

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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A scene from the Living Skies Come Alive fireworks show in 2019 at Moosomin Regional Park. The fireworks are back next summer, with two shows planned for the August long weekend along with bands, food trucks, and a market. Kim Poole photo

Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition is back Fireworks, bands, food trucks, market planned for August long weekend 2025

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
The Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition at Moosomin Regional Park is back after five years. Organizers are planning for fireworks shows on Saturday, August 2 and Sunday, August 3. There will also be bands both nights, food trucks, and a market that weekend, as well as kids activities.
For years, the Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition attracted thousands of spectators to Moosomin Regional Park each August long weekend until it was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, followed by smaller shows and other events on the August long weekend instead of fireworks.

Kyle Jeannot, with the Moosomin Regional Park board, said the decision was made to bring the competition back. "We had a plan to eventually bring back the fireworks, but we made the final decision at our last meeting that it was time," he said. "A lot of people missed the event. People would plan for it every year, and they were disappointed when it wasn't there. We are going to start planning further ahead, get some volunteers lined up, and get it done."
Jeannot said the 2025 competition will be similar to previous year's Living Skies Come Alive events, featuring food trucks, fireworks, vendors, kids activities and more. "I think it will be as big as previous year's competitions,"

said Jeannot.
Archangel Fireworks inc, a company based out of Winnipeg, will be one of the competitors.
Jeannot explained how once pandemic restrictions had cancelled the annual event in 2020, it became more difficult to get the ball rolling again.
"I think it came down to volunteers. I didn't get on the park board myself until last March, and when I got on the board I found out it wasn't happening. I know it's a huge fundraiser and we definitely noticed it made a difference to the park not doing it."

Continued on page 33



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Santos Cardoza youngest ever elected to Moosomin council

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Victor Santos Cardoza was elected to Moosomin Town Council on Nov. 13 at 20 years of age. He is the youngest person elected to town council in Moosomin, and is excited for his new role.

"The big inspiration behind my decision to run for council is what happened to my family several years ago when we were going to be deported, but the community rallied together behind my family and supported us through desperate times of need and everybody here in Moosomin gave so selflessly to me and my family, and then from that moment forward it has inspired me to give back to the kind and selfless folks here in town and to serve them in any way I can and to repay that favour and give thanks for everything they have done for me," Santos Cardoza explained.

He says he never expected to be elected to town council one day.

"No absolutely not, this was nowhere near in my mind of possibilities or anything I could have dreamt of. I thought the idea would be so far-fetched. I thought someone of my background coming here to Moosomin that it would take generations to become part of the community enough that someone could be on council, and I didn't think it would be anywhere near my timeline whatsoever."

First youth councillor

Santos Cardoza says his experience as Moosomin's first youth councillor impacted his decision to run for town council.

"I think over time as I was introduced to new opportunities and new people through my youth councillor experience, it really opened my eyes. I got to meet great people and establish relationships throughout the years, especially with Kevin Weedmark and our fellow councillors here in town and some other government members in the government of Saskatchewan. Just getting to hear them, having conversations with them, and getting to know them, it piqued my interest and from that moment I wanted to learn more and I am still learning more to this day."

"A lot of things I have taken into consideration from being the youth councillor. Like the human responsibility of being a councillor, the challenges I will be facing every day, and problem-solving techniques, getting to take input and new ideas. I think that is crucial for this position and getting to listen to the folks and have conversations about their concerns."

Santos Cardoza is excited to be working alongside newly elected mayor Murray Gray as part of council. Gray helped bring Victor on as the town's first youth councillor.



Victor Santos Cardoza

"That is truly phenomenal. I couldn't be happier for Murray, I think it is a well-deserved win on his part," he said. "Murray is somebody who genuinely took an interest in me, he showed me the ropes, gave me a voice and an opportunity, so for that I thank him. I look forward to collaborating with him more and having more of an impact now that I am of age and I can be part of the council and contribute a lot more."

Leading up to election

Santos Cardoza says he made it his mission to meet and have conversations with community members leading up to election day.

"I met with a lot of folks throughout town leading up to the election. I talked with some business owners and had one-on-one chats. Mainly, I sat with folks to get their input and for them to pass on some of that wisdom and knowledge of our town because I'm young, so I wanted to learn from their experience and hear their input. I sat with people, and I listened. I took as much input as I could so now I can reflect on that input and apply it to my new position."

Beyond excited for new position

Santos Cardoza is beyond excited and thankful for his new opportunity as elected town councillor.

"I am really, truly excited. I am excited to give back. Now my impact can be a lot more significant and now I can hopefully inspire some meaningful growth here in town and keep working forward. I know our community is changing and growing at a rapid pace and I am extremely excited to be a part of that change here in town. I am looking forward to hearing people's concerns and getting people's needs met."

Thankful for the community

Santos Cardoza is thankful for the people of Moosomin believing in his leadership and values for this role.

"I felt truly humble. That is the kind-hearted and selfless folks of Moosomin considering me to be competent enough for this role. I am in complete awe, and I am truly humbled that the folks of Moosomin saw me as responsible enough to be in such position. I am truly thankful for everybody whether they voted for me or not. I am humble of their kind words and motivation."

Next steps

He says he plans to continue learning and interacting with the community going forward as part of town council.

"The next steps, I look forward to interacting, learning, and listening to everybody in town because I know this will be a big learning curve for me now, and there will be a lot of new firsts for me."

"Going forward if there are any opportunities that arise that I can be a part of or I can work on, I would love to. I know from my time as youth councillor, I have established a little bit of understanding, but it goes without saying that there is plenty to learn still, and I can't wait."

Message to community

Santos Cardoza wants to thank everyone in Moosomin for their continued support throughout these years.

"I just want to thank everyone who voted here in Moosomin and supported me and voted for me in this election. I dedicate this win to them."

"My morals and values are nearly a reflection of everybody in town because I was raised here and raised by a lot of people here in town, not just my parents."

"A lot of folks here in town shaped the values and morals I have today, and this community single-handedly raised me throughout these years and for that, I thank them and I am going into this position now with their values and their beliefs, and I will work as hard as I possibly can to represent them."

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Grand opening for new pharmacy

A grand opening and ribbon cutting was held for Kari's Pharmacy in Moosomin on Nov. 22. There were lots of people out to show their support for the new pharmacy. Moosomin Mayor Murray Gray cut the ribbon. From left are Kayla Farquharson, Laurika Fourie, and Karla Bell with Kari's Pharmacy, mayor Murray Gray cutting the ribbon, owner Kari Meyers, John Glasser and Leanne Cook (in back), Oleksandr Kramarenko, and Julie Bell.



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Mosaic donates \$100,000 to Little Miners Daycare



From left, Little Miners Community Daycare board member Kristin Giroux, Secretary Mackenzie Flatt, Chair Marissa Porter, Mosaic VP of Operations - Potash Lawrence Berthelet, Board Member Shauna Rakochy, and vice-chair Shaelynn Sarich.

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Little Miners Community Daycare Board in Esterhazy received an early Christmas present, thanks to a \$100,000 donation from The Mosaic Company.

"A donation this large is a blessing," said Little Miners board chair Marissa Porter, noting feelings of excitement and relief upon hearing of the donation. "This puts us in a better spot to not have to worry about how we are going to fill the classrooms with the much-needed furniture and materials for the children who will be using our facility. It impacts our daycare tremendously to receive this generous donation. We don't only need funds to help fill our classrooms, but we also need money for operational costs as well. Any donation, whether it's big or small, will be put to great use within our facility."

Earlier this year, the daycare secured a space at the Esterhazy High School that will be licensed for 70 spots when it opens—55 of those funded, with the remaining 15 non-funded spots for before and after school spaces for students in Grade 1 and older. The daycare has entered into a 25-year lease at a low rate with the Good Spirit School Division.

"We are very excited to be able to make a sizeable donation to the project," said Marnel Jones, Director of Government and Public Affairs for Mosaic in Canada. "We have just over 1,000 employees in Esterhazy, and daycare is one of those pieces that we require for attracting and retaining staff in that area of the province. So being able to add additional spots, which hasn't been as easy in that community, is just going to be really fantastic."

When asked what the daycare plans to use the Mosaic donation toward, Porter listed a few main items.

"They're going to be

sponsoring three classrooms and our outdoor play space with that money," she explained. "Basically, we're going to use that money to fill the classrooms with all the materials that they need, and then for our outdoor play space, the money will be used for equipment, structures, outdoor classroom, sand—the list could be endless!"

As for the classrooms, Jones said that they will have names familiar to Esterhazy residents.

"We're really excited, as part of the funding that we're providing, that they're going to be naming the rooms in the space, so they're going to have K1, K2 and K3 as different spaces within the daycare, which we think will be quite nice," she said, referring to the two sites that have supplied potash for decades, and the lat-

est mine (K3) completed in 2022. "We hope that we can partner with them to have some interesting decor that might depict some mining settings, so that we can inspire those young miners to want to come work for Mosaic one day!"

Jones says giving back is an important value for Mosaic as the company invests on average \$5 million in communities across Canada through three main areas of focus: food, water, and local community.

"For as long as we've been in Saskatchewan, we've seen great value in investing back into the communities that help us operate here, that are housing our employees and their families and their neighbours and friends," Jones said. "So we see great value in investing generously, and

we do typically around \$5 million in community investment, or if you included our larger sponsorships as well, it's closer to \$7 million or so on an annual basis. It's certainly something we're very proud of."

While still waiting on drawings, Little Miners has the expertise of Timco Construction enlisted for the project, which is estimated to take about five months. Porter is confident that the daycare will open sometime next year. "We don't have an opening date yet, but it will be

2025," she said, eagerly hoping for construction to begin in the next few weeks.

"Right now, basically we're just waiting," Porter said. "We have to get some more drawings done that we didn't previously have. So that's kind of the hold up with our construction, is to get these stamped drawings done for the inspector."

As for upcoming events, the Little Miners Community Daycare is hosting a Family Christmas Party at the SN Boreen Community Centre on Dec. 20.

For the low entry price of \$5 per person, it's going to be one busy all-ages fundraiser.

"It's for all the family and other communities to come to," Porter said. "We're going to have a DJ, that we're going to have some games and some fun stuff for the kids. Santa Claus is going to show up sometime during the night, and then we're going to have a canteen with chips and candy, juice boxes, water for the kids, and we're also getting it licensed, so then the adults can enjoy a drink or two as well."

MONEY MATTERS

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ASSESSING YOUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

As the year draws to a close, it's an opportune time to conduct a thorough review of your financial health. Assessing your financial situation helps you understand your progress, identify areas for improvement, and set informed goals for the coming year. Here's a guide to conducting a year-end financial review.

Review your past year's income and expenses to assess financial management. Compare actual spending to budgeted amounts in categories like housing, groceries, entertainment, and transportation. Identify discrepancies to adjust the budget for better alignment with spending habits and financial goals.

Check emergency fund, RRSPs, TFSA's, and savings; aim for 3-6 months' expenses in emergency fund. Review and increase contributions to retirement accounts like RRSPs and TFSA's for maximum advantage.

Review your debts, including credit cards, loans, and mortgages. Calculate your debt-to-income ratio. Develop a plan to pay off high-interest debts first. Explore debt consolidation or refinancing for lower rates and payments.

Review your investment portfolio annually to align with risk tolerance and goals. Assess past performance, rebalance by adjusting asset allocation, and seek advice from a financial advisor for guidance on adjustments or new opportunities.

Plan for year-end taxes by reviewing, adjusting withholdings, contributing to tax-advantaged accounts, tracking deductible expenses, and charitable donations. Set financial goals for the upcoming year focusing on savings, debt reduction, and investing. Conduct a year-end financial review covering budget, savings, debt, investments, credit, insurance, and taxes for a strong start to the new year.

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Conexus, Cornerstone, and Synergy Credit Unions exploring merger

Trio could form largest credit union in province

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Three credit unions are exploring a merger which would create the province's largest credit union if it were to go ahead. On Nov. 20, Conexus Credit Union, Cornerstone Credit Union, and Synergy Credit Union made public their proposed partnership, using the vision statement 'Together for a Thriving Saskatchewan.'

"We envision a Credit Union that's really more than a financial institution, and we hope that we can be a catalyst for Saskatchewan prosperity," said Conexus Board Chair Ken Kosolofski. "We're going to have an unwavering commitment to our members—both current and future—and we're going to drive economic growth, empower communities, and support the dreams of individuals, farmers, and businesses across the province. That's why our tagline is 'Together for a Thriving Saskatchewan.'"

Should the merger happen, the new credit union would serve more than 198,000 members, employ 1,404 people, and manage around \$15 billion in assets. While too early for a name—that will likely be selected from the existing credit unions, then finalized as part of their business case development—the resulting credit union would cover the entire province.

"By being able to capture both on the west side of the province through Synergy and on the east through Cornerstone, they'll just be an extension of our already pretty vast network," explained Conexus CEO, Celina Philpot. "We're used to

that environment, and we're looking forward to being able to serve all of our members across the province—from north, south, east, and west."

Now that the merger announcement has been made public, a due diligence business case process will occur, which will take several months. After that, the individual boards would need to vote on the idea, then if the boards are in favour, the membership will have their chance to vote. That membership vote could happen in June 2025, with the merger possibly taking effect by January 1, 2026.

"In Saskatchewan, we have a continuous dialogue among our credit unions, and that dialogue continued with the board and management of Conexus, Cornerstone and Synergy, and the alignment of these three credit unions really became evident," Kosolofski said. "We believe the potential partnership is going to benefit all of our stakeholders, members, employees and communities, which was why we decided to move ahead with the business case."

As Philpot noted, the three entities work well together, and she's excited about the future prospect of a merger.

"We're really excited to partner with Cornerstone and Synergy, based on our experience within the province," Philpot said. "We worked together in the past, so this isn't new for us, and we get to know each other very well."

Credit unions are no strangers to mergers, and Philpot believes with the dawn of digital banking, the apprehension around banks joining together



The Conexus Credit Union Moosomin Branch at the corner of Main Street and Broadway Avenue.

does not exist.

"I think as more digitization has come into the sphere, members are used to that and know that they can transact in many ways," she said. "So still supportive of local, but understand service delivery can be done in many different ways."

Kosolofski also stressed that an unwavering commitment throughout the merger process.

"We continue to support the communities that we operate in, and that's the nice thing about a Credit Union," he said. "We're a local base, and we support those com-

munities, so this can only expand that community support and empowerment that we actually have as a base value of our business."

Philpot described Saskatchewan as "a cradle of Credit Unions."

"Saskatchewan is really supportive of a collaborative, co-operative envi-

ronment," she said. "Understanding it's a very big province, and the people needing to work together in order to make things come to life."



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Maryfield School students performing the Missoula Theatre production of Hercules.

Nicole Taylor photos

Maryfield students perform Hercules

Missoula Theatre passes on skills that students can use on and off the stage

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
 Maryfield School held two performances of the play Hercules on Saturday, Nov. 23 at 3 pm and 7 pm. The performance was put on with the help of the Missoula Children's Theatre program, with the students and Missoula theatre bringing the entire performance together in under a week.

"Missoula Theatre has been coming to Maryfield every other year since 2000, until Covid hit, the pandemic put us on pause so we haven't seen them since 2018," says Maryfield School Principal Petina Fox.

The staff at Maryfield school gathered information from the students to see how many would be interested in acting with Missoula.

"The students sign up in advance so we can make sure we have enough kids, without reaching out to other people that aren't in our school," said Fox. "Generally we get an idea of how many want to be involved

and as long as that's enough we arrange for Missoula to visit. The students audition on the Monday, and all of the roles are cast by supper time the same day.

"We had about just over one hundred people watching in the audience for each show. All of the community was there to show their support—parents, family, and friends. There were some people who graduated from Maryfield over the years that came to watch. They don't necessarily have any connection to the students, but they have their own memories with Missoula," said Fox.

There was a fee to watch the Performance of Hercules, which helped Maryfield School cover the cost of bringing in Missoula.

"We did quite a few fundraisers leading up to it, to help raise money to bring them here. We did a Purdy's Chocolate fundraiser, a Little Caesars Pizza Kit fundraiser

and we also did a Steak Night fundraiser at the Arlington Hotel in Maryfield," said Fox. "All of those fundraisers were to help with costs so we could make it free for the kids. When we bring things like Missoula to our community we don't want there to be a massive fee on the parents."

Fox says the Missoula team does most of the work mentally preparing students for their roles.

"The Missoula team does a great job at finding the right kids for the right roles. They've done this show quite a few times now, so they've definitely got a rhythm, and they can spot different characteristics that make each character come to life."

Each performance of Hercules was approxi-

mately 50 minutes long. "It went so good, I was a little worried, but they pulled it together by Saturday," said Fox. "The kids had all their lines mastered and they did amazing."

Fox says it's important for students to have the resources to be able to explore interests like theatre.

"It's really hard to bring theatre arts to a super small school. We have such a limited staff, sometimes it's hard for us to find people with all of the different avenues of their interest. We don't always have someone that's interested in drama and right now, we wouldn't really have anyone that's dramatic on staff."

Continued on page 16



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Footloose The MUSICAL

Creative Vision Productions put on four performances of Footloose from November 22-24 at the Moosomin Convention Centre.



At left Wyatt McAuley and Graig Palmer. At right Jeffrey Hutchinson and Tess Bolton.



Left are Josie Fox, Fiona Fox, Ava Neville, and Kendall Shipp.



The bar dance scene in Footloose. In front from left are Ella Ferguson, Kendall Shipp, Kaleb Kelly, Sophia Fox, Ayla Schwandt, and Madison Sebree.



Tess Bolton as Ariel Moore.



Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season!



TUNDRA OIL & GAS





Nicole Taylor photos

CPKC HOLIDAY TRAIN

The CPKC Holiday Train made stops in Virden, Moosomin, Broadview, Indian Head and Qu'Appelle on December 6.

Left: Shawnee Kish performing on the CPKC Holiday Train during its stop in Moosomin.



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Left: The CPKC Holiday Train pulling in



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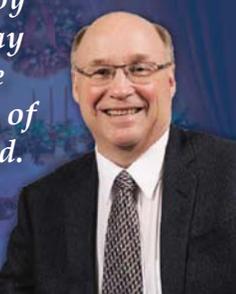


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The Hide Out opens its doors in Moosomin

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It's an idea that Shellie Silverthorn has had on her mind for the past four years: creating a safe gathering place for youth. Something that encompasses fun, promoting positive mental health and safety, plus fostering a sense of community. A space where people feel comfortable and safe being themselves, expressing themselves, and most importantly enjoying each other's company.

That place—and that dream—are coming to fruition as The Hide Out officially opened its doors on Friday, Dec. 6. Coincidentally, that's also just in time for the annual CP Holiday Train's arrival, which was slated for noon, right outside The Hide Out's space at 1011 Front Street in the old McNaughton Building in Moosomin.

"It worked out absolutely perfect that it happened to be on that day," Silverthorn said, explaining that not only is her husband employed by the railroad company, but it was the reason their family moved to Moosomin. "To me, it was meant to be!"

Not only will she have a perfect view of the festivities from The Hide Out's window, but Silverthorn added that hot chocolate will be on for those who'd like to stop in and say 'hello' surrounding the train's arrival.

Currently, Silverthorn has secured a one-year lease for The Hide Out,



Shellie Silverthorn outside of her new business, the Hide Out, which opened in the old McNaughton Building in Moosomin.

Nicole Taylor photo

which will be open Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday 11 am to 9 pm, then again on Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 10 pm, closed Wednesday and Thursday. Monday hours also include holiday Mondays—a time when youth are often out of school. And school breaks? You bet they'll be open! That's exactly the

time when The Hide Out will be busiest.

In terms of staffing, Silverthorn will be joined by her two daughters part-time for now, but may add more staff in the future.

"In the summertime, depending on how busy we are, then we'll look into another adult," Silverthorn said, adding that a require-

ment for all staff is to possess valid certification associated with working in centres involving youth, including First Aid/CPR and a vulnerable sector clearance.

Arcade games and other cool stuff

One big draw to The Hide Out will be the to-

ken-run games Silverthorn will have set up. Over the past four years, she's been working with Fun and Games HQ in Brandon on the idea of a teen hangout. With that business upgrading their machines and needing to find a new home for their old machines, Silverthorn had first pick of which games she'd like to

bring to Moosomin.

"One of the rooms will have five, possibly six token-run games, depending on how many we can fit in there," she said, adding that as with many other arcades, players are rewarded with tickets that can be traded for prizes.

Continued on Page 15

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McNaughton High School students decorating Holiday Smile Cookies at Tim Hortons during Holiday Smile Cookie Week.

Moosomin second in Sask for Holiday Smile Cookie sales Smile Cookie sales in Moosomin raise over \$11,000 for McNaughton High School

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
After all the numbers were tallied, the Moosomin Tim Horton's learned that they had come in second out of all locations in Saskatchewan for Holiday Smile Cookie sales, with the Moosomin location raising \$11,443.
"We had a great week and sold over \$11,000 worth of cookies," said Greg Crisanti, owner of the Moosomin Tim Horton's, who added that Moosomin was 15th across Canada in terms of sales. "Mother Nature wasn't on our side for this one, but that's just how it is," Crisanti said. "Of course, we're still very happy and proud of what our team accomplished. We had some great volunteers in there, and it was just amazing, coming together for a great cause."
The top location in the province was Humboldt, who raised \$17,637.
All money raised from the week-long Holiday Smile

Cookie campaign is split between the Tim Horton's Foundation Camps and a local group—this time McNaughton High School, who will receive \$5,721.50 for upgrades at the school.
"The energy is palpable, that's for sure," described Tegan Matichuk, chair of the Student Representative Council, of the vibe during the event. "You can feel it!"
With a blizzard paralyzing the area for two days during Smile Cookie Week, Matichuk says pre-orders were especially important this year.
"The pre-orders were very important," Matichuk confirmed. "We were very thankful that lots of people stepped up to do the pre-orders and get school sponsored. A lot of the pre-orders were businesses buying for businesses."
Crisanti also credited the people of Moosomin for once again supporting a wonderful local cause.
"Our ovens get a total workout that week, and they're on

constantly throughout the night," he said with a laugh. "A huge thank you to our team at the store, because without them, this wouldn't be possible. Our team loves doing it, and coming together during these campaigns and coming out even stronger."
However, once the week is over, Crisanti said it's not uncommon to notice team members' hands matching the same colours used in the icing on the Holiday Smile Cookies!
McNaughton students busy
Matichuk explained that the students from McNaughton High School were involved in many facets of the Holiday Smile Cookie campaign. Some were in charge of pick-up and delivery of orders, mostly in town, but some cookies travelled as far as Wapella.

Continued on Page 15

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Virtual physician program temporary solution for Redvers Health Centre

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As of Nov. 4, the virtual physician program has been added to the Redvers Health Centre. The program is a temporary solution to help ensure stable emergency health services are available to residents.

"Currently, they are supplementing the two physicians that are full time," explained Joni Wielgoz of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, who added that there are efforts to gain some locum support for the health centre. "We have been successful with that over the last few months, here and there, and then we supplement the rest with the virtual physician, which has been actually working out pretty well."

To have a full complement of doctors, the Redvers facility needs three full-time physicians, with the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment program as one portion of the recruitment phase.

"That's currently where we were able to recruit our two physicians that are there currently is through the SIPPA program, and we have requested another seat for SIPPA," Wielgoz said. "We're quite hopeful that we will be able to recruit through that program once again to fill that third position."

Wielgoz said that SIPPA is a great program for recruitment, especially for rural and remote areas, but there are some challenges that accompany it as well.

"We only have the three years to make that physician feel welcomed and integrated into the community," she said.

Through SIPPA, there are 307 doctors currently practicing in the province, an estimated 74 per cent of whom have a practice in rural communities. After their three-year contract comes due, the option to stay or move on becomes a tough decision for those physicians. Ultimately, work/life balance often becomes the deciding factor whether or not to remain in a community.

"Our physician's work life balance is incredibly important to consider," Wielgoz said. "I think having that virtual physician option in our back pocket is very impor-



Redvers Health Centre

tant."

The virtual physician program not only assists doctors, but all levels of healthcare providers.

"The nurses also undergo a lot of extra training in order to support an emergency department utilizing virtual physician," Wielgoz said. "It's important to continue on with their skills, the additional skills that they have for supporting those types of environments. It's important to keep it as part of a regular practice in some of our smaller sites where services are a little bit more difficult to keep consistent. Our goal is to keep the emergency departments open at all times, making sure we have all the tools to do so."

Feedback in Redvers has been positive, with some praising the level of care and timeliness of being seen.

"Some of them have wondered why we didn't do this a long time ago," Wielgoz said. "People didn't know what to expect,

but the buy-in now from the staff there is good. They're quite happy to be working with the virtual physicians and being able to continue to provide that emergency department support to our community."

How a virtual physician visit works

Wielgoz walked through how the experience of seeing a virtual physician unfolds. As with an in-person visit, a patient is assessed by a registered nurse using the Canadian Triage Assessment Scale upon arriving to the Emergency Department.

"From the nurses' assessment, they will then consult the virtual physician," Wielgoz explained. "The virtual physician could be anywhere in the province, and from there, the virtual physician will make a decision if the patient requires an immediate transport to another site with a physician there, and they will go by EMS,

or the other option would be treatment on site by the RN."

A possible third option in the case of a less-urgent situation would be to come back to the clinic on the following day. For non-emergent health-related questions, people can call the 24/7 HealthLine service by dialling 811.

"Our 811 supports are really good in this province," Wielgoz said. "When a patient does call 811, they are speaking with a registered nurse. That registered nurse does also have access to a physician that she can consult on the phone. So they are getting some really good advice over 811. The end result might be a recommendation for them to seek emergency department support, but they may be able to be guided on the phone also."

Virtual physician services were also introduced in Broadview and Kipling earlier this year.

The Hide Out opens its doors Friday

Continued from Page 12

The teen space will have a couple popular gaming systems, a pool table, foosball table, air hockey, and a ping pong table—all available for a \$5 per hour fee to access the space.

"It's going to give teens somewhere to go, and something to do that is reasonably priced and affordable for them," Silverthorn said. A December promotion will allow patrons to purchase four hours and receive the fifth hour free.

Rage Room will help kids de-stress

Dealing with stress, processing anxiety, and navigating negative emotions are not easy for anyone. Having a number of tools to assist with the mental health component in life is key, and Silverthorn feels having a Rage Room is one such answer.

"It's like carrying pebbles in a backpack—you load everything in, you don't think it's very big or very heavy, but all of a sudden, when all these tiny pebbles all add up, it just crushes you and just drags you down," she explained. "It's by emptying out one tiny thing at a time, it releases, and it can make you think so much clearer and positively. And I think that's what we need to start doing is allowing ourselves to let go of some of the things that are bothering us."

The Rage Room is designed as a safe place to let go of

stress through smashing items placed in the room. Personal protective equipment such as safety goggles, gloves, and safety suits are utilized to ensure participants are not injured by flying debris.

"The Rage Room for myself was a must," Silverthorn said, adding she's had multiple people in their 20's reach out to inquire when it will be open. "Having that release to go somewhere where no one's going to get hurt, no one's going to get judged, just to release that built up stress—especially around the Christmas time. There's a lot of harshness going on right now in the world. It's very important that we have that because when we as adults can focus on our own mental health and deal with it in a positive way, then it encourages our teens to do it as well, and our teens need to feel included."

One method in particular that Silverthorn has experience facilitating involves writing messages on plates. As a way to deal with the particular issue, all anxieties and negative feelings associated with the situation are written on the plate, which is then smashed. Through the action of breaking the object, all the negative words on the object are also destroyed, providing a powerful cathartic release.

Incidentally, Silverthorn is in search of donations of items such as old TVs, computers, and coffee machines that could be utilized in the Rage Room. They don't need to be in working order, just able to crumble under pressure!

A gathering place for all

Another aspect of The Hide Out will target young children and their caregivers through a program called Coffee and Kids. Silverthorn intends this to be a drop-in style of gathering that offers a chance for fellowship in both age groups.

"The kids can play while their parents can sit and chat," Silverthorn said. "The kids can socialize and so can the parents. It can get very lonely as well, so having that time to be able to meet new people or talk, just talk to people, helps with those sometimes very long days."

Coffee and Kids will run every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 11 am to 3 pm.

There are also future plans to have a volunteer option for teens with a two-fold benefit. Not only will their efforts help the community, but the time could also be credited for benefits at The Hide Out.

"That way, it helps people in town, but also they will be given free play or some tokens, depending on what they decide," Silverthorn said. "Just to teach them that when you're volunteering, there are good things that come out of it—not only for the people that need the help, but it helps our community, which in turn, turns around tenfold and they get rewarded for that."

Still in the very early planning stages, the volunteer program would foster community-building and perhaps plant a seed for future aspirations in service work.

Smile Cookie sales raise over \$11,000

Continued from Page 13

"We also had students from our Commercial Cooking class, from our Home Economics class, and students who just happened to have a spare at a certain point in time—they would go and help decorate the Smile Cookies," Matichuk said.

The big question for the SRC now is where to devote the money raised through the fundraiser. A survey was distributed to McNaughton students on Nov. 15 asking that question, with the deadline for submissions being Dec. 1.

"Once we get the information in from the students and staff—and by then, we'll know the actual, finalized grand

total—we'll be able to at least narrow down our priority list," Matichuk said.

When asked if, given the opportunity, the school might consider participating in the fundraiser again now that they're more aware of all the work involved, Matichuk was quick to answer with "I would be very happy if we became the recipients again!"

"It was something that we enjoyed being involved in, and we could see that it definitely benefited both our kids to do that volunteer component, and the funds raised will benefit our school," she said. "So absolutely, we would say yes, if we became the recipients again. But I know Moo-

so is such an amazing area that we live in that there are other organizations that would benefit from it, too. We would love to be a part of it again, but we definitely understand that this generosity gets spread to our community."

The next fundraiser is not too far away as the spring Smile Cookie fundraiser takes place in May.

"Before we know it, we're going to be here in May, and we'll be doing it all again," Crisanti said. "We're getting excited for that, and we're going to be inquiring, then searching out for our next local recipient and charity. So we're excited to see who that will be."

Maryfield students perform Hercules

Missoula Theatre passes on skills that students can use on and off the stage

Continued from page 7

"It's nice that this program brings a totally different side of extracurricular activities for our students that they don't normally get. Students have the opportunity to explore different parts of their personality.

"We saw a few kids that truly came out of their shell as the week went on. I also noticed different kids interacting with each other that don't normally. Students that maybe aren't in the same class are becoming friends with each other in ways that they wouldn't normally. The interactions and the opportunity for our kids is the biggest thing," said Fox.

Fox says the community feedback has been overwhelming. "I had a few parents come and ask how we could make this happen every year. They love seeing their kids come alive in the theatre setting!"

Fox said that even though some kids may try it and decide theatre is not for them, it's an opportunity they never would have had otherwise.

"Some of the students might do Missoula now, and decide not to as they get older. We end up with a lot of younger ones signing up to give it a try, and it might not be for everyone, but they're all learning more about themselves throughout the experience."

Janet Lemon, one of the staff that arranged to have Missoula come to Maryfield, says that this experience teaches the students many important values.

"This experience teaches life skills like teamwork and communication. We saw students helping one another and working together to put on a great show," she says.

Austin Plunkett, who works for Missoula and was one of the actors in Maryfield teaching the students, says he has been with Missoula for half a year and is loving the experience so far.

"Missoula has been travelling around the world for about 50 years, they do these residency weeks all over the country. Missoula goes to all 50 states, five Canadian provinces and 17 different countries," said Austin. "We do all kinds of shows, it's completely random which show winds up where."

Missoula sends two of their team members to go into a community, hold the auditions that Monday, and by the end of the week, they have a show ready to perform.

Missoula travels and holds performances by tour blocks. There's three different tour blocks: Summer Tour, Fall Tour and the Winter/ Spring tour. Missoula mostly works with schools, but will occasionally go to theatres and host weekly bootcamps for theatre arts.

Plunkett says Missoula will work with a broad range of ages.

"We allow anyone from 5 years old and up until 18 years old."

Plunkett says he first heard of Missoula when he was in



Maryfield School students performing the Missoula Theatre production of Hercules.

college and a professor had recommended the program.

"An old college professor had recommended it to some of my friends that had graduated before me. She got a job and said she loved it. That's pretty much when all of our friends started getting jobs with the company, so I joined suit and followed right along."

Plunkett has a bachelors degree in Theatre Arts with his focus being directing.

Plunkett says that preparing the students for their performance is a process that gradually progresses over the week.

"It starts out on the Monday when kids are shy at the auditions. We try to make auditions as open and welcoming as we can. We tell the kids don't think of this as an audition, but more just us having fun together. As they come to rehearsal every day you just open the idea to them that this is a team effort. We are all in this together, your cast-mates have your back and no one wants you to fail. Everyone here is here to watch you succeed. That's what really helps the kids come out of their shell at the end of the week."

"The cast of students practice every day for four hours. It's broken up into two different sections—a two hour segment, then a break, then another two-hour segment,"

said Plunkett. "We only keep the certain groups that we're teaching that day there. It's kind of like building blocks as the week goes on."

Plunkett says that he was proud of how well Saturday's performances went.

"All the kids did amazing! Just watching their growth from Monday to show day, it is absolutely astonishing at how far they can come in just a week. The most rewarding part of the job is when you have a kid who starts off really shy and reserved, but by the end of the week they're saying 'please don't leave.' It's hard whenever you've gotten close with kids and at the end of the week they're saying 'you'll be back next year right?'"

Plunkett says he believes Missoula teaches so many valuable lessons and is an important experience for young people.

"Not only does it teach acting skills, but more importantly, I think it teaches general life skills. They're getting up on stage and they're acting, but also they're making friends, and they're learning how to speak in public, to come out of their shell. It teaches important lessons that can transfer into their everyday lives and they carry forward after we are gone."

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The Rangers Dec. 20 home game will be a busy one with a Sin Bin fundraiser and the Rangers annual Hall of Fame awards taking place along with the game.

Rangers holding sin bin fundraiser for daycare during December 20 home game

Hall of Fame awards will also be handed out that night

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you had the chance to lock someone up for a good cause, would you do it? The Moosomin Rangers are hoping you'll say 'yes' on Dec. 20 while, during their last home game of the year, they'll be holding the very first Sin Bin Fundraiser. It's the Rangers' take on a Jail and Bail where people can put others in the Sin Bin, which will be located in the arena lobby. Whoever finds themselves in the bin then needs to fundraise their way out.

The event is a fundraiser for the new daycare being built in Moosomin.

"It's an opportunity for the daycare committee to promote the project and the building," said Mike Schwean, Recreation Director with the Town of Moosomin and Rangers' president.

He says choosing the PlayFair Daycare as the recipient of the special Sin Bin fundraiser was an easy decision to make.

"We are all somewhat close to the daycare and understand the importance of it," Schwean said, noting many players and executive with the Rangers have children or grandchildren in childcare spaces. "It was actually was a pretty easy decision."

The daycare was granted an extra 90 spaces in the fall of 2023, which meant the group would need a second location in Moosomin. Armed with a plan and a location for the new building, PlayFair Daycare is now in fundraising mode to make the dream come true.

"I'm sure there will be a big crowd there, so it's a good opportunity for them to promote their project and raise some money. Certainly, when people make their penalty calls and pay their money, we'll make those announcements on the PA system during the game," says Schwean.

A minimum donation of \$50 lands someone in the Sin Bin, and that person then needs to raise at least twice the initial amount in order to get out. Some of the offences that might land one up in the Sin Bin include skating too slow, impersonating a Zamboni driver, and too much chatta, but officials (those nominating someone for the sin bin) can come up with their own penalties in good humour and taste. Bringing an official lands

a 'get out early' fee set at twice the original dollar amount, and mug shots will be taken for social media.

Even before the game, there's a way to get someone locked in the bin. Phone in the person you'd like to send to the Sin Bin along with your donation. The Rangers will give that person a complimentary ticket to the Dec. 20 game, but once they get through the doors, it's straight to the Bin! To toss someone in the Bin before the game, call the Rec Office at (306) 435-3622 or the Economic Development Office at (306) 435-2988.

"We're looking at this as some public awareness of the program," Schwean said, adding that members of the daycare board will be on-hand to help with the event. "I think it's a really good opportunity for them to promote the project in front of 500, 600, 700 people, so there's benefits far beyond the amount of money we raise. There was a lot that went into it, but I think at the end of the day, for the executive, we understand that a lot of our players have kids or will have kids in the near future, and it will be important to them as well."

In addition to the Sin Bin Fundraiser, the Dec. 20 home game will be a busy event. The Ranger Hall of Fame inductions and Minor Hockey Awards will happen in the Blue Moose Lounge pre-game.

"Another part of the game, the students are admitted free to that game, whether they are elementary or high school or university, they're all admitted free," Schwean said.

Prior to the game, Jess Moskaluke, will sing O Canada.

"She's done it a few times for us, and it's nice for her to do that for us again," Schwean said.

Other highlights throughout the game include the Team Spirit Award which will fetter the most spirited minor hockey team in attendance with a pizza party at the Sportsplex. During the first intermission, the 2024 Rangers Hall of Fame inductees will be announced, and the 2024 Minor Hockey award winner. The second intermission will see the Rocky Mountain Equipment shootout that has an estimated pot of \$1,000. Post-game action includes the Rangers shootout Calcutta with guest announcer The Al-

berta Clipper and the Rangers Christmas Cabaret at the Conexus Convention Centre with music courtesy of DJ Megan Sparkle.



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As we gather with family and friends, may your holidays be filled with love, laughter, and memories to treasure. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with health, happiness, and hope.

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Lucky Lottery raises \$55,000 for rec facilities in Rocanville

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After paying all the bills, the Rocanville Lucky Lottery will have \$55,000 to distribute to local recreation groups. Organizers are pleased with the response to this year's campaign, which netted around \$20,000 more than last year.

"There were some tight times there where we were wondering if it was worthwhile, but when you start seeing those final numbers come in and realize what you've done, it's definitely worth it," said board chair Kirby Fowler.

The purpose of the fundraiser is to support recreation facilities in Rocanville, ensuring that programs and infra-

structure remains for residents now and in the future.

Now that the Lucky Lottery board knows how much they can share, it's a matter of local groups sending in their funding applications.

"When the January community newsletter goes out, it will have the application in it," Fowler explained. "We'll start accepting applications in January, we'll make those decisions quick and early and hopefully start getting stuff paid out quick."

Since resurrecting the Rocanville Lucky Lottery in 2022, it has drawn supporters from across Saskatchewan and into Manitoba. In its initial year, the fundraiser was able to distribute \$86,000 to local groups.

"It was an a nice surprise," said Fowler of learning the

final number this year. "The support that we've got from the communities and provincially—we've got the support from everywhere, and it's so great to see."



The Lucky Lottery grand prize draw being made.



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- Safety PKG
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2024 Buick Envision Avenir AWD

Stock # 24205

- 2.0L Turbo
- Premium Seat
- Tech PKG II
- 20" Alloy
- Moonroof
- Loaded



\$53,019
-\$500 Holiday
-\$1000 Bonus **\$51,519** +tax

2024 Buick Envision Avenir AWD

Stock # 24206

- 2.0L Turbo
- Premium Seat
- Moonroof
- Tech PKG II
- 20" Nickel
- Loaded



\$53,019
-\$500 Holiday
-\$1000 Bonus
\$51,519 **\$345** B/W +tax
\$0 Down 48 month Lease

2024 Buick Envision AWD

Stock # 24206

- Frost White
- 2.0 L Turbo
- Premium Seat
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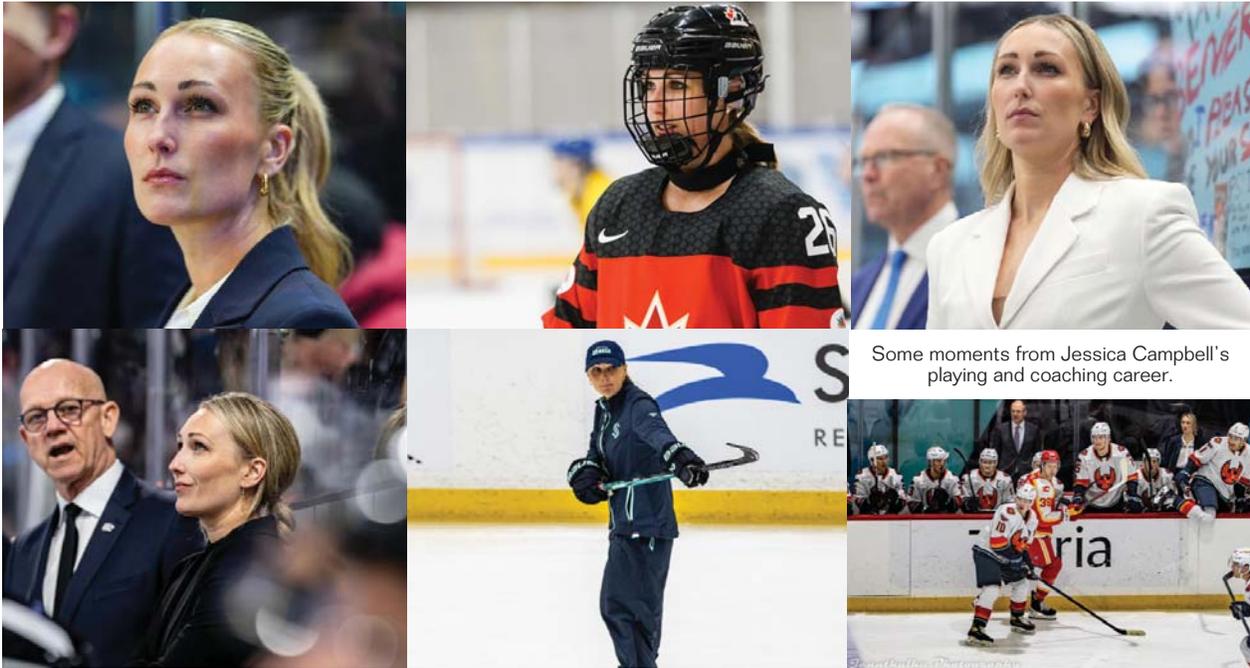


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Plain & Valley

December 2024 • Page 21

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Some moments from Jessica Campbell's playing and coaching career.

First female coach in NHL: Rocanville showing its pride in Jessica Campbell

BY ASHLEY BOCEK
Jessica Campbell made history on October 8 as the first full-time female coach in the NHL and her home town of Rocanville is showing its pride. There's an inspirational quote from Campbell that people see when they enter the Rocanville rink, the town is working on a plan for a sign to honor Campbell, and the town is asking people to decorate in Seattle Kraken colors for Christmas to show their pride.

A career of firsts

Born in Moosomin and raised in Rocanville, Campbell's path to coaching in the NHL started with a successful hockey career. Campbell's hockey career took off with Team Saskatchewan, where she spent three years on the ice and served as a captain twice, representing the province in the National Women's Under-18 Championship for three consecutive seasons. At the 2009 Kamloops International Bantam Ice Hockey Tournament, she was named the team's MVP. The following year, Campbell reached new heights, amassing 57 goals and 47 assists for 104 points in just 41 games. She led Canada's national U18 team to a gold medal at the 2010 World Championships, led the team in scoring, and scored the game winning goal in overtime in the gold medal game against the United States. She then played at Cornell University, playing for the



A quote from Jessica Campbell on the wall of the Rocanville Rink.

Cornell Big Red, in the NCAA from 2010 to 2014. Her impact on the team was noticeable starting the first year when she made a hat trick against the Robert Morris Colonials and delivered key goals during the Eastern College Athletic Conference semifinals. She finished her freshman year with 26 points in 31 games. Her professional career was spent playing in the Canadian Women's Hockey League (CWHL). In the 2014-2015 season, Campbell became the first rookie to captain Team White at the CWHL All-Star Game. In 2016 she helped the Calgary Inferno capture their

first-ever Clarkson Cup championship, scoring two goals in an 8-3 victory over Montréal. Following her playing career, Campbell moved into coaching. After retiring from the Canadian national team in 2017, Campbell began her coaching career with high school girls' hockey before starting her own business, JC Powerskating. In 2021, she became an assistant coach for the Nürnberg Ice Tigers and the German national team, marking the first time a woman coached at the men's world championship.

First in AHL, first in NHL

In July 2022, Campbell was hired as an assistant coach for the Coachella Valley Firebirds, the top minor league affiliate of the NHL's Seattle Kraken. This was yet another first for her, as she made history as the first full-time woman behind the bench coach in the American Hockey League. She worked with head coach Dan Bylsma, a Stanley Cup winner, with Coachella Valley. With Campbell's and Bylsma's coaching, the Firebirds were able to reach the Calder Cup Finals two seasons in a row. Bylsma was named coach of the Kraken in May of this year and shortly afterwards brought Campbell on as assistant coach, the first woman to hold that role in the NHL.

Continued on page 24

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Find entertainment right up to the New Year with activities for all ages. Get **exclusive discounts** at visitminot.org/canadian-deals



Holiday fun & endless destinations in Minot

Holiday Fun in Minot: Your Ultimate Guide

As the holiday season draws near, Minot emerges as a lively destination brimming with festive cheer and a variety of exhilarating activities. Whether you're visiting for the holidays or exploring a new place, there's an abundance of experiences to delight everyone during this special time of year.

Entertainment

Minot offers a variety of entertainment choices that will keep you and your loved ones engaged and entertained.

Last Minute Trip

Catch some thrilling games on the ice during Minotauros Hockey games - two games the weekend before Christmas. Enjoy this on-the-ice action also with concessions, beer, and game-time entertainment.

Holiday music and shows are all around town! Music enthusiasts are in for a treat with a free Tuba Christmas concert on December 21. Don't miss the enchanting Christmas ballet, The Christmas Angel, performed by Minot dancers on December 21 & 22.

Ring in the New Year

The Original Bar will feature a cover band, that plays everything from classic rock to early 2000s pop music; to ring in the new year. Meanwhile, Sports on Tap will host a dance with a DJ, champagne, and more to celebrate the arrival of 2025.

Dining Delights

After soaking in the festive spirit, treat your taste buds to Minot's vibrant culinary scene. Indulge in delicious Indian cuisine at two new restaurants: India Clay Oven and Basecamp Indian Kitchen. Another exciting addition is Do Eat Asian Cuisine, which offers an all-you-can-eat sushi experience, along with sashimi, Thai dishes, and Hawaiian entrees.

Try one of Minot's three family-style sit-down Mexican restaurants. Each is known for their unique flair. Don Tapatio, located in downtown Minot, offers table-side guacamole and a selection of beer and margarita flights. El Reparo features Mexican hot chocolate this holiday season, paired perfectly with their cheesy birria tacos. Relax in the indoor patio area at Mi Mexico while enjoying their sizzling fajitas and an ice-cold Mexican beer.

Don't miss the Christmas Bar at Ironhorse Kitchen + Bar, a must-visit for a unique seasonal experience. The Bar is beautifully decorated from floor to ceiling with Christmas ornaments and features a variety of festive Christmas cocktails.

For an upscale dining option, The Chophouse at Vardon Golf Club offers an exquisite menu highlighted by a large selection of fresh seafood, including oysters on the half shell, crab, and lobster tail.

If you're a beer lover, enjoy a pint or two at World Beer Cup winner Atypical Brewery & Barrelworks, a local brewery that features sour ales & unique brews. Additionally, you can sample a variety of beers from several states at JL Beers, which offers 40 beers on tap, ranging from light and crisp to malty and hoppy.

Shopping Extravaganza

Get into the holiday spirit by shopping at Dakota Square, which features over 60 stores and festive Christmas pop-up kiosks. For a limited time, you can shop at Hickory Farms and discover handcrafted items made from alpaca wool and reclaimed wood at Holiday pop-up shops in the mall.

Be sure to stop by the JCPenney court to say hello to Santa, and don't miss the Minot Tastes and Creations Makers Market, where you'll find canned goods, baked treats, unique gifts, and local crafts.

New to Dakota Square Mall is Halberstadt's clothing for men and Do Eat Asian Cuisine, joining favorites like SCHEELS, Target, Ross, TJ Maxx, Home Goods, ULTA Beauty, and more. Nearby, you will find Best Buy, Kohl's, and Hobby Lobby. Minot also has a Menards, Home Depot, farm supply stores, and a super Walmart.

Downtown has over 40 locally owned experiences, including dining, activities, shopping, and galleries. Enjoy the free-will donation art museum, independent bookstore, high-end kitchen specialty shop, and various home goods markets.

Family Fun

There's no shortage of family-friendly activities in Minot! Kids will enjoy golfing with Santa at The Putt District on Saturdays in downtown Minot or visiting the trampoline park and arcade center.

Another great choice is the Magic City Discovery Center, which offers more than 150 hands-on exhibits. This center blends the enjoyment of a children's museum with the STEAM learning experiences of a science center, all in one location that boasts three floors and twelve galleries. Admission is just \$13 for an entire day, allowing you to leave for lunch and return later!

Be sure to take a stroll to admire the dazzling Christmas lights displayed throughout the city, including the downtown Christmas tree, Oak Park, and Scandinavian Heritage Park, all available for viewing daily. For all the Holiday activities in Minot, check out www.visitminot.org/holiday.

Stay and Save

If you're planning to stay over the holidays, take advantage of the deals page showcasing discounts up to 25% off hotels. Book now to secure your stay at a great rate.

Discounts on shopping and dining can also be found at www.visitminot.org/canadian-deals

Minot comes alive during the holiday season, offering a delightful mix of entertainment, dining, shopping, and family fun. Make the most of this festive time and create lasting memories in this charming city across the border into North Dakota.



There are many places to eat in Minot.

Margaritas at El Reparo, right. Discover authentic dishes and tasty drinks at Minot's three sit-down Mexican restaurants.



Downtown Minot comes alive during the holiday season, with shopping, entertainment and more!

Below: Mainstream Boutique 5. Visit Dakota Square mall and downtown for a variety of shopping opportunities.



First female coach in NHL: Rocanville showing its pride in Jessica Campbell

Continued from Page 21

"The year ahead is going to be a lot of fun. But to know and to understand that obviously there's still at the forefront the thoughts of other women and other people who have the same aspirations as I do," she told NHL.com when she was named to the coaching position with the Kraken. "So, to carry that torch every day and keep my focus on being a coach, but it definitely puts meaning into the work."

Campbell is a member of the NHL Coaches' Association's Female Coaches Program, which supports female coaches with skills development, leadership strategies, communication tactics, networking, and career advancement opportunities. Now in its fifth year, the NHLCA Female Coaches Program has more than 100 women, the largest membership in the program's history. This season, they welcomed 34 new women to the program.

Community pride

There always been a lot of pride in Rocanville around Campbell's career, and there is a lot of excitement in the community since she has been behind the bench with the Kraken. The sign at the rink, the holiday decorating theme, and the plan for a highway sign are some of the ways that excitement is being shown.

Andrea Logan, the Recreation Director in Rocanville, says the community is proud of her.

"What she has done throughout her career is impressive, and becoming the first female coach in the NHL is a major accomplishment," says Logan. "As a community, we want to recognize her accomplishments and support her. Rocanville is very proud of Jessica. The fact that she is a female that has made it so far in the hockey world and the NHL, and showing young girls that their dreams can be reached is fantastic, and the signs

are just a reminder of all of that."

Plans for signs, decorating

Logan explains the plans for the signs and the unveiling event in the spring.

"The main sign is going up on the north side of town coming in from Yorkton along Highway 8. The sign will be going up in the spring and we will have some kind of unveiling event. We are making some plans of what that is going to look like, but we don't have anything set in stone at this point."

"It was council's idea to do the holiday decorating," she said. "They thought that would be a great way to show our pride in what Jessica has done and encourage people to add in Seattle Kraken colors and make Rocanville Krakenville for the winter."

Tribute at rink

Rocanville currently has a mural at the community rink in honour of Jessica Campbell.

"Right now, we have a little tribute to Jess at the skating rink. We have a mural up on the wall with her 'you can, and you will' quote and I would like to get a picture of Jess in front of the mural. It is inspirational when you first walk into the rink," she said.

Dreams are achievable

Logan says Campbell is a reminder that everyone's dreams can be achievable.

"It is a reminder to the rest of us that our dreams can be achievable. It is great to acknowledge an individual's hard work and efforts from our community and show that their efforts paid off and got her to where she is now and a reminder to the rest of us that with hard



Jessica Campbell in her role as coach of the Seattle Kraken.



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Students learning shipping and receiving protocols in the Parts Department.



Far left: A student learning how to set valves on a combine engine.

Left: Hands-on learning in the Parts Department filling an order assignment.

Nelson Motors in Redvers hosts second annual Think Ag event

BY ANGELA ULRICH
 Nelson Motors and Equipment in collaboration with the South East Cornerstone School Division hosted their second annual Think Ag event, a hands on experience that provided students insight into the operations of their Redvers John Deere dealership location.

Students participating in the event had the opportunity to work in the four main departments of the dealership. They gained practical experience in the parts department, where they handled receiving parts for internal and customer orders, manufactured hoses, and engaged in a race with one of the owners to locate and store parts correctly. The service department exposed the students to working with a pulled combine engine and allowed them to complete tasks such as setting valves.

Jaret Nelson, General Manager of Nelson Motors and Equipment, emphasized the importance of a hands-on approach.

"We wanted the event to be hands on for these students. It's what our business is about, hands-on and helping customers be the best growers they can be," he said.

In addition to the departments mentioned, the students also interacted with the Precision Ag and Sales Departments. They were

tasked with assisting a "customer" in finding suitable equipment and attachments for their land, and then working with the Precision Ag team using computers to send instructions to the equipment.

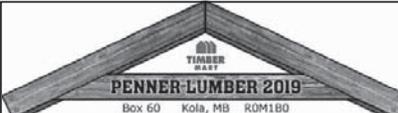
Shannon Mack, Human Resources and hiring manager, expressed her enthusiasm for the Think Ag event.

"It was truly rewarding to see the students engage meaningfully with our team," said Mack. "We discussed education options including apprenticeships, job opportunities, wages and overall work environment, giving participants a comprehensive view of

potential career paths in the industry."

Mack also mentioned that two students would be participating in work placements with the company in the near future.

Events such as these are an incredible opportunity to showcase the diversity and limitless opportunities in the agricultural industry.



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53rd Annual Canadian Western Agribition facilitates celebration once again and proves to be a moving experience

Canadian Western Agribition—a much awaited annual event that celebrates agriculture, innovation and community—has once again achieved great results in promoting one of Saskatchewan’s leading contributors to our economy. This well-attended show does well to educate the general public and school-age students so they can see firsthand what is required and what it takes to place food on our tables. It’s a great occasion for the industry to come together to compare notes, compete, collaborate and inspire each other to reach for greater heights and continuous innovation.

Hats off to some of the local farm families that repeatedly transport livestock and compete in the show including the Perrot Family with purebred and commercial Angus, Jason and Melissa Frey of Freyburn Angus Farms, the Blair-Athol Polled Herefords brought by Duncan, Val, Jeff and Grace Lees family, the Glenlees Farm by George and Corey Lees family with their prized Herefords, the Head for the Hills Family, Clark and Christine Ewart Hill with their prized Shorthorns and Karl and Karen Lishka family with their prized Herefords and the Brooks Family with their prized Herefords from Alameda. All in attendance with a concerted and team effort.

Congratulations are in order to the Kyle Family including Sheldon Kyle and Ella Wright from Kenray Ranch in Redvers as they secured Reserve Champion Senior Yearling Female and Reserve Champion Senior Yearling Bull with their prized Purebred Red Angus cattle.

At the Performance Realty booth an artistic display coined “Make It Happen” depicts the determination, grit and ingenuity of the farmer that is required to survive and excel in a business that is not for the faint of heart. One only needs to look around the trade show booths to see examples of individuals that are making it happen by implementing improvements, redesigning and continually reinventing to improve productivity towards continued viability. This booth promotes both their ag related real estate services and takes the opportunity to showcase the local area with the

Ray Boutin

town of Carlyle in attendance represented by Dawn Faber. Additionally the village of Kenosee Lake and Moose Mountain Park area are promoted by way of a Clawhammer Banjo set by camp alumni Janelle Boutin performing, a long-time student and now promoter of the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party Music Camp. The set was well received as jiggling in the hallways broke out by a couple new fans and possibly future camp students.

Around the corner Kelln Solar, a Saskatchewan based manufacturer, demonstrated a solar-powered livestock watering system that can operate year round without a hook up to the grid, and allow clean water to be delivered to livestock on demand and automatically drains back to eliminate the issue of frozen watering bowls and the need to auger through ice to water the herd.

A local farm couple from Radville, Rob and Corinne Galarneau in their Top Horizon Ag Inputs booth, educate producers on ecological soil amendment products that enable seeds to germinate better in cool soil and improve germination and crop emergence by up to 10% and a further bonus is that field tests prove that applied fertilizer can be reduced without sacrificing yield hence improving the very important bottom line.

The ingenuity of an Alberta rancher/livestock producer demonstrates his lightweight easy to operate livestock chute called the Cowgo Loading System that can be retrofitted on almost any cattle liner to ease the process of loading and off-loading livestock without the need of towing a portable chute from pasture to pasture.

The University of Regina next to the Performance Realty

booth demonstrate a process that helps individuals hone into the area that they have aptitudes for. The university and other institutions did well to pivot in pandemic times by delivering distance education. In my opinion and experience, bringing the education process back on campus has benefits in building relationships and fostering collaboration amongst students that can yield life-long beneficial relationships.

With all the above being said, it really isn’t Agribition until you get back into the barns and get a little manure underfoot and on your boots. It’s when you get into the barns, that’s where you witness and can see and feel first-hand that the spirit of the farmer, farm family and agriculture is alive and well. The definition of teamwork and pulling together can be observed as ranchers and farm families tend to their stock and groom them with care and attention as they get ready for showing and competitions.

Those of us who came to set up a trade show booth and man it for a week quickly realized that it’s a cake walk compared to the energy and time required to transport livestock and tend to their needs all week long. It’s a moving experience!

Hats off as well to some local individuals on the Agribition Board including Garth Newell, Dr. Christine Ewert Hill and Cynthia Beck who were all in attendance in the background and foreground with events and pitching in to guarantee a successful event. Thank you and job well done!

The attendance was huge with 400 exhibitors in the trade show and the last two days seemed like standing room only. Anybody who attended this annual event anchored by tradition was a winner. Plan to take in this world class informative and fun show next year which is easily accessible and essentially happens in our backyard in the Queen City.

Ray Boutin is a local reader who lives at Carlyle and works with Performance Realty.



Greg and Anna-Marie Perrot
Perrot Cattle Company, Alameda, SK



Dawn Faber, Town of Carlyle Economic Development and Ray Boutin, Farm Real Estate, Performance Realty



Janelle Boutin, Banjo Busker,
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Montmartre pool project receives big boost after Christmas for Kemoca

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After more than 50 years of providing visitors to the Kemoca Regional Park near Montmartre with reprieve from the summer heat, the outdoor pool is in the midst of being rebuilt. According to park manager Sharon May, the reason for the pool's longevity comes down to proper construction methods and meticulous maintenance over the years.

"When they did it, they built it correctly," she said, noting that the official grand opening was back in 1971. "They made sure it had weeping tile underneath it, and then they left water in it so you had your counterbalances there for winter, so Mother Nature couldn't wreak havoc."

Leaving a certain amount of water in the pool over winter instead of draining it completely was an especially important maintenance method as May explained how the weight in the pool counters pressure from the ground surrounding it.

"Any pressure from the ground is met with the weight from the top," she said.

But, as with all things, time and trees had an impact on the structure. Roots from nearby trees had grown toward the pool, pushing on its walls until something major needed to be done above and beyond crack filling maintenance.

The approximately \$4 million project received a huge boost thanks to a successful Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant that saw more than \$2.5 million in combined dollars from the federal and provincial governments (\$1,366,240 federal, \$1,138,420 provincial), plus \$910,941 in recipient funding. Covered under the project is construction of a new pool with a zero-depth beach entry and spray park.

"Accessibility was getting harder," May said. "You've got older clientele that wanted to use the pool for therapy reasons, but they couldn't get into the pool very well, and the building was not accessible either."

Also included in the construction project is a new facility for change rooms, showers, washrooms, and amenities—allowing for enhanced accessibility for all users. A spray park will also be added to the pool area, something families with younger children were interested in having at the location.

While the majority of the new pool wish list has been checked off, there are still a few items that will need to be placed on the back burner for now.

"The board had made a decision with regards to some of the spray features," May said. "We couldn't put in all the spray features being proposed to us, but we asked to have them plumbed in and then get them at a future date."

Even with the government grants, there's still a lot of fundraising in store for the project.

"We went from a 2,500-square-foot pool to a 4,000-square-foot pool, so expense-wise, it's interesting to try and figure out what your expenses are going to be," May said. "We're going to keep fundraising and keep going."

Kemoca Regional Park is a draw not only for local and surrounding communities, but increasingly a hot-spot for those further afield.

"We get people from Fillmore area, Sedley, Odessa, Vibank," May listed. "They come for swim lessons for the week, and they'll camp and stay so they're here enjoying it. Local families out in the RM will come and camp and do the swimming for the week, and then we've started to slowly see people from Regina driving out."

With the quiet drive along Highway 48, it's common to see people from White City and Pilot Butte bring their families to Kemoca as well.

"We've been a very family-oriented park here, it's been



Aerial view of the pool, which first opened in 1971.

like that since it was established, and it's stayed that way—especially with the swimming lessons," May said.

With 52 full-season sites available, the park is a huge tourism draw according to Village of Montmartre Administrator Dale Brenner.

"This is definitely something we're going to be proud of," he said of the new pool project. "Without that infrastructure, it's hard to attract people. It attracts tourism."

As is often the case, financial assistance from the closest municipalities is strong, and the RM of Montmartre and the Village are no different.

"The Village and the RM are definitely supporting us on this project as well," May said. "They see the value in it, which is awesome."

Latest fundraiser sees big donations

On Nov. 30, the community gathered for a special Christmas for Kemoca fundraiser that noted great food, entertainment, and a stellar silent auction.

"Some people bid on an item, and then they donated it back, so then it could be bid on again," May explained, adding that the board is still collecting donations and working out exactly how much was raised from the event after expenses. The fundraiser sold 360 tickets to fill the hall at the all-ages event, featuring hypnotist Corrie J.

There were some generous financial commitments made during the evening, one of those being a \$10,000 donation from Cornerstone Credit Union.

"The local committee did an excellent job in their application," said Cornerstone CEO Doug Jones. "It's a significant project for that community, the pool is a critical component to sustaining that community long-term and there is lots of community



The building exterior at the Kemoca Regional Park pool.

support around it."

The Kemoca Regional Park Authority was one of four recipients through Project Cornerstone, which has helped support projects in 50 communities since 2006 with total funding of \$651,000.

Jones explained that money through Project Cornerstone is designed to help various projects reach that last homestretch in terms of fundraising.

"Projects that have already have a plan and are maybe even near completion that need funding to get it completed, or the project has successfully done some fundraising in other ways, and just needs to match additional funding to help get their budget to actually finish the project," he said when asked how the Project Cornerstone funds help.

The local Montmartre Rivals hockey club also donated \$10,000 towards the project during the event—another big boost to the finish line for organizers.

"We also got a donation in memory of Adam Herold, so that was also very much appreciated," May said.

The targeted opening date for the new pool is June 28, which May believes is still a realistic goal at this point. However, winter is not a time where this park manager gets to rest by a warm fire and relax, there's a staggering amount of work behind the scenes. With a little luck and a streak of decent weather, May hopes to have the facility ready for the popular Shultz Golf Classic that happens in June.



Pouring cement at the new pool.



Demolition of the previous pool structure.



RCMP and Fire Department attend Carievale Christmas Tree Lighting

On Thursday, November 21, the elves from the Argyle Fire Department along with the Carduff RCMP attended the Carievale Christmas Tree Lighting and handed out treats to the kids in attendance.

Jared Phair photos



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Sinc Harrison with friends and family and Highways Minister Dave Marit, at left, and Deputy Premier Jim Reiter, at right.



Sinc Harrison being presented with the King Charles Coronation Medal by Deputy Premier Jim Reiter.

Sinclair Harrison recognized in Legislature Harrison presented with King Charles Coronation Medal

Sinclair Harrison was invited to the Saskatchewan Legislature on December 4 by Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark.

Weedmark did a member statement in the Legislative Assembly about Sinclair.

“Mr. Speaker, I’d like to join with the Premier, the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Highways in introducing my friend Sinclair Harrison and his family in the Speaker’s gallery this afternoon,” said Weedmark.

“Sinc has contributed greatly to this province over the years. He’s had so many honours over the years, including being inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame. And he’s going to be receiving another honour this afternoon.

“I met Sinc when I first moved to Moosomin. And I first knew him as the very outspoken reeve of the RM of Moosomin. And over the years he took that role, he took his role as the long-time president of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and did so much for the province over the years.

“And he’s never been afraid to get his hands dirty, never been afraid to do the real work, literally. I remember one time that when the Red Lily Wind Farm was in the planning stages . . . It was one of the first wind farms in Saskatchewan, and before it was built there had to be a tower go up to do some wind tests. And Sinclair and Mark Bateman and Samit Sharma from Gaia Power were out in the field, literally putting up the tower themselves to get that done.

“So I think that speaks volumes about Sinc. He was instrumental in getting that whole project off the ground, and he was out there in the field literally, literally doing the work.

“So with Sinc in the Speaker’s gallery today are his friend and colleague Mark Bateman, who was the long-time reeve of the RM of Martin; his daughter Tami Moffatt and her husband, Terry Weber; grandson Kyle Moffatt and daughter Bailey; Paula Potter, her husband, Carlin, and their son Zachary and grandson Mark.

“And I ask everyone to join me in welcoming Sinc and his family to their Legislative Assembly.”

Municipal leader leaves a legacy of service to Saskatchewan

Weedmark continued, “Mr. Speaker, Sinclair Harrison is someone who has contributed greatly to this province. To his family, Sinc is a man of compassion, integrity, and



Sinclair Harrison and Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark on the steps of the Legislature.

generosity. To his friends, Sinc is a loyal, lifelong friend. And to the province, Sinc is someone who made a difference.

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“He was elected to the RM of Moosomin council in 1974, became reeve two years later, and served the RM for 30 years. He was elected to the SARM board in 1986, became president in 1994, serving eight years as SARM president. He was a strong, unwavering voice for rural Saskatchewan and a tireless defender of rural interests. He’s most proud of his role in stopping the forced amalgamation of municipalities that the former government had attempted. His advocacy for rural Saskatchewan in that role will never be forgotten.

“He made a historic contribution to this province in his work on SARM’s land claims committee, helping pave the way for land purchases for both treaty land entitlement and specific land claims. He was involved in bringing one of the first wind farms to Saskatchewan, forming the Farmer Rail Car Coalition, served on the action committee on the rural economy, chaired the Hudson Bay Route Association, ensured the Trans Canada Trail was completed across Saskatchewan, and did so much more. Through those roles Sinc has made absolutely incredible contributions to this province.

“Mr. Speaker, Sinc Harrison has led a life of service and made a tremendous contribution to this province, and I want to recognize and thank him for his contributions. Thank you.”

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A ceremony was held in the Legislature Tuesday for the unveiling of a bison head in the room where daily caucus meetings are held. The bison head was gifted by the Saskatchewan Business Association with support from the National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food.

Another super busy week

It was a busy week last week!

In addition to very busy days of committee meetings, house leader meetings, caucus meetings, and sitting in the Legislative Assembly, these are a few of the things that kept me busy last week:

Monday I attended the Saskatchewan School Boards Association banquet. I sat with the Southeast Cornerstone School Division board at the banquet, then visited with the members of the Prairie Valley School Division.

Tuesday I gave my inaugural speech in the legislature, speaking for 32 minutes on why I wanted to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly, thanking those who helped me get there, touching on some of my priorities moving forward, and speaking on why I support the Throne Speech.

I welcomed the Grade 7 and 8 classes from Chief Kahkewistahaw School to the Legislature Tuesday—26 students and six teachers—which was appropriate because I spoke a little about Kahkewistahaw in my inaugural speech.

I attended the unveiling of a Buffalo head installed at the Legislature Tuesday, in the room where we hold our daily caucus meetings. The bison head was gifted by the Saskatchewan Bison Association with support from the National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food.

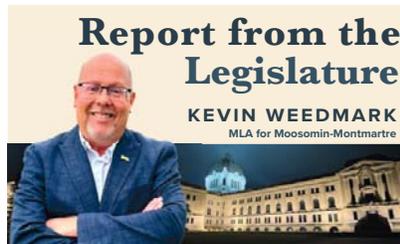
Wednesday I welcomed Sinclair Harrison and his family to the Legislature. Premier Scott Moe, Deputy Premier Jim Reiter, Highways Minister Dave Marit and myself introduced Sinc to the Legislature, and then I gave a Member Statement honoring Sinc. Many family members and friend Mark Bateman were there for the event and I was honored to invite them all to the Legislature and give them a brief tour.

At the end of my member statement something very rare happened, Sinc received a standing ovation from the members, something longtime members tell me they can never remember happening before.

Sinc was then presented with the King Charles Coronation Medal.

Congratulations to Sinc, who contributed so much to Saskatchewan.

Wednesday night, for the second time I managed to hit three receptions in one night, visiting with members of the Saskatchewan Mining Association from 5-7 pm, then attending a reception hosted by several Saskatchewan businesses, then ending the evening visiting with members of the Saskatchewan Heavy Construction As-



sociation.

Thursday we voted on the Speech from the Throne, passing the motion, and then passed two pieces of legislation, the Affordability Act, which will keep Saskatchewan the most affordable place to live in Canada, and the extension of the exemption of home heating from the federal Carbon tax, both of which will make a difference for families.

And on Friday, I did something that is not done very often, I travelled across the riding by train with the CPKC Holiday Train. I was there for the show and the presentation in Moosomin, Broadview, and Indian Head. I thank all those who support their local food banks, and it was great to meet with people in Moosomin, Broadview and Indian Head.

Speech from the Throne

Our government kicked off the thirtieth session of the Saskatchewan Legislature with the Speech from the Throne, entitled "A New Beginning." Along with committing to record investments into health care, education and affordability, our government looks forward to continuing to invest in Saskatchewan's strong economy and vibrant communities.

We will ensure that Saskatchewan is one of the best places in Canada to grow a small business by keeping the small business tax rate at one per cent.

To support the next generation of young entrepreneurs, we will create a young entrepreneur bursary. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce will be provided with funding to work with local Chambers of Commerce to award a \$5,000 bursary to a promising

young entrepreneur in their community.

To support the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in Saskatchewan, our government will develop a new investment tax incentive based on a proposal from the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce.

To ensure more young people continue to work, live and raise a family in Saskatchewan after they graduate, our government will increase the Graduate Retention Program benefit by 20 per cent. The maximum benefit for a student with a four-year degree will increase from \$20,000 to \$24,000. The benefit for graduates of one-, two- and three-year programs will also increase by 20 per cent.

Our government will introduce a \$5,000 Class 1 Driver Training rebate to help offset the cost of truck driver training.

We are committed to growing vibrant communities through revenue sharing and additional support to keep our communities vibrant. Municipal Revenue Sharing increased to a record \$340.2 million this year, allowing local governments to invest in local priorities.

To provide communities with additional assistance, our government will double the Community Rink Affordability Grant from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per ice surface. We will also make it more affordable for school community councils and parents to construct or refurbish school playground equipment through a new School Playground Equipment Fund.

Our government is prioritizing making communities safer by continuing our effort to add 500 more police officers and 500 more addictions recovery spaces. We will also strengthen legislation to keep our communities and neighbourhoods safer.

Amendments to The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act will provide officers with additional authority to shut down nuisance properties.

Further legislative and regulatory changes will address disruptive behaviour on public property.

Much of today's crime in our communities is being driven by drug addiction. That is why we are creating 500 recovery spaces to help individuals access treatment and leave a life of addiction.

As our government makes these investments and continues the work towards a strong economy and vibrant communities, I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to reach out to my office at office@kevinweedmark.ca or stop in to see Charlene at 622 Main Street in Moosomin.



Speaking with Minister of Environment Travis Keisig during the bison head unveiling ceremony.



Audrey Trombley receiving an award at the Saskatchewan School Boards Association banquet.



Left: Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark and Victor Santos Cardoza on the steps of the Legislature.

Above: Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark and Victor Santos Cardoza with Premier Scott Moe.

Right: Wayne Mantyka with CTV Regina taking a photo Victor Santos Cardoza at the Legislature.



Victor Santos Cardoza invited to Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly

Victor Santos Cardoza was invited to the Saskatchewan Legislature November 28 by Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark. Weedmark did a member statement in the Legislative Assembly about Victor that day.

"Victor has an amazing story. His family fled to Canada in 2011 after his father witnessed the murder of a journalist in Honduras, and the family found safety in Moosomin," said Weedmark. "The family's refugee claim was denied and they were scheduled to be deported in July of 2017. There was a massive community effort to allow the family to stay and it paid off. Last year they became citizens of this country. The family have contributed greatly to their community and Victor was the first

youth councillor on Moosomin town council, a new position created to allow high-school age students a chance to have input," Weedmark continued. "He wanted to contribute more as an elected member of council, so he ran for council this fall, and in a field of 11 candidates, he was elected. Victor graduated high school and is apprenticing as a carpenter on his way to a red seal designation. I want to congratulate all those who were elected and I especially want to recognize Victor Santos Cardoza who wanted to pay back a community that did so much for his family, who became the youngest councillor elected in Moosomin, and who has a bright future ahead of him."



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Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition is back

Continued from front

Jeannot said he knows a lot of people will be excited to hear that the big fireworks competition is back this year.

"I think the reaction will be positive. We have seen so many people drive from hours away only to be disappointed when they arrived and heard that the competition was not happening in previous years."

Jeannot says that their goal is to have at least 3,000 to 4,000 people each night come to watch the competition.

"We want to sell as many tickets as we can. The profits go back into the park upgrades. This past year we did a bunch of updates to the store. We put all new fridges and freezers in the kitchen and re-insulated and heated the back room for storage during the winter.

"We would like to upgrade the marina eventually, and we are looking at expanding the water treatment plant as well. We need another holding tank, we are going

through so much water because there's more people out there, so that's the game plan."

Jeannot says that people can show their community support by buying tickets, coming and spending the day at the lake, camping there for the weekend, and spreading the word.

"I feel like if people think about it now, they'll start booking their holidays around the August long weekend."

The lake board is also seeking sponsorships for the event.

"The board is going to go back to when we had sponsorships for this event. I think we are going to reach out and start doing that again and get some corporate advertising and support," said Jeannot.

Jeannot played a part in organizing last year's smaller firework show, but this year's will be much larger scale. Jeannot said there's a whole team behind this event making it happen.

"I helped with the one last year and it went pretty smooth, there's lots of good people on the board that have done it for years so they have the experience. Everyone is willing to help and get it done," said Jeannot. "Layne McFarlane, Rob Hanson, Garry Bonkowski, and Karen Hebert are on the entertainment committee, and we also are planning to reach out to more volunteers and recruit a few other people we know are interested in helping out."

Jeannot has also discussed the possibility of hosting a ball tournament that weekend.

Jeannot says that the demand for the competition played a big role in bringing it back this year.

"People keep asking for it, and we want to do these upgrades at the lake store, we need to fundraise somehow. Little fundraising events are good but it's hard to find volunteers to do something every single weekend, then people are burnt out. So if we can put on one big event, and then

maybe a couple smaller events this summer, we are going to do that," said Jeannot.

"The impact is huge on the community, you get people staying in the hotels, and coming into town to eat. I think it helps out the community big time."

Jeannot and the Moosomin Regional Park Board are eager to start organizing the next Living Skies Come Alive firework competition.

"We've got to get it back, and if we don't, we are going to lose it and someone else is going to capitalize on the fundraiser. It's good for the community and the lake," said Jeannot.

Jeannot also says that Moosomin Regional Park is hosting its Winter Wonderland event in February.

"We are doing the Winter Wonderland this February, which will have an ice fishing derby, sleigh rides, and more fun stuff like that. Right now it's tentatively booked for February 2."



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Head for the Hills Shorthorns, Clark and Christine Hill of Redvers.



Katrina Lynch of X-treme Speckle Park, Redvers.

Local producers attend Agribition in Regina

Southeast Saskatchewan had a strong presence at the Canadian Western Agribition held from November 25-30 in Regina.

These photos are of a few, but not all, of the area's producers that attended the premier event renowned for being the best beef show on the continent and the largest livestock show in Canada.

The show and commercial animals highlight the diversity and exceptional quality of the livestock in the area.

Angela Ulrich photos



Above: The Easton Family of Eastondale Angus, Wawota.

Left: Kerri Walker of Furze Farms, Fairlight.

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"Grandma, there's only seven kittens left and oneeeeeee tail," cried my granddaughter with big sobs and gasps as she tried to say 'one.' My assurance that everything would be alright didn't help at all. "But Grandma, what will happen to Cuddles?"

Cuddles was a calico kitten, one of eight born in Hunter's uncle's barn. Hunter and her mom often drove out to the farm to see this batch of kittens but one night, something got into the barn and sadly, all that was left of kitten #8 was a tail.

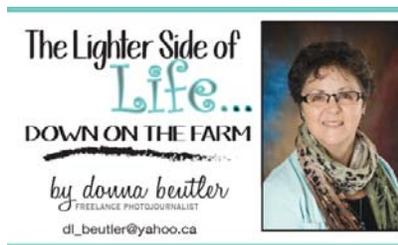
Hunter was very attached to this particular kitten. Her tears that day as hubby and I were eating our lunch on our back deck were unstoppable. We were relatively new to living in town and had brought our house cat from the farm with the plan that we would never get another house cat.

And, so it was that day that I drove out to the farm to pick this little five-week-old calico up and bring her to town. That night as the kitten curled up between hubby and I in bed he asked, "Why is Hunter getting another cat? They have two already. That's just crazy that her mom and dad are letting her get another cat. One cat in town is one too many." And on he went. Finally, I said, "Hunter isn't getting another cat." That was all I said. And that is all he said. He had married a cat-loving gal who had passed that love of cats onto her kids and grandkids and despite 'the plan' of eventually moving towards a cat-free household, he knew in that moment he was hooped—we had officially gained another feline friend.

I think of this often, though it's been eight or nine years since that day because every morning when I open my eyes, there is my calico cat, three inches from my face, her paw across my arm or my cheek—a constant reminder that I had brought her to a warm, safe place but also a reminder that I can't keep them all.

In the years since, and after the loss of my farm cat turned town cat at the age of 17, I have only caved one time since. The way I look at it is hubby's ideal is zero cats, mine is four and we have compromised and settled on two. That's working together at its best don't you think?

And working together has really been what it's all about down on the farm for the past 47 years. While we have primarily grain farmed, we've had pigs, chickens and cows from time to time, always settling back into mainly grain. Things didn't always go smoothly over the years. We worked hard, battled bugs and hoppers and too much rain and not enough rain and early



snows and hail and low prices and high input costs and you-name-it-we've-done-it kind of thing. But we kept working—together. For better or worse. I always tried to help as best I could though I definitely wasn't the best truck driver nor did I score high marks with the straight-cut header. Nevertheless, I baled and cultivated (doesn't that ever date me) and combined and herded cattle and fed orphaned calves and whatever I could to help. Was it always easy? Nope. Was it a lot of fun? Sometimes, but not always. Did we ever get tired? All the time. Did we keep on going? Yup. Every. Single. Time.

I sometimes wonder what the take-away was for our children during their growing-up years. I hope they have forgotten the times I said, "Oh, I forgot to buy ketchup," when the real answer was that we couldn't afford it. Now in their 40's, do they remember some of the tough times we went through together? Did the tough times make them stronger, more resilient, more cautious with their finances, perhaps? I can't speak for them but I know this much—the tough times give hubby and I great perspective. Great doses of reality in fact, not to mention a sincere compassion for those who are going through tough times, financially or otherwise.

As I watch what shapes the lives and hearts of my grands and in particular, my 'on-the-farm' grands because I know they are walking in a similar path to the one I grew up with and one that I have continued on for my entire adult life, I wonder what work ethics will guide them as young adults, what will bring them joy in their day-to-day lives and what kind of attitudes will carry them through the good times and the bad times whether on or off the farm.

Nowadays, when I pull into the farmyard, I see the twins (13) crossing the farmyard with a plan in place—I can see it on their faces. The plan. The determination. The joy of being in the great outdoors. In their hands there might be logs they have split, wood for the next great tree stand, a battery-operated screwdriver and a bag of screws to build something, the leaf blower or weed whacker to tidy up the yard. They are often on a mission these young farmers and outdoorsmen.

Today I asked one of the twins what he wanted for Christmas. "Chainsaw," was the single word reply and two minutes later a text with a link to the exact chainsaw he has his eye on. He has a plan, one that hopefully relies heavily on safe chainsaw cutting techniques of course, but also one in which he sees something that is useful and practical in, shall we say, his "line of work." And if it keeps my behind-the-camper log pile stacked high, it might be the best gift ever!

This fall, the routine for our grands and some of their friends has been to come to Grandma's house for lunch – some bring their own, while some wait for Gramps and I to dish something up. This group of four grands and two or three friends brings us lots of laughs, a fair bit of noise and a whole lot of dirty dishes. And we wouldn't change it for the world especially knowing it won't last forever. I will never get tired of making crepes for these kids who delight us because they take so much joy in the little things, something we would be hard-pressed at times to do in our busy, daily lives.

As I finish this column off, we are in the midst of our first winter storm. The snow is falling, the wind is howling and the highways are downright nasty. At least they were on the five-mile trip out to the farm and back this evening. I am a bit envious of the people who have made good use of the past week or so to get their Christmas decorations up and I have to say, when I pulled back into town, those lights were so inviting and so warm feeling. And so, it's time! Time to recall all the Christmases you have enjoyed and why you have enjoyed them. Time to spend with family and thank the good Lord for each one of them. Time to reach out to others who need a hand. Time to prepare for gatherings with family and friends.

And with that, it's also time to sign off. To our all our farmers and friends who love the land and the people of this province and strive to make it the best it can be for their families and their community and for future generations to come, take care out there. See you next time!



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Saskatchewan

Moe, Harrison respond to US tariff talk

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Nov. 25, president-elect Donald Trump vowed to place heavy tariffs on the United States' three largest trading partners—Canada, Mexico, and China—saying that the tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico in particular would remain until action regarding migrants crossing borders and illegal drugs (particularly fentanyl) were undertaken.

Trump has proposed a 25 per cent tariff on Canadian goods entering the United States.

Premier Scott Moe said he felt the tariffs would have a significant impact on provincial exports. Speaking with reporters early last week, he pledged support in working with provincial and federal counterparts toward a solution.

"In Saskatchewan, we export about 60 per cent of our products to the U.S., so I don't think any job or any industry would be untouched with a 25 per cent tariff from the U.S. on all Canadian products," he stated. "We'll be working alongside our federal government, in outreach that they have with the incoming Trump administration, we'll be working, and have already started working with our Council of Federation tables, as well as our federal provincial territorial tables at the ministerial level where we can to advocate and use our collective resources and contacts."

Acknowledging the border concerns presented by Trump, Moe would like to see a Canadian Border Services Agency with some bigger teeth.

"One of the things that I'll suggest to the Prime Minister is to increase the border security initiative that we have through the CBSA, maybe even bring the CBSA under an arm of the military, and increase some of the supports, which would also increase our percentage of defence funding, our military funding as well," Moe said. "I think that might be a way for us



Left is Provincial Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison and right is Premier Scott Moe.

to really work collaboratively, to work together with our American neighbour, but also ensuring that we do have a secure border."

Provincial Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison spoke about the tariffs while at Canadian Western Agribition in Regina.

"We are well aware of the 25 per cent tariff announced by president-elect Trump," he said. "We will meet this challenge head on, and we look forward to working together as a common front. Saskatchewan will continue to engage in other trade missions to strengthen our markets for products and help establish new ones. Trade diversification is a key to sustained growth and is only becoming more important."

Harrison reassured producers in the opening of a morning session during last

Tuesday's Grain Expo.

"You have my commitment as the new Minister of Agriculture that a top priority will continue to be talking and listening to our partners and stakeholders like you," he said. "We as government need your input to help guide and inform our actions, and my door is always open to hear your industry's concerns and to find solutions."

Others were not as phased by the looming tariff threat. One such voice was Karina Gistelink, Asset President of Potash with BHP, who spoke on the progress of their \$18 billion Jansen mine project currently underway last week during Agribition.

"We have a strategy to be geographically diversified with our sales. So we will not just sell to the U.S., we will sell

all over the globe," Gistelink explained when asked by reporters how the tariffs might affect BHP, if at all. "Obviously, the U.S. is a big end user consumer for potash, and we will take that into account. Now, one thing I can tell you, tariffs come and go and again, we need to be resilient to tariffs, to price changes, and we will do that by being the lowest cost, safest, most sustainable mine here in Saskatchewan."

One needs only look back to the 2018 'tit-for-tat' tariff banter initiated by the U.S. and retaliated upon by Canada for an example of tariffs coming and going, as Gistelink noted. In the aftermath of those trade disputes, taxpayers and businesses bore the brunt of the economic impact.

Figures released late last week from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce predict far-reaching consequences for the economies both north and south of the border should the 25 per cent tariff come to fruition. The group foresees Canada's GDP dropping by 2.6 per cent, or \$78 billion, working out to \$1,900 per person a year. In the U.S., their GDP would also shrink by 1.6 per cent or \$467 billion USD, costing each one of their citizens some \$1,300 annually.

"A 25 per cent tariff applied across-the-board on all U.S. imports could push Canada's economy into recession by the middle of 2025," said Stephen Tapp, Chief Economist with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. "But these results also underscore Canada's economic importance to the U.S.—something that's often under-appreciated south of the border. Make no mistake, if Trump imposed these tariffs, it would represent a significant negative shock to the U.S. economy. It would raise costs for businesses, make American production less competitive internationally, and raise prices even more for consumers who have recently suffered through the pandemic and the highest inflation in generations."

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

Meighen Haddad LLP
129 Souris Street
P.O. Box 397
Melita, Manitoba, R0M 1L0
Attention: Karen Beauchamp

PROPERTY:

THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 23-4-29 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN REAL PROPERTY APPLICATION NO. 90-11392 AND DEED NO. 53792B0

Including house (5 bedroom, 2 1/2 baths, built in 1993) and outbuildings (including a machine shed) and all bins (3 flat bottom and 2 hopper bins with aeration fans) located on the property. Previous tenant has use of bins until summer 2025

CONDITIONS OF TENDER

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on December 18, 2024 in an envelope marked "TENDER".
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale, including sale subject to court approval.
- The closing date of the sale shall be March 3, 2025 on which date the Vendors shall provide a registrable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2025.

For further information contact Ashley Robinson (204) 799-2609
or Karen Beauchamp (204) 522-3225

Meighen Haddad LLP

LAW FIRM

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

Meighen Haddad LLP
129 Souris Street
P.O. Box 397
Melita, Manitoba
R0M 1L0
Attention: Karen Beauchamp

PROPERTY:

Parcel 1:
SW 1/4 23-1-28 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS
Including two steel bins to be empty by July 15, 2025

Parcel 2:
NW 1/4 14-1-28 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS RESERVED IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN

Parcel 3:
LEGAL SUBDIVISIONS 15 AND 16 AND THE NORTH 1/2 OF NORTH 1/2 OF LEGAL SUBDIVISIONS 9 AND 10 OF SECTION 15-1-28 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS

Parcel 4:
E 1/2 OF SECTION 22-1-28 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS

Including 43 x 80 steel Quonset, 40 x 60 steel shed, house built in 1964, all to be empty by closing.

One surface lease to be assigned to successful Tenderor.

Half section sold together and not as individual quarters.

Tenders can be for individual parcels or more than one parcel.

If tendering on more than one parcel, please indicate the amount offered for each parcel.

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on **January 24, 2025** in an envelope marked "TENDER".
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be **April 30, 2025** on which date the Vendors shall provide a registrable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2025.

For further information contact Carey Murray at 204-264-0342

Meighen Haddad LLP

LAW FIRM

USask announces new micro-credentials in sustainable irrigation

BY BRETT MAKULOWICH, USASK

Two new micro-credentials at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) provide professionals the opportunity to gain knowledge in water management and irrigation agronomy.

The new non-credit, community-level Sustainable Irrigation program is offered by the College of Agriculture and Bioresources (AgBio) at USask. Learners have the option to use their completed courses in this program towards two different micro-credentials: Sustainable Irrigation - Irrigation Agronomy, and Sustainable Irrigation - Water Management.

The program is designed for agronomists, agrologists, producers, engineers, and anyone who is interested in sound decision-making in irrigated agriculture. Learners are introduced to the conditions required for sustainable irrigation, including topics related to protection of the environment, regulations, technical design, water management, and farm management.

"Sustainable irrigation contributes to a more resilient agricultural sector in Canada by increasing agricultural productivity and mitigating environmental impacts,"

said Dr. Tom Yates (PhD), associate dean academic of AgBio. "These new micro-credentials are a great example of how the College of Agriculture and Bioresources strives to respond to community need by creating new and innovative programming."

To accommodate the professional work lives of learners, course materials are available online and may be completed asynchronously leading up to a three day in-person assessment for the micro-credentials. Learners can earn specializations in Water Management and/or Irrigation Agronomy based off which courses they choose to take.

"Developing an irrigation plan for a parcel of land is just of one of many hands-on learning assessments that takes place during the in-person portion of the micro-credentials," said Dr. Joel Ens (PhD), instructor and developer of the program. "Saskatchewan's prairie landscape provides learners an excellent opportunity to put what they've learnt into practice."

The program is currently open for registration. Questions about the program can be directed to irrigation@usask.ca.



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BHP's Jansen mine ahead of schedule

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

For a project of its size to be ahead of the game is cause for celebration. Karina Gistelink, BHP's Potash Asset President, was happy to relay those sentiments to an audience at Canadian Western Agribition in Regina recently.

"Things are going really, really well at Jansen," she said. "We are now over 60 per cent complete on the first part of the investment Jansen 1, which will create a line that can produce 4.2 million tons of product. We're ahead of schedule, which is unheard of in a project this size. Typically, these projects have quite a bit of overrun in time, but we're ahead of schedule. More importantly, we are also getting ready to actually ship the product."

What does Gistelink credit to the Jansen project being this far advanced? Essentially, it boils down to planning and good teamwork.

"One is the innovative way in which we are approaching the project, through an integrated project team," she explained, eschewing the typical EPCM project management model. "We're actually building it together with the large construction companies."

The second thing is, I think we did a good job in planning ahead for some of the labor shortages," continued Gistelink. "We went out and actually recruited labor force here in Saskatchewan, but also in other provinces to really make sure we have the critical trades for construction available. And I think last but not least is just the way we have actually been thinking about community readiness. One of the things that usually companies trip over is that the infrastructure is not available in the communities. And we've thought carefully about this, and this has helped us address some of these challenges."

With signed agreements in hand between BHP and global customers for 12 million tons of Saskatchewan potash, Gistelink is anticipating first shipments to happen in about two years.

"We're ready," she said. "We will be operating in 2026; we'll have our first train out of Jansen in 2026 and our first shipment out in 2027."

BHP's investment in the Jansen project has been significant and will bolster economies in surrounding municipalities, who will feel the ripple effects in secondary and

tertiary industries as well. The company has already committed \$18 billion, making this the largest private investment in the history of Saskatchewan.

"It is also the single largest capital investment of BHP in its entire 139-year history," Gistelink said. "This is a big deal. It is really an important milestone for a company and for Saskatchewan."

There are around 30,000 people living in the region around the Jansen project, and Gistelink estimates some 900 employees will be recruited to work at the mine. Taking into account those employees often bring families along with them, that means around 3,500 more people calling the area home.

"That's massive for that region, and today there's simply not the housing units available, the child care spots available, the health care system is already under strain," Gistelink noted in the face of the projected 10 per cent population boom. "So we need to work together again, collaborative, to solve some of these challenges, to enable the growth."

In anticipation of those growing challenges, a community group known as the Sylvite Four-Six Regional Development Incorporation has been established that is focused on supporting outcomes in the areas of housing, childcare, labour, training and education, inclusive relationships, emergency services, infrastructure, and economic development.

One example Gistelink pointed to was employment, with the mining sector projected to see 20,000 new jobs created in the next five years.

"We need to work together to find innovative ways to bring new people into the industry and create career paths that are meaningful, that they want to stay in the industry for," she said. As a solution for the Jansen project, BHP has partnered with the Carlton Trail Regional College in Humboldt and Saskatchewan Polytechnic to create programming that prepares more of the local workforce for the mining sector and gets them on site.

"It's not just about filling the 900 jobs that Jansen will create, it's about that long-term competitiveness of Saskatchewan," Gistelink said. "We need to do more of these programs, and we need to do this collectively."

Pre-employment mining programs in Saskatchewan

have proven to be successful, such as the Morris Interactive - Digital Transformation in Potash Mining program, which saw the partnership of the Cowessess First Nation and The Mosaic Company. Two years into the program, it boasts an 83 per cent success rate and has funding secured for a future five years. Cameco, Orano, and SSR Mining are other companies with similar partnership success stories in the province.

"As an industry, we need to continue to appeal to our workforce, to people who may not even have considered a career in mining or in agriculture. Engaging women, Indigenous communities, new Canadians can help us unlock the full potential of our labor force and ensure that we have the talent needed to drive our industry forward," Gistelink said. "Achieving this will require, however, that we all lean in, that we all take risks and that we all bring solutions to the table."

Another important aspect is linking with local suppliers, which Gistelink noted represents almost a billion dollars worth of BHP's overall investment in the Jansen project.

"We actually work a lot with local small- to medium-sized companies," she told the Plain & Valley. "So out of the \$18 billion project, we've already spent about almost \$1 billion with local companies here in Saskatchewan. There's companies of all sizes—your mom and pop shops, businesses of one to 10 people, really small business, all the way to the Grahams and the SSR Mining of the world. So absolutely it's a priority for us, local procurement."

Gistelink also mentioned how the Saskatchewan Industrial & Mining Suppliers Association plays a big role in making those connections.

"We work together with SIMSA a lot to develop very sustainable value chains for the construction phase, but also for ongoing operations," she said, adding that BHP was present for last year's SIMSA Mining Forum. "We just hosted with them a SIMSA-BHP supplier day, where we actually bring together existing suppliers, but also people who are interested in working with BHP to learn more about Jansen, about the upcoming work that is available, the work packages that they can bid on, and also on how to do business with BHP."

Once Jansen is fully operational, an estimated 8.5 million tonnes of potash per year will be produced.

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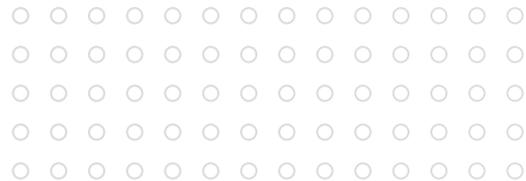
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Dec. 24: 8am - 4pm
Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**
Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

ROCANVILLE HOME CENTRE
Dec. 24: 8am - 4pm
Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**
Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

WHITEWOOD HOME CENTRE
Dec. 24: 8am - 4pm
Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**
Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

BROADVIEW HOME CENTRE/LIQUOR
Dec. 24: 9am - 4pm
Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**
Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

GRENFELL C-STORE, HOME CENTRE/LIQUOR
Dec. 24: 8am - 6pm
Dec. 25 & 26: 12pm - 6pm
Jan. 1: 12pm - 6pm

MOOSOMIN C-STORE
OPEN REGULAR HOURS

ROCANVILLE C-STORE
Dec. 24: 7am - 6pm
Dec. 25 & 26: 12pm - 6pm
Jan. 1: 12pm - 6pm

WHITEWOOD C-STORE
OPEN REGULAR HOURS

BROADVIEW C-STORE
OPEN REGULAR HOURS

KIPLING C-STORE
Dec. 24: 6am - 6pm
Dec. 25 & 26: 10am - 8pm
Jan. 1: 10am - 8pm

MOOSOMIN LIQUOR
Dec. 24: 11am - 7pm
Dec. 25: **CLOSED**
Dec. 26 & Jan. 1: 12pm - 8pm

MOOSOMIN FOOD STORE
Dec. 24: 9am - 4pm
Dec. 25: **CLOSED**
Dec. 26: 11am - 5pm
Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

ROCANVILLE, WHITEWOOD, BROADVIEW, GRENFELL & KIPLING FOOD STORE

Dec. 24: 9am - 4pm
Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**
Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

WHITEWOOD DAIRY QUEEN
Dec. 24: 10am - 6pm
Dec. 25: **CLOSED**
Dec. 26: 11am - 8pm
Dec. 31: 11am - 8pm
Jan. 1: 11am - 8pm

BROADVIEW AGRO
Dec. 24: 8am - 4pm
Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**
Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

BULK PETROLEUM
Dec. 24: 8am - 4pm
Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**
Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

MOOSOMIN & BROADVIEW ADMIN
Dec. 24: 8am - 3pm
Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**
Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

Have a Merry & Safe Holiday Season!