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GOOD LITTLE BOY! Santa Claus made an appearance at Kerrobert's Festival of Trees last Thursday evening, taking his place of honour inside the courthouse as children took turns chatting with him and receiving treats. See the story and more photos on page 13. *PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN*

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Elyssia Holloway holds two of her recently published books. The new 21-year-old author from Kindersley writes Christian historical fiction and uses the pen name Ellie Hollows. PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN

New Kindersley author is crafting historical fiction

BY JOAN JANZEN

A new young author is hard at work promoting her recently published works of fiction. Elyssia Holloway has chosen the pseudonym Ellie Hollows, and has independently published two books as part of a series. The books are entitled *The Hermit and the Rose* and *The Victor and the Violet*. Most recently, she also published a Christmas story entitled *Chickadee Christmas*.

"I chose the pen name Ellie Hollows because Ellie is my nickname, and our farm is called Hidden Hollows," the 21-year-old explained. Elyssia lives with her parents and eight younger siblings on an acreage south of Kindersley.

Elyssia writes Christian historical fiction with a mystery element. She's dedicated to her craft and has already completed the first draft of her fourth book. "The book I just finished is Christian fantasy," she said.

Although she is venturing out into more genres, she primarily writes historical fiction. "I love going back into history. It's amazing how much research I have to do, though," she admitted.

Her book *Chickadee Christmas* tells the story of a single mom and her toddler navigating the holiday season during the Great Depression. "The period fit my story line. It's hard to find books on Canadian history," she admitted, which is why she wants to incorporate Canadian history in her fiction.

She began by creating the story line and wanted to emphasize that hope can be found even when experiencing hard times during the holiday season. She said the book shows that "Christ is the light out of our darkness."

The young author has been crafting stories since she was a little kid, even though "they weren't any good," she chuckled. However, three years ago she began to seriously pursue writing her first book, *The Hermit and the Rose*.

About that time, she joined an online program for

young people aged 13–25, where she watched a series of videos and put her newfound skills into practice in her manuscript. "There I met a really good friend, and we decided to start a writer's club," she said. "It created a very welcoming community where we help each other."

Elyssia's writing began to take off! Her first book was published in November 2024, the second book in September 2025, and her Christmas short story was published just prior to the Christmas season.

"I love baking and cooking, but for me writing provides an outlet to think creatively and be myself," she said. "Nothing worth doing is easy; it takes a lot of work. So many times I want to give up, but every time someone encourages me to keep going."

Her creativity ensures each book is different, but she confessed her most recent book is the most difficult one she's ever written. At the same time, she's really happy and excited about the first draft. "It highlights that our past doesn't have to define us," she explained.

While she continues to craft her stories, she is surrounded by her greatest supporters: her family. "My 14-year-old sister is my biggest motivator," she said, as she reads each chapter as it is being written. "And my mom and dad are my biggest supporters. My mom helps me with plot points. She's the super best mom ever!" Elyssia enthused.

She also enjoys watching her brothers read her books. "I'm watching them read and realize they laugh at just the right time. It's been really encouraging for me," she admitted.

While Elyssia is busy making connections and promoting her books on Instagram and her website, she constantly reminds herself not to despise small beginnings. "My purpose in writing isn't to be a best seller. If God can use it to encourage one person, it's all worth it," she concluded.

You can check out Elyssia's website and blog at www.elliesbookhaven.com.



Therese Malindine and her daughters Karen (left) and Sarah continue to carry on Christmas traditions they learned in England. *SUBMITTED*

Childhood memories of Christmas in England

BY JOAN JANZEN

Therese Malindine has lived in Canada for nearly five decades, yet she hasn't lost her charming British accent. It was a pleasure to listen to Therese recall her memories of Christmas as a child growing up in the county of Essex, fifteen miles outside of London, England.

"Where I grew up is now all part of Greater London. It's very different now than what it was; it's not the same place I grew up in," she explained.

She was born in 1948, just three years after the war had ended. Yet some foods were still scarce and were rationed up until 1952.

"We had Charlie Brown-type trees in the early years and then an artificial one after that," she recalled. "We used to go carolling in the neighbourhood, and sometimes they would give us coins." This was at a time when it was safe for teens to walk around the neighbourhood after dark.

"I don't remember having a school Christmas concert, but we had assemblies almost every day when we sang a hymn and did a reading. Any school I attended had assemblies," she said. The schools had thousands of students. "I grew up with classrooms with 40 kids and just one teacher. Back then they disciplined, so it was probably easier to manage."

Therese doesn't remember having her photo taken with Father Christmas. "But I took my daughters to see Father Christmas before we left England," she recalled. "He was the same jolly old guy as Santa."

"My mom's church just across the street was built in the 12th century; a little different than here. We wore winter coats to go to church on Christmas Eve because it was freezing in there," she said. The church was made of stone, and the hot water heat through

radiators took the edge off the cold, but it was never comfortably warm inside.

Although Therese's family didn't have lots of money, her mom always put money aside for presents throughout the year, "so we basically got whatever we asked for and didn't go without," she said.

Therese and her two brothers would hang their stockings at the end of their beds in preparation for Christmas morning. "We would be up at 4:00 in the morning, but I think we got a bit smarter over the years," she chuckled.

When they woke up, they found their stockings had been filled and gifts were tucked underneath their beds. "I can remember getting a really big doll's pram (stroller) and my two brothers and I were trying to get it down the stairs quietly," she recalled. "We would get what they called selection boxes that had small versions of chocolate bars, along with our gifts."

The family's big Christmas feast was held in the afternoon on Christmas Day. "The English go overboard with meat," she said. "You didn't have just turkey; you also had a big side of pork and sometimes beef. They didn't scrimp on meat!"

She also remembered having lots of fruit, nuts in the shell, Christmas pudding, and trifle. "I still make one of those every year," she added.

When asked what Therese considered the biggest difference when arriving in Canada, she promptly replied, "the freezing cold," which isn't surprising since they arrived in Canada in February 1979.

As for Christmas celebrations, she said her family continues to carry on the traditions they learned from her mom and gramma. "We add some Canadian things, but for the most part we celebrate Christmas the same way we always had."

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A large crowd of people is gathered in front of a building at night, watching a massive fireworks display. A large, brightly lit Christmas tree is visible on the right side of the image.

PHOTO BY KARRI WAGMAN

BY JOAN JANZEN

Santa himself made an appearance, beard neatly trimmed, ready for photos with eager children and busy handing out treat bags. The trees and greenery at Mil-

The community of Leader enjoyed a perfect mix of seasonal cheer at Santa Night, with visits from Santa, sleigh rides, hot chocolate and hot dogs, late-night shopping, a bonfire, fireworks, and a timely snowfall.

GIVING BACK: The Kindersley Antique Threshing Club is dedicated to giving back to the community with the proceeds from the crop they harvested in 2025. Lionel Story, along with members of the Antique Threshing Club, presented a cheque for \$1,999.31 to Viv Kalmer and other representatives of Kindersley & District Health & Wellness Foundation. The funds will be used for renovations at Heritage Manor. (L-R) Dennis Woodrow, Lionel Story, Garth Weinhandl, Rick McDougall, Gord Dunn, Viv Kalmer, Duffy Hamm, Hugh McLean, Larry Benjaminson, Blair Dies. *PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN*

I dream of courageous people stepping forward to make a better world

One Christmas light asked another Christmas light, "Are you working this Christmas?" The light replied, "On and off."

It's always a welcome sight to see Christmas lights brighten up the darkness as we head toward the least amount of daylight of the year. Those lights symbolize the light brought into the world when Jesus was born. However, it's ironic that our government has chosen the Christmas season to try and criminalize religious beliefs. It's not exactly a cheerful Christmas greeting for people adhering to various faiths.

An article in The National Post explains how the Liberal government struck a deal with the Bloc Québécois to remove religious exemptions from Canada's hate-speech laws. The change to Bill C-9 would open the door for faith communities that have worshipped freely for our entire history to find themselves subject to state censorship and prosecution for quoting scripture or speaking on issues of faith. It will be an assault on religious freedoms for churches, synagogues, and mosques.

It's time for concerned citizens to contact their MPs, asking them to vote against this alarming amendment. Every Canadian deserves to know this is happening and not be left in the dark.

Meanwhile, we see a lot of political theatrics unfold before our eyes. Back in September, our PM unveiled the govern-



Opinion
By Joan Janzen

ment's \$13-billion Build Canada Homes Program. Blacklock's Reporter first reported the Department of Housing admitted the fake construction site backdrop cost taxpayers \$32,000. The partially built units were erected for the announcement and then dismantled afterward.

But there are journalists who are willing to address unpopular topics. This occurred when the pro-life organization Right Now went undercover multiple times in clinics throughout the country, showing that it is possible to obtain a third-trimester abortion without any medical reason. Although it may be rare, your tax dollars are paying for them.

This was followed by Alberta's Conservatives voting overwhelmingly against taxpayer-funded late-term abortion. Member of Parliament Ted Ford co-sponsored and outlined Resolution 29 to his colleagues.

"This resolution doesn't restrict access to, but proposes public funding in the third trimester be limited to cases where the mother's physical health is at serious risk," he explained. He went on to say his own daughter was born in the third trimester and is now an intelligent and healthy pre-teen. "The problem with many second- and all third-trimester abortions is it causes the death of a child who could survive outside the womb."

Policy Resolution 29 passed. It's a

It's time for concerned citizens to contact their MPs, asking them to vote against this alarming amendment.

step forward, but yet there's more that needs to be done. As MP Leslyn Lewis wrote in a recent X post: "Why is Canada the only Western democracy that permits this (late-term abortion)?" She noted the only other nations in the world that have no specified gestational limit are China and North Korea. It's time for Canada to take the first step toward a late-term abortion ban.

While Christmas lights are twinkling, arsonists continue to target churches. True North Media launched an interactive map tracking over 110 incidents of arson at religious institutions by the summer of 2025. A study by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute confirmed arson at churches more than doubled compared to 2021, and less than 4 percent of arson incidents between 2021 and 2023 led to charges.

Whenever I become weary of watching these injustices and political theatrics play out before my eyes, I take time out to watch the movie depicting the life of William Wilberforce. Needless to say, I've watched it numerous times.

Wilberforce was determined to do what was right, even though society

considered human slavery both acceptable and necessary for their economic prosperity. Slaves were considered property, not human.

The general population conveniently ignored the fact that slaves were chained and shipped in tiny cages for weeks at a time. This courageous individual dedicated twenty years of his life to fight against this injustice. While enduring endless ridicule, he persevered in opening the eyes of society to recognize the injustice that was playing out right before their eyes. Three days before his death, slavery was finally abolished.

Each time I watch the movie Amazing Grace, tears well up in my eyes. And each time I pray for modern-day young men and women like Wilberforce to step forward with a passion to help a blinded society recognize injustice.

Wilberforce chose his path because of his convictions and passion, not for political gain. It was not a popular pursuit over 300 years ago. And today we see politicians of all stripes avoiding issues that society considers unpopular and "settled."

The movie ends with this written message: Wilberforce continued to battle injustice for the rest of his life. He transformed the hearts and minds of his countrymen on education, health care, and prison reform to accomplish his second real dream—making a better world.

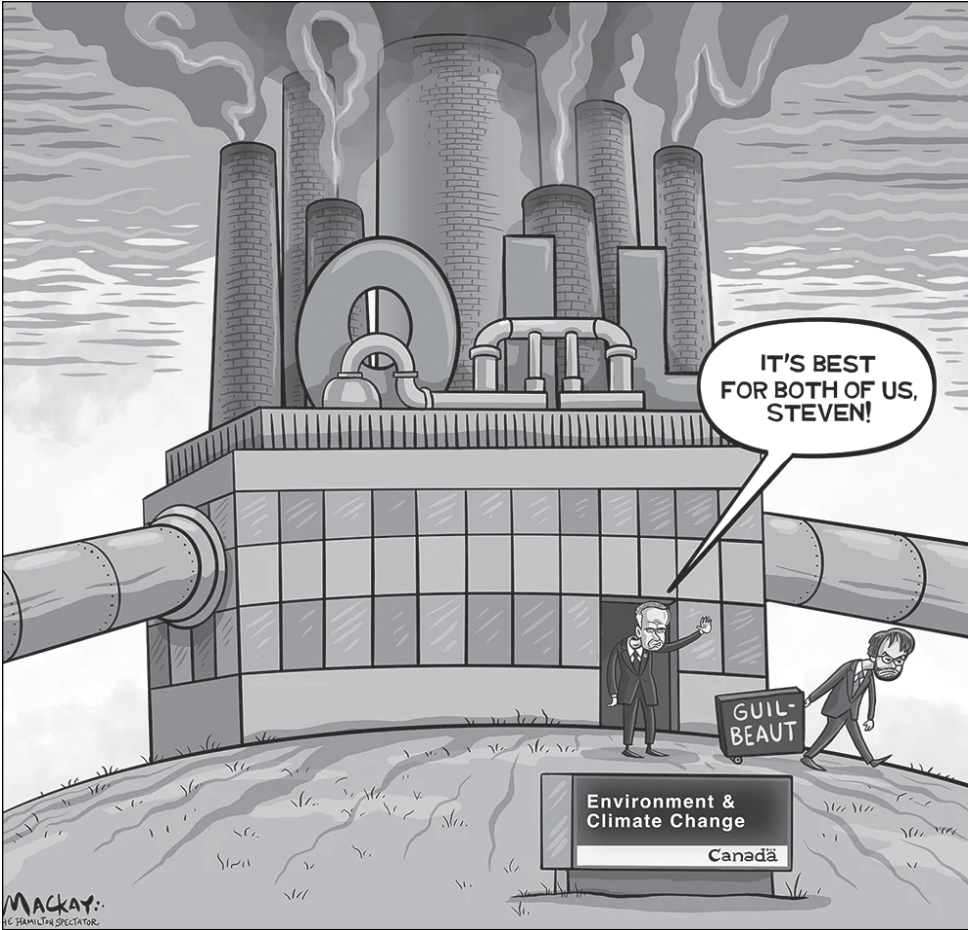
While some dream of a holly, jolly Christmas, I dream of courageous world-changers who refuse to be censored as they step forward with a passion to make a better world.

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Week in Review: Rosetown RCMP respond to highway incidents and crimes

The Rosetown RCMP detachment is reporting its weekly activity from November 28 to December 4, 2025. Over the weekend of November 28–30, officers conducted patrols on surrounding highways for traffic enforcement, issuing several tickets, with no other calls for service. On December 1, RCMP received a fraud complaint in Beechy, which remains under investigation, and were notified of erratic driving on Highway 7 near Fiske, although the vehicle could not be intercepted. Later that evening, members assisted in keeping the peace at a residence in the RM of Milden, where a subject packed personal belongings and left without further incident.

On December 2, a deer-vehicle collision near Sask Landing Provincial Park was reported; no injuries were sustained, and the vehicle was drivable. Officers also conducted a well-being check in Rosetown that afternoon. The following day, RCMP responded to a vehicle fire in Elrose caused by an electrical issue under the hood, with no injuries reported. On December 4, a semi-truck fire north of Kyle on Highway 4



prompted RCMP assistance with traffic control; no injuries occurred.

During this period, officers issued 23 traffic-related charges and responded to one 911 misdial and one false alarm call. Police are asking anyone with information about these or any other crimes to contact the Rosetown RCMP at 306-882-5700, or anonymously through Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.sask-crimestoppers.com.

Something's happening

Advent holds a special place for me. And it's not just about counting the days 'til Santa comes, or opening the cute little cardboard calendar and pilfering the chocolates before my siblings do, although that childhood tradition contributed to a sense of anticipation integral to the season. What I love about Advent is the permission and encouragement it gives us to embrace a state of waiting.

The other day I told a friend that "Advent meant waiting." "Are you sure?" she asked. A fellow etymologist, she was sure it meant "arrival." Ok, sure, I hesitated to explain. But as Catholics, we rest in the waiting room for the arrival. We give some thought to what it is we await. We try to do our best to be alert and prepared for the nativity. Something is happening, and we need to be ready. If not, we will miss it. We need to learn to pay attention. And we get four weeks to practice.



Pop89
By Madonna Hamel

Luckily, I grew up with an appreciation for the swelling sense of Mystery this waiting period brings. For someone who can expect too much from other people and situations, even when I'm warned by others wiser than me that expectations are premeditated resentments, it is a joy to suspend myself in a sense of expectation of the birth of a baby. Mary is expecting, for all of us.

While most waiting rooms are places we usually try to avoid, or rush through, Advent gives us room to wait. I settle into that waiting by making sure I am sitting by the window at dusk, a cup of tea in hand, ready and willing to watch as the snow turns blue. This moment of the day, this liminal space, fills me with a particular awe only possible at this time of year, when the veil between worlds is thin and the Mystery slips through. I don't believe you need to be a believer to sense that. The nights feel holy. The stars shine brighter. The soul feels its worth.

Once it's thoroughly dark outside, and I can see the candles and my face reflecting back at me in the window, I open my favourite book for this season, an Advent daily reader called Watch for the Light. It's a collection of writings by everyone from Thomas Aquinas and Søren Kierkegaard to Annie Dillard and Kathleen Norris. It gives me a chance to consider the full scope of the season.

I've just reread, for the fourth time, a beautiful essay by the spiritual writer and priest Henri Nouwen in which he addresses waiting. He reminds us that "fearful people have a hard time waiting," because when we are afraid, the last thing we want to do is to stay still: "we want to get away from where we are," whether we are a whole community, a nation, or an individual afraid of being harmed. And the more afraid we are, the harder waiting

becomes. Waiting feels like having one's guard down.

All the more reason to be impressed by Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary, says Nouwen. I was re-iterating the gospel story in Luke of Zechariah and Elizabeth to my friend Diana this morning over breakfast, before her cataract surgery. "So, Zechariah is told by an angel that he will be a father, that his wife will have a son. No way, says Zechariah, that's not possible, she's past eighty! But Elizabeth is, indeed, pregnant with John the Baptist, and so is her cousin Mary, who travels to be with Elizabeth, so they don't

have to wait alone. In fact, the first encounter between John and Jesus is when the babies leap inside the bellies of their respective moms, recognizing the presence of each other."

"Wow," says Diana, "that's quite the story. Where did you read that?"

The point of the story, I say, is that people who have a promise at the end of a wait can wait far more easily. Nouwen wants to show how waiting is rarely purely passive. In scripture, people wait actively. "A waiting person is a patient person," writes Nouwen. "Patient people dare to stay where they are. Patient living means to live actively in the present and wait there. It involves nurturing the moment, as a mother nurtures the child that is growing in her. Elizabeth and Mary were very present to the moment. That is why they could hear the angel. They were alert, attentive to the voice that spoke to them and said: don't be afraid. Something is happening to you. Pay attention."

But also, adds Nouwen, they could wait because they were filled with hope. And hope is more than wishes; it is "trusting that something will be fulfilled." Hope allowed Mary to say: "I don't know what will happen, but I trust that good things will happen."

My brother, when he had his three brief moments of sight after a stroke knocked out most of his occipital lobe, yelled out a line from Monty Python's Life of Brian: "Something's happening, Reg. Something's actually happening!" It's become an exclamation of observation for us. My point for telling Diana the Advent story of Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary at breakfast is the same point I try to make by re-telling it to myself: to live in trust that something is happening.

"Yes," agreed Diana. "It's the power of gestation."

But, "to wait open-endedly is an enormously radical attitude toward life," writes Nouwen. "The spiritual life is a life in which we wait, actively present to the moment, trusting that new things will happen to us that are far beyond our imagination, fantasy, or prediction."

So, we need to wait together, like Mary and Elizabeth did. I tried to be present to my friend before her eye surgery. I try to be present to my brother when the state of his "beehive" busy, swirling eyes gets too much for him. To stand beside him, tuned to the Mystery, ready for whatever comes next.

Find a safe ride this holiday season

The holidays are a time to celebrate with family and friends—but getting home safely should be part of the plan.

In 2024, impaired driving contributed to 583 collisions, 350 injuries and 45 deaths in Saskatchewan. SGI urges residents to know their safe ride options before heading out.

"Many of us will be attending festive events," said Kwei Quaye, vice-president of traffic safety. "As you make your plans, remember to choose a safe ride home. Let's all do our part to keep the roads safe."

Safe ride options include:

- Designating a sober driver or volunteering to be one
- Calling a sober friend or family member
- Taking a cab, rideshare, or designated driving service



- Using public transit
- Staying overnight

Seasonal programs such as Operation Red Nose are also available. No matter the choice, make sure you #FindASafeRide.



Just a gal from Glidden

Hallelujah and Big Balls: A life soundtracked by love and laughter

BY KATE WINQUIST

I usually use this column to talk sports—football, baseball, maybe the odd hockey mention—but there’s something bigger than sports that’s been a constant in my life: music.

Last week, I wrote about my sisters playing Christmas carols on the piano, daring anyone brave enough to sing along. Me? My piano skills are limited to Chopsticks, the first few bars of Scott Joplin’s The Entertainer, and the opening of The Rainbow Connection. I tried band in school—trumpet first, then clarinet once braces came along—but by high school, art won out and band was left behind (sorry, Mr. Aulinger). Listening, however? That was serious business.

I spent hours with Casey Kasem’s American Top 40 on CKCK Radio, tape recorder at the ready, hoping to catch the latest hits—and even jotting down the entire countdown on a pad of paper. Zellers in the Kindersley Mall stocked the best albums, and my allowance went entirely to records and TDK 90-minute cassettes. Those mixed tapes became the soundtrack for cruising Main Street



Mom and I – Christmas 1983

in Dad’s 1986 Chev Wrangler. Today, all those tapes, records, CDs, and 45s still live in my basement—and my kids are already squabbling over who gets Mom’s collection when my time comes.

My tastes lean to classic rock: AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, Queen, Red Rider—you name it. Mom, on the other hand, lived for harmonies, show tunes, and church choir songs. Most Sundays,

she’d be in the kitchen singing Rodgers & Hammerstein or The Womenfolk while baking or cooking, making even a grocery list sound like a performance.

One Christmas, I got yellow styrofoam headphones to enjoy my music without disturbing the household. Perfect plan—except I forgot to turn off the speaker function. Cue AC/DC’s Big Balls blasting through the stereo. Mom’s “look” will live in my memory forever. Embarrassing? Absolutely. Hilarious? Even better.

December 11 will mark a year since Mom passed, and music still brings her back. At her funeral last May, we included some of her favourites, like The Dukes of Dixieland, and Clayton Braybrook’s special rendition of Hallelujah was nothing short of perfect:

Funeral Hallelujah for Bev Drummond
Revised lyrics by Clayton Braybrook
We’ve heard there was a secret chord
That David played and it pleased the Lord,
And we will do our best to sing it for ya.
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth,
The choir is re-composing Hallelujah.
Hallelujah ...
Bev’s faith was strong, her heart was true

*The power of knowledge well she knew,
She also sang in four-part harmony.
She raised a loving family,
Took part in many activities,
A vital member of community.
Hallelujah ...
Her meals were great, she loved to read,
She solved a lot of mysteries,
She joked about her two Masters degrees.
For normal folks that’s quite enough,
But this journey was twice as tough,
MS be danged, she sang her Hallelujah.
Hallelujah ...
The Scriptures say the Lord above
Prepares a place for us with love,
So let that be a heartfelt message to ya.
And even though the bell has rung,
She’ll stand before the Lord of song,
With nothing but her lips but Hallelujah.
Hallelujah ...*

Somewhere up there, I like to imagine Mom shaking her head while tapping her foot to Big Balls, laughing because somehow our worlds of classic rock and Rodgers & Hammerstein collided perfectly—just like they did here on Earth. Music, in all its forms, keeps us laughing, remembering, and connected.

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Young superstars belong on Olympic team

In hockey-mad Canada, fans spend their time watching hockey, thinking about hockey, talking about hockey and mentally planning Canada's roster for the 2026 Olympic Games in Italy.

Only a couple of weeks remain before the Dec. 31 deadline for Hockey Canada to submit its roster and while a number of players' names are automatic, a couple of others are subject to quite the controversy.

Such as: Should Connor Bedard and Macklin Celebrini be part of Canada's team that tries to win another gold medal for the No. 1 hockey country in the world? A 3-0 victory over Sweden in the 2014 gold-medal game was the last time Canada's team was comprised of National Hockey League players.

A disagreement between the NHL Players' Association, the International Olympic Committee and the International Ice Hockey Federation kept NHL players out of the 2018 Winter Olympics and the COVID-19 pandemic was responsible for their absence in 2022.

Now the NHL is back, offering Olympic Games' fans the absolute cream of the world's hockey crop ... or is it? If Bedard, 20, and Celebrini, 19, are not on Canada's team, are fans truly being treated to best-on-best?

Arguments against including Be-



Sports
By Bruce Penton

dard and Celebrini include the value of experience in international hockey. Okay, if experience is that vital, why not get over that hump in '26 so when the 2030 games come around, they'll have already conquered that intangible.

At last look, Celebrini was second in the NHL scoring race, trailing only Nathan MacKinnon, while Bédard was fourth.

Both have led their respective teams to NHL relevance after years of hanging around the bottom of the standings. Both are clearly among the top 14 forwards in the NHL; the only drawbacks are their age. It's hard to argue that a lack of international experience should be a factor in keeping them off the team when in their immediate pre-NHL years, they've dominated Canadian U-17 and World Junior teams in international play.

If Canada gets solid goaltending, as Jordan Binnington provided in last winter's 4 Nations Cup, it has enough firepower up front and on defence to allow for the inclusion of Bedard and Celebrini and win gold. Perhaps Anthony Cirelli and Mark Stone can offer better defensive play but they can't come close to generating offence like Bedard and Celebrini. If Tampa Bay's Brayden Point is a projected member of the Olympic team due to his offensive

prowess, how can Canada's hockey hierarchy justify the fact that at the end of November, Point had played in 21 of Tampa's 25 games but stood 222nd in the NHL scoring race with 11 points? Perhaps Tampa coach Jon Cooper, one of the Team Canada bosses, is exerting too much influence on Canada's roster.

Dump Point. Dump Cirelli. Add the two young superstars and fill the net in Italy. Remember, the best defence is a good offence and if Bedard and Celebrini are currently filling NHL nets surrounded by a plethora of ordinary players, how good could they be surrounded by fellow superstars?

- Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., won MLB's first entertainer of the year award, beating out Taylor Swift and the San Diego Chicken."
- In a Steve Rushin si.com story on ballpark food, Joey Votto, responding to a fan who heckled that 'I remember when you used to be good': "I remember when you used to be thin."
- Scott Matia, on Bluesky: "Connor McDavid took less money and all he got in return was Trent Frederic and a kick square in the (unmentionables)."
- Torben Rolfson again: "Saskatchewan Roughriders players say they've got the greatest fans in pro sports. One of them said he got recognized in Walmart. Uh, dude,

that's their job. They're called people greeters."

- Rolfson once more: "The NFL had another spitting incident last week. C'mon guys, stop it. Maybe we can have a punt, pass and spit competition."
- Norman Chad, on 'Gambling Mad': "Drake Maye could be the latter day Tom Brady, without the super-model wife, special diet and deflated footballs."
- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Three things I'm thankful for on American Thanksgiving: 3. I am not a Tennessee Titans fan; 2. I am not a Toronto Maple Leafs fan; 1. I am not a turkey."
- Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "A former Olympic coach on deciding who your third goalie is: 'If you need your third goalie at the Olympics, you're already in trouble.'"
- Headline at fark.com: "Once again the NY Giants defence snaps a loss from the jaws of victory. Meanwhile, fans wonder if they can get an interim head coach to replace the current interim head coach."
- A golden oldie from Mets' manager Casey Stengel, during an early-1960s mound visit with pitcher Roger Craig, with Giants slugger Willie McCovey about to bat: "Where do you want to pitch him, upper deck or lower deck?"

Care to comment?
Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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A safe workplace doesn't happen by chance. It's built through awareness, education and action. Safety training gives workers and employers the tools they need to recognize hazards, prevent injuries and make smart decisions that protect everyone on the job.

WorkSafe Saskatchewan is here to help you build safer, healthier workplaces. WorkSafe Saskatchewan and its affiliates and partners provide training to more than 30,000 workers and employers on an annual basis. Monthly training sessions for Occupational Health Committee Level 1, Occupational Health Committee Level 2 and Supervision and Safety help workers and employers meet their legislative obligations.

WorkSafe Saskatchewan and its partners provide several training courses to equip everyone, from front-line workers to safety leaders with tools and resources to help prevent work-related injuries and make safety, health and well-being part of everyday work.

Learn with WorkSafe Saskatchewan

WorkSafe Saskatchewan offers a wide range of free and partner-provided courses designed for the needs of Saskatchewan workplaces. Topics include:

- Occupational health and safety committees
- Supervision and leadership
- Ergonomics
- New and young workers

- Psychological health and safety
- Return to work and disability management
- WHMIS and hazardous materials
- Workplace hazards and safety awareness

Courses are available online or in-person, making it easy for workers and employers across the province to participate. Each course is practical and designed so participants can act right away.

"Training equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to identify, assesses and mitigate workplace hazards. By investing in training, organizations can create a culture of safety that encourages continuous improvement."

Kevin Mooney, vice-president of prevention and employer services at the WCB

A smart investment

Every year, approximately 2,700 Saskatchewan workers are seriously injured—many performing routine tasks that could have been done safely with the right training and preparation. From understanding how to lift and carry properly to identifying high-energy hazards or responding to an emergency, training helps equip workers with the skills to prevent harm.

For employers, investing in safety training helps reduce injuries, improve productivity and lower the costs associated with lost-time claims. Research consistently shows that for every dollar invested in effective safety programs, organizations can save several more in reduced injury costs and downtime. Educated workers are more confident, more engaged and better prepared to prevent incidents before they happen. Training protects not only your people, but also your bottom line.

Building a culture of safety

When everyone understands their role in keeping the workplace safe, it changes the culture of an organization. Workers feel more confident and valued when they know how to protect themselves and their co-workers. Supervisors and managers gain peace of mind knowing their teams have the training to make safe decisions.

A strong safety culture also boosts morale and retention. Employees who feel supported and protected are more engaged and motivated to contribute to a positive work environment. In short, training builds trust and trust helps build safer workplaces.

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In addition to its own training, WorkSafe Saskatchewan connects you with approved training partners who offer specialized programs—some free, others fee-based—that address unique industry needs. These partners provide expertise, certifications and skills development that complement WorkSafe Saskatchewan's core education offerings.

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Safety training is one of the most effective ways to prevent injuries and improve well-being at work. Whether you're just beginning your safety journey or strengthening an existing program, WorkSafe Saskatchewan can help you find the right learning opportunities for your team.

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Cole Patton



Lynden Paquette

West central performers among Saskatchewan talent for TeleMiracle 50

West central Saskatchewan entertainers are set to take the stage for TeleMiracle 50, the province’s annual fundraising telethon, slated for Feb. 28–March 1, 2026.

Performers from the region include Cole Patton and the Blackjacks of Kindersley, Lynden Paquette of Rose-town, Caledonia Donahue of Biggar, and Evan Baxter with the Bum Band from Vanscoy. They are among 70 Saskatchewan Talent acts selected to perform, with 45 of those performances broadcast live.

TeleMiracle has long offered flexibility for performers who face medical or other barriers, allowing some acts to pre-record their performances in supportive environments. Most Saskatchewan Talent will perform live, but pre-recorded performances will air during

the telethon to ensure full inclusion.

Performers join from across the province, from As-siniboia to Beauval and Lloydminster to Pelly, show-casing a wide variety of talent, from singing and dancing to acting, along with some first-time acts.

“We saw an extraordinary response to auditions this year,” said Tammy Blackwell, chair of TeleMiracle 50. “I am blown away by the talent in Saskatchewan. You are going to need to tune in all 22 hours to see for yourself.”

TeleMiracle, entering its 50th year in 2026, has raised more than \$171 million to improve the quality of life and independence of people across the province through the Kinsmen Foundation.

Co-op distributes equity cheques and supports food drive

BY JOAN JANZEN

Grocery shoppers visiting the Kindersley and Dis-trict Co-op Food Store on Tuesday, Dec. 2, took part in two community-focused events.

Customers lined up to collect their annual equity cheques, with this year’s general cash repayment to-talling \$454,027.44. Equity cheques were also available for pick-up in Eatonia, Mantario, Laporte, Leader and Hoosier.

Shoppers also helped “cram the cruiser” as the Kindersley RCMP parked a police vehicle outside the store with its lights flashing. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., community members filled the cruiser with food do-nations, demonstrating strong support for local fami-lies and food security.





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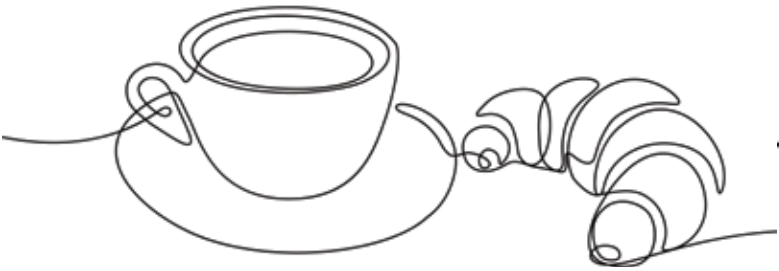
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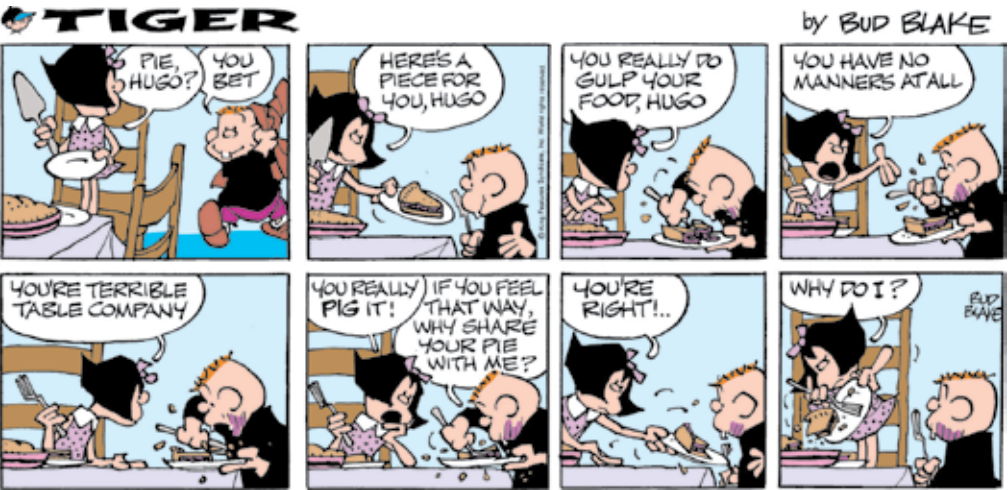


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6	8		3		1	7		5
					9		8	
						3	1	4
8		1	9					
	3					5	7	
	2	5	7		3	1	6	9
	4		2	3				7
3		7	1		5	8		
2			6	7	4	9		

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. Picture frame is higher. 2. Doorknob is larger. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Collar is missing. 5. Stripe is added to sleeve. 6. Book is smaller.

1. Duke; 2. The Ming dynasty; 3. "Holes"; 4. "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel; 5. Kneecap; 6. Santiago; 7. A Benedictine monk named Dom Perignon; 8. The cherry blossom and the chrysanthemum; 9. Gabriel Garcia Marquez; 10. Black, although red also can be hot in two-wire circuits

Trivia Test Answerst

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Tousele
5 Resistance unit
8 Prego rival
12 Bickering
13 Zodiac animal
14 Pub orders
15 Tabula —
16 Sheer fabrics
18 Santiago resident
20 Playful sea critter
21 Mormon church, for short
22 Top card
23 Army bigwigs
26 Scolding
30 "Humbug!"
31 Cooking fuel
32 French pronoun
33 Upbeat
36 Rose protector
38 Weeding tool
39 Spanish gold
40 Parlor pieces
43 Bar exercises
47 Trailblazing congresswoman Shirley —
49 Power co. supply
50 Suffix for million
51 "Levitating" singer Lipa

DOWN

1 Artist Chagall
2 Beehive State
3 Spanish ayes
4 Stable enclosures
5 Killer whales
6 Virtuoso violinist Hilary
7 2001, to Cato
8 Traveled the rapids
9 Oodles
10 Hereditary unit
11 Cold War initials
17 Central points
19 Asner and Harris
22 Sounds of relief
23 Telly network
24 Fan's cry
25 Sashimi fish
26 Automobile
27 "As I see it," in a text
28 Fish-fowl insert
29 Tom Collins liquor
31 "My word!"
34 Stages
35 Ritzy
36 Part of TNT
37 Truthful
39 "Holy cow!"
40 Con job
41 Columbus' home
42 Evergreens
43 Crossword hint
44 — Bator
45 Lima's land
46 "Shoo!"
48 Quirky

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What is the name of the bloodhound featured on the sitcom "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
- HISTORY: Which Chinese dynasty mostly built the Great Wall?
- MOVIES: Which 2003 movie is about juveniles who are sentenced to work at a desert camp?
- MUSIC: Which famous song begins with the line, "Hello darkness, my old friend..."?
- ANATOMY: What's another name for the patella?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Chile?
- FOOD & DRINK: Who perfected the Champagne method?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the national flowers of Japan?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Love in the Time of Cholera"?
- SCIENCE: Which wire is usually the main "hot" one in electrical work?

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Saskatchewan's Energy News



PHOTO BY HELENKA BERNARD

Saskatchewan Crown oil and gas offering raises \$7.5 million

The Government of Saskatchewan's latest Crown oil and natural gas public offering has generated \$7.48 million in revenue.

Held Dec. 2, 2025, the offering attracted 89 bids for leases and exploration licences covering 17,875.984 hectares across four provincial bid areas: Estevan, Lloydminster, Kindersley and Swift Current.


The Estevan area contributed nearly half of the total revenue, with \$3.69 million from bids on two exploration licences and 43 leases totalling 3,502.081 hectares. Whitecap Resources Inc. submitted the highest bid for a lease in the area, offering \$1,047,040.88 — an average of \$8,111 per hectare — for a 129.089-hectare parcel southeast of Lampman. Hummingbird Energy Inc. submitted the top bid on an exploration licence, offering \$233,000 for a 321.458-hectare parcel east of Radville.

In Lloydminster, 29 leases covering 6,797.617 hectares raised \$1.89 million. Scout Energy Ltd. made the highest bid in the area, \$777,861.13 for a 775.264-hectare parcel southeast of St. Walburg.

The Swift Current and Kindersley areas each generated just under \$1 million, with \$947,848.83 and \$958,005.80 in bids, respectively.

This was the fifth Crown offering of the fiscal year, bringing the province's total revenue from public offerings to \$60.25 million. The sixth and final offering is scheduled for Feb. 3, 2026, and will feature 98 leases and two exploration licences covering 19,371.299 hectares.

Leases are issued for five-year terms to drill for and produce oil or natural gas, while exploration licences, which have terms of two to five years, are issued in less developed areas for exploration and production. Activity in public offerings is influenced by oil and gas prices, land availability, geological and technological factors, and broader market conditions.



KDHWf BACKS NURSE EDUCATION: From left: Jill-Ann Snider, assistant head nurse; Heather Morris, clinical nurse educator at Kindersley Hospital; and Viv Kalmer of the Kindersley & District Health & Wellness Foundation. The group received \$1,500 in education funding from the foundation to attend the Rural Emergency Conference in Banff. This professional development opportunity will help them learn the latest practices in emergency care and bring that knowledge back to staff. Their ongoing commitment to growing and enhancing their skills supports high-quality emergency care for the community. A heartfelt thank you to the foundation for its continued support, which makes opportunities like this possible. *SUBMITTED*

Kerrobert's Festival of Trees adds magic to the season

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOAN JANZEN

The Kerrobert Courthouse was alive with lights, decorations and glitter during the Festival of Trees on the evening of Dec. 4. Adults and children admired each tree, decorated in its own unique theme, while also visiting with friends and enjoying hot chocolate and cookies.

The donated trees were decorated by community groups and local businesses, each contributing \$60 to the fundraiser. Visitors could vote for their favourite tree by dropping a donation in the bucket placed beside it. Anyone interested in purchasing a tree can contact Jessica at 403-443-3480.

A Christmas Giving Tree was set up in the courthouse entry. Visitors were encouraged to pick a tag, purchase a gift from the wish list, and return it to the courthouse by Dec. 15. The Giving Tree aims to brighten a family's holiday season through acts of kindness.

Outside, a tractor pulled a wagon past the courthouse for families to tour the town. It was a beautiful night for a wagon ride.

Santa also made an appearance, taking his place of honour inside the courthouse as children took turns chatting with him and receiving treats.

Kids and adults alike had a fabulous time at the Festival of Trees. Visitors enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies and conversation while admiring the trees, and families took advantage of wagon rides outside.



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L-R: Leezha and Leianna with a handcrafted Filipino lantern. Entries for the Sparkling Parol (lantern) contest were dropped off at the Elks Hall Saturday afternoon before the Kindersley Filipino-Canadian Community's Christmas party began later that evening. PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN

Filipino Christmas party features festive lanterns

BY JOAN JANZEN

The Kindersley Filipino-Canadian Community (KFCC) held their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 6th, at the Elks Hall. This year, the KFCC extended an invitation for all party attendees to participate in a Sparkling Parol-making contest.

For Canadians who aren't familiar with the term parol, it's a traditional Filipino Christmas star-shaped lantern, symbolizing the Star of Bethlehem that guided the three kings. It also represents hope, light and community spirit. Parols are displayed in homes, streets and churches as part of Filipino culture, serving as a reminder that even in the darkest nights, light and joy will continue to shine.

This year's entries were dropped off at the Elks Hall before the festivities began, with prizes awarded for the best efforts. The festive lanterns are just one of many popular Filipino Christmas traditions. At this year's party, every family was encouraged to choose a specific colour for their party attire.

The Philippines is the only country in the world that celebrates Christmas for a four-month period; however, the KFCC has tailored their holiday celebrations to accommodate Hallowe'en and Remembrance Day.

"We usually don't light up our Christmas tree until November 12th," Kindersley resident Jen Malana said. "But Christmas back home is a big deal! It's a long four months of Christmas music!"

Christmas music also includes caroling, as children go from house to house singing Christmas songs and banging on drums and tambourines. In return, the residents give the children coins for their efforts.

Food is also an important part of the celebrations. "They serve food outside the church every night," Jen explained. Some of their unique dishes include a sweet made from rice flour, coconut milk and water cooked in a cast-iron pan. You may see purple baked goods, which acquire their flavour and colour from the purple yam. Meat consists of a whole roasted pig and a dish similar to meat loaf.

Monito-Monito is a popular tradition where people exchange gifts at work or school. Participants pick names and exchange anonymous gifts. For some workplaces, this continues for a week to ten days. Each day the gift would be different; for example, something red one day and something sweet the next day.

This year's KFCC Christmas party combined games, prizes, lanterns, music, food and plenty of fun and laughter. It was a perfect recipe for a great Christmas party!

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Warning issued as “grandparent scam” reports rise; two suspects charged

Regina police and White Butte RCMP are warning the public about a sharp rise in so-called “grandparent” or “emergency” scams after several seniors were defrauded of more than \$40,000.

The scheme typically begins with a phone call claiming a loved one has been involved in a criminal incident and urgently needs cash for legal help. Investigators say callers often pressure victims, impose fake “gag orders” and send someone in person to collect the money.

Police say there are currently five confirmed victims in Regina and one in the White Butte area.

As part of a provincewide investigation, Regina Police Service officers arrested two suspects on Dec. 2. Roughly \$20,000 of the stolen money has been recovered.

Ciprian Teodor, 50, and Alexandra Condurache, 40, both from Quebec, are jointly charged with two counts of fraud over \$5,000, one count of fraud under \$5,000, and two counts of attempted fraud over \$5,000. Teodor also faces a charge of failing to comply with an undertaking. The pair made their first appearance in Regina provincial court on Dec. 3.

Police believe more victims have yet to come forward.

“Often the victims of these types of frauds are seniors, but anyone can fall victim,” said Staff Sgt. Shortland of the RCMP’s South District. “High-pressure tactics are used to form urgent situations and often involve emotional manipulation. Educate yourself and speak with your loved ones about fraud awareness and empower them with tactics to use if they receive a suspicious call.”

Anyone who believes they have been targeted is asked to contact Regina police at 306-777-6500 or the



RCMP at 310-RCMP.

Authorities urge residents to verify unexpected claims about loved ones by hanging up and calling family members directly, to be wary of requests for payment through gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency, and to speak with their bank before making large withdrawals.

More information on fraud prevention is available through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.



From left: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit graduate, Keaton Andre, with his family. Neonatal Intensive Care Unit staff members: Back row (from left): Candace Luciak, Shannon Willard, Rafaella Sakai Guerra, Dawn Erker, Ashley Skafel, Brooke Sterling, Chelsea Eason, and Molly McGillis. Front row: Connie Wormsbecker, Sarah Kotyk, Cara Galambos, Morgan Therres, Mikayla Nystuen, Jennifer Parson, Diane Denny, and Kristi Trevors.

COURTESY SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY

NICU reunion celebrates families and caregivers at Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital

Families gathered at the Nutrien Wonderhub for a heartwarming reunion that brought together children who once relied on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital and the dedicated staff who cared for them.

The Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Reunion 2025 offered families the chance to reconnect with caregivers, share experiences, and celebrate the growth of their children—from energetic toddlers to school-aged NICU graduates. Parents reunited with the staff who supported them through some of their most challenging days.

“The NICU reunion events give families and staff

a chance to reconnect and celebrate,” said Dr. Anna Donovan, a NICU physician at Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital. “A special bond is formed when you help a new baby and their family through a difficult time. Through these events, we build community between families who had a baby in the NICU. It also re-energizes our staff to see the amazing little people they helped after they went home. We hope to continue celebrating together for years to come.”

For families, the reunion highlights milestones once only hoped for. For staff, it is a powerful reminder of the lasting impact of their care. The event celebrates resilience and strengthens a community built on compassion and shared experience.

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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

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Kindersley NA Meeting
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Saskatchewan adds 16,500 jobs in November, mostly full time

Saskatchewan’s labour market continues to show strength, with the province adding 16,500 jobs in November compared with the same month last year, according to Statistics Canada.

The gains include 14,900 full-time positions and 1,600 part-time jobs. The province posted the second-lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 5.6 per cent, well below the national average of 6.5 per cent.

“Saskatchewan is set to finish 2025 with one of the strongest labour markets in Canada,” said Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Career Training Jim Reiter. “We have had an incredible year of growth. Saskatchewan employers have created thousands of new jobs, and we have maintained one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. Our government is ensuring the province remains attractive not only to capital investment but also to people who want a vibrant place to call home.”

Employment among women increased by 11,300, a rise of 4 per cent, while employment among men rose by 5,200, or 1.6 per cent.

Saskatchewan’s two largest cities also saw gains. Compared with November 2024, employment in Regina rose 8,500, or 5.9 per cent, while Saskatoon added 4,200 jobs, an increase of 2.1 per cent.

Year-over-year job



growth was strongest in health care and social assistance, up 8,800 (9.1 per cent); building, business and other support services, up 3,900 (38.2 per cent); and agriculture, up 3,900 (15.1 per cent).

The province attributes the growth in part to government initiatives such as Building the Workforce for a Growing Economy: The Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy, aimed at developing the workforce to support a strong and expanding economy, and Securing the Next Decade of Growth: Saskatchewan’s Investment Attraction Strategy, which seeks to increase investment and advance the province’s goal of \$16 billion in annual private capital investment.

as Building the Workforce for a Growing Economy: The Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy, aimed at developing the workforce to support a strong and expanding economy, and Securing the Next Decade of Growth: Saskatchewan’s Investment Attraction Strategy, which seeks to increase investment and advance the province’s goal of \$16 billion in annual private capital investment.

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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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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:

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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.

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- 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

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WHAT HI-TECH LOOKED LIKE IN THE 1950S: This 1950s Chrysler featured the "Highway Hi-Fi," a built-in record player that let drivers listen to vinyl records while on the road. The innovative system was ahead of its time, though sudden stops or potholes could disrupt the music. *FACEBOOK PHOTO*

RCMP respond to multiple incidents in Unity, Wilkie and Macklin areas

RCMP in the Unity, Wilkie and Macklin areas have been busy with a variety of complaints and investigations over the past week.

In Unity, police are investigating a sexual assault and a theft. Officers also responded to a complaint of criminal harassment and a report of stolen fuel from a rural area. Two complaints of break-and-enter at separate residences were found to be unfounded. RCMP members also acted as mediators in a property dispute and dealt with one traffic complaint and a false 911 call. CN Police reported a railway crossing malfunction near Senlac, which was recorded for information purposes.

In Wilkie, police are investigating a two-vehicle collision with no injuries, an attempted theft of fuel, and a report of an unwanted individual at a residence. Other complaints included theft, fraud, and uttering threats, though there was insufficient evidence to proceed in these cases. Members also responded to a Mental Health Act call, transporting the subject to Battleford Union Hospital for assessment. Two traffic complaints were also logged.

Macklin RCMP handled complaints of assault, trespassing, and an intoxicated individual near a residence. Two separate assaults are still under investigation, while the trespassing complaint lacked sufficient evidence to proceed. Officers also acted as mediators in a dispute between two adults.

RCMP are urging anyone with information about crimes in the Unity, Wilkie, or Macklin areas to contact the local detachments. Unity RCMP can be reached at (306) 228-6300, Wilkie RCMP at (306) 843-3480, or Macklin RCMP at (306) 753-2171. Anonymous tips can also be submitted to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or *8477 via SaskTel Mobility. Tips can be submitted online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com. Crime Stoppers offers rewards of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest of individuals responsible for serious crimes.



On November 18 in Regina, Sun West School Division Trustees met with the Minister of Education and local Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). The meeting took place prior to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association Fall Assembly that was also taking place that day (left to right):Darryl Seguin (Director of Education), Kim Gartner (MLA for Kindersley-Biggar),Holly Goddard (Trustee - Subdivision 9), Hon. Everett Hindley (Minister of Education), Fritz Eckstein (Trustee - Subdivision 1), Michele Whitfield (Board Chair and Trustee - Subdivision 2), Karen Blackwell Jones (Trustee -Subdivision 4), Cathy Laven-ture (Trustee - Subdivision 3), Terry Hall (Trustee- Subdivision 5), Hon. Jim Reiter (Minister of Finance and MLA for Rosetown-Delisle), Cathy Morrow (Board Vice-Chair and Trustee - Subdivision 7),Michelle Zacharias (Trustee - Subdivision 8), Lindsay Shaw (Trustee -Subdivision 6) and Barrett Kropf (MLA for Dakota-Arm River). *COURTESY SUN WEST SCHOOL DIVISION*

"Santa's Little Helpers" from Sears

Last Christmas, I sent out a story for publication in this newspaper titled "The Sears Christmas Wishbook," describing the joy that the Wishbook catalogue brought to the nation on Christmas morning every year.

Not long after I sent out my Wishbook story, I received a response from a retired friend of mine who had been a delivery driver for Sears for twenty years. After reading my column, he sent me an email offering a completely different point of view on the Sears experience during the yuletide season.

To make a child's wish come true at Christmas, preparations for the creation of the Sears Christmas Wishbook had to begin long before December.

Serving Ontario by truck and the rest of the country by rail, the Sears Canada corporate printing plant in Rexdale, Ontario (a suburb of Toronto), always required long lead times to accommodate the sheer volume of printing and distribution of its countless seasonal catalogues. Because of this, the Sears Christmas Wishbook catalogues were collated, printed and delivered to all Sears mail-order outlets across the regions by early September each year, in preparation for the annual December Christmas rush.

To a man, the Sears delivery drivers dreaded the arrival of September and the addition of the Wishbook catalogues to the already heavy volume of items they had to deliver. At the height of the Wishbook's popularity, the catalogues were thick, glossy and printed on heavy-gauge paper. The sheer tonnage of skids loaded with Christmas catalogues added considerable effort to the completion of a delivery driver's nightly job.

The peddle trailer (a trucking term for a trailer on a



Remembering When
By Keith Schell

run with frequent delivery stops) usually carried anywhere from one-half to three full skids of Wishbook catalogues for nightly delivery, in whole or in part, to the various regional mail-order outlets, depending on the size of the town. Smaller towns might receive only one-half to one-quarter of a skid, while larger towns could receive a full skid. And that was on top of the regular items that had to be delivered to the outlets every night.

At its peak, remember how heavy the Wishbook was when we made our Christmas wish lists? Averaging roughly 250 bundles per skid, with 6-10 catalogues per bundle, a full skid of Wishbooks could easily weigh a thousand pounds! When they weren't delivering bundles by hand to smaller outlets, drivers had to use handcarts to move the skids around in the trailer or unload them into the rear storage area of the mail-order outlet. (To all the former Sears drivers out there, I hope your back didn't start aching again just thinking about it!)

Apparently, the Sears Christmas Wishbook brought yuletide joy to everyone in the country—except those who had to deliver it!

This suggestion will probably earn me a middle finger from all the former Sears delivery drivers who got backaches from hauling the extra tonnage of Wishbooks across the nation, but try to think of yourselves as Santa's little helpers. Your September efforts in delivering the Wishbook catalogues to Sears outlets across the country brought joy to millions of children on Christmas morning every year.

That may be small consolation if you were at home having a loved one rub liniment on your sore back after your deliveries, but take heart in knowing that your efforts made children happy all over the nation on Christmas morning. You did good work.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all, and a very special salutation to all of Santa's little helpers who delivered the Sears Christmas Wishbook catalogues back in the day!

Growing Through Grief: The Sacred Pause

BY ANGELA CLEMENT

The holiday season is upon us once again. One season ends and a new one begins. Ready or not, here it comes! Christmas can bring about strong emotions when we are in the process of grief. The mind often will take us back to memories of the way things were and at the same time it tries to figure out what the future will look like. It's all a part of the mind's job to keep us safe by constantly analyzing the past as a way to try to predict the future to help us navigate our present situation as safely as possible. We can get into a cycle of repeating thoughts like this that will keep us stuck either reminiscing about the past or fearing our future. These thoughts cycling incessantly in the mind can cause us considerable suffering. The pain of losing someone in life is inevitable, but believe it or not, suffering is optional. What if we could break the cycle of these thoughts that are creating the suffering, even for a moment, so we can catch our breath? What if for a while we were okay with just being in the NOW?

The last little while I have been hearing about something called the sacred pause. It's the perfect time when a chapter in our lives is ending and a new one is emerging. It is time to make a conscious effort to put ourselves in the present moment. When we are in this sacred space, we can choose to purposely take some time to show ourselves great respect and reverence and to look after ourselves just like we would our best friend. If we get quiet and give ourselves grace, we can cultivate in ourselves a profound respect for our own intrinsic worth and existence. Instead of trying to fix, we get curious and learn to willingly accept ourselves the way we are. We stop any harsh criticism with great compassion. We take time to appreciate where we are, all we have and learn to appreciate the wisdom we have gained through our past experiences. In this sacred pause, we are safe and we are okay. Rather than compare ourselves to others, we start to nurture ourselves by recognizing our own unique qualities, gifts and strengths.

The sacred pause is a natural place of healing. It is a space where the task at hand is only to become the blank page and to ask and then allow the universe to help write your next story. Meet the worry, anxiety,



fear and regret with a childlike wonder and curiosity - the kind you felt at Christmas when you were a kid. You have come so far and gained so much wisdom and experience over the years. You can be so proud. Ask yourself, how do I want to feel going forward? How may I apply what I have learned? Time keeps moving no matter what, so the only time that we truly have control over is now.

Now is where the next chapter is written. Now is where you make the decisions that are right for you. Now is the time for a sacred pause. What a beautiful Christmas gift to give ourselves! Take some time in the present to breathe and let everything chaotic fall away. Take time to just be. Maybe play your favourite music and relish in the beauty of the melodies. Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa. Put up some soft lights and bask in their glow. Sit by the warm fireplace. You deserve this and so much more! Relish in your own sacred pause and remind yourself what brings you joy. Then find a way to spread that joy and love to others as you go through the holiday season. Merry Christmas friends! Big hugs and lots of love to you all.

DAVID LOUIS MCNICHOL
Nov. 12, 1986 - Dec. 5, 2024
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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-Inn 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.

FLAXCOMBE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

- Flaxcombe Recreation Association is hosting Bingo Night 7:00-10:00 PM. 1 card is \$2 and 3 cards ar \$5. Cash Prizes! Flaxcombe Community Hall. Call Katie for more info 306-330-9969.

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.
- 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
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- Kindersley Legion Branch #57 invites you to join us for our 2025 Legion Christmas Supper at the Kindersley Legion Hall. Doors open at 5:30. Supper at 6:00. Roast Beef Supper provided by Simply Satisfied Catering. Cost: \$30 per plate. If planning to attend, please register by Monday, December 8th by contacting Scott either call or text at 306-460-4688.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- Kindersley Community Choir Christmas Cantata "More Than A Manger" St. Paul's United Church (502 Main Street) at 2:30 PM. Free will offering. Everyone welcome.

- 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 Kehrre

via text at 306-460-0057 or Sheila Kehrre 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
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- Cantata Music Evening 7:00 PM

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

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