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Plain & Valley



Moose Mountain Rodeo • RCMP Musical Ride • Living Skies Fireworks Competition Major events coming this sur up

BY KRISTEN WEEDMARK

It's going to be a busy few weeks for events in southeast Saskatchewan, with the Moose Mountain Rodeo coming up in Kennedy July 18 and 19, the RCMP Mu-Actured y July 18 and 19, the RCMP fur-sical Ride coming to Wawota on Tuesday, July 28, and the skies lighting up for the sixth annual Living Skies Come Alive fire-works competion at Moosomin Lake Au-gust 1 and 2

RCMP Musical Ride

The RCMP Musical Ride is coming to Wawota on Tuesday, July 28, and organiz-ers are expecting over 2,000 people to at-tend for an evening of activities and entertainment.

tainment. The ride itself will be at 7 p.m., but doors will open at 4 p.m. and there will be plenty to do and see leading up to the ride. The evening will include entertainment, music, and children's events, including bounce tents, before the ride. There will also be a number of food vendors on lo-cation serving up delicious food that eve-ning. ning. The event will be held north of the

school, at the edge of the valley, where the valley forms a natural amphitheater.

At the conclusion of the ride, the rid-

ers and their horses will be available for a meet and greet in the arena where au-dience members can also pose for a photo with them.

A barbecue for the riders and the general public will be held following the show, and organizers are hoping people will stick around to enjoy the food and musi-cal entertainment that evening during the barbecue. There will also be beer gardens on site.

Advance tickets for the ride will be on sale until July 15. Tickets can be bought by calling 306-739-2898 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets will also be available at the gate that evening, although they will cost more than the advance tickets.

Shannon Houff, one of the event orga-nizers, says people are excited about the ride. The ride came to Wawota 25 years ago, and was a success. "I think the community is really excited about it. The last time they had about 1,500

people out, and this time they had about 1,500 for 2,000, maybe more than that. That would be fantastic '

would be tantastic." The RCMP Musical Ride is a Canadian tradition that dates back to the late 1800s. It is performed by a full troop of 32 rid-ers and horses, plus the member in charge. The Musical Ride consists of the execution

of a variety of intricate figures and cavalry drills choreographed to music.

Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo

For one weekend each year, the population of Kennedy, Saskatchewan grows to several times its normal size. Cowboys in campers pull into town, and rodeo fans from all over the world converge in the small community to watch those cowboys compete in the rodeo arena.

"People come from all over," said rodeo committee president Tye Cancade. "We've New Zealand. We've had people from all over the world basically. Each day any-where from 1,500 to 2,000 people come.

The rodeo competitors come from all over the world as well.

The Kennedy Pro Rodeo is one of only four pro rodeos east of the Saskatchewan-Alberta border, and one of only two in Saskatchewan.

"Any profits we make we try to put back in our community," said Cancade. "It takes probably 100 or 150 volunteers to put on something like this

There are many events that go on at the rodeo. "There are six major events. There's

saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, ladies' barrel racing, tie down roping, and steer

wrestling." The Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo Association will be hosting its 82nd Annual Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo in Kennedy on Saturday and Sunday, July 18 and 19 this year.

Living Skies

Fireworks Competition The sixth annual "Living Skies Come Alive" fireworks competition is being held August 1 and 2.

Two fireworks teams out of Winnipeg and Regina, Paradise Fireworks and Canadian Pyro Limited, will perform fireworks shows along with music each night.

shows along with music each night. Along with the fireworks, a full week-end of events is lined up. THe weekend will feature an inflatable midway, kids games, a flea market, beer gardens, supper both nights at the store, and more. The annual Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition is attended by thou-sands of people every year. This fireworks event has become a holiday destination for many families. The spectators have an exceptional view of the pyromusical fireexceptional view of the pyromusical fire-works display.





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Indian Head's Grand Theatre in earlier years. A local committee has big plans to restore the historic building.

Grant will help restore Indian Head's Grand Theatre

BY KRISTEN WEEDMARK

The Grand Theatre in Indian Head re-cently received a \$35,000 grant from the

Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation. "History is an irreplaceable thing and we must do all we can to preserve it," Sas-katchewan Parks, Culture, and Sport Min-ister Mark Docherty said. "The grants of-fered through the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation allow popula to concerne the tered through the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation allow people to conserve the historic sites and buildings which have helped shape our province into the won-derful place it is today." "The theatre was built in 1904," said Bruce Neill, chair of the Indian Head The-atre and Community Arts Inc. "It's com-unity owned now and our community.

munity owned now and our community group realized that we had some renova-tion work that was required in order to tion work that was required in order to make it last another 100 years. The biggest priority that we have is fixing the roof, so there is some structural work and also new coverings and stuff that have to be put on, so it's a large project."

"The heritage grant is going to help us get part way there to fix it," continued

Neill. "It's going to take us a couple of years probably to get it done and to raise enough money to be able to get it done, but it's a good start and we appreciate the assistance they've given us." Neill asys that, to his knowledge, the Grand Theatre is the longest running theatre in Canada. "The theatre hasn't stopped, it's been a continuously operat-ing theatre since 1904," he said. "In 1904 when it was built it was an op-era house, and it was the only opera house between Winnipeg and Vancouver at the time.

time.

"So you'd have plays or operettas or performers travelling through Western Canada at the time. In the 1930s or so, it was converted into a movie house, at first for silent films and then for movies. So for much of its history its been mostly a movie house, but it's always had a stage in front of the theatre and it's had some perfor-mances. When the community purchased it in 2014, we decided that we would like to see it returned to its roots for a lot of live performances, for plays, for live music, and other activities as well as a movie

There have been many fundraisers held for the Grand Theatre in the past. The In-dian Head Theatre and Community Arts Inc. was formed in order to purchase the theatre and save it from being abandoned.

"We started a fundraising campaign to actually purchase it," said Neill. "We raised over \$100,000 in about three months to actually purchase it, 'said Neill. "We raised over \$10,000 in about three months by donations and by having concerts and other events. That allowed us to get a mortgage, purchase the building, and then we also had to buy new movie equipment so we also had fundraising to purchase the new digital equipment. Now that we've got the building and we've got the movies going again the roof is the main thing. "We've had concerts and a fundrais-ing campaign. Those continue on, and on July 31 we have another event coming up, called Speak Easy, where Kaitlyn Semple from Regina is going to be putting on basi-cally a reenactment of the 1920s with song and dance and basically getting into the theme of the 1920s, so that'll be our next

fundraiser. "We also have a series of fundrais-ing events all through the year that are planned."

Neill says that at the moment the group is about half way to the point where they will have enough funds to repair the roof. He estimates that the group needs roughly \$125,000 to meet their goal, and he believes that it will take them at least another year

That it will take them at least another year to raise the money. "We're optimistic we're going to get there," said Neill. "And when that's done we've got a bunch of other plans for fix-ing the building and really turning it into an arts centre, where we'd have more live music, perhaps an art gallery, a place for workshops, music lessons, those kinds of

workshops, husic resource, sur-things." Neill says that he appreciates the sup-port that the theatre has received from the Sakatchewan Heritage Foundation. "It's got history and significance, and the \$35,000 from Sask Heritage will go a long way. I think that that shows that they thick it's a good project as well." think it's a good project as well.'



July 2015



The RCMP Musical Ride

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Frier adjusting well to cochlear implant



Warrick Frier has made great strides since receiving a cochlear implant last September.

At seven years of age, Warrick Frier of White-wood is hearing more now than ever before thanks to a cochlear implant that was surgically implanted last

"By the time Warrick was two," his mom Sherry Frier said in an interview, "I knew (he was hearing impaired). He didn't talk. Well, he could talk a little— five words."

"Even then," Sherry said, "professionals weren't sure

professionals weren tsure because they said kids de-velop at different rates." "I wasn't convinced he had a problem," Warrick's dad Malcolm Frier said, adding that Warrick was always making progress. He attended pre-Kindergarten as well as Whitewood Play School. By the age of three, Sherry was taking War-rick, whose speech was impaired, to a speech pa-thologist and by the time he was four, after about 15 hearing exams, he was fit-ted with hearing aids. His doctors were not sure the hearing aids would do the trick. They did, however, suggest Warrick was likely a prime candidate for a co-

chlear implant. Technically speaking, a cochlear implant is an electronic device that is designed to provide hear-ing to those with profound deafness. Part of the device is survicelly implanted into is surgically implanted into the inner ear; part is worn externally. The cochear implant stimulates the hearing nerve directly, by-passing the damaged part

of the inner ear or cochlea. of the inner ear or cochlea. "In Kindergarten/Grade 1," Malcolm explained, "Warrick couldn't relay to teachers what he knew. In Grade 1 he began getting school-oriented help. And by the end of Grade 1 his bechar full his norm who teacher felt his peers, who understood him so well, were his best resource and so he moved on to Grade 2."

In September of last year, just after starting Grade 2, Warrick had surgery in Saskatoon. His parents, not sure how much he would understand about the surgery, told him he was get-ting a "new ear." The threehour surgery involved being opened around the ear, shaving off some of the skull bone, and drilling a hole through Warrick's skull where a wire with electrodes was inserted.

"That was the implant part," Sherry explained. "The computer part is on the outside of the ear and connected to the inner part

Warrick emerged from surgery black and blue with his head quite mis-shapen. Warrick's mom believes her son has an amazing tolerance to pain because, after the initial post-surgery painkillers, Warrick only once had Tylenol for the pain. For the next two weeks, Warrick took antibiotics to ward off infection.

Two months passed before it was time to connect the computer (outside) part to the implant. This was the moment they had been waiting for—the mo-ment that could potentially be the turning point for young Warrick.

young Warrick. "His reaction to voices was priceless," Sherry said. "When it was connected and he heard voices, he got this 'ginormous' smile on his face." That moment, when the electronic stimu-bition of the cochlear imlation of the cochlear im-plant began working, was a defining moment and the start of a new chapter in Warrick's day-to-day life. Warrick wears the out-side part of the device from

the time he gets up in the morning until he goes to

bed, with the exception of when he is jumping on the trampoline, something he loves to do. The batteries last about 12 hours and are recharged overnight, every night. The outer part can be enclosed in order for him to be able to wear it in the swimming pool. Warrick, an accomplished young swimmer, loves the sport and spends many hours at the pool in the summer with his parents and his sister Mya. He also enjoys soccer and ball and, during a recent track and field day at Whitewood School, Warrick was right in there, not only participating with en-thusiasm, but cheering on his buddies in their events

as well. "His as well. "His speech has im-proved dramatically," Mal-colm said of his son. "He is getting better and bet-ter with his spelling tests. Keep in mind," Malcolm continued, "he has had only seven months of hear-ing and he has a sinder more ing and he has gained more in seven months than in two years of school." Warrick's parents ex-plained that Warrick's left ear was worse than his right, so they made the decision to have the cochlear implant done on his left ear

Though the Frier family would be the first to admit it's been a bit of a long haul over the past few years, over the past few years, they are confident that this decision was a good one for Warrick and they are extraordinarily proud of his accomplishments over these past few months. As for the possibility of surgery on the other ear, they are giving Warrick the choice to decide if and when he wants to pursue a cochlear implant for his right ear.

a cochiear implant for his right ear. "We want it to be his choice," Sherry said of hav-ing the same surgery on his right ear. "His doctors say eight out of 10 parents will choose to have their child's ear done by the time they are a teenager; nine out of 10 kids choose to have the

other ear done by the time they are 16." For now War-rick continues to wear a

rick continues to wear a hearing aid in his right ear. "He has adapted awe-some to it," Sherry said, obviously delighted that young Warrick is making such great strides with his hearing, his speech and his school work. As for Warrick, when asked what it is he house

asked what it is he loves most to do, his instant answer, though spoken in a teasing tone with a grin from ear to ear, was as clear as a bell: "Nothing!" That one word was proof posi-tive of the strides Warrick has been making—hear-ing and understanding the question without hesitation and responding so clearly.

clearly. Warrick has faced some real challenges and will continue to face challenges but he is clearly making substantial progress, some-thing his parents, family and friends are very proud of him for of him for.



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New Upland Pipeline details released BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

While the Upland Pipeline is still just a proposal, TransCanada has released more

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The pipeline is being proposed to carry Bakken crude from North Dakota to the Moo-somin TransCanada compressor station, where the crude would connect to the Energy East project carrying crude oil east.

East project carrying crude oil east. There is already one proposed pipeline to feed into Energy East at the Moosomin Compressor Station, from Cromer, Manitoba. A map of the proposed pipeline shows a wide swath of southeast Saskat-chewan where the pipeline could be built. The pipeline could be built to connect with the feeder pipeline at Cromer, or directly to the Moosomin compressor station. Between now and 2018, TransCanada plans to submit applications to the U.S. State Department to have the pipeline cross the border, to the North Dakota Public Service

Proposed Upland Pipeline Project





Commission, and to the National Energy Board, which is the federal regulatory body for pipelines in Canada. onstruction would begin in 2019, and the expected in-service date would be 2020, ac-

cording to TransCanada. The project would transport up to 300,000 barrels of crude per day. "The Upland project will help alleviate some of the crude by rail bottleneck in North Dakota with a more efficient and less energy intensive way to transport needed oil," said TransCanada spokes-man Mark Cooper

man Mark Cooper.

man Mark Cooper. According to TransCanada, "Significant increases in Williston Basin crude oil produc-tion in recent years have resulted in production exceeding pipeline take away capacity. Positive results from an open season (a request to shippers to determine interest) helped TransCanada determine the feasibility and scope of the Upland project." The company has been working on initial environmental assessments. "Earlier in 2014, we asked landowners along or near the proposed route for permission to access their lands for the purpose of conducting initial environment assessments. The results of those assessments and discussions with government representatives and regula-tory agencies helped us to understand important routing information for the pipeline." No decision has been made on the Canadian route. "In addition to refining the proposed route in the US, we continue to do survey work in the Canadian study area . . . We antici-pate that we'll be able to make a decision on our preferred route in Canada within the next several months."

several months.

Several months. Trans-Canada has already submitted an application for a Presidential Permit to cross the international border. That permit is what has held up TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline, proposed to carry Canadian crude to US markets.

As part of the Energy East proposal, TransCanada already planned a feeder pipeline from Cromer, Manitoba to the Moosomin Compressor Station, and a 1,050,000 barrel tank farm at the Moosomin Compressor Station to allow the production from Bakken oilfields in Saskatchewan and Manitoba to be added to the TCPL main line and shipped to eastern Canada.



\$25,000 Conexus donation helps move project forward: Leisure Centre could be built this year



BY KRISTEN WEEDMARK The Moosomin Conexus Credit Union recently donated \$25,000 to go toward the

proposed leisure centre at Bradley Park. The leisure centre will offer many ac-

tivities including an indoor walking track, 2650 square feet of indoor commercial turf

2650 square feet of indoor commercial turf area, three sports simulator rooms, two in-door golfing/ putting rooms, an outdoor deck with a covered roof, and an outdoor deck with an open roof. The indoor walking track will be 320 feet around, so 10 trips around will equal one kilometre. The simulator rooms will include 12 sports. There will be close to 100 world wide courses in the golf simul-tor. There will also be hockey, basketball, soccer, baseball, cricket, rugby, football, midway/carnival games, zombie dodge-ball, tennis, and track and field. "I think we recognized that we had a need in the community, whether it be se-

need in the community, whether it be se-niors or youth, that type of thing," said Moosomin Recreation Director Mike Schwean, "I think this was something that Schwean. "I think this was something that we could build that was relatively cost ef-fective that could service a lot of the com-"t able do hofore". munity that we weren't able to do before." Schwean says he got the idea for the lei-

sure centre when he saw a similar struc-

ture in Grand Forks

ture in Grand Forks. "I kind of expanded from what I saw, but that was just something that I liked the look of and I liked the different things that they were able to provide," said Schwean. "And then also having the town taking over the bowling alley, we wanted to do something to rejuvenate bowling, so we felt that this was kind of an all encompass-ing kind of this?" ing kind of thing." We've had a really good response from

the community—I haven't heard anything negative to be quite honest," said Schwean. "There was some concern with money but from the outset we made it clear that we weren't going to use taxpayer money and we were very diligent about that. Having made that clear to the community we have a lot of community donations, corporate donations, private donations, and so forth. This summer I've heard a lot of people are looking forward to having it here in the winter. It's been nothing but positive in my experience." Schwean says that they hope to have a

tender meeting in mid-July and hope to begin construction in August.

"We have all of our engineering stuff back and everything's been sent off to Mu-nicode," said Schwean.

"We have a few more fundraisers com-"We have a few more fundraisers con-ing up," said Schwean. "We have five planned for this year. We have a crop project, which we did last year as well. The Moose are donating their Mini British Open Golf Tournament money this year to the facility, so that's in July. Our Elite Hockey weekend is now starting to take shape, they've confirmed for November 7, so Yorkton will host Estevan here in Moo-somin that night and hopefully fill in with

a triple A game and some other stuff. "Our duelling pianos, which I think ev-eryone's excited about are here December 4 and 5. Saturday is sold out and Friday we have a few spots open but not a lot so we're hoping that'll be a major fundraiser for us. Once we start construction we'll do a community blitz and we'll take donations towards construction. The way that'll work is if you make a donation you'll get a donation receipt and as our gift we'll match it with a user voucher, so you'll be able to use whatever you donate towards the use of the facility. That offer

will end on December 31 of this year." So far PotashCorp has donated \$250,000 to the project and Conexus has donated \$25,000. \$25,000 has been collected in community commitments and \$52,000 has

been raised from fundraisers that were held last year. There are also three grants that are being adjudicated. "The donation from Conexus is real big to us because it's substantial money

and it kickstarts the program again," said Schwean. "It was kind of a lull while we waited to get through the engineering stuff, so having them on board kickstarts the project again and everything's coming together at the same time with plans. It really goes a long way to kickstarting this again

Schwean estimates that about \$350,000 has been raised, enough for the building for the leisure centre, and believes that about \$500,000 to \$550,000 is needed to finish the project. Schwean says that if the Recreation

Board had hired a contractor to do the job, the costs would be closer to \$1.2 million.

the costs would be closer to \$1.2 million. "We're fortunate to have PCS and now the Credit Union to donate. The Co-op is giving us the building package at cost, which is saving us \$50,000. Dale Nixon is donating his time, and stuff like that is massive. So when we say we have \$350,000 in money, there are all kinds of other money that is committed in different wave." wavs.



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Saskatchewan's PID for livestock now available

On June 8, the federal and provincial governments launched the new online Sas-katchewan Premises Identification (PID) Database to improve the response to and

Database to improve the response to and prevention of livestock emergencies. "Strategic investments in livestock trace-ability give Canadian producers and the entire value chain the competitive edge they need to access markets around the world," Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said. "The benefits of the Premises Identicfica-

tion Database are far-reaching," Saskatch-ewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart said. "Knowing where our province's live-stock is located allows us to be more effective in handling everything from flooding to disease outbreak."

"We need to have an effective traceability system in place," said Stewart. "To ensure that the livestock industry doesn't shut down in case of disease outbreaks like it pretty much did in 2003 with the BSE out-break, and we need to be able to isolate the herds where the disease exists very quickly and PID will be a great help with that. Also in cases of emergencies, like floods and fires we can instantly determine where the livestock herds are in the affected area and provide assistance if necessary.

The PID program links livestock and poultry to specific land locations by as-signing a unique number to each regis-tered premises, and is an important part of

planning for managing animal health and environmental emergencies. The database will aid in rapidly notifying producers of disease threats and other potential disas-

disease threats and other potential disas-ters, as well as dispatching emergency re-sources to appropriate locations. PID is one of three pillars of a livestock traceability system, which also includes animal identification and animal move-ment reporting. The PID program has seen significant support from Saskatchewan's livestock industry. To date, approximately 1,400 producers have registered. Com-modity groups have also worked with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to complete the registration of their mem-bers.

"We've been talking with the industry "We've been talking with the industry stake holders for several years about PID and the major livestock groups all support it now," said Lyle Stewart. "The hog indus-try is the leader, they are 100 per cent in-volved and others are coming along. There are 1,400 producers that are involved in the livestock sector so we've made a good start with the industries accepting it and certainly the industry organizations are promoting it to their members." "We see the Premises Identification Database as being a great benefit to our producers," Sask Pork Chairman Florian Possberg said. "With diseases like Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea having the potential to devastate our seine herds, our industry



is doing everything it can to prevent or lessen an outbreak. The fact all of our pro-ducer members have already registered

ducer members have already registered speaks to the importance of this tool." "Day to day the program won't make any difference at all," said Lyle Stewart. "The locations that the livestock produc-ers operate will go into a database and that will just be available in case of emergency or disease outbreak, so it won't affect ordi-

or disease outbreak, so it won't affect ordi-nary producers in any way." "I registered my own farm and we did it in ten minutes or so," continued Stewart. "I encourage all cattle producers to reg-ister with the database," Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association President Doug Gillespie said. "It is important to be able to respond to emergencies or disease concerns quickly, and this database will ensure our industry is able to respond in a timely manner." timely manner."

"The program is not mandatory at this time," said Lyle Stewart. "The federal government is talking about mandatory movement registration in the near future

which would require producers to be enrolled in the PID system, but I don't think there's any firm date for that yet."

"I see the database as being instrumen-tal in maintaining the strength of the cattle sector," Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Assosector, Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Asso-ciation Chair Bill Jameson said. "If all of the producers in our sector register, we'll be better prepared to respond to livestock emergencies quickly and effectively."

emergencies quickly and effectively." Registration for the PID program can be completed online at http://premisesid. saskatchewan.ca. There are no costs as-sociated with registering a premises, and producer information will only be used in the event of an emergency. The PID program is funded through Growing Forward 2, a cost-shared part-nership between federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) governments designed to support an innovative, competitive, and profitable Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector. Saskatchewan's database was based off of a model provided by the Govbased off of a model provided by the Government of Alberta.

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In premier approval poll:

Wall still top Premier, Selinger bottom ranked

BY JULA DIMA In the latest Angus Reid Institute online survey of ap-proval ratings for Canada's premiers, Saskatchewan's Premier Brad Wall remained the most popular Canadian premier, which he has been for nearly every survey done since 2011, and Manitoba's Premier Greg Selinger holds the lower approval rating, dropping steadily since 2012. The online survey is done about every three months,

and is based off responses from just over 6,000 Canadians. Prince Edward Island is the only province not included in the survey as the sample size is too small, and the terri-tories are also not listed. This survey was done from May 26 to June 7

26 to June 7. Wall hit his highest approval rating back in the Decem-ber 2011 poll with 71 per cent, after a 63 per cent approval rating in the previous poll, released in August of that year. This year, Wall continues to stay in the top position with an approval rating of 61 per cent. Though still eight per cent ahead of any other premier, 61 per cent marks a three per cent drop in his ratings, and his lowest rating since the polling started. That may have to do with slumping prices in the oil industry, and tighter budgets to address those issues. "It's a pretty small drop compared to what could be,

"It's a pretty small drop compared to what could be, and to keep the numbers in the high 60s and 70s, I mean, nobody has ever done that before, in fact at 61 per cent, nobody has ever done that before, in fact at 61 per cent, that's miles ahead of anybody else, even premier that have just been elected so they are kind of on their hon-eymoon, he's quite a bit ahead of that," says Deputy Pre-mier Don McMorris. "Having said that, we also know that there's some concern with the oil prices even though we are not directly related to that, but the budget is, and We are not directly related to that, but the budget is, and so how we manage some of those pressure points as we move forward—people are maybe paying more attention to that. I am not sure, but absolutely, we need to continue to deal with the issues that are front and centre for the people in the province, and I think the premier has shown not only after an election, but for two terms now that he is able to do that."

McMorris says that he is not surprised that Wall contin-ues to hold the favor of Saskatchewan people after eight years leading the province. "I had the opportunity to be elected with him back in

1999, and we served eight years in opposition and are

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now going on eight years in government and I've seen first-hand the strong leadership he provides within our party and caucus but also across the province in Saskatchewan and quite recognizably as a leader across Canada,

ewan and quite recognizably as a leader across Canada," McMorris says. Moosomin MLA Don Toth agrees with that sentiment, and says that he's appreciated that Wall has listened to voters and is not afraid to address mistakes made. "I think over the years, he's proven himself and he's someone that I think we've seen acknowledges things. Government tends to make decisions that at the end of the day really aren't the right ones when they look back on it, he's shown he's not been afraid to apologize and correct things. I think he's very personable and people, as they get to meet him, feel comfortable around him and he's inst huilt a real rapport with the nublic" Toth says "Just recently, when we were in session, we reversed decision about strip clubs, and a lot of people really appreci-ated that. The Premier acknowledged maybe it wasn't the right decision to make at the time, and therefore we are going to correct it. That's just one example. There are a few others as well—not a lot, mind you, but he's been an individual who hasn't been afraid to stand up and correct wrong decisions.

In regards to the drop in polling, Toth says that it's ex-pected that poll numbers will drop, especially when the economy is struggling, but Wall's consistency in the top spot is what counts.

Spot is what counts. "I think the Premier has shown through the years that he has been running a fairly stable government and he's done everything to ensure that we are moving forward. Infrastructure is a prime example—even with a tight budget we brought forward this year, we are still putting money into infrastructure," he adds. However, on the other side of the border, pollsters in Manitoba continue to feel unsatisfied with the per-formance of their leader of government, Premier Greg Selinger. Selinger's poll ratings have remained similar to the last survey's 23 per cent in March of this year, going up one per cent. Selinger is at the bottom of the approval poll for the over a year, or four polls, with his lowest ap-proval rating being in December of last year, at 17 per cent. cent.

cent. Local MLAs, Arthur-Virden's Doyle Piwniuk and Rid-ing Mountain's Leanne Rowat are amongst the Manito-bans who are dissatisfied with Selinger's job performance. "Greg Selinger isn't doing a lot of things right," Piwniuk says. "Right now, i think for a lot of Manitobans, everyone

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is paying more in taxes and getting less in services—if it's healthcare or infrastructure or child and family services, and all those areas. There's no true leadership.... I think this government is tired, it's been in for so long, and re-ally there's no true leadership, as we saw in the leader-bin procead grap his own party unceficiping his ability. ship race and even his own party questioning his ability to lead the province." Piwniuk says in his riding, the two top concerns are

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decreased health care services with emergency rooms facing numerous temporary closures and infrastructure concerns.

"Everything was overspent with this government ex "Everything was overspent with this government ex-cept for infrastructure, and it was underspent by 2.3 bil-lion dollars in the last five years. Now they are trying to speed it up a little bit—we don't have a lot of contractors to work the highways, and . . they are trying to put a lot of construction out there just before the election." Rowat says she has also felt that her constituency has seen services suffer under Selinger. "The hotters line in there on the motion and the seling areas

"The bottom line is there's a pattern of broken prom-ises by a government and Premier who doesn't seem to "The bottom line is there's a pattern of broken prom-ises by a government and Premiter who doesn't seem to have his ears to the ratepayers and the grassroots of the province, and they've gotten themselves into some seri-ous issues. Because of that, there's been mismanagement with different files, including health care where we see care homes falling apart in my constituency." Rowat says. Rowat says that raised taxes have also had an impact on her constituency, as well as mismanagement in industry growth, like the building of potash mines, as well as a failure to repay flood victims from as long ago as 2011. "Manitobans are very tired and are wanting change," she adds. "This is a government that is passed it's due date. It's missed opportunities for Manitobans, and I think we are seeing that—Saskatchewan is doing so well with so many different types of industries, they support their private sector and vulnerable citizens, and we are continually dropping the ball here and we can't seem to get our act together." A spokesperson from Selinger's office was not available to comment on the poll numbers by press time.

^A Aspokesperson from Selinger's office was not available to comment on the poll numbers by press time. Following Wall in the high ratings, Alberta's newly elected Premier Rachel Notley, the first NDP Premier in Alberta's history. Notley's approval was 53 per cent— though the polling took place prior to her throne speech in which Notley announced higher taxes for large corpo-rations among other changes. The lowest rating following Selinger is Premier Brian Gallant of New Brunswick, with a 27 per cent approval. Gallant was elected in September of last year, and has re-ceived criticism in New Brunswick for raising fees in pub-lic nursing homes and cutting other programs.

lic nursing homes and cutting other programs. This survey was done online among 6,291 Canadian

a margin error of 1.2 per cent 19 times out of 20.



FRÒNT PORCH

Redvers Archery Club hosts 3D fun shoot

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ву JULIA DIMA The Redvers Archery Club held their annual out-Club held their annual out door 3D archery fun shoot over the weekend of June 6 and 7. 70 archers of all ages came to Redvers for the sunny hot weekend to shoot at large lifelike targets and earn medals in the fun shoot. The two day event is the club's big-gest fundraiser, bringing in anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for the club, which goes toward the purchase of arrows, bows, new tar-gets, and other equipment.

of arrows, bows, new tar-gets, and other equipment. "This one we put on every year, and have for years," explains Tricia Pickard with the archery club. "It's ... a fun shoot that we put on for the kids and everyone to come out. D archery has been dying 3D archery has been dying out a little bit, but has been coming back in the last few years, so it's just to come out and enjoy the weather and shoot some arrows, basically.

Pickard says having 70 shooters is very successful, as some years, when the weather hasn't co-operated, only 20 archers show up. She says that along with enthusiasts from their own club in Redvers, ar-chers come from Fleming, Estevan, Reston, Oxbow, and Regina among other places.

places. There are door prizes for everyone, and archers com-pete for the top three spots in their age and equipment category to win medals, and shooters get two shots at 25 3D targets—the tar-gets, which are designed to mimic real deer, badgers, cougars, and other wild animals have 'kill zones' that archers have to hit to that archers have to hit to get maximum points. The bullseye gets an archer 11 points, the middle circle is 10 points, the outer circle is eight points, and anywhere on the target is five points. There is also an iron deer choot, which, mut archers

shoot, which puts archers to the test for accuracy.

"The deer is made out of steel, and there's a hole in it—if you don't hit the hole, you . . . wreck an arrow," says Pickard. "So you pay

\$2 to shoot and everyone stands and watches and if you hear a 'ting' that's a broken arrow. It's a lot of fun to watch that one.

fun to watch that one." Pickard says the most re-warding part of the week-end was seeing all the guests having fun outside. The Redvers Archery club has around 110 mem-bers, ranging in age from around five or six, to the oldest club member in their mid-sixties. The club meets mid-sixties. The club meets to shoot at paper targets at the Redvers Legion Hall four nights a week, and holds a few fun shoots each year, including the 3D fun shoot.

Archers have options to shoot recreationally, or to practice for hunting sea-son, or, if they would like, there are a number of com-petitive levels in Saskatch-ewan and Canada. "Lots of the kids par-ticipate all season at a JOP

program—Junior Olympic Program, and shoot toward Program, and shoot toward badges, and each time, they try to earn a new badge and move up levels. At the end of year, whoever wants can go to JOP championships for the province," Pickard explains. "Then there's explains. Then there's the Saskatchewan indoors competition, Canadians and more—you can com-pete as much as you want

or as little as you want." The club has basic re-curve bows and arrows available to rent for anyone who would like to give ar-chery a try themselves, and sells club memberships for \$100 for adults per season, and \$70 for kids.

"We have a really big and active club, and we've been pretty large in the last few years. Everyone enjoys tew years. Everyone enjoys it when they try it—they start with a parent go-ing and kids come along, or one of the kids want to start, and they tell friends, and parents are there any-way, so we have a lot of families involved," Pickard says. "Archery is individu-al, it's fun, relaxing, vou're says. "Archery is individu-al, it's fun, relaxing, you're always trying to better yourself, and it's just re-warding, but it's challeng-ing at the same time."



Brian LeNouail prepares to shoot alongside his sons, Vincent, Mathias, and Hugo.





Left: Colby Magotiaux walking through the bush at the shoot. Above: Thomas LeNouail pulling back his arrow to shoot.



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July 2015

Komarnicki's freedom of conscience motion passes

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK Just before the House of Commons adjourned for the summer and Souris-Moose Mountain MP Ed Komarnicki said good-Komarnicki said good-bye to Paliament forever, Komarnicki's motion on freedom of conscience for Members of Parliament passed almost unanimous-ly.

The House of Commons The House of Commons voted 273 to 1 to endorse Motion 590, moved by Komarnicki in late May, which stipulates "That, in the opinion of the House, all Members of Parlia-ment should be allowed to write feedback vote freely on all matters of conscience." The only or conscience. The only no vote was registered by Conservative MP Gordon O'Connor, a former de-fence minister and govern-ment whip, while a few MPs abstained from voting on the protion on the motion.

Komarnicki says it's im-portant to affirm the right of MPs to vote according to their beliefs on "matters of conscience." "I think it's important

to have the members have that ability and right on whatever issue relates to conscience matters," he said, "whether it be a ne said, "whether it be a government bill, a private member's bill, a motion or anything like that." Komarnicki said the mo-tion was a good way to wrap up his parliamentary

career

career. "It's a bookend to my career," he said. "My first major speech was with re-spect to the definition of marriage, and then when it ended I was able to speak to this motion with issues related to life. Both of those are very important issues to me. The motion was a platform for me to speak my mind on something very important to me." He said he hopes his mo-

He said he hopes his mo-tion has some impact. "It's created a certain amount of debate in the media, and I hope it has an impact going forward. I was able to express my-self on an issue that is very self on an issue that is very important to me. I think MPs have a responsibility to vote by their conscience. I've said I think conscience trumps even the Charter

Komarnicki defined the concept of matters of con-science as anything that might result in the ending of a life. "There may be a great

deal of debate and some difference of opinion on what are matters of conscience. are matters of conscience. I can, however, say with a great deal of confidence that matters relating to life, more particularly to the termina-tion of life at any time from the point of conception to the noist of natural death the point of natural death

would easily fall within that definition. Whether or not to terminate before death natu-rally occurs, or to terminate a life before it fully becomes a life before it fully becomes a living being or while it has the potential to be a living being is certainly a matter of conscience, as may be a number of other matters falling somewhere between these two. "In my view, a matter of

conscience would arise out of a religious, moral or ethi-cal issue that has to do with cal issue that has to do with one's inner sense of what is right or wrong." Though the Conserva-tives committed in 2006 to

free votes on all matters ex-cept the budget and the estimates, the party has come to include "core government initiatives" in its official understanding of party discipline.

This is what Komarnicki had to say about his own motion during debate in the House of Commons:

"Mr. Speaker, my motion has a number of significant points that I am asking the House to support: first, that the motion apply to every member, regardless of rank or position in the House or party, and on all matters that come before the House captured by this motion wheth-er in the nature of private members' motions or bills, government bills, motions or other legislative initia-tives; second, that members be allowed to vote freely, meaning without order or demand by party lead-ers, House leaders, whips or anyone else in the party structure, to vote in a certain or particular way on pain of or particular way on pain of censure or sanction if they will not; and third, that this would be so in matters of conscience.

There may be a great deal of debate and some dif-

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ference of opinion on what are matters of conscience. I can, however, say with a great deal of confidence that matters relating to life, more particularly to the termination of life at any time from the point of conception to the point of natural death, would easily fall within that definition. Whether or not to terminate before death natu-rally occurs, or to terminate a life before it fully becomes a living being or while it has the potential to be a living being is certainly a matter being is certainly a matter of conscience, as may be a number of other matters falling somewhere between these two. "In my view, a matter of

conscience would arise out of a religious, moral or ethiof a religious, moral or ethi-cal issue that has to do with one's inner sense of what is right or wrong. The right to freedom of conscience is represented in all international conventions concern-ing human rights. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948, states, Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, con-science and religion.' There is no question that one's conscience is and ought to be souverien

"In fact, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, commonly referred to as the charter, states, in paragraph 2, with regard to fundamental freedoms, 'Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: (a) freedom of conscience and religion.' This fundamental freedom is found alongside those freedoms that we cher-ish: freedom of expression, freedom of the press, peace-ful assembly, and freedom of association. In fact, the first words in the preamble

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in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms gives rise to potential conscience struggles that may occur struggles that may occur when interpreting laws or even with respect to char-ter matters when it states, 'Whereas Canada is found-ed upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law,' is bound to being the suple set bound to bring the rule of law, the supremacy of God into conflict at times. "When it comes to mat-

ters of conscience. Sir Thomas More said it best when he had to make a decision whether to obey God's law as he saw it rather than man that one should be most cautious not to offend his conscience than anything else in the whole world. Of course, his head was taken off and placed on the Tower Bridge in London as the price for not offending his conscience.

"An email made pub-lic, sent to the member for Papineau, the Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, by former Liberal members of Parliament also made the point well when they stated in part: "We,

the undersigned, former Liberal Members of Parliament, are concerned about your recent pro-nouncement that people who hold a particular view on a given moral issue, as a matter of conscience, cana matter of conscience, can-not be Liberal candidates for the position of MP un-less they agree to park their consciences at the entrance to the House of Commons and vote directly opposite to their fundamental beliefs,

to their fundamental beliefs, as directed by you. "In the House, the Con-servative Party has on a number of occasions al-lowed for free votes, and that is the way it should be. The party policy also states very specifically in section 7 that the party believes in re-storing democratic account-ability in the House of Com-mens hy allowing free votes mons by allowing free votes. It states all votes should be free, except for the budget, for obvious reasons, main estimates, and core govern-

ment initiatives. "On issues of moral conscience, the Conservative Party acknowledges the di-Party acknowledges the di-versity of deeply held per-sonal convictions among individual party members and the right of members of Parliament to adopt positions in consultation with their constituents and to

wote freely. "The Supreme Court of Canada's decisions on the recent Lee Carter, et al. v. Atrecent Lee Carter, et al. V. At-torney General of Canada, et al. decision, commonly referred to as the Carter decision, which related to end-of-life issues, and R. v. end-of-life issues, and R. v. Morgentaler, commonly re-ferred to as the Morgentaler decision, related to abortion, fall into the category where actions taken in the House should be the subject of free votes. In each case, the court relied on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Free-doms and gave the House the benefit of the court's view on the charter's application.

Continued on page 27 🖙





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July 2015

Plain and Valley

FN Summer Games coming to Ochapowace First Nation

ву Julia Dima The Saskatchewan First The Saskatchewan First Nation Summer Games are coming up in August, and this year Ochapowace First Nation will be hosting the games from August 9 to 15. Ochapowace First Na-tion, along with others, put in a bid to heat the cargos in a bid to host the games, which provide an opportu-nity for hundreds of First Nation youth between the ages of 13 and 18 to participate in a variety of summer sports representing their tribal councils. Some will be competing to have a chance to join the provin-cial team and potentially move on to compete at the North American Indig-enous Games.

The summer games will have a number of sports, including softball, soccer, archery, canoeing, beach volleyball, box lacrosse, running, and track and field events. The games are expected to bring in around 5,000 people in-cluding coaches, athletes, chaperons, and staff, and 1,000 volunteers. There will be teams of athletes from 71 Saskatchewan First Nations, and along with the athletic events, there will be cultural events and The summer games will will be cultural events and entertainment throughout

the games. "We wanted to put cul-"We wanted to put cul-ture in there, so we have round dances—opportuni-ties for youth to participate in round dances through-out the games," says El-mer Eashappie, the games consultant for the sum-mer games this year. "The opening ceremonies will take place on Monday Auopening ceremonies will take place on Monday, Au-gust 10 at roughly 7 p.m. followed by fireworks. Just like any Olympic games-style opening, we'll have the tribal councils walk into the track with their none being generating the second team being announced by the emcee. We will have a mixture of entertainment which includes First Nawe will have Terrance Lit-tletent, who is a world fa-

mous hoop dancer." The games will officially kick off with a special tra-ditional event called the lance run, which, like the Olympic Flame, involves a team of relay runners, carrying a lance from the location of the last summer

FEATURE LISTING

games to the next location. The last summer games were held at Muskoday First Nation, so a team of 30 will start at Muskoday First Nation on July 28, and carry the lance down Highcarry the lance down High-way 6 and onto Highway 1 to arrive at Ochapowace First Nation for the open-ing ceremony, stopping at First Nations along the journey. Along with the runners, a group of elders will also be joining them on the journey. the journey.

"We have elders par-ticipating and helping the kids when they run— sometimes when you run, you put in a long day, and after, there's time to reflect, after, there's time to reflect, so there are sharing and talking circles in the morn-ing to discuss what they experienced," Eashappie says. "It's unique and very special for our First Nation youth to experience that."

The games, and sports in general, Eashappie says, provide a positive influ-ence for youth, both in keeping connected to culture, and in developing their skills.

"I know growing up, if I didn't play basketball,

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I don't think I would be where I am today because sports kept me in school. A lot of these kids may feel the same way," he says. "But you need facilities, so when you have a good track and field area like Ochapowace does, there's So many opportunities to help develop kids into world class athletes." The games are also pro-viding Ochapowace First Nation with an opportuni-tu to held on crediting in

ty to build on sporting in-frastructure for the future. "The benefit in my mind

is the legacy of providing and creating opportuni-ties, such as the facilities like ball diamonds, soccer pitches, and track and field areas. Once the games are done, the community has done, the community has the capability of hosting provincial championships because all the infrastruc-ture is here now, so it cre-ates a future of opportu-nities for Ochapowace Nation," Eashappie says. As the games draw clos-er, organization is in the final crease assume yol

final stages, ensuring vol-unteers, security, and other logistics are all in place for the games, but more volunteers are encouraged to sign up and get involved in the games. "Volunteers will have

numerous areas while nave numerous areas where they can volunteer—it could be in food services, it could be in the athletes village, or at camp McKay, where we are hosting a few events as well. We give our events as well. We give our volunteers an option when they fill out the volunteer form," Eashappie says. "We can always use a push for volunteers, because at the end of the day, things happen, people can't come in, and you are stuck with a plan b so we can always a plan b, so we can always

use as many volunteers as possible, and it will be a push right out to the day

Volunteers who would Volunteers who would like to get involved can call the Ochapowace First Na-tion administration office at 306-696-2425 and speak to Brenda Bear, who is the volunteer co-ordinator.

Volunteer co-ordinator. The games are entirely free to spectators, and people can come and go to as many events as they would like, which will all be hosted at Ochapowace First Nation, Camp McKay, and Round Lake for canoeing events.

Details for event dates and times will be posted on the games' official web-site in the coming weeks as the event draws near at www.2015summergames. com.

"Ochapowace Nation is proud to host the 2015 Saskatchewan First Nation summer games, they've been planning for a long time to host this event, and I know the community and local surrounding communities are getting ready to come and see who the next world class athletes are go-ing to be," Eashappie says.









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Family Practice Centre working on recruitment



Three locums will be working with the Moosomin Family Practice Centre from July until mid-January.



BY KARA KINNA

From July to January, the Moosomin Family Practice Centre will be employing three locums in the hopes that at least one of those locums will make Moosomin home

"We have three who are all Canadians, Canadian born, Canadian, Canadian under grads, and then did their medical degrees in Ireland and Australia and then came back and did their family medicine rotation in Regina," says Dr. Ross Kerkhoff with the MFPC.

"All of these people will be coming for locums and be confine for focults and be employed through the clinic. They will be working at the clinic and the hospital like us, and they will be sharing for the weekend

calls. "These three are all Canadians that have trained else-where and done their family med rotation in Regina and will be coming to us for locums—anything from one to four months—and that will take us through to mid-January.

"They will have a locum priod, see how it is, and go period, see

From there." With a number of doc-tors working part-time, and after losing one of its full-time doctors, the MFPC is presently unable to cover the emergency room at the South East Integrated Care Centre seven days a week like it did in the past. Pres-ently the MFPC handles the ER on weekends with the Revina On'Appelle Health Regina Qu'Appelle Health Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region using locums to cover the ER and open ac-cess clinic on weekdays. The MFPC has also re-duced the amount of time it

is spending on satellite clin-ics in the surrounding communities

Kerkhoff says the MFPC has been working with the health region in an attempt to find more doctors for Moosomin, and says the health region helped the MFPC make contact with the three locums that are

"We've had a few locums "We've had a few locums come as well from Regina who have worked with these people and recom-mended them to us," he odde adds.

Kerkhoff says the hope is that the locums will enjoy practicing in Moosomin and want to stay.

and want to stay. "I'm hoping that they will enjoy rural practice and that they will want to stay longer. And then we'll get our numbers back up to where they should be," he scare

says. "It's been a long road. It still will be a little uncertain over the summer. But from September 1, at least through our clinics, we'll have more staff. And hope-fully we can increase the fully we can increase the capacity through our clinics then because of that. And then we will be able to han-dle the satellites as well. So that will a big help, having those people through our clinics."

One of the doctors com-ing has had experience

doctoring during the Ebola

15

crisis. "He was in Sierra Leone and has spent time there, and he's done some mili-

and he's done some mili-tary work, and he actually finished training in Ireland, so he's been in Europe as well. He's got quite a re-sume," says Kerkhoff. Another of the doctors has done locums around the province through the Saskatchewan Medical As-sociation, and the third doctor is just finishing his training.

"We are just hinshing his training. "We are just happy to have them and have the op-portunity to show them ru-

portunity to show them ru-ral practice and hopefully it works," says Kerkhoff. The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region is also hop-ing to hire two doctors through the SIPPA program for the fall, with plans for those doctors to be em-ployed more permanently at the South East Interacted at the South East Integrated Care Centre. The SIPPA program recruits medical graduates to Saskatchewan from abroad.

"Our intention is that two of the successful candidates would come to Moosomin," says Karen Earnshaw, VP or Integrated Health Services with RQHR.

"Those candidates would be looking to come and join a practice at the hospital as an opportunity to get start-ed in that community."

The RQHR's current SIP-PA seat intake is full. Two of the SIPPA candidates have passed their first round of the program and are now going for their three-month elective

"This far along in the pro-gram, the more likely the candidates are to be suc-cessful," says Earnshaw. "If you're not successful in that program, it's usually identi-

"There's lots of good op-tions lining up here. But until those physicians suc-cessfully complete the pro-gram, we would never give names or start dates."



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Record numbers for Community Challenge

Runners take off for the fifth annual Community Challenge which was held on Saturday, June 13. There were 155 participants in the run this year and \$2,000 was raised to be donated to MacLeod School for athletic equipment.

Fifth annual Community Challenge held



May placed first, Monique Campbell placed second, and Jacqui Harrison placed third.

The male winner of the 10k run was Brayden Willms. Rene Simard was second and Brett Rittaler was third.

The female winner of the 10k run was Shelley Scheier-Polvi. Sheena Metzger placed second and Megan Wilson placed third.

Male overall winners in the 5k run were Deon Gagnon in first place, Travis Gagnon in second place, and Marshall Light in third place.

Female overall winners in the 5k run were Angeline Smyth in first place, Chan-die Haryung in second place, and Alexxa Cole in third place. This year \$2,000 is being donated to MacLeod Elementary School for phys. ed.

equipment. "It takes months of planning to put

"It takes months of planning to put something like this on and get it all orga-nized," said McAuley. "But it's all worth it. It's a lot of fun to put this on." "There's quite a bit of planning to it," continued Harper. "We wanted to get some sponsors and we wanted to put on a really good race, we put in quite a bit of time."

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Lots of action at the 2015 Moosomin Rodeo Top left: A bull rider at the 22nd Annual Moosomin Rodeo held July 3 and 4 at the Moosomin Rodeo grounds.

Top right: One of the saddle bronc rider competitors.



18

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High lake levels not a concern at Kenosee

by Julia Dima

Increased precipitation have made it difficult for the natural evaporation process to keep up with the rain levels. However, park officials, village residents, and the Water Security Agency are not concerned that the community is in any imminent flooding danger.

Patrick Boyle, with the Water Security Agency, says they have been monitoring Kenosee Lake this year, and for the past few years as water levels began to rise with increased precipitation.

"Kenosee Lake is located in a dead end basin, meaning it doesn't drain anywhere naturally. So the lake is at the highest level it's been since the 1970s, and has continued to rise for the last number of years from above normal precipitation and even the high ground water has continued feeding to the lake so it pushes it up." Boyle explains. "So, essentially what's been happening is precipitation has outpaced the evaporation on the lake for the past few years."

for the past few years." Boyle says that this year, a number of factors have contributed to the lake being even higher than in previous years. The heavy rainfall that hit the region last summer, combined with winter precipitation and spring runoff has increased levels.

Kenosee Lake is fed by a culvert that connects Little Kenosee Lake to the larger basin. In 2010, after years of significantly low water lev-



els, the Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport, working with the Ministry of Environmental, Water Security Agency, and Moose Mountain Water Resource Committee completed a project to help divert more water from the back country near Little Kenosee Lake into the smaller basin, and lower the connecting culvert to keep water flowing into Kenosee Lake. That project has contributed to the higher levels, and increased boating and fishing activity on the lake. "We collaborated ... the form of water

open up the flow of water in the back country," explains Larry Schiefner, acting director for southern operations for Parks, Culture, and Sport. "So, there were some restrictions with beaver dams and various roads put in place over time that were restricting flows. Part of that project included putting in a culvert between little and big Kenosee. That would allow water from the west to come into little Kenosee and flow freely into big Kenosee."

For residents of the local area, the high water levels have been a positive thing for them, increasing boating activity and park and village visitors.

In them, increasing, beam ing activity and park and village visitors. "Now our lake has increased in size quite a bit, that is for sure," says Wendy Greenbank, who owns Kenosee Mini Mart and Motel. "It seems to be era of pontoon boats—we have pontoons, speed boats, wakeboard boats all over. It's going to be a big lake but also a very busy lake, and it's looking beautiful." Greenbank's business is on the shoreline of the lake in Kenosee Village. She says she is not at all concerned about the water levels rising to the point where she may have to worry about flooding, although as the water gets higher over the past few years, it has had minor inconveniences in the community.

"The banks are pretty high here, and it has caused a little havoc with the shoreline, there's shorelines that are not reachable for people to go out and put out their docks. But it's a good problem, really it's important that we have that water there in the lake. With the beach, the sand itself is half the size it was probably last year, because the water is up that high, so it will make for a nice sandy bottom," she says. "Some of the boaters were joking that if I got a longer hose on my gas pumps, pretty soon, they would be able to just boat up to refill."

Stuart Balfour, mayor of the village of Kenosee Lake, and owner of The Bar bar on the lakefront, says there have been a few inconveniences like having to move playgrounds back on the beach, but the village isn't worrying about the water levels, because no cottages or properties are near flood levels, and there is a diversion plan involves the lake flowing underneath highway 9 into White Bear Lake if Kenosee Lake's levels are too high and the lake spills.

"When the lake reaches its FSL (full supply level) which is 742.2 meters above sea level, we want to ensure that it's able to release. So, that needs to cross through highway 9, and we are working with Ministry of Highways that when it reaches FSL, it is able to discharge, and the natural route to is to White Bear, so we working with the reserve as well," explains Schiefner. "We are a full meter from it reaching that discharge point. We are aware of it and we need to be prepared if it happens, so we are in that process now."

Boyle says that as the Water Security Agency is monitoring that possibility, it has no concerns yet.

it has no concerns yet. "A meter is a huge amount of water. We are monitoring it right now, and with the forecast being fairly warm and dry, we are just looking at it, and there is some time if we do need to mobilize something." he says. "But right now, that's pretty far out, and it would have to take a major event for that to happen. High rainfall is what we are watching out for here, especially going into July, when we get most of our precipitation."

July, when we get most of our precipitation." In the meantime, residents say the water in the basins seems to have levelled out, and the high water is going to be good for the village and park this year.

year. "The culvert is levelled out now, it's not pouring over like it was from little Kenosee over the past few years," asys Greenbank. "It's looking good, and we are hoping for a naturally wonderful summer here."





Wawota Heritage Celebrations

Saturday & Sunday August 1 & 2, 2015

Saturday, August 1 Events

22

- Legion Pancake Breakfast at Wawota Town Hall 8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Arts & Crafts Exhibition at Wawota Town Hall 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Special Exhibit at the Wawota Museum 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Town-wide Parade: 11 a.m. Noon
- Horseshoes between Kings and Farm & Auto after the parade
- Taste Of Wawota Town Hall Parking Lot: Noon 3 p.m.
- Dunk Tank: Corner of Railway, Noon 4 p.m.
- Trading Card Swap Meet In Town Hall: 2 p.m. 4 p.m.
- Show 'n Shine/Couples Driving Challenge at 1 p.m.
- Kids Carnival, Petting Zoo Etc @ School: 1 p.m. 5 p.m.
- Paintball/ BMX Bike Event @ Skateboard Park: 2 p.m. 5 p.m.
- 20 & 50 Year Class Reunions!!

Sunday, August 2 Events

- Interdenominational Church Service in the Centennial Memorial Park at 11 a.m. Potluck Lunch To Follow
- High Tea & Dessert in the Wawota Town Hall 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Mandomania Small Concert Group of
- **Regina Mandolin Orchestra** 1:30 p.m. at Wawota Town Hall

Saturday, August 1 6:00 p.m. Join Us at the Ball Diamonds Brought to you by the Wawota Forum Board • Fun for All!

- BBQ Supper Available
- Silent Auction
- Musical Entertainment
- Beer Gardens

Saturday, August reworks at Dusk at the **Ball Diamonds**

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Sunday August

Cabaret at the Forum Featuring The Alex Runions Band Brought to you by the Wawota Lions Club • Doors Open at 8:30 p.m. • Tickets \$20/Person (Minors Allo • Cabaret: 9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

Beer Gardens Open!

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981 Predators win fastball tournament in Moosomin

BY JULIA DIMA The Moosomin 981 Predators are feeling confident about Provincials after emerging as the champions in the U18, U21, and Senior B Ladies open tournament they hosted in Moosomin from June 27-28 at Bradley Park. There were teams competing from Regina, Whitewood, Killarney, Moosomin and in total, the Predators played six games over the two-day tournament. The high-pace is not strange for the Predators, who have been playing tournaments every weekend since early June.

end since early June. "They are used to playing a lot of games—in the first weekend of June we went to Regina and we played six games in three days, and in Winnipeg the weekend after, we played six games in two days, and we played six games in two days in Moose Jaw after that," says Coach Dale Nixon.

Nixon. On June 27, the Predators played three games, winning all three. They beat the Whitewood Ravens 18-4, then the Southeast Bandits from Killarney 9-5, and finally the Regina Riot on Saturday night, winning 9-2. Those wins put them in the semi-final the next day against the Ravens, and they won 8-1. The Southern Bandits won the other semi-final game against the Regina Riot, and won 10-0. In the afternoon, the Whitewood Ravens beat the Regina Riot in the B final 12-5, and the Bandits and Predators advanced to the A side final, where they won 11-1. The win was exactly what the Predators needed to pick up their spirits and get them excited for heading into Provincials.

into Provincials. "We feel pretty good about this, we've struggled a bit this year, so winning this one means a lot to us going into the final stretch before provincials here, so it was a good weekend for us," says Coach Dale Nixon. "We have just come through four straight weekends of ball, and all we've got left is provincials now."

Senior B Ladies provincials will be held July 17-19 in Regina.



Above: Brittany Fisk hits first base before a Regina Riot player can catch the ball.



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24

Bud Holloway signed to Montreal Canadiens

BY JULIA DIMA Wapella's Bud Holloway is beginning a new adventure in his hockey career after being signed last Wednesday to the Montreal Canadiens. Holloway started his hockey career with the Seattle

Thunderbirds. He played two and a half seasons with the AHL's Manchester Monarchs, scoring 54 goals and 66 assists in his 191 games with them.

Deciding it was time for a change, Holloway packed his

sists in his 191 games with them. Deciding it was time for a change, Holloway packed his bags and headed for Skellefteå, Sweden, where he played with Skellefteå AIK in the Swedish Hockey League for three seasons, racking up 153 points, and becoming a hockey star, setting the all-time record for most goals scored in the Elite League playoffs in 2012. For the 2014 hockey season, Holloway made a switch to play with SC Bern in Switzerland, part of the National League A. There, Holloway played 42 games in the regu-lar season, scoring 13 goals and 24 assists. In 2006, the L.A. Kings gained Holloway's signing rights, and on July 1, the contract ended, and the newly free agent decided it was a good opportunity to try to come back to North America and pursue an NHL career. "I wanted to stay in North America this year, so I didn't put my name out in Europe, and I've been talking with my agent quite a bit, and this is my first year off my free agency from L.A, so if there's any year to try and get a shot, this was my best chance," Holloway says. "We were talking to a few teams and yesterday morning. Montreal came up and said they were interested, and there was an offer right after that". came up and said they were interested, and there was an offer right after that."

offer right after that." Holloway has signed a one-year two-way contract for the 2015-16 years with the Canadiens. Different from the L.A. Kings owning his signing rights, Holloway, as a free agent, can be picked up by any NHL team if the Cana-diens send him to the AHL team, the St. Johns IceCaps. Holloway says he's more focused on impressing at the training camp and showing he would be an asset on the Canadiens lineur.

Canadiens lineup. "This is something I've obviously dreamed about for a long time, so to get the opportunity is good. The big thing now is obviously to show up and take advantage of it. When you get a chance, you want to let them know why they gave you that chance, and impress when you get to camp," he says.

Holloway says he knew he wanted to come back and play in North America, but is glad for him time spent

Plain & Vallev

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photo courtesy of Thomas Hiller, SC Bern Holloway playing with SC Bern in 2014.

overseas building a successful hockey career in Europe. "You don't really have a plan for where you want to go in hockey, because it's kind of whatever opportunity there is, you jump at it," he says. "Everyone has their own path—usually when people think of Europe, they think of it as the end of the hockey career when you can't get any-thing in North America. I kind of did it a different way . . I am pretty confident, I am pretty happy with the route that I chose, I got to see a lot at the same time. It was a

great experience every year I was over there—You learn so much, when you're outside your own country or even your native tongue, it's pretty fun." Over his years in Sweden and Switzerland, Holloway

says he's made many friends and memories, and says that despite the opportunities ahead of him, he will miss play-

Till miss the people, that's the main part, I met a lot of great people when I was over there," he says. "But go-ing forward to Montreal, I know there's going to be new ing forward to Montreal, I know there's going to be new friends and new people to meet and get along with. It's bittersweet—you're excited to try something new, but at the same time, you're leaving. But it's like that with any job when you're moving around a lot." Holloway says that like most Canadian kids growing

"I onlow y says that nee most Canadian kids growing up with hockey, getting the opportunity to play with one of the original six is an amazing opportunity. "I was pretty happy I got signed, it's so nice to go to a Canadian team, and especially one as traditional as the Montreal Canadiens—I don't know if you can get a bet-ter hockey city than them or Toronto, so it's a pretty big honor.

For now, Holloway is focusing on his training all sum-mer, between bouts of golf and family time at home in

mer, between bouts' of golf and family time at home in Wapella. "This summer, it's just getting myself ready as much as I can—I'll probably go to Montreal a little bit early and work out with their strength guy and skate there just to let them know I am serious about making this team and I want to give myself the best opportunity to do that," he says. "Other than that, it's just getting ready physically and mentally so when the camp comes, I'm confident and hopefully I'll crack a lineup spot." As for being back home in Wapella between his high-intensity hockey seasons, Holloway says there's nothing better

better.

better. "It's always great coming back, I love it. Coming back, I've got all my family and friends here, and no matter where I go, I can always come home and fit right back into the mix of things without too much hassle," he says. "I wouldn't have it any other way. When I go over and people are watching me and putting me up higher than I think I am supposed to be, when I come home, I'm just Bud again, I'm just the same guy." Holloway will be heading to Montreal for the fall.



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Jack Huston remembering fallen comrades at the Virden cenotaph.



July 2015

Jack Huston, veteran of the second World War, displaying his many medals during a recent ceremony held in his honor in Kenton.

Huston awarded a Knight of the National Order of France

BY ED JAMES Saturday, June 6 marked the 71st anniversary of the allied D-Day landing on the France coast of Normandy. In 2015 the government of France decided to issue a special award to those who took part in the eventual liberation of France and the end of the Second World War.

Ninety-two-year-old Jack Huston of Kenton, Manitoba was a recent recipient of this award.

Huston joined the army in 1941 and served with the XII Manitoba Dragoons, a reconnaissance unit that went into battle in Staghound recon vehicles. While serv-In Stagnound recon vehicles. While serv-ing in France, his unit was involved with the fighting in the Falaise Gap. He would later move on to battles in Belgium and Holland, and his final days of the war were 50 miles east of the German city Oldenburg. He later told me that someone

forgot to tell the German soldiers near his position that the war was over because a few kept shooting at his unit. Since officials from the government of

France were unable to award the medal in person, the ceremony was carried out by Royal Canadian Legion Zone Com-mander Mike Ramsden in the Kenton Legion hall where there was standing room only, as the hall was filled with family and friends.

The medal made Huston a Knight of the National Order of France. The official let-ter that came with it announced that this award was the highest of France's nation-al orders and recognized Huston's part in the liberation of France and the end of the

Second World War. After the presentation, Huston, who is never lost for words, made a brief speech, followed by some testimonials

from friends in the large audience. This was followed by a standing ovation, the singing of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" and three cheers. The rest of the evening included a lunch and a time for visiting and congratulations from friends, family and neighbors.

Later we had time to talk about the evening and his award. The medal, like his other medals, will remind him of the hardships they faced everyday in battle. "It was not a bed of roses," Huston said.

"It was not a bed of roses," Huston said. "When you woke up each day you would hope you would make it to the next day." He went on to say they were always un-certain times. "We survived by relying on each other very much. This medal is appreciated and will remind me of my time in France, but it was the group who went onto Juno Beach on the morning of June 6, 1944, who gave all their tomorrows

who deserve it more. We should always remember their sacrifices for the freedoms we enjoy today. As for this evening, I am so happy to see all the people who came out to share this event with me. I am very lucky.

Jucky. "This is an honor that was long overdue for Jack and the men who served with him in France," said Ramsden. "Jack deserves this honor since he was there and saw the horrors of war first hand. I was very pleased to place the medal on Jack's chest, and that will always be a special memory for me. The turnout was excellent and our only regret was that there were no Cana-dian government representatives presdian government representatives pres-ent for the ceremony or to speak. It was Jack's night in which he was surrounded by family, friends and comrades who admire him for his efforts during and after the war."



The color party marching to the cenotaph at Virden's Victoria Park for a wreath laying ceremony Ed James photos



A XII Manitoba Dragoon veteran laying a wreath at the cenotaph, assisted by Ladies' Auxiliary member Kaye Thompson of Elkhorn.

Virden Legion holds Decoration Day

BY ED JAMES

For several years now, many Royal Canadian Legion branches across Canada have been holding a Decoration Day cele-bration. Recently the Virden branch of the Royal Canadian Legion hosted the event which saw Legion members from various branches across the Westman area attend.

A color party under the command of

Sergeant at Arms Kel Smith formed up at the Legion hall. It was made up of Le-gion and Ladies' Auxiliary members that lead the small parade to the community cenotaph located in Victoria Park. A small group waited at the cenotaph, including a few Second World War veterans whose numbers grow smaller every year.

The service was conducted by Father

the Virden Legion padre who of-Don, the Virden Legion padre who of-fered prayers and scripture readings for those who gave their lives in war. After the final prayers, wreaths were laid by veterans and Legion members, followed by some short speeches. Father Don gave his blessing and the color guard marched back to the Legion for lunch and fellow-shin ship.

However, one veteran did stay behind, John Huston of Kenton who stood by himself in silence looking at the cenotaph. He spoke to me saying that whenever he visits a cenotaph he stops to remember those men he served with that did not come back home. They were the real he-roes who gave all their tomorrows for our freedoms

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Komarnicki's freedom of conscience motion passes

☞ Continued from page 11 "The Carter decision essentially referred to section 7 of the charter, which reads: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the

"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in ac-cordance with the principles of fundamental justice. "The decision said that it would require legislation al-lowing for physician-assisted death for a competent adult who clearly consents to the termination of life and has a grievous and irremediable medical condition, including an illness, disease or disability that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual in the circumstances of bis or her condition. I may not acrea with the court's leavie his or her condition. I may not agree with the court's logic in the use of section 7, but it has said that and it has said that Parliament needs to address that.

The use of section 7, but reas said that after thas said that Parliament needs to address that. "The type of legislation, the substance of the legislation and the views of the members may vary. Many members may struggle in deciding in good conscience whether or not they should support that piece of legislation, another piece of legislation or something in between. However, when it comes before the House for a vote, it should be a free vote. "Similarly, in the Morgentaler decision, the court decided in essence that the Criminal Code provisions then existing regarding abortion offended the same section 7 rights. The court was also of the view that it was Parliament's preroga-tive or obligation to put forth legislation, not theirs, that would balance this right with the rest of the charter that and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms get out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society. society.

society. "It is all conditional. This clearly indicates that there must be a balancing of interests, or at least a consideration of in-terests, if one truly wishes to rely on the charter ... "There is no doubt that members feel strongly on mat-

strongly on mat-ters such as this, relating to issues of life. Some would feel strongly that life is sacred and that they should not be re-quired to vote for any legislation that is against their con-science if it takes or allows for the taking of such life after conception before natural death. These may be absolute positions, but on all matters of life, there may also be po-

positions, but on all matters of life, there may also be po-sitions somewhere in between, where honest, sincere and good thinking members will, I am sure, struggle with their decision and differ in their views. Ultimately, however, they should all be free to vote with their conscience. "By allowing members to vote freely, it presupposes that members of differing points of view and different persua-sions, personal convictions and religious beliefs are allowed to run for public office and to be elected by constituents. To say, as the leader of the Liberal Party, the member for Pap-ineau, stated, that anyone who has a view other than what is commonly referred to as a 'pro-choice' view cannot run for the office of a member of Parliament or, at the very least, would not be given a free vote on the same issue runs ab-solutely contrary to this motion, as well as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Indeed, it would run against the fun-

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"For too long we have felt that difficult issues should not be moved, debated, or discussed in Parliament, many times simply because we have strong views on the subject and do not want to entertain anything else. That is not what democracy is about."

Souris-Moose Mountain MP Ed Komarnicki



Souris-Moose Mountain MP Ed Komarnicki

damentals of democracy, where issues should be debated

damentals of democracy, where issues should be debated freely and then voted upon. "The very definition of 'Parliament,' which I have taken from How Parliament Works, by John Bejermi, stems from the French parler, meaning 'to speak' or 'to discuss.' 'Par-liament,' then, or this House is a meeting place where the representatives of the people can speak, discuss, criticize, argue and express their opinions publicly on all matters of state. state

state. "In Canada, therefore, we have a system called 'parlia-mentary government.' It is regrettable that because of the positions taken by leaders like that of the Liberal Party, some of the press, the media, and others, we cannot have a good or reasonable debate on these issues, with contrary points of view, without it seeming to be something unusual, unacceptable, or in bad taste. It is most unfortunate. This has to change in this House. For too long, we have folt that has to change in this House. For too long we have felt that difficult issues should not be moved, debated, or discussed

in Parliament, many times simply because we have strong views on the subject and do not want to entertain anything else. That is not what democracy is about.

"When it comes to matters of conscience, there should be nothing that causes an MP to vote contrary to his or her conscience, for if members are forced to cross that line, they have violated who and what they are and what they believe in. I dare say that it is self-evident that no one should be required to do that. Their conscience is sarcosanct, invio-lable, and should not be impinged upon, for indeed if it can be, what value is the opinion or vote of those members go-ing forward and what reliance can be placed upon them. I ing torward and what reliance can be placed upon them. I think most Canadians and most constituents would expect no less from their members, even if they disagreed or had a different point or a different position. If the majority of con-stituents disagree, they should then elect a new member. "In the same email sent to the member for Papineau and leader of the Liberal Party of Canada by former Liberal members, they made this point quite well when they stated: "Second, since your edict singles out the issue of being opposed to abortion, but only that issue, it clearly discrimi-nates avainst a select class of neonle namely those who on-

opposed to abortion, but only that issue, it clearly discrimi-nates against a select class of people, namely those who op-pose abortion, and no one else, such as those who might oppose, or be in favour of, say, assisted suicide. We believe that such discrimination is a clear violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, section 2 (a) which guarantees everyone, even Liberal Mem-bers of Parliament, 'freedom of conscience,' and (b), which guarantees everyone, even Liberal Members of Parliament, freedom of thought, belief ... and expression.' "In my view, we need to get off the premise that some subjects are off limits for debate. We should have legisla-

ion go forward, agreeing that this is precisely the place where hard and difficult decisions must be made, acceptwhere hard and difficult decisions must be made, accept-ing the fact that members may have to struggle with their conscience to support a particular position. In the interest of democracy, justice and good government, we want all members to vote on these issues freely and without impedi-ment. I am hopeful and expect that not only my colleagues on this side of the House but all members of Parliament will see fit to support Motion No. 590. "This motion is straichtforward and unambiguous Mat-

"This motion is straightforward and unambiguous. Mat-ters of conscience for obvious reasons should be subject to free votes. I think it is a timely motion, especially given the most recent Supreme Court of Canada ruling in the Carter case and the languishing ruling on the Morgentaler case, which so far parliamentarians have not been able to face head-on or even in a peripheral way."







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Communities turning to commissionaires for bylaw enforcement

by Julia Dima

Two local communities are turning to hired commissionaires to address issues of bylaw infractions that they feel have gone unaddressed.

Fiel have gone unaddressed. In Wawota, the town council decided to sign a one-year contract with commissionaire officer Lorne Cowie. Cowie started his contract in May, and will be coming to Wawota once a week until September, and then once a month for the fall and winter months. The cost of hiring the commissionaire for the year is approximately \$4,900 according to town administrator Cherv] De Roo.

The intent of hiring the commissionaire, she says, was to address issues that the town has not been able to in the past, but that aren't on the RCMP's radar either. "It's mainly for smaller is-

"It's mainly tor smaller issues, but it's a lot of administration time. People often want to complain and don't, or we can send a letter and nothing gets done. It's more enforceable by (the commissionaire)," De Roo says. "We're not out to get people, we are just educating them on our bylaws, because a lot of people aren't even aware of the things we are trying to enforce."

The bylaws that are being enforced include traffic, nuisance, noise, and animal control bylaws. Some of the issues include parking the wrong way on the street, having uncut grass, junked vehicles, and otherwise untidy yards, excessive noises or dogs barking outside, and dogs at large, among other things. All of Wawota's bylaws can found online at their webpage. Mayor Neil Birnie says the intent of bringing the commissionaire in is to make people aware that some of the bad habits are breaking bylaws.

"It's just to bring bylaws. "It's just to bring things to people's attention," he says. "They get stuck in a rut, and they've been doing it wrong for 25 years, and now it's time to change."

The commissionaire has not issued any tickets at this point, which is what the town wanted. At this point, warnings are being issued for bylaw infractions, and Cowie is doing follow-ups each week with those who received a warning for an infraction.

"Our commissionaire is really good about things," De Roo says. "He'll talk to people first, if there's a trailer on the street for some reason, he can tell if it's being used for loading or construction. Like I said, we're just here to educate that's what we're doing more than anything... This is for educational purposes for the betterment of our community—we're trying to make our community look nice and be safe."

Birnie says he has heard residents talking about the commissionaire, so he hopes that's a sign that his presence will be effective in cleaning up some of the minor issues in town.

"As long as people are talking about it, it's effective," he says. "It's more of a test run, we just signed up for a year, and after a year, we'll review it, and either we'll go with it again or we won't."

won't." De Roo hopes that after a year, citizens will have normalized the idea of following some of the bylaws that are now being enforced by the commissionaire.

"The goal is that maybe after this one year contract, that will be enough. We will have to see how it goes. I think the public is being really good about it, and I think it's a good about, and I am hoping within one year, we won't have to have this."

Despite the shake-up in routine for some individuals, De Roo says she hasn't heard any complaints about the commissionaire's presence, though it is still early.

"We've only been doing it for about a month now, and it seems to be quite effective already," she says. "It's hard to tell, but last week when he was here, I don't think he gave out any warnings at all."

Cowie says that serving as the commissionaire in Wawota is going well so far, and he's found people to be cooperative. "I love working in Wa-

"I love working in Wawota, it's much nicer dealing with town people than city people. I prefer to talk to them, explain a bylaw to them, so they understand why there's an issue, and how to rectify it, and how you go about doing that together," he says. "Most people are more than cooperative. They are maybe a little agitated at first, but after you talk to them, and explain the issues to them, they usually understand, and they're glad to have us around." The most common issues

that Cowie says he is addressing are parking, unlicensed vehicles, and junked vehicles. He says that he's looking for large trailers or other vehicles parked on the street for extended periods of time that can create visibility problems or other safety concerns, as well as junked vehicles and unlidy yards, since messes can encourage pests, and become a health issue.

"You want to get those issues rectified so it ends up making the town more appealing to people, makes the value of the property better—it beautifies the town and makes it safe. That's what I'm here to enforce," he says.

Cowie says that he will not give a ticket to someone for a first offence. He will give two warnings, and if the problem is not fixed, he will talk to the individuals, and if they have not fixed the issue in the timeframe he's given, he will have a discussion with the administrator and from there, either a ticket will be issued or there will be an order of remedy by the town.

or there will be an order of remedy by the town. Cowie says he's not out to upset people, but to ensure the community is safe and clean. He says that since he arrived in May, he's had a good response.

good response." "You will get the odd people that don't think you need to enforce the bylaws, but it's like anything else, we all live by some kind of rule, whether it be in a city or wherever you live, there's always bylaws to follow, and I am just here to enforce those and explain what they are to the people, and hopefully not get anybody too mad at me. If they comply, I'm happy—as long as people do their part, I am sure we'll get along great," he savs

says. Whitewood has also decided to hire a commissionaire to help address bylaw issues. Their commissionaire, ex-RCMP officer Ken Louvel visits Whitewood once a week and is on a six-month contract until October 31, 2015. The commissionaire costs the community \$4,880 for the six-month contract.

Sharon Rodgers, Whitewood CAO, says that there have been mixed feelings within the community, but overall, things are improving with the presence of the commissionaire.

"Some people are just used to doing whatever even though there are bylaws that say they are not supposed to do those things. Now, we're trying to enforce them, and they haven't been enforced for a while, so most people are thinking it's about time," Rodgers says. "But, you get the odd one who thinks this is silly and there are more important things to be worried about than grass that needs cutting or whatever."

Rodgers says that as CAO, she can write letters on behalf of the town to address issues like untidy yards and loud dogs, but she says that it is seldom effective. With a commissionaire, the warming is more official, and she says that already, that is having an impact in the community. "Now we've noticed that

"Now we've noticed that we have people that are cleaning their yards and getting things looking nice again, so we think it's working. But, you will find those who don't think it is working. But, this is a trial basis for us, so we'll wait and see," she says.

see," she says. Rodgers says that like Wawota, the town made the decision to hire an officer because they were hearing numerous complaints about the bylaws not being enforced, and felt powerless to do anything about it. They also encouraged the commissionaire to issue warnings instead of tickets to bring things to people's attention before tickets are issued

"We suggested warnings to start, and that is what he is doing, handing out warnings. He gives a warning, and gives people a time frame to fix the issue. When he comes back again, if they have started fixing the issue, then he's okay with that and so are we. If they haven't, he asks why and when they are going to start, and brings or going to start, and brings that information back to the town," Rodgers says. "From the office and council's point of view, I think they feel that it is going well that way. "Like I said, there are

some naysayers who feel like we can spend the money better, but I've also had people say that they were going to buy a piece of property, took a look at the yard next door, and didn't want to worry about the person not cleaning their yard—so that devalues the whole neighborhood," Rodgers adds. She says that the town plans on having the commissionaire on a trial basis for the six month contract

She says that the town plans on having the commissionaire on a trial basis for the six month contract, and afterwards, if the community is addressing bylaw issues, they will not rehire the commissionaire, but will if they believe more work needs to be done on ensuring enforcement in the community.

The commissionaires visit each community for around three hours, and arrive at different times on different days each week.

Meanwhile, in Moosomin, the RCMP is looking into the possibility of creating a new position of a community constable. That constable will not

necessarily be focusing on

bylaw enforcement in the same way the commissionaires do, but would work within the community and school to help take pressure off the rest of the detachment so they can focus on larger issues. "The primary focus of this officer is engaging the community in active crime prevention and building a relationship between community and the RCMP," says Sergeant Joe Telus. "It's some that can do the liaison with the school and that kind of stuff. But they also have the capacity to provide tactical enforcement and investigational support to other members if needed."

er members if needed." Telus says that they want the new officer to deal with community issues, and that could include bylaw enforcement and issues that arise in the schools. The officer will also offer help in situations that currently take up too many RCMP resources.

many RCMP resources. "If there's a problem with weight and measures, where trucks are traveling and they are overweight, if that person wants to look at that, then they can, and it'll be easier to do it, because all I have to do is grab one other constable to go with that person to do it. Whereas, right now, if we were to do it, I'd need to have two constables go and do it for safetr reasons." Telus savs.

It is need to have two constables in the need to be a stables go and do it for safety reasons," Telus says. Right now, the plans are in the works to have one community constable assigned to the Moosomin RCMP, but Telus says approval for the program has to go through the National RCMP division in Ottawa before a new community constable is assigned to the detachment.





Contact Ferrel Horn – Wapella • Moosomin – 306-435-2420 • 306-435-7778

Bear and Gabrielle both drafted to the NI

by Iulia Dima

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BY JULA DIMA Two local hockey players are seeing their lifelong dreams to be NHL players come closer and closer. Last weekend, the NHL Draft took place, and both Jesse Ga-brielle and Ethan Bear were drafted to NHL teams. This is following the NHL Scouting Combine, which took place in early June, where both players interviewed with a number of NHL scouts, and had a chance to showcase their physical strength. At the combine, Gabrielle broke there scouting combine physical endurance records. Jesse Gabrielle grew up in Moosomin, and played his minor hockey in Minnesota before coming back to Cana-da to play WHL with the Brandon Wheat Kings. In Janu-ary, Gabrielle was traded to the Regina Pats, where he had a competitive season, scoring 10 goals and nine assists in his 33 regular season games with the team. Going into the Scouting Combine in June, Gabrielle was ranked 73rd in the draft prospects. In the NHL draft, Ga-brielle was picked up by the Boston Bruins in the fourth

round, 103th overall.

For Gabrielle, who has had his eyes on the Bruins for a

For Gabrielle, who has had his eyes on the Bruins for a long time, hearing his named called to head up and pick up his Boston Bruins jersey was an exciting and relieving moment. "It was like the weight of the world was off my shoul-ders," Gabrielle says. "This past month has been really stressful with all the scenarios going in your head about where you're going to get drafted or if you will—just to hear your name called was a big relief. All the stress and warring is good and now uccome focus on braining and worrying is over and now you can focus on training camp

Gabrielle savs that of the teams he met with during the scouting combine, he felt confident about his interview with the Bruins, and is glad he has been drafted to a team

"Getting drafted to Boston is pretty fitting with the style that It shi blaying style. "Getting drafted to Boston is pretty fitting with the style that I play, and playing for a team like that plays pretty gritty will be good," he says.

Gabrielle is among five Regina Pats picked up in the draft, along with Colby Williams, Connor Hobbs, Austin draft, along with Colory williams, Connor Floobs, Austin Wagner, and Sergey Zborovskiy, Gabrielle will be head-ing to the Boston Bruins training camp on July 13, and then heading back to Saskatchewan after his training to rejoin the Pats for the 2014 season.

rejoin the Pats for the 2014 season. Gabrielle says he is excited, but he's focusing on con-tinuing to work hard and prove himself to the Bruins. "It's a milestone and I'm happy about it, but, there's so much work to do, so I am trying to focus on having a good day today celebrating, and then just get back to training." he says. "This gives me a sense that my hard work is pay-ing the trainer there are the heart to ithe them can be a sense that my hard work is pay-

ing off, so it gives me a boost to just keep going." Ethan Bear, who is from Ochapowace First Nation, was also drafted, selected in the fifth round, 124th overall for the Edmonton Oilers

Bear has been playing with the Seattle Thunderbirds in the WHL for two seasons now.

Continued on page 33



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Repairs to historic church Workers were removing old shingles and adding new ones on the historic St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church in the RM of Martin, south of Wapella on Thursday. At left, the old shingles come off, and above, the new shingles are added to the steeple. The church brought a crane to help with the project.

The fieldstone church was built in 1899 as a replacement for an earlier church built in the early 1880s.

The Scottish congregation constructed the elaborate fieldstone church with volunteer labour.

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Plain and Valley



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Bear and Gabrielle drafted to NHL

Continued from page 30 In his two seasons, Bear has racked up 19 goals and 38 assists. In addition, Bear was selected to play with Team Canada in the U18 World Championship in Switzerland this year. Bear says his mind went blank when he

Bear says his mind went blank when he was called up for the Oilers. "It was definitely a nerve-wracking morning, but I knew they had interest in me, and every time the team name came up, I was really hoping to hear my name. When they did call my name. I was pretty shocked. I think I blanked it out for a few worse fits and I blandly company hurging seconds, and I hardly remember hugging my mom. I was too excited." Bear says. "It as a cool experience, and it's something I'll remember for the rest of my life.

I'll remember for the rest of my life." The best part of the moment for Bear was having his family's support. His sis-ters, big brother, and parents were by his side in Florida. "I remember I hugged my dad and he was patting me on the back, I don't think I've ever seen him so happy in my life. My mom was crying too, and it was the cutest thing ever," Bear says. His time for celebration was short how-ever, as immediately after the draft, Bear had to pack his bags again and head to Ed-monton for the start of the development camp.

monton for the start of the development camp. "It's been a hard working week, it's a good chance to help yourself as a player to get better and stronger and learn ev-erything the development coaches have to teach," Bear says. "Being in Edmonton, I get the chance to get a good feel of what the guys are like and what the feel is like around the room."

In addition to the skills development, Bear says he is enjoying the team build-

Bear says he is enjoying the team build-ing activities, including a cook-off that his team won on Thursday. "I was pretty surprised that we actually rigged up a good dish," he says. "That was definitely a lot of fun." Having the Oilers jersey on his back and being at the development camp, Bear says, has made him realize how close his NHL droam is dream is.

"It opened my mind up of how close the NHL is and how hard I want to work for it. Actually getting drafted and actually com-ing here makes me want to play on this ing here haves the want to play of this team and work even harder, it's a really good thing for me," he says. "I still have a long way to go, but definitely the hard work I put in for the combine and during my hockey season, I think it really helped me out and I'm happy for that—but this is only one of the ". only one step.

only one step." For the summer, Bear will be coming home to Ochapowace Nation to be with family before heading to Regina for his summer hockey training. While back home, Bear knows he wants to give back to his fans, especially the young hockey playare

"Tilke having home support and know-ing they are there for me, because in the end, I want to give back and teach all those kids back home what I'm learning," he

Bear will also have a chance to play his second favorite sport, softball, at the Sas-katchewan First Nation Summer Games which will be held at Ochapowace Nation from August 9 to 15

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Manitoba evaluates rural vet services

A new three-person task force will evaluate Manitoba's rural veterinary services, consult with stakeholders and provide recommendations to government on how to enhance this important service for livestock and pet owners, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Minister Ron Kostyshyn announced today.

"Manitoba's rural veterinarians provide a broad range of services and care for ani-mals throughout the province," said Minister Kostyshyn. "Animal health and bios-ecurity are priorities shared by vets and our government, so we want to ensure ap-propriate services and infrastructure are available. We want to hear the priorities of stakeholders and then develop a comprehensive plan for veterinary services for the future

The minister has appointed Dr. Paul Schneider, Bertha Russell-Langan and Merv Starzyk to the task force. Over the next six months, it will:

hold a series of focus groups with producer associations, members of the veteri-nary community, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and other stakeholders

nary community, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and other stakeholders to determine focus areas for broader consultations; • ask Manitobans for input into the future of rural veterinary services through pub-lic meetings and an online consultation; • survey current and recently graduated veterinary students; • review the current model of providing veterinary service in rural areas including financial statements and caseloads of each clinic;

 analyze provincial and municipal support provided for vets and veterinary clinics in the prairie provinces; and make recommendations to the minister on how to ensure Manitoba's rural veteri-

 make recommendations to the minister on now to ensure Manitoba's rural veteri-nary services remain sustainable.
 "We in the task force look forward to the opportunity to meet with many Manito-bans interested in veterinary services in rural Manitoba, to discuss where we are today and determine the opportunities to maintain the best services possible," said Dr. Paul Schneider, a veterinarian from St-Pierre-Jolys. "The services required by farms and companion animals are continually evolving and we need to maintain our focus on those needs. We must also ensure rural Manitoba can continue to attract and keep the dedicated professionals who are key in providing those services."

There are currently 145 veterinarians practicing in rural Manitoba, providing care and services for livestock and pets. Manitoba currently has a scholarship program for veterinary students who choose



to practice in a rural area for two years after graduation. Since it was established in 2003, more than 45 students have participated, resulting in over 76 years of service returned to rural communities. The task force report and recommendations are expected in January 2016, the minis

ter said. Additional information about public meetings and online consultations will be posted at www.gov.mb.ca/agricultureand shared at the Twitter account at www. witter.com/MBGovAgonce details are finalized. Manitoba's veterinary service was last reviewed in 2007.









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