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NEW CHIROPRACTIC SERVICE! Some great news for the Kerrobert area, as it was announced last week that beginning Tuesday, January 23, Dr. Cameron Taylor will be travelling weekly from Saskatoon to the Kerrobert Courthouse where he will be offering chiropractic care to the community. Appointments can be booked on his Facebook page (taylorchiropractic).



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Province making waves globally

International outcomes exceeding expectations for Q3

Saskatchewan continues to tell its story on the global stage, which has led to a host of new trade partnerships and opportunities for the province in the third quarter of the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

"We are very proud of our companies here in Saskatchewan and the work they do in providing sustainable energy solutions, resources, commodities and food to every corner of the planet," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Through the government's ongoing international engagement, we are continuing to see the expansion of our products into new markets. These efforts

also attract significant investments into our local economy, which create jobs and opportunities in communities across the province. Last year, we exported over \$50 billion worth of products around the world. This means prosperity here at home with over 22,000 new jobs created in the last year. The two are directly linked and that's why we're going to continue to work hard to engage and create opportunities around the globe."

This quarter has been especially productive for the province in terms of international missions.

Saskatchewan's international office network facilitated 22 trade and investment missions, including visits to Singapore, the Philippines, and the COP 28 climate summit in Dubai. These undertakings have set the stage for exciting economic developments that positively impact Saskatchewan's economy now and into the future.

"Economic Development Regina (EDR) has been pleased to partner with the Government of Saskatchewan on multiple inbound hosting and outbound international missions in Q3, including London, Warsaw, and most recently COP 28 in Dubai," EDR President and CEO Chris Lane said. "This important work has elevated Saskatchewan's and Regina's profile on the international stage, paving the way for new opportunities and economic growth."

During the province's successful mission to COP 28, a number of partnerships were announced. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) formalized cooperation between the Government of Saskatchewan and German biotechnology giant Bayer. This MOU allows the two parties to jointly develop sustainable agriculture technologies and practices, which will ultimately lead to lower greenhouse gas emissions in farming.

Other partnerships include the signing of letters of intent (LOI) between several Saskatchewan organizations, including the Saskatchewan Research Council, the University of Regina, and the Petroleum Technology Research Centre, with Khalifa University of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi. These partnerships highlight why Saskatchewan continues to be a global leader in sustainable agriculture and energy solutions.

On the labour recruitment front, Saskatchewan continues to show its commitment to attracting the best global talent. The most recent labour recruitment

mission to the Philippines led to 1,400 job interviews and over 39,000 job applications, as well as over 1,000 anticipated nominations for permanent residency through the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program.

Saskatchewan's Vietnam office supported education fairs and events on behalf of the Ministry of Advanced Education in Vietnam that welcomed over 6,000 people and saw participation from the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

"The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is pleased to see the successes stemming from the Government of Saskatchewan's international engagement strategy," Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Prahba Ramaswamy said. "Saskatchewan's commitment to fostering international partnerships not only creates more opportunities for our members and businesses on the global stage, but also positions Saskatchewan as a leader in sustainable agriculture and energy solutions. Additionally, the commitment to attracting global talent to address our labour market needs is both strategic and encouraging. These achievements reinforce our optimism about the continued growth and success of businesses in our dynamic landscape."

Right here at home, the City of Regina played host to the 2023 Pacific Northwest Economic Region

Economic Leadership Forum. The event brought together local, provincial, and state leaders in both public and private sectors to carry out in-depth discussions on key subjects affecting our regional economy. During the summit, regional partnerships were strengthened which will contribute to Saskatchewan's stable business environment for generations to come.

The province's economy has remained strong this quarter, as can be seen in the most recent export numbers. More than \$1 billion in goods were exported to eight separate markets this year, with a total of

\$41.3 billion being exported as of October 2023.




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 106 - 5th Avenue East
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TOWN OF KINDERSLEY Community Engagement Surveys

As a part of an engagement plan, the Town of Kindersley will be releasing a series of survey questions to gain feedback from the community. This feedback will be used for planning and attraction of programs, businesses, and services to serve Kindersley & District better!

Watch in the near future for our surveys to appear on our website and our social media channels!

Here's the link to the surveys:
<https://www.kindersley.ca/news-and-notice-community-engagement-surveys/>
 Keep checking back as we will have a new survey every couple of weeks at this link.

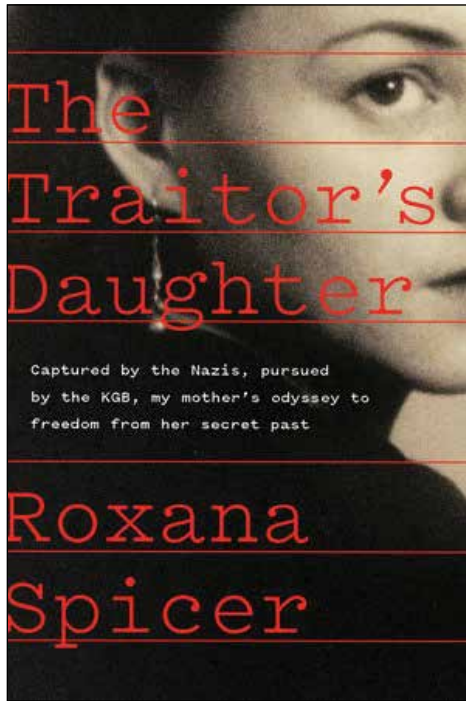




Left: Roxana and her Mom in 1956.

Right: "The Traitor's Daughter" will be on book shelves this summer.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ROXANA SPICER



'The Traitor's Daughter' reveals secrets of a former Netherhill resident

BY JOAN JANZEN

Like many people who lived through World War II, Agnes Spicer preferred to be silent about her war-time experiences, wishing to take them with her to her grave. Agnes was put to rest in the Netherhill Cemetery in 2009. However, the recent release of the book entitled "The Traitor's Daughter," written by her daughter Roxana Spicer, brings her past secrets into the light of day.

Agnes Spicer, along with her husband and family, lived in Netherhill from 1948 to 1998, where her husband Eric had a service station and Agnes ran a coffee shop. Later on, she ran the Homesteader restaurant in Kindersley. Their three children, Harold, Victor and Roxana, all attended school in Kindersley.

"I first took pen to paper to tell her story in Westberry school," Roxana said. It was there that her Grade 5 teacher first suggested Roxana become a journalist, words she obviously took to heart as she has become an award-winning journalist and television producer. "It's surreal to see it in print because I've been living with this story in my head for a long time," she said, referring to her mother's life.

Information for her childhood transcripts was gathered late at night when Roxana would hear the "Russian Red Army Choir" playing on their old phonograph. She would find her mother smoking a cigarette, enjoying a shot of vodka and willing to reveal never before heard nuggets from her past - a past which her friends from Netherhill and area knew nothing about.

Agnes was born Agnei Rosa Nicolaievna during the Bolshevik Revolution in Soviet Russia in the village of Chusovoy, the daughter of political revolutionaries. "I went back to my mom's birthplace and saw the log house she grew up in, which was still standing at that time," Roxana said. "Her last name was engraved on a wooden door, and it didn't match the name on my birth certificate. That was the first confirmation of her

family name, and I saw her first name on a long-form birth certificate."

Every detail of her mother's life was unearthed as Roxana spent decades travelling, researching, and questioning her mother and other surviving family members. She discovered her mother was born in Lenin's Soviet Union, served as a combat soldier in the Russian Red Army, and was captured by the Germans.

Roxana had believed her mother had spent most of the war as a slave labourer for the Germans until she discovered her mother hadn't arrived in the Nazi resort town until 1944. This meant she needed to find out where her mother had been for three years.

A Russian neighbour told Roxana her mother had been taken to Ravensbruck, a concentration camp for women. However, she was also told the blue-numbered tattoo on her mother's arm was evidence she had spent time at the notorious Auschwitz concentration camp.

"So many of the physical records were destroyed by the Nazis who were trying to cover up their war crimes," Roxana said. "I'm very proud I got two interviews with a Russian historian. She had her team of researchers help me piece together a big part of the story. My mother

had a double whammy: she escaped the Nazis and escaped from Soviet Russia, but she couldn't go home because she was branded a traitor."

Instead, Agnes escaped to Canada as the only Russian war bride amongst the 47,783 women who sailed into Pier 21.

"In order to write the book, you have to live the book," Roxana confessed. "I turned down other projects in order to finish the book; it's taken seven and a half years. It's been an intense experience."

"The Traitor's Daughter" can be ordered through all the major booksellers in Canada and will be shipped when it becomes available. It will also be on store bookshelves this summer.

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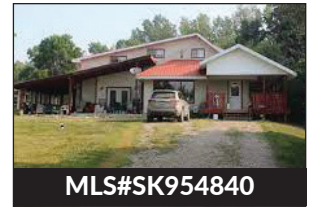
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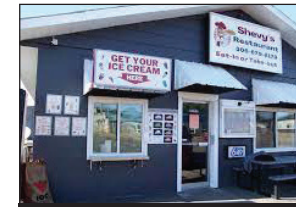
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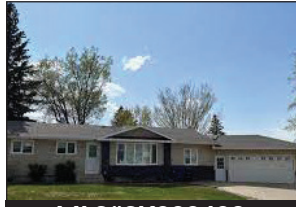
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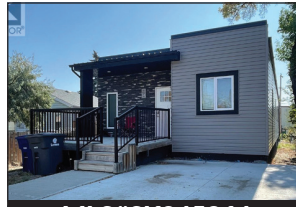
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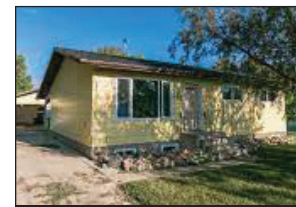
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OPINION: Helping those who have 'gone through the wringer'



BY JOAN JANZEN

Listening to a millennial explain the phrase "gone through the wringer" was interesting. I'm old enough to know what a "wringer" is, but this fellow had no idea.

He continued to explain to his listeners that it was a mechanical device used in the 20th century to clean clothes. The device has two rollers on top of each other and you put clothes through the wringer, along with detergent. The wringer presses all the impurities out and cleans the clothes, he explained.

The phrase describes people who have been through hard times and difficult situations. This week, I'm continuing on the topic of people who have "gone through the wringer"; they are the homeless.

During a visit to Victoria, BC, in 2019, I remember being surprised to see individuals living in tents. At the time, I thought it was just a case of a few people who were "going through the wringer." But today, Victoria has a number of encampments.

In 2021, Statistics Canada reported that 11.2 percent of Canadians reported they personally experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. In the fall of 2022, 44 percent of Canadians said they were very concerned with their ability to afford housing or rent in the near future; that's almost half of Canadians. The Canadian Alliance for Homelessness estimated there are

more than a quarter million homeless in Canada.

Homelessness is defined as those living in shelters, encampments or public spaces, but that only represents 20 percent of the homeless. The other 80 percent are couch surfing, which means they're going from one friend or acquaintance to another to find a place to sleep. That 80 percent also represents working people who can't find affordable rental accommodation. Many are just a couple of paycheques away from attaining a place to live and need a hand-up.

Faytene Grasseschi interviewed Stephen Wilsack and Matt Grant, two men who decided to do something to help the homeless in their community of Halifax, Nova Scotia. The men took a van to an encampment, served coffee, and handed out food, clothing, mattress pads, rain gear and sheets.

It took some time for them to gain the trust of those living in tents, but as they listened to their stories, they couldn't believe their ears and eyes as those stories tugged at their hearts. They realized many residents were basically two paychecks away from obtaining a place to live.

Stephen and Matt hadn't planned on staying for an extended amount of time, but then the weather changed. The storms came, and tents blew away, resulting in some people sleeping in their van. The two men knew they had to do something, so they set up 30 ice fishing tents and made a few modifications.

"We could put up 200 tents, and they would all be filled," Matt said.

"Matt and I don't judge people; if we have a spot for somebody, we will provide it," Stephen said.

Donors came forward, donations of supplies began coming in, and they set up a GoFundMe page that raised \$65,000 within two weeks. Now, they are able to buy additional equipment for their tents. Two months later, they are still on site.

"The cost of living skyrocketing has created an environment we have never seen in our lifetime," Stephen said. "Little did we know this has been happening across the country. It's a tragedy we've never seen before."

Both the mayor of Halifax and the person in charge of the city's encampment agree that Matt and Stephen's Red Tent Project is saving lives.

"We can't ignore this anymore. We have to do something. We have to start to talk about it," Matt said. "I wouldn't trade anything for what's happened to me these last few months. We aren't going anywhere."

However the sacrifice of their commitment to stay on site is not without challenges. Whenever you have that many people living in close quarters, it becomes a powder keg of dynamite. "Things can go south real quick," Matt noted. "We've both been threatened numerous times, but the same people who do the threatening are gaining our trust."

And that's because Matt and Stephen

listen to the many stories that touched their hearts.

"I have shed tears and hugged people," Stephen said. "It's best to perfect the art of reading people's body language and know when to engage and when to avoid them."

The duo has learned many valuable lessons during the past two months. "Don't pass judgment," Stephen advised. "This could be your son or daughter. Behind every drug addict and person with mental challenges, there's a real human being. Be compassionate. Love your neighbour; we have to get back to the basics."

Matt expressed similar thoughts: "Don't cast blame; look in the mirror and ask what have I done and how can I help? We encourage people to look after those in their own community." Every community has different challenges, and prairie dwellers are well aware that tents of any kind would not be a solution during a prairie winter. But Matt and Stephen discovered the benefits of combining forces with community, corporations and government to find solutions. Great things happen when everyone works together.

"Everybody thinks this is a big organization," Stephen said. "But it's literally Matt and I and our spouses helping." The two men are humanitarian heroes, demonstrating how their sacrifice of time and compassion can make a difference.



Letter to the Editor Policy

We welcome the opinions of our readers in the form of letters to the editor, as long as submissions do not include: • Profanity, vulgarity and/or obscenities • Slurs and/or personal attacks • Misinformation We reserve sole discretion to decide whether or not a reader submission will be published. We will not publish anonymous submissions or letters containing personal attacks. We reserve the right to edit or refuse all letters.



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Pop89: Epiphanies

BY MADONNA HAMEL

My first exposure to “epiphany” was to The Epiphany, the night the three men wisely gifted baby Jesus. A personal “epiphany” happens when one is hit by a profound insight. The insight usually comes unbidden, propelled by events or people. If we are lucky, the insight is a unifying experience, pulling fragments of a life together to make some kind of sense of it. If we witness the epiphany with a prepared or at least open mind, it

can be a watershed moment, a life-changing gift.

I’m still in Kelowna helping my sister tend to my dad after his stroke. And the insights are coming faster than I can register them. I’m writing this in a cafe, and it’s snowing outside and getting colder by the minute; not unusual weather for the Prairies, but it’s “insane,” according to the locals. I want to say: suck it up. But that would make me a jerk. Not an insight I prefer.

James Joyce, the Irish author who spent a lot of time claiming he rejected his Catholic faith, depended on Catholic symbols, metaphors, and feast days to enrich the depth of meaning and colour of his stories. Most of his stories are inside Catholic feast days. Perhaps, more than anyone else in the modern age, he is responsible for using the word “epiphany” to mean “eureka.”

This epiphany I drove to Rutland to get new tires and attend a late afternoon mass celebrated by my favourite priest, Fr. Pat. In 2013, he agreed to be the subject of a radio segment I made for CBC on the topic of Lent. Squatting over his hibachi, burning “last year’s Palm Sunday Palms for this year’s Easter ashes,” he explained to me things about my childhood faith I was never taught. You just need to remember this, he laughed, seeing me scribbling notes furiously, one epiphany following after another, “We all belong.”

He also said later that he hoped I received the Grace I came for. And, pointing at the line of cars of parishioners leaving the church, waiting to make left-hand turns onto the busy main road, he added: “And try not to spend all your Grace leaving the parking lot.”

Ten years later, I’m still taking notes, trying to be as surreptitious as possible in my pew at the back of Corpus Christi while he speaks of the gifts of magi.

Gift one is gold, he says, representing glory and kingship. I notice, for the first time, in just about every depiction of the Nativity, that the king bearing gold stands taller than the others, his head closer to heaven.

Gift two is frankincense. I recall an article about the National Gallery in London creating a soundscape to enhance the story of The Adoration of the Kings. Called Sensing the Unseen, it broadcast sounds of oxen lowing and bells ringing. But with the second magi’s presentation of incense, Fr. Pat reminds us of another sense, the sense of smell.

In Christ’s day, if you were wealthy, you hired someone to waft incense before you, clearing a space of the smells of dung and rot before entering. “Think about it,” he said, “of all the miracles Christ performed - eyes to see and ears to hear - nobody asked him to have their sense of smell revived.

No thanks, I’m good.”

I think about our recent days and weeks on the rehab ward of the hospital, passing the washrooms on the ward. The last thing to go is our bowels. We don’t like to mention it or talk about it. But the world is a cornucopia of smells. In fact, of all the senses, smell is the strongest memory sense. Incense is, therefore, the perfect gift for the second king, who is most often pictured kneeling on the ground. He is those of us in the in-between. Kneeling on earth, experiencing the very full, very human, sensual experience of being alive.

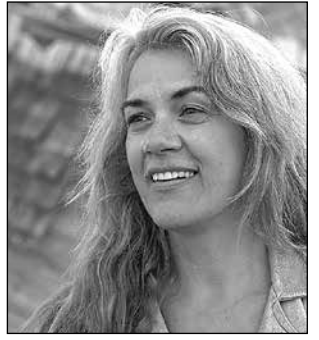
Then comes myrrh. Myrrh was used both for embalming and anointing. How perfect, I thought, looking at the king closest to the baby: he is practically laying down in his effort to get close to meet Jesus eye to eye. The magus lowest to the ground is giving the newborn child not only the anointing herb, fitting the prince of peace but also the herb to preserve the body of the one willing to do whatever it takes to save the rest of us.

So be thankful for all the gifts, Fr. Pat continues, because every acknowledgement makes it easier to be generous later. You see how much you have, and you are willing to give more. “Which is good,” he says, “because life is one long process of giving away, of simplifying. Generosity leads to detachment.” You become more and more able to let go, all the way to the end. So, nurture generosity and give glory for the generosity in your life, he says, “because this is what saves us when the crosses show up.”

James Joyce’s character Stephen Deadalus defines epiphany as “a sudden spiritual manifestation, whether in the vulgarity of speech or of gesture or in a memorable phase of the mind itself.” I’d agree that the key feature of most epiphanies is how their suddenness.

In his short story The Dead, Joyce’s character Gabriel has an epiphany after he makes a grand dinner speech. “We are living in a skeptical and thought-tormented age,” he says. He fears the next generation will “lack those qualities of humanity, of hospitality, of kindly humour.” But despite his intellectual ability to depict his times, he could not see his wife’s buried grief until that night, watching her listening to a song on the staircase.

As desperately as I’ve wanted an epiphany, I’ve never had one in an expected place or at an appointed time. But I know I must remain open to generosity- to receive and give equally, as long as I remain grovelling on this earthly ground.



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Alcoholics Anonymous

Get help with substance abuse.

Monday:	Kindersley AA Meeting 8:00 PM, Legion Hall, 118 - 2nd Avenue East AA Upstairs, Alanon Downstairs
Tuesday:	Brock AA Meeting 8:00 PM, Vesper Club, 1st Avenue North
Tuesday:	Leader AA Meeting 8:00 PM, Leader United Church, 1st St. W.
Wednesday:	Eston AA Meeting 8 PM, St. Andrew’s United Church, 1st St. W.
Friday:	Kindersley AA Meeting 8:00 PM, Lutheran Church, 807 - 3rd Ave. W.

Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday: Kindersley NA Meeting
7:30 PM, 113 Main Street

RURAL MUNICIPALITY MILTON NO. 292 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Milton No. 292 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 2017-08 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT
The proposed bylaw amendment will:

- Provide a definition of “Solar Farm”;
- Provide development standards for solar collectors and solar farms;
- Addition of solar collectors and farms as a discretionary use in the Agricultural Resource District (AR)
- Addition of solar collectors and farms as a discretionary use in the Commercial/Industrial District (C/I)

REASONS

- Facilitate the development of a solar farm in the Agricultural Resource District (AR) and Commercial/Industrial District (C/I)
- To facilitate and provide appropriate development standards for solar collectors and solar farms within the RM

Please note, that should Council adopt these amendments to the Zoning Bylaw, they will subsequently hold a public hearing and consider the following discretionary use applications:

- A Solar Farm proposed by MiEnergy on the SW 14-28-29 W3.

PUBLIC INSPECTION
Any person may inspect the bylaw at the Municipal Office, located at 220 - 1st Avenue North in the Village of Marengo, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies of the proposed bylaws are available at the Municipal Office.

PUBLIC HEARING
Council will hold a public hearing on January 24th, 2024 at 8:45 a.m. at the RMarengo Municipal Office, 20 - 1st Avenue North in the Village of Marengo to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Municipal Office before the hearing.

Issued at the Village of Marengo this 9th day of January, 2024.
Robin Busby, Administrator

FORMER KERROBERT MAYOR PASSES AWAY.

Former Mayor of Kerrobert, Erhard Poggenmiller, passed away on December 17, 2023 at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary due to rapidly progressing lung cancer. He was 72. Erhard was Mayor of Kerrobert for 12 years, as well as local business owner of Kep Industries. He was passionate about Kerrobert’s growth and instrumental in the hotel build on Pacific and the apartment on Atlantic, as well as involved the hospital project.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY MILTON NO. 292 DISCRETIONARY USE APPLICATION NOTICE SW 14-28-29 W3 Ext 2 {Surface Parcel #117964198}

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 55 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Milton No. 292 has received an application to develop a ground mounted solar farm within the SW 14-28-29 3.

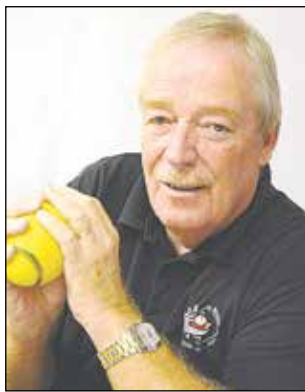
Solar Farms are a proposed discretionary use in the Agricultural Resource District (AR) and includes specific discretionary use evaluation criteria. This addition is part of the proposed bylaw amendment that must be passed by council and approved by the Ministry of Government Relations - Community Planning Branch.

Council will hold a public hearing on January 24th, 2024 at 8:45 a.m. at the Marengo Municipal Office located at 20 - 1st Avenue North 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 hearing, or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Robin Busby, Administrator
Rural Municipality of Milton No. 292

NHL coaches usually not unemployed too long

BY BRUCE PENTON



BY BRUCE PENTON
Sports Columnist

When Minnesota Wild fired coach Dean Evason in late November after a miserable start (5-10-4) to the 2023-24 season, they didn't have to struggle too long to find a replacement.

John Hynes, who had earlier National Hockey League coaching stints with New Jersey Devils and Nashville Predators, was experienced, successful and, best of all as far as the Wild were concerned, available.

Why Hynes was fired after four seasons in Nashville is somewhat of a mystery. He had four straight winning seasons — 134-96-18 from 2019-20 through 2022-23 — but word out of Nashville is that lack of playoff success (or no playoffs at all in 2022-23) was the reason for his dismissal.

Being fired as a coach in the NHL is usually not a career-killer. Only two of the top 50 winningest bench bosses coached only one team — Toe Blake in Montreal, who made the playoffs every year from 1955 to 1968; and Jon Cooper, currently the coach of the Tampa Bay Lightning, who has been in charge since the 2012-13 season and has a couple of Stanley Cups to his credit.

Currently, 12 of the NHL's 32 teams are being run by first-time head coaches. The other 20 teams are using 'veteran', 'experienced', 'seasoned' or 'retreads.'

Choose your description.

Some of the coaches with the most lengthy NHL resumes are John Tortorella, currently with his fifth team in Philadelphia; Rick Bowness in Winnipeg, whose Jets are his sixth team; Rangers' boss Peter Laviolette, also with his sixth team; and Paul Maurice in Florida, who has had six different head-coaching jobs, but two of the six were in Carolina,

Six different coaching jobs might sound like a lot, but it pales in comparison to the eight jobs held by Mike Keenan (Philly, Chicago, Rangers, St. Louis, Vancouver, Boston, Florida and Calgary) and Roger Neilson (Toronto, Buffalo, Vancouver, L.A. Kings, Rangers, Florida, Philadelphia and Ottawa). Neilson has the best hiring/firing story, falling victim to the whim/idiocy of former Toronto owner Harold Ballard, who fired Neilson on a Thursday in 1979 after a 2-1 loss to Chicago, the team's fourth straight defeat. Problem was, Ballard didn't have a replacement coach lined up and over the next 48 hours, he was turned down by a handful of prospective coaches. Desperate, Ballard rehired Neilson in time for Saturday night's nationally televised game, but asked Neilson to wear a paper bag over his head so viewers wouldn't know the coach's identity until the puck was dropped. To his credit,

Neilson said no to his boss's ridiculous request, and carried on coaching for the rest of the season, at which time he was fired for real.

The oldest phrase in the world of hockey is that 'coaches are hired to be fired.' It's never more real than in the NHL. With an additional few words: "... and likely to be rehired."

- Headline at the Canadian parody website, The Beaver: "John Tortorella convenes press conference to talk about how much he hates press conferences."
- Former Oilers' coach John Muckler, quoted in Steve Simmons column in Postmedia, about those great Gretzky-Messier-Coffey-Fuhr teams of the 80s never winning nine or more in a row: "Those '80s teams couldn't go nine games without finding a party."
- Joel Beall of golfdigest.com., doing a review of 2023 and a look-ahead to 2024: "We usually don't condone violence but each tour player should get to punch one fan per year who yells anything gambling-related at them."
- Headline at fark.com: "Randy Moss shares his pick for the greatest wide receiver of all time and, surprisingly, it's Randy Moss."
- Headline at the onion.com: "Silhouette Of Chainsaw, Blowtorch Visible Through NFL Injury Tent"
- Super 70s Sports, in the aftermath of the \$700 million Shohei Ohtani signing by the Dodgers, ran a picture of actor Lee Majors and said:

"The Dodgers could've built 116 bi-ionic men instead."

- Steve Simmons of Postmedia, on the Blue Jays' off-season inactivity: "You can't love what's happened this off-season with (Blue Jays' management) Ross Atkins and Mark Shapiro unless you love stadium renovations."
- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Aaron Rodgers is so far out of his league in trying to exchange funny barbs with Jimmy Kimmel. So, Aaron, go put your hair in a man-bun, lie about getting vaccinated and get into the concussion protocol right away."
- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Tennis pro Pablo Cuevas continues to draw fire for taking the 2017 Brazil Open title with an underhand serve on match point. 'Nothing wrong with winning underhanded,' said Bill Belichick."
- From fark.com, after the Blue Jays signed Isiah Kiner-Falefa to a two-year contract: "Bob Costas, defender of America's pastime, shades utility player IKF by saying ('no disrespect intended') if you're paying the IKFs of the world \$15 million for two years, baseball is in fine financial health."
- Steve Simmons again: "Aaron Rodgers is on a short list of both the greatest quarterbacks to ever play and the least likeable human beings around."

Care to comment?

Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

The best quips and quotes from the sports world in 2023: Part 2

BY BRUCE PENTON

- Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle, on the Oakland A's proposed move to Las Vegas: "A's will sell out every game in LV, as long as seventh-inning stretch is Seigfried & Roy turning their tigers loose to chase Wayne Newton."
- Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "I knew Vegas wasn't a real hockey town when they didn't boo Gary Bettman."
- From my cynical friend Bobby the Brat: "Alek Manoah of the Blue Jays is going to the all-star game; he's the pitcher for the Home Run Derby."
- Headline at fark.com: "Negotiations between the 76ers and James Harden are reportedly heating up over who gets to keep his facial hair."
- Jack Finarelli at his website sportscurmudgeon.com, on a proposed NBA in-season tournament helping to spike interest in the playoffs: "Hey, it could happen — just as it could happen that next year's Kentucky Derby winner will be a latter-day Mr. Ed and give his own

interviews after the race."

- Thomas Carrieri on Twitter: "Bary Bonds was so dominant he once got internationally walked during a Home Run Derby."
- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Victor Wembanyama is actually seven feet, three inches, in height. Tall, but well short of all the surrounding hype."
- Headline at the onion.com: "Bears GM Focused On Drafting Players Who Can Help Justin Fields Up After Sack"
- RJ Currie again: "Russian Olympic high-jumper Anna Chicherova said she's shocked at her most recent failed doping test. Not as shocked as the stadium crowd after she cleared the left-field bleachers."
- Sign displayed by a Mariners' fan at a Blue Jays' game in Seattle, aimed at all the Canadian fans in attendance: "Stanley Cup champions since '94: USA 29, Canada 0"
- Steve Simmons of SunMedia, on the \$360 million six-year contract signed by Jaylen Brown of Boston Celtics: "Jaylen Brown will be paid more than the Canadian Football League next season."
- Another onion.com headline: "Deshaun Watson: 'I've Learned From My Mistake Of Using My Own Name At Massage Parlors'"
- Jon Greenberg of The Athletic, on the baseball fight between Cleveland's Jose Ramirez and Tim Anderson of the White Sox, the latter being a one-punch loser: "(Anderson) should get seven games for starting it and another seven for losing. That'll teach him to square up like he's Sonny Liston."
- Headline at fark.com, after a Billy Walters' book detailed excessive gambling habits of Phil Mickelson: "Found out why Lefty wanted that LIV money"
- Brendan Porath of The Fried Egg on the PGA Tour's 'designated' events now being called 'signature' events: "So we're continuing to work our way through the entire thesaurus to find a word that will suggest that some events are more important than others."
- LIV-bashing English pro golfer Eddie Pepperell, on Twitter, after Harold Varner III said it was easier to

win on the PGA Tour than on LIV: "Unlike money, brains aren't in abundance on LIV."

- RJ Currie again: "The city council in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, discovered two employees had been collecting roughly two years of pay without working. 'That's a bad thing?' asked Randy Moss."
- German tennis pro Alexander Zverev on the scent of marijuana at the U.S. Open: "(Court 17) smells like weed. It definitely smells like Snoop Dogg's living room."
- Steve Simmons of SunMedia again, on the Braves' Ronald Acuna, with 60-plus stolen bases, getting married on the day of a game in Los Angeles: "Apparently, no one has ever walked down the aisle faster."
- And from the website onlinefun.com: "Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water."
- Headline at theonion.com: "Fan-Duel Promo Offers Complimentary \$100 Bet To First-Time Gambling Addiction Hotline Callers"

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10 calls that “missed the mark” in 2023

With 352,663 calls for service, our Saskatchewan RCMP’s Divisional Operational Communications Centre (DOCC) had another busy year in 2023 taking calls ranging from 911 mis-dials and false alarms to serious incidents regarding matters of public safety.

This year, several DOCC employees were recognized for their dedication, outstanding leadership and contributions to DOCC and the province of Saskatchewan. DOCC manager Jocelyn James was selected as the 2023 RCMP National Operational Communications Centre Commander of the Year and several call-takers and dispatchers were presented with the Sask911 Excellence in Teamwork Award and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials Canada Team Award for their quick and crucial response during the tragic events that occurred at James Smith Cree Nation and in Weldon in 2022.

Back in December of 2022, Saskatchewan RCMP announced their permanent addition of registered psychiatric nurses to DOCC. This program continues to provide a valuable service for 911 callers experiencing a mental health crisis and to the officers responding to scenes of mental health crises.

Here are the top 10 calls that “missed the mark” in 2023:

- 10. Rocky’s in the house – An individual called 911 to complain that their friend hit them in the face during their boxing match.
- 9. Bug alert – 911 dispatchers received a call from a person saying that wasps were getting into their house and they wanted an officer to help them re-



- move them.
- 8. What-a-mess – A frustrated parent called 911 complaining that their child wouldn’t clean their room.
- 7. Beep, beep – A caller advised that their smoke detector’s battery was low and requested an RCMP officer pick some up for them.
- 6. Sunshine – An individual called 911 asking if they could park their car on the opposite side of the street to avoid the sun hitting their leather interior.

- 5. We’re in this toget-hair – An individual called 911 asking for a hair salon’s phone number so the caller could book a haircut.
- 4. Hangry – A caller advised that their bag of chips got stuck in the vending machine and they were hoping an officer would come and help and get the chips unstuck.
- 3. Buzz off – A concerned individual called 911 to advise that their campsite was being invaded by bugs and that they had no bug spray.
- 2. Grass is always greener – A frustrated individual called to complain that their grass wasn’t cut properly by the person they’d hired.
- 1. Order up – An individual called to complain that the smell of the deep-fried rink food was too strong.

“As entertaining as some of these calls are, we want to remind everyone that 911 is for emergencies and emergencies only. When I’m answering calls that aren’t an emergency, it means I’m not available for someone else who really does need potentially life-saving help,” says Lee Rosin, Recruiter for the Saskatchewan RCMP Operational Communications Centre.

If you have a report to make, contact your local RCMP detachment or by calling 310-RCMP from anywhere in the province.



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KINDERSLEY RCMP Can you help identify this person?

Just prior to Christmas the Pharmasave in Kindersley had an unknown female remove over \$400 in items without paying. The Kindersley RCMP are requesting that if anyone has any information regarding the female in the picture to call the Kindersley RCMP Detachment or contact Crime Stoppers.

In addition to the theft Kindersley RCMP responded to a further 33 calls for service from January 1st to January 7th which included, but was not limited to, two traffic collisions, four suspicious person complaints, one impaired driving complaint and two assault complaints that resulted in charges.

If you need to report any suspicious activity in your community, please contact the Kindersley RCMP detachment by calling 306-463-4642 or their local police service. Information can also be provided anonymously through Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers by calling 1800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Aaron Halliday is Glidden's best-kept secret

BY JOAN JANZEN

Aaron Halliday is one of Glidden's best-kept secrets. Two years ago, this award-winning singer/songwriter and his wife, Sharyn, moved to Glidden. Aaron was recognized as Entertainer of the Year in 2021 by the International Singer Songwriter Association for his original music and has enjoyed three decades of doing what he loves.

"Our decision to move to Glidden, SK, was one of convenience," Aaron admitted. But they truly appreciate the beauty of the vast prairie landscape and the simpler life. Aaron was born into a musical family in Nova Scotia, but his musical career only began in the 1990s when he moved to BC.

"While we are in Canada, we rarely get time to stop long enough to check our mail and hit the road again," he confessed. The travelling musician made this observation from Mazatlan, Mexico, where he performs as a soloist three days a week for three hours at each show.

"So I need lots of different material to keep things fresh on a weekly basis," he noted. "It helps me to keep pushing myself to learn new songs and write new songs as well. I must say it is a very inspirational place for writing!"

Mazatlan is the couple's home away from home. "What I love most about performing in Mexico is the laid-back feeling," Aaron said.

While he entertains, Sharyn ensures all is going well for everyone attending, greeting them at the door. "She is the backbone of the operation," Aaron said. He credits his career taking off after he met Sharyn, who handles the business side of things. "Thirteen years of love and support together is proof that something great is happening."

When Sharyn and Aaron head back to Saskatchewan, they take the opportunity to visit their children



Singer/songwriter Aaron Halliday and his wife Sharyn call Glidden, Saskatchewan home. The travelling musician and his wife are currently performing in Mazatlan, Mexico and will return to Saskatchewan in the spring before beginning their Canadian tour. *SUBMITTED*

and grandchildren on both ends of Canada. Technically, Glidden is Aaron and Sharyn's home, but they spend a great deal of time touring throughout the country.

"The Canadian touring is amazing as I get to play with some of the country's best musicians and see this great country with Sharyn," Aaron said. "Our tour this year begins in Prince Edward Island in May, along with dates across the Maritimes and Ontario into July. We are in discussions with the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority about a series of performances

So I need lots of different material to keep things fresh on a weekly basis.

Aaron Halliday

during August before heading west to Alberta for performances there in September."

Their shows in Canada are much different from the performances in Canada, where they play theatres across the country for six months of the year with a full band. They perform a tribute to Alan Jackson as the main attraction of the tour, but Aaron also includes some of his original music.

"This year, I have become a member of the Saskatchewan Country Music Association, which is great!" Aaron said. As a member of the International Singer Songwriter Association, he has been nominated for International Entertainer of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year and Band of the Year for the awards ceremony in August held in Atlanta, Georgia.

When asked if he would ever perform in the local area near Glidden, Aaron replied, "Sharyn and I absolutely love our life of music and would love to find an opportunity to bring the show to a venue in the Kindersley/Glidden area at some point in the not too distant future."

Provincewide teachers' strike on January 16

Saskatchewan teachers announced last week, a one-day provincewide strike on Tuesday, January 16. The legal requirement for notice of job action is 48 hours. Teachers initiated a five-day countdown to provide families with advance notice and extra time to prepare. Additional notice also provided government an opportunity to change course. Should government change course and allow their negotiating committee to bargain on critical issues impacting students and raising serious concerns among teachers and parents, the countdown will be stopped, and committees can return to the bargaining table. As of press time, this was not the case.

"The last thing any teacher wants is for negotiations to impact the school year, so we are exhausting every possible option to get government back to the table," says Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation President Samantha Becotte. "At every turn, teachers have said that committees are getting us nowhere on these urgent issues, and a new deal must include items to address class size and complexity. Government remains intransigent, even after conciliation. This is not bargaining; they are making decisions based on politics

and student learning is suffering for it."

Government refuses to negotiate on class size and complexity, even after the Conciliation Board indicated support for teachers' position that class size and complexity can be addressed through bargaining. If the government's intransigence continues, additional job action will follow the strike on January 16.

A virtual Parent and Caregiver Information Night was being held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, January 14. STF President Samantha Becotte provided information about the status of contract negotiations, STF proposals, the potential for teacher job action and the state of education in Saskatchewan.

"Teachers and parents are united in wanting the best for their kids," says Becotte. "We want to provide families with as much information as possible. This is a fight for the future of publicly funded education in Saskatchewan, and schools need the support of our communities. I encourage everyone across the province to reach out to your neighbours and friends, contact your elected officials, and let them know that the students of this province deserve a government that will provide them with the resources they desperately need."

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UNITY, WILKIE & MACKLIN RCMP

Report for period ending January 8, 2024

UNITY

- RCMP received a complaint of uttering threats. This matter is still under investigation.
- Police received a report of a two-vehicle collision in Unity. There were no injuries and no charges were laid. Reported for insurance purposes.
- A 20-year-old male from Unity was charged with Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle during a traffic stop.
- RCMP received a complaint of a dog barking. The complaint was referred to the Bylaw Officer.
- A 45-year-old male from the Unity area was charged with two counts of Pointing a Firearm, two counts of Uttering Threats, Careless Use of a Firearm, and two counts of Assault while Choking after Members received a firearm complaint.
- Police received a report of a cow on the highway. Members located the owner of the animal.
- Members issued a 72-hour roadside suspension during a traffic stop.
- There were also two traffic complaints, three false alarms and three false 911 calls.
- RCMP conducted a wellbeing check at the request of a family friend.
- Members conducted another wellbeing check at the request of a family member.
- Police received a complaint of harassing communications. Members spoke to the subject of complaint.
- Members received a request to assist Emergency Medical Services with a patient.
- RCMP received a request to assist medical staff at Unity & District Health Centre with a patient.
- Police are investigating a complaint of theft.
- There were also four false alarms and one traffic complaint.



- complaint and issued two traffic tickets. The subject of complaint also agreed to pay for the window damage.
- Members conducted a property check at the request of a neighbour.
 - RCMP are investigating a sexual assault complaint.
 - RCMP received a report of a pig in the ditch. A local farmer retrieved the animal.
 - Police received a complaint of fraud. This matter is still under investigation.
 - Members spoke to an individual in regard to a child welfare concern.
 - RCMP received a report of a single vehicle collision. There were no injuries and no charges were laid. Reported for information purposes.
 - Members acted as mediators between two adults.
 - Police received a Mental Health Act complaint. Members spoke to the subject of complaint.
 - RCMP received a report of an individual not complying with a probation order condition. This matter is still under investigation.
 - Police received a Child Welfare Act complaint. Child and Family Services was notified. This matter is still under investigation.
 - There was also two traffic complaints.

MACKLIN

- RCMP received a complaint of harassing communications but there was insufficient evidence to proceed.

- Members issued a 72-hour roadside suspension during a traffic stop.
- Police received a report of an individual not complying with a release order condition. This matter is still under investigation.
- RCMP received a report of a two-vehicle collision in Macklin. There were no injuries and no charges were laid. Reported for insurance purposes.
- Police received a complaint of trespassing. The individual had left the area. Reported for information purposes.
- Members received a complaint of assault but it was unfounded.
- RCMP acted as mediators in a family dispute.
- Members acted as mediators in a child custody dispute.
- There were also two false alarms and one traffic complaint.
- RCMP issued a 60-day roadside suspension during a traffic stop.
- An 18-year-old male from Macklin was charged with Assault, Break and Enter and Mischief after Members received a complaint of a break and enter at a residence.
- Police received a Mental Health Act complaint. The subject of complaint was transported to hospital by Emergency Medical Services.
- Members received a request to assist Emergency Medical Services with a patient.
- RCMP received a complaint of theft from a motor vehicle. This matter is still under investigation.

Persons with information about crimes being committed in the Unity / Wilkie / Macklin areas are urged to call the Unity RCMP detachment at (306)228-6300; the Wilkie RCMP at (306) 843-3480; or the Macklin RCMP at (306) 753-2171. If you wish to remain anonymous, you may also call Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477, or *8477 on the SaskTel Mobility Network. Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$2000.00 for information which leads to the arrest of person(s) responsible for any serious crime. Crime Stoppers is anonymous and does not subscribe to call display, nor are your calls traced or recorded.

You can also submit a tip online at www.sask-crimestoppers.com

WILKIE

- RCMP received a complaint of theft but it was unfounded.
- Police received a complaint of a hit and run causing damage to a vehicle. This matter is still under investigation.
- RCMP received a complaint of a driver spinning vehicle tires and sending a rock through a residence window. Members located the subject of

New Highway Hotline camera installed at Macklin

The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to announce the addition of six new Highway Hotline cameras, bringing the total online cameras to over 50 locations. This expansion enhances the network, offering motorists improved travel insights.

"Our government continues to enhance the Highway Hotline's service to ensure motorists have more ways to plan their journey and make an informed decision," Highways Minister Lori Carr said.

The six new cameras are located on:

- Highway 14 near Macklin;
- Highway 6 near Dafoe;

- Highway 6 near Naicam;
- Highway 16 near Sheho;
- Highway 40 near Blaine Lake; and
- Highway 55 near Smeaton.

The network of camera locations can be seen online at <https://hotline.gov.sk.ca/cctv> or on the Highway

Hotline mobile app. Images are refreshed approximately every five minutes and provide Highway Hotline staff with regular updates on the highway conditions.

Snowplow operators across Saskatchewan's vast provincial highway network also relay road information to

their Highway Hotline teammates. For the safety of all drivers and the safety of equipment operators,

motorists are reminded to stay back and stay safe near snowplows, which create a mini blizzards when plowing. Snowplows pull over when safe to do so, roughly 10 to 15 kilometres, to let drivers pass.

The Highway Hotline can be downloaded as a free smartphone app, accessed at www.saskatchewan.ca/highwayhotline or by calling 511.

Snow removal and ice treatment for highways is based on their classifica-

tion and traffic volumes. For details about winter maintenance activities, visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/transportation/highways/highway-safety/winter-safety>.

The first four cameras were integrated into the Highway Hotline system in 2011. It included one along

Highway 2 near Weyakwin between La Ronge and Prince Albert; two along Highway 11 between Saskatoon and Regina with one south of Dundurn (Blackstrap) and another at Davidson; and one along Highway 3 near Paradise Hill northeast of Lloydminster.

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Twin Towers became a modern facility in the 1980's, with a 1,800 foot T-bar installed in 1986, after a lodge was built in 1984.

PHOTO (JAN. 25, 1999 WEST CENTRAL CROSS-ROADS)

Learning how to ski at Twin Towers ski resort

BY JOAN JANZEN

The town of Stranraer was home to Twin Towers Ski Resort, which opened in 1974 and continued to provide a place to ski for thirty years. A lot of kids who grew up in this area during the 1970's and 1980's learned how to ski on that hill. It was called Twin Towers because of the two television towers near the site at that time. It opened on January 19, 1974, exactly fifty years ago.

At that time it featured two runs and a cable tow, where skiers held on to individual handles as they were transported up the hill. Skiers were able to warm up in a heated waiting room that had a confectionery at one end, and night skiing was available on Friday evenings.

An old house had been moved on to the site and served as a ski equipment rental facility; three years later it expanded into a ski shop. In 1976 two more runs were added and an additional cable tow, and in 1979 a third tow and more runs were added.

The resort kept on expanding, as it became a popular hill where many youngsters learned how to ski. A lodge was built on site in 1984, followed by a 1800 foot T-bar two years later.

Up until the fall of 1993, snow for the ski hill was trucked in from surrounding farms, and at times contained dirt and rock. The long, slow process of moving snow meant the hill didn't open until mid-January. However snow making equipment was installed in the fall of 1993, making it possible for Twin Towers to become the official ski venue for the 1994 Saskatchewan Winter Games, based in Kindersley. The new equipment and guarantee snow enabled the resort to open in December.

Twin Towers drew people from all the surrounding communities, and even Saskatoon. During the 1997-1998 season, it was visited by a total of 10,000 skiers. This included students from both rural and city schools who came to visit.

Twenty-five years ago, on January 15th and 16th, 1999, the ski resort celebrated its 25th anniversary. An article in the January 25th issue of West Central Crossroads reported 180 skiers came out on Friday, January 15th for the occasion. Fifty skiers and boarders waved glow sticks as they participated in a torch lite parade, as they all skied together. After the lifts closed there was a huge fireworks display.

The celebration continued on Saturday morning with a pancake breakfast, afternoon races, relay races where teams raced down the hill holding glasses filled with water which they exchanged with teammates half way down the hill. All the instructors and pros participated in races before a social and supper got underway at the Stranraer Hall. Musical entertainment was enjoyed later in the evening, and the Ski Hill Anthem "Smoke on the Water" reportedly brought down the house.

Snow conditions and sunshine provided perfect conditions for skiing on that January weekend. The article went on to say Twin Towers owed its success to its volunteers and surrounding communities. Throughout its years of operation it served as a place for many beginner skiers to attain skills before moving on to the Rockies.



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Del Mondor named Saskatchewan Oilman of the Year for 2024

Brad Wall, Myron Stadnyk to be inducted as Hall of Famers

BY BRIAN ZINCHUK

Del Mondor of Weyburn is the 2024 Saskatchewan Oilman of the Year, while former premier Brad Wall and Myron M. Stadnyk will join him on stage as inductees to the Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Hall of Fame.

The announcement was made Jan. 10 by Dean Potter, chairman of the Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Hall of Fame committee.

The awards will be presented at the Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Show in Weyburn on June 5.

"The semi-annual Oil-Person of the Year award has been awarded for over 30 years now, recognizing many individuals who have contributed significantly to the Saskatchewan oil industry. The Committee also presents Hall of Fame awards semi-annually to individuals who were born and raised in Saskatchewan and have made significant contributions to the oil industry in Saskatchewan or elsewhere in the world," Potter said in a release.

"Del is the owner of Aldon Oils based in Weyburn, Saskatchewan and is recognized for his many worthy contributions to the Saskatchewan oil industry, both as an active operator developing oil and gas in southeast Saskatchewan and as an active contributor to community in both southeast Saskatchewan and Calgary. Del was born in Saskatchewan and attended the University of Saskatchewan," Potter said.

As for the Hall of Fame inductees, Potter said, "The committee is also pleased to announce the naming of Myron M. Stadnyk and Brad J. Wall to the Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Hall of Fame.

"Myron is a petroleum engineer based in Calgary and recognized for a successful career as an engineer with increasing roles of expertise and management leading to his role as former CEO of ARC Resources. His experience as a petroleum engineer began as a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and spans across all aspects of the western Canadian oil industry. Upon retirement, Myron now serves as a director on corporate boards.

"Brad Wall served three terms as Premier of Saskatchewan and during his tenure as Premier, he supported the oil industry growth across the province by shaping industry policy and encouraging individuals



Del Mondor



Del Mondor, right, was seen walking with then-Premier Brad Wall, centre, at the Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Show in June, 2015. Curiously, both are sporting beards these days. PHOTO BY BRIAN ZINCHUK

and corporations to succeed. Contributions to the oil industry during his term as Premier remain a lasting legacy to the oil industry in Saskatchewan. Brad is a resident of Swift Current, Saskatchewan and was educated at the University of Saskatchewan. Following retirement as Premier, Brad now serves on corporate and advisory boards in Canada."

Among his corporate board memberships, Wall is on the board of directors for Whitecap Resources Inc.

Since 1989, the Saskatchewan Oil Industry Board of Governors has recognized individuals who have made significant contributions to the petroleum industry in Saskatchewan and beyond.



Myron Stadnyk



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The Winter Happiness Challenge

Edited by Denise Leduc
 Published by Lilac Arch Press
 REVIEW BY MICHELLE SHAW

Depression can be a nagging companion over the winter months, so I grabbed this little book with great anticipation. To my delight, I found it provided a carefully curated toolbox to help readers through the cold and sometimes dreary months of winter.

The book grew out of a Facebook group that Denise Leduc started one November a few years ago, when she noticed that several people around her were going through a tough time. "I thought it might be fun to do some weekly challenges to bring some simple pleasures and joy to our daily rounds. I had been rereading some books on hygge [a Scandinavian term that evokes cozy, comforting and contented living, often through simple pleasures] and I thought we could explore various Scandinavian concepts to get us through the cold, snowy Canadian months."

The original members of the group invited others and before Denise knew it, more than 100 people from all over Canada, the United States and England had joined.

The group proved to be such an encouragement for herself and the other members that Denise began to conceive the idea of a book and decided to put out a call

for submissions to photographers, artists, and writers.

The result is a slim book packed with possibilities.

The Winter Happiness Challenge is divided into weekly sections spanning five months from November to March. There are weekly challenges and prompts interspersed with drawings, paintings, photographs, short stories, prose and poetry.

The book is jam-packed with ideas: reading challenges, recipes, feel good movie ideas, as well as suggestions on letter writing, writing a haiku and creating an Advent of Kindness.

I instantly connected with the book. I found that the weekly format gives me something to look forward to as winter progresses. I was also intrigued to discover that the photographs, stories and poems gave me a sense of connection and a realisation that I'm not alone: other people are going through this season with me.

I think the book can be used in various ways. Read it weekly, dip in and out on a regular basis, use it purely for inspiration or start your own on-line or in-person group.

Whatever way you choose, I think this little book will be a wonderful addition to your winter toolbox.

*This book is available at your local bookstore or from
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Saskatchewan's record job growth continues in December

22,100 jobs added year-over-year, with unemployment rate at five per cent

Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey shows employment in Saskatchewan reached a record 600,200 in December 2023, adding 22,100 full time jobs year-over-year, ranking second in the nation in terms of percentage change at 3.8 per cent. Saskatchewan ends the year with a seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate of 5 per cent, below the national average of 5.8 per cent.

"Saskatchewan is seeing remarkable job growth numbers with records broken month after month," Immigration and Career Training Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "This means more opportunity for Saskatchewan's people and a higher quality of life for our population. This growth doesn't just happen. This is the result of the government and employers working closely together to create the conditions for success. That is why the province is making strategic investments in growing our economy, including attracting investments worldwide through targeted initiatives, such as participating in COP 28 and the recent mission to Singapore and the Philippines, leading to a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people."

Saskatchewan saw both an all-time historical population (aged 15 and over) high of 935,700, and an all-time historical off-reserve Indigenous population (aged 15 and over) high of 112,100.

The province also saw record highs for the month of December, including:

- Saskatchewan Full-Time Employment: 494,200.
- Saskatchewan Male Employment: 322,400.
- Saskatchewan Female Employment: 277,800.
- Off-reserve Indigenous Employment: 64,300.

Saskatchewan's two biggest cities also saw major year-over-year growth in December. Compared to De-

ember 2022, Regina's employment was up 11,300, an increase of 8.1 per cent, and Saskatoon's employment was up 11,500, an increase of 6.1 per cent.

Off-reserve Indigenous employment was up 3,500, an increase of 5.8 per cent and Indigenous youth employment was up 5,000, an increase of 52.1 per cent, marking the third consecutive month of year-over-year increases for both.

Major year-over-year gains were reported for professional, scientific, and technical services, up 9,700, an increase of 33.4 per cent; educational services, up 5,500, an increase of 10.7 per cent; and wholesale and retail trade, up 3,500, an increase of 3.6 per cent.

In addition to Labour Force Survey figures, Saskatchewan also leads the nation's other economic indicators. The value of building permits rose 45.6 per cent in October 2023 compared to October 2022 (seasonally adjusted), and urban housing starts in Saskatchewan were up 108.2 per cent in November 2023, when compared to November 2022 (unadjusted). Saskatchewan ranked second among provinces in both these areas.



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Baby it's cold outside!

BY JOAN JANZEN

It's officially winter on the prairies! Until the beginning of January folks were enjoying temperatures which rose to plus 8 degrees, and highways with excellent winter driving conditions, devoid of snow.

But here we are in the middle of January, watching Old Man Winter pushing his weight around. The farmers welcomed the snowfall, but as for the accompanying frigid temperatures ... well let's just say 'not so much'.

School buses weren't running, car batteries were tested to their limits, and once again we can feel completely justified as we complain about winter. The good news is - winter will be shorter than usual, as we're already heading into the third week of January, and the extended forecast looks more more encouraging than the past week or so.



Pictures speak a thousand words, right?

PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN

New Provincial Drug Alert System launches

Last week, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Tim McLeod joined City of Regina Mayor Sandra Masters, representatives of the Regina and Saskatoon Fire and Police Services, and the Saskatchewan Coroners Service to mark the launch of a new Provincial Drug Alert System.

The new Provincial Drug Alert System will enable the Ministry of Health to better coordinate the issuance of drug alerts and assist partner organizations with monitoring the toxicity of illicit drugs across Saskatchewan.

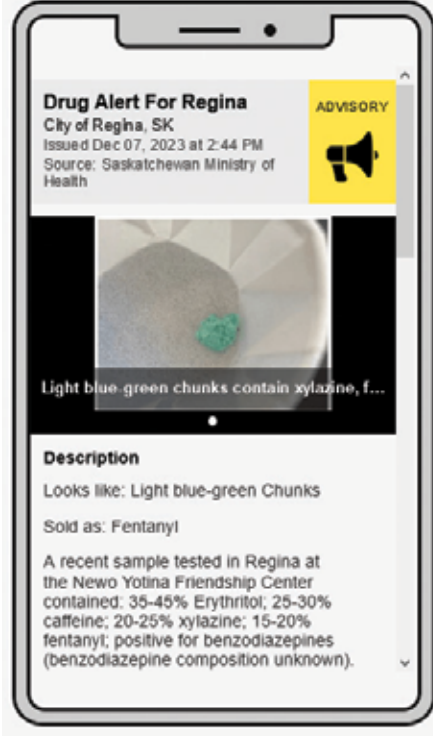
With the new system, drug alerts will meet at-risk people where they are at via text, email, and through the Alertable app, in addition to alerts that are currently posted by partner organizations at locations where services are provided. Anyone can sign up to receive a drug alert via text, email or through a downloadable app.

"The goal of drug alerts is to increase awareness of the dangers of illicit drugs and the presence of other toxic substances that further increase the risk of overdose and death," McLeod said. "An important part of our message to people who have yet to walk the path to recovery is that there is hope for recovery, and there is help available through treatment."

Drug alerts will be issued by the Ministry of Health based on information provided from partner organizations such as the Saskatchewan Coroners Service, Regina and Saskatoon Fire Services, and drug checking sites in Saskatoon and Regina.

Alerts are issued when partners report to the Ministry of Health the following situations:

- more than expected number of individuals seen by paramedic, or in hospital, with an overdose over
- a short period of time;
- multiple severe outcomes (ICU admissions, deaths) over a short period of time;
- multiple overdoses in persons who use or live in



- the same area or location or who report use of a
- common substance;
 - overdoses that are difficult to reverse with naloxone; and
 - concerning substances in circulation that have the potential to cause harm or death.

Signup information is available at saskatchewan.ca/drug-alerts or text JOIN to 1-833-35-B-SAFE (352-7233).

The new Drug Alert System is an initiative under the Saskatchewan Drug Task Force (SDTF), a multi-agency collaboration that includes representatives of the Regina and Saskatoon Police Services, the RCMP, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), the Ministries of Health, Social Services, and Corrections, Policing, and Public Safety, and Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Mark Arcand.

Other initiatives through the SDTF include the Overdose Outreach Teams (OOT) pilot project, which pairs first responders with health care professionals to conduct outreach to people who are at risk of overdose.

The OOT pilot project is a collaborative initiative between the SHA and Regina Fire and Protective Services and the Saskatoon Fire Department.

The Government of Saskatchewan has committed to doubling the number of addictions treatment spaces across the province by adding at least 500 more spaces under the new Action Plan for Mental Health and Addictions. A total of 168 spaces have been announced so far, including 26 post-treatment spaces at St. Joseph's Addiction Recovery Centre in Estevan, 32 intensive outpatient treatment spaces through Possibilities Recovery Centre in Saskatoon, 14 inpatient treatment spaces at the former Drumming Hill Youth Centre facility in North Battleford, 36 virtual treatment spaces through EHN Canada, and 60 inpatient treatment spaces through EHN Canada near Lumsden, close to Regina.

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Investing \$14.7 million in Crop Research

Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit have announced a total of \$14.7 million to support crop-related research in 2024.

Invested through Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) and the Strategic Research Initiative (SRI) under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), the commitment includes \$12.2 million for 56 ADF research projects and \$2.5 million to support an SRI project identifying solutions to manage root rot in pea and lentils.

"Investments like these are vitally important to the future of our agriculture sector," MacAulay said. "These research projects will help our farmers adopt more sustainable practices and new methods to counter the effects of drought, diseases and other environmental challenges they face."

"Funding agriculture research is the first step to helping our producers stay competitive and profitable,"

Marit said. "Our growth targets for the end of this decade rely heavily on agriculture and agri-food products."

Our commitment to projects like those being funded today, with strong support again this year from our industry partners, is an investment in Saskatchewan's innovative, export-based economy."

The ADF provides support annually and on a competitive basis to research projects with the potential to create growth opportunities and enhance the agriculture industry's sustainability and competitiveness. This year's successful ADF projects cover a range of research topics, including enhancing flax abiotic stress tolerance; determining the impact of agronomic products containing calcium on soil conditions, plant growth and greenhouse gas emissions; understanding, mitigating and managing Group 14 resistant kochia; and, developing a wet fractionation process for novel oat protein ingredients.

The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan work closely with industry partners to leverage funding to support research that aligns with industry priorities. An additional \$4.2 million was contributed by the

following industry partners to support this year's ADF research projects:

- Alberta Grains
- Manitoba Canola Growers
- Manitoba Crop Alliance
- Prairie Oat Growers Association
- Results Driven Agriculture Research
- Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission
- Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission



- Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission
- Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission
- Saskatchewan Pulse Growers
- Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission
- Western Grains Research Foundation

The SRI provides targeting funding to address complex challenges facing the agriculture sector. Through the SRI, Dr. Sabine Banniza at the University of Saskatchewan will accelerate the discovery of root rot solutions for pea and lentil crops in Saskatchewan. This project will develop new options to manage root rot and will contribute to preserving and expanding the pea and lentil acres in our province. It represents a \$4.2 million research investment, with \$2.5 million in government funding through Sustainable CAP and \$1.7 million coming from Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG), Western Grains Research Foundation, Alberta Pulse Growers Commission, Results Driven Agriculture Research and Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers.

"The continued support from federal and provincial governments of the ADF is greatly appreciated," SPG Board Chair Winston van Staveren said. "The funding supports SPG's highest priorities in research like root disease, weed management and more. These investments will work to address growers' top concerns and work to improve profitability and competitiveness."

The ADF and SRI are supported through Sustainable CAP, a five-year, \$3.5-billion investment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments that supports Canada's agri-food and agri-product sectors.

This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

Remarkable growth in construction investment

Year-over-year increase of 83.9 per cent puts the province first in the nation

Statistics Canada is reporting significant growth in Saskatchewan's building permits. The total value of building permits in the province reached \$249 million in November 2023 (seasonally adjusted). This is an 83.9 per cent increase from November 2022, and the highest increase in all of Canada. Saskatchewan also experienced notable month to month growth, showing an increase of 19.3 per cent compared to October 2023.

"Continued strength in building permits showcases our province as the prime location for construction and investment across the nation," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "These figures demonstrate the confidence that individuals and businesses have in making real and tangible long-term investments in our province. It is a reflection of the stability and strength of our investment climate that we have worked hard with our partners and stakeholders to create."

These figures build on Saskatchewan's strong economic performance. Most recently, Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey showed employment in Saskatchewan reached a record 600,200 in December 2023, adding 22,100 full time jobs year-over-year. This ranked Saskatchewan second among the provinces in terms of percentage change at 3.8 per cent. Saskatchewan ended the year with a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 5.0 per cent, below the national average of 5.8 per cent.



According to Statistics Canada, wholesale trade has also increased by 22.9 per cent in October 2023, when compared to October 2022 (seasonally adjusted). The total value of wholesale trade for October 2023 is nearly \$5.7 billion. Investment in building construction continues to grow, reaching \$493 million for October 2023.

Building permits are the dollar value of construction permits for residential and non-residential buildings.

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Submit Tenders by
4:00 p.m., January 15, 2024 to:
R.M. of Winslow No. 319
Box 310, Dodsland, SK S0L 0V0
Phone: 306-356-2106 • Fax: 306-356-2085

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GROWING THROUGH GRIEF:

How are you really doing?

BY ANGELA CLEMENT



If you are someone who is grieving you have probably just come through a really tough round of emotional days and nights. It is a happy and jolly and festive time of year and there you are just trying to put one foot in front of the other. I get it. I was there too! I used to wonder when I would ever be happy again. Could I ever celebrate the New Year again and look forward to what was ahead? It is hard to imagine happiness without our loved ones beside us like they used to be.

Has anyone ever asked you how you were doing after you have lost a loved one? What did you say? Often when we are grieving we just know that people don't want or need to hear how we are really doing and so we will reply with the usual response which is "fine", "OK" or "good". It is just easier than trying to explain how we are truly feeling, sometimes we don't even know ourselves and quite honestly we know others don't really want to hear about our sadness or our painful moments. Not many ever want to sit with you in your emotional pain.

Have you ever thought about answering honestly? How do you measure how you are doing? I have noticed that a lot of people who are grieving gauge how they are doing by how much they cry. I did this too! If I was crying a lot, well I wasn't doing very well. If I had a day where I didn't cry, well I was doing better. If someone cries a lot at a service or out in public we say they aren't handling the loss. When they don't cry and they are keeping really busy we say they are doing really well.

Now crying is one way of releasing emotion but it

is not a way to gauge how well you are handling your grief. Let me explain. There are several healthy ways to express your emotions after a loss. We call this mourning. We can do this by drawing, exercising, painting, journaling, dancing, crying and so many other ways. There is no right or wrong way to express the internal process of grief that is going on inside of us. There is no right or wrong time to do it either. We have to decide what works best for us. Crying is a very common way to express our grief. It is not a measure of how we are doing.

We often judge ourselves and feel guilty about our crying. We think that we should be doing better. When we cry in public we say "sorry". We feel bad about crying. We try not to cry. We are successful for a while, but the emotions build up and eventually we might end up crying again. It is a vicious circle and it will continue until we put a cog in that cycle.

I have learned over the past two years to set a little time aside each day in the morning and in the evening to check in with my emotions. I do this because I get busy and my emotions sometimes are riding under the surface of my consciousness. I take some deep breaths and I take inventory about what I am feeling physically as well as emotionally. I spend some time leaning into that and if I feel like crying, well I do that and there is no judgment that goes with it. Crying is like a medicine that helps us heal. It is a special balm to help heal a wound. It is something to welcome and to allow. It is one way I take care of me.

Next time someone asks how you are doing, tell them honestly but don't base it on how much you cry. Base it on your overall being and wellness in that moment. Don't judge yourself in how you process your grief. Allow it to take place naturally. If you need help or support, please reach out. Sign up for my newsletter at www.healingenergy.world. Sending lots of love, Angela.

OBITUARIES

COST: \$110 plus GST (up to 750 words, includes photo)

Will be uploaded to our website

www.yourwestcentral.com

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Eulogies & Poems will be charged an extra .20¢ per word.

You can submit it to us directly or ask your funeral director to submit it on your behalf.

email: kate@yoursouthwest.com

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440 Pacific Avenue
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Kindersley Town Council Briefs

On Monday, January 8, 2024, Town Council held their Regular Meeting.

7.1: The Council of the Town of Kindersley resolved to award Luk Plumbing as the successful bidder for the WCEC Refrigeration Tender. The Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) were directed to enter into an agreement in the amount of \$937,936.00.

7.2: Council resolved to award Reinbold Electric as the successful bidder for the WCEC Electrical Design Build Tender. The Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) were directed to enter into an agreement in the amount of \$82,466.70.

7.3: The Council of the Town of Kindersley resolved to direct the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to enter into an Agreement with Saskatchewan



Power Corporation for a Utility Easement.

8.1: Town Council resolved to accept as submitted the list of accounts as paid by the Town of Kindersley in the amount of \$520,328.67.

9.1: Council resolved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following items for acceptance and filing:

1. Downtown Kindersley Association Minutes – December 5, 2023
2. Kindersley Museum Minutes – December 12, 2023
3. SaskWater Monthly Report – December 2023
4. Walking Trail Committee Minutes – December 4, 2023
5. WRLI AGM Minutes – November 22, 2023
6. WRLI Board Meeting Minutes – November 22, 2023



West Central Crisis & Family Support Centre Inc.

OUTREACH SERVICES

We now have established Satellite Offices in two surrounding communities. On Tuesday, there is a counsellor in **Kerrobert** and on Wednesday, there is a counsellor in **Eston**.

VICTIM SERVICES

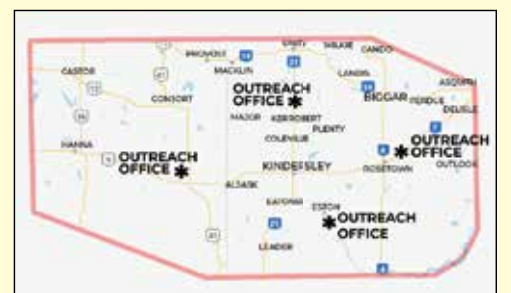
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- Critical Stress Management

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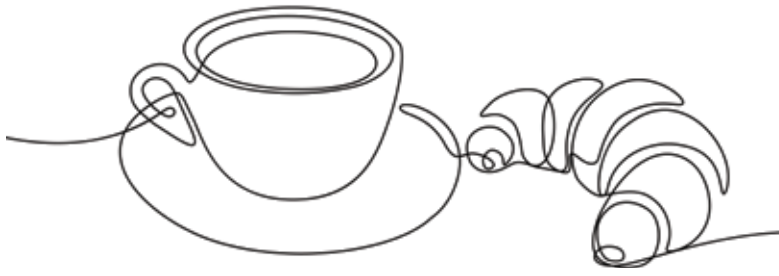
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coffee time

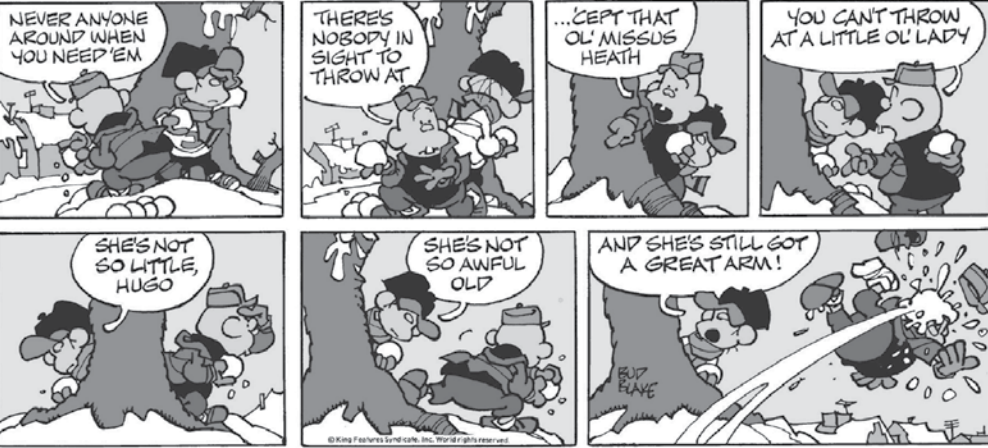
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



The Spats

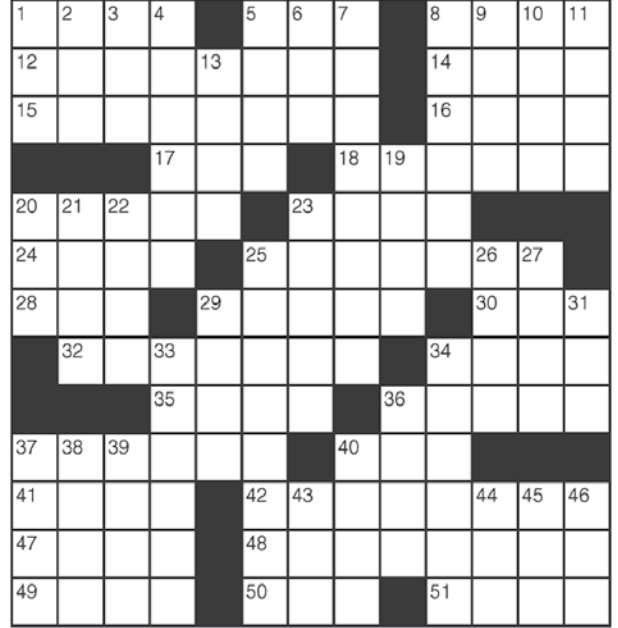
by Jeff Pickering



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Muscat's land
- 5 Droid
- 8 — Romeo
- 12 Squid dish
- 14 Crowd noise
- 15 Earring shape, often
- 16 Rock's Moetley —
- 17 Little louse
- 18 Great —
- 20 Spiral
- 23 Cannon of film
- 24 Sofa brand
- 25 Cake mixes
- 28 Links org.
- 29 Los —, California
- 30 Satisfied sigh
- 32 "Say something!"
- 34 "Alfred" composer
- 35 Flower part
- 36 Run-down
- 37 Sudden bursts
- 40 Aachen article
- 41 Dog's bowlful
- 42 Fly at a low altitude
- 47 Grate
- 48 Points of view
- 49 Pro votes
- 50 Bit of butter



DOWN

- 1 Calendar abbr.
- 2 Actress West
- 3 Pie — mode
- 4 Land created by C.S. Lewis
- 5 Lisa's brother
- 6 Spanish gold
- 7 Apex
- 8 Esoteric
- 9 Chicago's Mayor
- 10 Mythic man-goat
- 11 War god
- 13 1509, to Cato
- 19 Back muscles, for short
- 20 Trendy
- 21 Heart charts
- 22 Bound
- 23 Fact
- 25 Pastry store
- 26 Scarce
- 27 Hourglass fill
- 29 Portal
- 31 "Psst!"
- 33 Prevents, legally
- 34 Virgil epic
- 36 Billboard
- 37 Poet Teasdale
- 38 Theater production
- 39 Church section
- 40 Work on proofs
- 43 Clean air org.
- 44 — polloi
- 45 Single
- 46 Calif. clock setting

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9			2	7		6
4		8				1
	7	3				5
	6		5		4	
1			4			3
8	2		6		1	
6		5			3	
	2		7		9	
7		6	1			8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

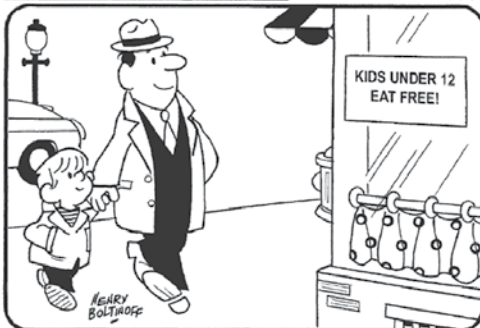
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

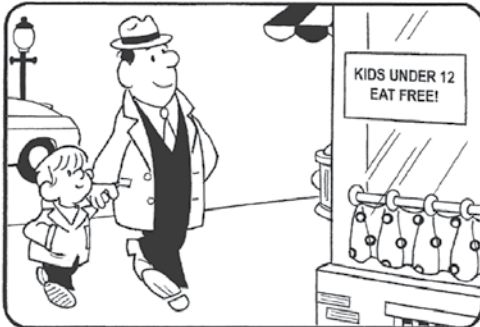
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Buttonholes are added. 4. Bricks are lower. 5. Headlight is missing. 6. Shirt is different.

- Trivia Test Answers!
- 1. Panama and Colombia.; 2. Epiphany.; 3. Gru.; 4. Khaled Hosseini.; 5. Fonzie.; 6. Saxophone.; 7. Five.; 8. Freddie Mercury.; 9. Columbia.; 10. Kentucky.

8	2	5	1	9	6	3	7	4
4	6	9	7	8	3	2	1	5
1	7	3	4	2	5	8	6	9
7	5	1	3	6	9	4	2	8
3	9	2	8	7	4	7	6	5
6	4	8	5	1	2	9	3	7
5	8	4	6	3	7	1	9	2
1	2	1	6	9	7	8	5	4
3	6	7	3	6	2	7	4	5

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

H	E	L	L	I	X	D	A	N				
S	P	E	A	K	U	P	A	R	N			
C	A	L	A	M	A	R	I	C	R	O	U	E
T	E	A	R	D	R	O	P	C	R	O	U	E
N	I	T	P	L	A	I	N	S				
O	M	A	N	B	O	T	A	L	F	A		
I	K	E	A	G	A	T	O	S				
P	A	T	H	E	D	G	E	H	O	P		
S	P	A	T	E	S							
N	I	E										
A	V	E	S									

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: The Darien Gap separates which two countries?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is Three Kings Day also known as?
3. MOVIES: What's the name of the supervillain character in the animated film "Despicable Me"?
4. LITERATURE: Who is the author of "The Kite Runner"?
5. TELEVISION: What is the name of the motorcycle-riding greaser in the sitcom "Happy Days"?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which musical instrument does former President Bill Clinton play?
7. GAMES: In the game Battleship, how many ships does each player have at the beginning?
8. MUSIC: Which famous rock singer was born with the name Farrokh Bulsara?
9. HISTORY: What was the name of the first U.S. Space Shuttle?
10. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Mammoth cave system, believed to be the longest in the world?



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Retail Liquor Store Permits

A Retail Store Permit (RSP) allows a business to sell beer, wine and spirits in closed containers for off-site consumption.

SLGA permits are being made available through a public online auction beginning Jan. 22 and ending on Jan. 31 in the following municipalities:

- RM of Bjorkdale
- RM of Cymri
- RM of Duck Lake (2)
- RM of Hoodoo
- RM of Meadow Lake (3)
- RM of Pleasantdale
- RM of Vanscoy (3)
- RM of Blucher (2)
- Denare Beach
- RM of Eye Hill
- Marshall
- RM of North Battleford
- RM of Rosthern (2)

Please note that the auctions are for the interest in the permit only. There are no physical buildings or assets. Successful bidders will be required to meet SLGA's licensing requirements before receiving the permit.

Further details are available at: www.slga.com.



NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Estate of Janet Marion Krogstad, late of Alsask, in the Province of Saskatchewan, Deceased.

ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 25th day of January, 2024.

SHEPPARD & MILLAR
Solicitors for the Estate of Janet Marion Krogstad
Barristers & Solicitors
113 1st Avenue East
Box 1510
Kindersley, Saskatchewan
S0L 1S0

Attention: MONTE J. SHEPPARD

NOTICE

The deadline for nominations to the **Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame** is midnight on March 15, 2024.

Call 306-446-1983 or 306-441-5886 for further info.

Email: saskbaseballmuseum@sasktel.net

or reliability of such advertisements. For greater information on advertising conditions, please consult the Association's Blanket Advertising Conditions on our website at www.swna.com.

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2024 JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



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

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

- Have a positive lifestyle
- Have had the ability to overcome life's challenges
- Have a strong sense of caring and responsibility
- Are dedicated to community and school
- Inspire others
- Are between the ages of 8 to 18

This year four deserving youth will receive a **\$3000 bursary**, provided by SaskPower, to use towards their post-secondary education. Someone you nominate could be one of them.

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2024

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GRANDVIEW NO. 349

Seasonal Equipment Operator

The R.M. of Grandview No. 349 invites applications for the position of Seasonal Equipment Operator/Maintenance Person. The successful candidate should have previous, large equipment, tractor and mower experience as well as general equipment maintenance knowledge. Applicants must hold a current driver's license.

Duties will include, but are not limited to:

- Mowing, Road Maintenance, Culvert and Sign Installation and Equipment Maintenance and Repairs.

The R.M. of Grandview offers an attractive benefit package with Health and Dental and Short-Term Disability coverage as well as Long Term Disability and Life Insurance. Salary will be negotiated commensurate with related qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume by February 7, 2024 to the following address:

R.M. of Grandview No. 349, Box 39, Kelfield, SK S0K 2C0
Phone: 306-932-4911 • rm349@xplornet.com

The R.M. of Grandview thanks you for your interest in working for the municipality; however only individuals selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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Saskatchewan labour market remains historically strong

In 2023, the annual average unemployment rate was second lowest among provinces at 4.8 per cent

Statistic Canada's annual labour force statistics show that Saskatchewan continued to grow a strong and engaged labour force last year.

Saskatchewan had the second-lowest annual average unemployment rate among the provinces at 4.8 per cent, which was well-below the national unemployment rate of 5.4 per cent. The province had 592,000 people employed in 2023, an increase of 10,700, or 1.8 per cent, from 2022, and its working-age population (age 15 and over) reached an all-time historical high with 924,400.

Full-time employment increased to 489,000 in 2023, with 2.4 per cent more people working in full-time

jobs compared to 2022. "Once again, Saskatchewan continues to demonstrate our economic strength through significant growth

in our labour force in 2023," Immigration and Career Training Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Enabling job growth that supports Saskatchewan's economy and its people is critical to building a province that

provides a high quality of life for everyone. The data reflects the work the government is undertaking to

address labour force shortages and maximize growth potential to ensure Saskatchewan residents have

access to even more employment opportunities." Saskatchewan is on track to reach its goal of 100,000

new jobs by the end of 2030.

In 2023, the largest job gains year-over-year were reported in:

- Professional, scientific and technical services, up 5,600;
- Educational services, up 4,000; and
- Transportation and warehousing, up 3,100.

Regionally, the largest employment gains were in Regina, up by 6,400, and Saskatoon, which increased by 5,500 from a year ago.

With the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to building a broad based labour force, the province recorded all-time historical highs for off-reserve Indigenous youth employment (aged 15-24) reaching 12,500, and overall female employment reaching 275,400.




West Central Abilities
Now Hiring for the Position of
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Summary of Position:

- Reports to the Board of Directors. Holds overall responsibility for all aspects of the organization's operations.
- Is accountable for internal (staff, client) and external (families, suppliers, community, funders, etc.) relationships.
- Is responsible for the successful leadership, management, and implementation of the strategic goals and objectives of the organization according to Board direction.
- Holds primary responsibility for staff and operations of all programs, as well as ensuring of proper administration of the policies, legislation, and the collective agreement.

Interested applicants please email your application/ letter of intent to tamara_wiebe@cooperators.ca by noon on or before January 19, 2024.

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

HELP WANTED

The Rural Municipality of Chesterfield No. 261 is accepting applications for:

Seasonal Employees

Duties to include: Rock picking, grading, dust control, grass mowing, putting up signs, etc.

Applicants must have a valid class 5 driver's license.

The RM offers competitive wages and benefits (health & dental plan, disability insurance, pension plan).

Please reply by mail, fax, e-mail or in person to:

R.M. of Chesterfield No. 261, 304 Main Street, Box 70, Eatonia, SK S0L 0Y0
Fax: 306-967-2424 or Email ceo@rmofchesterfield261.ca



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Please email resume and abstract to:
dshapka@steelview.ca Call/Text 780-753-0711

Community newspapers are living history books, recording all facets of the lives of community residents, as well as providing news that is relevant to them.

RM OF PRAIRIEDALE NO. 321
Heavy Equipment Operators
Utility Operators

The R.M. of Prairiedale No. 321 is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- 1 Full-time seasonal Grader Operator**
- 1 Full-time year round Grader Operator**
- 2 Full-time seasonal Utility Operators**

The R.M. of Prairiedale No. 321 offers competitive wages in accordance with qualifications and experience in addition to a benefit plan. Please contact the RM office for job details. Applications stating previous experience and references will be received at the municipal office by mail, fax or email on an ongoing basis until suitable persons are found to fill the positions.

R.M. of Prairiedale No. 321
Box 160, Major, SK S0L 2H0
Email: administrator@rmofprairiedale.ca
Phone: 306-834-1201 • Fax: 306-834-1202

Only qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Town of Kerrobert
Office Administrative Assistant
Part-time (21 Hours/Week)

The Town of Kerrobert appeals to all with its outstanding location, family-orientated environment, excellent recreation facilities and numerous services and is located at the junction of Highways #21, #35 and #51.

The Town of Kerrobert requires an **Administrative Assistant** who will be required to perform an array of administrative duties. The job is considered Part-time at 21 hours/week. This is 3 days per week at 7 hours a day. The actual days of the week can be determined.

The Administration Assistant is also accountable for drafting, reviewing and editing time-sensitive correspondence. The Town of Kerrobert is looking for an experienced, career-minded Administration Assistant. We require a positive team-oriented person to set and meet goals and to ensure that every member of the team is delivering in accordance with the high standards of the Town's defined goals.

The Administration Assistant shall be responsible for planning and overseeing all administrative support and office services for the Town, as well as the coordination and communication of office activities, reception duties, shipping and receiving, supplies and stationery, administrative help for the Operations department and general troubleshooting.

Other duties, relevant to the position, shall be assigned as required.

The Town of Kerrobert offers competitive salary packages, an incredible work environment, and career advancement opportunities.

A full job description is available from the undersigned. Qualified applicants should send a cover letter and resume to the Town of Kerrobert at:

Tara Neummeier - Chief Administrative Officer
Box 558, Kerrobert, SK S0L 1R0
kerrobert.admin@sasktel.net

Deadline to apply is January 30th, however it will stay open until filled.

We sincerely thank all applicants for their interest, however, only candidates under consideration will be contacted.

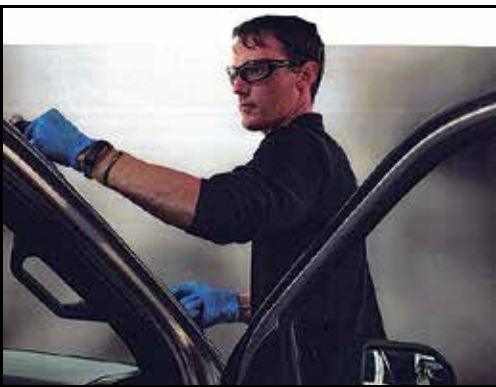
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ALSASK SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

- 2nd Annual Ukrainian New Year Feast 4:00-8:00 PM at the Alsask Drop-Inn Centre. All-you-can-eat sausage, perhogy and fixings for \$25 / person or \$10 for children under 12 years-old. Under 5 are free. Come out and support this seniors' fundraiser. For more info or to help out, call Dave 306-463-0169.

BROCK WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- 2024 Brock Annual Open Bonspiel. Meat Prizes! \$200 entry per team. Call or text Jill Speir 306-460-9701 to enter. Come enjoy home cooked meals and a fun time!

BURSTALL SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- Town of Burstall Community Supper & Charity Auction. Proceeds going towards ongoing maintenance and operating costs of the Burstall & District Community Complex, Swimming Pool, Arena, Curling Rink and Golf Course. Auctioneer: Donnie Peacock.

EATONIA SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

- Paint Night at TJ's Pub & Grub. Class starts at 7:00 PM sharp. Seating at 6:45. Call 306-967-2227 for more information.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

- BINGO 7:00-9:00 PM at TJ's Pub & Grub.Presented by St. Paul's United Church - Senior's Quilting Club. For more info call 306-460-8975.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- Paint Night at TJ's Pub & Grub. Class starts at 7:00 PM sharp. Seating at 6:45. Call 306-967-2227 for more info.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- BINGO 2:00-4:00 PM at TJ's Pub & Grub.Presented by St. Paul's United Church - Senior's Quilting Club. For more info call 306-460-8975.

ESTON

- Eston Wheatland Centre Chase the Ace - Draws every Wednesday at the Centre. Ticket sales 4-7 PM. Draw at 7:30 PM. See our Facebook page for details. Lic#LR23-0068.
- Wheatland Centre Potluck Supper fourth Friday of each month 6:00 PM. \$5.00. Bring your own utensils. Coffee & tea provided.Wheatland Centre Bingo - 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month

7:00 PM. Regular Bingo plus Bonanza, 50/50 Draw. Must be 14 years of age. Call 306-962-7117 (ask for Linda) for more info.

- Youth Curling Mondays 4:30-5:30 PM. Call Garrett for more information 306-962-4460.

- Youth Bowling Mondays 6:30-7:30 PM. Call Garrett for more information 306-962-4460.

- Adult Bowling Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. Call Garrett for more information 306-962-4460.

- Mens Curling Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. Call Garrett for more information 306-962-4460.

- Mixed Curling Thursdays at 7:30 PM. Call Garrett for more information 306-962-4460.

HOOSIER JANUARY 26 & 27

- Hoosier Rec Board's 21st Somewhat Semi-Annual Outdoor Curling Bonspiel. Silent Auction and Door Prizes. Sign up by call/text Christy 306-460-9190 or Keegan 306-460-6896. Live Calcutta Friday night. "The Prairie Dogs" Saturday night.

- Sunday Service Hoosier Community Church 10:30 am at the Community Hall. Contact Joel Hamm 306-460-7056 or Curtis Kornelson 306-460-7327.

KERROBERT

- Storytime at the Kerrobert Library the first and third Thursday of every month at 10:30 AM.

KINDERSLEY FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

- Kindersley & District Arts Council presents Jake Vaadeland & the Sturgeon River Boys 7:30 PM at the Norman Ritchie Centre.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

- St. Paul's United Church Robbie Burns Supper 6:30 PM. Doors open at 6:00. \$30/person. Limited seating. Deadline: January 18. Contact the church office at 306-463-6508.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- Movie Trivia Night 7:30 PM at the Norman Ritchie Centre. Doors open at 6:30. To guarantee a table (5-6 people), message us on Facebook (@kindersleytrivianights) \$10 each.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- Kindersley Band Fruit Drive delivery. Band students are selling now. Prices

are: Full case of grapefruit = \$72; 1/2 case of oranges or grapefruit = \$44; 1 dozen oranges = \$18; 10 grapefruit = \$20.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- Kindersley Screen Arts presents "What Happens Later" 4:00 PM at the Sunset Theatre. \$10 cash at the door.

- FREE! Drop-In Soccer (Ages 15-99) Westberry School Gym Thursdays at 8 PM; Elizabeth School Gym every Friday at 7:00 PM. All welcome. Contact Kevin for more info: 306-430-4103 or email: kindersleysoccerboard@gmail.com
- Youth Curling hosted by the Kindersley Curling Club (Grades 4-12 welcome). Wednesdays at 5:30 PM on a weekly basis until March. No fee! More info contact Lexie at 306-831-5330.

- Parkinson's Support Group Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month 2:00 PM at the Kindersley Hospital. Everyone is welcome! For more info call Nancy at 306-463-4514.

- Monday Night Jam Sessions at the Norman Ritchie Community Centre. Doors open at 6:30 to set-up, then the fun begins at 7-11 PM. Call Keith 306-460-8633.

- TOPS weight management meetings; every Monday at 6:00 PM in the Kindersley Senior Centre OR contact Jill at 306-463-4210.

- PickleBall every Sunday & Wednesday 7:00-9:00 PM at Elizabeth School \$50 per season or \$5 drop in. More info call 306-460-8356.

- Prairie Crocus Quilt Guild meet the second Tuesday of the month (September to May) at the Pensioners Hall (3rd Ave. E., Kindersley) at 7 PM. More info contact Donna at 306-463-4785.

LUSELAND Recurring events at The Luseland Pioneers Club:

- Third Friday of every month; Birthday Lunch noon

- Last Monday of every month; Pie-n-Ice Cream

- Every Monday afternoon; Coffee open to the public. 2:00-4:00 PM

- Members only: coffee, pool, cards; Mon - Sat 8:30-12:00

- Members only: Tuesday evening games night 7:00-9 or 10:00 PM

- Members only: Wednesday afternoon cards 1:00-4:00 PM

- Members only: Thursday afternoon Ladies cards 1-4 PM



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