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Vol. 5, Issue 47

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

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Luseland rink project receives generous donation

BY JOAN JANZEN

The Luseland Rink Improvement Project recently received a donation of \$86,392.67 from the Luseland Community Agriculture Project, representing the proceeds from the 2025 chickpea crop.

"I am incredibly proud and grateful to be part of receiving this generous donation from the Community Agriculture Project," Candice Kraft, Rink Improvement Project Chair, said. "This initiative was a community effort, with many individuals, businesses, and partners contributing their time, expertise, and resources."

The community effort began with the Town of Luseland and Holman Farming Group donating the use of the land, and Holman Farming Group organizing the project and farming the crop. NourishPro Agro was responsible for purchasing, processing, and marketing the crop, which the community produced together. Thanks to their efforts, the chickpeas are now en route to a customer in Turkey.

Many people played a role in making this achievement possible. The project's committee members include



The Luseland Rink Improvement Project received a donation of \$86,392.67 on behalf of the Luseland Community Agriculture Project. L-R: Candice Kraft (Chair), Kelsey Thompson (Lead), Bailey Tweddle (committee member), and Dan Holman (committee member and partner with Holman Farming Group and NourishPro Agro). *SUBMITTED PHOTO*

Dallas Cairns (Fundraising Lead), Adam Franco (Design Lead), Candice Kraft (Chair), Brian Gottfried, Brent Honecker, Dan Holman, Jonathan Thompson, Caleb Ostrowski, Kelsey Thompson, and Bailey Tweddle. Bailey organized all the input donations, agronomy, and coordinated the field work for the project.

"Every cent from this project will be going toward the next exciting phase of our rink improvements," Candice reported. Committee members are already hard at work behind the scenes, planning to repurpose the decommissioned curling rink into new dressing rooms, as well as creating a heated spectator area behind

the east-side glass.

"This project stands as a testament to the strength of community spirit and support. Every contribution brings us one step closer to making our dreams a reality at our rink," Candice explained. The committee is filled with pride and gratitude after receiving this remarkable contribution.

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Eight-year-old Althea Cuanan-Illigan from Kindersley has spent several afternoons singing Christmas carols at the Kindersley Co-op Food Store. She is looking forward to attending the Canadian Model and Talent Convention (CMTC) in Toronto at the end of April 2026. *PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN*

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8-year-old Althea was born to sing

BY JOAN JANZEN

Althea Cuanan-Illigan has been singing for as long as she can remember and takes every opportunity to share her talent with others. On Nov. 2, the eight-year-old Kindersley resident showcased her skills in Saskatoon at an audition for a chance to attend the 2026 Canadian Model and Talent Convention (CMTC) in Toronto.

When Althea's mom, Faye, heard about the upcoming auditions from a friend, she thought it would be a good opportunity for her daughter. Two days after the Nov. 2 audition in Saskatoon, Althea received word that she had been accepted.

Her parents have watched their daughter's talent develop since she was a toddler. Her mom recalls one-year-old Althea humming along while watching Disney movies and music videos.

When she was only two, she sang her first song, a Britney Spears tune called Sometimes. Apparently, she took a liking to her mom's choice of music because "she knew all the lyrics," her mom recalled.

This past summer, she was invited to sing at the

Filipino festival in Regina and also performed at the Filipino Christmas party in Kindersley. The seniors at Caleb Village recently enjoyed listening to Althea entertain them, and she has spent several afternoons singing Christmas carols at the Co-op Food Store. At only eight, she appears confident and happy to sing for hours at a time.

The young singer and her family are raising funds for their upcoming trip to Toronto at the end of April 2026. "We did a raffle for her with five prizes," her mom said. "And her grandma is selling baking."

The four-day convention will include auditions, interviews, workshops, educational seminars and exposure to 75 agencies from around the world. Althea will be in the 8-11 age category; last year, there were 95 entries in that group. Judges at the CMTC will evaluate the contestants' skills and wrap up the convention with an awards ceremony.

"We believe in her talent," Faye said. "So when we have an opportunity, we're going to grab it for her." It will also be a good experience for the family, as it will be their first visit to Toronto.

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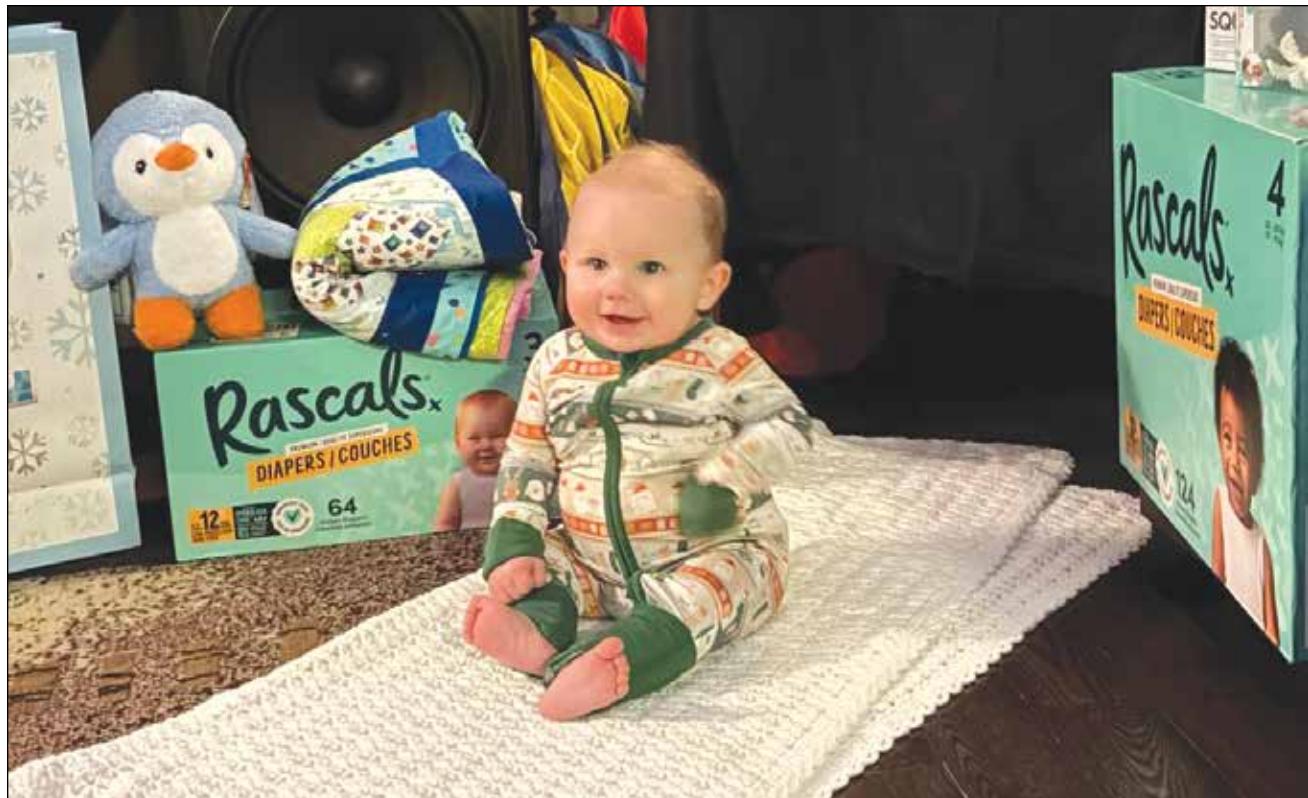


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Baby Daxton is one of 17 children who benefited from the 'It Takes a Village' campaign organized by FoodMesh Kindersley. His family received a hamper of baby products and a gift card. SUBMITTED

Families grateful for 'It Takes a Village' hampers

Once again, the "It Takes a Village" campaign, organized by FoodMesh Kindersley, was a huge success. Although temperatures dipped close to -30 C on Friday, Dec. 12, parents picking up their packages were warmed by the generosity of their community.

"Everyone was super grateful," Leonora Grassl said. The organizers were as excited to hand out the free supplies as families were to receive them.

Earlier in the week, volunteers were busy assembling the care packages and topping each one with a cuddly toy. "We received \$3,100 in monetary donations," Jessica Dezan said, exceeding last year's \$2,000 contribution.

Leonora and Jessica used the funds to purchase re-

maining supplies, ensuring each family received a box of diapers, wipes and formula. "We ended up filling four carts of supplies and were able to give each family a gift card," Jessica said.

"Lifetime Dental also helped us a lot by being a drop-off location," she added. All donated supplies were placed under the Lifetime Dental collection tree.

A total of 17 children benefited from the packages. "The care packages go out on child tax day so parents can budget for Christmas. Hopefully, we can take diapers and wipes off their shopping list for the month," Jessica said.

The generosity of Kindersley residents reflects the truth in the African proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child."

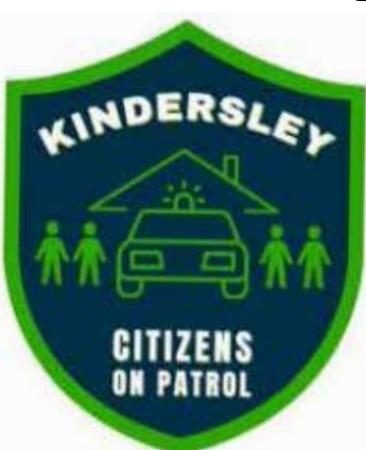
Citizen on Patrol marks 25 years of service in Kindersley

Kindersley's Citizen on Patrol Program (COPP) has been helping keep the community safe for 25 years. The non-profit, volunteer-run group uses its fundraising dollars to support fuel costs, training, public education and equipment.

The crime-prevention program relies on volunteers who patrol the community and report suspicious activity or unsafe conditions to the RCMP and the Town of Kindersley. The added "eyes and ears" provide information that can help reduce vandalism, theft and other offences.

The program works alongside the RCMP, and new patrollers are welcome. Volunteers must be at least 18, hold a valid driver's licence and have no criminal convictions in the previous five years. Applicants must also pass an RCMP clearance check.

Members receive training to ensure they can patrol safely and responsibly. Volunteers do not carry



weapons, must travel in pairs and are required to follow traffic laws and municipal bylaws. All members take an oath of confidentiality; breaches can result in removal from the program.

Patrollers report suspicious activity but do not directly confront individuals. Organizers say the reward for volunteers comes from helping make their community safer.

Those interested in joining can contact the Kindersley RCMP at 306-463-4642 or apply online through the town's website.

Local businesses can also participate by purchasing annual monitoring services, which include a storefront sign. The first-year fee is \$100, with a \$50 renewal cost. COPP also welcomes financial contributions and issues tax-deductible receipts.

The group encourages residents and businesses to work together to keep Kindersley a safe place to live.

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A Kinder Kollege Christmas!



Above left: Miss Brenda received her 10 year certificate of employment at Kinder Kollege Inc.

Above right: Miss Darien received her 5 year certificate of employment at Kinder Kollege Inc.

Left: The Kinder Kollege Christmas Concert and awards presentations were held on Thursday, December 11.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED



SLEDDING SMILES! D'Arcy School students take advantage of fresh snowfall, enjoying time on the sledding hill despite the cold weather. One benefit of a small school is that students of all ages play together and look out for one another.

FACEBOOK



SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER! The Kindersley Composite School jazz band performed for residents at Caleb Village on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 10. The students brought Christmas cheer, and their audience enjoyed the talented performance. *PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN*



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The heroic story that wasn't taught in Canadian schools

BY JOAN JANZEN



Opinion
By Joan Janzen

A youngster asked his grandpa, "After 65 years you still call Grandma sweetheart. What's your secret?" His grandpa replied, "I forgot her real name five years ago, and now I'm too scared to ask."

Sometimes we also forget significant pieces of Canadian history. In some cases, we may never have been told about them. As I listened to a Canadian WWII documentary, I discovered a piece of history which I knew little about.

As the comments poured in during the documentary, one Canadian recalled curling a number of years ago with an old farmer from Ontario who was wearing a Lancaster Bomber hat. The hat triggered a conversation with the elderly man, who relayed a story of crash-landing a Lancaster while flying over Germany. "They patched me up and sent me to Holland, but this time, when I opened my bomb bays, I was dropping food. Much better," he recalled.

A Dutch Canadian born in Holland said he heard and read about this story as a child in Holland, but the heroic story was not taught in schools when he came to Canada. This is the story that was never told in Canadian schools.

In 1944, the Germans had opened the dikes in the western Netherlands,

flooding massive areas in order to slow the Allied advance. The water surrounded millions of trapped civilians who were forced to eat tulip bulbs and sugar beets meant for cattle. It was called the Hunger Winter, when civilians were perishing from starvation in six Dutch provinces under German control, covering 16,000 square kilometres

of cities and flooded farmland.

By April 1945, five hundred Dutch civilians were starving to death every day. The plan was for the Canadian army to assault across the flooded lowlands and eventually capture the cities filled with starving Dutch civilians and cornered German soldiers. It would take four months and 60,000 Allied casualties, and an enormous number of Dutch civilian deaths; however, the British generals accepted this as the price of victory.

But Canadian General Charles Foulkes proposed something that had never been tried before. He wanted to let the Allies drop food, and in exchange, the Germans wouldn't shoot down the planes. Then, after the immediate starvation had ended, they would talk about surrender.

The 120,000 German soldiers were cut off in the Netherlands with no supplies and no hope of victory. They were also surviving by eating tulip bulbs. Germans were instructed to fight to the

In 1944, the Germans had opened the dikes in the western Netherlands, flooding massive areas in order to slow the Allied advance.

death and destroy everything in sight, yet they knew they were fighting for absolutely nothing.

The German general realized he would be executed for such a decision, but the Canadian general convinced the Germans by saying no one in surrounded Berlin would survive long enough to execute anyone for treason. He gave them the choice of watching millions starve or choosing to do what makes sense to save lives on both sides.

The German general capitulated and agreed to a ceasefire for humanitarian purposes. Within 24 hours, the Canadians began Operation Mana — dropping mana from heaven. On April 30, 1945, the first RAF Lancaster bomber flew low to the ground, bomb bay doors opened, and packages tumbled out with parachutes attached. It was the first real food many had seen in six months.

Within one week, the death rate dropped from 500 people per day to 50 per day. While the food drop continued, Adolf Hitler ended his life, removing

the primary obstacle to surrender.

The statistics reported six provinces had been liberated in 72 hours with no one killed. In comparison, the Battle of Berlin took two weeks and killed over 160,000 people to capture one city. During the operation, 11,000 tons of food had been delivered, 100,000 Dutch civilian lives were saved from starvation, and 120,000 German soldiers were taken into custody.

The bond between Canada and the Netherlands grew stronger. By the end of 1945, Dutch families had adopted all of the 7,600 graves of Canadian soldiers and, over the years, continued to tell their children stories about these young men.

Every year since 1946, the Dutch send 20,000 tulip bulbs to Ottawa as a thank-you gift and a living reminder of liberation. The Canadian Tulip Festival is one of the largest tulip festivals in the world.

An additional comment posted after the documentary said, "What I admire the most from the Dutch is they have passed this story down to their children."

During this holiday season, I encourage everyone to pass a much more important story on to their children and grandchildren — the story of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. He too was sent as mana from heaven to save both you and I, and is a living reminder of our liberation. I wish all my readers a wonderful Christmas spent with family and friends, sharing good food and lots of fun.

HAVE YOUR SAY.

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Choirs & Angels

One of the greatest gifts I inherited from my mom is music. From the very beginning, its universal language, its rhythms and rhymes, permeated my bones. In fact, my mother was choir director of our church and was in rehearsal for Easter Mass when she went into labour with me.

All my early memories have music attached to them — surrounded as we were by bedtime lullabies, Sunday hymns, Christmas carols and music festivals.

By the time we were in school, my mother had turned us into a family choir, singing three-part harmony. We sang at weddings and graduations and at every midnight Mass. And from adolescence onward, I grew up turning to music to soothe my oft-broken heart and hurt pride.

Later, I wrote songs for performances and eventually collaborated with other musicians. That's when I learned how creating, playing and touring with other musicians fuses a solid and unique bond between people who otherwise have absolutely nothing in common. Even with the tensions borne of long hours squished together in a van, driving all day and night to the next gig, speaking entirely different languages (often literally), once we hit the stage we were joined together in shared song. Such is the power of music.

Recently, Pope Leo held a Christmas concert for folks struggling financially. "Music is not a luxury for the few," he said, "but a divine gift accessible to everyone, transmitting feelings, emotions, even the deepest stirrings of the soul, lifting them up and transforming them into an imaginary stairway connecting earth and heaven."

"Music," he said, doesn't serve simply as a distraction or diversion; it reminds us that "we are far more than our problems and our troubles.... Singing belongs to those who love," he said. "Those who sing give expression to love, but also to the pain, tenderness and desire that dwell in their hearts."

"It is not a coincidence that the feast of Christmas is very rich in traditional songs, in every language and every culture," he went on to say. "It is as though this mystery could not be celebrated without music, without hymns of praise.... After all, the Gospel itself tells us that while Jesus was being born in the stable in Bethlehem, there was a great concert of angels in heaven!"

Most beloved Christmas carols feature angel choirs. And some angels are more boisterous than others. "Look up and harken to us!" the choir in Hark the Herald Angels cries out. "Join the triumph of the skies!" However, the angels are less noisy in It Came Upon a Midnight Clear. It's late, there's been a lot of activity, Mary is exhausted, so they "bend near the earth," playing "their harps of gold" and singing of "peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

And in O Little Town of Bethlehem, we don't even hear them. But they're there, "gathered all above, while mortals sleep," they "keep their watch of wond'ring love."

And then there's Handel's Messiah, the lyrics taken



Pop89
By Madonna Hamel

By the time we were in school, my mother had turned us into a family choir, singing three-part harmony.

from both Testaments of the Bible and arranged by librettist Charles Jennens. In my mind, there is no better depiction of ecstatic winged creatures belting hallelujah than The Messiah's vibrating oratorio filling the skies suddenly full of heavenly song.

I am also reminded of the great gospel singer Sister Rosetta Tharpe's classic, "Up Above My Head," where she sings: "Up above my head I hear music everywhere. I really do believe there's a heaven somewhere." Tharpe, who grew up in the Pentecostal church, brought gospel into the bars. And unlike Ray Charles, she didn't change the words to fit the audience. She trusted the power of the music and the message to lift us out of the mire of our daily frets and prejudices. As her biographer Gayle Wald wrote, Tharpe was called everything from a "hymn-swinging evangelist" and "religious shouter" to a "Holy Roller singer." But as often happens in music, nobody was offended. And more than a few were converted. That's how music works.

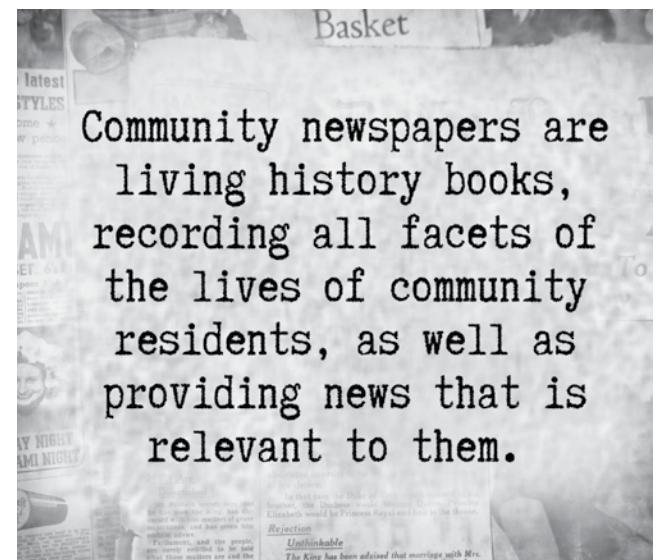
My dear friend Kelly Joe Phelps, who left this world far too soon, marvelled at the way he could fill his songs with praise and awe for his own conversion experience and no one complained, but if he were to talk religion, "people would just get all crazy." Combined with the beauty of his guitar playing, his songs transcended social and religious thought and theory and launched us into the sublime ether.

When I first moved to Val Marie, I read the autobiography of Jean Stav, a local whose family farmed the field my mother's family eventually built on, years later. Stav, who referred to himself as "the barefoot boy from Val Marie," wrote about an evening when he was coming home from feeding the cows. The sky was filled with ethereal light, and above his head he swore he could hear angels singing. After that night, nothing could trouble him very much for very long.

A generation later, my aunt was walking in the same field, worrying over whether to marry or become a nun. She too swears to have heard angels singing. And when she returned from her evening's agonizing, she knew exactly what to do. Soon after, she entered the order of the Sisters of Providence and became a chef for retreat houses. Her specialty was desserts. When she died in her 90s, the superior who ran the nuns' retirement home phoned me and asked if we would like them to put her ashes in her favourite cookie tin.

Both Jean Stav and Cecile Laprise were so altered by their respective encounters with musical angels that nothing could shake them — in that experience they placed all their trust. They had their struggles, their fears, their questions and pains, but neither needed further evidence of being watched over and guided and deeply loved.

In a world wherein many of us make our way through the day leaning on bluff, may I suggest, this Christmas, you look — and listen — up.



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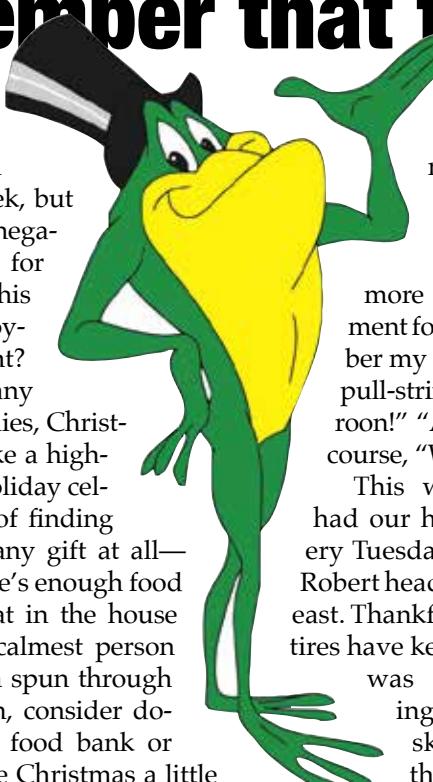


Just a gal from Glidden

BY KATE WINQUIST

I had a column all ready for this week, but it was a little too negative and opinionated for my taste. After all, this should be a happy, joyous time of year, right? Unfortunately, for many individuals and families, Christmas can feel more like a high-speed chase than a holiday celebration. The stress of finding the perfect gift—or any gift at all—and making sure there's enough food on the table and heat in the house can make even the calmest person feel like they've been spun through a tornado. If you can, consider donating to your local food bank or toy drive—help make Christmas a little brighter for those in need.

Lately, my life seems like an episode of Looney Tunes. Picture me spinning around like the Tasmanian Devil. Remember when Saturday mornings were reserved for Bugs Bunny and the gang—Daffy Duck, Elmer Fudd, Sylvester and Tweety, and of course, Porky Pig. There were also the unforgettable oddballs—Marvin the Martian, asking "Where's the kaboom? There was supposed to be an earth-shattering kaboom," or Michigan J Frog with his "Hello my baby, hello my honey..." before returning to a very ordinary frog chorus.



it—
the office furnace quit. That gave me the perfect excuse to skip my SWNA Zoom meeting (budget talk avoidance: accomplished!).

Joan and I have been running our usual routine, adding Christmas greetings on top, like Ralph Wolf and Sam Sheepdog. We clock in, exchange a cheerful "Mornin' Ralph," "Mornin' Sam," then get down to business, like a couple of well-mannered cartoon characters trying not to chase each other across the pasture.

I admit I'm struggling with the

LOONEY TUNES



Wile E. Coyote and his Acme gadgets never seemed to catch a break—and politically incorrect by today's standards—but it was more than enough entertainment for Dad and I. I still remember my Bugs Bunny toy with the pull-string phrases: "What a maroon!" "Ain't I a stinker?" and of course, "What's up, Doc?"

This week, the weather has had our heads spinning, too. Every Tuesday is paper delivery day. Robert heads north and west, I head east. Thankfully, our studded winter tires have kept us on the road. There

was a freezing rain warning, but it miraculously skipped our route. Then the temperature dropped, and—wouldn't you know

Christmas spirit this year. It's already December 13, and I haven't put up a single decoration. Shopping? Nada. Though Robert, in true Yosemite Sam style with his impressive moustache, bought himself a new snowblower yesterday. "Give me YOUR debit card," he says. I guess that's one name checked off my list! Our old snowblower, inherited from his dad, was practically a fossil—gears shot, safety features nonexistent. Hopefully, this new acquisition guarantees an early spring.

Then there's the Christmas menu planning. Earlier this fall, my doctor warned me my blood sugar was high. Not diabetes—yet—but I need

to shape up. So for the past couple of months, I've been avoiding ice cream and pizza (apologies, local Dairy Queen), living instead on a diet of salad and veggies. I'm starting to mumble "Eh, what's up, Doc?" with every carrot I chew. Meanwhile, Robert, and his sweet tooth, is fully supportive—even if I feel like a cross between a slightly despicable Daffy Duck and a portly Porky Pig. I'll likely make his favourite salad and grab some Pot O Gold chocolates, keeping the peace in our own little Merry Melodies cartoon.

So, until next time, this is your gal from Glidden signing off: "Th-th-th—that's all, folks!"



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Recognizing Canada's best in 2025

It's been a great year for Canadians on the world's athletic stages. As 2025 winds down, it's time for the year-end awards in the top three categories — male and female athlete and top team.

Male athlete — It's pretty hard to not be declared the athlete of the year in Canada when you've actually shown you're the best player in the National Basketball Association (i.e. the world). Twenty-six-year-old Shai Gilgeous-Alexander of Hamilton had a dream year with the Oklahoma City Thunder, leading his team to the league championship, taking the individual scoring title and being voted the NBA's Most Valuable Player. He averaged 32.7 points per game last year and is off to a similar start this year as the Thunder lost only one of their first 23 games.

Runner-up — Tennis star Felix Auger-Aliassime moved up the men's world rankings to No. 5 thanks to a sensational season on the court. The 6-foot-4 25-year-old won more than \$5 million in prize money, had a 50-24 record in singles' play and won three tournaments — in Brussels, Belgium, Montpellier, France and Adelaide, Australia.

Female athlete — There is no official world ranking for swimmers, but Toronto's Summer McIntosh is either No. 1 or No. 2 among females. The 19-year-old won four golds and one bronze at the world aquatic championships and is the current 200- and 400-metre world record holder.

Runner-up — She came out of nowhere (almost), but Victoria Mboko, who started 2025 ranked 350th in



Sports
By Bruce Penton

the world, zoomed all the way up to 18th thanks to her sensational play. The highlight was her victory in Toronto at the Rogers National Bank Open, where she beat Naomi Osaka in the final. Mboko also won a tournament in Hong Kong and racked up \$1.44 million in earnings.

Team of the Year — This one was easy: Toronto Blue Jays came within one out of winning the World Series, and the team's success captured the hearts of Canadians from coast to coast. Pre-season picks to finish at or near the bottom of the American League East, the Jays instead roared to a record of 94-68, thanks to outstanding offensive seasons from George Springer, Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., and Bo Bichette. After beating Seattle Mariners in the A.L. championship series, the Blue Jays took the powerful L.A. Dodgers to Game 7 of the series before bowing out with a 5-4 loss.

Runner-up — The Rachel Homan curling team could logically lay claim to being the greatest women's curling team in Canadian history, quite a title when the competition includes the likes of Sandra Schmirler, Colleen Jones and Jennifer Jones. A three-time world champion, including 2025, Homan and her rink of third Tracy Fleury, second Emma Miskew and lead Sarah Wilkes put together an astonishing 75-8 record in 2025 and capped off the year with a decisive victory in the Canadian Olympic curling trials. She and her team will wear Canada's colours in Milan, Italy, at the 2026 Winter Games where she will seek her first Olympic medal in her third try.

- The Babylon Bee, on Twitter: "Sad: Britain Tries To Play Baseball But Gets The Rules Wrong And Forgets Their Gloves And Puts Sticks Behind Home Plate For Some Reason"
- From Jack Finarelli's site, sportscurmudgeon.com, on Weber State coach Mickey Mental being fired: "And obviously, if he and his wife ever have trip-

lets, they should name them Funda, Instru and Monu."

- Headline at fark.com: "Congratulations on making the World Cup for the first time in 50 years, Haiti. Too bad your fans won't be allowed into the U.S. to see it."
- Vancouver comedy guy Torben Rolfsen: "Raiders' coach Pete Carroll said he is 'all in' on QB Geno Smith. Just like he was 'all in' on that Super Bowl pass from the one-yard line."
- A soccer fan on Twitter after the Great One had trouble pronouncing names of countries at the FIFA World Cup draw: "The World Cup Group of Death is Wayne Gretzky and any country's name he has to pronounce."
- More on Gretzky's pronunciation mishaps: "Can you imagine if Niger had qualified and he picked that ball... you'd see like 20 people try to tackle him before he started to speak."
- Torben Rolfsen again, on the Professional Women's Hockey League expansion team in Vancouver: "The 'Let's Go Goldeneyes' chant is a bit too long. Could we shorten it to 'Let's Go G-eyes'?"
- Headline at fark.com: "Jayden Daniels cleared to be injured in game that some say could decide how far the Commies end up from the playoffs."
- Another one from Rolfsen: "Shohei Ohtani said he will play for Japan when the World Baseball Classic opens at the Tokyo Dome. Hey, whatever happened to tryouts?"
- Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "UCF starting quarterback Tayven Jackson will enter the transfer portal and will soon be on his way to his fourth college. At this point, he isn't getting an education; he's collecting frequent-flyer miles. His next NIL deal should be sponsored by U-Haul!"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

BRANDED CONTENT

Safer workplaces support a stronger Saskatchewan

Putting WorkSafe Saskatchewan's fatalities and serious injuries strategy to work

Saskatchewan is proving that a culture of safety works. Thanks to the shared commitment of workers, employers, safety associations, labour and government, workplaces in the province are safer than ever.

That shared dedication to workplace safety is showing real results. In 2024, the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) recorded the province's lowest ever Total injury rate of 3.91 per 100 workers and its lowest Time Loss injury rate at 1.72 per 100 workers. For the fifth year in a row, 90 per cent of Saskatchewan workplaces reported zero injuries and zero fatalities. These milestones demonstrate that safety is becoming a deeply ingrained value across many of our province's industries.

More work to do

But while progress has been made, the work isn't finished. In 2024, 27 Saskatchewan workers lost their lives to work-related incidents or illnesses. Every year, as many as 2,400 workers suffer serious injuries. Behind each of those numbers are workers, families, workplaces and communities forever changed.

"Even one injury is too many," said Gord Dobrowolsky, WCB chair. "This new historic low in our Total injury rate represents the focus and hard work of so many people across the province. But we cannot be satisfied until every worker returns home safely."

The strategy for change

To accelerate progress, WorkSafe Saskatchewan, the injury

prevention partnership between the WCB and the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety, launched the 2023-2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries Strategy.

It builds on the province's first strategy introduced in 2019, which focuses on high-risk industries and the injuries that caused the greatest harm. That inaugural three-year plan focused on four critical hazards: asbestos exposure, work-related motor vehicle collisions, firefighter cancer exposure and falls from heights. It targeted the industries where injuries were most prevalent — health care, transportation, first responders, construction and manufacturing.

The latest strategy, introduced in 2023, sharpened its focus on three high-risk sectors: health care, transportation and construction. Together, these industries account for a majority of serious injuries that occur in Saskatchewan workplaces. The 2023-2028 strategy introduced two streams of work:

- Regulatory and enforcement: Strengthening rules and ensuring compliance.
- Prevention and learning: Providing training, education and resources to foster safety culture.

"Everybody has a responsibility when it comes to workplace safety," said Phillip Germain, WCB's CEO. "Coming home safely at the end of the day is a right of every worker in the province."

Early results

Provincial injury rates continue to move downward, reaching historic lows in 2024. The 2023-2028 strategy has spurred collaboration between industry leaders, safety associations and government agencies to share knowledge and strengthen prevention efforts.

"The efforts of many are playing an important role in helping us prevent injuries and fatalities," said WCB CEO Phillip

Germain. "While safe workplaces are good for business, the most important part of every job is for each worker to come home safely."

Why it matters

Serious injuries account for approximately 11 to 15 per cent of all claims in Saskatchewan, but they represent more than 80 per cent of the compensation system's costs. They also have lasting impacts on workers' health and well-being, families' and communities' stability and employers' productivity.

By targeting the industries and hazards where the risks are highest, the fatalities and serious injuries strategy tackles the root causes of harm. This not only saves lives but supports a stronger Saskatchewan.

Looking ahead

As the strategy continues, the call is clear: safety and prevention are everyone's business. The WCB and WorkSafe Saskatchewan are urging workers, employers and industry partners to:

- Prioritize safety leadership on every job site.
- Support education and training that empowers workers to recognize and address safety hazards.
- Collaborate across industries to share best practices and address complex safety issues in the workplace.

"We are committed to supporting workers and employers to create safer workplaces in our province," said Germain. "Continued collaboration is the key to building on these historic gains."

Learn more

Copies of the 2023-2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries Strategy and its latest updates are available at worksafesask.ca/fatalities-and-serious-injuries.



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Lloydminster RCMP warn public after spike in counterfeit currency

LLOYDMINSTER — RCMP are urging businesses and residents in Lloydminster to be cautious after a recent rise in counterfeit Canadian banknotes being passed in the community.

Police say officers have responded to several reports in recent weeks of people attempting to use fake bills at local businesses. Similar complaints have also surfaced in the Edmonton area.

Investigators believe some of the counterfeit currency in circulation is higher-quality than typical reproductions, making it harder for staff to detect without close inspection.

RCMP are advising businesses to carefully check all denominations — particularly higher-value notes — and ensure each bill has a unique serial number.



Owners and staff are also encouraged to familiarize themselves with security features such as raised ink, transparent windows and holographic elements.

Police say anyone who suspects a bill is counterfeit should refuse the transaction and contact RCMP. Businesses are also asked to keep surveillance footage and

note descriptions of individuals involved when it is safe to do so.

"Counterfeit currency directly impacts local businesses and our community's economy," Sgt. Christopher Byford said in a statement. "We are asking business owners and staff to stay alert and take a moment to verify bills during transactions."

Lloydminster RCMP are working with other detachments and financial institutions as part of the investigation.

Anyone who believes they have received a counterfeit bill, or has information about the incidents, is asked to contact Lloydminster RCMP at 780-808-8400. Anonymous tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online through the P3 Tips app.



Kindersley-Biggar MLA Kim Gartner was sworn in Thursday as Saskatchewan's Minister of Highways. "What an honour to work for the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you to Premier Moe, Sask. Party colleagues, and the constituents of Kindersley-Biggar for your trust and support," Gartner wrote on Facebook. Since 2008, the provincial government has invested more than \$13.8 billion in transportation infrastructure, improving over 21,800 km of highways across Saskatchewan.

FACEBOOK PHOTO

Swift Current couple charged after RCMP seize suspected cocaine

SWIFT CURRENT — Two people have been charged after Saskatchewan RCMP's Swift Current Saskatchewan Trafficking Response Team executed search warrants at two homes in the city earlier this month.

Police searched residences on 4th Avenue Southeast and Central Avenue South on Dec. 2 as part of an ongoing drug-trafficking investigation. Officers say they seized about 51 grams of suspected cocaine along with drug-trafficking paraphernalia. The substance has been sent to Health Canada for testing.

Two men and two women were arrested at the homes. Following further investigation, RCMP charged Tyler Adamson, 39, and Kimberley Adamson, 40, both of Swift Current, with one count of trafficking cocaine and one count of possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking.

The other two individuals were released without charge.

Tyler and Kimberley Adamson are scheduled to appear in Swift Current provincial court on Feb. 11, 2025.

Yorkton STRT, the Swift Current Municipal General Investigation Section, Police Dog Services and the Swift Current municipal detachment assisted with the investigation.



May the Christmas season fill your home with love, and your life with laughter. Thank you for making Kindersley your home! Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season! All the best in 2026.

Holiday Hours of Operation:

	West Central Events Centre	Town Office	Aquatic Centre
December 22nd	7:00am to 10:00pm <i>Public Shiny: 10:00am – 12:30pm</i> <i>Public Skating: 1:00pm – 3:30pm</i>	8:30am to 4:30pm	Regular Programming
December 23rd	7:00am to 10:00pm <i>Public Skating & Shiny: 10:00am – 2:30pm</i>	8:30am to 4:30pm	Regular Programming
December 24th	10:00am – 2:00pm <i>Public Skating & Shiny: 10:00am – 1:45pm</i>	CLOSED	Regular Programming
December 25th	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
December 26th	10:00am – 2:00pm <i>Public Shiny: 10:00am – 1:45pm</i> <i>Public Skating: 12:00pm – 1:45pm</i>	CLOSED	CLOSED
December 27th	8:00am to 6:00pm <i>Public Shiny: 9:00am – 1:00pm</i> <i>Public Skating: 3:00pm – 5:00pm</i> <i>Sponsored by Whitecap Resources Inc.</i>	CLOSED	Regular Programming
December 28th	9:00am to 7:00pm	CLOSED	Regular Programming FREE Public Swim Sponsored by Inter Pipeline: 1:30pm – 6:00pm
December 29th	7:00am to 10:00pm <i>Public Skating: 11:00am – 3:00pm</i> <i>Public Shiny: 12:30pm – 4:00pm</i>	8:30am to 4:30pm	Regular Programming
December 30th	7:00am to 10:00pm <i>Public Skating & Public Shiny: 12:30pm – 4:30pm</i>	8:30am to 4:30pm	Regular Programming
December 31st	10:00am – 2:00pm <i>Public Shiny: 10:00am – 12:00pm & 12:15pm – 1:45pm</i>	8:30am to 4:30pm	Regular Programming
January 1st	CLOSED <i>Open for Jr. Klipper Home Game</i>	CLOSED	CLOSED
January 2nd	7:00am to 10:00pm	8:30am to 4:30pm	Regular Programming

West Central Events Centre

- Call 306-463-1820 or email recreation@kindersley.ca for more information!
- View the Ice Schedule at: <https://www.kindersley.ca/things-to-do/ice-schedule/>
- Please note all schedules are subject to change!

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- View the full schedule at: <https://www.kindersley.ca/community/community-facilities/aquatic-centre/>
- Please note all schedules are subject to change!





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Leader RCMP seeking public help to identify suspect in Fox Valley residential fire

FOX VALLEY — Leader RCMP are asking the public for help identifying an individual in connection with a suspicious residential fire in Fox Valley, Sask.

The fire occurred on Nov. 22, 2025, at approximately 2:45 a.m. at a home on Centre Street.

Officers and local firefighters responded to find the residence fully engulfed. No one was inside at the time, and police say the fire is considered suspicious.

RCMP have reviewed video footage from the area showing a man walking toward the residence carrying a jerry can, then running away shortly afterward. He was also seen in a truck described as a mid-1990s to early-2000s light grey or silver lifted pickup. At the time, the suspect wore dark clothing, overalls, and a face covering.

Police stress this investigation is separate from a business fire in Leader on Oct. 26, 2025, and there is no known connection between the two incidents.

Anyone with information about the suspect or the vehicle is asked to contact Leader RCMP at 310-RCMP.



Anonymous tips can also be submitted through Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Kindersley RCMP seize more than two kilograms of meth

KINDERSLEY — RCMP in Kindersley have seized more than two kilograms of methamphetamine and arrested a man after responding to a report of suspicious activity in a business parking lot on the town's east side.

Police were called around midday on Dec. 11 to a complaint about a truck parked on 11th Avenue East, near the Walmart. Officers located the vehicle and searched it following an investigation. RCMP say they found about 2.1 kilograms of methamphetamine, ammunition and more than \$87,000 in cash inside.

An adult man was arrested at the scene.

Further investigation led to several charges against 43-year-old Jason Pollo of Strathmore, Alta. He is charged with trafficking methamphetamine and possession for the purpose of trafficking under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, as well as possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 and weapons possession contrary to order under the Criminal Code.

Pollo is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 20.



Kindersley RCMP say the investigation is ongoing. "We won't tolerate those who choose to introduce dangerous goods, like illicit drugs, into our community," Staff Sgt. Sebastian Andrews, the detachment commander, said in a news release. "Through dedication and hard work, Kindersley RCMP stopped more than 20,000 'doses' of methamphetamine from circulating through our detachment area."

Kindersley RCMP seek public's help locating wanted man

KINDERSLEY — Kindersley RCMP is asking the public to report any sightings or information about the whereabouts of 47-year-old Brian Barber, who is wanted on several charges.

Barber is the subject of warrants for four counts of failing to comply with release order conditions under Section 145(5)(a) of the Criminal Code, as well as one count of break and enter under Section 348(1)(a). The charges stem from a December 2025 investigation, according to information filed with the court.

Police describe Barber as 5-foot-9 and 205 pounds, with hazel eyes and brown hair. He may be driving a black 2005 Suzuki Grand Vitara XL-7 SUV with Saskatchewan licence plate 420 NVF. A photo of him has been released.

RCMP say the investigation is ongoing and are urging the public not to approach Barber if seen. Sightings or information can be reported to any local police detachment by calling 310-RCMP. Anonymous tips may also be submitted through Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online.



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Chris Beaudry new Minister of Energy and Resources

BY BRIAN ZINCHUK

REGINA — Saskatchewan has a new Minister of Energy and Resources, Chris Beaudry.

Beaudry was one of five freshman MLAs elected in the fall of 2024 to be appointed to cabinet by Premier Scott Moe in a shuffle on Dec. 11.

"Nearly half of our government caucus was first elected in 2024, but I didn't want to bring too many brand new members into cabinet right after the election," Premier Scott Moe said in a release.

"Those members now have more than a year of experience as MLAs and with today's changes, one-third of cabinet will be new members. That will give our government a strong balance of experience and fresh perspectives."

Beaudry replaces Lloydminster MLA Colleen Young, who was shuffled out of cabinet.

Entering Cabinet for the first time are:

- Mike Weger, Minister of Community Safety (previously called Corrections, Policing and Public Safety) and Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency;
- Chris Beaudry, Minister of Energy and Resources;
- Darlene Rowden, Minister of Environment;
- Kim Gartner, Minister of Highways; and
- Sean Wilson, Minister of SaskBuilds & Procurement.

Eight ministers remain in their current portfolios:

- Jim Reiter, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance;
- Tim McLeod, Minister of Justice and Government House Leader;
- Jeremy Cockrill, Minister of Health;
- Lori Carr, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health and Government Deputy House Leader;
- Everett Hindley, Minister of Education;
- Jeremy Harrison, Minister responsible for Crown Investment Corporation, Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission, and Minister responsible for Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation;
- Terry Jenson, Minister of Social Services; and
- Alana Ross, Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, Tourism Saskatchewan and Status of Women.

Four ministers remain in Cabinet but take on different responsibilities:

- David Marit becomes Minister of Agriculture and Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation;
- Ken Cheveldayoff remains Minister of Advanced Education and becomes Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety;
- Eric Schmalz remains Minister of Government Relations and Minister responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs and becomes Minister of Immigration and Career Training; and



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- Warren Kaeding, remains Minister of Trade and Export Development and becomes Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.

The new cabinet was sworn in Dec. 11 by Lieutenant Governor Bernadette McIntyre.



Travis Keisig, Daryl Harrison and Colleen Young are leaving cabinet. All three are expected to serve as chairs of legislative committee. Premier Moe thanked them and said they will all continue to play vital roles within government, according to the release.

Premier Moe also named eight Legislative Secretaries:

- James Thorsteinson, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture;
- Travis Keisig, Legislative Secretary to the Minister responsible for Crown Investments Corporation;
- Blaine McLeod, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Community Safety;
- Barret Kropf, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Education;
- Kevin Weedmark, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Health;
- Megan Patterson, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Social Services;
- Brad Crassweller, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport and responsible for Saskatchewan-India Relations; and
- Jamie Martens, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Trade and Export Development and responsible for Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations.

Legislative Secretaries will receive \$3,000 in annual remuneration for their additional responsibilities, below the full remuneration amount designated for Legislative Secretaries.

Jamie Martens will also continue to serve as Provincial Secretary while Blaine McLeod continues to serve as Military Liaison. Brad Crassweller becomes the Government Whip and Kevin Weedmark remains Deputy Whip.

Beaudry's biography on the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan website states, "Chris Beaudry was first elected MLA for Kelvington-Wadena in 2024.

"Chris served as part of the coaching staff for the Humboldt Broncos until the tragic accident in 2018. Since then, he has engaged in public speaking and advocacy across North America focusing on mental health, trauma, and grief. He helped establish the first online mental health course for students through the Sun West School Division, and he has worked with the Canadian Mental Health Association.

"Chris has been active in his local community, serving on multiple boards including the Prairie North Co-operative, the Living Dying Project, and the Rose Valley SCC. He and his wife Richelle reside on his family farm near St. Front with their three daughters."

While the east central Saskatchewan riding is far from any oil and gas development, it is home to the BHP Jansen potash mine.



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Austin Miller of Kindersley holds his graduation certificate after completing the 10-month program at Village of Hope in Eston. Also pictured, from left, are TJ Pellerin and Tyler Stanowski. *SUBMITTED*

Village of Hope graduate looks forward to an exciting future

BY JOAN JANZEN

Village of Hope in Eston held a graduation celebration Sunday, Dec. 7, honouring its most recent graduate, Austin Miller of Kindersley. Family and friends gathered at Eston Full Gospel Church to mark Miller's completion of the 10-month course and graduation from the program.

Staff at Village of Hope have seen remarkable changes in Miller's life over the past months and are eager to see what the future holds. Miller also shared some exciting plans.

"My future finally has direction. After graduating, I plan to stay on for the Student Leadership Training (SLT) program in Eston," he said. During that time, he will volunteer, using his experience to help others struggling with addictions.

"Even more incredible, I was asked by Village of Hope founder Mart Vahi to help with recovery work in Finland!" Miller said. In three to six months, he will travel to Finland to assist with recovery efforts overseas. "I can honestly say this is the most exciting moment of my life!" he added.

Before the ceremony, Miller shared a written account of his personal journey in the Village of Hope winter newsletter. Village of Hope is a drug addiction treatment centre in Eston offering an immersive pro-

gram designed to fully support students in recovery.

The following is an excerpt from Miller's story:

For as long as I can remember, I've struggled with my emotions. I never knew how to deal with feeling alone, scared or unwanted. Those feelings eventually turned into anger—anger I couldn't control. Whether it was toward myself or others, I didn't have the tools to cope, so I turned to drugs to numb the pain.

My addiction started when I was just 15. I didn't understand myself, my emotions or the world around me. For 14 years, I used drugs, believing that was how adults dealt with pain. I used cocaine, alcohol, crystal meth and even experimented with fentanyl. My addiction promised escape, but all it ever brought me was pain.

Now I'm 29, and for the first time in my life, I've entered a recovery program. I'm so grateful to be here! This is the longest I've ever maintained sobriety since I was a kid. This program has given me so much: sobriety, healthy relationships, emotional tools and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

None of this would be possible without Village of Hope in Eston and without Jesus Christ pulling me out of the grave I had dug for myself. Through Him, I found hope.

Congratulations, Austin! Your courage and perseverance will inspire many people struggling with addiction, showing them that they too can find hope.



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The West Central Crisis & Family Support Centre's mission is to provide support services to individuals and families experiencing trauma, violence, addiction, or crisis in their lives, as well as outreach programs to communities within our boundaries.

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Office Phone: 306.463.6655

Fax: 306.463.6410

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Programming and support services funded by Saskatchewan Ministries of Justice, Social Services, and Health as well as generous contributions from local businesses and community members.

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Speed limit reduced on Highway 1 west of Swift Current to improve safety

SWIFT CURRENT — The speed limit on a portion of the Trans-Canada Highway west of Swift Current has been reduced to 80 km/h as part of an effort to improve safety, Highways Minister David Marit said Wednesday.

The change applies to the stretch between 350 metres east of Lac Pelletier Trail to 2.4 km west of the trail. Signs alerting motorists to the reduction were recently installed.

"Following a review of this corridor and discussions with local municipalities, our government lowered the speed for traffic flowing on a portion of this route," Marit said. "Enhancing safety of our provincial high-

The change applies to the stretch between 350 metres east of Lac Pelletier Trail to 2.4 km west of the trail.

way system is always the top priority."

Swift Current MLA and Education Minister Everett Hindley thanked municipal leaders for supporting the change.

City of Swift Current Mayor Al Bridal said the measure will help reduce the risk of collisions in the busy corridor and create a safer environment for residents and visitors.

RM of Swift Current No. 137 Reeve Ramona Dyck said the speed reduction addresses concerns about semi-trucks and large equipment accessing businesses along the highway.

Between 2019 and 2024, 17 collisions occurred along this section of Highway 1, including one fatal crash.

Motorists are reminded to check the Highway Hotline at <https://hotline.gov.sk.ca> for current road conditions, construction updates, closures and incidents.

Since 2008, the Government of Saskatchewan has invested more than \$13.8 billion in transportation infrastructure, improving more than 21,800 kilometres of highways.

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Millennium Gardens spark holiday cheer! Shalene Farr has spent weeks creating and decorating the Millennium Gardens in Leader — all as a volunteer. The festive display is full of Christmas spirit. *SUBMITTED*

Dear readers and advertisers

The Christmas season is the perfect time for us to thank you for your continued trust and support throughout the year.

Our greatest desire is to continue providing you with coverage of the news and issues that matter to our community and surrounding area ... because they're ours!

We wish you a Merry Christmas, filled with warmth and good cheer, and we hope to have the pleasure of offering you many more moments of enjoyment and reading in 2026.

OUR LAST PAPER OF THE YEAR WILL BE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23.

Our first edition back will be Tuesday, January 6, 2026!

Our office will be CLOSED from DECEMBER 22 to JANUARY 2.

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Diana
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and contributors!

BOOK REVIEW: Earth Angels – Operation Angel

By Marion Mutala
Millennium Marketing
REVIEW BY TOBY A. WELCH

Think you know angels? Earth Angels – Operation Angel may change your mind. The chapbook by Saskatoon-based author Marion Mutala explores angels as more than just the familiar Christmas tree ornaments. Mutala presents them as spiritual beings, messengers of God, and guardians of humans.

At just 26 pages, the chapbook is ideal for tucking into a purse or bag for a quick, reflective read. Mutala covers a wide range of topics: the different types of angels — archangels, seraphim, cherubim, living creatures, and ordinary angels — their purposes, and the eight symbolic traits often associated with them, from bright lights and wings to agelessness and high vibrations. The book also highlights a few well-known angels and includes suggested scripture readings.

Mutala shares personal experiences that suggest the presence of guardian angels in everyday life. One story recounts a 19-year-old Mutala driving into a ditch and being helped by a mysterious man she believes was an angel. Such accounts invite readers to reflect on their own experiences with the divine.



Marion Mutala
illustrations Kate Hodgson
illuminated capitals A.E. Matheson

The underlying message of Earth Angels encourages readers to become "angels on Earth" by striving for love, justice, and kindness — a timely reminder in today's chaotic world.

This is the sixth of Mutala's 19 published books reviewed by Welch. Each offers thoughtful insight that lingers long after reading. For anyone curious about angels and their potential influence, Earth Angels is a concise, thought-provoking addition to your bookshelf — or perhaps your bag.

Available at local bookstores or at www.skbooks.com.



A GLIMPSE OF CYPRESS HILLS PARK'S PAST: A 1936 photograph submitted by John Schmitt to the Historic Saskatchewan Facebook page shows his mother in front of what is now the café, facing the lake. The image reflects how families in southwest Saskatchewan endured — and still found joy — during the Great Depression. The park has changed little in nearly 90 years.



Eston 1917. COURTESY HISTORIC SASKATCHEWAN



Eaton School held its annual Winter Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 9, in the school gym in Eatonia. Students from kindergarten to Grade 4 were featured, along with all band students from Grades 5 to 12. Family, friends and staff enjoyed music, songs and skits as the students shared their talents and spread holiday cheer. The performances were made possible with the tireless efforts of Ms. Whitell, Mr. Hoult, Ms. Lindsay and Mrs. Hynd. *PHOTO COURTESY EATON SCHOOL*

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LEGAL

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF DAVID ROBERT SLINKARD, DECEASED Late of Dodsland, Saskatchewan. 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 January 21, 2026.

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Attention: Clifford Nimegeers
Solicitor for the Administrator

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

The R. M. of Mariposa No. 350 is accepting applications for a full-time seasonal Equipment Operator to commence work April 2026.

Applicant must have a valid driver's license. Grader experience would be an asset as well as a pesticide applicators license. There is potential for this to become a year-round position for the right candidate. Primary duties will include mowing of municipal right-of-way, spraying, rock picking and other duties as assigned by the foreman. Wages are negotiable based on experience. The R.M. offers a full benefits package.

Applications, along with a current driver's abstract, can be submitted to:

R.M. of Mariposa No. 350, Box 228, Kerrobert, SK. S0L 1R0,
faxed to (306)-834-5047 or emailed to cao@rmofmariposa.ca on or before 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

The R.M. wishes to thank all who applied, however, only those individuals with interviews will be contacted.

For more information phone the R.M. office at 306-834-5037.



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6 tips to help you save for retirement

Many Canadians struggle to understand the logistics of retirement and how to save. In fact, 32 per cent of Canadians nearing retirement age have nothing saved, and 53 per cent don't know if they're saving enough. Here are six practical tips to help you get ready for retirement.

- Understand your current spending.** Know how much you currently spend so you can compare it with your projected retirement spending. Managing your current spending can help you save for the future.
- Plan your future lifestyle.** Now's the time to think about how you want to live out your golden years. Many people assume their retirement spending will amount to approximately 70 per cent of their current spending (known as the 70 per cent rule). This may not be realistic by today's standards. Consider how you want to spend your retirement, and create a budget to match that lifestyle.
- Expect inflation.** Rising prices are inevitable. Be sure to keep inflation in mind when planning your retirement.

- Save on auto-pilot.** Setting up regular deposits into a savings account can help you build your nest egg without having to lift a finger.
- Pay off your mortgage.** Home expenses comprise a significant portion of your fixed costs. Paying off

your mortgage before retirement can help eliminate this monthly expense.

- Work with a financial adviser.** Work with them regularly to keep

your savings on track. Ask friends and family members for recommendations if you don't currently work with a financial adviser.



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Owens & Sweitzer (1972) Ltd., in Eston Sask., is looking to fill a position as a **Marketing Director/I.T. Person**. This position is a permanent position that could be considered on a full-time or part-time or flexible schedule basis pending the individual and agreed duties scheduled. Applications can be reviewed for the position of Marketing and I.T. or one of.

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- Design, order and company clothing, swag and advertising items
- Assist in company branding initiatives of building, properties and vehicles
- Co-ordinate staff events
- Assist and co-ordinate company trade shows, sponsorship events
- Photograph equipment, field days and events
- Maintain computer updates and hardware within the business
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Base salary starts at \$22/hr with additional salary dependent on experience and duties the individual can take on. Position advertising closes when filled. Owens & Sweitzer offers a comprehensive benefits package and pension program.

Apply in person with resume to Cordell Goheen.
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cordell@owensandsweitzer.com

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Operator with duties to start immediately.

The R.M. offers a comprehensive benefits package including Short Term and Long-Term Disability, Municipal Employees Pension Plan and Health & Dental.

The R.M. offers competitive wages.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Operate a grader to complete road maintenance, grading, gravel reclamation and minor road construction, snow plowing
- Ensure roads are maintained and repaired (culverts) on a priority basis and ability to repair machinery and attachments
- Manage all duties given by Foreman & Council, & log work on provided sheets daily
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to establish effective working relationships with council, staff, contractors and rate payers
- Other duties as prescribed

The Successful Applicant Should Possess:

- Experience is an asset in maintenance and operation of a grader, tractor-trailer and heavy equipment, but training can be provided
- Willingness to be supervised and take direction from Foreman
- Great communication and documentation skills
- Valid driver's license
- 1A license would be a preference, but will train the right person

Your Resume Should Include:

- Past and present work experience
- Education and skills
- Two references
- Expected salary

Please have resumes submitted by January 12, 2026 to:

Rural Municipality of Deer Forks No. 232
P.O. Box 250
Burstell, Saskatchewan S0N 0H0
Email: rm232@sasktel.net

UTILITY/MAINTENANCE OPERATOR

R.M. of Happyland No. 231

Operator with duties to start immediately. The R.M. offers a comprehensive benefits package including Short Term and Long-Term Disability, Municipal Employees Pension Plan and Health & Dental. The R.M. offers competitive wages.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- General labour and maintenance within the RM
- Manage all duties given by Foreman & Council, & log work on provided sheets daily
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to establish effective working relationships with council, staff, contractors and ratepayers
- Other duties as prescribed

The Successful Applicant Should Possess:

- Experience is an asset in maintenance and operation of a mower, tractor, skid steer, grader, backhoe, excavator, but training can be provided
- Willingness to be supervised and take direction from Foreman
- Great communication and documentation skills
- Valid Class 5 Driver's License

Your Resume Should Include:

- Past and present work experience
- Education and skills
- Two references
- Expected salary

Please have resumes submitted by Dec 31st, 2025 to:

Rural Municipality of Happyland No. 231
P.O. Box 339
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R.M. of
Happyland No. 231

FULL TIME OPERATOR

R.M. of Happyland No. 231

The R.M. offers a comprehensive benefits package including Short Term and Long-Term Disability, Municipal Employees Pension Plan and Health & Dental and competitive wages.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Operate a grader to complete road maintenance, grading, gravel reclamation and minor road construction, snow plowing
- Ensure roads are maintained and repaired (culverts) on a priority basis and ability to repair machinery and attachments
- Manage all duties given by Foreman & Council, & log work on provided sheets daily
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to establish effective working relationships with council, staff, contractors and rate payers
- Haul and spread gravel with RM tractor-trailer
- Operator a tractor and mower, general labour
- Other duties as prescribed

The Successful Applicant Should Possess:

- Experience is an asset in maintenance and operation of a tractor-trailer and heavy equipment, but training can be provided
- Willingness to be supervised and take direction from Foreman
- Great communication and documentation skills
- Valid driver's license
- Class 1 license would be a preference

Your Resume Should Include:

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- Two references
- Expected salary

Please have resumes submitted by Dec 31st, 2025 to:

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OBITUARIES

Francis Elizabeth Babiuk (Herner)

November 12, 1931 - November 19, 2025



My Dear Sweet mother Fran Babiuk has gone to Heaven this morning to be with the Angels... she was a special woman and mother that touched so many people in her life and sprinkled her magic dust on the souls of all she touched...

She will be missed by many but none more than by her sons Mark and Sam Babiuk ... she was our center... our sun... and now our universe has changed forever... hope your dancing in heaven with all your friends... your son Robbie and our father Alex... until we meet again... you will be loved forever mommy.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children; Sam Babiuk and Mark Babiuk; grandchildren; Jennifer Babiuk, Krista Babiuk and Brett Plante, Sister; Clara Gustafson (Herner), Brothers; Ray (Jeanette) Herner and Ed Herner; many nieces and nephews with many being very special to her Chrissy Dunning, Laurie Herner, Owen Herner, Judy Vanderwood, Darryl (Robin) Herner, Eddy Jessop, Eleanor Janson, and many more.

Fran was predeceased by her husband, Alex; her son Robert; her parents John & Mary Herner.

Fran Babiuk (Herner) was born in Reward Saskatchewan on November 12, 1931. She moved with her family to the Dodsland Saskatchewan area farm a few years later and lived most of her life in and around this part of Saskatchewan. She had an amazing childhood filled with many stories some joyful and some bad, but she always made people laugh as she told her stories of her life.

Fran moved to Biggar Saskatchewan in her early life to teach at a one room schoolhouse and then the hospital. This is where she met Alex Babiuk in a Harlequin Romance Story meeting and soon, they were married. Soon a family followed with her first two sons Sam and Mark. Alex was a Welding Crew Foreman for a CNR at the time. He was traveling from one end of Canada to the other and something had to change, so off he went to Toledo, Ohio to the largest meat school in the land at the time. Upon finishing Alex & Fran purchased the Butcher shop in Dodsland. The "Babiuk Locker Plant" serviced a fifty-mile circle around Dodsland for just over twenty years. They created so many friendships and stories over those twenty years, with a few tears and much laughter. Sometimes people would come in just to find out what everyone was laughing about that could be heard outside. During those many years in the Butcher shop... along came another son Robert. Fran's last blessing that created so much joy and many lost bets. Fran never really showed being pregnant with any of her boys, just looked like she was a bit chubby. She worked right up until the day of his birth. So, when prankster husband started telling people he had another son no one believed him and so the story goes that he bet a bottle of whiskey he had a new son... no one believed him and the largest bet Alex won for his last son was a "Texas Mickey" of Canadian Club.



Fran would say so many great memories were created there.

The business was sold when Alex's health got bad and years later was found to have cancer. Her one true love passed away in December 1989.

Fran always the learner... made many changes at this time taking on part-time jobs at Canada Post and was on several community boards and helping set up GED programs. She worked with the community college out of Kindersley to set up remote Kelsey training courses. This is how she ended up taking the Homecare Nurse Aid course because they needed extra people just to have the course run. She also took the course and was like the mother hen helping and assisting other. She was happy to achieve the course herself. That took her into working with homecare for many years. About the time they forced her to retire from Homecare an opening with Canada Post in Dodsland Post office started her next career path. Always working and always helping with community. She was part of District Health Boards, Dodsland Town Council, and many more things until a serious health issue slowed her down.

There are so many things about Fran that it would take pages to tell them all. But she had a precious amazing soul that made everyone that knew her cherish her. She made friends with everyone she met and made everyone smile around her. She sent out thousands of cards and wrote many personal and inspirational notes. She gave of herself to help everyone and will be missed by all that knew her. In this inspiration she requested that all that wish to remember her do a random act kindness for someone in need.

Fran did not want a funeral and asked for her sons to have a "Celebration of Life" for her next spring when the weather is better. Once the dates are confirmed another notice will be posted.

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OBITUARIES

Marlene Melba Gurney (née: Molde)

June 22, 1937 - November 30, 2025



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Marlene Melba Gurney (née: Molde) on Friday Nov 30th, 2025, at the age of 88 years. Marlene was a devoted wife, loving mother, a caring "Gram" and Great Grandma, as well as Aunt/Great-Aunt to many. Her profound strength, her twinkle in those blue eyes, her sense of humour (see you in the funny papers), and her at times "spiciness", is admired and will be dearly missed.

Marlene was born June 22nd, 1937, to William and Melba Molde, at her Surtees' grandparents' home in the Green Brier School District near Lucky Lake, SK. As the eldest of twelve children, she took on great responsibility – working tirelessly on the farm to help provide for the family. During her teenage years she began working at the grocery store in Eyebrow, SK and that is where she met a handsome fellow named Chuck Gurney. They were married in June of 1955 and had two children, Greg Gurney and Robin Dunlop (née: Gurney).

Throughout her life, Marlene was actively involved in sports including curling, softball, and swimming. She was very active in her home Community of Eyebrow and known for her exceptional cooking. Her pickles, relishes, and baking often earned her top prizes at the local Eyebrow Fair. Marlene took great pride in her beautiful flowers, especially her gladiolas, and her garden on the farm was pristine.

After 60 years of farming Marlene and Chuck retired and moved from the farm into Eyebrow. In 2018, as their health began to decline, they relocat-

ed to Regina, SK. Following Chuck's passing earlier this year, Marlene moved to a long-term care home in April where she resided until her passing.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Robin Dunlop; parents, William and Melba Molde; siblings: David Molde, Shannon MacLachlan, Debbie Molde, Richard Molde, and Barbara Moerkirk. Marlene will be forever loved and missed by her son, Greg; daughter-in-law, Karen; granddaughters: Krista and her children Jeremy and Matt Gurney, Karmin (Matthew) and their children Owen and Ivy Kowalyshen, and Chelsea Gurney, son-in-law, Marlo; grandsons, Tanner (Melissa) and their children Emma and Hayden Dunlop, and Jared (Janelle) Dunlop.

A heartfelt thank you on behalf of Marlene's family to the Regina Home Care Staff for the years of support they provided. Deep gratitude is also extended to the Kerrobert Health Center Staff for their kind, compassionate, safe, and dignified care over the past eight months. Marlene looked forward to every visit and was always thankful for "all of the spoiling" she received. You treated her like family, and we will be forever grateful.

A Celebration of Marlene's Life will be held on Thursday, December 18th, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at Moose Jaw Funeral Home. Pastor Marvin Seaborg will officiate and a private family interment to take place at a later date. Those not able to attend may view the service by going to www.moosejawfuneralhome.com/webcast/. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Marlene's name may be made to the Kerrobert Health Center Recreation Department, 115 Manitoba Avenue, Kerrobert, SK S0L 1R0. Arrangements are entrusted to Moose Jaw Funeral Home, 268 Mulberry Lane. Michelle Ellis, Funeral Director 306-693-4550 www.moosejawfuneralhome.com

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For the way you want to be remembered

Canada Post unveils 2026 Stamps featuring wolves and Canadian Heritage

BY IAN MACKAY

Four different species of wolves that live in Canada will appear on stamps planned for 2026.

Another new stamp next year celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion, a recent Canada Post statement said. Others will portray sugar shacks and scenes from producing maple sugar, "traditions that are part of the intangible heritage of Quebec," the statement said.

"In response to a growing demand for blood donations, a new stamp raises awareness and encourages Canadians to give," it said. October will bring "a set of three eerie jack-o'-lanterns," the statement added.

Many other new issues will continue existing series

"with a fresh take," it said. Those include hip-hop pioneers for Black History Month, new stamps for Orange Shirt Day, cherry blossoms in the flower series and, for Remembrance Day, "a new design commemorates the service of Chinese-Canadians sent on secret missions behind Japanese lines in Asia."

"Individually, the stamps tell their own rich stories," the statement said. "Collectively, they paint a bigger picture of what makes Canada special."

People serving on an independent committee recommend their ideas for stamps each year, relying on "thoughtful input from groups and individuals to choose subjects that capture important themes and histories that reflect the shared values of Canadians nationwide," the statement said.

COVID, Flu and RSV Infections on the rise

BY IAN MACKAY

Virus infections took a steep jump during the most recent week covered in a provincial report.

The number of Saskatchewan residents who tested positive for the virus that causes Covid-19 rose to 92 during the week of Nov. 23-29 after 65 the week before.

The count of those found positive for influenza leapt by almost 100, to 258 from 160, and the RSV total more than doubled, to 31 from 14, a chart showed.

Health Department staff issued the latest update on Dec. 5. Nobody in the province died from either virus during the previous four weeks, according to the chart.

One person in the department's west-central region tested positive for the coronavirus that causes covid and four tested positive for the flu.

In spite of the higher test numbers, hospitals admitted 17 people with covid during Nov. 23-29, down from 22 the week earlier, but three of them needed in-

tensive care after none did during the previous week, the chart showed.

Hospital admittances for the flu reached 25, after 21, 22 and 18 the three previous weeks and a total of 10 people - two or three a week - required intensive care. One of the eight people admitted with RSV during Nov. 23-29 needed intensive care.

The 89 people diagnosed as sick with covid during Nov. 23-29 included 36 aged between 20 and 64, 32 people 65 or older, 10 toddlers and nine aged five to 19.

The 20-65 age group had 93 people sick with the flu, along with 81 aged five to 19 years old, 32 under five and 27 who were 65 or over.

Eighteen of the 31 with RSV were under five, along with five each in the two oldest groups and three among the five to 19 age group.

The percentage of residents who'd received a vaccination against the coronavirus rose to 12.9 per cent during Nov. 23-29 from 12.4 per cent the week earlier and, for the flu, to 18.7 per cent from 17.9 per cent.

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ALSASK

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

- Ukrainian New Year Celebration. Kaiser tournament at 1:00 PM. \$5/person entry. Cash prize. Supper served 5-9 PM featuring homemade perogies, sausage and veggies for \$25/plate or \$10 (under 10). Help support the Alsask Drop-In Centre (206 Main St). Contact Dave at 306-463-0169 for more info.

EATONIA

- Every Thursday from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM come to the Eatonia Library for puzzles, visiting and grab your books for the week!
- Check out our TOPS Chapter ... it's free to try! Every Wednesday. Weigh in: 5:45 PM. Meeting: 6:00 PM at Corcoran Place. Contact Cora Knuttila 306-460-9047.
- The Lions Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month.
- The Rec Board meets the second Monday of each month 7:00 PM at the Town Office.
- Town Council meet the second Tuesday of each month 7:00 PM at the Town Office.

ESTON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

- Eston Carol Festival 7:00 PM Eston Full Gospel Church.
- 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.
- Every Monday - Adult Exercise Program 10:00-11:00 AM at the AGT Community Centre
- Make sure to check the AGT Community Centre recreation calendar on eston.ca for ice schedule.
- Drop in Bowling Sundays 1:00-4:00 PM. \$5 bowling. No need to book, just drop in.

HOOSIER

- 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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- Kerrobert Composite School Christmas Concert 6:30 PM. A Christmas Carol Remix.
- MS Support Group at Kerrobert Health Centre Meeting Room every 3rd Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM. Contact Gail Wiebe for more information 306-834-7068.
- Walk This Way Group Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30-11:30 AM
- Walk This Way with Lao Thursdays at the PCC from 9:30-10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome and it's FREE.

Upcoming EVENTS

- Shuffle Club Mondays at the PCC 1:30-3:00 PM
- Winter Wear Drive ongoing until March. Drop off at the Seniors Hall Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30-11:00 AM. Contact Yvonne at 306-834-8292 if you need an item.
- Make sure to check the Kerrobert Memorial Arena schedule for upcoming games.

KINDERSLEY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

- Elizabeth School Christmas Bake Sale 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Use west doors to enter the gymnasium. Cash only. Open to the public. Tell your friends!
- Parkinson's Support Group Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month 1:30 PM at 401 - 4th Ave West (New Life Church). Everyone 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.
- Interested in a support group for weight management? TOPS meetings; every Monday at 6:00 PM in the Kindersley Senior Centre OR contact Jill at 306-463-4210.
- Pickleball meets Sunday & Wednesday evenings 7:00 PM at Elizabeth School for the indoor season. Cost is \$50 for the season or \$5 drop in. Our club is a part of Pathway To Wellness. More info call Teresa Knight 306-460-7304.
- Fit Fighter Group Class. Helping individuals with Parkinson Disease, Fibromyalgia, MS, Arthritis and mobility issues. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 AM at Anytime Fitness. Call Karen 463-3607 for more info.
- 365 Kindersley Air Cadets meet Thursday evenings at the Kindersley Museum. No charge to be a member, youth ages 12-18, must be a Canadian resident. Contact Ian Kehrer via text at 306-460-0057 or Sheila Kehrer via text 306-604-9044. Come Fly With Us!
- Every Tuesday: Community Badminton 6:30 - 9:00 PM at Westberry School. Everybody welcome.

LEADER

- Leader & Surrounding Communities Food Bank Christmas Hampers. To register for a hamper call / text (639) 932-7446. Registration deadline is December 5. Hampers can be picked up or will be delivered on December 18th from 4:00-5:00 PM. Delivery drivers are always welcome.
- Leader and District Healthcare Foundation online charity auction on now until November 30th. If you would like to donate to this event, contact Pam at 306-628-7542.
- Make sure to check out the G3 Iceplex Arena Schedule online at leader.ca
- Community Walking Club Monday - Thursday 7:00-8:00 PM at Leader Composite School (Use student parking lot door). You must pre-register at the Town Office.

LUSELAND

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

- Luseland School Christmas Concert 7:00 PM

- The Luseland Homecoming Hall will be available for indoor walking on TUESDAY & THURSDAY mornings. Please pick up the key at the Town Office to unlock the door. Silver collection at the door.
- The Luseland Library Art Gallery has a new exhibit on display, "The Art of Christmas" which features festive, artisan wreaths created by community members.

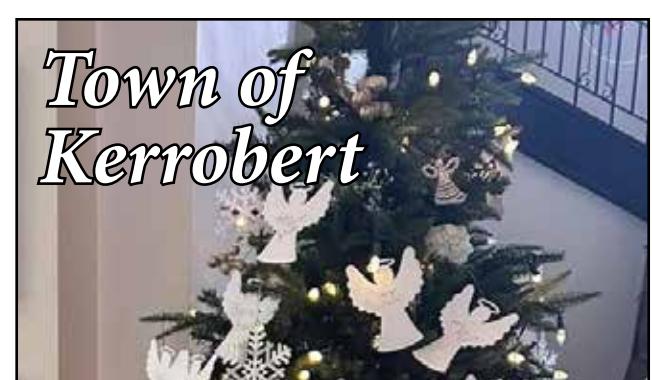
Recurring events at The Luseland Pioneers Club Members

- Monday-Saturday 8:30 AM - Noon, Coffee, Pool, Visiting, Cards
- Cards are played several days of the week
- Third Friday of the month Birthday Lunch at noon
- Exercises 9:00-9:30 AM Monday, Wednesday, Friday

MAJOR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

- Luseland School Christmas Concert 7:00 PM
- MS Support Group at Kerrobert Health Centre Meeting Room every 3rd Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM. Contact Gail Wiebe for more information 306-834-7068.
- November / December Church Times 5:30 PM Saturdays



Memory Tree

Write the name of a loved one on a blank angel, and place them on the Memory Tree.

All donations will be put towards future capital projects at the Cemetery, such as upgrading our tree line watering system.

