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THE WORLD-Spectator

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Teachers hold second one-day strike

Teachers held a demonstration in Moosomin during the second one-day provincial strike Monday. Teachers are asking the provincial government to discuss class sizes and other issues. The World-Spectator will interview Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill on the issue this week.

Total now over \$3 million from municipalities—\$3,087,880:

Wawota commits \$189,250 to airport expansion

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The town of Wawota has committed an additional \$189,250 to the Moosomin Airport Expansion Project. The town had earlier contributed \$5,000 to the project, and after municipalities were approached in 2023 to increase their funding to help complete the project, Wawota agreed provide the additional funding.

The commitment from Wawota brings

the total committed by municipal governments to the airport project to \$3,087,880.

There has been a multi-year, multi-million dollar effort to expand the airport with a new 5,000-foot runway to accommodate the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance, as well as commercial interests.

The new runway will be the third longest in the province, after Saskatoon and Regina.

So far, \$6,456,111.57 has been spent on the project, but the total cost including paving, lights, and navigation will be \$10,589,058.64.

Nutrien and the provincial government have each contributed about 25 per cent of the total cost.

Municipalities have been asked to contribute a \$350 per capita commitment.

Most municipalities have met the \$350

per capita requested, and most of the municipal portion of the funding is in place, and Wawota is the latest council to come through with a commitment. The town will provide \$37,850 a year for the next five years, for a total of \$189,250 to meet their per-capita commitment. Mayor Kevin Kay says he believes it's important for the town to show its commitment.

Continued on page 2

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A rendering of what the completed expansion at Moosomin Airport would look like.

Total now over \$3 million from municipalities—\$3,087,880:

Wawota commits \$189,250 to airport expansion

Continued from front

"We pledged our support, and that's a huge commitment for us," he said. "We recognize the commitment we're locking the town into for quite some time, but we understand the significance of the airport expansion for health care in the region, we had Dr. Roets explain the changes in the Saskatchewan Health Authority, where they're consolidating stroke and heart attack treatment in Saskatoon, so it's critical we get to Saskatoon as quickly as possible and fixed wing aircraft is by far the quickest way to do it, so we see the need for the airport. And seeing the partners who are part of it, we're ready to jump in, because it benefits the whole area."

"We want a seat at the table, and if we want a seat at the table, then we've got to pony up. There was very little discussion about it, our council is very much in favour of it. We had the full presentation by the committee, and our council was well represented at that meeting, so we had a lot of

our questions answered.

"Seeing what the other municipalities are doing, and how they've jumped on board, we want to do our part as well."

"We've been very supportive and we are looking forward to doing what we can to make sure that project is completed on time and maintained."

"It makes a big difference," said RM of Moosomin administrator Kendra Lawrence. "It's good to see communities coming on board and paying their share."

"We have a couple of municipalities that we're waiting on, but they were going to look at it when they do their budgeting so we should know this spring."

"For the town of Wawota, this is like what the town of Moosomin did, in giving us almost \$1 million. That's a lot of money for Wawota, and it's really appreciated."

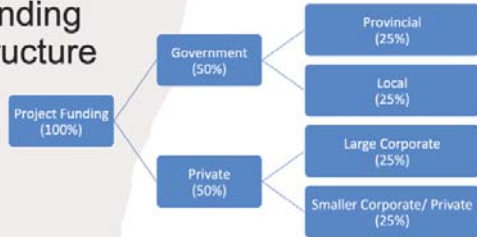
The base of the runway has been completed, and Lawrence said the plan at this point is to try to get the funds in place to tender the pavement.

"The goal would be to try to tender the pavement by March. That would be our hope."

The municipal commitments add up to 25 per cent of the total cost of the expansion,

the provincial government is paying 25 per cent, corporate donations cover 25 per cent and private donations, the last piece of the puzzle, will cover 25 per cent of the cost.

Funding Structure



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Teachers hold second one-day strike

Teachers held a demonstration in Moosomin during the second one-day provincial strike Monday. Teachers are asking the provincial government to come to the table to discuss class sizes and other issues. This week, the World-Spectator will be speaking with Saskatchewan Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill, and we will have a full interview with him in the next World-Spectator.



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Moosomin Visual Arts Centre excited for Feb. 1

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The doors haven't officially opened just yet, but the Moosomin Visual Arts Centre already has two months worth of activities scheduled on the calendar. What began as an idea about a year ago has come to fruition with a place to call home.

"We are officially going to be at St. Alban's Anglican Church," said Terry Grant, representing the centre in an update to the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce last week. The group also reports having secured their non-profit status thanks to the Moosomin and District Arts Council. Showing their support, the Town of Moosomin has backed the group with a three-year commitment of \$150,000.

"We are currently booking classes that are going really, really well," Grant said.

Those classes span darn near everything imaginable when it comes to creating, with an inclusive atmosphere for everyone around.

"It's going to meet a need in the community," said Moosomin Visual Arts Centre representative Kara Kinna. "It's obviously filling a big hole and I feel like just seeing what's happening with the calendar already, things are working. Rather than having people leave our town for classes, our hope is that we bring people to Moosomin and have this as an institution in Moosomin where people can come and access art—both local people and out of town people to come into town and make use of the centre."

The excitement surrounding the centre's opening is electric, but there's still a lot of work ahead for the 13-member board.

"With us starting up on February 1, we're basically full speed ahead. That said, we are a new group, so we do need to fundraise like crazy," Kinna explained. "This is basically a six- to seven-days a week centre. It's going to be a pretty big institution in the community."

She noted the centre's "wish list" stands at around \$87,000 worth of supplies—all the way from paint brushes to computers. The group also presented Chamber members with more details on the centre and an outline of corporate sponsorship tiers, adding that staffing will soon be another criteria. Donations such as the kiln Dr. Kristin Foy recently gave to the centre are gladly accepted, as well as plain old honest-to-goodness cash.

"We actually have an after school program that we're starting right away here and we've already got people



Terry Grant, Krista Crellin and Kara Kinna with the Moosomin Visual Arts Centre updating Chamber members on progress with the centre.

who are applying to be part-time staff in regards to that," Kinna said. "We also want to have a staff member just to help basically right in the centre."

The World-Spectator is also a drop-off location for art

supply donations, and has already accepted many items. "We basically think the sky's the limit in terms of what we can offer for visual arts programming," Kinna concluded.



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Saskatchewan teachers strike for a second day

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Teachers across the province once again took up their signs last week as a second one-day strike left classrooms empty.

The action came after another five-day countdown for the provincial government and the Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation to meet at the negotiation table.

"We gave them another five-day grace period to try to get it together and make the phone call and give the government trustee bargaining committee a mandate to go back to actually negotiate," said STF Executive member Peggy Welter.

"But instead, what we heard from the minister's (Jeremy Cockrill, Minister of Education) mouth himself was that he wasn't having it; that he has drawn his line in the sand and will not cross it. He has decided that he is not willing to budge, and I think we can see by the number of teachers who are out here on this still a fairly chilly day, we're not moving either."

According to Welter, the communication lines are open, but calls remain figuratively and literally unanswered.

"We're more than willing to discuss if they would come back to the table with a mandate to actually negotiate. We will be there," she said. "He's got our president's number, he can call her at any point. But without a mandate, it's a waste of everybody's time and money to sit at that table

and for us to hear no, no, no, over and over."

She said the STF has been trying to negotiate with the province for months, but the provincial bargaining table is strictly to discuss wages, and issues of classroom complexity cannot be dealt with there, but at the division level.

"We've been at it since May, and we've been hearing 'no, no, no' since May, and them being unwilling—or in the case of the committee—unable because it didn't have the mandate to actually bargain," Welter said. "It's wasting taxpayer money to be at the table bargaining when they're paying people to be there to say no."

Class sizes and complexity have been an area where the government and STF have especially been butting heads.

"If you can imagine 30 six-year-olds running around, it is mayhem," said Welter. "I teach high school and I had a class not that long ago of 36 kids. My classroom is not built for that. Once people sat down, nobody could get up and move. It was packed in like sardines. That's not fair to students. So if I have a 60-minute class and I have 30 students, that means each student is getting two minutes of my time maximum. How is that right?"

"We have more students with learning needs, behavioural needs, speech needs, motor skills, and we don't have speech language pathologists, we don't have psychologists," Welter continued. "Our social work-

ers have been scaled way back. We have anxiety and depression numbers like crazy since Covid. We have nobody to help support in that, so teachers have to become all of those things and we don't have the time to focus in on the curriculum that we're supposed to teach and do that any justice when we have to do all those other jobs as well. We want to do the best for our students."

On the local level, there's a specific formula when it comes to class size.

"Ideal class size is really dependent on a number of things—like the age of the students, or the number of grades in a room; how complex the needs are in their specific subjects," explained Keith Keating, Director of Education with the South East Cornerstone Public School Division. "We use a staffing formula in our school division, so we drive that basically by 23 students per classroom teacher, which means we have some classes that are smaller than that, some a little larger than that. But that's our average overall in the school division for classroom teachers, then we add in response to intervention teachers and learning support teachers to help support some individual student needs. We also look at some of the smaller schools with some that might fall out of the norm to provide other supports in those schools."

Rising costs have also affected the school division with staff finding more ways to stretch the education dollar.

"We've seen inflationary pressures squeeze the ability of school divisions to manage budgets in a way that keeps all supports in place that were once there. Those dollars that are provided don't go as far as they once did," Keating said. "Our staff do everything they can, they do an excellent job of meeting the needs of individual students in classes, but it becomes more difficult every year with the dollars available to continue to meet those needs."

The two days away from school has been an inconvenience for some, but Keating noted the time away would not be detrimental in the long run.

"I think it's not always easy for families, especially those with younger children," he said. "I know there is always an impact in learning when you miss a school day, but one good thing is we've been fortunate this year to have not too many weather days that we would typically have. So that's a positive thing."

With word of the looming action, many communities responded with local groups offering special events for students, making the best of an unplanned day off.

"That's something that we're very fortunate in the southeast corner of the provinces, we have very supportive and strong

communities in terms of being able to support one another," Keating noted. "So it was great to see all of those different things that were happening across the school division."

As for what happens next in terms of reaching an agreement between the STF and government, the future is unknown.

"There's not a single person who is standing out here going, 'I would rather be out here in the cold with a sign walking around than be in my classroom.' We all want to be in our classrooms, we all want to be with our students," Welter said from the Regina line, near the north side of the Albert Street Bridge. "That's why we signed up for this job. But we want our students to have the proper supports that they need and the only way we're going to get that is if we make it very loud and clear to the government that we're not backing down."

With the uncertainty of negotiations, Welter noted the STF will remain strong in their mindset.

"Who knows what the next thing will be. If they don't see this and don't take this seriously, I guess we'll be seeing more because we are not going to back away," she said. "They're not willing to listen to the stories, they have had thousands upon thousands of letters and emails

and phone calls—most of which have not even been returned or acknowledged. I personally still have letters that I sent in September that I have not gotten even an acknowledgement of. We're getting people's attention and we're going to keep doing what we need to do because kids deserve better than the government's giving them."

When asked his opinion on what's needed to make talks work, Keating highlighted 'willingness' being the key.

"I think the best way to solve things is always to talk at the table," he said. "[In] the conciliator's report that came out, she noted, too, that the parties are quite far apart on many issues and the only way to come to an agreement, I think, is a willingness by both parties to meet somewhere in the middle and find common ground. And that sometimes takes time."

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February Events

February 6

7 p.m. : Ryan Bender & Lorne Frappe

February 13

7 p.m. : Joe Theriault, Chris Istace, Lorne Frappe

February 23

2 p.m. : Bob Petrie

February 27

2 p.m. : Keith Olson, Gary Dickson

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THE WORLD-Spectator 306-435-2445
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Moosomin Rec Report

Mike Schwean, Recreation Director

306-435-3622 • msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net

Impact of sport, physical activity and recreation in Canada

I came across this wonderful article and wanted to touch on a few monetary numbers. Those involved or with kids involved know the obvious benefits. Here are a few highlights of the economic benefits and economic impacts.

Research snapshot shows:

- Sport, physical activity, and recreation contribute an estimated 13.6 billion annually in Canada through volunteerism alone.

- Physical inactivity accounts for 3.9 billion of the annual health care expenditures

- Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation play a vital role in Canada's economy contributing 37.2 billion annually to Canada's gross domestic product.

To add to that Moosomin Parks and Recreation Department did their own Economic Impact study during Covid which showed an annual economic return of new money to Moosomin to be \$16 million. When you see the numbers above it becomes clear our study was right on track!

Rod Pedersen Show returns to Moosomin

We are very excited as for the first time in around 10 years the Rod Pedersen Show returns to go live from Moosomin. The event will go Wednesday, March 20 at the Moosomin Curling Rink as part of the National Firefighters Brier.

On site will be Rod's partner Darren Dupont. Rod will co-host from Florida.

Following the show Darren will attend the Wednesday night Gala at the Conexus Convention Centre and then host/ auction for our World Curling Hat Draft!

2024 National Fireman's Itinerary

Boy, oh boy, oh boy, it is going to be a busy 10 days... and here is how the event will look.

Wednesday, March 13
National Executive Arrives

Thursday, March 14
Director and Teams Arrive
Event Meeting at Fire Hall
Event at Convention Centre

Friday, March 15
Practice Day
Skips and Director Meeting
Grand Opening
Aerial Draw
Social at Convention Centre

Saturday, March 16
Luncheon and Fire Hall Tour
(Sponsored by Moosomin Fire Department)
Draws 1 and 2
Social at Convention Centre

Sunday, March 17
Draws 3 and 4
Social at Convention Centre

Monday, March 18
Draws 5 and 6
Social at Convention Centre

Tuesday, March 19
Draws 7 and 8
Social at Convention Centre

Wednesday, March 20
Draws 9 and 10
World Curling Draft
Social at Convention Centre

Thursday, March 21
Draws 11 and 12
Drivers Night...supper in Maryfield

Friday, March 22
Tie Breakers and Page Playoff
Sportsmen Night...Social at Nutrien Sportsplex

Saturday, March 23
Semi Finals
Championship Final
Closing Ceremonies
Awards Banquet
Social at Convention Centre

Sunday, March 24
Teams Depart for Home

Loaner sports store

This is a one of a kind projects that I have not seem anywhere else in Saskatchewan ... at least at this level.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of the RM of Moosomin we have finally secured a building for a project we have worked on for years. Moosomin Parks and Rec, through various grants and donation, will stock the above facility with well over \$15,000 in sports equipment. All equipment will be made available to the public at no cost.

Please treat it as your own—use, respect and return as you found it.

This free community equipment inventory will include:

Winter

30 sets of cross country ski equipment, skates (hockey and figure skating), hockey equipment/sticks, community donations, toboggans

Summer

Golf equipment, volleyball equipment, basketball equipment, croquet equipment, softball equipment, disc golf equipment, cornhole equipment, soccer equipment, bocce ball equipment, whiffle ball equipment, pickleball equipment and tennis equipment.

Community Donations

Moosomin Parks and Recreation would also like to extend a request to the community for donations towards the sports equipment loaner building. Maybe you have an old ball glove, an old pair of skates, an old cornhole game, an old set of disc golf discs, an old set of golf clubs, an old bike...whatever!

Keep in mind all this equipment is available to both in-town and out-of-town residents. As such we would also be excited for out-of-town donations to the inventory. Parks and Rec would be more than happy to pick up any donations both in and out of town. If you would be willing to donate to this amazing program please email Mike at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net or phone at 435-7578.

Mike Schwean Arena game season

We have a ton of games scheduled for this week, and every week for the next few months!

This week's full weekly schedule includes:

Thursday: Grenfell Spitfires @ U13 Tridaron 6 pm

Friday: Bienfait Coalers @ Sr Rangers 8 pm

Saturday: U9 Tournament All Day

Fort Qu'Appelle @ U15 Easton's Autobody 7:15pm

U9 Tournament 9 am to 4 pm

Balcarres Broncos @ Sr Rangers 5pm (if needed)

Wawota Flyers @ U15 Rangers 7:30 pm

Senior Rangers

The Moosomin Rangers took their first Big Six defeat a couple weeks back to sit at 12-1 heading into last weekend. Tough schedule last weekend as well with road games in Carlyle and Oxbow.

Two losses on the 18 games schedule should secure the Rangers first place (based on two game for against vs Redvers) however three losses would likely drop them all the way to third.

Big games this Friday night as the team returns to the MS Arena for the first time in a few weeks:

Friday: Bienfait Coalers @ Moosomin Rangers 8pm

Rec Hockey this week

Two games this week in the Rec Hockey loop.

Tuesday Untouchables 9:30 pm

Thursday Leaf's 9:30 am

Carded Novice Hockey Tournament (U9)

Moosomin Parks and Rec along with the Moosomin Senior Rangers will be hosting a U9 Carded Hockey Tournament on March 23-24.

First 12 teams entered will be accepted. We are around half way there! This will be a fantastic weekend for the community with teams around for the weekend from across Saskatchewan.

Paid teams to date include: Melville Millionaires, Weyburn Red Wings, Yorkton Terriers, Estevan Bruins, Tri Town Young Guns, Pipestone Penguins, South East Krak. Entries can be emailed to msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net. For further information please contact Mike Schwean at 435-7578.

MS Arena Winter Bookings

Here is a list of remaining weekend bookings at the MS Arena. It is always busy at the Mike Schwean Arena!

- Novice Rangers Tournament on Saturday/Sunday, February 3 and 4

- Bantam Ranges Tournament on Saturday/Sunday, February 17 and 18

- Skating Club Carnival on Sunday, March 10

- Female Festival on Saturday/Sunday, March 16 and 17

- Carded U9 Tournament on Saturday/Sunday, March 23 and 24

- Summer Hockey on Saturday/Sunday, March 30 and 31

- Iron Man on Thursday to Saturday, April 4, 5 and 6

If you would like to inquire about booking an event for the upcoming winter please feel free to call at 435-3622 or by email at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net.

Iron Man 2024

Moosomin Rangers Senior Hockey Team are currently taking registrations for 2024 Iron Man Competition. 2024 will again feature hockey, golf, whiffle ball, bowling, shuffleboard and darts. As well, like the Olympics, you can expect at least one new competition to pop up! Team registrations only! If you would like to inquire or register, please feel free to call at 435-3622 or email at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net

Pickle Ball

Pickle Ball continues at the Conexus Convention Centre. The club has dedicated times which includes:

Monday	1 pm
Tuesday	6:30 pm
Wednesday	1 pm

Walking Track

The Walking Track at the Nutrien Sportsplex is available for use. The track is a 360-foot indoor rubber walking track. The Track stays open for the summer season for those purchasing fobs. For information please contact 435-3622.

Swimming Lessons 2024

Busy making plans for another busy pool season in 2024! Lesson sets have been set. Keep in mind we are freezing early bird registration at last year's pricing.

You can visit either our Borderland Co-op Aquaplex Facebook site or our Parks and Rec Facebook site where you will find our registration form. Follow the instructions and you're set!

Dates include:

Public Sets

Set # 1 – 2 week session from June 3 to June 14

Set # 2 – 1 week session from June 24 to June 28

Set # 3 – 1 week session from July 8 to July 12

Set # 4 – 1 week session from July 22 to July 26

Set # 5 – 1 week session from August 5 to August 9

Set # 6 – 2 week session from August 12 to August 23

Private Sets (All 1-week sets)

Set # 1 from June 17 to June 21

Set # 2 from July 15 to July 19

Set # 3 from July 29 to August 2

BBQ Giveaway

Also keep in mind those who register for swimming lessons prior to March 1 will be in a draw for a brand new BBQ...just in time for grilling season!

Borderland Co-op Outdoor Rink!

Now open for public use. Free of charge with a heated change room! Our thanks to Peter Nabholz for putting in tireless hours to have the Outdoor Rink up and running!

Sportsplex Men's/Ladies Night

Golfers are reminded Thursday Nights are Men's / Ladies golf nights all winter long at the Sportsplex. While we do play skins, you are not required to take part in them...you can just enjoy the golf and company.

Tee Times go at Wednesday at 6 pm and Thursday at 4 pm and 6:15pm. If you would like to go on our email list please let Mike know at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net

Sportsplex Snowbirders Golf

Snow birders golf goes all winter long on Wednesday and Friday afternoons with a 1 pm Tee time. This is for both men and ladies of all adult/senior ages. While they do play skins, you are not required to take part in them, like Thursday night you can just enjoy the golf and company. If you would like to go on their list please email list please Dave Towler at dtowler@sasktel.net

Friday Night Fantasy Golf

Friday Night Fantasy Golf returns for the year with Golf every Friday leading into our May windup. These are scramble nights where you can enter as an individual, couple or team. Players are given a scheduled amount of play money to bet each week. At the end of the year the top 30 money winners get in on the windup and fantastic prizes! To register email Mike at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net



Age-Friendly
Moosomin is hosting a
Coffee House

Saturday, February 10
10 am- 11:30 am
Moosomin Legion Club Room

Come out for a pre-Valentine's Day visit and hear what AF Moosomin is up to.

ALL AGES WELCOME | SILVER COLLECTION

Tyler Smith has gone from tragedy to helping others

Injured in Humboldt Broncos bus crash, Tyler Smith now helps others overcome grief

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

April 6, 2018 is the day Tyler Smith's life changed forever. That was the day of the Humboldt Broncos bus crash. Tyler went through that tragedy and the loss of many friends, and is now a public speaker sharing his story at events to advocate for mental health and help others overcome trauma.

Tyler was a key speaker at The More Joy event in Regina on January 24. The World-Spectator's Ashley Bochek spoke with him about his journey. The full interview follows:

How big of an impact did the Humboldt bus crash have on your life?

Obviously, it is a day I think about every day, and a day I will think about for the rest of my life. It has made me grow up quickly. I think any time you go through events like that, or trauma in your life, it is easy to get caught in that hole, but it is important to remember there is a lot of perspective that comes along with it.

It is the classic cliché to be kind and tell your loved ones that you love them and all those things, but it really is true. You never know what tomorrow is going to bring, so remembering to love and remembering as much as you can to hold on to the hope that there is a light at the end of the tunnel are important. I know there have been a lot of dark days for a lot of humans in this world over the past couple of years.

For me, that day, April 6, 2018, is a day that shaped me and is a day that led me to doing what I do now. It all stems back to how incredible that team was and the foundation we were able to create as a team. A big reason I am the person I am today is honestly because of that team and the values we had and the belief we had in each other.

What do you do now?

I like dipping my toes in a bunch of different waters. Public speaking has been the prominent thing in my life lately. I was in Regina, Lloydminster, Fairview, and Fox Creek last week, speaking to a variety of farming equipment suppliers, communities, and high schools. Public speaking is my main thing right now and is something that I am passionate about. The conversations that happen after always seem to draw me back to public speaking, holding onto that hope that there will be a lot of meaningful conversations facilitated by my talks. I don't have any training in public speaking, I just started in it and I've been fortunate to do over 150 speaking engagements now, so it has been incredible in a way, but you also have to make sure you are taking care of yourself. It has been important for me to find that balance.

I coach a little hockey in Calgary, I have a little clothing line, and I have been able to do a podcast with a guy who plays in the NHL. Honestly, however I can make an impact, I am happy to get on board.

How different are your priorities now than they were before April 6, 2018. How have they changed?

It has been six years and it has allowed me a lot of time to figure out what is next and figure out how I want to move forward, but I am still definitely a take it one day at a time kind of guy. I know that people long for community, and people especially long for a community in an uncomfortable space like mental health.

Mental health never used to be a priority for me but now I appreciate the balance and relationship you need to have with your mental, emotional, and physical health. I don't have all the answers, but I know that there is a lot of power in stories, and a priority of mine is sharing my story.

I also understand that everybody in this world has a story and I think being able to get to a place and shape your perspective around that story, where you remember that everybody in your life is fighting something you possibly have no idea about. So being able to find that balance of being able to take care of yourself, but also being that same supportive friend to your loved ones as well and creating that space and that atmosphere that people want to be a part of is a priority of mine lately.

How did you begin to move on from that day?

I originally thought that I was just going to move on, but now I have found a way to move forward with it. I did a speech last week in Lloydminster and Dr. Jody Carrington said, 'being able to acknowledge is something we all want to do' and I think for me acknowledging that hopefully my talk and sharing my story will help the mental and emotional side of things, but also make people never forget about that day and never forget about the people we lost that day.

That is something that still fuels a lot of my purpose for public speaking. It is essentially keeping those legacies alive, and I think that is the best way to move forward, with myself doing what I need to do and staying connected whether it is team members from that team that are still here or whether it is family members that lost somebody that day. Having those connections have helped me a lot and is something I don't want to lose.

I had never lost anybody in my life, and I had no idea how to deal with grief. I just wanted to move on from it, but then I realized I am able every day to move forward with it. I am able to look up in the sky and say, 'hi, I miss you guys.'

When you deal with so much grief at a young age, is it something you move forward with, or just something you learn to live with?

I believe it is something you have to find a way to live with and move forward with. Everybody goes through grief in such different ways. Whether it is finding your grief animal or looking up into the sky and having conversations, I

"Mental health is an uncomfortable space, and in an uncomfortable space, people long for community."

—Tyler Smith



From tragedy to helping others

Tyler Smith went through the trauma of losing friends in the Humboldt Broncos bus crash, and is now dedicating his life to helping others overcome trauma. He and his fiancée Kat, seen with

think there are little things you can do, and hopefully you have your people that give you the feeling that they are still watching you and they are still with you.

That is something I try to preach; your people are still here. Your loved ones that you lost are still watching and still guiding and protecting you. It is tough knowing that they are gone but you need to find your own hope.

You are allowed to do it and you are allowed to have those conversations even though you will never get a response. I think there are responses that come in different signs that you may get whether that is dimes that you find or whether it's your little grief animal showing up, it is important to latch onto those signs and remember you are allowed to do that. For me, I definitely want to move forward with my grief, and I want to move forward knowing that I've got 16 beautiful people up top watching over and I think that is something that gives me a lot of peace, and peace of mind, but it also is a constant reminder that they aren't here.

Why do you speak and share your story at events?

The conversations afterwards remind me why I do it. There are perspective altering conversations with individuals, whether it is an 85-year-old grandpa or an 18-year-old kid that is about to embark on their journey of life, it is fascinating to have those conversations knowing that I was able to create a space for people to remember they are not alone and that their story does matter. That is something that has really propelled me on this little journey, and I don't know if it is something I will do for the rest of my life or just something I will do for the next year, but I want to keep my intentions pure and I just want to be authentic about it, I just want to be raw and genuine. I want to allow people to think about things in a different way, in a different light. My thing now is I will never go out there and actively promote myself because it is kind of a case of imposter syndrome knowing I am a 25-year-old kid that is still trying to figure it out, but I do have to remember that you never know when somebody needs to hear something, and that is what I latch onto.

Is it hard to recount your story and relive those memories or is it therapeutic to share your story?

There are tougher speaking engagements when you aren't feeling it, but in the back of my mind I have to remember that there is somebody in this room who needs to hear this and needs to go through this. That is what allows me that strength to keep going, but in a lot of ways it is difficult for me. It is retelling a story that is very traumatic and the foundation of who I am now, and I want people to acknowledge that day and never forget about that day and I want those legacies to stay alive. That is what will always drive me to keep speaking, even though it is obviously bringing up past trauma.

What are some of the positive influences that brought you from tragedy to a position of helping others?

The families were one of my biggest influences. We all lost somebody that day and having their support, and staying

connected with a lot of those parents, gives me a lot of hope to keep moving forward and keep doing it. As for the positive influences, I think it is people in your life. A lot of times we have this misconception that the people in our life don't want to hear and don't want to listen and don't want to go through these burdens with you and this pain, but I am a firm believer that you've got to get to a place where you can utilize your people and you can utilize your resources.

For me, one of those resources was therapy and having a solid conversation with a stranger and somebody that doesn't know me but has my best interests at heart. I have had a lot of conversations and relationships that have really deepened in my life just because I know now that I am allowed to do this. I am allowed to struggle, and I know that the people in my life will be there through those times. A lot of incredible people in my life have been a great influence.

What are your goals at this point, and what do you want to accomplish with your life?

I am going to be honest, I am not a huge goal setter. I take one day at a time and I should probably think about it more. We come into 2024 looking toward the future and setting goals, but I just want to appreciate this wave I am on and remember to stay present in this journey and remember you never really know what is going to pop up next or what that next opportunity will look like.

Myself, I just love people and I love connecting with people. I probably should think about it more but for me I just always want to stay in the game of hockey and always want to use my story to make an impact.

What is your advice for people going through a tough time?

Anybody who is going through struggles or going through pain in their life, I think you have to put yourself out of your comfort zone. Try new things and be spontaneous, and do what is best for you. I think unfortunately, failure and mistakes are hard because we want things to go right especially when it is an uncomfortable space like our mental health, our grief, or our trauma, but I want you to be kind to yourself and remember you are allowed to make mistakes and allowed to try new things and if it doesn't work that is alright.

There is no perfect magic formula to this unfortunately, so I think validating your allowed to still have good days. You are still allowed to find some joy and to put yourself out there. Another piece of advice is to just have those conversations and hold onto that empathy with your people, empathize with your people by sharing what works for you or what doesn't work for you.

I think holding yourself accountable, but also holding your people accountable in a precious and kind way is a good way of going about it. It could be as simple as going for a walk and listening to a podcast or some music. I think being able to find out what works for you on your tough days is going to lead you to more joy and more success on your good days.

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In our opinion:

Five strategies to address the doctor shortage

Our Canadian healthcare system used to be an object of pride. Everyone had access to health care. No payment was needed to access it. Contrast this with the United States, where people died of curable diseases because they could not pay for care.

Unfortunately, Canada now has too many cases of people dying because of a lack of health care. It is not for the lack of money. Health care is still free to patients here. But in some cases, price does not matter.

A woman in a store buying apples asks the grocer why he is selling them at \$2 a pound when the store across the street sells them for \$1 a pound. When the grocer asks why she did not buy them there, she says they did not have any. Oh, says the grocer, when I don't have any, the price is 50 cents a pound. It does not matter that health care is free. It is not available to you when you need it.

We do not have nearly enough healthcare professionals in Canada to meet our needs. The shortage is particularly acute for family doctors who look after many medical issues and are the point of access to other health resources when needed. Millions of Canadians do not have a family physician, and the number is growing as our population increases and retiring doctors are not replaced.

Here are some suggestions for addressing this unfortunate situation. As medicare is government-operated, the responsibility for implementing these suggestions lies with the government itself.

Increase the supply of doctors

In the short term, we can enable all fully trained doctors currently residing in Canada, who are currently not permitted to provide us with the necessary healthcare. Many of these doctors are Canadians who trained abroad because they could not get into our medical schools. A quick and easy way to do this would be to treat the graduates of high-quality medical schools in English or French-speaking countries as equivalent to Canadian ones.

In the long term, we can expand the capacity for training doctors in Canada, which could take up to 10 years. The saying that "in the long term, we are all dead" applies here, especially to those who are currently ill and in need of care.

Free doctors of administrative burdens

It is estimated that doctors in Ontario spend 19 hours a week filling out forms and meeting other non-medical requirements. This time commitment could be diminished by eliminating all non-essential tasks, automating processes to the fullest extent possible using technology, including AI, and assigning such responsibilities to non-medical personnel.

Spread the load

Physicians' assistants, nurse practitioners, and even nurses can do much of what doctors do. Such people should be readily available in accessible clinics for first-line care. This would not only free doctors' time to see more patients in serious need but also relieve the burden on emergency rooms that now struggle to deal with far too many non-emergency situations brought by people who have no other medical help available.

Allow some private medical care

It is a known fact that when the price is set at zero, the demand becomes virtually limitless. Given the impossibility of supplying an infinite amount of medical care, some form of rationing becomes necessary. Currently, we rely on wait lists for this purpose. However, some Canadians expedite their access to care by seeking private healthcare options abroad. Ideally, they should not be compelled to leave the country to pursue such care.

Some private medical care is already available in Canada, especially in Quebec. Ontario is now looking at privatizing some services, such as MRIs. Apart from North Korea, Canada is the only country in the world that does not allow a private medical system to supplement the public system.

Look after our own health

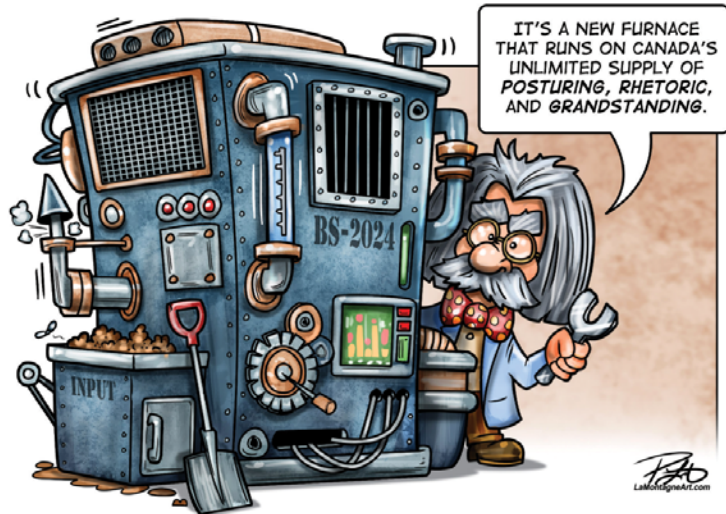
Looking after ourselves is one way to reduce the need for medical attention, and we don't have to wait for the government to do it.

During COVID-19, we learned what we have to do to reduce the incidence of contagious illnesses. Get vaccinated. Wash your hands, avoid crowds, wear masks as needed. These measures taken to combat COVID-19 virtually eradicated the flu during the years of the pandemic.

We are all aware of the steps we need to take to lower the risk of various potential health issues. These include increasing physical activity, consuming more vegetables while moderating our intake of other foods, exercising caution with tobacco, alcohol, and recreational drugs, and ensuring we get sufficient rest.

Doing what we can to look after our own health reduces the demand for doctors. It gives governments more time to solve the doctor shortage.

This editorial was written by Dr. Roslyn Kunin, a columnist, public speaker and consulting economist.



Lots of excitement surrounding new businesses

I love my job. Every day is exciting, every day I learn something new, every day I get to talk to people who are doing something new and exciting.

Last week was no exception. I had a very good interview with Brent Butt, who is coming to Maryfield in March for a standup comedy show. Watch next week's newspaper for that interview.

I don't know what it is about Brent Butt that makes him so funny, but he certainly had me laughing during our conversation.

I shared one audio clip of him with a few people last week.

"Tell me something that a lot of people wouldn't know about you," I asked.

"I'm the tallest man in Canada," he replied.

After my laughter died down he continued:

"Seven foot ten."

After my laughter died down again he continued: "Most people would not know that about me, it's something I hold pretty close to my chest."

He was a pleasure to speak with, and he won for the interview that gave me the most laughs last week.

But every day we have a few laughs at the office and every day we meet people who are fascinating and inspiring.

Last week we sat down with Tia Cederstrand, whose new business, Third Avenue on Main, is taking the place of Kassie's Jewelry.

What a pleasure to speak to a young person with so much enthusiasm for business.

Her story is on pages 21 and 23 this week.

New beginnings are a common theme of our news articles. We talk to people when they start a new business, when they start a new organization, when they start on a major project.

And one of the great things about covering the news in a small community is you see what those new beginnings turn into.

A year ago we started running articles about the idea of a visual arts centre in Moosomin. It was just an idea Krista Crellin had at first, and in this week's paper is an article on a presentation the Visual Arts Centre board made to the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce now that the centre is about to become a reality. As of Thursday this week, the arts centre will start offering classes. The group is leasing space from St. Alban's Anglican Church, and the classes are filling up quickly.

Many businesses are like that, too, you watch them get started and you watch them grow and thrive. I have no doubt that Tia's new beginning



Kevin Weedmark

will lead to great things as well.

It was great talking to her about the vision she has for her business and seeing her enthusiasm.

We are often one of the first places people come when they start a new business. They are often looking for business cards and promotional material, sometimes a logo design and sometimes advertising exposure.

We had a few new business owners drop in last week. One is a partnership, three local guys are getting together to set up a building cleaning and maintenance business, and we'll be working on a few things for them. I know they will do well as well as they are filling a need.

It's always interesting talking to new business owners about their experience with advertising, what works and what doesn't.

One of the partners in the business said he really likes banner ads because he knows they work. When he saw a banner ad for an oil change special recently he booked in for an oil change, so he knows it works. Can't argue with that.

Tia noted that Kassie's would always get calls about whatever jewelry was featured in their Plain and Valley ad.

So I learned a little from those business owners, and I learned a couple of things from Brent Butt and I learned a few things from the teachers I spoke with on the picket lines last week, and I learned at least a little something from every person I talked to last week.

This week, among many others, I will be speaking with Saskatchewan Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill and will no doubt learn a bit from him about the government's stance on the contract dispute with Saskatchewan teachers.

But it's often the business owners I learn the most from, whether they are just starting out, or growing their business.

There's always excitement around businesses, especially those in the planning stages or just getting started, and you will be reading about lots of new businesses in the area in the next little while.



Andrew Exelby, with Sask Parks and Rec, presenting the Communities in Bloom awards and certificates of recognition on Tuesday. From left are Justin Young, GM of the Rocanville Nutrien mine site who was the main sponsor for the Moosomin area's entry into the competition, Chris Davidson with the Moosomin Regional Park Board, Andrew Exelby, Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson, and Jack Thompson with Pipestone Hills Golf Club.

Right: The Communities in Bloom Committee. In back from left are Andrew Exelby with Sask Parks and Rec presenting the awards and certificates of recognition, Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson, Chris Davidson with the Moosomin Regional Park Board, and Pansy Taylor. In front are Moosomin Rec Director Mike Schwean, Moosomin EDO Casey McCormac, Lynn Smart, and Carol Adair.

Moosomin recognized for winning Communities in Bloom

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
With a blooming fine return to the Communities in Bloom program, the Town of Moosomin officially received acknowledgment for achieving Four Blooms recently.

"Moosomin was involved quite a number of years ago, and then 2023 was the first year of involvement again," said Andrew Exelby, Parks and Open Space Consultant with Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation. He made the drive to Moosomin to present the award to community members during the Jan. 23 Chamber of Commerce meeting.

"It really is impressive for a community to get involved with the program and do so well in its first year after many years being away from the program. Our judges know that there was an outstanding level of community involvement and volunteerism. They also noted the high level of corporate sponsorship. From my perspective, it's very humbling to see a business community that understands how important it is to help enhance their community."

In the community category of 2,001-3,000 people, the Town of Moosomin achieved Four Blooms, with a special mention for community and business support plus volunteerism. Special recognition awards were presented to the MacNaughton High School Environmental Science class and the Moosomin and District Regional Park.

"People always think about Communi-

ties in Bloom as just about flowers, but it's actually much more than planting flowers," Exelby explained. "It's about community development. When the program was called Communities in Bloom, the word 'bloom' was really meant as a metaphor for the overall growth, development and spirit of the community."

The roots of this program can be traced back around 60 years with the Britain in Bloom program. In 1995, the idea came to Canada, and it wasn't long before our province got on the bandwagon.

"Then we began co-ordinating a provincial program in partnership with the National Community Building foundation in 1997," Exelby said.

Through the nearly 30-year history of the national program, more than 1,000 communities have been involved, with a direct economic impact of \$28 million.

"For me it was really noteworthy, having looked through evaluations for over 12 years, the amount they mentioned the business community being on board with this, too," Exelby said while presenting some of the judge's comments as they pertain to Moosomin. From the judge's visit, a 20-25 page document is created, filled with their evaluation and comments for communities to utilize during future campaigns.

Participants in the Communities in Bloom program are also promoted as summer destinations in the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association's Summer Park guide, making for an added marketing opportunity to attract tourists.



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Rangers take on Balcarres Broncs in first round of provincials

The first round of Provincial A playoffs started for the Moosomin Senior Rangers on January 20, with a contest against the Balcarres Broncs in front of a home town crowd in Moosomin that night.

Both teams were well matched with the Rangers taking more shots on goal than the Broncs, but the Broncs held firm and were able to make the most of their chances to win the game 4-2.

The Rangers are in Balcarres for Game 2 of the best of three series on Feb. 3. Game 3, if needed, would be back in Moosomin on Feb. 4.

Kevin Weedmark photos

Above: Rangers goalie Kyle Beckett pouncing on the puck.

Right: Bud Holloway takes a hit.



Above: Brayden Nabholz moving the puck into the Broncs' end.

Below: Action in front of the Broncs' net, with Justin Lamontagne trying to take control of the puck.



Bud Holloway taking a shot with the Broncs' goalie making the save.



Goalie Kyle Beckett and Tyler Hengen defending the net.



Josh Elmes advancing the puck.



Bud Holloway with the puck. At left is Jason Hengen and at right is Brock Trotter.

Senior Hockey Roundup

Big 6 Hockey League

Rockets hand Rangers their first loss

On January 19, the Redvers Rockets reminded the Moosomin Rangers why they were league champions last season, handing the Rangers their very first loss of the season with a 4-3 victory in front of a Redvers home town crowd.

The Rockets took the upper hand from the get-go, holding the Rangers back in the first period, which saw no scoring from either team. In the second period the Rockets' Braeden Magotiaux scored the first goal of the game, which the Rangers quickly tied with a goal by Tyson Jamieson, but the Rockets added two more in short

succession by Preston Kopeck and Jordan Enger to make it 3-1 Rockets. Bud Holloway scored a Rangers goal at the 15:39 mark to close the period 3-2.

The Rockets weren't content with the one-point lead, and Daylin Smallchild scored for the Rockets in the third period to make it 4-2. Monty Driver added another Rangers goal at 11:38 to bring the Rangers within a point again, but that would be the end of scoring for both teams that night, with the Rockets claiming the victory.

The Rockets also downed the Bienfait Coalers 8-2 on January 21.

With those two wins under their belt, the Rockets were tied for points in the standings with the Rangers last week with a 12-2 record in 14 games and 24 points.

The Rangers were sitting at 12-1 in 13 games with 24 points.

Hot on the heels of both teams were the Carlyle Cougars with a 11-2-1 Record and 23 points in 14 games last week.

Sask East Hockey League

Tigers, Cobras continue to dominate

There's little question in the SEHL where the championship matchup will be this season as both the Rocanville Tigers and Canora Cobras dominate the standings in the North and South Divisions with 22 points each last week and an 11-1 record.

The Tigers added two wins on the January 19 and 20 against the Churchbridge Imperials 8-5 and the Wapella Blackhawks 8-0.

The next closest teams behind Canora and Rocanville in their division standings each have 16 points.

It wasn't all bad news for the Wapella Blackhawks that weekend, who defeated the Ituna Avalanche 8-7 on January 19. The Blackhawks were sitting in third in the south standings last week with 11 points and a 5-6-1 record.

The Tigers' Taylor Thompson is the league scoring leader, in number one spot last week with 33 goals, 30 assists and 63 points.

The Tigers also boast the top goalie in Dakota Berezowski who has a 2.55 GAA in seven games this season.

Tiger Hills Hockey League

C-Hawks continue to dominate west division

The Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks continue to prove that they will be in the contest for finals as they continue to dominate the THHL's West Division with a 13-2 record and 26 points last week.

The C-Hawks added a 6-3 win over Gladstone on January 20 and a 14-1 win over Wawanesa on January 21.

Brad and Jason Bowles continue to lead the league in

scoring points, with 51 and 43 points, while C-Hawks goalie Cory Gardham sits in fourth spot in goaltending points with a 2.32 GAA in 570 minutes of play.

The contest for the C-Hawks this season comes from the East Division where the Killarney Shamrocks dominate with 28 points and the Minnedosa Bombers were sitting with 25 points last week.

Provincial Playoffs

Rangers lose Game 1

Only two local teams have entered into provincials this season—the Moosomin Rangers and Redvers Rockets.

The Rangers are in Provincial A playoffs, and need to battle their way through a massive 21-team draw in order to come anywhere close to playoffs.

The Rangers started into their first provincial best-of-three series on January 20 against the Balcarras Broncos in Moosomin. Despite putting heavy pressure on the Balcarras net with more shots on goal than the Broncos,

the Broncos were able keep a lid on the Rangers and take home a 4-2 win that night.

The Rangers meet the Broncos again for Game 2 on Feb. 3 in Balcarras. If needed, Game 3 will be back in Moosomin on Feb. 4.

The Redvers Rockets are entered into Provincial D playoffs. Only 12 teams are entered into D provincials, with Redvers playing Craik in the best-of-three south semifinal. Game times for that series have not yet been announced.

HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS AS OF JAN. 26, 2024

BIG 6 BIG SIX HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Moosomin Rangers	13	12	1	0	24
Redvers Rockets	14	12	2	0	24
Carlyle Cougars	14	11	2	1	23
Carnduff Red Devils	13	7	6	0	14
Bienfait Coalers	13	6	7	0	12
Oxbow Huskies	13	5	7	1	11
Midale Mustangs	13	2	9	2	6
KW Oil Kings	12	2	9	1	5
Wawota Flyers	13	2	11	0	4

LEAGUE TOP SCORERS

TOP PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS
Bud Holloway	Moosomin Rangers	13	30	28	58
Koby Morrisseau	Carlyle Cougars	14	16	29	45
Brock Trotter	Moosomin Rangers	12	13	31	44
Presten Kopeck	Redvers Rockets	13	16	16	32
Jesse Gabrielle	Carlyle Cougars	11	16	15	31
Jordan Miller	Redvers Rockets	12	9	22	31
Ben Hiltz	Carnduff Red Devils	12	15	15	30
Carter Sawchuk	Moosomin Rangers	9	11	18	29
Taysen Holt	Bienfait Coalers	12	11	18	29
Ben Johnstone	Carlyle Cougars	13	11	17	28

TOP GOALIES

TOP GOALIES	TEAM	W-L-OTL	GAA
Kyler Beckett	Moosomin Rangers	6-0-0	1.50
Mason Plews	Carnduff Red Devils	4-2-0	2.51
Levi Horn	Moosomin Rangers	6-1-0	2.57
Landon Audet	Carlyle Cougars	7-1-1	2.88
Cody Matthewson	Redvers Rockets	5-1-0	3.15

SEHL SASK EAST HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS

NORTH STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Canora Cobras	12	11	1	0	22
Theodore Buffalos	11	8	3	0	16
Swan Valley Axemen	10	6	4	0	12
Cote Selects	13	6	7	0	12
Preeceville Pats	12	0	12	0	0

SOUTH STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Rocanville Tigers	12	11	1	0	22
Langenburg Warriors	12	8	4	0	16
Wapella Blackhawks	12	5	6	1	11
Churchbridge Imperials	11	2	9	0	4
Ituna Avalanche	11	1	10	0	2

LEAGUE TOP SCORERS

TOP PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS
Taylor Thompson	Rocanville Tigers	12	33	30	63
Rylee Zimmer	Langenburg Warriors	12	16	29	45
Carter Cockburn	SV Axemen	10	18	19	37
Brandon Pelletier	Cote Selects	13	17	20	37
Kailum Gervais	Cote Selects	13	11	22	33
Tristan Keshane	Cote Selects	12	18	14	32
Scott Mickoski	Canora Cobras	9	13	19	32
Ashley Howie	Rocanville Tigers	11	4	28	32
Ryan Regel	Rocanville Tigers	12	20	11	31
Kody Rock	Canora Cobras	12	16	15	31

GOALIE

GOALIE	TEAM	GP	W	L	GAA
Dakota Berezowski	Rocanville Tigers	7	6	1	2.55
Carter Olson	Langenburg Warriors	6	5	1	2.99
Rylan Palchewich	Canora Cobras	6	6	0	3.00
Warren Shymko	Theodore Buffalos	8	5	3	3.02
Adam Stokes	Theodore Buffalos	3	2	0	3.36

TIGER HILLS HOCKEY LEAGUE

As Of January 26th, 2024

TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
EAST DIVISION					
Killarney	16	14	2	0	28
Minnedosa	15	12	2	1	25
Neepawa	15	8	7	0	16
Gladstone	14	7	7	0	14
MacGregor	14	6	8	0	12
Wawanesa	15	3	12	0	6
Carberry	14	3	11	0	6
Pilot Mound	14	1	12	1	3
WEST DIVISION					
Miniota/Elkhorn	15	13	2	0	26
Virden	16	11	4	1	23
Rivers	15	10	5	0	20
Hartney	16	10	6	0	20
Boissevain	14	7	7	0	14
Melita	14	6	8	0	12
Deloraine	14	5	9	0	10
Souris	15	2	13	0	4

LEAGUE TOP SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS
Brad Bowles	Miniota/Elkhorn	14	19	32	51
Devon LeBlanc	Virden	13	20	25	49
Ty Lewis	Virden	10	20	24	44
Jason Bowles	Miniota/Elkhorn	15	18	25	43
Jesse Linner	Hartney	16	21	18	39
Matt Saler	Minnedosa	15	16	21	37
Shane Jury	Minnedosa	15	17	17	34
Jesse Toth	Gladstone	13	16	17	33
Brock Paddock	Rivers	15	15	18	33
Zennens Ziemer	Miniota/Elkhorn	11	16	16	32

GOALIE

GOALIE	TEAM	W-L-OTL	MINS	GA	GAA
Cody Rookes	Miniota/Elkhorn	2-0-0-0	150	4	1.60
Brian Archibald	Killarney	11-1-0-0	731	24	1.97
Devon Fordyce	Minnedosa	6-1-1-0	483	17	2.11
Cory Gardham	Miniota/Elkhorn	8-1-0-0	570	22	2.32
Jason Argue	Minnedosa	6-1-0-0	570	11	2.32



Tutthill Construction begins ground work on the new daycare in Elkhorn.

Ground work on Elkhorn Daycare begins

BY ED JAMES

Ground work by Tutthill Construction has begun on the new Elkhorn Daycare Centre. The new centre, which will have room for 74 children, will be a separate operation from the present Elkhorn daycare operation which has 28 spots that opened a few years ago in the modified and shared Elkhorn Curling Rink facility.

The new daycare centre is part of the Manitoba and federal government's program to develop 23,000, new full-time childcare spaces across Canada by 2026.

A spokesperson at the work site that is located in the northern part of the village across the road from the side of the community's Kindergarten to Grade 12 school

said that the excavation foundation work could take a week or more dependent on the frozen ground. After the ground work is completed, JQ Built Inc. will start construction right away.

In conjunction with the new daycare centre, Elkhorn has been given the opportunity to offer an on-site daycare workers' training program offered as an off campus program from Assiniboine Community College of Brandon. Before the course can start, it needs a minimum enrollment of 10 students.

The 18 month program will be a combination of two days in classes that will be offered locally and two days a week at the daycare getting hands-on practical

experience. Furthermore, upon successful completion of the training program, there will be a tuition rebate available for the program's students.

For more information on the training program, please contact Tawna McLean at the Elkhorn LUD office.

"We are nearing our needed student quota numbers and the community as a whole is excited about the new daycare centre and the local offering of the ACC training course where you will be able to earn as you learn," said McLean.



A photo of the sign set up on-site.

Daryl Harrison

Member of the Legislative Assembly for Cannington Constituency

1-833-670-4400

CanningtonConstituency@sasktel.net



#220 Centre St. / P.O. Box 130 / Alida, SK. / S0C 0B0

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Plans moving ahead for tourist information centre

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Spurred by a notion that rose from last summer's Communities in Bloom judges, plans for a tourist information centre along Highway 1 continue to formulate. Casey McCormac, Economic Development Officer with the Town of Moosomin, provided an update on the project during last week's Chamber of Commerce meeting.

"Our plan now is to do a new build. We want to go kitty corner from the Red Barn, about a 1,000 square foot building," she said. "We want it to look similar to an old general store."

A site plan has been drawn up and approval from the Ministry of Highways is being sought. McCormac also noted plans are to apply for a Prairies-Can federal government grant, which will help cover the cost of the new building.

"We'll have bathrooms, tourist information, eventually a dog park and picnic tables there because we know that people will stop for the washrooms and the dog park and then from there, it's our job to get people to move into Moosomin and go shopping, going out to eat, whatever else," she explained. "Buy-in from the community is important for this because it's benefiting the businesses in Moosomin."

McCormac has also reached out to entities such as Tourism Saskatchewan for their expertise, and the Town of Maple Creek—a centre with a popular tourist information centre and one that also shares the distinction of being a gateway community along a provincial border.

"We're talking to Maple Creek because they have one there," McCormac said. "Our biggest expense will be wages, because we want to have someone there all summer that can help people out."

In a technological world chock-full of information at our fingertips, some may think a physical structure dedicated to providing travel tips may no longer be pertinent. Anecdotal evidence suggests otherwise as travellers continue to seek answers to their questions in the preferred face-to-face method.

"A lot of people don't think that people stop anymore because of our phones, but all summer, The World-Spectator, the town office, we have people stopping every single day to ask questions about Moosomin, and about not even just Moosomin, but places in Saskatchewan since we are the first stop



Casey McCormac, Economic Development Officer for the Town of Moosomin, gave an update on the tourist information centre to Chamber members during their Jan. 23 meeting.

into Saskatchewan," McCormac said.

View from the west

For McCormac to seek out advice from the Town of Maple Creek is a wise decision. Both Moosomin and Maple Creek share the honour of being the first major centre entering Saskatchewan from a provincial border, both also along the Trans Canada Highway. Given the fact that those friends on the western edge have been operating their centre a little longer, I spoke with Gillian LaBoucane, Economic Development Officer for the Town of Maple Creek, for some added insight.

I know the tourist information centre outside Maple Creek is a busy place in the summer, and strategically placed at the entrance near the Alberta border. Given that location, how important is it for a place like Moosomin, which is similarly situated just inside a border, to have a tourist information centre?

Very important as it will draw people into the community and region, bringing money into the community. It is definitely an economic initiative.

Do you find as the first tourist information centre coming into Saskatchewan from the west that

tables, even a dog run as Moosomin is considering?

These are very important, bathrooms are usually the main reason for stopping, so having clean bathrooms are essential. Picnic tables and green spaces for humans and animals provides a restful stop.

The hope is that folks will also pull into town and spend some time growing the local economy. Has Maple Creek noted an economic spin off in the same regard?

There is an impact on the local business community, it has been felt since Maple Creek took over the operations in 2017. The goal of the centre is to draw people into Maple Creek and into the region, this brings new money from outside the local economy. There is a definite increase in people and on any given day during the operating season, you will see visitors in our shops, sitting throughout

the downtown and taking the opportunity to explore, to shop, to eat and to experience all that we have here in the Southwest.

Moosomin is considering a historic theme to their info centre, and I know Maple Creek has done a lot of work with the downtown. Would you consider it important to have a theme?

A theme? Well, yes, Maple Creek has a Heritage District and it is promoted to all who stop and the centre features pop-up stores that give a taste of the local offerings. Overall, the theme is the region and experiences available to visitors. For instance, if you walk into the women's bathroom you would be greeted by a deer among lodgepole pines! The bathrooms are wrapped in enlarged photos taken at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.

What suggestions would you have in general, maybe some things that the Moosomin team hasn't quite considered?

Feature your local businesses! Maple Creek offers baking from our local bakery, coffee from our local coffee roastery and shop. Give the visitors a taste of what is just minutes away!

I often hear about the tourist information centre in Maple Creek at the Cypress Hills-Grasslands Destination Area level—how important is it to align with a tourism advocate?

Cypress Hills-Grasslands Destination Area is a great entity to work with and an important partner in the initiative. This relationship has evolved over the years that Maple Creek has operated the centre but it remains a valuable stakeholder and resource.

SASKATCHEWAN

DANGER: THIN ICE

Moosomin Spillway: Important Update

Ice thickness will be affected this winter on the Moosomin Spillway. The aeration system put in place that ensures the successful overwintering of fish populations is creating areas of dangerous thin ice and open water on the lake. Signage and fencing will mark the hazards and the sections where aeration is occurring. The WSA asks that winter reservoir users take extreme caution in these areas, watch for signage and fencing, and stay safe on and around the lake.

Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

622 Main Street, Moosomin, SK
Phone: 306-435-4005
Email: stevenbonkmla@sasktel.net

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 12 noon; 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.



Learn more at wsask.ca

It's now 'Winnerpeg' with NHL's Jets

Hopes are higher than the Golden Boy this year for Winnipeg Jets to have playoff success in the National Hockey League. Does anyone close to the franchise, or any of their fans, wary of a jinx, dare to whisper the words 'Stanley Cup'?

When the 2023-24 NHL season went past the halfway point, the Jets — perhaps the most vanilla of the league's Canadian teams, considering the Centre of the Universe Leafs, the historical brilliance of the Canadiens, the Gretzky/McDavid Oilers, etc. — had established themselves as among the best of the league's 32 teams, dancing around with Boston and Vancouver for the statistical No. 1 spot. For Winnipeg, it's a David beating Goliath story, a janitor from Des Moines outsmarting Warren Buffett on the stock market, Taylor Swift starting a tour in Swift Current.

The Jets have always been underdogs. Born when the outlaw World Hockey Association formed in 1972, the Jets were one of the four teams adopted by the NHL in 1979, mainly due to their powerful team led by Bobby Hull, Anders Hedberg, Ulf Nilsson et al. But the franchise fell upon sad times almost immediately, winning only two playoff rounds through 1996 when poor attendance and rising costs led to the team moving to Arizona. But in the summer of 2011, the Jets were reborn when Atlanta Thrashers went looking for a new home.

Still, success did not follow the team's move north. The team did win two rounds in 2017-18, losing in the Western Conference final to Vegas, but in general, there has been no need for the Jets to have a champagne supplier on retainer.

That was then. This is now. Superb defensive play has been the key to the Jets' recent domination. On Jan. 20, they were in the midst of an incredible 34 consecutive games without giving up more than three goals, dating back to Nov. 2 (a 5-2 loss to Vegas). Goalie Connor Hel-



Bruce Penton

lebuyck is a Vezina trophy favourite, veteran Mark Scheifele agreed to a long-term contract in October and a couple of malcontents, Pierre-Luc Dubois and former captain Blake Wheeler, were dispatched — Dubois via trade to L.A. that returned two dependable players (Gabriel Valardi and Alex Lafallo) and buying out Wheeler's contract.

But there's more. Josh Morrissey is in the running for the Norris Trophy as best defenceman, Cole Perfetti is emerging as a star and Nik Ehlers has been red-hot offensively while sniper Kyle Connor, now back in the lineup, was sidelined with an injury.

"It's been our 5-on-5 team game, everyone has bought in," Jets coach Rick Bowness told NHL.com.

It's long been accepted that the Jets would have difficulty succeeding because free agents would avoid Winnipeg like the plague. Cold weather, smallish population, perennial losers. But that was the 'Winterpeg' version. It's now 'Winnerpeg' and Jets fans can't wait to see how the rest of the season unfolds. Perhaps the Golden Boy won't be the only shiny bauble in Winnipeg come June.

- Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Did you see where Tiger Woods and Nike have split up? I'm just wondering if Nike found out Tiger was cheating on them with FootJoy."

- Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "Tiger Woods has ended his association with Nike after 27 years. He will now

be exclusively with Perkins."

- Patriots owner Robert Kraft was reportedly annoyed at coach Bill Belichick after Tom Brady left for Tampa Bay, where he won a Super Bowl in his first year: "Bill had told me he couldn't play anymore."

- Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Miami TE Cam McCormick, due to various injuries, COVID, and transferring, was just granted his ninth year of eligibility for college football. Maybe it will improve Cam's draft stock. How many rookies reduce their team's costs by being eligible for Medicare?"

- fark.com weighed in on the same subject: "Cam McCormick will return next fall to play college football. This is a repeat from every year since Obama's last year in office."

- Super 70s Sports: "I wonder how Bill Belichick feels after six Super Bowl wins to know he's battling Jim Harbaugh just for the honour of coaching in Atlanta."

- Jack Finarelli at his website, sportscurmudgeon.com: "Deion Sanders has gone silent for a couple of weeks. When next he surfaces, he will need to make up for his public absence by saying something abjectly outrageous."

- Finarelli offering up a trivia tidbit: "These are the first NFL playoffs since 1998 where there is no one named Manning or Brady as a QB on any roster."

- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Two sure signs the NFL playoffs have started: 2) A snowstorm forced the Bills to push back their game one day; 1) The Dallas Cowboys got the jump on another early playoff collapse."

- Another one from Currie: "At the Aussie Open, American Coco Gauff will open the tournament in a one-sided affair. She's up against Slovak Anna Karolina Schmiedlova, whom she trails 23 characters to nine."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Esterhazy Town Council

Esterhazy planning transition to electronic billing

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It was a rather light agenda for the Town of Esterhazy Council on Jan. 24. Following are some of the highlights from the evening.

Going from paper to electronic billing

The good news is Esterhazy residents will soon be rid of paper copy bills from the town. Now before folks get too excited, bills from the town will still need to be paid, but the medium will be via electronic means. Council approved a motion to purchase software to allow e-billing during last week's meeting.

"We're not switching everybody over right off the bat, it's going to be voluntary to start with," explained Mayor Grant Forster. "If you don't want to get paper billing any

longer, we'll switch you over to the e-billing and we're going to put some incentive out there for people to sign up."

Forster estimates switching from paper to e-billing will save the town a good chunk of money in postage. Last year, the town spent around \$8,000 on postage including sending out 5,000 water bills and 1,000 tax notices.

"There's 6,000 mail-outs just on those two things alone," Forster said. "It adds up in hurry."

The town plans to fully transition to e-billing in the future.

Root of the issue

Town council approved a 50 per cent payment toward tree roots that were causing an issue in one residential

sewer line.

"It's a routine thing whenever people get tree roots in the sewer, because a lot of cases, it's town trees that are the cause of the problem," Forster explained. "So the first time it happens, we ask the homeowner to cover the cost themselves, but if it happens again, we'll pay 50 per cent for the second happening and maybe subsequent happenings where they have to go through and get things cleaned up."

Tree roots finding minuscule entrance points in sewer lines can become a major problem if not addressed in a timely fashion. Since trying to determine exactly who owns the tree putting out those roots can be a more difficult task than finding a needle in a haystack, the town put the 50 per cent reimbursement in place.



Moosomin RCMP Report

BY SGT. DAMIEN GROUCHY

Rail crossing mechanical issue

On Jan. 19, Moosomin received a report from CP Rail of a mechanical issue at the Cook Road crossing. Members were advised shortly after the malfunction was corrected.

Tractor fire

On Jan. 19, members responded to a complaint of a tractor fire in the RM of Martin. Members were unable to reach the tractor but confirmed there were no injuries and the fire was not suspicious.

Intoxicated 911 calls

On Jan. 21, members responded to multiple 911 calls from a residence in Rocanville. Members concluded there was no emergency and the subject making the calls was intoxicated. EMS attended and determined the subject did not require any medical attention. The subject was spoken to regarding calling 911 for non-emergencies.

Report of impaired driver

On Jan. 22, members received a complaint of a possible impaired driver traveling north from Carlyle with a child in the vehicle. Members made patrols but were unable to locate the vehicle.

Unwanted person had warrant

On Jan. 24, members responded to an unwanted person at a residence in Moosomin. Members attended and learned the subject of the complaint had a warrant. The person was arrested and transported to Yorkton for their court appearance.

Wellbeing check

On Jan. 24, members received a wellbeing check at a residence located in Wapella. Members attended and the

front door was unlocked. There was no one home and nothing suspicious at the residence.

Abandoned vehicle

On Jan. 24, members received a complaint of an abandoned vehicle in a parking lot of a business located in the RM of Rocanville. Further checks confirmed the vehicle was not stolen.

Suspicious person on highway

On Jan. 24, members responded to a complaint of a suspicious person on Highway 1 west of Moosomin. The person was not dressed for the weather. Members attended and provided the person a ride home.

Member assaulted during domestic disturbance

On Jan. 25, members responded to a 911 call domestic disturbance at a residence on the Kahkewistahaw First Nation. Members attended and while dealing with the intoxicated male, one of the members was assaulted. The male was subsequently arrested and charged for assault and resisting arrest.

Tips to avoid scammers

Scammers evolve and new frauds and scams are always appearing. Some safe tips to protect yourself.

- Don't be afraid to say no
- Do your research
- Don't give out personal information
- Beware of up front fees
- Protect your computer
- Be careful who you share images with
- Protect your online accounts
- Recognize spoofing

For a full list of steps to take in protecting yourself and to become familiar with past and present frauds/scams

visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website.

Mental health: Take action

As we all work together to end the stigma surrounding mental illness, now more than ever, every action counts. Whether you take the time to listen to a loved one, encourage a friend to ask for help, or educate yourself about mental health challenges, be the solution. Be kind. Educate yourself. Listen and ask. Talk about it. Let's change the way we view mental illness. If you or someone you know is struggling, reach out. If you or someone you know is in crisis or has thoughts of self harm, take action.

If you are in a mental health crisis and need help:

- Call 9-1-1
- Go to the nearest hospital or emergency department
- Call Crisis Services Canada at 1-833-456-4566.

Take precautions when using

Moosomin RCMP is urging the public who consumes illicit drugs to take special precautions when using:

- Never use alone
- Let someone you trust know of your plans to use
- Always carry a Naloxone kit. They are available free of charge at many locations in the province

Joke of the week

A teenager brings her new boyfriend home to meet her parents. They're appalled by his behaviour and appearance.

Later, the girl's mother says, "Dear, he doesn't seem to be a very nice boy."

The girl responds, "Oh, please mom, if he wasn't nice, would he be doing 500 hours of community service?"

Have a safe week and take care, from your friendly Moosomin RCMP.

Nominations so far suggest status quo election

Judging by how the Saskatchewan Party and NDP have so far rolled out their nominations, the parties seem rather content with the status quo.

Of course, each will say they expect massive gains in the Oct. 28 vote.

But more telling is where each already have candidates in place, nine months before the vote. This is telling as both expect to re-elect most of their incumbents, with the Sask Party perhaps conceding a few city seats to the NDP. Let us examine.

The Sask Party has nominated 34 out of 61 candidates—mostly incumbents and mostly in safe rural seats.

Among the sitting rural members already nominated or acclaimed are: Jeremy Harrison (Meadow Lake), Lori Carr (Estevan), David Marit (Wood River), Steven Bonk (Moosomin-Montmartre), Jeremy Cockrill (The Battlefords), Hugh Nerlein (Kelvington-Wadena), Everett Hindley (Swift Current), Todd Goudy (Melfort), Warren Kaeding (Melville-Saltcoats), Doug Steele (Cypress Hills), Daryl Harrison (Cannington) and Travis Keisig (Last Mountain-Touchwood), Jim Reiter (Rosetown-Delisle), Blaine McLeod (Lumsden-Morse) and Jim Lemaigre (who may have a tough test in a long-held NDP Athabasca seat).

Terry Bromm was acclaimed in Carrot River Valley to replace the retiring Fred Bradshaw.

So far in the cities, the Sask Party nominees include: Lisa Lambert (Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood), Muhammed Fiaz (Regina Pasqua), David Buckingham (Westview), Bronwyn Eyre (Stonebridge), Gord Wyant (Saskatoon Chief Mistawasis), Ken Chevaldoff (Willowgrove), Gene Makowsky (Regina University), Alana Ross (Prince Albert



Murray Mandryk

Northcote), Christine Tell (Wascana Plains), Tim McLeod (Moose Jaw North), Paul Merriman (Saskatoon Silver-spring), Joe Hargrave (Prince Albert Carlton) and Marv Friesen (Riversdale).

The NDP has its eyes on Makowsky's University seat. Lambert, Fiaz, Friesen and the Prince Albert, Moose Jaw candidates maybe in trouble. In fact, most everywhere in Regina and Saskatoon could be a fight for the Sask Party given the NDP are polling at over 60 per cent in those cities.

Yet the Sask Party doesn't yet have candidates in ridings held by north Regina NDP incumbents Laura Ross, Gary Grewal or in the two it held six months ago before losing the summer byelection seats.

The Sask Party has some new rural Sask Party candidates in place, but these nominations seem to have been more driven by internal party politics and territorial disputes than gaining or preserving political ground.

Eric Schmalz was acclaimed in Saskatchewan Rivers because the Sask Party is desperate to knock off Nadine Wilson, who was removed from caucus and then joined the Sask United Party.

Martensville-Warman incumbent MLA Terry Jensen won

the new Warman seat in a contested nomination against local councillor Shaun Cripps. However, incumbent Canora-Pelly MLA Terry Dennis lost to Sean Wilson in a similarly contested race.

In perhaps an even bigger surprise, long-serving Speaker Randy Weekes lost the new Kindersley-Biggar seat to a school board trustee and local Macklin administrator Kim Gartner. Many are suspicious this was orchestrated by caucus after Weekes fell out of favour.

Also politically intriguing, party president James Thorsteinson was going to challenge Lloydminster incumbent MLA Colleen Young's seat. However, after Cut Knife-Turleford MLA Ryan Domotor was booted out of caucus after being charged with procuring sexual services, he was also stripped of his nomination. Thorsteinson has now declared he will run in that seat.

Conversely, only six of the 31 NDP nominated candidates are "rural" NDP candidates including: Tom Kroczyński (The Battlefords), Brenda Edel (Rosetown-Delisle), Michael Woollard (Canora-Pelly), Lorne Schroeder (Kelvington-Wadena), Thera Nordal (Last Mountain-Touchwood) and Lenore Pinder (Yorkton).

Twelve urban incumbents are nominated: Betty Nippi-Albright, Matt Love, Erika Ritchie, Nathaniel Teed, Vicki Mowat (in Saskatoon) and Trent Wotherspoon, Nicole Sarauer, Meara Conway, Jared Clarke, Noor Burki, leader Carla Beck and Alenna Young (in Regina).

There are another 13 new candidates, but these are all in city and northern seats the NDP deem winnable.

This all seems to suggest the parties are comfortable where they are.

Rocanville Rec Report

Andrea Logan, Recreation Director

Rocanville Rec Centre

Group Walking at the Rec Centre

Walk to the oldies on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Rec Centre. Let the rhythm guide your steps as we provide nostalgic tunes to keep you moving.

Tuesdays - 10:00-12:00
Thursday - 1:00-3:00

Bring a friend or come on your own. This is a fantastic opportunity to socialize, stay active, and enjoy the company of others. All fitness levels are welcome.

Urban Pole Walking Clinic

Why walk with walking poles? It speeds up weight loss, improves posture, it's low stress and low impact, plus so much more.

February 22, 2024
1-3 at the Rec Centre
\$20/person

Register at rocانville.rec@sasktel.net or by calling 645-2164. Poles will be provided. Please bring a water bottle and a good pair of walking shoes.

February Break Camp

Gear up for a fantastic February break with our action-packed February Break Camp at the Rec Centre! From crafts to games, we've got a whole lineup of fun activities planned for kids aged 5-12.

February 20-22 at the Rocanville Rec Centre
Drop-off: 8:30 - 9:00 AM
Pick-up: By 5:30 PM
\$20/day or \$55 for all three.

Limited Space available. Call 645-2164 or email rocانville.rec@sasktel.net to register.

Learn to Dance - Couples Dancing

Learn to polka and two-step. Classes will run Feb 14, 28, and March 13 from 7-9 pm. No experience required. Already know how to dance? Join us anyway. Who doesn't like the opportunity to go dancing? To register please contact the Rec Office by January 31. \$15/person

Adult Writing Group

Join us Monday nights (January 29, February 12 and 26) from 6:30-7:30 pm. No pressure, no deadlines. Bring your current work and share if you feel moved to, then write for the rest of the hour. By donation. Adults only. Text any questions to Ellie 306-435-9869.

Silent Book Club

February 5 and 19 from 6:30-7:30 pm (Adults only). No pressure or commitment is required. Just bring your current read, share if you feel moved to, and then spend the rest of the hour silently reading. By donation. Adults only. Text any questions to Ellie 306-435-9869.

Rocanville Kids Group

For ages infant to school age Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11 am. For more information, please follow the Rocanville Kids group on Facebook.

Walking

Everyone Welcome
Mondays and Wednesdays—1:00-3:00 pm

Walking

Everyone Welcome

Mondays and Wednesdays—1:00-3:00 pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays—9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Pickle Ball

Tuesdays—7:00-9:00 pm

Puzzle and Book Swap

Monday-Thursday—9:00 am-3:00 pm

Rocanville Cross Country Ski Club

Cross Country Ski Jackrabbit Program. Kids of all ages will gather to have fun on skis and learn technique, fitness and speed. There will be two groups: Short distance skiers and long distance skiers. Saturdays at 10:45-12:15 from January to March.

Cost: Youth trail pass, equipment rental and jackrabbit program \$55 per child or Family trail pass and equipment rental \$130 plus jackrabbit program \$20 per child.

For registration corm contact Heather Graham at cgardens.timheather@gmail.com. Volunteers welcome. Call/text 306-434-8400 for info.

Rocanville Library

- Metal stamping Makerspace Kit - Month of January
- Penguin Take 'n' Make - Month of January (while supplies last)
- Story Time: Bring your kids out for a story or two and a craft to follow. Registration is required. To register please contact the library at 306-645-2088 or rocانville@southeastlibrary.ca January 31 at 10:30-11:30 am.

Rocanville Noble Construction Arena

Ice Schedule

Monday - Shiny 3:30-4:45 pm
Tuesday - Adult/preschool skate - 1:00-3:00 pm
Wednesday - Shiny 3:30-4:30
Thursday - Adult/preschool skate - 1:00-3:00 pm
Friday - Public skate 3:30-5:30 pm
Sunday - Shiny 12:00-2:00 pm, Public Skate 2-3:45 pm

Minor Hockey

February 3 & 4 - U 11 Home Tournament

Skate-A-Thon

Telemiracle fundraiser

Fun Skate and Skate-A-Thon Sponsored by Bud and Kendra Fafard Sunday, February 18 from 1-5 pm at the Noble Construction Arena in Rocanville. Skate and groove to the music. Music is provided by All-in Event DJ Services. Open to all ages and levels of skaters. Earn more for Telemiracle by signing up as a skate-a-thon skater or just come out and skate for fun. Rink kitchen will be open. \$5/skater

Rocanville Community Centre

Located at 219 Ellice Street, Rocanville. We are open for rentals with the following rates: 4-hour rental or less \$50, daily rental \$100

For bookings contact:
Mel Strong at 306-645-4412 or text 306-434-5511
Linda Bock at 306-645-4287 or text 306-434-7587
The Centre is open for cards on Thursday afternoons from 1-3:30 pm.

Dial-A-Van

Dial-A-Van Services Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 am to 4 pm. Moosomin trips for medical appointments. Please pre-book. \$45/trip. Prescriptions: Call the drug-store to make arrangements for us to deliver and for the payment of delivery (\$3) and the van will do the work. Cost to ride the van:

Round trip paid by cash - \$3.00
Round trip using pass - \$2.50
10 trip pass can be purchased from the driver for \$25
Charitable donations can be made at the Town Office.
Call 306-434-6644 between 8 am and noon on operating days to book your ride.

Rocanville Community Thrift Store

The Rocanville Community Thrift Store is run by a group of local volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering your time at the Thrift Store please, contact Marilyn at 306-645-4553. The Thrift Store is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 1-4 pm and Thursdays 6-8 pm

Moosomin Multi- 4-H Club



CANADA
4-H Saskatchewan

On February 3rd, the

Moosomin 4-H Multi Club will be hosting speeches at the Moosomin Baptist Church at 1pm which will be open to the public.

Each participant will be sharing different speeches on things they enjoy from a variety of ages from 6-17. *Everyone will be having fun and enjoying the food.*

Club Reporter - Olivia Brooks

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Commitment to Excellence

Chamber members hear from shuttle service

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As is the case with so many worthwhile endeavours, the Gravelbourg Cares shuttle program all began in order to fill a recognized gap in their community.

“Our organization started because there was a need. And that need came about as a lack of transportation—especially for people that are in need of medical appointments outside of our town, specialist appointments primarily, but not exclusively. We’ll cater to anyone who has any sort of a medical need, whether it’s optometry, dentistry, cancer treatments,” explained Al Sutherland, one of the volunteers behind Gravelbourg Cares.

The shuttle service formed in 2018 in response to the shutting down of the STC bus line, and the rubber first hit the road in July the following year. Since then, they’ve put 196,000 km on their first vehicle (a Ford 1500 transit van, now retired) and 16,000 km on their current ride—a Hyundai Tucson hybrid obtained this past September.

Sutherland was invited to speak at the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting last week as Moosomin Age Friendly is highly keen on repeating the successful operation in Moosomin.

“I’m trying to give you the idea of how this can be transplanted in your community,” Sutherland said. “So you’re going to find that there are definitely going to be challenges, you’re going to have limited funding and sometimes you’re going to have driver shortages. We’ve never had to say no to anyone because



Al Sutherland of Gravelbourg Cares spoke during last week’s Chamber meeting, explaining how their shuttle program has worked since 2018.

of a shortage of drivers.”

As cited in Gravelbourg, a similar need to transport for out-of-town medical appointments has been identified in Moosomin.

“It’s a very well-utilized program in their community,” said Devona Putland, Chair of the Moosomin Age Friendly group. “He also gave me a sense of comparison between Gravelbourg and Moosomin. We can see the age demographic comparison and the population. We’re almost between two-and-a-half to three times bigger in a lot of the areas that are compared and that means that we should be able to support a program like that.”

In the same ‘all you need is a dream’ line of think-

ing, Gravelbourg Cares launched their program with a \$3,000 start-up grant from their town council and those of surrounding communities.

“They started with a lot of hope and a very small amount of money and made it happen,” Putland said.

Sutherland provided the Moosomin group with a 100-page U of S study that examined Gravelbourg Cares—effectively creating a blueprint for establishing a similar service basically anywhere. Combined with the exuberance of Gravelbourg Cares to share what worked on the other side of southern Saskatchewan, the winning formula is easy to replicate.

“Our first vehicle was



Gravelbourg Cares offers rides to residents in their area with this hybrid SUV.

what we sort of thought of as being the one that would fit the bill in our imagination,” Sutherland explained. “We found out along the line that it was a little bigger than what we needed.”

Their second vehicle, a hybrid SUV, came by way of a \$100,000 monetary injection from the federal government, which covered 80 per cent of the purchase price.

“About 80 per cent of the clients, 90 per cent of the clients are going to Moose Jaw/Regina. Occasionally to Swift Current and occasionally in Saskatoon,” Sutherland explained, adding that the shuttle serves communities within a

45-minute radius.

Can what Gravelbourg Cares does actually be customized for Moosomin and area residents? That and other questions will be on the minds of Age Friendly board members from now until their next meeting in March.

“We’re going to be scoping out what kinds of things do we need to do if we’re going to pursue this and one of the things is the charitable status, because that’s the thing that’s going to make something like this viable,” Putland said. “We’ve been looking at different possibilities. We know that we’re going to rely on our business community and our local

people to probably help with some kind of funding or legwork or helping us along the way with things. And we definitely want our customers not to suffer because of this.”

Beyond offering a ride to make specialist appointments, Putland sees a much greater purpose in the future.

“It’s to keep people living here,” she said. “Seniors have a lot of income to spend and if they have to move to Regina, our town is missing out. So by keeping it here, businesses will benefit in keeping our population up there. But as well, we have to recognize that we have to support our businesses.”

South East Cornerstone School Division: Brief notes from January 17 open business meeting of the SECPD’s board members

BY NORM PARK

Education Director Keith Keating provided a brief verbal report on the one-day strike that involved all teachers in the provincial system just a day earlier.

He stated that further action by the educators regarding possible withdrawal of services would be preceded by advance notice so families can make plans accordingly.

“At this point in time as a board we hope that everybody gets back to the table, and we’re supportive of the bargaining process. We hope they come to an agreement soon,” he said.

Keating also provided information regarding a change in procedures regarding

the taking of attendance and monitoring the process in the upper grades with attendance being taken per period. This makes it easier for educators and administrators to track students in the larger schools he said. Monitoring the checklists will enable more efficient interventions, if required.

The board had a January 18 meeting arranged within the town of Moosomin to consult with community members regarding school facilities, their use and potential improvements.

The Cornerstone board will meet again for a regular open business session on February 14 beginning at 1 p.m. The meeting will be live streamed with access direction available on the SECPD website.



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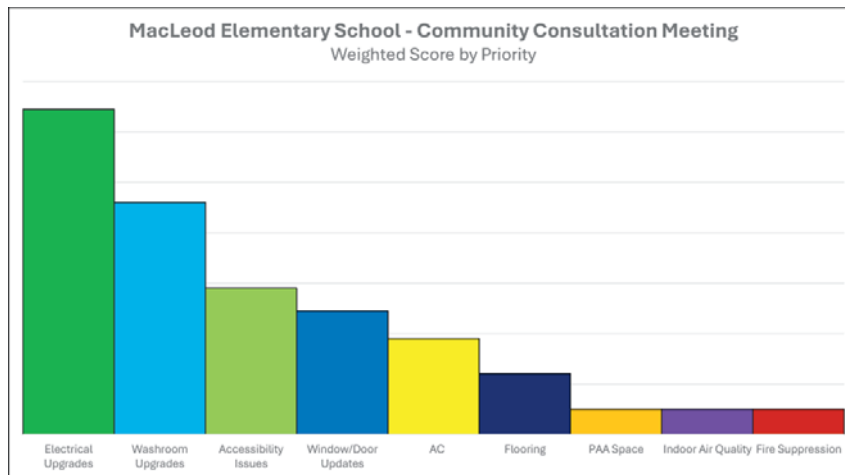
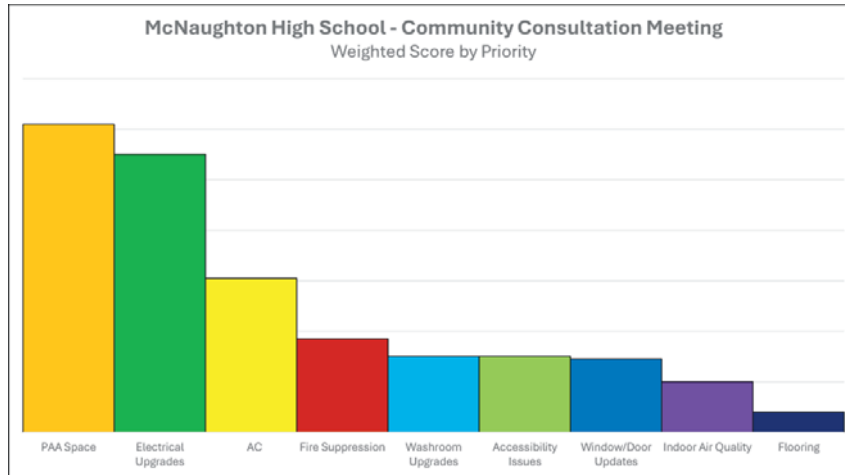
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School consultation results

Southeast Cornerstone School Division hosted a community consultation in Moosomin recently, in which people were asked to rank their top priorities for work on the schools. The top three results for McNaughton High School were Practical and Applied Arts spaces, electrical upgrades, and air conditioning. The top three for MacLeod School were Electrical upgrades, washroom upgrades, and accessibility issues. Of the 65 completed surveys there were 59 who expressed an interest in an application for a Minor Capital project, which is a renovation and upgrades up to \$10 million, for McNaughton High School. Two people said no and 4 gave no response to that question. There were 31 surveys completed for MacLeod and 34 for McNaughton.

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Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024

Time: 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. (Coffee & muffins)
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (Presentations)

Location: Canalta Hotel, 405 Mountain St., Moosomin

To reserve your spot, email michelle.bender@mnp.ca by February 6th.

Wherever business takes you

MNP.ca

Thrift Store donates \$8,000 to Moosomin Visual Arts Centre

The Moosomin Thrift Store made a donation of \$8,000 last week to the new Visual Arts Centre opening its doors in Moosomin in February.

The money will be used for equipment for the new arts centre.

From left are Moosomin Visual Arts Centre (MVAC) board members Olha Volokh and Kara Kinna, Samantha Campbell with the Thrift Store making the donation, MVAC chair Krista Crellin, and Kyla Fingas with MVAC.



Saskatchewan Employment Incentive now open for applications

The Government of Saskatchewan has officially launched the new Saskatchewan Employment Incentive (SEI). Working families with low incomes can now apply online at saskatchewan.ca/employment-incentive.

Working parents earning between \$500 and \$2,200 per month may be eligible for the maximum monthly SEI benefit ranging from \$400 to \$600, depending on the number of children they have.

“Our government is making life more affordable for Saskatchewan families,” Social Services Minister Gene Makowsky said. “The Saskatchewan Employment Incentive helps low-income families choose and maintain employment by helping them with essential costs such as transportation, clothing and child care.”

The SEI will provide working families who have lower incomes with:

- A monthly financial benefit;
- Supplementary health benefits;
- Access to discount bus passes (where available);
- Connections to employment supports through the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training; and
- Access to the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit through the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation.

“The SEI has a simple online application and reporting process to make it more convenient for families to access their monthly benefit,” Makowsky said. “These supports will make a significant difference for many families.”

The SEI is replacing the Saskatchewan Employment Supplement and Child Care Subsidy. While both programs will continue to be available to existing clients for an additional 12 months, existing clients will be better off with the benefits and supports through the SEI. The Ministry of Social Services will help those who are eligible with the transition.



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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:
FEB 12 & FEB 26

ROUTE B:
Homes south of Broadway Avenue:
FEB 5 & FEB 19

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. 12 Noon - 5 p.m. MON. CLOSED	SUN. & MON. CLOSED	SUN. 12 Noon - 5 p.m. MON. CLOSED	SUN. & MON. CLOSED

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ROD PEDERSEN SHOW RETURNS TO MOOSOMIN!!

Wednesday March 20th at the Moosomin Curling Rink. Check this week's Rec Report for details.

Community Donations

Moosomin Parks and Recreation are currently looking for donations for our Community Loaner Sports Facility.

An old ball glove, an old pair of skates, an old cornhole game, an old set of disc golf discs, an old set of golf club, an old bike - whatever!!

If you would be willing to donate to this amazing program please email **Mike** at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net or phone at **306-435-7578**.



Carded Novice Hockey Tournament (U9)

Moosomin Parks and Rec along with the Moosomin Senior Rangers will be hosting a U9 Carded Hockey Tournament on March 23-24th.

First 12 teams entered will be accepted. Check this weeks Rec Report for details **contact Mike Schwean at 306-435-7578.**



Sportplex Birthday Parties

No better place than the Sportsplex for your child's birthday parties!! In addition to Simulators and bowling don't forget we also have large screen Wii games!!

If you would like to book in please email the Rec Office at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net



Mike Schwean Arena - Winter Bookings have begun!!

Remaining weekend bookings at the MS Arena. It is always busy at the Mike Schwean Arena!!

• Novice Rangers Tournament	Saturday - Sunday	February 3-4 th
• Bantam Rangers Tournament	Saturday - Sunday	February 17-18 th
• Skating Club Carnival	Sunday	March 10 th
• Female Festival	Saturday - Sunday	March 16-17 th
• Carded U9 Tournament	Saturday - Sunday	March 23-24 th
• Summer Hockey	Saturday - Sunday	March 30-31 st
• Iron Man	Thursday - Saturday	April 4,5,6 th

If you would like to inquire about booking an event for the upcoming winter, please feel free to call at **306-435-3622** or by email at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net.

Iron Man Competition 2024

Will again feature Hockey, Golf, Whiffle Ball, Bowling, Shuffleboard, Darts...

As well, like the Olympics, you can expect at least 1 new competition to pop up!!

Team registrations only!!

Tournament goes April 4th, 5th, 6th.

If you would like to inquire or register please feel free to call at **306-435-3622** or by email at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net.



Sportslex Hours

To book please contact **306-435-2325**

Monday..... Closed
Tuesday..... Closed
Wednesday.... 10^{am}-10^{pm}
Thursday..... 10^{am}-10^{pm}
Friday..... 10^{am}-10^{pm}
Saturday..... 9^{am}-10^{pm}
Sunday..... 9^{am}-5^{pm}



Outdoor Pickle Ball Court/Committee

If you would be interested in joining a fundraising committee with the intention of building Outdoor Pickleball Courts at Bradley Park, then we would love to hear from you!
Please email Mike at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net




Swimming Lessons 2024

You can visit either our Borderland COOP Aquaplex Facebook Site or our Parks and Rec Facebook Site where you will find our registration form, follow the instructions and you are set!!

Also keep in mind those who register for Swimming lessons prior to **March 1** will be in a draw for a **Brand New BBQ Giveaway** - just in time for grilling season!



Dates include:

Set # 1 - 2-week session.....	June 3 - June 14
Set # 2 - 1-week session.....	June 24 - June 28
Set # 3 - 1-week session.....	July 8 - July 12
Set # 4 - 1-week session.....	July 22 - July 26
Set # 5 - 1-week session.....	August 5 - August 9
Set # 6 - 2-week session.....	August 12 - August 23

PRIVATE SETS (ALL 1 WEEK SETS)

Set # 1.....	June 17 - June 21
Set # 2.....	July 15 - July 19
Set # 3.....	July 29 - August 2