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Vol. 6, Issue 6

Tuesday, February 10, 2025

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All of the pieces in the arts and crafts cabinet at Luseland Composite School were made at home by students from grades 4-12.
SUBMITTED

Luseland students showcase hobbies

through rotating school display

LUSELAND — Students at Luseland Composite School are sharing their hobbies and creative interests through a rotating display cabinet featuring crafts and personal collections.

School staff introduced the initiative to encourage student well-being, recognizing that hobbies and creative activities can play a role in supporting positive mental health. The display gives students an opportunity to share their interests with classmates and teachers.

The current exhibit features arts and crafts created at home by students in Grades 4 through 12, along with a small num-

ber of pieces made by staff members. All items in the display were produced outside the classroom.

Previous exhibits have highlighted a range of student interests, including rock and mineral collections contributed by more than a dozen students, as well as displays focused on Star Wars memorabilia, Lego creations, and First Nations and Inuit artifacts.

The display cabinet is updated regularly, allowing different students and collections to be featured throughout the school year.

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These three residents at Eatonia Oasis Living may look serious, but don't let that fool you, because they were excited to share happy memories of their childhood. Frances Swan (97), Lloyd Adams (98), and Gail Guidinger (90) had so many stories to tell that I may have to go back and hear "the rest of the story," as Paul Harvey used to say.
PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN

Three seniors from Eatonia share happy childhood memories

BY JOAN JANZEN

It was such a pleasure to visit with three nonagenarians (aged 90–98) at Eatonia Oasis Living. Gail Guidinger (90), Frances Swan (97), and Lloyd Adams (98) happily shared just a few of their childhood memories and stories. So why not grab a cup of coffee and take a few minutes to listen in on their conversation?

When asked if they were ever bored as children, Frances Swan promptly replied, "Heavens no! I was playing ball and was always interested in sports. My dad took us to ball games and I played first base with the boys." Apparently, Frances can still throw a ball really well.

Gail Guidinger couldn't recall experiencing boredom as a child. "We had chores to do. At the age of seven, I started milking cows," she explained. "But we had fun too, because all of us were together." Gail had seven siblings with whom she could play ball, as well as all the games they played in those days.

As for Lloyd Adams, he recalls trapping rabbits and weasels as a child. "I got 75 cents for a skin and felt rich. You didn't throw money around like that in 1939. That was a lot of money!" Lloyd said.

He also had vivid memories of the Dirty '30s, with plenty of thistles, wind, and tumbleweeds. "Storms would come up in the afternoon, and Mom had to light the lamps because it was perfectly dark outside from the dust," he said. "But we never went hungry. We had chickens, eggs, and beef."

Gail said during a 1930s dust storm they put mattresses and pillows against the windows so they wouldn't break. "It wasn't easy for our parents, but we grew up and survived," she said. Her family had a large dairy farm, which ensured they always had food.

"My dad helped out the neighbours," Frances said, as she recalled the years of the Great Depression. They always had food on the table and in their lunch kits. School lunches included sandwiches, homemade cookies, and half an apple.

"We had ham sandwiches on Fridays, and the Cath-

olics said we were definitely on the way to hell because we ate meat on Fridays," she chuckled.

Both Gail and Lloyd remember school lunches being packed in a honey pail. "Peanut butter was elite food," Lloyd laughed. "And peanut butter and syrup was a high-end lunch." Nevertheless, all three seniors remember enjoying meat in their sandwiches, since their parents raised chicken and cattle, but some children weren't as fortunate.

"I remember a family whose lunch consisted of a slice of bread with cheese curds," Lloyd recalled.

Money wasn't plentiful during their childhood years. "I remember a raffle for a ten-dollar bill, and that was an incredible amount of money back then," Frances said. And the best gift she ever remembered receiving was a pair of grey gloves. "I loved my little grey gloves. My mom made me put my gloved hands in mitts, and I didn't want to do it," she said.

There wasn't a gift that Gail could recall as being special. After all, she and her siblings usually shared everything. But Lloyd remembers receiving a very special seven-dollar guitar from Santa. "Now it would be worth a lot of money," he said.

All three seniors lived through the WWII era and had cousins and men they knew who were serving overseas. "My dad wouldn't let me enlist till I finished high school," Lloyd recalled. "I was prepared to go and win the war all by myself, but I got robbed. It ended when I finished high school."

But during their school years prior to graduation, they had been taught by many different teachers. "Our school was a mile and a half across the field, grades 1 to 9, with one teacher," Gail said. "Most teachers only stayed one or two years." Living alone on the prairies was a lonely existence for a teacher.

Frances' favourite teacher played guitar and would accompany students who sang at school concerts. And Lloyd couldn't wait to share his memories of his favourite teacher.

"I was madly in love with my favourite teacher

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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...Seniors from Eaton

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

in grades 1 and 2. But it was a losing battle because her husband was overseas making a hero of himself," he explained. "I can't remember her name. She was blond, Norwegian or something. She was a really nice person, but she didn't return my love, and I was a coward and kept it a secret." At long last, at age 98, his best-kept secret has finally been revealed.

"Some teachers were good and some weren't so good. But we weren't so good sometimes either," Gail admitted. "Once we had some papers to roll cigarettes. We went up to the north pasture, rolled leaves into the papers, and had matches we took from the hired man's bunkhouse. We lit those cigarettes, and we burned our eyelashes!"

Frances also remembered getting into trouble over cigarettes. "I took a cigarette out of my dad's box for my brother. When they found out my younger brother was smoking, they blamed me," she confessed.

Finally, it was Lloyd's turn to confess. "I don't remember anything really bad. I stole an apple from the store once, and it haunted me for years. I never stole anything after that, and I couldn't get up the nerve to pay for it."

The trio remembers wearing handmade clothing, clothing ordered from the Eaton's catalogue, and of course hand-me-downs. Gail said, "I remember a plaid shirt that went through everybody, and I hated that shirt!"

"I had a sister who was four years older, and I ended up wearing her clothes," Frances chimed in.

Gail remembers her mother sewing the majority of the clothing for her eight children. "She made a lot of clothes! She must have stayed up all night sewing!"

During their formative years, shoes were reserved for school days and cold weather. "As soon as spring came and the ground warmed up, we never wore shoes all summer. The soles of our feet would get just like leather," Lloyd recalled.

And those feet were made for dancing, from polkas to old-time waltzes and square dancing. They all began dancing when they were very young. "My dad called the square dances, and every Friday night we went to the schoolhouse to a dance," Gail remembered.

In spite of living through the Great Depression, experiencing poverty, and a world war, Gail, Frances, and Lloyd all shared their memories of a happy childhood.



Paint night at the Eston Library was a popular event held last week. Fifteen people attended, creating everything from landscapes and flowers to famous landmarks. Ethan, the assistant librarian said the response was resoundingly positive. "This is our third ever paint night hosted by the current librarian. There will very likely be more to follow in the coming months," he reported. "Everyone who attended had a great time visiting with each other while painting." PHOTO COURTESY ESTON LIBRARY

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That said, we do have a couple of great options for non-profit groups:

1) Upcoming Events Listing (no charge):
We offer a basic non-profit listing on our Upcoming Events page. We keep it short (about 20 words) — the what / when / where plus a contact number (no pricing or extra details).

2) Discounted Non-Profit Advertising:
If you're looking for more visibility, we also offer a reduced non-profit advertising rate, and we're happy to work with almost any budget (even a small one) to get you the best reach possible.

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NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominations for election to the Board of Directors of the Kerrobert Credit Union will be

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Director's qualifications and nomination forms are available from the Kerrobert and Major offices.

The Board of Directors of the Credit Union consists of nine members.

There are THREE Director positions for a three year term and ONE Director position for a one year term.

If required, voting will be conducted at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on

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Notice to the members of the

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Nomination Notice

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CREDIT UNION

The Luseland Credit Union is seeking three (3) nominations for its Board of Directors, each for a three-year term.

Nominations close March 2, 2026.

Qualifications and nomination forms are available at LCU or visit www.luselandcu.ca.

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Kyle Parsons stands in front of one of the planters the men at Village of Hope in Eston recently built, using scrap metal and old 2x4s. "It's a chance to nurture living things while nurturing their own healing and growth," Kyle explained.

Village of Hope is prepping for spring planting!

BY JOAN JANZEN

ESTON — It may be February, but the team at Village of Hope in Eston is getting ready for spring. The men have salvaged scraps of rusty metal and old 2x4s and have transformed seemingly worthless junk into sturdy planters. Staff member Kyle Parsons said the wood was salvaged from one of their demolition projects, and the scrap metal was donated by a local construction worker.

"So far we've built two planters. Each one measures four feet by ten feet and stands 36 inches tall," Kyle explained. The idea formulated out of a strong desire for self-sustainability at the village. "We wanted to start growing our own food to better support the program."

The fresh vegetables will help feed the men who participate in the program, and the extras will be preserved or canned. "This will give the guys hands-on purpose and teach them new skills," Kyle added.

It will be a learning experience for the men; however, several people have reached out with helpful advice, which has made all the difference. "It's truly becoming a group effort," Kyle said.

The planters are the beginning of a much larger vision. "We have a large plot of land here that we're preparing to turn into a garden, with the goal of eventually producing enough to feed up to 25 men as the program grows," Kyle said. "We're planning expan-

sion in the near future, including adding a women's program down the line."

It seems like a fitting illustration of what happens every day at Village of Hope, where individuals bring their addictions and broken dreams. Throughout the course of the year, their impossibilities are infused with hope, faith, and love, as they become filled with purpose and restored dreams.

"Having something to care for, like plants that depend on watering, weeding, and attention, teaches responsibility and structure in a very tangible way. If you neglect the plants, they die. That simple reality helps build discipline and accountability," he said.

The completed planters serve as an illustration of the skills and hope the men are gaining every day. "Real change through work plus faith" are words they live by.

"It's about rebuilding from the ground up: purpose, responsibility, structure, and the chance to nurture living things while nurturing their own healing and growth," Kyle concluded.

It looks like Village of Hope is anticipating a bountiful harvest of fresh vegetables and changed lives.

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" — 2 Corinthians 5:17. The staff watches this verse play out in real time day after day at the Village of Hope.

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A child's drawings record history

Teachers hear all kinds of comments from their students. One teacher was asked, "When did the world stop being in black and white and change to colour?"

This week we'll take a look at a young girl's perception of life during WWII as she captured it by sketching one hundred colourful drawings. Her story was told on January 27th, which was Holocaust Remembrance Day.

In an online recorded interview, Helga Weiss said she began keeping a diary at the tender age of eight years. "I had a very lucky childhood, but after occupation everything changed and our life became more and more difficult," Helga said in broken English. "My father was expelled from his job and children were expelled from school."

The excerpt from her diary read: "Since March 15th there's not been a single calm day. Everything is our fault, even though we didn't do anything. We can't help being Jews."

On October 5, 1941, young Helga wrote in her diary that she had started wearing a yellow star. "There will be transports. Everyone is getting ready to travel. The arrests never stop. When you leave your house you never know if you will return," she wrote.

On December 5th of that same year, Helga and her parents were transported to Terezin concentration camp. "There are 21 of us in quite a small room," the diary read. She was one of 7,000 people in the camp.

Helga's dad was placed in a men's camp; however, they managed to smuggle messages to each other. "I was fond of drawing and it was December," Helga recalled. She had packed crayons and a sketch pad and sent her dad a drawing of children building a snowman. "It was a memory of our past life. It was my first drawing in Terezin. When I smuggled it to my father he answered me and wrote, 'Draw what you see.'"

"After his response I started to describe the everyday life in Terezin. During the time I created



Opinion
By Joan Janzen



Helga Weiss was ten years old when she and her parents arrived in Terezin concentration camp in 1942. Her dad told her to "draw what she sees." This drawing illustrates each person carrying 50 kg of allowed luggage.

PHOTO: THEGUARDIAN.COM

about 100 of these drawings because I spent almost three years in Terezin. They are very important today because it was forbidden to make pictures, to make film. And maybe that's why my drawings today are so important because there wasn't any other picture material."

She remembered the Germans producing one film. "It is the only film which existed, but it is propaganda. From this film they asked the prisoners to come in front of the camera and say, 'I am well in Terezin. I don't miss anything,'" she recalled. She also remembered the International Red Cross Commission coming for a visit. The event was recorded in her diary.

"A huge clean is in progress. It's funny, but it looks like they are trying to make Terezin into a spa town. Freshly planted grass is coming up in the square. The middle is decorated with a bed of roses. There's a pool, merry-go-round, and a see-saw. Everything was arranged like a stage set," young Helga wrote.

"At the time we very much hoped when the Red Cross would come they would see the situation and something could be changed for the better," Helga said. "But the inspection came and they looked only at the places which were shown to them. The inspection lasted only a half day, and in the evening they described in

a certificate they found everything to be okay. So it was a great propaganda and they believed it."

In 1944, Helga and her mother were deported from Terezin and spent the remainder of the war in three different camps. Since it was impossible to write or draw anything in those camps, her drawings remained hidden behind a wall of one of the barracks in Terezin. After the war she reclaimed her drawings, and soon after her return in May 1945, Helga recorded everything that had happened since leaving Terezin and tried to draw all those experiences.

After the war, Helga and her mother returned to their old apartment in Prague. "We left the camp, but we carry the camps still inside. They told us we were free and go home, but it was no home. Nobody expected our coming back. I had my mother. I never gave a thought that we could be separated. So when I married, she lived with my family till her death," she reported. Helga spent the remainder of her life living in the apartment in which she was born and became an accomplished artist.

Helga's father didn't survive life in the camps. "I always think about him. I always wondered what my father would think and say. He was very fond of music and I married a musician, and my son and granddaughter are professional musicians. I always think it would be a pleasure for him," she said.

Her drawings accompany her diary, which was published in 1998 in the book Draw What You See, and Helga's Diary was published in 2013.

As the generations read her diary and look at her drawings, she offers some advice. "Read it very carefully and keep it in your memory of what happened. And do something so it won't happen anymore. That's what we learn. To be tolerant of each other, to understand each other, not to be selfish, to be healthy, to have family, to have hope and freedom."

Who could have guessed that a child's drawings would someday record history?

Letters to the Editor policy

- Submissions are limited to one letter per person per month. We do not publish letters from people living outside of this newspaper's coverage area.
- Letters should be 300 words or less. Letters over the word limit will be cut at the editor's discretion. All letters are subject to editing for style, mechanics and grammar.
- Letters containing language or content that is blatantly offensive, or that the editor feels is inappropriate, will not be published.
- Letters should focus on the opinion/s of the writer, not facts.
- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification only. Letters will be printed with the author's name and city of residence only. Anonymous letters will not be published.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name, and should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

All questions regarding letters to the editor should be directed to:

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Just a gal from Glidden

Life, laughter, and a cup of ambition

BY KATE WINQUIST

Some weeks, Dolly Parton just shows up uninvited in my brain and refuses to leave. This week was one of those weeks.

Maybe it's her lyrics. Maybe it's her infectious sense of humour. Maybe it's her... ahem... figure—which, as someone who has also been generously gifted in the chest department, I find oddly comforting. Representation matters, people.

Whatever the reason, Dolly's been rattling around in my head like loose change in a purse. And honestly, in times like these—crazy, loud, exhausting times—I'm okay with that. Dolly is relatable. Dolly is fun. Dolly reminds us not to take life (or ourselves) quite so seriously.

Case in point: a lovely lady named Jolene stopped in this week to do some photocopying. Jolene. I genuinely think she may be the first Jolene I've ever met in real life. I resisted the urge to sing at her. Barely.

Last week, I shared a photo and a story from my high school days, and somehow—miraculously—four of us from that photo actually managed to get together this past Saturday. We added a couple of new friendships, celebrated a birthday, enjoyed lunch, a few adult bevies, and some really good conversation.

It's fun to reminisce about the good old days, but I think we all agreed we wouldn't actually want to go back. Well... maybe just for a quick redo on a few life decisions. Nothing major.

Of course, the photo being published in the local paper raised some eyebrows. One friend got a text from someone out of province who screenshot it and said, "You're famous!" Another quipped, "Don't let Kate take a photo or it'll end up in the Voice."

Honestly, I'm starting to think no one will want to talk to me anymore. Even my sister weighed in: "Your columns resonate with lots of people—I enjoy them... just quit dropping my name in your articles." (Insert crying/laughing emoji here.)

The conversations have definitely changed over time—along with the number of drinks and the time of day we're consuming them. Younger me might have gone for a tequila shot at the Red Lion Inn. Older me knows José Cuervo is not my friend. Conversations now revolve around grandchildren, achy knees, diabetes... and learning that apparently tequila might help blood sugar levels. Who knew?

Saturday afternoon is usually when I write this column, but this week it was delayed. I could have written it Saturday night, but older me was tired, chose an early bedtime, and decided a fresh start was the better option. Alarm set for 5:30 a.m. Office by 6:00 a.m.

“Tumble out of bed
and I stumble
to the kitchen
Pour myself a cup
of ambition”

Which immediately brought another Dolly classic to mind:

“Tumble out of bed and I stumble to the kitchen
Pour myself a cup of ambition”

Most of my time is spent behind a desk these days. Don't get me wrong—I truly enjoy my job—but sitting all day is starting to take a toll. Getting out of my office chair, off the couch, or out of bed in the morning feels harder than it used to. I'm not old... but I'm not young either. At 56 (almost 57), I should probably be in better shape than I am.



So I've made a decision. Every hour or so, I get up and walk the long hallway in our office building to limber up my weary bones. It's not glamorous, but it's something.

“Workin’ nine to five, what a way to make a livin’”

Here's what older me has learned: we need to pay attention to our own lives and the people who matter most. The ones who tease you because they know they might show up in your weekly musings. There's a lot of noise out there. The news is scary. Social media is exhausting. Half the time we don't know what—or who—to believe.

So maybe we need more afternoons with friends, birthday cake, laughter, and a few drinks. Maybe deadlines still matter, but fun should too. Work should still have joy in it. Life should still feel... lived.

I'll let Dolly have the last word this week (sing it with me):

“It's enough to drive you crazy if you let it.”

And honestly? I'm choosing not to let it.

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Lousy prognosticator picks U.S. to win hockey gold

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

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

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

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



Sports
By Bruce Penton

Marner.

Those two will be back, along with Nathan MacKinnon and Sidney Crosby, two Tim Hortons commercial stars who also play a little hockey.

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

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

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

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

- Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "The CFL, as a league, produced record revenues in 2025, \$10 million more than ever before. The Blue Jays, as a team, did about \$100 million more than budgeted for in the 2025 season."
- Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, on the Leafs' playoff chancers: "Turn off the oven. Pull the Leafs out, put them on a countertop and tent them with tin foil. This team is cooked."
- Comedy writer Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver:

"Quinn Hughes said the Minnesota Wild are a better hockey team than the Canucks. The Wild then put a 'CO' on his jersey —Captain Obvious."

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

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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PHOTO BY HELENKA BERNARD

Cadets showcase public speaking skills at annual competition

BY HELENKA BERNARD

Cadets from the Lloyd Sparky Squadron demonstrated confidence and strong public speaking skills during their annual Effective Speaking competition held this week.

Cadets delivered prepared speeches on a range of thoughtful topics, including “What does leadership mean to you, and how have you demonstrated it?” and “What is your dream job, and how is the Air Cadet program preparing you for this job?” Judges noted that all participants showed a high level of prepara-

tion and effort throughout the competition. The top three competitors were:

- 1st Place: Cpl Bernard
- 2nd Place: Cadet Ranjbaran
- 3rd Place: Cpl Jackson

Cpl Bernard, from Eston, will advance to represent the Lloyd Sparky Squadron at the next level of competition in North Battleford in March.

The Lloyd Sparky Squadron congratulates all participating cadets on a successful competition and wishes Cpl Bernard the best of luck as he moves forward.

New Heavy Equipment Operator program in Kindersley

KINDERSLEY — Great Plains College is pleased to announce the addition of a new Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) program at its Kindersley Campus. This six-week program begins June 1, and applications are now open.

“We’re pleased to bring Heavy Equipment Operator training back to Kindersley as part of our ongoing commitment to meeting regional workforce needs,” said Keleah Ostrander, vice president, programs and students at Great Plains College. “This program provides students with in-demand certifications and practical skills that are essential across many industries.”

In this program, students will earn Power Mobile Equipment (PME) certification on three pieces of heavy equipment through a combination of classroom instruction, simulator training and hands-on experience on an active job site. The hands-on component in-

cludes mandatory certification on the rock truck, and two additional pieces of equipment selected from the following options: grader, dozer, front-end loader or excavator. While we do our best to match students with their preferred equipment, specific assignments depend on availability.

For the upcoming June intake, the hands-on training will take place through a partnership project with the Town of Kindersley, where students will gain experience completing land levelling and earthmoving work in support of a future residential development and upgrades to current outdoor recreation sites. This project allows learners to apply their skills in a practical setting while gaining valuable job-ready experience on industry-relevant equipment.

In addition to equipment training, students will complete a series

of industry-recognized safety certifications, including Safety Construction Orientation Training (SCOT), Ground Disturbance (Global), Fall Protection, Fire Extinguishing and First Aid/CPR/AED. Together, this blend of classroom learning, simulator use, on-the-job training and safety certification prepares graduates for employment across multiple sectors, including construction, energy and agriculture.

“We are grateful to the Town of Kindersley for partnering with us to deliver the practical training component of this program,” added Ostrander. “This collaboration not only enhances student learning but also contributes to a project that will benefit the community for years to come. We’re looking forward to supporting both skill development and community growth through this partnership.”

To learn more or apply for the Heavy Equipment

Operator program, please visit greatplainscollege.ca/heo, or contact Gloria Vielhauer, student adviser, at 306-463-1353 or glovriav@greatplainscollege.ca

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DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY			Title	Total		Total
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21 & 22	5	G55	141018915			
			141018926	\$1,985.14	\$43.87	\$2,029.01
3 & 4	8	G55	145571328			
			145571339	\$1,923.19	\$43.87	\$1,976.06
15 & 16	10	G728	112788445			
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Dated this 17th day of February, 2026.

Michele Schmidt,
Treasurer

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Zevyn Theisen received an ABE Persistence Award at Great Plains College's Jan. 28 awards ceremony. Kylie Wildman was also a recipient but was unable to attend. Program co-ordinator Ethan Hill-O'Driscoll is pictured at left, along with student adviser Gloria Vielhauer. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Great Plains College presents ABE Persistence Awards

BY JOAN JANZEN

Great Plains College Adult Basic Education (ABE) staff and students came together Jan. 28 to celebrate the ABE Persistence Awards. Zevyn Theisen received a certificate and \$1,500, while Kylie Wildman received a certificate and \$750.

The awards recognize the perseverance and determination of full-time students enrolled in Adult 10, CAEC, Grade 12, upgrading and essential skills programs at Great Plains College. Several students applied, and the recipients were selected by program co-ordinator Ethan Hill-O'Driscoll, along with the student adviser and information officer.

"These awards are not about perfection; they are about showing up, moving forward and refusing to give up," Hill-O'Driscoll said.

Theisen and Wildman delivered their acceptance speeches via recorded video during the awards ceremony, expressing gratitude for the recognition and the opportunities it provides. Wildman shared

personal reflections on her time at Great Plains College.

"School has been something I've struggled with for as long as I can remember, and deciding to continue my education as an adult was not easy, but I'm incredibly glad that I did," she said. "The staff made coming to school feel less overwhelming, and their encouragement and understanding have made a lasting difference for me."

The ABE Persistence Award honours students who continue their education while navigating significant barriers, including financial challenges, family responsibilities, health concerns or previous academic struggles. As part of the nomination process, students submitted a written reflection describing the obstacles they have faced, how they continue to persevere and their goals for the future.

"The award makes me feel seen for the effort it took to keep going, even when things felt overwhelming, and it motivates me to continue moving forward," Wildman said.

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Local football players earn national showcase invitation

BY KATE WINQUIST

Two Kindersley football players are gaining national recognition after competing at a Canada Football Chat (CFC) Evaluation Camp in Moose Jaw.

Cole Hawken and Javier Gonzales travelled to the camp on Jan. 30 in hopes of earning spots at the 2026 CFC Fox 40 Camp and Showcase. Both athletes were identified as top football prospects in Western Canada following the evaluation.

Hawken, a 16-year-old centre, and Gonzales, a 16-year-old defensive back, have since been invited to compete at the FPC West Coast Showcase, scheduled for March 13–15 at Minoru Park in Richmond, B.C.

The showcase will feature team practices, competitive drills and full game-day action, providing players with an opportunity to display their skills in front of coaches from high school, junior and university programs across Canada and the United States.

Athletes are selected for CFC showcases based on performances at previous Canada Football Chat events, combine and try-out results, or through coach referrals.

The Richmond event will bring together elite players from across Western Canada as Hawken and Gonzales continue to pursue opportunities at the next level of football.

Canada Football Chat is a national football media and evaluation platform that hosts camps, combines and showcases across the country to help identify and promote emerging talent.

More information about CFC events and programs is available at www.canada-footballchat.com.



Cole and Javier. PHOTOS SUBMITTED



Cole Hawken



Javier Gonzales

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

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Saskatchewan's Energy News

39 rigs drilling in Saskatchewan on Feb. 3

BY BRIAN ZINCHUK

February is historically the busiest time of the year for drilling rigs, so here's a snapshot of what was happening in the field last week.

Across Saskatchewan, there were 39 rigs working. Starting in northwest Saskatchewan, there were nine rigs working in the region (using Macklin as the dividing line between northwest and west central). Cenovus employed Precision Drilling rig 197 at Spruce Lake and Pd Rig 198 south of Paradise Hill. Two rigs is a relatively low number for Saskatchewan's largest oil producer.

Strathcona Resources had Pd Rig 188 at Meota and Ensign Rig 651 at Winter, southwest of Cut Knife.

Durham Creek Energy had PD Rig 148 working just south of Neilburg, an area that hasn't seen a lot of attention for years.

West Lake had Bonanza Rig 3 drilling southwest of Lashburn. Baytex Energy had PD Rig 155 south of Maidstone.

Just north of Macklin, Savanna Drilling Rig 418 was making hole for Longshore, while just south of Macklin, Surge was drilling with Savanna Rig 414.

Eleven rigs were working in west central Saskatchewan. Strathcona had another rig, Bonanza Rig 1, along Highway 51 between Kerrobert and Kelfield. They also had Akita Drilling Rig 6 and PD Rig 297 near Cactus Lake.

West of Coleville, Ish Energy had Edge Drilling Rig 6 working. Teine Energy had Ensign Rig 7 at Hoosier, Ensign Rig 350 northeast of Kindersley, Ensign Rig 351 and Savanna Rig 419 southwest of Plenty.

Woodcote, a company Pipeline Online has not seen before on these reports, was drilling with Bonanza Rig 11 at Eaton, an area that also hasn't seen much attention. South of Elrose, Whitecap Resources had PD Rig 288 making hole.

Using the South Saskatchewan River as the divid-

ing line between west central and southwest Saskatchewan, we find North American Helium drilling within spitting distance of Lake Diefenbaker, northeast of Stewart Valley. Savanna Rig 629 was the one drilling.

There was a whole lot of nothing happening in southwest Saskatchewan other than Shell Canada working with Akita Drilling Rig 35 at Harptree, southeast of Willowbunch. And that could conceivably be considered southeast Saskatchewan.

At Disley, Buffalo Potash has been drilling its first well just north of Highway 11, using Stampede Drilling Rig 22.

Over in the southeast, there was effectively no drilling activity west of Estevan, including nothing going on in the Weyburn or Torquay areas.

There were however two major cluster of rigs – one smaller one near Warmley, and a large one near Lampman.

At Warmley, Panther Drilling Rigs 2 and 3 were working for Whitecap. Ensign Rig 808 was drilling for Saturn. A little to the west at Creelman, Stampede Drilling Rig 8 was drilling for Saturn.

Eight rigs were drilling in that Lampman cluster, stretching from Benson to Willmar. They included Alliance Drilling rig 2 for Midale Petroleums at Benson, Ensign Rig 423 eight miles to the east of Benson for Whitecap, and Stampede Rig 7 drilling for Whitecap northwest of Browning. Just west of Lampman, Stampede Rig 17 was drilling for Whitecap, and southeast of the town, Stampede Rig 2 was drilling for Surge.

Tundra Oil and Gas showed up northeast of Steelman with Stampede Rig 16. Betts Drilling Rig 2 was working for Triland Energy.

There were four outliers in the areas. North of Parkman, Stampede Rig 19 was drilling for Pemoco. Woodland Development Corp had Stampede Rig 3 south of Carievale. Stampeded Rig 1 was drilling for Saturn at Northgate. And finally, Stampede Rig 4 was drilling for Tundra at Roche Percee.

Crown oil and gas public offering generates over \$7 million to close fiscal year

The Government of Saskatchewan's latest Crown oil and natural gas public offering, held February 3, 2026, generated \$7,009,225.76 in revenue, with the majority of bids concentrated in the Estevan and Swift Current areas.

The offering marked the final public sale of the 2025–26 fiscal year and resulted in 90 successful bids covering a total of 16,911.832 hectares.

The Estevan area accounted for \$3,456,833.90 in revenue from one exploration licence and 24 leases totalling 4,189.700 hectares. The Swift Current area generated \$2,101,648.51 from 24 leases covering 5,446.066 hectares.

Cougar Creek Land Ltd. submitted the highest bid for

an exploration licence, offering \$1,667,888.88, or an average of \$853.43 per hectare. The licence covers 1,954.336 hectares north of Gainsborough in the Estevan area.

Saturn Oil & Gas Inc. recorded the highest lease bid, offering \$1,223,391.40, averaging \$1,711.08 per hectare, for a 714.982-hectare parcel east of Redvers in the Estevan area.

Additional bidding activity generated \$885,394.68 in the Lloydminster area and \$565,348.67 in the Kindersley area.

Through six public offerings during the 2025–26 fiscal year, the Government of Saskatchewan raised a total of \$67,256,180.34 in Crown oil and gas revenue. This represents a 29 per cent increase compared to the \$51,814,614.76 generated in the previous fiscal year.

The August 2025 public offering accounted for a significant portion of this increase, generating \$24,312,738.26—the highest single public offering revenue total since 2014.

The first Crown oil and natural gas public offering for the 2026–27 fiscal year is scheduled for April 7, 2026.

Crown leases are issued for five-year terms and allow for the drilling and production of oil or natural gas. Exploration licences are issued for terms of two to five years in less developed areas to support exploration and potential production. Public offering activity is influenced by several factors, including commodity prices, land availability, geological and technological considerations, and broader market conditions.

More information on Saskatchewan's Crown oil and gas public offerings is available on the Schedule of Public Offerings webpage at saskatchewan.ca.

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Town of Eston extends a friendly welcome to newcomers

BY JOAN JANZEN

ESTON — The Welcome Wagon Program in Eston has been faithfully providing information and complimentary gifts to newcomers who move to Eston and make it their home. Jaime Smith, Eston's Economic Development Officer, said the program is a great opportunity for businesses and groups to advertise or let newcomers know what they have to offer.

New arrivals can drop in at the Town Office, where they will receive a booklet with town information as well as a bag full of goodies from local groups and businesses. The packages highlight local businesses, services, and organizations, helping newcomers learn what Eston has to offer while supporting the local economy. The Welcome Wagon Program was initially designed to extend a warm welcome and help people feel connected as soon as they settle into their new home.

"Thank you for your continued support of our community and for helping make Eston and area a welcoming place to live," Jaime said. Anyone wishing to contribute a donation, merchandise, gift certificate, or coupon—whether large or small—can contact the Town Office in Eston.



New residents of Eston can drop in at the Town Office, where Jaime Smith, Eston's Economic Development Officer, will be happy to provide them with a booklet containing town information, as well as a bag full of goodies from local groups and businesses, compliments of the Welcome Wagon Program.

Kindersley Composite School launches Rollathon fundraiser ahead of Telemiracle 50

BY KATE WINQUIST

With Telemiracle marking its 50th anniversary this year, students and staff at Kindersley Composite School are rolling out a new fundraiser aimed at supporting the long-running Saskatchewan charity.

The school has launched the KCS Rollathon, a coin-collection challenge that invites students, staff and community members to donate spare change in the weeks leading up to Telemiracle 50.

Students are encouraged to bring coins to their Period 3 teachers between now and Friday, Feb. 13. Following the February break, participating teachers will roll the collected coins live in the school lobby during the lunch hour.

The fundraiser includes a competitive twist: the

longer it takes a teacher to roll their class's coins, the earlier that class will be dismissed. Bills and cheques also count toward the total, with every \$10 equaling one minute of early dismissal.

Community members are also invited to take part. Coin donations can be dropped off at the Kindersley Composite School office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday to Friday. Those who make annual Telemiracle donations may also drop off or mail cheques directly to the school.

Organizers note that donors will still receive an official tax receipt from Telemiracle once the Kinsmen and Kinette Club of Kindersley submits the full donation during its on-air presentation.

Telemiracle 50 will celebrate five decades of fundraising in support of Saskatchewan residents, continuing a tradition that has raised millions of dollars for medical equipment and patient care across the province.

School organizers hope the Rollathon will help make this milestone year a record-breaking one for Telemiracle.



A worker walks through deep mud on an oil lease in west-central Saskatchewan on Feb. 4, where +10 C temperatures and incoming road bans highlighted unusually mild winter conditions.

PHOTO BY JONAH JANZEN

TELEMIRACLE FUNDRAISER

STARTING FEBRUARY 4TH - 13TH

BRING COINS TO YOUR PERIOD 3 TEACHER

HOW LONG IT TAKES TO ROLL = HOW MANY MINUTES EARLY YOU GET DISMISSED FROM CLASS

FOR BILLS AND CHEQUES EVERY \$10 EQUALS 1 MINUTE

MAY THE BEST CLASS WIN!

An illustration of several gold coins and Canadian banknotes, including a \$10 quarter, a \$2 nickel, a \$5 dime, and a \$5 penny.

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- Family Violence Intervention (FVI)
- Rapid Access Counselling (RAC) for Children Youth/Caregivers
- Rapid Access for Counselling (RAC) for Adults
- Crisis Intervention & Debriefing
- Suicide Intervention & Suicide Impact Supports
- Sexual Assault Victim Support
- Trafficking Intervention
- Family Intervention Rapid Support Teams (FIRST)
- Client Advocacy
- Intimate Partner Violence Intervention
- Court Mandated Supports

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.

105 Colton Drive, Box 2235, Kindersley, SK. S0L1S0
Office Phone: 306.463.6655
Fax: 306.463.6410
crisis@westcentralcrisis.ca
www.westcentralcrisis.ca

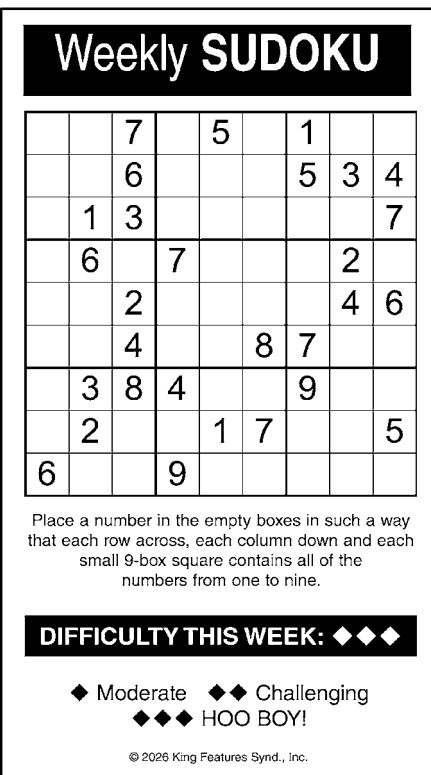
Programming and support services funded by Saskatchewan Ministries of Justice, Social Services, and Health as well as generous contributions from local businesses and community members. The Centre is a registered non-profit, providing tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more.



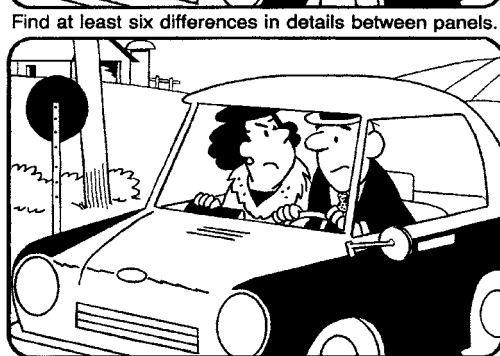
by Dave T. Phipps



by Jeff Pickering



BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



6. Headrest is added.

ACROSS

- 1 Table support
4 Mosque leader
8 Island near Java
12 Terre Haute sch.
13 Terse denial
14 Poetic tributes
15 Ecol. watchdog
16 Faints
18 Word list, for short
20 Japanese pond carp
21 Sty chow
24 Rebuffs
28 Review in detail
32 Pesky insect
33 Friendly leader?
34 Albacore and yellowfin
36 Playwright Levin
37 Finn's floater
39 Revamp
41 Vampire, by nature
43 Nobelist Walesa
44 Bar bill
46 Savory taste
50 Begin anew, as on January 1
55 — Angeles
56 California valley

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| 57 Egyptian river | 5 Curly's brother | 31 Yard tool |
| 58 Book-spine abbr. | 6 Devoured | 35 Locks down |
| 59 Afternoon affairs | 7 Moo juice | 38 Block-dropping video game |
| 60 Darkens | 8 Fan disapproval | 40 Resistance unit |
| 61 Oklahoma city | 9 Pt. of speech | 42 Scoundrel |
| | 10 Author Harper | 45 Connection |
| | 11 Leb. neighbor | 47 Edison's middle name |
| | 17 "Mayday!" | |
| | 19 Bat wood | |
| DOWN | 22 Egg | 48 Disposition |
| 1 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan" | 23 Prison-related | 49 Actress Fisher |
| 2 Hockey legend Phil, to fans | 25 Rice or Auburn (Abbr.) | 50 Retired jet |
| 3 Avocado dip, for short | 26 Naked | 51 Dead heat |
| 4 Rorschach pattern | 27 Rating unit | 52 "I — Rock" |
| | 28 Basil or thyme | 53 Half of XIV |
| | 29 Smoothie | 54 Shade tree |
| | 30 Cushy | |

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Trivia

test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. **GAMES:** What color is Sonic the Hedgehog in the video game?
2. **GEOGRAPHY:** What is the former name of the U.S. Virgin Islands?
3. **MOVIES:** What are the colors of the striped sweater Freddy Krueger wears in “A Nightmare on Elm Street”?
4. **MEDICAL TERMS:** What is a more common name for pneumothorax?
5. **HISTORY:** By which name is Martha Jane Canary more commonly known?
6. **TELEVISION:** What is Hawkeye Pierce’s real first name in the “M*A*S*H” series?
7. **ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a group of larks called?
8. **AD SLOGANS:** Which car company uses the ad slogan “Driven by passion”?
9. **MYTHOLOGY:** What is the head of the Egyptian god of death, Anubis?
10. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What is the currency of Japan?

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

[illegible]

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

— King Crossword —

SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL

Support businesses that keep your community and its newspapers thriving.



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Sisters Laura Graham (left) and Hailey Rast share a smile as they enjoy a leisurely winter walk along the Motherwell Reservoir walking trail on a bright, beautiful afternoon in Kindersley. PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN.

HISTORIC SASKATCHEWAN



This photo was labelled “Youth People’s Group 1940”, Kindersley, and the contributor couldn’t identify everyone in the photo. Front to back: Joyce Baker, Barbara Keyes, Muriel Baker, Myrtle Baker, Florence Keyes, Etta Baker, Dorothy Gallagher, (unknown), Calvin Baker, Robert Baker, (unknown), Ross Doner, (unknown), Enid Hahn, Bruce Baker, John Douglas.



Carl Baker drove a school taxi much like this one, except twice as large. According to Carl’s relative, Aubrey Hawton, the taxi was equipped with a side door and back door, just in case it tipped over and the kids needed to escape. It also had a small stove to keep it warm.

Relatives of former Kindersley and area residents recently posted some old photos on Historic Saskatchewan’s Facebook page.



An old newspaper article reported on these two sets of twins in Kindersley. Two sets of twins in one family is something of a record. Here are the four youngest members of Carl and Clara Baker’s family: (l-r): Myrtle and Muriel (12 years old), and Joyce and Grayce (7 years old). Carl and Clara Baker lived two and a half miles southeast of Kindersley and as well as the two sets of twins had five older children in the family.



Carl and Clara Baker (left) and Arsula and Leonard Baker, Kindersley, Sask., 1940.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Card of Thanks
To all the staff at Caleb in Kindersley - you were so good to our Mom. She thought so highly of you. Thank you to all the nurses, CNAs and Care Aides for the care and compassion you gave Mom during her last days in the Kindersley Hospital. Each one of you were so caring and helpful to us also. Thank you to everyone for flowers, cards, gifts of food and your expressions of sympathy. It is all appreciated so much.
Sincerely, The family of Elma Thompson

AGRICULTURE

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2026
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JOBS & TENDERS

Ad inquiries 306-463-2211 www.westcentraljobs.ca kate@yourwestcentral.com



How about becoming a security guard?

Is protecting people and property important to you? Are you able to remain calm and assertive in stressful situations? You could put these qualities to good use by becoming a security guard.

As a security guard, you may:

- Control access to establishments from a guard post
- Direct visitors to the correct locations
- Patrol assigned areas to prevent crime and fires
- Enforce rules and emergency measures

You could work in countless different places, such as a condo building, museum, bank, hospital, sports complex, retail space or an outdoor event. Explore training programs in your area.



Thinking about a career in forestry? You're spoiled for choice!

Do you dream of working outdoors and have a passion for nature? A career in forestry might be perfect for you. This sector offers a wide range of career opportunities for individuals at all levels of education and experience.

- Here are a few examples**
- Depending on your profile, several options are available to you. Consider these possibilities:
- Brush cutters support successful reforestation efforts by trimming and clearing shrubs, brush and undergrowth to give young trees the best chance at thriving.
 - Forest engineers develop strategies to conserve, protect and sustainably harvest trees. They draw on specialized knowledge gained through university training.
 - Tre planters plant and maintain different tree species in reforestation areas. They may use either manual or mechanized methods.
 - Forest firefighters combat wildfires. They may also train at-risk communities in fire prevention and safety measures.

Sustainable forest management depends on the dedication of the people who work in the field every day. Does this type of work appeal to you? Find out about other forestry careers in your area.



JOB OPPORTUNITY

R.M. of Lacadena No. 228

Seasonal Mower / Utility Operator

The R.M. of Lacadena No. 228 is accepting applications for Seasonal Mower / Utility Operators for the 2026 construction season (April 1 - October 31). Mower operator responsibilities may include road maintenance, equipment servicing, and sign and culvert maintenance as directed by the foreman. Must be able to lift 50 lbs and work outside in all weather conditions. Pension plan and benefits are available. Please forward resumes to the undersigned.

R.M. of Lacadena No. 228
Box 610, Kyle, SK S0L 1T0
Fax: 306-375-4705; Email: rm228@sasktel.net
For more information contact the R.M of Lacadena office at 306-375-4753.

GRADER OPERATOR

R.M. of Oakdale No. 320

The R.M. of Oakdale No. 320 is accepting applications for Seasonal Grader Operator for the 2026 season. Experience is preferred but will provide training if necessary. Resumes with references and drivers' abstract will be accepted until position is filled. The successful candidate must agree to a background security check. The RM offers competitive wages and benefits package.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2026

R.M. of Oakdale No. 320
Box 249
Coleville, SK S0L 0K0
306-463-7717
Fax: 306-965-2466; Email: rm320@sasktel.net

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~ RM of Lacadena and RM of Monet ~

Highlights:

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- Perimeter & cross-fenced
- Corrals, handling system, hydraulic chute, sorting pens
- Two homes, heated shop, calving barn, garages, sheds

Total acres: Approx. 10,560+ acres (Deeded acres: 3,360 - Leased acres: 7,200)

Tender deadline: February 28, 2026 at 1:00 PM

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Mary Kloster • 306-372-7832 • marykloster@royallepage.ca
1 West Road, Kindersley, SK S0L 1S1

FOR SALE BY TENDER

R.M. of Prairiedale #321

SE 10-32-25 W3rd
161 total acres, 11 cult acres
\$16,300 assessment

Tenders close Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 3:00 PM

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306-463-7357. Box 1324 Kindersley, SK S0L 1S0

The Town of Leader

is currently seeking applications for the position of

PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN

Qualifications Required:

- Valid Class 5 driver's license
- Working knowledge of computers
- Experience with supervision and management of staff
- Water Treatment and Distribution Level 2 certification*
- Waste Water Treatment & Waste Water Collection Level 1 certification*
- Supervisory Certificate*
- WHIMIS, TDG, Confined spaces and Ground Disturbance*

** Denotes qualifications that may be obtained within the first two years of employment.*


This is a full-time, permanent position with full benefits. The salary scale for this position is in accordance with the Town of Leader/SEIU-West Collective Agreement. The successful candidate will be required to enroll in SEIU.

A complete job description can be obtained by visiting www.leader.ca or by calling the Town Office at 306-628-3868.

Applications for this position will be received until a suitable candidate is hired and can be sent to:

cao@leader.ca
Town of Leader
P.O. Box 39
Leader, SK S0N 1H0

We thank all applicants; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.





TOWN OF OYEN

ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN

Permanent, Full-Time Position

The Town of Oyen is seeking a dynamic individual to assist with, and/or provide leadership for, the installation, maintenance, repair or upgrade of all Municipal infrastructures. These include roadways, signage, sidewalks, water distribution, and wastewater system.

Mechanical abilities, heavy equipment operator experience, and experience with water and wastewater systems would be an asset. Level 1 water / wastewater operator certification is considered a strong asset. The successful applicant must be reliable, a proven team player, and willing to undertake any necessary training.

A detailed Job Description is available upon request from the Town Office.

Remuneration will be in accordance with the Town of Oyen salary grid and town policies. The Town of Oyen offers a comprehensive benefits package that includes participation in the Local Authorities Pension Plan.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a cover letter and a detailed resume outlining their experience and training to Debbie Ross, Chief Administrative Officer.

Please forward resumes to:
Debbie Ross, Chief Administrative Officer: cao@oyen.ca
Or in person at the town office - 201 Main Street, Oyen AB T0J 2J0
Phone: 403-664-3511

Applications will continue to be accepted until a successful candidate is found. The Town of Oyen wishes to thank all applicants but will only be contacting those selected for an interview.



JOBS & TENDERS

kate@yourwestcentral.com

www.westcentraljobs.ca

To advertise call 306-463-2211



Should you hire someone full-time or part-time? Key points to consider

If you run a business, the time may come when you need to hire additional help. But should you hire someone on a full-time or part-time basis? Here's what you need to consider.

Understand your obligations

An employee's status and weekly hours determine your responsibilities. Full-time employees typically work 30 to 40 hours per week and are entitled to paid leave and vacation days. Their part-time colleagues, who usually work fewer than 30 hours per week, are typically not entitled to the same amount of paid time off. You may also be obligated to pay for other benefits for your full-time employees. All told, a full-time employee represents a larger investment for your business.

In short, it may cost you less to hire a part-timer, but your decision shouldn't be based solely on finances.

Weigh the differences

Part-time employees offer more financial flexibility, allowing you to adjust their work schedules based on demand. This will help you manage cash flow during slower periods. However, a full-time employee offers advantages in other ways.

If your operations require constant attention to customers, logistics or marketing, a dedicated full-time employee can provide more value in the long run. Since they'll be spending more time at your company, they'll be better able to help you achieve your business goals. Depending on your business model, this can be a considerable

asset. You'll then need to think about the skills you want them to bring to your team.

In conclusion, making the decision to hire a full-time or part-time em-

ployee should align with your budget, business needs and vision for your company's future. Still unsure? Consult a human resources expert in your area.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

R.M. of Lacadena No. 228 GENERAL LABOURER

The R.M. of Lacadena No. 228 is accepting applications for a General Labourer for the 2026 construction season (April 1 - October 31). Must be able to lift 50 lbs and work outside in all weather conditions. Class 5 drivers license required. Please forward resumes to the undersigned.

R.M. of Lacadena No. 228
Box 610

Kyle, SK S0L 1T0

Fax: 306-375-4705 Email: rm228@sasktel.net

For more information contact the

R.M of Lacadena off ce at 306-375-4753.

PLEASE APPLY BY FEBRUARY 15, 2026

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Owens & Sweitzer (1972) Ltd. in Eston, Saskatchewan

is looking to fill the following positions:

SALES PERSON

Primary focus to cover on road sales and territory management of areas including and surrounding but not limited to: Rosetown, Milden, Elrose, Kyle, Dodsland.

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If you think you have something to offer our team, are energetic, and ready to help us grow our business, apply to:

Cordell Goheen at 124 Railway Ave in Eston, SK
cordell@owensandsweitzer.com

JOB OPPORTUNITY

R.M. of Lacadena No. 228

Grader/Heavy Equipment Operator

The R.M. of Lacadena No. 228 is accepting applications for Seasonal Equipment Operators for the 2026 construction season (April 1 - October 31). Equipment operator responsibilities may include road maintenance, equipment operation and servicing, and sign and culvert maintenance as directed by the foreman. Must be able to lift 50 lbs and work outside in all weather conditions. Pension plan and benefits are available. Please forward resumes to the undersigned.

R.M. of Lacadena No. 228

Box 610, Kyle, SK S0L 1T0

Fax: 306-375-4705; Email: rm228@sasktel.net

For more information contact the

R.M of Lacadena office at 306-375-4753.

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WE'RE HIRING

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Your Southwest Media Group is hiring a journalist to help strengthen local civic reporting across a large rural region.

Our newspapers serve communities including

Kindersley, Kerrobert, Rosetown, Luseland, Eaton, Eston, Oyen and more.

This reporter will cover things like:

- Municipal councils & local governance • School boards & education
- Rural healthcare & regional services • Agriculture & rural issues
- Community events + human-interest stories

We're looking for someone who's:

- A strong writer and interviewer • Independent and organized
- Comfortable with rural travel (driver's licence and reliable vehicle required)
- Excited to build trust across many small communities

To apply, email kate@yourwestcentral.com with:

- Resume • 2-3 writing samples / links • Short cover letter

Application Deadline:

Until filled. Early applications encouraged.

Accepting applications for:

CUSTODIAN

The Luseland Municipal Building Committee is accepting applications for the contract position of Custodian. The successful applicant will be responsible for the cleaning of the Town of Luseland and RM of Progress No. 351 office building located at 503 Grand Ave, Luseland, Saskatchewan.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Respectful of the confidential nature of the position
- Ability to work independently
- Work congenially with office staff and Committee members

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Hold a business license with the Town of Luseland
- Complete all custodial responsibilities on either Saturday or Sunday of each week
 - Vacuuming, sweeping, and mopping of floors
 - Cleaning all surfaces in the offices, boardrooms, and bathrooms
 - Emptying garbage and recycling
 - Wash windows in the spring and fall
- Communicate with the Committee if you become unavailable
- Accept additional duties as reasonably requested by office staff and Committee members

This is a contract position, and salary will be negotiated. A complete and detailed job description is available upon request.

Applicants should submit a detailed resume, including expected salary, by February 17, 2026, to:

Luseland Municipal Building Committee
PO Box 460
Luseland, SK. S0L 2A0
Phone: 306-372-4322 Email: rm351@sasktel.net



Join the Saskatchewan Quit Smoking Challenge

BY JOAN JANZEN

February is known as Heart Month, the perfect opportunity for smokers to join the Saskatchewan Quit Smoking Challenge hosted by Lung Sask. The challenge runs until the end of February and offers tools to help quit or cut back on smoking. You could join more than five hundred quitters who have already signed up.

As an added incentive participants are offered weekly prizes, as well as expert resources, a free nicotine replacement therapy trial pack and encouragement from a supportive community. And it's free!

"Prizes are available by entering our weekly challenges, and participants will be eligible for grand prizes by completing our follow-up survey after the completion of the challenge," Bethany Verna

explained. Bethany is Health Promotion Manager at Lung Saskatchewan. "This challenge is currently running and will wrap up on February 28, 2026."

There are more than 800 members in the Saskatchewan Quits Facebook Support Group, with participants coming from 138 communities across Saskatchewan. Hosted by Lung Saskatchewan, the group helps everyone navigate their journey in a supported way knowing they are not alone. Last year's challenge results reported 79 percent of the challenge participants met their goal to either quit or cut back their smoking. Some of those individuals share their success stories in order to inspire others. You can sign up for free at [SaskQuits.ca](#)

So why not give it a try? Who knows ... you may be one of those quitters who will be able to share your story and inspire others.

R.M. of HAPPYLAND No. 231 - FOR SALE BY TENDER

- The **Rural Municipality of Happyland No. 231** offers for sale the following property.
Property Description:
Roll 3316: **Prelate 116 Cardinal St** (Lots 15-18 Block 1 Plan O1720)
Roll 3336: **Prelate 211 Railway Ave** (Lots 5-8 Block 3 Plan O1720)
Roll 3459: **Prelate 99 Railway Ave** (Block C Plan 101856281)
- A tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Property Tender" addressed to the Rural Municipality of Happyland No. 231.

Address:

Box 339, Leader, SK S0N 1H0

Physical Address:

106 - 3rd Street West, Leader, SK
- Tenders must be postmarked by 4:00 PM on March 4, 2026.
- A certified cheque to the municipality for 5% of the amount of the tender must accompany the tender.
- Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted.
- Successful bidder will have 30 days to provide the balance of cash to complete the purchase.

Dated this 29 day of January, 2026.

Kim Lacelle, Administrator

Rural Municipality of Happyland No. 231

OBITUARIES

Rowland John Riglin
November 8, 1956 - September 2, 2025

It is with deep sadness we announce that on 02 September 2025, Rowland ended his 10 year struggle with Multiple System Atrophy. He passed away peacefully at Hastings Manor in Belleville Ontario on his own terms, surrounded by his loved ones.



man who enjoyed canoeing and camping. His involvement in the Scouting program in Ottawa gifted him the opportunity to pass on valuable skills and lessons to the youth in the program, many of whom remained in contact with him. In

Rowland was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Nina (nee Parsons) Riglin. He is survived by his wife, Catherine Ambrose, his siblings, Kerry (Heather) Riglin, Birdie (David) Davidchuk, and Glenda (Lori) Riglin, his children Hagan (Natalie) Riglin and Noemie (Andrew) Gosselin, his step-children Kevin (Mackenzie) Gamble and Lauren (Jordan) Galpin, and his grandchildren Christian, Hazel, Audric, Paxton, Esme and Atticus, all whom he loved dearly. He is also survived by nephews Cory, Chad, Jayson and Lee.

Born and raised in Eston Sask, Rowland's early adult life saw him travel, work in Quebec and then Saskatchewan where he trained and became a Hydro Lineman. He secured a position with Hydro Ottawa where he settled to raise his family. In 2015 his disease forced him into early retirement. Rowland loved his job and was loved and well-respected by his co-workers. He often commented that the most rewarding time in his career was during the great ice storm of 1998. Although the hours were long and the conditions difficult, when he could knock on a door and tell someone that power had been restored to their home, the look of relief and gratitude on their faces warmed his heart and gave him great satisfaction.

Rowland was an avid outdoors-

addition to these interests, he was involved in the community in many quiet and unassuming ways, quick to help neighbours and strangers alike if and when there was a need. He was an enthusiastic Harley rider which led him to join a local Harley riding group where he became involved and was one of the pivotal organizers of the Ride for Dad in the Ottawa area. He remained active with the Ride for Dad until his disease caused him to step down from his commitments.

Rowland was a man of character and of his word, a man who loved fiercely. He lived his life marching to the beat of his own drum, leaving this world the same way. During the past decade, he endured his disease with grace and dignity, always putting the needs of his loved ones and his caregivers before himself.

Rowland did not just try life or survive it, he lived it standing inside the fire, and he did so with grace that only those who have walked a similar path could hope to understand.

He was a giant of a man whose passing has been felt in equal proportion. The grief that is felt by those who knew and loved him is quelled in a small way by knowing his struggle is over. The void left by his passing will forever be felt.

We will miss you Rowland and trust that you rest in peace.....you have earned it!



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OBITUARIES

Elma Thompson

1930 - 2026

Elma The family of Elma Thompson is deeply saddened to announce her peaceful passing on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at the age of 95.

Elma will be lovingly remembered by her children, Murray (Pat) Thompson and Elaine (Rod) Hopkins; her son-in-law, Gilbert (Yvonne) Hopkins; her cherished



grandchildren, Scott, Nancy, Charity, Aaron, Cathy, and Ryan; and her adored great-grandchildren, Colton, Marley, Maddison, and Connor. She is also fondly remembered by her sister, Ruby (Don) Martin.

Elma's kindness, strength, and love for her family will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew her.

In keeping with Elma's wishes, a private family gathering will be held at a later date.

For those who wish, donations in Elma's memory may be made to Heritage Manor Reserve, Box 195, Kindersley, SK S0L 1S0.

Rod Perkins

October 15, 1946 - December 18, 2025

The family of Rod Perkins are saddened to announce his passing on Thursday, December 18th, 2025, at the age of 79 years in Kindersley, Saskatchewan. Rod passed away peacefully at the Kindersley Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer.

Rod was born in Lloydminster, SK on October 15, 1946 to parents, Freeman and Evelyn Perkins. He grew up in Lloydminster, SK with his sister, Valerie. Rod attended school in Lloydminster and continued on to the University of Saskatchewan to take Commerce. He then completed his CPA designation while in Saskatoon working for an accounting firm. Rod was transferred to Edmonton for a brief period of time, but he didn't care for the city life, settling in Kindersley in 1973 as a partner in the Close, Perkins accounting firm.

Rod is survived by his loving wife Pat; his children Jason and his daughter Cassie; Rocky (Bona) and their children Jaden, Tyce and Dax; Whitney; Nicole (Ash) and their children Maddison, Andi, Paige, and Alex; Pamela (Nathan) and their children Sierra, Taylor, Michael, James; Bailey (Granddaughter) (Regan) and their children Kash and Weston; his sister Valerie Anderson (Bob).

Rod poured his heart into his community over the years, taking great pride by volunteering with the Kinsmen organization in his early years,



coaching speed swimming, fundraising and building of the West Central Events Centre, and his involvement with Kindersley Klippers organization, whether it was on the board as a member or serving as president of the team. He was a very open-minded person in helping the Town of Kindersley and showing others what this great town has to offer.

After fully retiring from accounting, his dedication to the community continued. In 2016, Rod put his name forward for mayor and served eight years as Mayor of Kindersley. Together with council, he helped accomplish major projects including the new aquatic centre, fire hall, healthcare centre, collaboration with the federal government for a new RCMP barracks, and service on the SUMA board and its committees. These were achievements he was quietly proud of.

It was an extremely sad day for all of us when he had to inform the Town of Kindersley that he had to step down early due to his cancer diagnosis. As we bid our farewell to Dad, let us remember him for his zest for life, his unwavering determination, and his love for his family and friends.

A funeral service was held on Friday, January 2nd, 2026 at 1:00 PM at St. Paul's United Church, 502 Main St., Kindersley, Saskatchewan with The Rev. Piotr Strzelecki officiating

The service was live streamed from the St. Paul's United Church Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsKindersley>

Donations in memory of Rod can be made to the Kindersley and District Health and Wellness Foundation Palliative Care.

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CNIB
MOBILE HUB

CNIB Mobile Hub to bring accessible programs to Kindersley

BY KATE WINQUIST

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) is bringing its Mobile Hub to Kindersley this spring, offering a day of free, in-person programming for people who are blind, partially sighted or Deafblind, as well as their families, friends and caregivers.

The CNIB Mobile Hub will be set up at the Norman Ritchie Community Centre on Friday, March 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The initiative is part of CNIB's effort to deliver accessible services and supports directly to communities across the region.

The Mobile Hub will offer a wide range of programs, including accessible technology support, advocacy re-

sources, child and youth programming, recreational activities and peer support groups. Participants will have the opportunity to connect with CNIB staff and learn more about available services in a welcoming, community-based setting.

The event will also feature demonstrations of CNIB SmartLife products. Attendees will have hands-on access to the latest advancements in accessible technology and will be able to place orders on site with no shipping fees.

All programs offered through the CNIB Mobile Hub are free of charge.

Those interested in attending or registering are encouraged to contact Malik Omar at 306-262-4687 or by email at malik.omar@cnib.ca.



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Upcoming

EVENTS

ALSASK
SATURDAY, MARCH 14
• Cornhole Tournament at the Alsask Rec Centre 6 PM start. Call Wonona 306-460-4489 to register or for more info.

COLEVILLE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
• Coleville Licensed Daycare Committee presents Wild West Night in Dodge at the Coleville Hall featuring Cole Patton and the Blackjacks. Supper, Silent Auction, Band. For tickets and more info call the Village Office 306-965-2281.

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
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12
• Pokémon Party at the Eston Library 3:30 - 5:00 PM.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
• Crafty Creations (ages 10 and up) 6:00 - 8:00 PM at the Eston Library. Yarn Weaving: Coasters and Block Printing with Foam. Contact the Library to register 306-962-3513 or eston.library@wheatland.sk.ca
APRIL 16-19
• Quilt Retreat at the Eston United Church. Call Bonnie 306-962-7440 or Kelly 306-481-6820 for more info.

- 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.
- Coffee Time “Grounds for Discussion” every Wednesday at the Library 2:00 - 3:00 PM.
- 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
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 & 14
• Hoosier Rec Board presents 23rd Annual Outdoor Curling “Hoosier Tournament of Hearts” Open, Mens, Ladies or Mixed. All skill levels welcome. Call / text Christy 306-460-9190 or Kregan 306-460-6896.
FRIDAY, MARCH 6
• Gord Bamford 25th Anniversary Celebration Tour at the Hoosier Hall with opening act Dallas Alexander. All ages show. Call Christy 306-460-9190 for more info.
- Sunday Service Hoosier Community Church 10:30 am at the Community Hall. Contact Joel Hamm 306-460-7056.

KERROBERT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13
• Kerrobert Kinettes are hosting a Valentines Banger Bingo - Ladies Night Out at the PCC. Doors open at 8 PM. E-transfer: kerrobertkinettes1@gmail.com or contact a Knette member.
- 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 10:30 - 11:30 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
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
• Kindersley Screen Arts presents “Rental Family” 4:00 PM at Sunset Theatre. \$10 cash at the door. Wine and beer available for purchase. Sponsored by Speedy Auto Glass.
SATURDAY, MARCH 7
• Kindersley Wildlife Federation Awards Banquet at the Elks Hall. Door Prizes, Raffle Prizes, Silent Auction. For tickets / info call Ray 306-831-9920 or Lori 306-460-7638.
FRIDAY, MARCH 13
• CNIB Mobile Hub will be at the Norman Ritchie Community Centre from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Free programs open to individuals who are blind, partially sighted or deafblind, as well as their families friends and caregivers.
SATURDAY, MARCH 14
• Kindersley & District Arts Council presents Rum Ragged at the Norman Ritchie Community Centre 7:30 PM. Tickets available at Devon Coles Garden Gallery, Emerald Lounge or at the door.
- 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 1:00 PM 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
- 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.
- Community Badminton SUNDAY evenings 6:00-8:00 PM. \$2/ Sunday at the LCS Gymnasium (use student parking lot door). Under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Racquets and shuttles available.

LUSELAND
FRIDAY, MARCH 13
• Luseland Arts Council presents Rum Ragged at the Luseland Community Hall. Doors open at 6:45. Show begins at 7:30 PM. Tickets available at the Luseland Credit Union or at the door.
- 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: A Collection of Sketches featuring Local Artists.
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

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4. SCREW BARREL C/W LOCK NUT FULLY INTO BODY. AFFIX ONTO TIP. IT MAY BE SECURED BY SUPER GLUE OR SOLDER.

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6. ADJUST THE HAND PRESS VALVE AND SCREW THE BARREL IN OR OUT UNTIL DESIRED FLAME OBTAINED. IF FLAME TENDS TO LEAP OFF THE END OF BARREL, REDUCE AMOUNT OF GAS AND SCREW THE BARREL IN.

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