scenes, and connect with local artists, in person and online.

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Young woodworker brings ideas to life

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Inspired by imagination and the objects he sees around him, Blaze Beach has crafted several interesting and useful wooden items. It has only been a few months since the young man from Fort Qu'Appelle discovered an interest in woodworking, but his talent is already growing.

Last spring, a shop class at Bert Fox Community High School provided Blaze with an introduction to woodworking. Encouraged by his family and friends, he advanced those skills and spent the summer creating several artistic pieces as well as functional objects. Blaze's parents, Randy and Mandy Beach, explained that his interest in woodworking increased noticeably after a family friend helped him construct an urn for a beloved pet lizard that had passed away. Now Mandy often notices Blaze looking at different objects with a critical eye, seeking to understand how things are made and how he could replicate them. Through online tutorials and some guidance from acquaintances, Blaze was able to construct several customized pieces over the summer. Now in Grade 12, he said it was a natural progression from his other interests.

"I've always played a lot of sandbox video games growing up and lots of Lego. As I got older, I wanted to bring some of those creative ideas physical," Blaze explained.

One of the first things he designed and built was an end table resembling a separated Minecraft block. He also made a wooden, Star Wars battle droid replica which he named Roger. It stands about two-feet tall and has moveable arms, hands and legs. Blaze and his family have enjoyed positioning the figure in various places around the house. His most recent project was a Boba Fett helmet, and his enthusiasm for crafting things from wood was evident when he described the process of making it.

"This helmet is made out of 14 pieces in 11 layers; each of them was a flat layer that I cut out from a board to make cool shapes and then I glued them all together," Blaze explained. "All the edges were square and then I took an angle grinder, and I carved the whole thing out."

He enjoys visualizing an object and bringing it to completion.

"I'm having lots of fun; every time I think about it, I just have more and more ideas of things to make and more inspirations with more complicated designs," he said.

Alongside the "fun" aspect of his hobby, Blaze uses his new skills to assist his family in practical ways. His thoughtfulness and resourcefulness are evident in the items he has built, such as a step that made the back door of their house more accessible for his grandmother. He also made a poolside table from pallets, a set of speaker stands, and a coatrack with moveable hangers.

"He never did like a lot of sports stuff growing up but he was always interested in engineering or building or creating something and then it turned into something pretty awesome," Randy commented. "And for me - a dad that's not handy with tools - it sure is nice having someone old enough now to fix things and it's helping him get experience."

The young carpenter's mom also shared that he willingly uses his new interest to help her by building props for her photography business. He has already made a posing box and will soon build a set for her popular Christmas photo sessions.

Creative craftsman
PHOTO BY MANDY BEACH
Blaze Beach displays several of his woodworking creations, including a Star Wars-inspired battle droid, Boba Fett helmet and Minecraft-inspired end table. The Grade 12 Bert Fox Community High School student discovered an interest in woodworking only a few months ago and has quickly expanded his skills.

Blaze's parents own and operate Beach's Pet Place and Shutter Up Photo on Broadway St. in Fort Qu'Appelle. They recognized his growing interest and need for a suitable workspace, so they allowed him to use the garage at the back of their store.

Mandy noted that Blaze has a spare class period this semester and has been spending it in the shop. He provided the simple explanation that "I really have fun with it."

The young man eagerly provided a tour of the shop, pointing out the sturdy workbenches and stool that he constructed from pallets, and the dust collector that he fashioned for a saw. He said that one of his next projects will be to build a French cleat wall to organize his growing collection of tools.

For the past few years, Blaze has provided yard maintenance services for some local residents. One of his clients agreed to barter with Blaze and has exchanged many of his unused woodworking tools for the yardwork and odd jobs that Blaze does for him. Other acquaintances have provided similar support by donating scrap wood, or helping him to acquire useful tools for his workshop.

The space that Blaze currently uses is not insulated, so he will have to take a break from woodworking in a few months. However, while weather conditions permit, he is glad for the opportunity to develop his skills.

Blaze is currently completing his final year of high school and considering future career options. He would like to enter a skilled trade and would be particularly interested in an opportunity that includes a balanced schedule of employment, hands-on training and related schooling.

In the meantime, Blaze continues to explore new methods and create practical and interesting pieces. Eventually he hopes to sell some of his work but said he will first focus on improving his skills. Anyone interested in his journey as a carpenter is encouraged to follow his Instagram page blazes_woodworks.

PVSD to hold trustee by-election

By Grasslands News
Grasslands News

Voters in the Fort Qu'Appelle, Balcarres and Lipton area will return to the polls following the resignation of a Prairie Valley School Division trustee.

PVSD is preparing to hold a by-election in Subdivision 3, with the vote required to take place no later than March 1, 2027.

The vacancy and plans for filling it are outlined in a report being presented to the Prairie Valley Board of Education at its Sept. 16 meeting.

Subdivision 3 includes an area represented during the 2024 school board election by polling locations in Fort Qu'Appelle, Balcarres and Lipton.

The division estimates conducting the by-election will cost approximately $10,000.

Under Saskatchewan's Local Government Election Act, a board is generally required to hold a by-election to fill a vacancy unless the vacancy occurs within a prescribed period before the next general election.

The board must establish a date for the by-election, with election day required to fall within six months of the vacancy occurring.

Administration is recommending the board authorize the director of education to set the by-election date, provided it occurs no later than March 1.

PVSD is also being asked to make a series of decisions governing how the election will be conducted.

Administration is recommending against establishing a mail-in ballot system for the by-election.

It is also recommending that the division not establish mobile polls or polls at hospitals and personal care facilities.

The report says advance polls would still be held in accordance with legislation.

PVSD administration is also recommending the board not establish campaign spending limits or require candidates to publicly disclose campaign contributions or expenses.

Election procedures are receiving additional attention following issues identified during PVSD's 2024 general school board election.

According to the administration report, letters were sent to candidates during that election which were "in direct contravention" of provisions of The Local Government Election Act.

The report does not identify who sent the letters or provide details about their contents.

PVSD also identified issues involving the use of the school division's logo during the campaign.

Administration says some candidates used the PVSD logo on campaign materials, creating the potential for those materials to appear to have been endorsed by the school division.

As a result, administration is recommending the division adopt clearer election-related rules.

Those include prohibiting candidates from using the PVSD logo or other branding on campaign materials and establishing expectations intended to ensure division resources are not used to promote individual candidates.

The recommendations would also clarify the role of PVSD employees during an election campaign.

The board is expected to consider the recommendations when it meets Sept. 16.

Once an election date is established, the division will be required to proceed with the nomination and election process to choose a trustee to represent Subdivision 3 for the remainder of the current board term.

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Symposium considers climate change, air and water quality

Qu'Appelle Valley Environment Association

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

The Qu'Appelle Valley Environmental Association exists to protect and preserve the natural environment and ecosystems in the Calling Lakes region. As part of these efforts, members organized a public forum on Sept. 12 designated "Protecting Prairie Water, Habitat and Health." Guest speakers shared their expertise and about 40 people from Fort Qu'Appelle, Indian Head, Regina and Saskatoon attended the forum at St. Andrew's United Church in Fort Qu'Appelle.

Water Studies

The morning session began with a presentation by Dr. Peter Leavitt from the University of Regina. He is the Founding Director of the Institute of Environmental Change and Society, and the Director of the Qu'Appelle Long-term Ecological Research Program.

Leavitt and his associates monitor conditions in the Qu'Appelle Valley drainage basin. At Saturday's seminar, he displayed a slide with a photo of Lake Winnipeg covered in algae. Qu'Appelle Valley residents are familiar with summertime algae blooms, but Leavitt astonished listeners by informing them that the water of Pasqua Lake is ten times greener than the lake in Manitoba. In his role at the U of R, Leavitt seeks to understand why the water quality has deteriorated and how it can be improved.

Leavitt and his colleagues conducted long-term studies of the impact that nitrogen and phosphorus levels have on water quality in the Qu'Appelle Valley. He indicated that wastewater from Regina significantly contributed to the poor condition of local lake water. Agricultural run-off appeared to be another contributing factor. Leavitt shared that in 2017 the City of Regina upgraded its water system, and this reduced the detrimental inputs to the lakes and other waterways. However, he advised his audience that improvement will progress slowly due to the accumulation of pollutants in lake sediment.

"We polluted the lakes for a century, and a lot of that nutrient is at the bottom of the lake. Unfortunately, much of the nutrient is now recycling within the lakes," Leavitt explained. "The good news is that will diminish through time. As the system is flushed through, you'll wash that out and eventually it'll come back to some lower level. But it's going to take years to decades before the water is back to what it used to be."

He emphasized that the goal now is to improve the lakes for future generations. He cautioned that, while the lakes are slowly being "rinsed," it is important to mitigate other concerns such as global warming, overuse of fertilizer, and wetland drainage.

"The reality is, if we want to have potable water – that is drinkable water – we have to protect the sources," Leavitt concluded.

Meredith McKague SARAH PACIO I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Dr. Meredith McKague shared concerns about coal pollution during the QVEA public forum in Fort Qu'Appelle on Sept. 12.

Panelists Present

Following Leavitt's presentation, the group paused for lunch and an opportunity to network with one another. When they reconvened, a panel shared their expertise on additional environmental concerns. Activist Jana Pratt was regrettably unable to attend the forum to share her perspective on Treaty Rights; however, four other individuals participated in the session that was moderated by QVEA member Sharron Bodnaryk.

Cathy Holtslander is an organic grain farmer and recently retired from her position as Director of Research and Policy for the National Farmers Union. She said the financialization of farmland that began with simple mortgages has intensified.

"The price of farmland is going up, and it is no longer connected to how much money you can make from producing crops or livestock on the farm," Holtslander explained. "You can never pay for the land if you buy it today with what you produce on the farm. Financialization means farmers are actually turned into speculators. This really disconnects the returns from production from the price or the cost of land."

She also mentioned the declining number of farmers and concentration of ownership, which she said makes the farmland market accessible to investors but not to farmers.

Dr. Meredith McKague is a family physician, Associate Professor at the University of Saskatchewan and member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. As a health practitioner, Dr. McKague is interested in health risks associated with coal-fired electricity production. She described ways that continued coal use could pollute air and water and contribute to climate change. She advocated for the province to transition to renewable energy sources sooner rather than later, citing data that indicated Toronto residents' health improved after coal use was discontinued.

"The rest of Canada has been able to quit coal and reap these health rewards, and we should be able to do so as well. We have world class wind and solar capability in Saskatchewan. For Saskatchewan, the path to prosperity and the path to better health are the same path," Dr. McKague asserted.

Farmer and activist Sandy Lowndes described her struggle to protect her land from illegal drainage. Lowndes' personal experience led her to form the advocacy group Farmers for Fair Drainage. She said that many perspectives are represented within the organization, but they are united in their effort to seek solutions.

"One thing we all agree on, is that drainage has to be fair – it has to be fair for the landscape, it has to be fair for the wildlife, for the downstream farmers and communities that can be negatively impacted by unfair drainage. We want to talk to everybody about solutions," Lowndes said.

Dr. Brett Dolter is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Regina and specializes in climate change policy. He recommended ways to reduce emissions in Saskatchewan, such as improving energy efficiency and selecting cleaner electricity sources. He suggested that government policies could support these actions by providing incentives and increasing costs for "non-green" options. He told the group that they could help by purchasing electric vehicles or through political engagement.

Moving Forward

The program concluded with a discussion led by QVEA member Jim Harding on how the group could move forward in response to the information that had been shared throughout the day.

Those attending the public forum concluded that policy changes are a key means of addressing areas of concern. As an initial step, several of them signed a letter to the premier, requesting a review of the province's Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy. The panelists and guest speaker also agreed to share their expertise with a broader audience by participating in a forum in Regina and Saskatoon. Others attending Saturday's event further determined to compile a comprehensive contacts list of Saskatchewan-based organizations that could collaborate on responding to environmental issues.

Fort Qu'Appelle detachment logs 131 occurrences, seeks on-call guards

Fort Qu'Appelle Detachment
S/Sgt. Drew Wagner

Reporting period Sept. 7 to 14.

Fort Qu'Appelle detachment dealt with 131 occurrences over this past week. Some of the notable files are mentioned below.

New Uniform Shirt

The RCMP has updated its uniform for frontline officers. You will now see officers wearing a dark blue uniform shift to go along with the current dark blue pants. The new shirts on are on back order so some officers will still wear the old grey shirt until orders are filled.

In addition to the updated uniform, patrol cars have also been updated. Fort Qu'Appelle detachment has a few vehicles close to retirement so the public can expect to see the new patrol car later this year.

Seeking Casual Guards

Fort Qu'Appelle RCMP is looking for reliable, community minded individuals to join our team as Casual Guards on an on-call basis. This is a meaningful opportunity to support frontline policing while contributing directly to public safety in our community.

What you'll do includes support detachment operations, monitor prisoners and ensure their safety and well-being, assist officers with custody-related duties and maintain logs, conduct checks, and help to ensure cellblock security.

What we're looking for are dependable and professional individuals with strong communication and writing skills, ability to obtain RCMP Security Clearance, First Aid certification (paid for by RCMP), and flexibility in working shift work 24/7.

For further information, contact Sgt. Mark Oman or Stefanie Horsman at 306-332-2222. Apply in person at 361 Broadway Street East, Fort Qu'Appelle.

Traffic

Traffic tickets and warnings were issued for speeding, driving while suspended, possess cannabis in a vehicle, speed in excess of 35 km/h over the posted limit, operate unregistered vehicle, disobey stop sign, fail to wear seatbelt, follow a vehicle closer than reasonable and safe, drive left of solid centre line, and inadequate daytime running lights.

Rescue mission failed: A 40-year-old male was stopped for failing to wear seatbelt. He was discovered also not to possess a license. The male called his friend to come and pick up the vehicle. Another officer patrolling nearby stopped the friend for speeding. This driver has been suspended from driving since 2010. What's even more frustrating is there was a properly licensed passenger in the vehicle.

A 22-year-old female passenger called to report her driver was intoxicated. Officers located the vehicle parked on Highway #10. The passenger was found in the ditch intoxicated and the driver failed roadside screening for alcohol and was arrested. He faces charges for impaired driving and refusal of a breath test.

A 41-year-old male flagged down an officer during a traffic stop and needed assistance. The male had an unfortunate accident with a tree splitter and severed his finger. The officer drove the male to the hospital for much needed medical treatment.

Mischief

A 911 call came from a 47-year-old male hitchhiking on Highway #10. The male said coyotes were chasing him. Officers located the male who was intoxicated. No coyotes were seen, and the male was given a ride to a local motel.

Ongoing neighbourhood dispute in which one party disrupts the other by playing loud music, asking for rides, and cigarettes. Officers are trying to mediate the situation, but it's slow going.

Officers were called to a dispute between roommates. Nothing physical occurred, just disrespectful behaviour by both parties. Each were sent to their respective rooms.

Officers assisted school staff with cannabis dab pen incident involving two youth under 16 years.

Sgt. Oman was enjoying lunch with his parents at a local restaurant when he had to intervene with breaking up a fight between two adult males. The fight was over local politics. Both males were separated and sent on their way so the Sergeant could finish his lunch in peace.

A 28-year-old male was arrested for breaching his release order after officers were called to a residence for a disturbance. The male was intoxicated, trying to fight other occupants in the house.

Crimes Against the Person/Property

A 23-year-old female was arrested and charged for domestic assault and utter threats. The 36-year-old male victim received minor injuries but did not require medical treatment. Child and Family Services was also engaged.

A bear-macing incident is under investigation. The suspect is identified and officers are looking for the 30-year-old male. The complainant does not wish charges, but wants the suspect spoken to.

A break and enter was reported to a rental property. Officers' familiar with the residence which could be described as a hoarder-house. The house has been vacant for some time and no suspects were identified.

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SPORTS

Yorkton Junior Raiders vs. Balgonie Griffins

Defensive game ends at 11-7

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Yorkton Junior Raiders were back in action Saturday, Sept. 12 hosting Balgonie Griffins at Century Field in Yorkton.

The game would prove to be a defensive affair with the Raiders winning the low-scoring affair 11-7. Luke Neilsen had a rushing touchdown and added a field goal. The Raider defence also scored two points on a safety. On defence Karter Ockochinski and Seneca Crane were all over the field making plays from sideline to sideline.

Yorkton head coach Alan Kyle told Grasslands News it was an "emotional game for both sides as Balgonie was playing only a few days after one of their senior players was rushed to hospital and remains in the ICU with a brain bleed." Donations from a full day of football in Yorkton totalled over $2,000 and those proceeds will be given to the family.

CALVIN DANIELS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Avoiding the tackle
The Junior Raiders played a low scoring game defeating the visiting Balgonie Griffins 11-7 on home field in Yorkton on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Yorkton Maulers win preseason opener, then go on mini win streak

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

It was all Yorkton Maulers Sept. 9, as they hosted the Parkland Rangers out of Manitoba.

The Yorkton U18 AAA Maulers Hockey Club opened the scoring early, and simply rolled as they scored eight, while holding the Rangers scoreless.

Jack Prosfsky led the way with a hat trick. Emmett Kihn, Milker Frankiewitz, Cruz Aebig, Den Dust, and Seth Holtvogt added singles in the romp.

Seth Bennett and Jaxon Schleper were the rostered Mauler netminders for the contest.

The same teams met again Saturday, Sept. 12 in Dauphin. And the result was much the same as well.

In a span of four-and-a-half minutes midway through the first period the Maulers took control of the road game with four unanswered goals. Miller Frankiewitz, Emmett Kihn, Lincoln Evans and Kaden Kohle scored the goals.

In the middle stanza Yorkton piled on five additional unanswered goals to make it 9-0. Kohle and Kihn each scored their second of the contest, while Corban Friesen, Hogan Hickman and Ty Rusnak added their first of the game.

In the third Kohle completed his hat trick to round out a 10-0 win.

Jaxon Schleper had the Mauler shut-out facing only 15-shots.

The Maulers then headed to Brandon for a Sunday, Sept. 13 afternoon match against the U18 Wheat Kings.

The Maulers stayed stingy in the contest.

In the first period Yorkton's Dylan Veroba scored the only goal.

In the second frame Seth Holtvogt, then Cruz Aebig and Hogan Hickman – the latter two only 18-seconds apart – made it 4-0.

Holtvogt added a third period marker to round out a 5-0 win.

Jaxon Schleper had the shut-out – the third straight in the preseason – facing 25-shots.

The Wheat Kings are scheduled to make a return visit with the Maulers at the Westland Insurance Arena in Yorkton at 2 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 20.

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Katepwa Beach Ladies Golf Club wraps up season

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Katepwa Beach Golf Club ladies capped off their season with club championship competition, recognizing winners in several 18-hole and nine-hole divisions before turning their attention to plans for 2027.

The Ladies Club Championship was held Aug. 13, with Aug. 20 set as the alternate date. A total of 40 golfers took part, including 16 players in the 18-hole competition and 24 in the nine-hole event.

In the Senior Ladies 18-hole division, Elaine Banbury captured the gross championship, while Carol Walsh was the net winner. The Senior Ladies nine-hole gross title went to Linda Bullivant, with Deb Highmoor taking the net championship.

For ladies under 70, Wendy Stillborn claimed the 18-hole gross championship and Sandra Williams won the net title. In the nine-hole division, Jane Johnston was the gross winner, and Louise Laverdiere captured the net championship.

The club also recognized Lorna Onrait as the winner of the Katepwa Ladies Members Championship, which was contested over two days.

Following the meeting, elections were held to select the ladies club executive and committee members for 2027.

Cathy Walkington will serve as president, with Shelley Jourbert as vice-president. Jane Johnson was selected for finance, while Darlene Exner will serve as secretary and handle membership.

Carol Chapman and Eileen Lewis will serve as captains, with Bev Wasylynuik and Lorna Onrait looking after social activities. Marlene Bennett will handle rules, Pat Pratt publicity and Kim Stephens photography.

Senior Ladies 18-hole champions
Katepwa Beach Golf Club recognized its Senior Ladies 18-hole champions following the club championship. From left are president Cathy Walkington; net champion Carol Walsh; gross champion Elaine Banbury; and captain Shelley Jourbert.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Senior Ladies nine-hole champions
Deb Highmoor, centre, was recognized as the Senior Ladies nine-hole net champion at Katepwa Beach Golf Club. Joining her are president Cathy Walkington, left, and captain Shelley Jourbert, right. Gross champion Linda Bullivant was missing from the photo.

Ladies 18-hole champions
Katepwa Beach Golf Club's Ladies under-70 18-hole champions were recognized following championship play. From left are president Cathy Walkington; gross champion Wendy Stillborn; net champion Sandra Williams; and captain Shelley Jourbert.

Ladies nine-hole champions
Katepwa Beach Golf Club recognized its nine-hole champions. From left are president Cathy Walkington; gross champion Jane Johnston; net champion Louise Laverdiere; and captain Shelley Jourbert.

Members champion
Lorna Onrait was the winner of the Katepwa Ladies Members Championship, which was contested over two days.

Sports Column

Can Internationals stay close at President's Cup?

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

Lambs led to slaughter. David vs. Goliath. The lions against the Christians. Shooting fish in a barrel. Bringing a knife to a gunfight.

Pick your metaphor and it will apply to this week's President's Cup golf competition, held every two years and often begging the question: Why?

Since its inception in 1994, the United States' 12-man team has had its way with the Internationals, a team of 12 golfers from outside the U.S. or Europe. That means eligible players could come from Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, etc. Overall, the U.S. has been formidable, winning 13 events, tying one and losing one. This year's clash at Medinah Country Club in Chicago is expected to almost certainly extend the Americans' winning streak. The only hope for the Internationals would be if Donald Trump elbowed his way onto the U.S. team and had to play without cheating.

How powerful are the Americans? The U.S. team will send out players ranked 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 in the Official World Golf Ranking. That No. 1, of course, is Scottie Scheffler, who recently won two of the three PGA Tour playoff events, including the Tour Championship. The Internationals' highest-ranked player is No. 13 Si Woo Kim of South Korea, a fine player but hardly someone to be feared by the Americans.

Ryan Fox, the Champion Golfer of the Year, the honorary title given to the golfer who wins the British Open, is from New Zealand and is the second-highest ranked International, at No 25. Internationals' captain Geoff Ogilvy, an Aussie who won the 2006 U.S. Open, has his work cut out for him as he leads his lambs into battle.

Two Canadians — Corey Conners (No. 54 in the world) and Nick Taylor (No. 80) — were chosen for the International team and it's assumed they will be sent into battle with classy team uniforms, a number of sleeves of new golf balls and a jar of salve to dab on the inflicted bruises. The team slogan could be 'No Hope, But No Surrender, Until Sunday.'

The Americans, not surprisingly, are a little cocky on the eve of the President's Cup. A headline on a story on the the U.S.-based Yahoo!Sports wrote in black ink what would normally be only whispered, in the spirit of good sportsmanship: 'The President's Cup lacks juice because American team is just too good'.

The President's Cup was hatched to give golfers outside of Europe a chance to take part in a Ryder-Cup-like competition against the best from the U.S. The host site for the event is rotated between a U.S. city and an 'International' location. Australia's Royal Melbourne has been the host course three times; Royal Montreal has twice played host. But they could play on an iceberg north of Churchill and the Americans would probably still come out of top, unless golf shoes were mandated to be replaced by skates.

So sit back and enjoy the President's Cup. But be prepared to hide your eyes.

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

Would it really be the start of another NFL season without the Dallas Cowboys completely collapsing against the New York Giants, losing 28–20?

Or without the Cleveland Browns being humbled 34–10 by the Jacksonville Jaguars?

The easy answer is no.

The Browns losing in Week 1 comes as no surprise. The Jaguars have a strong team, and the Browns are still the Browns.

Even if Cleveland had lost a closer game to a weaker opponent, you have to understand that, for them to remain lovable losers, they need to stick to their losing tradition.

Even when Cleveland puts a decent squad on the field, they'll find a way to lose.

That's just the way it is.

The Cowboys, however, do things a little differently.

Every year, every Dallas fan can't wait for the season to start because this is going to be their year!

Until it isn't.

Then, somehow, it becomes next year.

Sure, the Cowboys have only played one game, but it certainly looks like they're already laying the groundwork for another season that ends with them watching the playoffs from home.

Seriously though, for most armchair quarterbacks who love the gridiron game, it's time to put the Cowboys and Browns aside for a moment and simply enjoy the product on the field.

There's something about the NFL that keeps drawing fans back every September. Maybe it's the hitting. Maybe it's the strategy. Maybe it's the ridiculous amount of time we're willing to spend arguing about whether a quarterback actually had control of the football before his knee touched the ground.

Whatever the reason, the NFL has a way of making every Sunday feel important.

And yes, perhaps it sounds like I favour the American game over the Canadian game.

The reason for that is simple.

I do.

I'm not sure exactly when it happened, but somewhere along the way I began to appreciate the NFL's grinding offence and punishing defence more than what we see in the Canadian game.

That doesn't mean I've forgotten where I came from. I can still remember when the running game completely dominated the NFL, when a fullback and a running back seemed to be on the field for almost every play.

The fullback would batter defenders, clearing a path through the line so the more fleet-footed running back could find a crease and explode through it.

It was football in its simplest form: somebody gets hit, somebody falls down, and somebody else tries to run over the guy who just fell down.

Of course, CFL fans had their own way of looking at the American game.

For years, you could hear the familiar criticism that the NFL's greatest offensive innovation was to fall forward three times and punt.

The NFL faithful had a response of their own, of course.

To them, the CFL was the two-pass-and-punt league.

Neither side was particularly interested in giving the other much credit.

And maybe that's part of what makes the two versions of the game so much fun to argue about.

One thing most folks will probably agree with me on is that the officiating in the NFL is head and shoulders above what we have up here in the Great White North.

Especially if you happen to be a fan of the Saskatchewan Roughriders, who were beaten by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the infamous Banjo Bowl, thanks in large part to a few weird calls that went the Bombers' way -- and some calls that were never made but probably should have been.

The NFL officials aren't infallible either. Perhaps, even as I type this column, the refereeing crew on Monday Night Football is already trying to help Patrick Mahomes find his way to another victory.

But back to the NFL.

Most of the games were high-scoring and exciting, so that's a positive.

It'll be interesting to see which teams make the playoffs with some coaches and players gone from their previous teams. After all, it only takes one game for fans to start making playoff predictions, handing out awards and deciding which teams are destined for greatness.

It's only one game in, and fans should have high hopes for the season.

Unless they're fans of the Cowboys or the Browns.

Mils win four of six matchups

SJHL Preseason

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

The SJHL Melville Millionaires had a solid exhibition season, winning four of the six games they played.

Melville Millionaires 4 at Yorkton Terriers 3 (OT, Sept. 12)

Returnee Rylan Oatman potted the winner in this contest, 1:14 into extra time with an unassisted tally.

Oatman also collected three helpers for a four-point night.

Veteran Kale Margolis notched a pair of goals for the visitors with newcomer Cole Brown sniping a single.

Brodie Hicks had a big game from the back end, picking up three assists.

Noah Kraus got the start in goal for the Millionaires and got the victory, stopping 36 of the 39 shots he faced. The Millionaires had 27 shots on the Terriers' cage.

The Mils led 1-0 after the first period and held a 3-1 advantage after 40 minutes.

Yorkton Terriers 6 at Melville Millionaires 4 (Sept. 11)

Two Terriers goals in the third period were the difference in this one, as the Millionaires fell behind near the midway point of the period and couldn't get the equalizer.

The teams were tied 1-1 after the opening frame and 4-4 following two periods of play.

New acquisition Isaiah Bagri scored a pair for the Millionaires with singles coming off the sticks of Parker Salisbury and Hudson Closson.

Bennett Macek, Jaden Kokosha and Oatman each had a set-up point for the home side.

Kaleb Page got the start between the pipes for Melville and stopped 19 of the 23 shots he faced in the first two frames.

It was a quiet night for Kraus who turned aside four of five shots in the third.

Melville Millionaires 2 at Waywayseecappo Wolverines 1 (Sept. 9)

Wesley Olson, Oatman and Kokosha combined for both Melville goals in this matchup, with Kokosha scoring the first and Olson scoring the game winner as the three players had six points.

Kraus was the starter and stopped all 20 shots he faced in the first two periods with Page kicking out six of the seven shots he faced.

Waywayseecappo Wolverines 5 at Melville Millionaires 2 (Sept. 8)

The Mils ran into a hot goalie in this one as they fell behind 4-0 in the third frame and couldn't mount a comeback.

Kraus was solid in goal for the Millionaires, making 17 saves on 18 shots in two periods, before being replaced for the third with Malcolm Katuski who gave up three goals to take the loss.

Margolis fired both Millionaires' markers with Oatman collecting a pair of helpers while Grady Carmichael had a single assist.

The Millionaires outshot the Wolverines 47-33.

Melville Millionaires 6 at Weyburn Red Wings 5 (Sept. 6)

The Millionaires scored three times in the third frame to earn the victory in Weyburn.

The Teams were tied 1-1 after the first and the Wings were up 4-3 after a couple of stanzas.

Hudson Postnikoff led the way for Melville with a tally and a couple of assists while Cohen Champagne, Brodie Bowen, Lukas Lundgren and Braysen Agopsowicz supplied singles.

Agopsowicz, Closson, Sam Laplante and Torren Budgell each earned a pair of assists.

Katuski and Page split time between the posts to pick up the win.

Weyburn Red Wings 4 at Melville Millionaires 5 (OT, Sept. 5)

Budgell led the way for the Millionaires with a goal and two assists while Carmichael notched the overtime winner for the Blue and White.

Salisbury and Champagne chipped in with a goal and a helper each with a single tally coming from Macek.

Addy Price and Page each allowed a pair of goals in the Melville victory.

The Millionaires open their regular season on Sept. 18 in Weyburn against the Red Wings and on Sept. 19, the Wings will return to the CN Community Centre in Melville for the Millionaires' home opener.

Game time is 7 p.m.

Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey

Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
All Games 7 p.m.
unless otherwise stated
Regular Season
SEPTEMBER:
18– Melville at Weyburn 7:30
19– Weyburn at Melville
25– Melville at Melfort 7:30
26– Melfort at Melville
29– Flin Flon at Melville
OCTOBER:
02– Melville at Humboldt 7:30
03– Humboldt at Melville
09– Melville at Yorkton
10– Yorkton at Melville

Yorkton Terriers Jr. A Hockey

Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
All Games 7 p.m.
unless otherwise stated
Regular Season
SEPTEMBER:
19– Estevan at Yorkton
22– Yorkton at Warmen
25– Yorkton at Kindersley 7:30
26– Yorkton at Kindersley 7:30
OCTOBER:
03– Flin Flon at Yorkton
04– Yorkton at Weyburn 6:00
09– Melville at Yorkton
10– Yorkton at Melville

Fort Knox Hockey

Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
Pre-season
SEPTEMBER:
19– Regina Caps at Fort Knox 7:00
20– Fort Knox at Regina Silver F 4:00
Regular season
SEPTEMBER:
26– Fort Knox at Pilot Butte 7:45
OCTOBER:
03– S'toon Westleys at Fort Knox 7:00
09– S'toon Royals at Fort Knox 7:30

Pilot Butte Storm

Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
Pre-season
SEPTEMBER:
19– Reg. Silver Foxes at Pilot Butte 4:00
20– Pilot Butte at Reg. Caps 7:00
Regular Season
SEPTEMBER:
26– Fort Knox at Pilot Butte 7:45
30– Regina Caps at Pilot Butte 8:00
OCTOBER:
03– RPS Rebels at Pilot Butte 7:45
04– S'toon Westleys at Pilot Butte 3:45
07– Reg Silver Foxes at Pilot Butte 8:00

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Wallis lifts Fort Knox past Storm in overtime

By Sarah Pacio & Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

With the ice surface recently readied for a new season at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre in Fort Qu'Appelle, the Fort Knox Junior Hockey team got right down to business. After practicing on home ice over the weekend, they welcomed the Pilot Butte Storm team for a pre-season exhibition game on Tuesday evening.

Fort Knox opened its Prairie Junior Hockey League season with some overtime drama Tuesday night (Sept. 15), scoring on the power play to earn a 5-4 victory over the Pilot Butte Storm.

Madden Wallis scored the winner 3:15 into overtime, converting a power-play opportunity after Pilot Butte was called for too many men. Holden Wasacase and Jonah Pinel drew assists on the game-winning goal.

The victory completed a comeback for Fort Knox after the Storm jumped out to a 3-2 lead during a five-goal opening period.

Pilot Butte's Tristan Brownridge opened the scoring on the power play 5:07 into the game before Fort Knox answered with goals from Rhett Weichel and Pinel. Tavyn Boychuk and Grayson Brock also scored for the Storm, giving the visitors a one-goal advantage after 20 minutes.

Fort Knox pulled even early in the second period when Wasacase scored from Tanner Wiens at 1:54. The goal was the only scoring of the middle frame, sending the teams into the third tied 3-3.

Pilot Butte regained the lead 6:51 into the third on a goal by Ryder Miller, but Fort Knox again responded. Reese Copeland scored from Pinel at 11:24 to make it 4-4 and ultimately force overtime.

Fort Knox received its opportunity to end the game when the Storm were assessed a bench minor for too many men with 3:20 gone in overtime. Just five seconds later, Wallis found the net to give Fort Knox the 5-4 win.

Pinel led the Fort Knox offence with a goal and two assists, while Wasacase finished with a goal and an assist. Memphis Runns also recorded two assists.

Fort Knox held a 50-39 advantage in shots and went 2-for-8 on the power play. Pilot Butte finished 1-for-6 with the man advantage.

Ty Muhr started in goal for Fort Knox and stopped 15 of 18 shots before Nicholas Forsyth took over, turning aside 16 of the 17 shots he faced. Pilot Butte's Kaden Perron made 40 saves on 45 shots.

The pre-season schedule continues with more exhibition games at the Rexentre this weekend. On Sept. 19, the Pilot Butte Storm and Regina Silver Foxes will play at 4 p.m.; Fort Knox and the Regina Capitals will face off at 7 p.m. On Sept. 20, Fort Knox will play the Silver Foxes at 4 p.m. and the Storm will face the Capitals at 7 p.m. Fort Knox will start the regular season in Pilot Butte on Sept. 26 with a game at 7:45 p.m. This will be followed by a home game against the Saskatoon Westleys on Oct. 3 at 7 p.m.

SARAH PACIO I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Eye on the puck

It took overtime for the hometown Fort Knox to beat the Pilot Butte Storm 5-4 on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre in Fort Qu'Appelle. These teams will meet up again at the Pilot Butte Storms regular season home opener on Sept. 26.

High level ringette coming to Whitewood arena

No charge to watch U14AA and U16AA teams

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The speed and excitement of high-performance ringette will be coming to Whitewood later this month as the Whitewood Community Centre arena hosts a full afternoon of exhibition action featuring teams from Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The Ringette Showcase – Regina vs. Eastman, Manitoba will take place Saturday, Sept. 26, with four games scheduled between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Admission to the showcase is free, giving families and sports fans from Whitewood and surrounding communities an opportunity to watch some talented young athletes compete without having to travel to a larger centre. The rink kitchen will also be open throughout the event.

The day will feature U14AA and U16AA competition between the Regina Stingers and Buffalo Plains Rush from Saskatchewan and the Eastman Flames from Manitoba.

The action begins at 11 a.m. when the U16AA Regina Stingers face the U16AA Eastman Flames. The teams will return to the ice for a second game at 1:45 p.m.

The U14AA teams take centre stage at 12:15 p.m., when the Buffalo Plains Rush meet the Eastman Flames. Their second game of the day begins at 3 p.m.

The Regina Stingers bring an impressive competitive background to Whitewood. The U16AA high-performance team operates under the Regina Ringette Association and captured the 2026 Saskatchewan U16AA Provincial Championship, earning the opportunity to represent Team Saskatchewan at the Canadian Ringette Championships in Ottawa.

The Buffalo Plains Rush is part of the Buffalo Plains Ringette Association, which serves players from the Regina and Pilot Butte areas. The association fields teams in several divisions, including competitive travel and tournament programs. The U14AA Rush have also enjoyed tournament success, including a gold-medal performance at a Regina ringette tournament.

For local spectators who may be more familiar with hockey, the showcase also provides an opportunity to see just how different — and how fast — ringette can be.

Ringette is played on ice with skates and sticks, but instead of a puck, players use a hollow rubber ring. Players pass the ring by inserting the blade of a straight stick into its centre. The sport places a strong emphasis on skating, passing, positioning, teamwork and quick puck-like — or in this case, ring — movement.

At the AA level, spectators can expect a particularly fast game featuring skilled skating, rapid passing and plenty of offensive and defensive action.

Bringing the Regina and Eastman teams to Whitewood also provides younger athletes and families in the area with a chance to experience a sport they may not normally have the opportunity to watch locally.

With four games on the schedule, spectators can come for one contest or spend much of the day at the arena.

Saturday, Sept. 26 schedule: 11 a.m. to noon — U16AA Regina Stingers vs. Eastman Flames; 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. — U14AA Buffalo Plains Rush vs. Eastman Flames; 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. — U16AA Regina Stingers vs. Eastman Flames; and 3 to 4 p.m. — U14AA Buffalo Plains Rush vs. Eastman Flames.

Admission is free and the rink kitchen will be open.

For Whitewood and area sports fans, the showcase offers something a little different at the Community Centre — an opportunity to see high-level ringette athletes from Saskatchewan and Manitoba demonstrate the speed, skill and teamwork that have made the sport popular across the Prairies.

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Proceeds from this tournament are allocated for future Deer Park Golf Course improvements.

Sacred Heart Saints boys' soccer team kicks off season

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Sacred Heart Saints boys' soccer team kicked off their fall season with two home games Saturday.

Visiting the Saints on Sept. 12, were Estevan and St. Mary's from Prince Albert.

Facing off against Estevan first, the Saints played a very close contest over the course of 80-minutes which saw them drop the game by a score of 1-0.

Coach Sebastian Prost remarked that it was a close game that could have gone either way or even ended in a scoreless draw.

"Both teams were well matched today, and we just ended up as the unlucky ones by the end," he said. "I was happy with what I saw on the pitch today and am hopeful that we can build on what we saw here this morning."

The Saints faced off against the team from St. Mary's in Prince Albert in their afternoon matchup.

The visitors were a difficult opponent for the Saints. St. Mary's very quickly took control of the game and maintained an iron grip for the entirety of the match.

The loss of one of the Saint's captains – Evan Osiowy – towards the end of the morning match was felt acutely by the team, noted Prost. As of Monday, Osiowy was listed by his coach as day-to-day with a leg muscle injury.

"He is such a key player for our defensive line, that losing him to injury right at the end this morning was a significant blow," he said.

"We knew heading into the match that they were going to be a tough opponent and we would have our hands full but having to shift players' positions around to cover that loss did not help.

"This game really showed us where we have some work to do yet as a team."

The final score was 13-0 in favour of the team from Prince Albert.

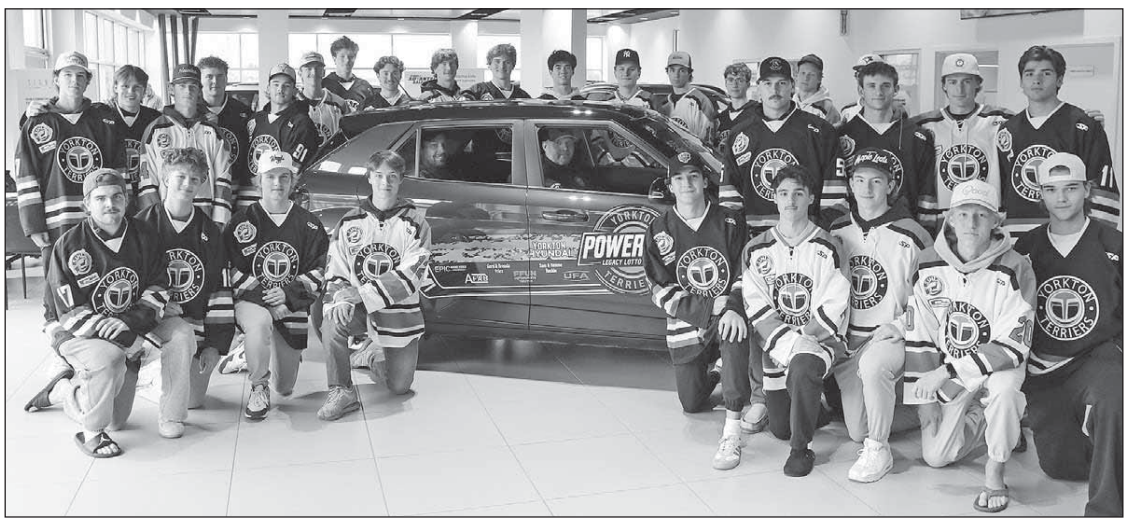
The Saints will be back in action on Tuesday, Sept. 22, when they face off against the Yorkton Regional High School at Sacred Heart.

CALVIN DANIELS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Saints on the field

Sacred Heart Saints boys' soccer team played a home field game Saturday morning (Sept. 12) in Yorkton. The Saints dropped both games to Estevan and Prince Albert.

Yorkton Terriers launch 'Legacy Lottery Series' – Win a Car!



CALVIN DANIELS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Win a car

The Yorkton Terriers team gathered at the launch of a new lottery series fundraiser for the team. Tickets for the Hyundai Venue are available for $20.

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Yorkton Junior Terriers recently launched a new fundraiser.

The Powerplay Legacy Lottery Series is an undertaking made possible thanks to a group of four businesses and two individuals who came forward looking for a way to support the team.

The result is what will be a series of six lotteries planned for the next three seasons.

The first of those was officially launched Sept. 8, at Yorkton Hyundai since the first lotto is for a Hyundai Venue.

Ron Kaban with Yorkton Hyundai said he and Sam Buckle were talking one day about how they might "fundraise for the Terriers."

The idea of a raffle came up and soon grew to include other interested businesses and owners.

Kaban said in his case he's always interested in helping out in the community, and being part of a series of draws for the Terriers was a good fit.

For just $20, you could win the Venue, with only 4,000 tickets available.

Other series sponsors are A Fab Industries, UFA, FFUN Motorsports Yorkton, Epic Audio Video, Gord and Brenda Pries, and Sam and Helene Buckle.

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Curling carries Inglis and Cottenie into Yorkton Sports Hall of Fame

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Karen Cottenie summed up learning of her upcoming induction into the Yorkton Sports Hall of Fame in one word; "honoured."

But the announcement also gave Cottenie time to look back on a notable career in curling.

"I reflected back to many family moments we have had at a curling rink including times with my parents, and siblings and my kids," she told Grasslands News. "I remember my dad setting up the salt and pepper shakers at the supper table discussing and teaching strategy from last night's high school game and what a great thing curling has been to our family times.

"I also reflected back and immediately remembered my first curling coach, other than my parents and all my siblings that knew everything and we're never wrong. It was Flo Sanna. Flo and Gloria Hayden owned Go4 Sports store in Yorkton. Flo coached the YRHS Girls curling team and our junior team.

"One of the things I remember when I was in high school and we were playing against teams that maybe weren't very sportsmen like and I remember her teaching us as high school kids to 'Kill them with kindness,' and my interpretation of this was to ignore their nasty looks and comments and always try to rise above that. And I remembered this statement throughout my life; it kind of applies to everything, try to react in a kind way! I definitely used that quote, with all the teams that I coached as well."

Sanna taught more as well.

"Flo also taught to think and speak in positives," offered Cottenie. "Turn a negative thought into a positive thought - find a way to turn the 'dont's' into a do, self-talk was not 'don't hit the guard,' but do get around the guard -- which also turned out to be a lifelong sports useful psychology method and also applied to teaching trying to phrase things in the positive."

It was likely that early coaching which set the foundation for curling success for Cottenie.

It started with success as a high school curler, as a member of the team that won the Regina Christmas Bonspiel in 1985, and as the second on the team that represented Canada in Germany the next year.

Cottenie also competed at the university level and was the skip of the 1986 Saskatchewan Winter Games gold medal team.

In 1996 she and her sister Cathy and the Bryden brothers won the Saskatchewan and Canadian Mixed Championships.

After 20 years of competitive curling, she coached and expanded Learn-to-Curl in schools in several Saskatchewan communities.

Cottenie said the upcoming induction has her recalling "all the winning moments and the gold medals and the trophies, but also all the times that you didn't win and how important it is to learn how to be a good loser is too.

"It's an important part of every game and I tried to teach that to my own children as well. Always, you are trying to win, and you are competitive, never did someone on your team try to lose or miss a shot.

"Learn sportsmanship early.

"However, in the end it's always about the people and the friendships and relationships that matter. The other things like gold medals are of course fun and mark milestones in a career but in the end don't necessarily matter as much as the relationships and friends and memories you've made along the way."

Like many Cottenie found curling early.

"I grew up on a farm in between Rokeby and Saltcoats," she said. "I was the second youngest of seven kids. We weren't allowed to go to 'town' unless you had a purpose. Like we couldn't just hang out with our friends or cousins. So, I was motivated to curl so I could get off the farm.

"I started curling with my mum and dad in Saltcoats. My first game was when they were short a player and my older siblings weren't home - so I got

KAREN COTTENIE

to sub in. I was 10. Then from then on, I enjoyed curling on a mixed team with my sisters, and my mom and dad in a Wednesday night mixed league at Saltcoats."

Those early games gave a young Cottenie a push to pursue the sport farther.

"This experience of being allowed to curl at 10, in Grade 4 at Dunleath School gave me bragging rights, because Tonkin had a big sign on the door that said you must be 12 years old to curl and that's where all the Dunleath kids were waiting to get on the ice or watched their parents curl.

". . . Curling was such an important part of winter for our family. One of my first memories of being at the rink were memories of my brothers -- Lloyd and Rob Inglis -- curling with my dad in Saltcoats. I remember hearing my dad yell, "Hurry hard hurry hard, HARDER!' and as far as I knew my brothers had the loudest brooms, these old blue Mach X-31's, that had a leather strip that snapped when you swept and echoed in Saltcoat's curling rink. They were snapping the Mach X-31's down the ice and I recall the other kids saying, 'no one else sweeps harder than your brothers and no one yells louder than your Dad'. Dad was always intense, especially curling - he had fun curling but it was serious - he always played hard, and then taught us to play hard as we modelled his curling."

And the foundation was set in terms of Cottenie and curling.

"The curling rink was always a safe welcoming place for me," she said. "It always seems to be a familiar and welcoming place just like Cheers (the TV bar), always a welcoming face like Gerry Adams or Howie Fehrenbach or Neil Whienmaster, and every curling rink I joined after Yorkton seemed like that was where I felt I belonged.

"In high school my friends and I hung out at the rink. We practised and played short game -- a curling game I feel like we invented to learn strategy and angles by only pushing the rocks from the corner sidewalk to the close house end -- at the rink after the lights went out and we had a dim light from the lobby reflecting on the ice as we waited for our parents socializing upstairs."

Cottenie said sport always became more than about the scores for her.

"Sports, whether it was fastball or golf or curling, is where most of my most cherished friendships and memories of family and friends have been and it's always been about the people - like things and gold medals don't necessarily matter, it's the people and memories and friendships that matter," she said.

In that respect the induction will be largely about family and friends too.

"My kids watched me coach all my life but when I won the winter games, and Canadians, either they weren't born yet or were babies at the time, so part of their response is learning more about my past curling experiences," said Cottenie of her family's reaction to the induction announcement.

The induction also puts a different perspective on Cottenie's resume.

"From my current perspective, I'm a retired teacher, coach and curler; my high school wins were 43 years ago and Canadians with the Brydens was 30 years ago, and going to Canadians with Brian Derbowka and Gerry Adams and Cathy Inglis was 25 years, and I retired from teaching five years ago," she reflected. "Competition and winning are fun but once the event is over, it's over,and then when an induction into Yorkton's Sport Hall of Fame happens, I get to relive some of those most cherished memories."

This year's inductees will join 97 athletes and builders and 21 teams previously honoured since the Hall's founding in 1994.

The local Hall of Fame will also recognize recipients of the Support for Sports Award, now sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Yorkton. It is presented to deserving supporters of sports in Yorkton, including businesses, organizations and individuals.

Cathy Inglis

Cathy Inglis has an impressive resume in terms of competitive curling at the local, provincial and national levels.

She was a member of the 1996 Canadian Mixed championship team skipped by Randy Bryden, along with his brother Russ and Inglis's sister Karen. She again competed in the Canadian Mixed championship in 2003, the Canadian Seniors championships in 2013 and 2015, and this year placed third in the Canadian Masters championship.

It is a list of accomplishments which will see Inglis among those inducted into the Yorkton Sports Hall of Fame Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Gallagher Centre.

Inglis said learning of her selection was naturally a big moment.

"My thoughts were of what an ultimate honour and that I was very grateful for the nomination," she told Grasslands News.

"The induction has made me reflect on the national events I have attended and the teammates that took me there.

"I have been extremely fortunate to have teammates that shared deep, unspoken chemistry. Every experience and victory is a testament of the talent of my teammates; my curling sisters and brothers for life, I share this induction with them all."

It is a story about curling that began as a family activity.

"Curling was one of our family sports," said Inglis. "As children we watched our parents and grandparents at a curling rink.

"When we turned 12-years-old we were able to join the Tonkin junior curling on Saturdays. This was the beginning of learning how curling was fun, social and competitive.

"I joined High School curling to participate in school sports.

CATHY INGLIS

This is when the world of curling opened up as Vern Pachal taught us how to slide, roles of positions and strategy.

"The following year Dave Bray coached us to winning the High School Provincial Championship."

From that point curling was just part of life for Inglis.

"Over the years, no matter where life took me, whenever I moved to a new city, the very first thing I did to meet people and find my community was look up the local curling club," she said.

And curling kept her connected to family.

"What truly kept my interest in this game, decade after decade, was doing it alongside my friends and my sisters," said Inglis. "Having them by my side turned a sport I loved into a lifetime of shared memories."

Through it all Inglis said there were some surprises when looking back.

Inglis said it was a "surprise to the high school girl that was nervous to get out of the car to play at Provincials" thinking she "wasn't good enough."

But a coach told her to "take a big breath and play."

It is a snippet of advice Inglis has hung on to.

"To this day I take a big breath before I throw every shot -- sometimes a really big breath on the very important shots," she said.

And then Inglis turns back to the idea of family and the sport she has excelled at.

"Now as I look back and know that I always had a sister or friend on the ice with me every step of the way, it makes sense," said Inglis. "Surrounded by people who love you, push you and share your exact work ethic.

"During our time of competitive curling Saskatchewan developed some of the world's best women curlers. We all benefited by pushing each other. I'm proud many of us are still out on the ice, playing and competing."

An induction into a hall of fame is also a time of reflection on moments which stand out for the athlete.

"I have many stories but one that sticks out is what I would call 'A wall of green, red and sound'," said Inglis.

It was the 1998 Scotties, hosted in Regina.

"I was on Team Saskatchewan, (the) Sandra Schmirler Team with my sister Joan as second was Team Canada. The building was more than sold out. The crowd isn't just watching; they were living every shot.

"The crowd would go dead silent watching a rock go down sheet, then erupt with a massive cheer -- shot after shot by both teams. On big shots the crowd would clap hands when either Sandra or I would go from house end to hack to throw our shots.

"They would then go silent and I swear I think I heard some people taking a big breath with me just before I threw my rock.

"In the ninth end I was torn between calling two different shots. As I indicated the shots with my broom, the crowd would yell 'YES' or 'NO'. The crowd was calling the shots.

"My team was not accustomed to the crowd or the TV cameras which made us even stronger teammates helping each other through the game.

"Despite our best efforts we lost in the tenth end, but the experience was invaluable.

"This game remains etched in my memory as a testament to the fierce competition and camaraderie that define curling in Canada. It was such an honour to compete at the Scotties, particularly in my home province."

As for the local induction it will be a shared experience.

"Family and friends have always been enthusiastic about all my family and friends curling accomplishments," said Inglis.

"My three children have been my biggest fans throughout my curling journey. They spent many hours in a curling rink. (As younger children they might have been entertained with a roll of quarters for the Pacman game and a bag of popcorn). They have attended National events with me and have shared my victories and losses."

On a personal level induction night will be one more opportunity for reflection.

"As I reflect on the past five decades of curling, I am filled with gratitude," said Inglis. "Curling has not only given me countless unforgettable experiences but has also taught me invaluable life lessons about perseverance, teamwork and the importance of community. None of which would have occurred without my family and friends that gave support and helped with my kids, my spouse, my teammates, my coaches, ice makers, sponsors, employers, volunteers and countless others that allowed my life to be so enriched by the sport of curling."

This year's inductees will join 97 athletes and builders and 21 teams previously honoured since the Hall's founding in 1994.

The local Hall of Fame will also recognize recipients of the Support for Sports Award, now sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Yorkton. It is presented to deserving supporters of sports in Yorkton, including businesses, organizations and individuals.

Sunny Side Up

Some things I've learned about forgiveness

By Kathleen Gibson
Grasslands News

We were 30-some young voices, most earnestly devoted to Queen and country. Every weekday, all through grade school we stood beside our desks, saluted the flag and sang Canada's national anthem and God Save the Queen. Then we bowed our heads. "Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name…"

The prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The prayer still prayed at some public gatherings. You may know it, even if you weren't raised repeating it each school day. And if you do, I have a question. Have you ever stumbled over the phrase… "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us…"?

Basically, Jesus said if we don't forgive those who wrong us, we are asking him not to forgive us for the wrongs we have committed against others. Ouch. Speaking personally, I know how much I need God's forgiveness.

Someone I was angry with for decades died recently, someone who, in my younger years I'd spent far too long refusing to forgive. Too long bitter. Too long hard, at least in that corner of my heart. Why do we cling to those attitudes? Maybe I thought forgiveness would mean I was now okay with the actions that caused such hurt? I wasn't and never will be.

But somewhere along the way, in his tender way of handling hearts and correcting wrong attitudes, God changed me. Brought peace instead of rancor whenever that name came to mind. And although that person and I had not spoken in years, I look forward to a conversation in Heaven, where all differences are erased and wounds forgiven.

Hurts happened often over our thirty-plus years in full-time ministry. Leading congregations of diverse personalities makes that inevitable. Life in general makes that inevitable. But here are some things I've learned about forgiveness along the way:

Unforgiveness always hurts us more than it affects our offenders.

Forgiveness is an act of the will, of much prayer, and often wise counselling

Genuine forgiveness carries no expectations that it will change the offending party or person. Sometimes that person is already dead. Sometimes he or she (or they) feels they've done nothing wrong. That is strictly between them and our just God.

Forgiveness doesn't require us to be friends with our offender. (Sometimes that's not even wise; at other times peace may be possible.)

Refusing to forgive others is choosing to disobey the clear call of Christ to forgive others as our Father has forgiven us.

The act of forgiving changes us. Softens us, eases and finally erases bitter feelings.

Anything we must forgive is nothing compared to what Christ has forgiven.

That list is not complete – won't be until my last breath. But I'm grateful for what life has shown me, and what Jesus taught me through that oft-repeated recitation of his prayer in my childhood classrooms. If you haven't prayed it in awhile…start here: "Our Father, who art in Heaven…"

Flooring replacement goes to tender

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan Health Authority is preparing to replace flooring throughout the Whitewood Community Health Centre.

SHA issued an invitation to tender Sept. 9 for the supply and installation of new flooring finishes at the health centre on Gambetta Street.

The work is to be completed according to specifications and flooring layout documents included with the tender package.

A mandatory site meeting for contractors interested in bidding on the project was scheduled for Sept. 14 at the health centre. All bidders were required to attend the meeting. The competition remains open until 2 p.m. Sept. 29.

A contract value or anticipated construction schedule was not included in the publicly available tender notice.

The Whitewood Community Health Centre provides a range of health services to Whitewood and the surrounding area.

The flooring project comes as health-care services in the community continue to receive attention locally, particularly surrounding staffing and ambulance coverage.

Whitewood town council has been raising concerns with the Saskatchewan Health Authority over ongoing shortages affecting the community's ambulance service.

The flooring tender is separate from those service-level discussions, and the public tender does not indicate the work will result in changes to health programs or services offered at the facility.

The successful contractor will be responsible for supplying and installing the new flooring finishes in accordance with SHA's contract documents.

Bids close Sept. 29.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Melville Churches Welcome You

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
238 - 3rd Ave. E.
Office Ph. 306-728-2551
Office Hours: Mondays
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Clergy: Deacon Kevin Prouten
www.stpaulsmelville.ca
Sunday, Sept. 20:
9 a.m. Worship at St. Paul's
w/Comm. and Sunday School
Monday, Sept. 21:
7 p.m. Council Meeting

–– at Neudorf/Lemberg --
Sunday, Sept. 20:
*9 a.m. Lay Service at Christ Neud
*11 a.m. Worship at Trinity Lemb

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
306-720-0589
**Services Every Second Sunday*
Sept. 20: No Worship

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Sunday, Sept. 20:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
with Rev. Brian Mee

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER
(A Church with a Caring Heart)
800 Prince Edward St.
(Melville Comm. Works)
Ph. 306-728-2347
Pastor Tim Oehler
Sundays:
9:55 a.m. Pre-service Prayer
10 a.m. Coffee and Welcome
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
www.melvilleriverchurch.org
Facebook @melvilleriverchurch
Recorded messages
posted online

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
Sept. 20: Back to Church Sunday
10:30 a.m. Com. Service
Sept. 22: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day
4:30 p.m. Council Meeting

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Sunday, Sept. 20:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Sept. 27:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

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

Melville Churches Welcome You

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001
Sunday, Sept. 20:
Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. – Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, Sept. 20:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

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

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

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Nimorious Kwabena Domanzing
Sunday, Sept. 20:
11:00 a.m. Mass

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Sept. 20:
No Worship Service

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, Sept. 20:
10:00 a.m. Communion Service followed by coffee

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, Sept. 20:
No Worship Service

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 Sunday with Jennifer Yasinowski and 3rd Sunday with Monica Dayman at 9:30 a.m.

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
306-510-9793
Saturday, Sept. 19:
5:00 p.m. Mass

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

BEKEVAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
102 Nelson Ave.
(in Kipling United Church)
Sunday Worship
in person 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Devon Pattemore
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

Indian Head Church Welcomes You

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
801 Buxton St. - Indian Head, SK
306-695-3838
Sunday Services 11 a.m.
Service Leaders
Don Jewitt
Jani Francis

Growing in Faith Together

Visit a Church of Your Choice

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
Hear the Gospel, sing the faith, feel the family fellowship. Facebook Live.

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

If you have a story idea or see worthwhile news happening, give us a call

1-844-GNG-NEWS

A PRAYER FOR OUR FATHERS

The father of a righteous
child has great joy;
a man who fathers a
wise son rejoices in him.
-Proverbs 23:24 NIV

PRAIRIE HARVEST CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTRE
72 Melrose Ave., Yorkton, SK • PH: 306-786-6840
Senior Pastors Des & Cheryl Klingspon
Employment Program 306-786-1840
Online Sunday Worship Service 10:30AM will be on our Facebook page
Contemporary Worship • Children's Ministry • Youth Ministry
phclc.org
"Changing our world with the love of God."

St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church
155 Catherine St., Yorkton, SK
306-783-4594
Pastor - Fr. Basil Malowany
Phone: 306-783-4594 or 306-783-7778
Saturday - 5 PM (English)
Sunday - 9 AM (English & Ukrainian)
SICK CALLS ANYTIME—BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE BY APPOINTMENT

Church of God in Christ Mennonite
Saltcoats, SK
SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY: 10:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE: 11:00 AM
EVERYONE WELCOME
Pastor Laurel Wiebe - 306-898-2099
Pastor Tim Warkentin - 306-217-8222

St. Mark The Evangelist Orthodox Church
160 Betts Ave., Yorkton, SK
"Services in English"
www.stmarkyorkton.ca
Come and experience the faith of the apostles
IC XC NI KA
Saturday, Sept. 19th - Vespers 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 20th - Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Priest: Rodion Luciuk Phone: 306-786-6216 Cell: 306-621-5341
"Christianity is an entirely new way of being human." St. Maximus the Confessor

Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Orthodox Church
89 Bradbrooke Drive, Yorkton, SK S3N 2Y2
306-782-2998
Father Roman Kocur • (226) 347-8226
Sunday, September 20:
Divine Liturgy - 10:00 a.m. - Yorkton

Obituary

Jann (Janet Diane) Cyr

"Grandmother Rock"

Dec. 14, 1962 – Aug. 27, 2026

It is with profound sadness that we announce Jann joined the angels during the eclipse of the moon on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026 surrounded by her loving family.

Jann will be loved and remembered by her son Ryan Missens; her loving partner Roland Kaye of Regina; her sisters Lydia of Fort Qu' Appelle, Lorraine (Elgin) Pinay of Peepeekisis and their family Jason, Cordell, Meldon, Brydon, Shelenda and special niece Maria; Bernice (Daniel Pelletier) of George Gordon First Nation and children Tonya, Trevor and Kelly; brother Jim's children Reginald and Nicole of BC; special brother/nephew Kelly Cyr and his children Alicia, Brook, Avery and Lyric of BC and sister/cousin Rhonda Laframbois and her children Trina, Tara and Tyler of Regina; auntie Joyce (Walter) Pelletier of Bangor and grand-nieces and nephews.

Jann is welcomed into the Spirit World by kokum Hilda Pelletier; parents JB Cyr and Doris Cyr; brother Jim; special sister-in-law Bette Cyr; nephew Kyle Pinay and niece Tiersen Pratt.

Jann grew up in Fort Qu'Appelle and built and administrative career most recently at Red Eagle Lodge at Pasqua First Nation, Leading Thunderbird Lodge, First Nations University of Canada (SIFC), SGI and Sasktel.

She was pleased to be and elected member of the Fort Qu'Appelle town council where she shared First Nations culture and values and was influential in joining Fort council and the Tribal council for a stronger community. Her many accomplishments will have a lasting impact.

Jann also enjoyed her time with the many groups and committees where she formed friendships including the Fort Qu'Appelle Seniors Club, Knitwits and Wellness workshops. In retirement she became a marriage commissioner where she joined over 40 couples in matrimony.

We thank our friends, neighbors and relatives for their love, support, condolences, flowers, food hugs and visits.

Thank you to her home care team – Marcy Wood whose kindness guided us through Janns final moments, Nicky Popiuk, Christine Denyen, Kelly Phillips, Andrea Smith, ANHH and Eagles Nest staff.

We will miss her bright smile, her sparkling eyes and her laughs. Although she was the baby of the family her wisdom and guidance made an impact on us all.

A Celebration Of Life was held Monday, Aug. 31, 2026 at 1 p.m. in the Fort Qu'Appelle Legion, 185 Company Avenue South, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK

Arrangements entrusted to Conley Funeral Home, Fort Qu'Appelle SK 1-306-332-0555.

Thank you

Because she was here … because she was loved … always and forever

Jann lived her life in grace and dignity, enthusiasm and joy. We, her family, extend our sincere gratitude and thankfulness to all who supported us as Jann embraced her journey to the Spirit World. Thank you to family, relatives and friends, near and far, for the visits, calls, texts, food, condolences, hugs and caring. Thank you to Elder Dennis Omeosoo for prayers and pipe ceremony and leading at Jann's Celebration of Life. Thank you to our nephews and sons Jason, Cordell, Meldon, Brydon, Trevor and Kelly for pallbearer honours with Brydon also attending the smudging protocols. Thank you to Jason Keewatin and Terrance Bobb and Alexei Sunkawaste for singing and drumming. Thank you to cousin, Chief E.J. Fontaine for informative and humourous Eulogy, and to the speakers for their memories of Jann and compassion for our family.

For the beautiful flowers, thank you to the Wowchuk Family of Kelowna, The FHQ Tribal Council, the Yorkton Tribal Council, FNUC, Fort Qu'Appelle Town Council, and Karen Main Family.

Thank you to Brad Braithwaite of Valley Bake and Coffee Shop for catering our lunch and Tara Whitecap and Shelley Misssens for all that delicious Bannock.

Thank you to the health professionals and staff at ANHH, Eagle's Nest, Rising Bear Healing Centre, White Raven Healing Centre, Fort Qu'Appelle Primary Health Care Centre and Regina General Hospital, and, special thanks to Jann's Home Care Team.

Thank you to Pasqua First Nation for their support. Thank you to the Fort Qu'Appelle Legion, and last but not least, to Elden and Megan at Conley Funeral Service for their great care as we respectfully ensured Jann's wishes were carried out.

With deep gratitude to all that honoured our baby sister, mom and loving partner …

–Lydia, Lorraine, Bernice, Ryan and Roland

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Obituary

Mary Sanderson

Sept. 6, 1938 – Sept. 9, 2026

Mary Sanderson, of Kennedy, Sask. passed away at the age of 88 years, leaving behind a life filled with family, friendship, hard work, community and many wonderful memories.

She was born on a farm between Kipling and Kennedy, Sask., to Jim and Klara Barta. From her early years on the farm, she developed a strong sense of independence and a love for bringing people together. She went on to open several restaurants, where her love of cooking and hospitality could truly shine. Sharing good food and welcoming people into her life were an important part of who she was.

She also opened a gift shop and proudly named it after her children, a lasting reminder of how much her family meant to her.

Her love of her community was evident in many ways. She served on numerous boards throughout her life. The last one being the President of the Kennedy Library Board. She was a strong advocate for reading and the importance of having books and libraries available to everyone. She believed in the value of learning and encouraged others to discover the joy of reading.

She will be remembered for her love of cooking, her independent spirit, her generosity and the special connections she made with those around her.

Particularly in her later years, she was fortunate to have many wonderful people beside her: her close friend Halina and husband Gerry; her caring neighbors Bonnie and Jim and Clare and Lorna; Amanda and children Danika and Spencer were a tremendous source of friendship and support; her angel with scissors, Connie and her favorite librarian Caroline and husband John. She was grateful for the care and assistance of Jill, a local EMT. Also the wonderful home-care workers who helped her remain at home and the caring staff at Deerview Lodge.

She is survived by her children: Veronica, Galen and Constance; her four grandchildren, who brought her great joy; brother Jerry; sister-in-law Doris; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her soulmate Galen Wahlmeier; her parents James and Klara; brothers Richard and Jimmy and sister-in-law Betty. She was also preceded in death by Molly, her beloved cat, who was a cherished companion.

She leaves behind a legacy of family, friendship, community service and love. Her kitchen, her restaurants, her gift shop, her work with the library and most importantly, the people whose lives she touched will all carry a piece of her memory forward.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memoriam may be made to the Kennedy Library, PO Box 217, Kennedy SK, S0G 2R0 or the Kennedy Memory Garden, PO Box 268, Kennedy, SK, S0G 2R0.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

Dignity Memorial

Place a Classified

and it will appear in 6 newspapers *at one cost*

email: production2@grasslandsnews.ca

Thank you

The family of Paul Nieminen of Whitewood would like to thank everyone who was there for us during his passing. Much appreciation to those who sent cards, donations and food. Thank you to the doctors and nurses at the hospitals in Regina and Moosomin. Also thank you to Mark and Matthews Funeral Home. - 46P

95th Birthday

Happy 95th Birthday to Jean Stadnyk on Sept. 24

Wishes for many more years,
Love your Family

Office Space For Rent

Clean, quiet, recently renovated spaces in a building close to downtown Melville. The space is great for professional or small business. Rent is $350/month, includes all utilities, cleaning service and directory signage. Call or Text, 306-728-1565 for more details.

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.

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

Firearms for Sale

FIREARMS FOR SALE – Cooey Model 64B semi auto 22 cal. with scope; Winchester Model 670 30-06 with scope, PAL needed. Located in Yorkton. 306-641-4666.

Personal

SENIOR WOMAN looking for friendly companionship with sincere single male 65+ for friendship and fun outings. Movies, dinner, and Sunday drives. Please mail to Box LL c/o Yorkton This Week, Box 1300, Yorkton, SK S3N 2X3.

Services

Indian Head Library

NEW HOURS

effective Sept. 4, 2026

TUESDAY
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – 1 - 5:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; 1 - 5 p.m.
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
THURSDAY
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; 1 - 5:30 p.m.
FRIDAY CLOSED
SATURDAY
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
CLOSED Sunday and Monday

Phone: 306-695-3922

tfc

Province Wide

THE KAMSACK TIMES is hiring a Local Journalism Initiative (LJI) Reporter to produce original civic journalism for Kamsack; Cote, Keeseekoose and The Key First Nations; and surrounding towns. Job is a term position until March 31, 2027. Apply with cover letter and three writing samples to Devan Tasa at dtasa@tasamedia.ca

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Brad 306-551-9411,
Nicole 306-660-7377

www.2sauctioneers.hibid.com

PL #333133

tfc

For Sale by Tender

The Village Kennedy offers for sale the following properties.

Property Description:

•Lot 15 Block 5 Kennedy, SK
Plan N334 Extension 0
Title: 106846814 *and*
•Lot 15 Block 5 Kennedy, SK
Plan N334 Extension 0
Title: 135640908

SEALED TENDERS must be submitted in an envelope marked "Property Tender" addressed to the Village of Kennedy: Box 93, Kennedy, SK S0G 2R0. Tenders must be received by the office or postmarked by 3:00 p.m. on: Oct. 2, 2026. Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted. Successful bidder will have 90 days to provide payment of the property purchase.

Dated the 10th of September, 2026.

Jennifer McMillan
Administrator
Village of Kennedy

CLASSIFIED RATES

(based on 25 words or less)

Obituary Deadline Tuesdays 12 Noon

MasterCard VISA

1 week: $15.00 • **2 weeks:** $20.00 • **3 weeks:** $25.00 • **4 weeks:** $30.00

Additional weeks: $7.50 • **Deadline:** Tuesdays at 12 noon

1-844-GNG-NEWS

Local fire departments part of massive 2025 wildfire response

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Fire departments and municipalities across the Grasslands News coverage area were among those providing services during a year in which Saskatchewan experienced one of its most destructive wildfire seasons on record.

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's 2025-26 annual report shows substantial payments for goods and services to local municipalities and fire organizations, including $712,150 to Carlyle and RM No. 63 Fire Protection, $161,720 to Redvers Fire Department, $94,152 to the Town of Canora, $75,875 to the Town of Balcarres and $65,491 to the RM of South Qu'Appelle No. 157.

The financial disclosure does not specify how much of each municipality's payment was directly connected to wildfire response. However, the payments came during an extraordinary year in which local fire services and other outside resources were called upon to assist the provincial response.

Across Saskatchewan, 514 wildfires burned 2,979,471 hectares in 2025. While the number of fires was down from 595 in 2024, it remained above the 10-year average of 418.

The area burned was more than three times the 936,042 hectares lost in 2024 and nearly four times the 10-year average of 776,898 hectares.

Of the 514 fires, 297, or 58 per cent, were human caused, while 217, or 42 per cent, were caused by lightning.

The magnitude of the season required a significant mobilization of firefighting resources.

SPSA water bombers logged more than 900 flight hours, airtankers more than 300 hours and birddog aircraft more than 1,000 hours during containment and suppression operations.

The SPSA also maintained agreements with Indigenous and northern municipal fire crews to provide Type 2 firefighters for wildfire mitigation, prevention and response. The agency described those agreements as "instrumental" during the 2025 wildfire response.

The agency's financial disclosure illustrates how widely resources were drawn upon. In addition to the local payments, Buckland Fire & Rescue received $737,020, Melfort Fire Department $610,196, Lakeland & District Co-operative Volunteer Fire $560,661, Maidstone-Waseca & District Fire Board $187,750, and Garden River Fire Association $104,121 for services during the fiscal year.

The human impact of the wildfire season was even greater.

Approximately 12,000 evacuees staying in hotels or with family and friends received assistance through the SPSA's Emergency Crisis Support program, while more than 16,000 additional evacuees were supported by third-party providers.

The province provided $21.07 million for evacuation efforts and committed another $29.93 million over three years for recovery, including cleanup, debris removal, temporary housing and social wellness supports.

Denare Beach was among the hardest-hit communities. By the end of the fiscal year, cleanup, debris removal, environmental testing and related work had been substantially completed on more than 200 residential properties. More than $2.5 million was invested in temporary housing in Creighton and Denare Beach.

The province is also expanding its ability to respond to future wildfire seasons.

The SPSA is replacing its aging land-based airtanker fleet with four Dash 8 aircraft. The first Q400AT arrived in May 2025 and became operational in July. It flew 45 hours on five missions during its first season and dropped approximately 93,500 litres of retardant, including during the Beauval complex fires.

The remaining three aircraft are expected to arrive by 2028.

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Friday Sept. 18th 9:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday Sept. 19th 9:00am - 4:00pm
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Email: brydenconstruct@xplornet.ca
www.brydenconstructionandtransport.ca

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Rural Municipality of Wolseley No. 155

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

Councillor for Division 2
Councillor for Division 4
Councillor for Division 6

will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during normal office hours until Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 at 4 p.m. local time.

Prescribed nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Dawn Oehler,
Returning Officer

Notice of Call For Nominations

The Rural Municipality of Cupar No. 218

Public notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

- Councillor for Division No. 2
- Councillor for Division No. 4
- Councillor for Division No. 6

will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during normal office hours until Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 4 p.m. local time.

And on Nomination Day Wednesday, October 7, 2026 from 9 a.m to 4 p.m.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office located at 113 Landsdowne Street in Cupar, SK

Dated this 8th day of September, 2026.

Nikki Czemeres
Returning Officer

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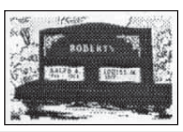
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NOTICE OF POLL

Town of Lemberg

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that:

1. A vote will be held for the election of **Councillor (2)**
2. The vote will take place on: **Wednesday, the 14th day of October 2026, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Town Office, 332 Main Street, Lemberg, SK.**
3. I will declare the result of the voting at the Town Office, 332 Main Street, Lemberg, SK, on Thursday, the 15th day of October 2026, at the hour of 9 a.m.

NOTICE OF ADVANCE POLL

Town of Lemberg

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that provision has been made for an advance poll.
Advance voting will take place on **Monday, October 5, 2026, between the hours of 11 a.m. 3 p.m.** at the Town Office, 332 Main Street, Lemberg, SK.

Dated this 18th day of September 2026

Victoria MacDonald
Returning Officer

ALL ELIGIBLE VOTERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY MAY VOTE – VOTER IDENTIFICATION WILL BE REQUIRED

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RM of Willowdale No. 153

Notice of Call for Nominations

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

Councillor: RM Willowdale No. 153 Div. No. 2
Councillor: RM Willowdale No. 153 Div. No. 4
Councillor: RM Willowdale No. 153 Div. No. 6

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the municipal office, and during regular business hours on September 18th to October 7th, 2026 at the municipal office.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office located at 711 Lalonde Street Whitewood, SK.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Chrissy Bodnarchuk, Returning Officer

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

NOTICE of Call for Nominations

Rural Municipality of Cana No. 214

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:
COUNCILLOR: RM of Cana No. 214 - Division No. 2
COUNCILLOR: RM of Cana No. 214 - Division No. 4
COUNCILLOR: RM of Cana No. 214 - Division No. 6

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the municipal office, and during regular business hours on September 17th to October 7th, 2026 at the municipal office.

**** A completed Public Disclosure Statement MUST accompany a Nomination Paper ****

Nomination Forms and Public Disclosure Statements may be obtained from the municipal office located at: 110 – 5th Ave. E. Melville, SK or on the municipal website at www.rmofcana.ca

Dated this 17th day of September, 2026.

Kali Apps, Returning Officer

RM of Francis No. 127

Notice of Call for Nominations

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

- COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 2
- COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 4
- COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 6
- By-Election COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 5

Will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office located at PT NE 32-14-14 W2, in the RM of Francis No. 127, Saskatchewan (Township Road 150 & Range Road 2144), during normal office hours until Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 at 4 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office.

Contact the RM of Francis No. 127 municipal office by phone 306-245-3256 for further information.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Shala Kanasevich, Returning Officer

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Rural Municipality of Chester No. 125

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

Councillor for Division 2 - RM of Chester #125
Councillor for Division 4 - RM of Chester #125
Councillor for Division 6 - RM of Chester #125

will be received by the undersigned at the Municipal Office during normal office hours until Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 at 4 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office at 104 Main St., Glenavon, SK.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Brittany Knoll,
Returning Officer

NOTICE of CALL for NOMINATIONS

Rural Municipality of McLeod No.185

Public notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

COUNCILLOR: RM of McLeod, No. 185, Division No. 2
COUNCILLOR: RM of McLeod, No. 185, Division No. 4
COUNCILLOR: RM of McLeod, No. 185, Division No. 6

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and during regular business hours from September 18th, 2026 to October 7th, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Municipal Office located at 102 Main Street, Neudorf, SK.

Nomination Forms and Public Disclosure Statements may be obtained from the Municipal Office.

**** Nomination Forms must be properly executed and accompanied by a Public Disclosure Statement. ****

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Chantelle Ottenbreit
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Form H *(Section 66 of the Act)*

RM of Stanley No. 215

Public notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

Councillor for Division No. 2
Councillor for Division No. 4
Councillor for Division No. 6

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. local time at 238 Third Avenue West, Melville, SK, and during regular posted office hours on September 17 to October 7, 2026.

Nominations forms may be obtained at the municipal office; 238 Third Avenue West, Melville, SK.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2026.

Rhonda Schmaltz,
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

RM of Indian Head No. 156

Public notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

COUNCILLORS: Division 2, 4 & 6

will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during normal business hours (Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed 12:30 to 1:00 p.m.) until Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office.

Dated this 18th day of September 2026.

Tracy Luscombe
Returning Officer

Notice of Call for Nominations

(Municipal Elections)

Rural Municipality of Montmartre No. 126

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

Councillor: RM of Montmartre No. 126 Division No. 2
Councillor: RM of Montmartre No. 126 Division No. 4
Councillor: RM of Montmartre No. 126 Division No. 6

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Municipal Office, 136 Central Avenue, Montmartre, SK, and during regular business hours on September 18th, 2026 to October 6th, 2026.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the Municipal Office, 136 Central Avenue, Montmartre, SK.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Dale Brenner
Returning Officer

NOTICE of CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Rural Municipality of Grayson No.184

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

COUNCILLOR: RM of Grayson No. 184 Division No. 2
COUNCILLOR: RM of Grayson No. 184 Division No. 4
COUNCILLOR: RM of Grayson No. 184 Division No. 6

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and during regular business hours from September 18th to October 7th at the Municipal Office located at 131 Taylor Street Grayson, SK.

Nomination Forms and Public Disclosure Statements may be obtained from the Municipal Office.

Nomination forms must be properly executed and accompanied by a Public Disclosure Statement and a current Criminal Record Check.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Sarah Dietrich, Returning Officer

RURAL MUNICIPALITY LAJORD NO.128

Notice of Call for Nominations

RM of Lajord No. 128

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

- Councillor for Division 2
- Councillor for Division 4
- Councillor for Division 6

Will be received by the undersigned or an appointed nomination officer at the municipal office, located at 4 Railway Avenue, Lajord, Saskatchewan, during normal office hours until Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 4 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office.

Please note, a criminal record check (Bylaw 296) and a public disclosure statement must be submitted with nomination forms

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Lynette Herauf,
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Rural Municipality of Abernethy No. 186

Public Notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

Councillor: RM of Abernethy No. 186 - Division 2
Number to be Elected: 1
Councillor: RM of Abernethy No. 186 - Division 4
Number to be Elected: 1
Councillor: RM of Abernethy No. 186 - Division 6
Number to be Elected: 1

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the RM of Abernethy No. 186 Municipal Office, 201 Main St., Abernethy SK S0A 0A0, and during regular business hours from September 18, 2026 until 4 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at the RM of Abernethy No. 186 Municipal Office.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the Rural Municipality of Abernethy No. 186 Office, 201 Main Street, Abernethy SK S0A 0A0.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2026.

Karissa Lingelbach, Returning Officer

Gardener's Corner

Fall plant sale: time to add some new plants

By Debbie Hayward
Grasslands News

A gardener's work is always at hand, and if you are seeing some spots that need replenishing in your garden, then keep in mind that the Yorkton and District Hort Society will be holding its Fall Plant Sale on Friday, Sept. 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Parkland Mall, Yorkton.

Fall is a great planting time for new perennials in the garden: they have time to establish while it's a bit cooler, and will be settled in before winter; so, take a look around your garden and see if there is some area that needs amending and can benefit from some interesting new plants.

There will also be some houseplants at this sale too, so something for everyone! That's Friday, Sept.18.

Our garden work in recent days has been the beginning of closing off this year's garden. We harvested the last of the tomatoes, pulled out the plants, and pulled out our beans and cucumbers.

We also had a couple spruce trees removed. They were lovely - about eight feet high - but sadly they were outgrowing our available space. The trees were volunteers that we never had the heart to pull out when they were cute little baby trees and, as they do, they grew quickly into trees that were no longer suitable in our garden. But the resulting space has now opened a whole new area where nothing grew before, so we will have to do some landscape planning and make some new garden plans. That's exciting!

One task that is still waiting to be done is to cut back our grape vines, so let's chat for a moment about end-of-season care for grapes. Mom's gardening books had information for fall and winter care of grapes in milder areas, so I went to one of my favorite information sources, the University of Saskatchewan (gardening.usask.ca/gardening-advice) for good solid information that is definitely in line with our climate.

I knew from other grape-growers that trimming is important, but the confidence of their years of growing grapes was far beyond what we are comfortable with, so we wanted step-by-step instructions.

The U of S advice says that we can cut back 90 per cent of the grape vine in the fall -- 90 per cent!

That sounded kind of scary to me, but we know how fast they grow, so when spring comes the vines can easily and quickly come again. We don't have to worry about cutting vines that might be giving us grapes, because grapes will come on the new wood.

Another bonus about this serious pruning in our climate: if we make sure to leave buds on the stems that remain, they will be safe from winter chills because they will likely be below the snow. We know that snow is a wonderful insulator, and quite often when we have a tender plant or shrub, we make a point of shovelling extra snow over it (clean snow with no ice-melt!) so that it has a good layer of snow protection all winter.

It seems that keeping the base of the plant protected is the main thing, and the vines are not so worrisome. I'm not saying that the first few drastic snips of our vines might not be a little nerve-wracking, but it will be good to do that last major task in a few weeks. I am hoping to make a grapevine wreath if the stems are still pliable enough.

The Yorkton and District Horticultural Society will be having a meeting in October, but this is a 'members only' meeting for planning and business. Visit our website, www.yorktonhort.ca for information about upcoming events.

Have a good week of fall work in your garden.

Terry Fox to be honoured on $5 bill

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

In September, many students and community members will join to walk or run in memory of Terry Fox. As they recall his aspirations and make their own contributions to life-saving research like he envisioned, a $5 bill is being designed to honour the Canadian.

Terry Fox was born in Winnipeg and grew up near Vancouver. He was diagnosed with bone cancer at age 18, which required his leg to be amputated in 1977. This experience and his interactions with other cancer patients inspired him to embark on a Marathon of Hope in April 1980.

Fox endeavored to run from coast to coast across Canada, raising awareness and funding for cancer research. He hoped this would lead to researchers finding a cure for cancer.

Fox was forced to end his journey after running 5,373 km across the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, and part of Ontario because cancer had spread to his lungs. He passed away in June 1981.

Although Fox was unable to achieve his goal, Canadians and other supporters around the world have carried on his mission. Since the first Marathon of Hope, the Terry Fox Foundation has promoted the famous Canadian's legacy by facilitating the annual Terry Fox Run fundraiser in communities across the country.

The official date for this year's Terry Fox run is Sept. 20, and numerous fundraisers will take place across Canada that day. Many more will be scheduled on alternative dates, such as the Terry Fox run organized by Whitewood School on Sept. 11 and Indian Head schools on Sept. 18. These initiatives garner tremendous support, and the foundation announced a few months ago that it had raised more than $1 billion over the past four decades. In 2025 alone, communities and schools in Saskatchewan raised $1,130,663 for the Terry Fox Foundation.

While schools and community members plan to support cancer research through another season of fundraising runs, the Bank of Canada is also preparing to honour Terry Fox. In December 2024, the Bank of Canada announced that Fox would be featured on a new $5 bill. An advisory council reviewed more than 600 nominations for the new bill and shortlisted eight individuals, from which Fox was chosen.

Like other Canadian bills, the currency will be made from polymer and include security features. It will be mostly blue in colour, and vertically oriented with a portrait of Terry Fox. Producing a new bank note involves several stages including research and development, design, and production. The Bank of Canada is in the early development phase for the new $5 bill.

Earlier this month, the design for a new $20 bill featuring King Charles III was revealed which will enter circulation in 2027. The $5 bill with Terry Fox's portrait will be issued sometime after that happens. The existing bank note featuring Sir Wilfred Laurier will continue to circulate until the Terry Fox bill is produced. The Bank of Canada intends to later include Sir Wilfred Laurier on a $50 bill.

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RM of Silverwood No. 123
Invites Applications for the Position of

EXPERIENCED HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

The R.M. of Silverwood No. 123 is now accepting applications for an experienced full-time heavy equipment operator.

Eligible applicants should have knowledge of road maintenance and construction, equipment operation, and have a basic mechanical aptitude. Additional duties may include culvert installation, equipment repairs, signage and shop work as well as others. The holding of a Class 1A license would be an asset. Salary will be negotiated based on experience and qualifications.

Please forward resumes stating experience, qualifications and references by October 6th to:

RM of Silverwood No. 123
P.O. Box 700
Whitewood, SK S0G 5C0
Phone: 306-735-2500
Email: rm123@sasktel.net

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

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Pilot Butte

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF PILOT BUTTE
Notice to Review a Discretionary Use

Pursuant to Section 55 of The Planning and Development Act, 2007, the Council of the Town of Pilot Butte gives notice to review a Discretionary Use Application, and the details are as follows:

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: A Legal Secondary Suite in the Basement of New Single-Detached 2 storey dwelling already under construction.

Civic Address: 424 Lafarge Street in the Hillside Park Development, Pilot Butte

Legal Address: Lot 38, Block 45, Plan 102137329

The affected land is outlined in red in the attached figure.

INTENTIONS
The applicant is proposing to construct a Legal Secondary Suite (self-contained dwelling unit) in the basement which is intended to accommodate revenue occupation.

PUBLIC INSPECTION
Any person may inspect the proposed Discretionary Use Application at the Town Office, located at 222 Diamond Place, Town of Pilot Butte, during regular office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies of the proposed Discretionary Use Application are available for inspection at the Town Office.

PUBLIC HEARING
Council will hold a public hearing on September 28, 2026, at 7:30 PM, in the Town's Council Chambers to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed Discretionary Use Application. Council will also consider written comments received at the Public Hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Town Office before the hearing.
All written submission should be forwarded with your full name and address to the Town Office or email to planner@pilotbutte.ca no later than September 24, 2026, at 2:00 PM.

For further information, please contact the Building Permit Officer at **306-781-3407**.

Dated this September 11, 2026, at the Town of Pilot Butte, Saskatchewan.

Felicia Opoku, Municipal Planner

PHARMACIST WANTED

Are you a Pharmacist looking for something different from the typical corporate pharmacy environment?

KrauseCare Pharmacy is looking for a Full-Time Pharmacist to join our independent, locally owned pharmacy in Fort Qu'Appelle.

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Whether you're already living in the Indian Head/Wolseley area or considering a move to Saskatchewan, we'd love to hear from you.

Interested? Apply today.

I·D·A KRAUSECARE PHARMACY

Local schools part of $270,000 Indigenous education partnerships

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Schools in Balcarres and Whitewood are among those participating in Indigenous student success partnerships representing approximately $270,000 in funding this school year.

Prairie Valley School Division says it is continuing Indigenous Student Success Initiative partnerships during 2026-27 involving Whitewood School and Ochapowace First Nation, along with Balcarres Community School and the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council.

Bert Fox Community High School in Fort Qu'Appelle is also participating in a partnership with FHQTC.

The partnerships are outlined in a director's report scheduled to be presented to the Prairie Valley Board of Education on Sept. 16.

According to the division, the initiatives have developed locally through ongoing relationships between schools and their First Nations partners.

Together, the partnerships represent approximately $270,000 in funding for the current school year.

The funding will support collaborative programming and services intended to strengthen educational outcomes for Indigenous students.

PVSD did not provide a breakdown in the board report showing how the $270,000 will be divided between the individual partnerships or specifically what programs and services will be funded at each school.

The division says administration will continue working with the participating schools and First Nations partners as the agreed-upon initiatives are implemented.

The partnerships form part of broader Indigenous education work underway in Prairie Valley.

The division also reported that one Prairie Valley student has been selected to serve on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education's 2026-27 Youth Council, giving the student an opportunity to provide input to the minister and ministry officials on education policies, curriculum, programs and priorities.

PVSD is also participating in a provincial study connected to early literacy through seven elementary schools offering English and French programming.

The study is part of the province's work to implement kindergarten to Grade 3 reading screening and develop provincial literacy assessment practices.

The Prairie Valley Board of Education will receive the director's report at its Sept. 16 meeting.

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