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FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 & 11, 2023

THE WORLD-Spectator

Publications Mail Agreement 40011909

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Santos family proud to be Canadian citizens

On Feb. 1, the Santos-Cardoza family, Victor and Lesi and their two sons Victor Jr. and Edward, celebrated being Canadian citizens with the community at the Moosomin Legion.

Citizenship the end of a long road for Santos-Cardoza family

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

It was the end of a long road for the Santos-Cardoza family Wednesday as the family gained their Canadian citizenship. The family fled Honduras for Canada and applied for refugee status in Canada. Their refugee claim was rejected, and the family was slated for deportation in 2017.

The community of Moosomin rallied around them, and on the day of a massive community rally for the family, an extremely rare ministerial order was issued to stay the deportation, the family's visas were extended, and they began a new application for residency in Canada based

on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. That was accepted, and Victor, Lesi and Victor Junior became permanent residents in 2018. The youngest in the family, Edward, was already a Canadian citizen as he was born in Canada.

On Wednesday last week, the rest of the family became Canadian citizens. The ceremony was virtual, over Zoom, but friends and supporters were there with the family in the Moosomin Legion Hall, with the ceremony projected on a screen, as they took their oath.

Victor Junior spoke for the family when he addressed the crowd.

"Today, February 1, 2023 will forever

be a special day to us and to you as we celebrate our journey to citizenship and unlike many, we are privileged enough to share this very special moment with all of you, a whole community behind us," Victor Junior said.

"Today we want to thank God for giving us this opportunity to finally obtain our Canadian citizenship. This is a new beginning for us, a new chapter in our book and now we are happy to share the same rights and responsibilities and call this place home.

"Thank you to all of you who have been with us on this long journey, from the start or halfway through, wherever or whenever

you heard about us—we owe our lives to you, since none of this would be possible without you nor God. Finally we are at the end of this citizenship process and at the start of our new life as citizens.

"We want to give a very heartfelt thank you to Ralph Goodale, Dr. Robert Kitchen, Russell and Yvonne Slugoski, Kevin and Kara from The World-Spectator, Sinclair Harrison, Devona Putland, Bill Thorn, Mario Zavala and Roselyn, Murray Gray, Larry Tomlinson and the rest of the Town Council, and all the communities in Saskatchewan that were involved in different ways throughout our process."

Continued on page 3

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Kitchen disappointed in census process

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Souris-Moose Mountain MP Dr. Robert Kitchen says he is disappointed in the fact the Statistics Canada undercounted several communities in the region in the 2021 census and is hoping that in the case of Moosomin, where StatsCan admitted it made an error and added 117 people to the official count, the agency is willing to look at the numbers again as the town council still feels the numbers are low.

"It is disappointing to see what happened, in particular what I'm hearing from basically my eastern side of the riding," he said.

"These numbers don't seem to be anywhere close to what the local towns and RMs are reporting."

Kitchen said he is trying to get StatsCan to look at the Moosomin numbers again.

"Based on the letter that I received and got a copy of from Stats Canada, it says that if there's concerns, they can go and contact this certain individual, but they've already responded and basically that letter is saying no, they aren't making any more changes."

"But when you look at how they were able to identify that there were 74 homes that weren't found and 117 people. So if you're able to do that, what work did you even do to come up with those numbers? That's part of my questioning."

"It is concerning, I can tell you that I've just signed a letter that I'm sending to Minister Champagne. So I've drafted that, it's



SOURIS-MOOSE MOUNTAIN MP ROBERT KITCHEN

signed and will be sent off today to the minister asking him a) if they are aware of this, b) are they aware of it happening in other places and c) are there avenues for which they'll be able to look at this and provide assurances to the Town of Moosomin in particular, that it's not going to negatively impact them—because the impact is quite significant."

He said he believes the problem may be widespread.

"I think in a lot of cases people haven't looked into it and I am worried about those numbers and how accurate they are because it does bring question to it."

"The article that you wrote for The World-Spectator, I thought it was fantastic because it talks about how we know this. We know in Moosomin how many people are over

100 years of age and the fact that the census says there aren't any—it's like hello, what were you doing? How can you miss that?"

"We know these aspects, why is it they are missing them, what sort of survey are they doing? One would like to think that they're hiring local people to do it so that those people that they've hired would have some understanding in their rationale and in their training. I don't know because I haven't been involved in it, but it is definitely something of concern."

Kitchen said he believes towns and RMs should check their household counts against the census counts of private dwellings.

"Having those accurate numbers, to me, would be helpful when you're appealing something. You can say here are accurate

numbers as of such and such a date. To me there is no better proof than to have that aspect of it."

"The question is, and part of my request from the minister, is to look at the policies that are there and decide do they need to be changed so that they have a better reflection of that."

He said he is hoping there will be a response from the minister responsible for Statistics Canada since the town of Moosomin still feels the census count is incorrect for Moosomin.

"I am hopeful that I'll hear something back from the minister. Whether it'll be a positive response will be another question but I do anticipate that we will get some form of response from the minister," he said.

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SCAN ME

19:3c



Scenes from the citizenship ceremony, including local supporters and Chief Cadmus Delorme.

Santos-Cardoza family grateful to be Canadians

Continued from front

"Thank you Canada for allowing us to live in this beautiful and blessed country," Victor Junior continued. "Thank you Moosomin, Saskatchewan for believing in us, for welcoming us and for taking us in with open arms. We are proud to be part of this community and more importantly, proud to be Canadians.

"God is now starting to reward us all throughout these troubling 12 years we have spent battling it out. God sees your support and your kindness, therefore will give back to you all that you gave for us. Your actions do not go unnoticed.

"We want to confirm this as an act of perseverance and persistence. Everything is possible in this life if you believe in yourself. We learned many life lessons throughout this process and today we want to share them with you.

"We not only want to show our gratitude, but be an inspiration to other immigrant families who are on their path to citizenship. No matter how hard the end result may be, just know that all things are possible with hard work, persistence and a little bit of faith, because if you truly desire it, all things come to fruition.

"Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude."

In an interview following the ceremony, Victor Senior said he is breathing a sigh of relief now that the family are officially Canadian citizens.

"It's a big relief," he said. "I feel more peaceful, with less stress. It's a relief off our shoulders for sure."

Lesi said there were times when the family wasn't sure they would ever get to this point.

"There was one time when Victor said, 'No, no more. We'll just give up. We can't do anything else,' because we had no choice, we couldn't apply for anything else. Then some friends from the community, part of the small Spanish community, they knew that Victor had said we were going home. So they all gathered together, brought us some money, and they said, 'We have this money. You can contact your lawyer and tell him that you want to continue with another process.'

"There was another process, like a humanitarian one, and we could still apply for it for a third time. So I said ok, we'll see. But I said to Victor, 'You can ask the lawyer what we can apply for or what we can do.' The lawyer said, 'Yeah you have this option that you can continue.' It was at that time that we decided to go ahead. But I remember that there were times where we thought it was impossible to continue with the process because Immi-

gration kept saying no. We didn't have many options left, only that one option."

Lesi says the family has always felt at home in Moosomin.

"Especially here in Saskatchewan, in Moosomin, we feel at home because the people are so friendly. I remember when we came here the first day, we came from Toronto to here and we were driving through Moosomin and everybody was saying Hi. We were like, 'Oh how do they know us? This is the first time we're here.' Then Victor said, 'Wow the people here are so friendly.' Since then we've felt like we're at home. We can go anywhere and we don't have to worry about anything like our safety.

"We could've landed anywhere else but Moosomin just felt like the right destination. Especially with the people here like we mentioned previously. For example, Mario Zavala and Roselyn were the ones who encouraged us to move here and take that step, or rather that leap of faith to come here and try to apply all over again. I think it was well worth it, well worth the risk because now we're reaping the benefits of our risk and we couldn't be happier."

"We owe a lot to the people in the community who helped us out," says Victor Junior. "We owe this victory to everyone involved no matter how big or small their impact was, we owe it all to them and we're truly thankful for the hospitality and kindness that we've received from them."

Victor Senior says he wants to help others, to pay forward the kindness they received.

"If we see something. If we see problems and someone who needs help, we're going to be here for them to help," he said. "If they need anything or even something like advice, we are here to help. If anyone is in trouble and needs help, we are here for whatever we can do."

The family is well settled in the community now, with Victor Senior working at the mine, Lesi working in health care and taking classes so she can move up in the health care system, and Victor Junior apprenticing at Mario Z Construction and considering a future bid for Moosomin town council.

Victor Junior sums up what they learned through the whole experience.

"It's perseverance and persistence. Not giving up no matter how hard the goal may seem. Ultimately trusting in the community too, to help us out along the way, and taking their help. Realizing that this can't be done alone. You do need those good people along the way, like your-

selves Kevin and Kara, and the rest of the community that has helped us. It couldn't have been done without them so I think that's what we've really learned here. It was a community effort."

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Moosomin RCMP Report

BY SGT. DAMIEN GROUCHY

The Santos-Cardoza family are now officially citizens

On Wednesday, February 1, Cst. Pomeroy and I attended the Santos-Cardoza family's Canadian citizenship ceremony held at the Legion Hall in Moosomin. We witnessed the family take their citizenship oath and they are now officially Canadian citizens!

Semi leaking fluids while driving

On January 27, members received a complaint of a semi leaking fluids. Virden RCMP caught up with the vehicle and the driver was unaware of the leak. DOT was contacted along with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment. The fluid was found to be coolant.

Hanging out in financial institute

On January 27, members received a complaint of suspicious persons hanging out in the lobby of a financial institute in Moosomin. Members located the individuals and they were charging their phones and using wifi. They were told to move along.

Want to give me a boost

On January 28, members received a complaint of a vehicle that was broken down on Highway 709. The driver had contacted a tow truck but was then requesting police to attend and boost their vehicle. The driver was informed the RCMP do not boost, repair or tow vehicles. They continued to wait for their tow.

Twice the legal limit

On January 28, members received a complaint of a motorist traveling west in the eastbound lane. The driver then drove into the median. Members attended and upon further investigation the driver was arrested for impaired operation. The driver was twice the legal limit. The driver was subsequently charged for impaired operation.

Mischief at MacLeod Elementary

On January 29, members responded to a complaint of mischief at the MacLeod Elementary School in Moosomin. Someone painted graffiti on the door. Members are looking into the matter.

Collision with deer

On January 29, members received a complaint of a motor vehicle collision with a deer on Highway 8 in the RM of Moosomin. The driver was not injured but both the car and deer did not endure the same fate.

Semi collides with a moose

On January 30, members received a complaint a motor vehicle collision involving a semi and moose. The driver was not injured but semi was not driveable. The moose did not make it.

Deceased deer on the highway

On January 30, members received a road hazard complaint on Highway 1. The hazard was a deceased deer. Members were unable to locate the deer.

Only out for a walk

On January 31, members received a report of a suspicious person walking on Highway 8 south of Moosomin. Members made patrols and determined it was not suspicious. The person was only out for a walk.

False alarm at Moosomin school

On February 1, Members received a complaint of an alarm at a school in Moosomin. Members attended and determined the alarm to be false.

Driver with meth arrested

On February 2, members received a complaint of a vehicle in the center median east of Wapella. The complainant was unable to wake the driver. Members attended and the driver was subsequently arrested for impaired operation by drug and possession of methamphetamine after locating 21 grams of meth in the vehicle.

Protect yourself against scams

Moosomin RCMP have been investigating multiple frauds over the past few weeks. If it's too good to be true, it likely is. If you're to meet at a specific location, research the location as many scammers use false locations.

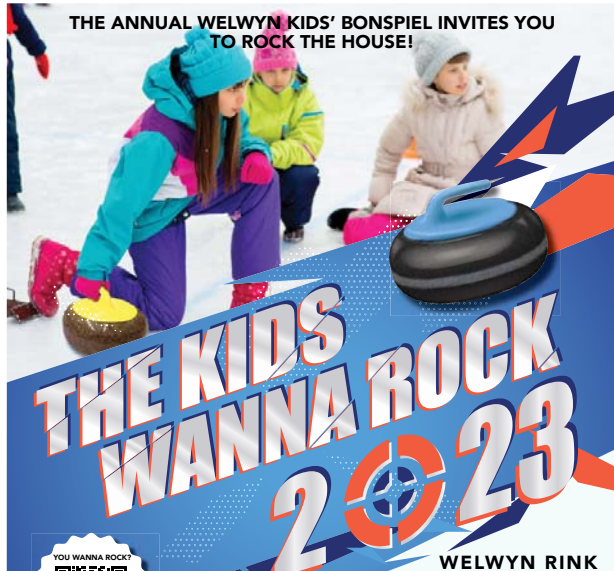
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Dad joke of the week

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Update on health care recruitment in Sask.

The World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark and Reporter Sierra D'Souza Butts recently spoke with Saskatchewan's Health Minister Everett Hindley about the province's progress in its Health Human Resources Action Plan for recruiting and hiring over 1,000 health care workers over these next two years. The interview follows.

How are things going with the health care recruitment initiative?

The updated information from the Health Human Resources Action Plan from the press release that was issued last week, that was in regards to the plan we launched in September. With multiple meetings and conversations that Minister Merriman and I have been having, as well as our MLAs across this province, including the Moosomin constituency as well about the plan to recruit, train, incentive, retain over 1,000 more health care workers to communities right across this province.

We're seeing some results. We've reported back to the general public several times now and we're going to continue to do this, in terms of tracking and showing people where we're having some successes. As well, pointing out that we are having some successes, we do know there is more work to do and we're going to continue to try and bolster this plan.

We're preparing for the provincial budget in the spring as well. I think there will be some announcements in weeks ahead on some other initiatives which will dovetail quite nicely with the health care plan right here.

Things are going well, we've had a number of updated statistics of new hirings to a number of communities across Saskatchewan where we've been able to bring in some new health care workers, which has helped stabilize some of the staffing pressures that we have.

Have the rural incentives evened out the playing field and made it easier to fill those rural positions as easily as the city ones?

They have been, and it doesn't happen overnight, but we're starting to see some of the positives of that. That being said, we might need to make some changes and adaptations to it along the way. The up to \$50,000 incentive for a three-year return of service agreement, we've started it by saying we're going to make that available to new employees in nine high priority designations in rural and remote areas.

Since launching back in October, we've managed to approve 31 incentive packages for a number of different occupations, registered nurses, license practical nurses, continuing care aids, combined lab and x-ray techs, medical lab techs, medical radiation techs as well.

We've had people benefit and apply for the incentives in North Battleford, Wilkie, Indian Head, Moose Jaw, Redvers, Outlook, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, Meadow Lake, La Ronge, Leader, Kamsack, Estevan, Swift Current and Weyburn.

It just goes to show we are making some advancements. Again, we're going to continue to do this, to provide updates to people. I know as an MLA and as a minister, I'm hearing from people who are interested in the program. We are also getting feedback on how to make it more attractive, perhaps some changes to the program and we'll always consider those, but it is working.

That's important to note because what that means is we have people who are hearing about the incentive package, they're hearing about the health human resource plan, they're interested and then they're following up on it. They're contacting us and we're following up with them, doing what we can to see if they do qualify for some of these incentives, that way we can get them hired into the system and get them to some of these areas where, frankly, we need the help.

Do you have any benchmarks you were aiming at? The number for the incentive packages for instance, is this where the government thought they would be at this point in time?

It's going very well, I would say that. What our ultimate benchmark is, is restoring service in an area where perhaps it's been temporarily disrupted because of a short staffing issue.

We want to make sure we're bringing back and restoring services in rural communities, northern, and remote communities where they're not operating up to capacity, simply because they don't have enough staff. That's the ultimate benchmark we're trying to achieve.

That being said, we as a government are trying to make



Saskatchewan Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health Everett Hindley.

sure that we're pursuing this aggressively because that's ultimately what we want to do, is to make sure we are doing everything we can.

It's very competitive out there. I'm sure you've seen what other provinces and territories are trying to do to also recruit health care workers, and not just from within their own borders, but they're looking outside as well. They may be looking to try and get some health care workers from Saskatchewan, so we want to make sure we're competitive and that's ultimately what we're trying to do.

What's the feedback you've been hearing that's helped the government adjust the health care recruitment program?

When we launched the program back in September, it was fairly aggressive. We wanted to make sure we were able to act very quickly. We could've waited until this period of time as we prepare for our spring budget, but we really felt we didn't have that opportunity to do so.

We designed the Health Human Resources Action Plan, including the incentive packages, as quickly as we could. We try to assemble them with the information we had available, and when you do that, perhaps sometimes you can miss some things. I know our officials have been taking a close look at that. Myself and Minister Merriman, when we do hear from individuals who might say, 'you know what, this program is great, but have you considered this,' and we take a look at that. Perhaps we can tweak the eligibility requirements around that program to make sure more

people can qualify. That's what we're trying to achieve here, is a balance of not only is it being attractive, but if it actually works and is able to be applied for and qualified for individuals so they can start working in some of these communities where we really need them.

Based on what has happened with the recruitment from the Philippines so far, do you think you'll be able to meet your target and bring nurses from there?

Yes, we're doing some really positive work when it comes to the Philippines initiative. Minister Merriman was there on a recruitment mission back in late November.

As of today, over 160 job offers have been made to Filipino health care workers that includes RNs, CCAs, and also medical lab assistants as well. There's a number of RNs with conditional offers that are now moving through the RN pathway, that includes some of the language requirements they have to meet, bridging education and licensing as well.

We continue to do further follow up. There is some continued relationships back and forth between our officials, just to make sure that even though we're not there on the ground, we're continuing to follow up with their officials.

Case in point, I'm hearing from individuals, Filipino health care workers who are here in my community, who are interested in how they can encourage some of their contacts. They might have friends or family members back in the Philippines who perhaps weren't able to make it to any of the information sessions that were being hosted by Minister Merriman when he was there in late November, but they're still interested in coming to not only Canada, but to Saskatchewan specifically.

We are working very hard through our officials to make sure we're doing that necessary follow up. It really is no stone left unturned, but we're trying to fill some of these vacancies.

Is there a place where people can go online and share a link back to their relatives in the Philippines?

Yes, this has been available since the launch of the action plan back in early September.

That's still available on the main page website at Saskatchewan.ca at the very top is the Health Human Resources Action Plan, from there you can click through a series of links whether it's having a look at some of the health careers that are presently available right now, there's an assessment form for internationally educated health care workers that they can use to assess their eligibility to work in the health sector here in Saskatchewan. There's also links to the incentives, those are just some of the options there.

I would also add that one of the things we talked about, is part of the HHRA plan in September was having navigators to help with some of these international workers, to help them navigate what the requirements are to work here in Saskatchewan as part of the health care system. Those health care navigator positions have been filled. That's a new addition of staff that can help with some of these requirements, and to try and get people working here in our province.

Continued on page 9



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Moosomin will be home to new senior men's baseball team this spring

BY KARA KINNA
Moosomin will be home to a Senior Men's Baseball team this spring for the first time in decades.

The Moosomin Badgers Senior Men's Baseball Team is being formed and will start playing in the Saskota Baseball League this spring against other teams in Southeast Saskatchewan such as Redvers, Kipling, Carnduff, Kenosee, Carlyle, Arcola, and Estevan.

While the team currently has some players and plans to go ahead with a season, the organizers are still looking for more players, as well as board members, and will be holding a players meeting on Monday, Feb. 13 in the Blue Moose Lounge at 7 pm for anyone interested in joining as a player or board member.

"We are looking for any players who are interested and any volunteers or people who are interested in being part of our board," says team organizer and player Jake Weidenhamer.

"We have a small group we know who we've talked to, but we don't know if there are other people out there who want to play and they don't know about it. And we are looking for people who are interested in being board members, that is also a big focus for us right now."

Weidenhamer says there has been talk about forming a senior baseball team in Moosomin for some time.

"I'm a teacher at the high school and Scott Sully is also a teacher there, and we've both played senior baseball elsewhere," he says. "There wasn't a senior baseball team here, so about four or five years ago we started coaching the 18U baseball team with the hopes that those guys could eventually play."

"We kind of lost momentum during Covid, and there wasn't much baseball for a season, but we have a group of players who have graduated in the last



The Moosomin Badgers logo. The Badgers will play in the Saskota league this spring.

two or three years that are available now to play senior baseball. And there is

an awesome ball park here. We have the facilities to do it.

"The Moosomin Blue Jays hosted the Twilight 45-and-over last year and we were talking with them and a rep from Sask Baseball and they said it's too bad there isn't a team here and we said well we're hoping to start one and that kind of got the ball rolling. And having the Twilights playing there kind of got things going."

Weidenhamer says senior baseball is the same as senior hockey in that any age group is welcome right from younger players in their mid to late teens up to older players in their 40s.

"There is no age limit. I have seen players as young as 15 play in senior baseball and you see players all the way up into their mid 40s playing senior baseball. It just depends on your area and how many players you can find," he says.

Weidenhamer says they are hoping to put together a team of about 20 players.

"The hope is we start out and we have a place

for kids who graduate to continue to play ball. There are the seniors homes right across the street and they love watching baseball. We hope we get a good crowd out and get people on the deck at the back of the Sportsplex.

"And minor ball switched back to baseball a few years ago, so there's a place now for these kids to come after minor ball."

What's the best thing about playing senior baseball?

"Probably the camaraderie," says Weidenhamer. "It's a great way to spend your summer outside on a lot of nice nights. It's just fun."

Weidenhamer says anyone interested in being a part of the team can come to the players meeting on February 13, or contact him at 204-747-4356 or Jake.Weidenhamer@secpss.ca

The team has also started a Facebook page and can be found on Facebook at Moosomin Badgers Senior Men's Baseball Team.

Rocanville Rec Report

Andrea Logan, Recreation Director

Rocanville Skating Rink

Please visit www.rocانville.ca to view the full rink schedule. For available ice rentals please contact the Rec Office at 306-645-2164.

Monday, February 6

Shinny - 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Tuesday, February 7
Public Skate - 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Shinny 4:30 - 5:45

Wednesday, February 8
Preschool/Adult Skate
1-3:30 pm

Shinny - 3:30-5:15 pm

Thursday, February 9
Public Skate - 3:30-4:30 pm

Friday, February 10

Preschool/Adult Skate
1-3:30 pm
Shinny - 3:30-5:30 pm

Sunday, February 12

Public Skate - 6-8 pm
Public Skate and Shinny - \$2/skater

Season passes are available, please contact the Rec Office.

Minor Hockey Games

Monday, February 6
U15 vs Indian Head 7:30 pm

Tuesday, February 7

U13 vs Moosomin Red 6:15 pm

Friday, February 10

U13 Borderland Badgers Game 6:30 pm

Saturday, February 11

U9 vs Churchbridge 10:45 am

U11 vs Langenburg 12 pm

Sunday, February 12
U9 vs Moosomin Blue 2 pm

Rocanville Rec Centre (Curling Rink)

Rec Centre is available to rent for birthdays, reunions, wind ups and everything in between. Contact 306-645-2164 or

rocانville.rec@sasktel.net to book.

Sr. Tiger Hockey Action

Saturday, February 11 vs. WADENA 8:15 pm

February Break Camp

February 21-23

We are now accepting applications for two February Break Camp leaders. Camp leaders must be 15 years or older, good with children, have good organizational skills, and be creative and energetic.

The successful applicant will be responsible for planning and implementing child-centred activities for children ages 5-12.

Pickleball

Tuesday evenings 7-9 pm
Afternoon Pickleball (Text or call Sandra at 306-434-7284)

New players are welcome. Rocanville Rec Centre \$10

Jujitsu

Thursday Evenings 7-8:30 pm
Ages 12 and up \$5 per night
Rocanville Rec Centre
Please contact Mike at 306-716-4946

Rocanville Walking Club

Hours Monday to Friday 9-11 am and 1-3 pm

Puzzle Swap

Needing something to do now that the colder weather has arrived? Come check out the puzzles at the Rec Office. Bring in a puzzle that you have already completed and swap it out for a new puzzle to take home.

Rocanville Borderland Co-op Outdoor Rink BBQ Fundraiser

On Wednesday February 22, 2023 from 11 am - 1 pm (If weather is bad, it will take place at the Rec Centre.) The money raised will help to purchase netting.

Rocanville Library Programming

• **Frozen II/Star Wars Coding Makerspace Kit:** This is a great kit for learning about computer coding! For the month of February (as of February 8).

• **Sewing Machine Makerspace Kit:** There will be two sewing machines at the library for all of your sewing project needs for the month of February.

• **Story Time:** Bring your kiddos out for a story or two and a craft to follow. Feel free to bring a water bottle and snacks. Registration is required. To register for this program, contact the library at rocانville@southeastlibrary.ca or 306-645-2088. February 8, 22 at 10:30 am

• **Aboriginal Storytelling:** Come on out for a morning of aboriginal stories, delivered by Calvin Racette, a Métis Knowledge Keeper. February 15 at 10:30 am

• **Stitch and Chat Night:** Come on out for an evening of knitting, crocheting, drawing, embroidery, or any project you would like to bring to work on. February 16 at 7 pm.

• **Creative Writing Club:** The library has a new library club for teens who enjoy writing! This club will meet once a month

at the library to share and discuss various pieces of writing, based on different monthly prompts. February 22 at 3:30 pm.

Rocanville Seniors' Centre

We are open for rentals! Phone Mel Strong at 306-645-4412 or Linda Bock at 306-645-4287 for rental bookings.

The Centre is open for cards on Thursdays from 1 to 3:30 every week.

Rocanville Community Thrift Store

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 1-4 pm and Thursdays 6-8 pm

Our volunteers make the thrift store what it is in our community, and we are always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested in working a few hours a month, please call Marilyn at 306-645-4553.



February Events

February 9

7 p.m. : Ryan Bender & Lorne Frappe

February 12

2p.m. : The Kelly Family

February 24

2p.m. : Jim Cairns & Friends

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Above and below: Some of the delicious burgers that were on offer during last year's Burger Blitz.

Sharpe's Burger Blitz is back Feb. 13-18

BY KARA KINNA
Sharpe's third annual Burger Blitz is back from Monday, February 13 to Saturday, February 18, and this year the week-long event will include even more restaurants than last year.

There will be 10 restaurants involved in the burger blitz, including the Red Barn, Cork & Bone, Witch's Brew, Fleming Windsor Bar & Grill, Moosomin Dairy Queen, Nutrien Sportsplex, TJ's Pizza, The Crate

House, Blueberry Kitchen and the Rocanville Town & Country Golf Clubhouse.

Sharpe's Crop Services started its burger blitz in 2021 as a way to promote Canadian agricultural products, timing it to coincide with Canadian Ag Day each year.

The event was a hit with over 2,000 burgers sold at local restaurants the first year, and 2,600 burgers sold last year.

It also gave Sharpe's a way to support the local restaurants while promoting the

ingredients used that come from Canadian agriculture.

People who try the burgers will also get a chance to vote on their favorite burger, and fill out a Burger Stamp Card for a chance to win \$500 in a draw for every four burgers they purchase.

"It started as something different to do for Canadian Ag Day," says Lori Yeske with Sharpe's who is helping to organize the Burger Blitz this year.

"It exceeded our expectations. We didn't expect for people to sell that many burgers, and now we are expanding into other communities."

Yeske says the restaurants and customers seem to look forward to the burger blitz.

"I get a couple restaurants that ask if we are doing it again each year. They are definitely excited for it to happen every year."

Continued on Page 16



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THE WORLD-Spectator



**Kevin
Weedmark
Editor
and Publisher**

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We welcome your comments. Write to Box 250, Moosomin, Sask. S0G 3N0, call (306) 435-2445, fax (306) 435-3969, or email world_spectator@sasktel.net

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In our opinion:

Federal government's tax hikes will hurt the middle class in 2023

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to govern for "the middle class and those working hard to join it." Canadians can be forgiven if we feel he's forgotten that promise.

Whether it's the nurse working at the hospital, the mom who commutes to work each day or the newcomers to Canada who opened a small business, middle-class Canadians will feel the pain of Trudeau's five tax hikes in 2023.

A worker making above \$66,600 will be forced to pay an extra \$255 through the mandatory Canada Pension Plan tax this year. That worker will also have to pay an extra \$50 through the Employment Insurance tax.

The total payroll tax bill for a nurse making more than \$66,600 will be \$4,756 in 2023. That's a lot of money, and it could otherwise cover nine months of payments on the SUV she needs to drive to work at the hospital.

Every business owner will also have to fork over \$5,157 in payroll taxes for each middle-class worker they employ. That's enough to give that worker an eight per cent raise. Or, it's enough money to give the college-aged son who works at the family business after school a nice year-end bonus.

Trudeau is also raising the carbon tax to 14 cents per litre of gas on April 1, 2023. The government claims that "families are going to be better off" with its carbon tax and rebates.

But that math doesn't add up. How is the government going to tax everyone, then skim some off the top to pay for 330 new carbon tax bureaucrats and still make everyone better off? The Parliamentary Budget Officer shows the carbon tax will cost the average family between \$402 and \$847 in 2023 even after the rebates.

Even if you did receive more back in rebates, that would mean someone else would need to get less. Who are you taking money from? Maybe it's the mom who moved to Port Hope to raise her kids but still commutes to Richmond Hill and back for work.

Trudeau is also imposing a second carbon tax through fuel regulations next year.

The government's number crunchers say "lower and middle-income" Canadians will feel the most pain from the second carbon tax as fuel prices rise. That includes "households currently experiencing energy poverty," such as "single mothers" and "seniors living on fixed incomes."

By 2030, Trudeau's two carbon taxes could add 50 cents per litre to the price of gasoline.

You could be forgiven if all these tax hikes drive you to drink.

Maybe you had a tough week at work. The kids could be driving you nuts, or maybe you just need a little extra holiday cheer to get through dinner with the in-laws. But when you pick up the case of Keith's, a bottle of Pinot or mickey of rum, Trudeau will be taking an extra 6.3 per cent from you through his alcohol tax hikes.

These tax hikes have consequences for real people. And the more Trudeau spends, the more he needs to take.

But is the nurse's life better when the government gives \$295 million to the Ford Motor Company? Is the working mom's life less stressful when the governor general spends more than \$1 million on a week-long trip to the Middle East? Does the small business benefit when the CBC hands out \$51 million in bonuses and raises during a pandemic?

Here's the simple truth: hard-working Canadians, middle class and not, are paying too much tax because the government wastes too much money.

This editorial was written by Franco Terrazzano, the Federal Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Let us know what YOU think!
send your letters to the editor
to world_spectator@sasktel.net



Stats Can initial census number for Moosomin absolutely impossible

I came to Moosomin in 1988. It was a much smaller, much quieter town back then.

The Trans-Canada Highway was a two-lane highway that came through town where Park Avenue now is.

The Classic Inn, now the Country Squire, was the largest and most modern hotel in town. There was no development north of what was then the highway, now Park Avenue. No Flaman's, no department of highways site, no Red Barn and Dano's (the Red Barn was a smaller burger restaurant on the old highway at the time), no A&W, no Dairy Queen, no Esso Strip Mall, no Canalta Hotel, no Best Western, no Motel 6, no big new Celebration Ford on the highway, no massive Co-op gas bar, no Tim Hortons. There was nothing like the development north on Highway 8, no IJACK, no Moosomin Dodge, just much smaller John Deere and New Holland dealerships than are out there now.

Heritage Place was not developed yet. There were no houses on the west side of Cook Road on the south end of town. There was no Pipestone Villas. There was no Kin Place. There was little development on Dorchester Place. There was no Hussein Drive, and no houses on the east side of Cook Road west of Hussein Drive. There was no Windsor Condos. There were no houses along Wright Road. There were no three storey condo buildings on Main Street. There was no Eastside Suites. On West Broadway there was a large open space which is now filled with fourplexes and duplexes.

Moosomin was a much smaller place back then. It has developed entire new subdivisions since that time and has grown steadily. Anyone can see that. Over the years Moosomin has seen hundreds of newcomers come from the Philippines, Honduras, Korea, South Africa . . . we even had an influx of people from New Brunswick when the Nutrien mine in New Brunswick closed and people moved here to work at the Rocanville mine.

And yet Stats Can says there were 2,557 people in Moosomin in 1986, a couple of years before I got here in 1988, when this was a small, quiet town, and their initial count for 2021 was 2,657.

They counted 100 more people in 35 years. That is not true. That is not accurate. That is not possible. The 2021 census figures for Moosomin were pure fiction.

Statistics Canada admitted that and added 117 people to the count. That's still wrong. It's still a fiction. The Statistics Canada count and the Saskatchewan Health Covered Population numbers for Moosomin have been steadily diverging, with Saskatchewan Health saying there are 3,303 active health cards belonging to people in Moosomin as of last June, while StatsCan initially counted 2,657 in the 2021 census—646 fewer than the Health Card count and only 100 more than what was a much smaller town of Moosomin 35 years ago. Now



Kevin Weedmark

StatsCan says there were 2,774 people in Moosomin in May of 2021, still 529 less than the number of active health cards.

But as an indication of how important those census numbers are, the small concession StatsCan made to Moosomin means an additional \$100,000 or so in Revenue Sharing for the town before the next census.

A bit of advice for the town of Moosomin and every other community in the area. Keep track of new households coming online. Moosomin will have 42 new housing units with Cobblestone House this year, another 24 with the apartments planned by Keller Developments. That and a couple of houses under construction is close to the 70 households StatsCan said it missed last time—and that's new households coming online within a year. The town should keep a count of new households from the time of the last census in May of 2021 until the next census in 2026 so it can check the census household numbers in the next census against what it knows to have been added.

Also, local communities should be planning campaigns during the next census to let people know how important it is to fill out their census.

While the census could be filled out online in 2021, it couldn't be filled out without a specific code for the household, either dropped off or mailed to each household. There was an obvious problem in Moosomin where many, many households did not receive a code.

Knowing how important it is to have an accurate count, local communities should promote the census ahead of time and engage volunteer groups in going door to door to ask people if they filled out their census and help them get a household code if they didn't receive one from Stats Can.

Like much in the world today, a lot of effort is spent trying to fix problems when someone simply didn't do their job.

I wouldn't be writing this now, you wouldn't be reading this now, I and town council and town employees and our MP wouldn't all be spending time trying to get the census numbers corrected if Statistics Canada has simply done its job and done the 2021 census correctly.

Local communities may have to take a proactive approach to the 2026 census to ensure that people are properly counted, and to ensure that the census captures the reality of growth in our region.


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Moosomin joins Kraft Hockeyville 2023: Needs community's help in promoting arena

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

Moosomin has the opportunity to win \$250,000 and be the host for an NHL game, if it is the winner of the competition for Kraft Hockeyville 2023.

However, in order for Moosomin to win, members in the community are needed to post photos and stories in connection with the town's indoor hockey rink—Mike Schwean Arena.

"The more the town is nominated, the more points we get," said Summer Heide, tournament director for Moosomin's Minor Hockey Board.

"People can go to the Kraft Hockeyville website and create an account. Then they can log in and submit up to five pictures."

Different submissions vary in the number of rally points the community can earn, a submission of a nomination story is 10 points, sharing posts on Twitter is five points, adding photos to Moosomin's page on the site is three points, adding a note is one point and reacting with emojis to nominated stories and photos are one point.

People have until Feb. 19 to rally up the points for Moosomin on the Kraft Hockeyville website.

"There's lots of ways people can rally up the points," said Heide.

"The more pictures we have on our rally page, the better it is for Moosomin and for the judges to notice our town."

"People can submit pictures of their kids playing hockey at the rink. The basis of the application is that they want to know how passionate your community is for hockey and what the rink means to your community."

In order for Moosomin to win the grand prize, the community must make the top four finalists to qualify for the final phase of Kraft Hockeyville 2023.

Once being in the final phase, voting will take place to choose the first-place winner.

As such, people from the community have until Feb. 19 to submit their photos, videos, and stories online promoting Moosomin's indoor arena, and sharing what the meaning of hockey means to the community.

"I've been trying to get Kraft Hockeyville for a while now. I've nominated our rink for the last few years and we've never been in the top four," said Heide.



Above, is one of the photo's submitted for Moosomin's nomination page for Kraft Hockeyville 2023. The photo captures a goalie clinic that was hosted by Moosomin's Minor Hockey Board. The three goalie coaches at the top are, Logan Thompson who plays for NHL Las Vegas Golden Knights, Brian Elder and Tyler Plante.

"Being in the top four finalists gets you to the voting stage, right now it's just the rallying stage."

"I'm on the minor hockey board here so I know how much work the rink needs to it. There's some major renovations needed to happen, and some upgrades. Our ice plant is the original ice plant that's been there, it's not doing the greatest anymore."

"One major problem about our rink is that our dressing rooms are in the basement. With the recent addition of sledge hockey, they're not very accessible to sledge hockey players. We need to figure out a better solution to this for our rink."

"Hockey brings a tremendous amount of support for our local businesses. I feel like being able to keep our rink running is very important, not just for the kids who play hockey, but to our community as a whole because it is good for business to be able to keep on doing that."

"We also have really outgrown our one rink and need to add a second rink, but in order for a second rink to even be a consideration, we need to make sure our rink is going to be able to run for years to come. Otherwise building a brand new rink doesn't help us, because we still would

could help go towards renovations, that are greatly needed.

"This will be fantastic for the rink if we get the funding," said Rec Director Mike Schwean.

"There's some upgrades we would really like to do with the boards, I think everyone understands our boards and a lot of our glass is in need of repairs."

"It's just a matter of needing some money, if something like this came along it would be fantastic."

Schwean said the indoor arena in Moosomin gets used at almost every hour of the day during winter.

"Our rink gets used a lot. We keep track of it, I think in January it came to 8.5 to 9 hours a day of the rink being used," he said.

"That's just through formal rentals, it's as busy of a rink as any in Saskatchewan."

The support from the community would help significantly for Moosomin making it to the final round of the competition, said Schwean.

"The support from the town is what is needed," he said.

"It's pretty similar to when Sharpe's was able to run that contest a few years back, the community got behind that and everything sort of snowballed and goes from there."

"Get online, support the project, boost it, share it, do all of those kind of things."

have only one ice surface."

How can the prize help Moosomin?

With the town's arena constantly being used at its full capacity, the \$250,000 prize

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Topics include:

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- Farm Management: Building confidence in volatile times.

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Time: 9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. - Coffee & muffins
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - Presentations
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Lunch and networking

Location: Canalta Hotel Moosomin
405 Mountain Street, Moosomin SK.



RSVP by February 13th to Michelle Bender at 306.435.3347 or michelle.bender@mnp.ca

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RECREATION OFFICE

E-mail: msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net
Phone: 306.435.3622

Mike Schwean - Rec Director
306-435-7578 (cell)

Amber Skulmoski - Assistant Rec Director



RECYCLING CALENDAR

ROUTE A:
Homes on Broadway Avenue and North:
FEBRUARY 13 & FEBRUARY 27

ROUTE B:
Homes south of Broadway Avenue:
FEBRUARY 20 & MARCH 6

LANDFILL HOURS

JANUARY 1 - APRIL 30 TUES. - SAT. 12 Noon - 3:45 p.m.	MAY 1 - MAY 30 TUES. - SAT. 12 Noon - 6:45 p.m.	JUNE 1 - SEPTEMBER 30 TUES. - SAT. 12 Noon - 6:45 p.m.	OCTOBER 1 - OCTOBER 31 TUES. - SAT. 12 Noon - 6:45 p.m.	NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 31 TUES. - SAT. 12 Noon - 3:45 p.m.
SUN. & MON. CLOSED	SUN. MON. CLOSED	SUN. & MON. CLOSED	SUN. MON. CLOSED	SUN. & MON. CLOSED


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Moosomin's 1st Mock Wedding Fundraiser




Watch for details in the coming weeks or check out our Parks & Recreation Facebook site for more information!

This will be a fundraiser for a Virtual Trophy Cabinet at Mike Schwean Arena



Have a question, concern, complaint or compliment?

You will now find boxes at all our Rec Facilities to let us know! Check this week's Recreation Report for details!



Calgary Hitmen are on the way!

Tuesday, February 7

The Calgary Hitmen will be practicing at the Mike Schwean Arena from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Pop down and watch for free!



Kraft Hockeyville

We have some amazing entries for the Kraft Hockeyville Contest in 2023. Please visit www.krafthockeyville.ca and add to our story!



Flag Garden

Moosomin Parks and Recreation Department is currently looking for sponsors for two additional flags and flag poles at Bradley Park for sponsoring the Ukraine Community and Phillipine Community.

If you would be willing to sponsor, please contact the Recreation office at 306-435-3622 or email msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net






The 2023 NHL Playoff Draft is quickly approaching This year's event will run **Saturday, March 25, 2023** at the Conexus Convention Centre Watch for details on this fantastic event in the coming weeks!

Curling Bonspiel Season



2023 FARMER'S BONSPIEL
February 8 - 12
To register e-mail msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net



Canada Communities in Bloom



COMING TO MOOSOMIN IN 2023!



Friday Night Fantasy GOLF LEAGUE

This week's sponsor will be Conexus Credit Union!

To register email msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net





Borderland Co-op Aquaplex 2023 Registration!

2023 Iron Man Hockey Tournament

March 30th to April 1st

Check this week's Rec Report for details!



We are now taking registrations for the 2023 Borderland Co-op Aquaplex Season!

Registration forms were sent to the schools as well as post office boxes. If you missed out you can view the registration form online on our Facebook page!

LOOKING FOR USED GOLF CARTS!

Moosomin Parks and Recreation is currently looking for a used golf cart or two for an upcoming fundraiser. If you have a cart and would be willing to sell or donate it please give us a call at 306-435-3622 or e-mail Mike at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net



Broadview RCMP Report

BY S/SGT DALLYN HOLMSTROM



Open hours at Kipling RCMP

It has been brought to my attention that there is some confusion on when the Kipling Detachment is open to the public since our previous Detachment Services Assistant (DSA) Melissa Thomson has left.

I want to inform the public that our new DSA Marcy Heikkila is at Kipling RCMP Detachment Monday to Thursday from 8 am to 4 pm.



RCMP out on snowmobiles

Broadview Detachment have been out on the snowmobile trails several times this year conducting stops and ensuring that no one is drinking alcohol and driving impaired. If you see someone drinking and riding or riding impaired please contact the RCMP and don't be surprised if you see the RCMP on the trails this winter.

\$562 speeding ticket

There were 26 traffic tickets issued in the Broadview Detachment area in the past week. The highest ticket of the week award went to a male travelling 139 km/hr on Highway 9 near Whitewood with a speed limit of 100 km/hr. The male received a \$562 ticket. There is no excuse to drive 40 or 50 km faster than the speed limit. I hope this driver learned his lesson.

Abandoned truck near Grenfell was stolen from Swift Current

On January 18, RCMP were called to an abandoned 2013 Ford F-350 on a grid road near Grenfell. RCMP attended and determined that the vehicle had been stolen in Swift Current previously. SGI had that vehicle towed back to Swift Current to its original owner.

Female suffering from cocaine withdrawal

On January 19, RCMP were called to a female suffering from cocaine withdrawal in Whitewood. EMS attended the scene with RCMP and took the female to Moosomin Hospital to be treated and ensure her safety.

Female on meth arrested

On January 21, RCMP received a complaint involving an intoxicated female on methamphetamine in Broadview. It was reported that the female was causing problems and trying fight people at the residence. RCMP attended the scene and found that the female had left. RCMP were aware the female was on a court order to abstain from drugs and alcohol but were unable to locate the female. RCMP ended up locating and arresting the female on January 30 for her breaching her conditions.

Intoxicated male arrested on Ochapowace First Nation

On January 22, RCMP were called to a residence on Ochapowace First Nation where a male had returned home intoxicated and was being belligerent and verbally abusive to other people at the residence. RCMP attended and placed the male under arrest for causing a disturbance as well as breaching court imposed conditions to abstain from alcohol. The male was lodged at the RCMP

Bed and Breakfast and appeared in court the following day.

Arson in Grenfell

On January 22, RCMP attended a house fire in Grenfell. A Fire Scene Examiner attended the residence and determined the fire to be suspicious as an arson as the fire was started in multiple locations in the residence. RCMP is requesting anyone with information about this incident to contact the Broadview RCMP by calling 306-696-5200. Please help us identify the person responsible. Information can be submitted anonymously through CrimeStoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Break and enter on Cowessess

On January 23, RCMP attended a break and enter on Cowessess First Nations. RCMP attended and determined that the residence had been gone through but the owner didn't think anything was stolen or missing. RCMP is requesting anyone with information about this incident to contact the Broadview RCMP by calling 306-696-5200. Please help us identify the person responsible. Information can be submitted anonymously through CrimeStoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Vehicle sold without consent

On January 25, RCMP received a report of a male in Cowessess First Nation who said that he was having his vehicle fixed privately when his vehicle was sold without his consent or knowledge. RCMP are still investigating this complaint in order to determine what took place and why the vehicle was sold.

Collision with deer on Highway 9

On January 26, RCMP responded to a deer collision on Highway 9 near Whitewood. The driver was driving a Kia Seltos which had to be towed from the scene. Luckily no one was injured in the collision.

Theft of alcohol in Grenfell

On January 26, RCMP responded to theft of alcohol from Grenfell Co-op. RCMP determined that a 55-year-old male from Grenfell was responsible for the theft and in turn will be charged for the offence once he is located.

Elderly man scammed and lost approximately \$35,000

On January 26, RCMP received a tip from a store in Grenfell of an elderly man buying numerous prepaid Mastercards and when they asked him about the cards he replied they were for him which seemed strange.

RCMP followed up with the male and determined that he has been the victim of a complex fraud that had been going on for several months.

The scammers convinced the male that he had won a large prize with "Stars Lottery." In order to receive the



prize, the victim needed to pay the tax for the prize before it could be delivered. It is very unfortunate this male lost approximately \$35,000 in this scam which involved purchased cell phones, gift cards, cheques, and bank drafts.

The complex scam involved multiple scammers and people that called the victim from multiple phone numbers that were all connected. Just a reminder that no lottery will charge you to claim a prize and will never ask for money up front or ask you for your account or personal information over the phone.

Rollover near Grenfell

On January 28, RCMP attended a rollover on Highway 47 near Grenfell. The rollover took place when a Ford Explorer lost control and rolled in the ditch. No occupants were located near the vehicle. It was believed the collision took place several hours prior and several open beer cans

were located in and around the vehicle. The owner of the vehicle was an 18-year-old male from Grenfell. RCMP is requesting anyone with information about this incident to contact the Broadview RCMP by calling 306-696-5200.

Semi jackknifed on Highway 1

On January 26, due to terrible icy road conditions a semi jackknifed across Highway 1 near Broadview. A tow truck had to be called and RCMP were forced to close down the highway while the semi was pulled out. The highway was only closed for approximately 30 minutes.



Rollover on Zagime Anishinabek

On January 28, RCMP attended rollover of a Cadillac SUV on Zagime Anishinabek First Nations. The driver of the SUV was assessed by EMS and the vehicle was towed from the scene. The vehicle lost traction due to icy road conditions and rolled when it entered the ditch.

Arrests in Broadview

On January 29, RCMP received a call of an intoxicated male at a residence in Broadview causing problems. RCMP attended the residence and arrested the female that was already on conditions to abstain from alcohol. The female was arrested and lodged at the RCMP Bed and Breakfast in Broadview.

Stolen Ford F-150 from Kipling

On January 29, RCMP responded to a break and enter of a garage in Kipling. The suspects stole a 2016 grey Ford F-150 with Saskatchewan plate 496KQD. The thieves also stole three pairs of sunglasses. Ford attempted to track the truck's whereabouts but was unable to. RCMP is requesting anyone with information about this incident to contact the Broadview RCMP by calling 306-696-5200. Please help us identify the person responsible. Information can be submitted anonymously through CrimeStoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Intoxicated male arrested

On January 29, RCMP responded to an intoxicated male at the residence on Ochapowace First Nations. RCMP attended the scene and placed the intoxicated male under arrest for causing a disturbance as well as breaching conditions of his probation. The male was lodged at the RCMP bed and breakfast until he could make an appearance in court.

Assault on Kahkewistahaw FN

On January 29, RCMP responded to an assault at a residence on Kahkewistahaw First Nations. An intoxicated male was causing a disturbance at a residence and had assaulted another male causing minor injuries. The male was arrested for assault and spent the night at the RCMP Bed and Breakfast until he was sober.

Police joke

Someone just robbed the local wig store.....police are combing the area.

Have a great week and Stay Safe!

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Hot dog eating champ chokes—literally

Almost guaranteed to happen in the final six months of 2023:

July — Cam Smith makes headlines by being the first LIV Golf Tour player to win a major, taking the Open Championship at Royal Liverpool; Leylah Annie Hernandez of Canada captures the women's singles crown at Wimbledon; Major news out of New York: Hot dog eating champion Joey Chestnut chokes on frankfurter No. 53 during the annual Fourth of July competition on Coney Island and is given the Heimlich manoeuvre by a quick-thinking bystander.

August — The Blue Jays maintain a top-two standing in the A.L. East, led by the slugging heroics of Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., the pitching of free-agent right-hander Chris Bassitt and the flashy outfield defence of Kevin Kiermaier; Canada's Alphonso Davies leads Bayern Munich to the Champions League title; Rory McIlroy's victory at the Tour Championship for the FedEx Cup is mocked by Patrick Reed for having been won "against a second-rate field."

September — It's the month of debuts, as Connor Bedard skates in his first pre-season NHL game with the (Blackhawks, Blue Jackets, Flyers ... ?); Former Calgary quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell guides his new CFL team, Hamilton Tiger-Cats, to first place in the East Division; and Canadian QB Nathan Rourke gets his first NFL action in a pre-season game with Jacksonville, wowing the coaching staff and football fans.

October — Tom Brady leads his newest team, the Las Vegas Raiders, to a 5-0 start in the NFL while Aaron Rodgers is the toast off New York as his new team, the Jets, scoot off to a 4-1 start; Seattle Mariners knock off Toronto Blue Jays in the American League championship and then go on to beat Los Angeles Dodgers in an all-West Coast World Series.

November — The all-Connor scoring race is heating



Bruce Penton

up in the NHL, with McDavid holding a slight edge over Bedard after 20 games; Winnipeg Blue Bombers knock off Hamilton to win their third Grey Cup in four years; French-born basketball sensation Victor Wembanyama makes the biggest rookie splash in the NBA since LeBron James.

December — Once again, Patrick Reed will not receive a Christmas card from Rory McIlroy; Alex Ovechkin gets to within 40 goals of Wayne Gretzky's career total of 894, and North American calls grow louder for Putin to bring the Great 8 home to fight in the war with Ukraine; O.J. Simpson concludes another year without finding the real killer.

Jason Sobel of Sirius SX, on Twitter: "Patrick Reed threw a tee at Rory McIlroy, which might not sound like much, but this is essentially golf's version of a bench-clearing brawl."

From Pro Golf Stuff, on Twitter, expanding on the Rory McIlroy-Patrick Reed rivalry: "Patrick Reed spoke out against Rory saying 'He'll never win a Masters to complete a career Grand Slam.' Rory later said 'The only chance Reed has of getting a Grand Slam is at Denny's.'"

Blogger Gregg Drinnan in his very entertaining Taking Note column, quoting 1970s Winnipeg junior defenceman Kevin McCarthy, who, when as a member of the Vancouver Canucks, was part of a group mugged by a gang of

youths in Chicago: "One guy started it by suckering Jere (Gillis). 'I thought I was back in Queen's Park Arena.'"

Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "PGA golfers Patrick Reed and Rory McIlroy are in a feud. Golf feuds are different. McIlroy accused Reed of wearing white after Labour Day, and Reed mocked the pleats in McIlroy's khakis."

Columnist Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "I just saw where 'Triangle of Sadness' got nominated for an Academy Award. I haven't seen it, but I'm thinking it's a documentary about the weekly meetings last season between USF's offensive, defensive and special teams coordinators."

RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "The Edmonton Oilers hung updates of their 20 total NHL division, conference and Cup banners at Rogers Place. Not to be outdone, the Winnipeg Jets installed new Plexiglas."

Headline from fark.com: "Chet Holmgren voted as an All-Star starter by several NBA players presumably because they all wanted to take turns dunking on him."

Former junior hockey player Brant Kersey, reacting to a Lethbridge Hurricanes' Wall of Honour recognition for longtime coach and scout Bob Loucks: "The guy has such a terrific eye for talent, watched me in '94 and knew I wasn't good enough."

Steve Simmons of Summedia: "Depending on who you follow, listen to, or read, the Maple Leafs will be acquiring Ryan O'Reilly, Timo Meier, Bo Horvat, Patrick Kane, Jonathan Toews, Max Domi, John Klingberg, Jake McCabe, Vladislav Gavrikov and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at or around the NHL's trade deadline next month."

Golfer Max Homa, basking in the glow of a victory at the Farmers Insurance Open in an interview with Kira K. Dixon, when it was mentioned it was his first win since becoming a father: "This will definitely be the best-smelling diaper I have changed."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.com

Sharpe's Burger Blitz is back Feb. 13-18

Continued from Page 7

"It feels good. It always seems like it's talked about lots—when winter hits people asks when Burger Blitz is happening. It's nice that it has taken off and the last two years it has grown each year for burger sales.

"And it will be interesting to see what happens this year with a few businesses from out of town joining. It's

nice to involve other communities in the area.

"It's about Canadian Ag Day and helping support the local businesses too. We've had a few thank yous for them saying it's a really good week for them and they really do sell lots. And I think it gets different people into their businesses that typically wouldn't maybe go there all the time."

Yeske says it's not just rewarding for the local restaurants and customers, but for Sharpe's as well.

"It helps to get our name out there and help out the local businesses. It's rewarding. As much as it's not as much work on our part as it is for the local restaurants making the burgers, we do still feel quite rewarded by how well it does."

Celebrate the Agriculture Industry

On February 15, 2023, show your support by raising a fork for Canadian agriculture. Start a conversation about food and agriculture as we celebrate this amazing industry on Canada's Agriculture Day.



Looking for agriculture events in your area? Scan the code to view our events calendar.



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Seven ways to celebrate Valentine's Day as a family



Valentine's Day can be a time to celebrate love of all kinds. This year, instead of making romantic plans with your partner, why not include your kids and celebrate as a family? Here are some Valentine's Day activities you and the kids will love:

1. Profess your love. Each family

member takes a turn telling the others something they love about them, including themselves.

2. Eat a special breakfast. Serve heart-shaped pancakes or oatmeal with strawberries and chocolate chips.

3. Go on a family date night. Eat at

a local restaurant you haven't tried before and catch a movie after.

4. Take a walk down memory lane. Reminiscence and share stories while looking at old family photos. The kids will love looking at themselves and you in your younger days.

5. Bake cookies. Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to make Valentine's Day cookies. Decorate them with pink icing.

6. Have a movie marathon. Make popcorn, buy candy and snuggle up together under your cosiest blankets.

7. Make cards. Gather red and pink paper, glitter, stickers and markers to make valentines to hand out to friends and family members.

8. Do a random act of kindness together. Visit a nursing home and hand out homemade Valentine's Day cards. Give a drawing of a flower to each of the elderly on your street. Bake cookies to deliver to the police station. Do something for those who may not have someone to share the day with. Valentine's Day is a great day to express love for fellow humans, even those you don't know.

Taking the time to celebrate Valentine's Day as a family will create memories your kids will have for a lifetime.

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How did chocolate become associated with Valentine's Day?



you ever wondered how this sweet treat came to be associated with the most romantic day of the year?

In fact, the connection between chocolate and love dates back to the Mayans, who first started brewing cacao beans sometime around 500 BC. Eventually, they came to ritually use this so-called "gift of the gods" in marriage ceremonies.

However, it would take more than 2,000 years for chocolate to make its way to Europe and another few hundred years after that for the treat to become a Valentine's Day staple. It was only in 1861 that an inspired candy-maker named Richard Cadbury thought to sell chocolates for Valentine's Day. He packaged them in heart-shaped boxes decorated with rosebuds and Cupids, which were already popular symbols of romance among the

Victorians. Thus, a new Valentine's Day tradition was born.

Today, heart-shaped boxes

of chocolates are ubiquitous around Valentine's Day, and in North America, more than 25

million kilograms of chocolate are bought to celebrate the occasion each year.

Did you know?

Cacao beans are full of phytonutrients, which act as antioxidants. They're also a rich source of iron, copper, magnesium, zinc and phosphorus. These attributes are believed to contribute to chocolate's health benefits, including its potential ability to

lower the risk of cardiovascular disease, reduce inflammation, improve cognitive function and boost your mood.

If you want to spoil someone special for Valentine's Day, it's almost impossible to go wrong with a box of chocolates. But have



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 10 AM - 3 PM SATURDAY
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Spoil your sweetheart with a tailor-made Valentine's Day



This year, surprise your partner with a DIY Valentine's Day celebration. The effort you'll put into it definitely won't go unnoticed. Just keep in mind that achieving that "wow" factor takes time. Bottom line: don't start the night before. Good luck!

A ROMANTIC ATMOSPHERE

The success of your evening will largely depend on the atmosphere. Contact your florist to order a sizable amount of rose petals and fresh flowers, and use them to make a bouquet, a personalized card or a bundle of pot-pourri.

If you have kids, get them involved in the decoration stage with a fun art project. For inspiration and supplies, head to your neighbourhood craft store or hobby shop.

Build a playlist with your favourite love songs, making sure to include tracks that remind you of your first date, your travels, your wedding and so on. The right tunes are essential to achieving a romantic ambiance.

A HOMEMADE MEAL

Cook up a meal that's fit for royalty by calling on your local grocer, baker, butcher, fishmonger, cheese maker and chocolatier to gather the freshest, tastiest ingredients around.

A CUSTOM-MADE GIFT

Finally, give your better half a thoughtful gift you made yourself. If she's a tea connoisseur, personalize a mug for her to bring to work. If she's been talking about redecorating the living room for months, surprise her with a custom-built bookcase topped with family photos. Be creative!

FOUR THINGS TO AVOID COOKING ON VALENTINE'S DAY.

Have you offered to make somebody you love a romantic Valentine's Day dinner but aren't the best cook? While there are countless recipes out there for people who aren't adept in the kitchen, here are four meals you'll definitely want to avoid serving.

1. Anything too spicy: some people love spicy foods like curries, chilies and anything covered with hot sauce, but for the uninitiated, these foods can cause major stomach issues that could put an early end to your romantic evening.

2. Anything that requires a bib: lots of people love to crack into a lobster or crab, but eating these shellfish can be incredibly messy. If you're going to go the seafood route, serve the meat without the shells.

3. Anything too heavy: you might be tempted to serve a robust dish you know your sweetie will love like steak and potatoes. However, eating a heavy meal is more likely to put your love interest to sleep than it is to put him or her in the mood for romance.

4. Anything too complicated: while you might love the idea of making a cheese soufflé or French macaroons, the truth is that these dishes are extremely finicky, even for an experienced chef. It's best to leave these recipes for a night when there's less at stake.

You don't need to be fancy to impress your date. The important part is spending some time together, even if it means ordering a pizza after you've burned the chicken.



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