

# BROOKS BULLETIN

*Serving Brooks & County of Newell since 1910!*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024



## Peace. Hope, Joy.

It's a season of miracles and an opportunity for us to share our sincere gratitude with all of the folks who make this community such a wonderful place to be. We hope the blessings of family and friendship fill your heart and soul with peace, joy and contentment.

## Merry Christmas!



*FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS, MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

#20 6th Street East 403-362-4000 lutesbrk@telus.net facebook.com/lutesbrooks



# Soccer fields to be built near quad diamonds

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

City council committee members agreed to permit the construction of soccer fields on a piece of land immediately south of the quad ball diamonds.

The city has direct control of the 17 acre property so a land use amendment will not have to be made, however, the entire southeast area sector will be updated in 2025.

Lisa Tiffin, the city's director of planning and community development,

told the committee the land was chosen due to its size, access to water, wastewater as well as parking and a playground.

The original plan for the area was to build single family homes in the parcel and extending 14th Street East, however, the city doesn't believe the land will be needed for homes.

The recreation board gave their approval for the project on the property as they had given their approval for the previous soccer field proposal at the

old rodeo grounds.

"This will be a public space. You know with our first presentation those fields are used just about year round by the community so that's there for everyone to use," said Brad Biette, vice president of Grasslands Soccer Association. Larger fields can be reduced in size by changing the painted lines to accommodate younger players while the entire area could be used to host provincials, something that the association does want

to do.

The fields will not be available for house league play but they may be ready in late 2025 for competitive teams. The season can be extended if players are attending Southern Alberta Summer Games or provincials.

Biette is concerned that the public may use the field after it's built but before it's ready to be used.

"Therein lies the problem."

There are a couple of fields where baseballs could

potentially land so there may have to be a fence installed.

Biette does not know if they will seek funding from the city.

"It's hard to designate what the financial commitment will be because we have no home," he said.

He said until there is something to call home the association cannot fundraise and don't know how much they may need.

"I think we would like to be treated like other minor sports associations

so whatever the city has contributed to minor ball, we would appreciate the same funding towards us," said Maria Jackson, a member of the association.

The board chair of Grasslands Public Schools confirmed last week that the track construction will begin in the spring at Eastbrook School on land that was used for house league soccer.

Biette expects the house league soccer season will be played at other school locations.



Proposed layout of soccer pitches. 'A' fields are for U7 players, 'B' fields for U9, 'C' fields for U11 and 'D' fields for U12 which can be reconfigured to accommodate other ages. | CITY OF BROOKS

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# Residential tax increase 5.75 per cent in Brooks budget

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The city's proposed 2025 budget will impose a 5.75 per cent residential property tax increase so homes assessed at \$300,000 will pay an additional \$22 per month, including an increase of about \$10 on utilities, depending on water use.

Much of the financial pressure is due to policing which accounts for 3.75 per cent of the tax increase as policing costs will rise from \$3.640 million to \$5.096 million. Policing costs to the city include multi-year contracts as well as tangible items such as bodycams which are expected to arrive in the detachment area next year.

"Those are all putting pressure on the budget," said finance director Bill McKennan.

Mayor John Petrie said the city is strapped in RCMP decision making.

"They can make decisions and they did that with the new contract and we pay the retro pay and what they're buying, whether it's new guns or cameras, we have no say but we have to pay," he said.

The city, like all municipalities, has been struggling with provincial downloading including infrastructure cuts. The Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) will return somewhat to its previous level over the next two years but it is expected

to decrease in coming years while inflation continues to increase.

Expenditures that the city can control have been restrained and reduced where reasonable with no new borrowing in this year's budget. However, borrowing will be required in future years for projects including a new sewer treatment plant.

"Overall, the theme of the budget was restraint which it has been for a number of years now so to accomplish that most of the accounts were frozen at the 2024 expenditure levels," McKennan said.

Additional details of the City of Brooks' budget will be printed in the Jan. 8 edition of The Bulletin.



## Wardlow Westerly

JEAN LAVOIE

WARDLOW - I have heard that the mail strike has ended so that we, north of the Red Deer river should get our paper and other mail next week sometime. It's surprising how much we miss our mail.

Saturday evening, we hosted the bus driver's Christmas party. We had

all the drivers and spouses except one of the wife's was under the weather, we all sent her get well wishes. Hopefully she kicks it before Christmas. We had a great potluck supper and a gift exchange. Where we each picked a number and then after number 1 had pick each following number

could steal or pick a new gift. After everyone had an open gift number 1 could exchange the gift he had for any other. A fun game and most seemed to have gone home happy.

If you have any news to share please call me at (403) 566-2448 or email at hippies2@telusplanet.net.

# NEWELL CONCERT ASSOCIATION

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### Public Notices

#### City Holiday Hours

Find all City holiday hours, including:

- City Hall
- JBS Canada Centre
- Centennial Regional Arena

Visit [Brooks.ca](http://Brooks.ca) for details!

#### Regional Assessment Review Board - Board Members Needed!

Board positions are available for citizens of the City of Brooks, County of Newell, Town of Bassano, and the Villages of Duchess and Rosemary who are interested in serving as a member of the Regional Assessment Review Board.

Members are required to take online Provincial training to learn the applicable legislation in relation to fair and equitable property assessments.

Once trained, the members of the Regional Assessment Review Board will hear appeals as required for all member municipalities. The appeal hearings will be organized by Assessment Review Board Clerks and the members will be called upon in accordance with the nature of the appeal.

Members will receive remuneration for both training and hearing participation.

Residents interested in serving on this Board are requested to contact:

Cathy Slaney  
Financial Planning Supervisor  
Email: [cslaney@brooks.ca](mailto:cslaney@brooks.ca)  
Phone: (403) 362-3333

#### Canada Post Service Disruptions

Due to the ongoing postal strike, utility bills will not be mailed.

If your account number starts with "001" (The east side of the city, for example), your December utility bill (for the October/November period) is now available!

Payment is due by January 15, 2025.

Important Reminders:

- You are still responsible for your bill, even during the postal strike.
- Need a physical copy? Visit City Hall.
- For future bills, sign up for e-billing for faster and easier access! Check the comments to get started! (Usernames cannot have spaces or be email addresses.)
- Haven't signed up for e-billing and need a copy of your bill emailed? Contact us at [utilities@brooks.ca](mailto:utilities@brooks.ca).

Late penalties will apply after the due date.

### 2025 Election

#### Notice of Nomination Period

Local Authorities Election Act

LOCAL JURISDICTION: CITY OF BROOKS, Province of Alberta

Notice is hereby given that the Nomination Period for the 2025 Municipal General Election begins on January 1, 2025 and runs until 12:00 p.m. on Nomination Day, September 20, 2025, and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the location of the local jurisdiction office set out below between the hours of 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. from January 2, 2025 - September 19, 2025 and 8:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Nomination Day (September 20, 2025).

Please note that due to the New Year's Day Holiday nominations will be accepted starting January 2, 2025.

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies
Mayor	1
City Councillor	6

Location (Address) of Local Jurisdiction Office:

BROOKS CITY HALL  
201 – 1 AVENUE WEST  
BROOKS, AB  
T1R 0Z6

DATED at the City of Brooks in the Province of Alberta, this 3rd day of December, A.D. 2024.

Amanda Peterson  
Returning Officer

Please note that City Hall is only open Monday – Friday; therefore, nominations will not be accepted on weekends and/or holidays.

#### Nomination Package Available January 2, 2025

Interested candidates for the position of Mayor or Councillor are invited to pick up a City of Brooks 2025 Municipal General Election Nomination Package at the City of Brooks Office, 201 – 1st Avenue West beginning on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

2025 Municipal General Election Nomination Packages will also be available on the City's website at [www.brooks.ca](http://www.brooks.ca).

Nomination Forms must be returned to the City Office on Nomination Day September 20, 2025 between 8:15 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.



# One Tree World

IRMA MERKL



ONE TREE - I'd like to wish all my readers a Very Merry Christmas, may it be merry and bright and a Happy New Year to all, may it be healthy, happy and a prosperous one.

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** Just so everyone knows there won't be a Bulletin now till January 8th, 2025, because of the way the holidays fall. So we'll pray that all will be well till then.

**\*\*Attention\*\*** to those folks who wish to donate to the HALO Air Ambulance, in Medicine Hat. "Note" Their mailing address is still -12-1 Airport Drive SW, Medicine Hat AB T1A 5G4 phone # (403) 528-9088.

Their Base Address is as follows—557 -18th St. S.W. Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8C4

I hear that the postal workers are being ordered back to work. It's bit late for Christmas mail and parcels,

etc. Oh, well I hope they'll all be happy.

On this past Saturday Thomas and Barbara Mahrer went to Lethbridge to attend the Lethbridge Choir concerts of three different choirs, one of which Barbara's sister Sandra sang with. Then, they watched their grandsons Ben and Zac play hockey. They returned home in Sunday evening.

On last Thursday and Friday Inge Ellefson, Joe Hajash and Greg Patterson from our area went on behalf of the Brooks Rotary Club and volunteered at the Casino in Medicine Hat.

On Saturday Erwin Unger and Inge Ellefson were invited to the home of Erwin's brother George and Marie Unger at Speargrass Community (near Caresland) for a pre-Christmas dinner, which they enjoyed.

Staying at the home of

Ozzie Schalm is his daughter Michelle and her husband Jeff Richardson till April, as they had sold their home in Diamond Valley.

Leighton Slomp of S.A.I.T. will be spending most of his Christmas holidays at the home of his parents, David and Melissa Slomp.

Birthday greetings for the next two weeks go out to Donovan Stenger and to his twin sister, Christie Waldner, both on Dec. 19th; to Corey Noronha of Drumheller and to Sarah Sinclair, both on Dec. 20th; to BO Kozma of Lethbridge, to Virginia Collins and to Maddyx Velesco, all on Dec. 22nd; to David Van Oirschot, to Jeff Alberts and to Frances (Alberts) Wipf of Calgary and to Susan Schoneck, all on Dec. 23rd; to Tina Collins and to Clayton Juss, both on Dec. 28th; to Maclin Robert Fay, who'll be two years old on Dec. 29th; to Gloria Van Oirschot and to little Elisabeth Grundy, who'll be two years old, both on Dec. 31st; to Susan (Hajash) Johnson of her twin brother, Donald Hajash of Brooks Jan. 2nd; to Frank Merkl and to Justin Slomp, both on Jan, 3rd; to Joe Ruzsvanszki of Calgary on Jan. 4th; to Kirsten Mortensen and to Daxton Hickey, both on Jan. 5th. We wish each of you a great day and a "Very Happy Birthday" and to everyone else that is celebrating a birthday. We wish everyone all the very

best in the coming year.

There aren't any anniversaries that I know of. If there is, we wish you all the best.

Hopefully everyone will remember what the reason is and why we celebrate Christmas for our baby Jesus.

I hope everyone will have a wonderful Christmas time with family and friends and may those who travel will do so safely.

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# SEASON'S GREETINGS

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and magical holiday season.  
Merry Christmas!

DANIELLE SMITH

Premier of Alberta

MLA Brooks-Medicine Hat

**Main Office:**  
503 4th Avenue W, Brooks  
587-270-5111  
brooks.medicinehat@assembly.ab.ca

**Satellite:**  
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# Bottomless Best Wishes

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## COMMENT

## Canada faltering thanks to federal government incompetence

LORNE GUNTER  
TORONTO SUN

Last month, Canada's unemployment rate grew by three-tenths of a percentage point.

That might not sound like much, but it is the largest one-month jump since the worst months of the pandemic in late 2020 and early 2021.

Three-tenths is a big jump for one month. The November increase brings the overall rate to 6.8%, its highest level in seven years (not counting the trough during the pandemic).

Let's put even more perspective on the bad jobs numbers from November.

There are now 1.5 million Canadians actively seeking work who are nonetheless jobless.

In April 2023, the unemployment rate was 5.1%, which means that in just the past 19 months — a little more than a year and a half — the rate has risen by 1.7 percentage points — a staggering one-third increase.

There were 87,000 more unemployed Canadians in November than in October and 276,000 more unemployed in November 2024 than in November 2023.

Canada added just over 329,000 jobs in the past 12 months. So, how come unemployment has risen so sharply? Because over the same year, the federal Liberals increased the number of immigrants it allowed into the country by 1.2 million. That means immigration is outstripping job growth by four to one.

You don't have to be anti-immigration to see the fallacy of the Trudeau government's policy. The Liberals may insist they are cutting way back on immigration, but so far they are still admitting about 100,000 newcomers per month.

Our economy, which is sluggish thanks to the Liberals' anti-energy, anti-investment, anti-business and pro-tax policies will grow by under 1% this year. It would need to grow by closer to 4% to accommodate the number of immigrants, refugees, foreign students and temporary foreign workers the Liberals keep letting in.

Another inconvenient fact buried in the November job numbers: More than half of the new jobs created were in the public sector. Since public-sector jobs do not fund themselves, these government, hospital, school, university and other civil service jobs have to be underwritten by tax dollars or government borrowing, neither of which are sustainable sources of funding in the long term.

And while the rest of the country may love to hate Toronto, bad economic news for the country's largest city is not good for Canada. And in November, Toronto got terrible economic news.

Last month, the unemployment rate in T.O. jumped from 7.5% to 9.2% — in one month!

And the news for the last year hasn't been much better. In November last year, there were 258,500 unemployed in the Greater Toronto Area. This November, there were 379,900, an increase of 47% in just one year.

It is a puzzle how there can be any Liberal voters left in Toronto at all, yet there are. Toronto and Montreal remain the Liberals' last two sort-of strongholds.

The most troubling aspect of all, though, may be that the Trudeau government seems to have no understanding of how its economic and immigration policies have created this mess, nor any understanding of how their increases in the size of government and the level of taxation are making it harder and harder for Canada's economy to climb out of the hole they have dug.

Moreover, if their floodgate immigration policy leads to the incoming U.S. administration slapping a 25% tariff on goods from Canada, the Liberals' mismanagement of the economy and immigration could land us in a recession or even a depression.

This is the dumbest, most incompetent government in my lifetime. The Liberals and New Democrats, who have propped up Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government for so long, need to be punished at the polls.

## TIME CAPSULE

Tilley Post Office - 1967.



## Syria Gets Another Chance

COLUMNIST

GWYNNE DYER



Take a moment, first, to celebrate the fall of a regime of surpassing evil even by the demanding standards of the Middle East. Father and son, the Assad regime oppressed and abused the Syrian people for 53 years, and now it is gone in a week. Even the American-backed puppet regime in Afghanistan did not fall that fast.

The Russians, the Iranians and Hezbollah in Lebanon supported Bashar al-Assad through the last thirteen years of hot and cold civil war in Syria, but in the end they let him go. Hezbollah has been gutted by the Israelis, Moscow is too distracted by its war in Ukraine, and Iran is frightened of a joint attack by Israel and a Trump-led United States.

The big winners at this point, therefore, seem to be Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on the one hand, and the rebranded jihadis who have now taken control of Damascus and most of Syria's other big cities on the other. But it was Netanyahu's triumph over Hezbollah that indirectly helped the jihadis into power in Syria, and he may regret it.

The current name for the Islamist group that has just gained control of most of Syria's population is Hayat Tahrir-al Sham (HTS). That means 'Organisation for the Liberation of the Levant', a neutral name for what now claims to be a broad nationalist front — but HTS's roots lie in al-Qaeda and the murderous

head-choppers of Islamic State.

'Once a jihadi, always a jihadi,' some would say, and HTS remains classed as a terrorist organisation by the United Nations, the United States, Turkey and Russia. US officials have even called HTS "a vehicle to advance [al-Qaeda's] position in the Syrian uprising."

However, it is possible that the leopard really has changed its spots. So far, in its victory march across Syria, HTS has lived up to its promise not to impose shariah law on Syria's many and diverse sects. Even the Christian, Druze and Alawite minorities are being treated with respect — although for the Alawites, at least, that may not be convincing enough.

Alawites are no more than 10% of Syria's population, and for most of the region's history they were an obscure agrarian minority. But the French recruited their colonial army in Syria largely from the Alawite community precisely because it was a marginal and powerless group — and when the French left, the Alawite soldiers took over the country.

For more than half a century the Alawites dominated Syria and benefitted greatly from the Assad clan's monopoly of power. They now fear that they will be held collectively responsible for the regime's crimes, and they will be strongly tempted to cut their own territory free from the ruins of the Syrian state.

They might actually achieve that if they move fast enough, particularly if they can get tacit Russian support for their separation from the rest. Their home territory includes almost all of Syria's Mediterranean coast and is home to Russia's air and naval bases in the region — and so far HTS's march south has not impinged on the core Alawite territory.

Further fragmentation of Syria is possible if the Kurds in the east

and the Druze in the south (near the Israeli border) try to go their own way, but the Turks, erstwhile sponsors of HTS, will strive to prevent that. Which way the United States will jump (under new management) remains to be seen.

And the biggest change, which Western observers seem constrained from mentioning by some misplaced cultural sensitivity, is the collapse of Shia power and influence in the region. Iran is 95% Shia and Iraq at least 70% Shia, but Lebanon and Syria had also become part of a larger Shia bloc although neither has a Shia majority. That is now at an end.

As for the question of the leopard's spots, it really is too soon to tell. Even if Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, the leader of HTS, is secretly the extremist that his early associations suggest, it would make good tactical sense for him to pretend to moderation until his relatively small group has established a secure position at the heart of Syrian politics.

That moment may never even come. The Syrian political stage is suddenly crowded with many other players with their own agendas, and the largely peaceful and non-violent nature of the Assad regime's collapse has created no conquering hero whose charisma overshadows all potential rivals.

We could imagine a different future for Syria in which the half of the population who have become internal or external refugees return safely to their homes, all but the worst of the criminals who served the Assad regime are pardoned and rehabilitated, and the country begins to rebuild a future worth having.

That may be a fantasy, but don't write the country off before it has a chance.



# BROOKS BULLETIN

Serving Brooks & County of Newell since 1910!

Jamie Nesbitt  
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Makias Daniels, 11, gives Brooks RCMP Cpl. Sharon McCready a skateboard for the RCMP's Christmas Toy Drive that was held on the weekend. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

## Christmas is for Underdogs

DEVOTIONAL  
THOUGHT OF  
THE WEEK

EID MINISTERIAL ASSOC.

**JON CHALMERS  
LEAD PASTOR BROOKS  
EVANGELICAL FREE  
CHURCH**

One of my favorite movies is the Cinderella Man. Russell Crowe, depicts James J. Braddock, who appears to be a washed up boxer because of a previously broken hand. Through a series of events Braddock earns the opportunity to fight the heavy weight champion of the world as the 10 - 1 underdog. On June 13th, 1935, Braddock, a family man struggling to pay his bills, defied the odds and became the new champion. Who doesn't love a good underdog story? We can all relate to an underdog because we can picture ourselves as one. This is what makes it easy to cheer for a man like Braddock. However,

generally cheering for a longshot is heart-breaking. The reason, 10 - 1 odds typically do as expected. They lose.

The story of Christmas is good news for underdogs and longshots. In the Bible, Luke 2 tells us who the birth of Jesus was first announced to. Luke 2:8, 9a, "And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them." Shepherds working in the dark of night were met with the light of God with a message of good news for all people. The news was extraordinary, 'Christ the Lord had been born in Bethlehem.' Shepherds lacked social status. They were no aristocrats; they were peasants, and they were given the news of Jesus first. Jesus' coming leveled power and lifted the powerless. Christmas is the message that says,

10,000 - 1 underdogs can experience the joy of salvation that only Jesus offers. Every underdog and sinner can beat the odds by accepting Jesus. Romans 10:11, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." Through Christ, the odds are in your favor.



# Church

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Fax: (403) 793 2571  
Email: secretary@saintmarysbrooks.com  
www.StMarysBrooks.ca

Parish Priest  
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Church: 403-362-5060  
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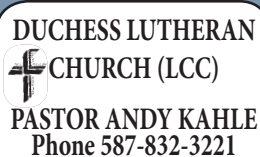
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PASTOR ANDY KAHLE  
Phone 587-832-3221

Sunday Worship  
Service 11:30 am  
Everyone Welcome!

LUTHERAN HOUR  
Sundays 7:30 am  
CHAT FM94.5 RADIO  
8:30 A.M.  
CKMX 1060

"Does It Matter If  
Jesus Is God?"  
(Luke 2:10-11)



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Phone 403.633.2829  
Email: office@duchessmennonite.ca  
Website: www.duchessmennonite.ca

Sunday Worship Service  
10:30 am

Pastor Nathan Ramer  
Pastor Terry Jackson

Office Hours: Tuesdays to  
Thursdays  
8:30 am to 12 Noon



REVEREND ESTHER CREWS  
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT  
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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE  
10 AM  
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403.362.7785



One Block North of Cassils Rd. at  
11th Street West

Join us for  
Sunday Worship  
10:00 am

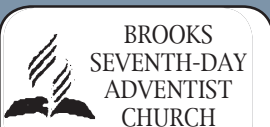
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403-378-4933

Sunday School  
10:00 am  
Worship Service  
11:00 am  
Welcomes Everyone!

Pastor: Josh Mueller



Pastor Ryan Reeves  
780-232-2926

420 - 2nd St. W.

SATURDAY  
SERVICE  
Sabbath School:  
10:00 am  
Worship  
11 am



Worship  
-Sundays at 10am  
-Wednesdays at 6:30pm  
Ed. Hour : Gr 5 + at 9:00am  
Age 3- Gr 4 during Worship  
Pastor Maggie Theiss  
811 Cassils Road West  
403-362-4259  
brkstrin@telusplanet.net  
For more info on  
Trinity go to  
brookstrinity.ca



SUNDAY SERVICE  
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ON ONE TREE ROAD



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2024 Year of Doing  
New Things  
Bible Study: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 10:30 am





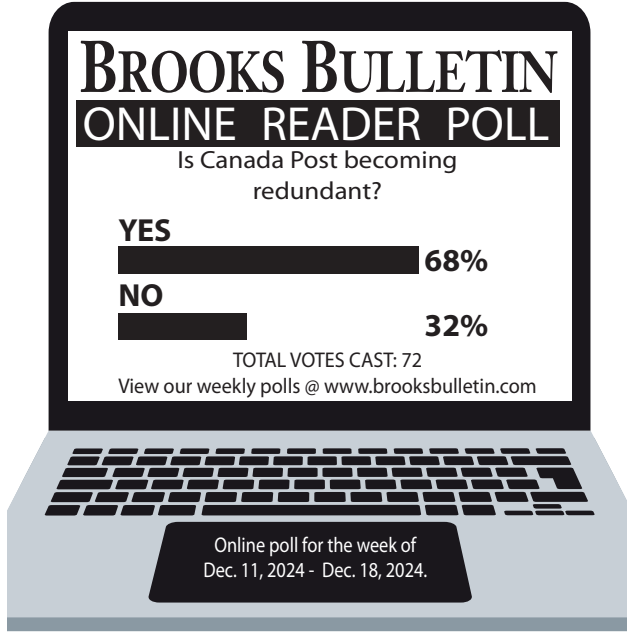
SCANDIA - May the magic of Christmas fill your home with joy and your heart with peace. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alcoma School News-Alcoma's annual Christmas concert will take place this Tuesday, doors open at 5:30, concert starts at 6, to be followed by beverages and desserts. All are welcome to join in an evening of Christmas cheer!

Checkout class dojo for all the fun Christmas activities and spirit week wear. The last day of school will be this Friday, Dec. 20, and school will resume Monday, Jan. 6th.

Salem Lutheran Church will host Christmas Carols and the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 4pm. If your kids would like to take part, contact Kryston Tateson at 403-363-0869. Potluck to follow, bring your favorite side, salad, or dessert.

It's always great to hear about our neighbors and the exciting things happening in the community. If you have any news or interesting Scandia trivia you'd like submitted in the sketch, please contact me at Karlyn. takeda@hotmail.com or 403-501-3618.



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I wish to thank our dedicated staff who help to provide our services to our community and work so hard to make our customers feel special and you are special.

May the feeling of good cheer and prosperity follow us into the coming year, and May the Spirit of Christmas be with You All!

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# Newell Foundation's increased requisition will hit taxpayers

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Municipalities can expect to see a significant increase in the 2025 Newell Foundation Requisition due to a deficit in 2023 and increases across the board.

"We ran a deficit because of increased costs," said Sasha Loewen, CAO of the Newell Foundation.

Municipalities collect the requisition on behalf of the foundation through municipal taxes, the same as they collect school taxes on behalf of the province.

Loewen said between 2019 and 2023 food costs increased 21.74 per cent and utilities by 28.97 and the carbon tax has cost the lodge over \$37,000 last year and it's estimated the tax will cost the lodge over \$40,000 in 2025.

"We can't increase our residents rents to keep up with inflation. Their income isn't sufficient," she said.

The foundation operates

lodges including Playfair in Bassano and Newbrook in Brooks as well as some other housing.

Rental rates are subsidized by the provincial government and those who require more assistance are subsidized through the Newell Housing Foundation requisitions.

As a result the foundation's requisition to municipalities for 2025 will be \$1,340,320 but how it will be divided among the municipalities is unknown.

"Once the government puts out the equalized assessment report I put in the numbers into a table that breaks it down for me," she said.

In 2018 and 2019 the requisition was \$1,254,253 and it dropped in 2020 to \$500,000 because the mortgage on the building was paid.

Although the expenses were higher in 2021, the foundation received COVID

funding in the amount of \$416,722 from the province to offset the costs.

"COVID funding ended in 2023," she said.

Despite the fact that municipalities are expected to have interim budgets passed by the end of the year, municipalities should have been informed of the increase by councillors who are members of the Newell Foundation.

As of last week Playfair and Newbrook lodges were filled except for a few couple's rooms.

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# Howdy

## & MERRY CHRISTMAS


Another Christmas is galloping in, so it's time to kick up our heels and celebrate. We really appreciate your partnership all year, and we hope your holiday season is filled to the brim with good times, good people and good fortune. Thanks for everything!






BROOKS, ALBERTA

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**COUNTY OF NEWELL**



**MUNICIPAL 2025 ELECTION**

NOTICE OF NOMINATION PERIOD - 2025 LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTION

**Residents of the County of Newell** are hereby notified that the Nomination Period for the 2025 Local Authorities Election opens January 1, 2025 and will remain open until 12:00 PM (noon) local time on Nomination Day, September 22, 2025.

The positions open for election during the October 20, 2025 Local Authorities Election are nine (9) Councillors for Electoral Divisions 1 through 9.

A detailed Candidate Information Package, which includes the prescribed nomination form, will be available on the County of Newell website on January 1, 2025:

[countyofnewell.ab.ca/2025-municipal-election](http://countyofnewell.ab.ca/2025-municipal-election)


Paper copies of the Candidate Information Package are available upon request.

- ✓ **Completed nomination forms** must be submitted to the Returning Officer between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM.
- ✓ **Address:** 183037 Range Road 145, Brooks, AB
- ✓ **Nomination deadline:** September 22, 2025 at 4:30 PM

(\*Please note that County Offices will be closed on January 1, 2025)

If you are interested in serving the County of Newell ratepayers, please consider running for municipal office in the upcoming election.


Division	# of Councillors
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6	1
7	1
8	1
9	1




## NOTICE OF SUBDIVISION


As mandated in the MGA, subdivisions must be circulated to adjacent landowners.

Subdivision Sketch





LEGAL LAND LOCATION: NW 14-21-17W4M  
FILE: 2024-0-007



Aerial Photo Date: 2021

Typically, these notices are mailed out. However, due to the ongoing postal strike, the County of Newell has opted to post this announcement in the Brooks Bulletin for the mandated time length of two weeks.

Questions or concerns can be directed to the County of Newell.  
403-362-3266  
or email  
[administration@newellmail.ca](mailto:administration@newellmail.ca)

50-51c



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<b>SAVE \$8</b>	1800 BLANCO/COCONUT TEQUILA	<b>\$35<sup>99</sup></b>	
<b>SAVE OVER \$10</b>	DON PAPA RUM	<b>\$39<sup>99</sup></b>	
<b>SAVE OVER \$9</b>	HENDRICKS GIN	<b>\$41<sup>99</sup></b>	
<b>SAVE OVER \$15</b>	ANGEL'S ENVY BOURBON	<b>\$59<sup>99</sup></b>	



<p><b>SAVE OVER \$6</b></p> <p>ALBERTA PURE VODKA</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$19<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>1.75L <b>\$45.99</b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$4</b></p> <p>PELLER FAMILY VINEYARDS ASSORTED</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$4</b></p> <p>CASASOLE</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$10<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$3</b></p> <p>BAREFOOT FRUITSCATO</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>TASTING DECEMBER 27</p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$5</b></p> <p>NEON COAST CAB SAUV/CHADONNAY</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$13<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE \$4</b></p> <p>WOODBIDGE ASSORTED</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$10<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$6</b></p> <p>LA MARCA PROSECCO</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$15<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>TASTING DECEMBER 23</p>
<p><b>SAVE \$8</b></p> <p>BAILEY'S IRISH CREAM</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$26<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>1.75L <b>\$53.99</b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$5</b></p> <p>FRIND BIG RED/WHITE/CAB FRANC</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$18<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$5</b></p> <p>BERINGER FOUNDERS' ESTATE ASSORTED</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$13<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$7</b></p> <p>GRAY MONK MERLOT/ROSE/CHARDONNAY</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$19<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$4</b></p> <p>CYPRESS HILL WINERY</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$16<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$6</b></p> <p>BREAD &amp; BUTTER ASSORTED</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$15<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$6</b></p> <p>RED ROOSTER CAB MERLOT/PINOT GRIS</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$17<sup>99</sup></b></p>
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<p><b>TASTING DECEMBER 27</b></p> <p>THE FINNISH LONG DRINK</p> <p>6PC</p> <p><b>\$13<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$3</b></p>	<p>MOTT'S CLAMATO ORIGINAL/SPICY/PICKLED BEAN</p> <p>6PC</p> <p><b>\$13<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE \$4</b></p>	<p><b>TASTING DECEMBER 23</b></p> <p>OLE TEQUILA VARIETY PACK</p> <p>8PC</p> <p><b>\$20<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$5</b></p>	<p><b>TASTING DECEMBER 23</b></p> <p>LONETREE ORCHARD PACK CIDER</p> <p>12PC</p> <p><b>\$21<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$5</b></p>	<p>SANDBAGGER HARD SELTZER MIXER</p> <p>12PC</p> <p><b>\$24<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$5</b></p>	<p>DILLON'S GIN/VODKA VARIETY PACK</p> <p>12PC</p> <p><b>\$24<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$5</b></p>
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# Public school system shows just over \$51,000 surplus

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Grasslands School division ended the 2023/2024 year with an operating surplus of \$51,431.

"Last year we actually ran a deficit of \$1.4 million. We had budgeted to be in a deficit position of approximately \$600,000," said Rhian Schroeder, associate superintendent at Grasslands Public Schools.

She said ending with a surplus on a \$50 million budget is about as close to breaking even as one can get.

She said while the deficit was budgeted for 2023-24 there were some teaching positions that were not filled

including the occupational therapist and CTS teacher all year and other positions that were only filled for part of the year.

She said there were some positions that were not filled last year but the increase in supplies and other areas allowed for some extra money in accumulated operating surplus that had not been budgeted.

"At the end of 2023-24 we're going to be sitting with \$2.77 million which is quite a bit lower than what we held in the past," she said.

School boards have to spend their reserves and remain in a specific percentage of revenue in their accumulated operating surplus.

For Grasslands that

percentage is 4.3.

"We're at 3.9 per cent accumulated operating surplus," she said.

Looking ahead to next semester, Schroeder said there are about five staff members who will be on maternity leave so the district will seek retired teachers to fill in temporarily.

"We are going to be looking for teachers. We're hopeful that we're going to fill those positions."

The big item next year will be the construction of the new junior high school.

Both the school and the new track to be built at Eastbrook School will be funded by the province.

Fundraising will start in 2025 for additional items.

# EID researching options to help prevent mussels

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The Eastern Irrigation District is attempting to become more aggressive in the fight against invasive mussels.

Brandi Doerksen, AIS land manager, said a mobile containment unit could be purchased. The waterless unit is designed specifically for use by the public at no charge when a watercraft exits a water body to clean, drain and dry to ensure debris, water or organic material is removed but some board members believe that it won't be effective to eliminate organisms prior to launching.

"Unless we have someone there monitoring it shows we're serious but if we're going to do it we should do it properly," said board member Brent Schroeder.

The Alberta Invasive Species Council recently acquired the same decontaminant unit which will be deployed throughout the province next year as well as the purchase of units to be placed throughout waterbodies in northern

Alberta.

Megan Evans, executive director of the Alberta Invasive Species Council said the organization received an Environmental Damages Fund Grant to purchase a mobile unit.

"It is a multi-year grant that will allow us to purchase and install permanent units at a number of boat launches in the Edmonton area. While we can use the unit in other areas, the focal area for the grant is several

sub watersheds in the North Saskatchewan watershed," she said.

"We are doing this work to protect aquatic habitats and species, particularly Lake Sturgeon from the impacts of invasive species.

In addition to the purchase of the CD3 machines, we are funding research on species-at-risk and aquatic invasive species, revamping the Clean Drain Dry messaging and doing a ton of marketing and outreach."



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Marle Baron  
  
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Lionel & Nancy Rooke  
George & Chris Stimson  
Marj & Pat McLinden  
Jim McBride  
Shirley Heyler  
Kody Pierson  
Tom & Louise Musgrove

## FROM

Love Mom  
Carole & Family  
Mom & Dad  
Love from the Family  
Joy Skrove  
Missing you, Rest in Peace  
Kathy Holt  
Kathy Holt  
Kathy Holt  
Kathy Holt  
Kathy Holt  
Kathy Holt  
Kathy Holt  
Tanis Forden  
The Davidson's  
The Davidson's  
Pat, Miss you  
Mom, Miss you  
Love & Miss you lots  
Love & Miss you lots  
Love & Miss you lots  
Love & Miss you lots  
Leonard Lundquist  
Lundquist Family  
Lundquist Family  
Lundquist Family  
Lundquist Family  
Lundquist Family  
Lundquist Family  
Charlene Zimmerman  
Karen & Family  
Friends, Michele & Dean  
Friends, Michele & Dean  
Pat & Family  
Debbie Tiegs  
Schultz Family  
Schultz Family  
Ron, Terrie Hager & Family  
Ron, Terrie Hager & Family  
Ron, Terrie Hager & Family  
Ron, Terrie Hager & Family  
Debbie Nadja  
Alex & Linda  
Alex & Linda  
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Alex & Linda  
Stephanie & Scott Hansen  
Miss you, Love Kochs  
& Howards  
Miss you, Love Kochs  
& Howards  
Miss you, Love Kochs  
& Howards  
Karen, Vanessa, Eric & Rachel  
Karen, Vanessa, Eric & Rachel  
Karen, Vanessa, Eric & Rachel  
Blessings  
Amanda & Allan Philpott  
Amanda & Allan Philpott  
Cathy Fefchak  
Cathy Fefchak  
In our hearts forever, Brian & Lorene Nichols & Family  
In our hearts forever, Brian & Lorene Nichols & Family  
In our hearts forever, Brian & Lorene Nichols & Family  
In our hearts forever, Brian & Lorene Nichols & Family  
In our hearts forever, Brian & Lorene Nichols & Family  
Barbara Bohn & Den Lynn  
Milton  
Cynith, Grace & Edie  
Brad & Pat Rooke & Family  
Brad & Pat Rooke & Family  
Jean Lavoie  
Tressa & Family  
Tressa & Family  
Randy & Rita Pierson  
Randy & Rita Pierson

## IN MEMORY OF

Dan & Jewell Pierson  
Blaine Renneberg  
John Renneberg  
Eugene Lester  
  
Sandi Lester  
  
Trudy Patterson  
Sylvia Beasley  
Olga Comeau  
Joyce Lundquist  
Bill Lester  
Albert Lester  
Daphney Anderson  
Lee Anderson  
Marilyn Jackson  
Steve Merkl  
Steve & Elizabeth Merkl, Sr  
George & Irma Zvolensky  
Margaret & Joe Merkl  
Betty Darago  
Alan, Barry, Cameron Merkl  
Roy Yokoyama  
Joyce Lundquist  
  
Barb Deschner  
  
Karl Deschner  
  
Morris Skrove  
  
Nina Skrove  
  
Isabelle Lundquist  
  
Gloria Evans  
Jackie Murray  
Vernon Perkins  
Glenn & Georgia Wilson  
Ken Wilson  
Kelly Ponce  
Bill & Mabel Rooke  
Don & Martha Davidson  
David Hemsing  
Lisa Beringer  
Dale Pfahl  
Cathy Prins  
Judy Shannon  
Jim Bonora  
Richard Bremner  
Bill Christien  
Alice Walker  
Kevin Kalo  
Norman & Sophie Rust  
  
Ken & Sylvia Rust  
  
Ron & Velma Rust  
  
Norman Musgrove  
  
Yosh Conners  
  
Wayne Bilyk  
Barry Turner  
Bill Laux  
Michael Laux  
Don MacIntyre  
Pat Wenner  
Myra Scott  
Gordon Scott  
Jennifer Walls  
Richard Godfrey  
Jim Shannon  
  
Walter Okell  
Bob Medway  
Clarence Tancowny  
Mary Tancowny  
Darrell Smith  
Carol Hofmann

## FROM

Randy & Rita Pierson  
Shelley Matthews  
Shelley Matthews  
Remembering my Husband,  
Betty Lester  
To a Dear Daughter-in-law,  
Betty Lester  
Betty Lester  
Betty Lester  
Betty Lester  
Betty Lester  
Betty Lester  
Betty Lester  
Betty Lester  
Betty Lester  
MaryEllen & Terry  
Miss You , Irma Merkl  
Miss You , Irma Merkl  
Miss You , Irma Merkl  
Miss You , Irma Merkl  
Miss You , Irma Merkl  
Miss You , Irma Merkl  
Love, your Family  
Lovingly Remembered,  
The Deschner Family  
Lovingly Remembered,  
The Deschner Family  
Lovingly Remembered,  
The Deschner Family  
Lovingly Remembered,  
The Deschner Family  
Lovingly Remembered,  
The Deschner Family  
Duane & Janet Perkins  
Duane & Janet Perkins  
Duane & Janet Perkins  
Duane & Janet Perkins  
Kerry, Jamie & Domi  
Love, Keith & Colleen  
Love, Keith & Colleen  
Keith & Colleen Davidson  
Keith & Colleen Davidson  
Keith & Colleen Davidson  
Keith & Colleen Davidson  
Keith & Colleen Davidson  
Love, Your Family  
Christien Family  
Christien Family  
Love Mom & Dad  
Mike & Lorraine Samis  
& Family  
Mike & Lorraine Samis  
& Family  
Mike & Lorraine Samis  
& Family  
Mike & Lorraine Samis  
& Family  
Mike & Lorraine Samis  
& Family  
The Family  
Love you & miss you, Shelley  
Love Marilyn & Marg  
Love Mom & Marilyn  
Miss you, Marg  
Your Family  
Your Family  
Your Family  
Love Mom  
Love Jo-Lee & Crew  
Pat, Nadine & Marice -  
'til we meet again  
Love Leighton & Lillian Smith  
Leighton & Lillian Smith  
Love Leighton & Lillian Smith  
Love Leighton & Lillian Smith  
Love Leighton & Lillian Smith  
Love Leighton & Lillian Smith

## IN MEMORY OF

Gary Hofmann  
Raymond Smith  
Allen Jeffrey  
Walter Okell  
Jac Peeters  
Albert Gosling  
Bert Rommens  
David Hemsing  
Anne de Jong  
Cinty Wannet  
All of our past members  
  
Dorothy & Jim Andrew  
Christine Nielsen  
Rebecca Musgrove  
Sophie & Gordon Nielsen  
Elizabeth Buday  
Harry Hjorth  
Jorgen Jakobsen  
Bill Mortensen  
Harry Mushiol  
Gertrud Mushiol  
Evelyn Skanderup  
Arne Wester  
Bessie Wester  
John Desjardins  
Vince Fabian  
Roger Desjardins  
  
May Lee Weeks  
  
John Desjardins  
  
Melody-Anne Desjardins  
  
Harry Hjorth  
  
George Cornelsen  
Mary Cornelsen  
Glen Lyster  
Larry Wiebe  
David Hemsing  
Jimmy Bonora  
Gloria Aitken  
Collin Wildschut  
David Hemsing  
Tyler Hemsing  
Dad  
  
Grandpa Dave  
  
Uncle Tyler  
  
Tony Rommens  
Alva & Freda Brown  
Tom & Laura Charlton  
Gloria Aitken  
Angela Graham  
Dave Griffith  
Vern Lillehei  
Ruby Springer  
Gary Sturch  
Deb Kirschenman  
Mary Plumer  
Ilene Morgan  
All our Friends  
Mario John Lambe  
Merry Christmas  
Dean Robinson  
Vi Robinson  
Randy Robinson  
Steve Beblow  
Peggy Schindeler  
Alice Derks  
Loewen Family  
Buteau Family  
Jeff Hankins  
Robert Aman  
Della Willard  
Bob & Verna Armstrong  
Carolyn Hodgkinson

## FROM

Love Leighton & Lillian Smith  
Love Leighton & Lillian Smith  
Love Leighton & Lillian Smith  
Love Nola Okell  
Peeters Family  
Carole Christiansen  
Miss You, Wilma & Family  
Wilma Rommens & Family  
Wilma Rommens & Family  
Wilma Rommens & Family  
Brooks United Church  
Women's Fellowship  
Pete & Barb Nielsen  
Pete & Barb Nielsen  
Pete & Barb Nielsen  
Pete & Barb Nielsen  
Tilley Seniors Society  
Tilley Seniors Society  
Tilley Seniors Society  
Tilley Seniors Society  
Tilley Seniors Society  
Tilley Seniors Society  
Tilley Seniors Society  
Tilley Seniors Society  
Tilley Seniors Society  
Tilley Seniors Society  
Tilley Seniors Society  
Always Remembered & Loved,  
Your Family  
Always Remembered & Loved,  
Your Family  
Always Remembered & Loved,  
Your Family  
Always Remembered & Loved,  
Your Family  
Dagny, Dallas, Sheryl-Lynn &  
family, Shelly-Ann & family  
Wayne & Brenda Cornelsen  
Wayne & Brenda Cornelsen  
Wayne & Brenda Cornelsen  
Wayne & Brenda Cornelsen  
Wayne & Brenda Cornelsen  
Wayne & Brenda Cornelsen  
Wayne & Brenda Cornelsen  
Love always, Karen  
Love, Mom, Andrea & Laura  
Love, Andrea, Reece, Laura  
& Aaron  
Love Mackenzie, Sawyer, Cora  
& Lincoln  
Love Mackenzie, Sawyer, Cora  
& Lincoln  
Love from all your family  
Charles & Shirley  
Charles & Shirley  
R & N Berg  
The Kuhn Family  
The Kuhn Family  
Elvera Lillehei  
Elvera Lillehei  
Natalie Sturch  
Love, Family  
Love, Family  
Love, Family  
The Armstrongs  
I Miss you so much  
Sandra Lawrence-Lambe  
Ken & Shirley Kobitz  
Ken & Shirley Kobitz  
Ken & Shirley Kobitz  
Love Kari & Neil  
Deb  
Love Maxine & Steve  
Love you, Miss you  
Love you, Miss you  
Love, Mom & Dad  
Denise Aman  
The Willard Family  
George & Jan  
Elaine Bitzer & Family, Love you



# Bassano Banner

BASSANO/GEM/ROSEMARY

TOM McPHAIL



BASSANO - The final issue of the Brooks Bulletin for 2024 is December 18. While you are waiting for the January 8th issue, hopefully you will all find a good book to read, watch some traditional Christmas movies and simply enjoy quality family time.

It will be a busy few days at Playfair Lodge with Christmas Craft with the youngsters from Grades 2 and 3, cookie decorating and Christmas Light Viewing on the Handi Bus, treats with FCSS and wrapping up the year with the New Years Eve

Party with Barry and Larry. In the meantime, Bible study, card games and bingo continue.

I sent anniversary greetings last week to three couples and certainly hope I did not miss any.

Here are a few birthday recipients in the coming days: Carolyn Leavitt, Rick Cashman, Rhonda McCoomb, Brad Zibell, John Slomp, my son-in-law, Bradley Cotton, Lorraine Steinbach, Don Blake, Ed Chapman, Sandra Neighbour and Reo King. No doubt I have missed a few.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all of you!!!

Enjoy the festive season and local events and remember to have plenty of great stories to share with your correspondent in January. You know how to reach me by now.



# Trees of Hope

**Sponsored by Prairie Rose Hospice Palliative Care Society**

<p><b>IN MEMORY OF</b></p> <p>Valerie Charlotte John Andrejcin Jim Adams Blanche Wise Doug Mulvey Cheryl Romuld Reese &amp; Verna Jones Brayden Shepherd David Zatylny Del Giles Cody Martin Henry &amp; Arline Thompson Helen &amp; Jack Fowler Pat Peterson Woody Peterson Johnene Galbraith Blanche LaMarsh Merry Christmas Dave Griffith Del Griffith Donna Griffith Beth Stewart Ion Donald Stewart Mary Stewart Gloria Evans Jeffrey Evans Jennifer Evans Larry Caverly Elmer Drader John Hollinda Deceased Hollinda Family Deceased Maloney Family Deceased Darago Family Bob &amp; Rosalie Wilson Ed &amp; Elsie Langevin Edgar Kirschenman Bruce &amp; Brenda Lee Kirschenman Baby Girl Twins Bob Medway Albert Lester Joan Lester Lee Anderson Gerry Freundl Theresa Gauthier-Holden Terri Martin David Hemsing Pat Zukowski Judy Shannon Jimmy Bonora Tim Thompson Margaret Highet Carol Schlachter Carol Schlachter Jim Bonora Wilf Lane Pat Zukowski Tim Thompson Lanie Nesbitt Fred Goodman Judy Shannon Merry Christmas Wade Brown John Neigum Roger Neigum Anne Beddows</p>	<p><b>FROM</b></p> <p>Paul Paul Jane Jane Jane Mulvey Family Amanda &amp; Alan Philpott Wayne &amp; Chuck Eggen Wayne &amp; Chuck Eggen Love Always, Merle Your whole Family The Hodgson Family The Hodgson Family Tammy &amp; Tyson Paula &amp; Chad Galbraith Paula &amp; Chad Galbraith Paula &amp; Chad Galbraith Paula &amp; Chad Galbraith Paula &amp; Chad Galbraith Love and Miss you , Geraldine Love and Miss you , Geraldine Love and Miss you , Geraldine Love Enid Love Enid Love Enid Harold &amp; Blaine Harold &amp; Blaine Harold &amp; Blaine Harold &amp; Blaine Marlene, with Love Betty Hollinda Betty Hollinda Betty Hollinda Betty Hollinda Betty Hollinda Love From family &amp; Friends Gladys Kirschenman Gladys Kirschenman Gladys Kirschenman Love Barb &amp; Family Love Barb &amp; Family Love Barb &amp; Family Love The Medways Love The Medways Love Barb Love Barb Love The Medways Love The Medways Love Barb Love The Medways Love The Medways Love The Medways Love The Medways Love The Medways With all my Love, Andy The Schlachter Family Cindy &amp; Stacey Young &amp; Family Cindy &amp; Stacey Young &amp; Family Cindy &amp; Stacey Young &amp; Family Cindy &amp; Stacey Young &amp; Family Cindy &amp; Stacey Young &amp; Family Cindy &amp; Stacey Young &amp; Family Cindy &amp; Stacey Young &amp; Family Cindy &amp; Stacey Young &amp; Family Cindy &amp; Stacey Young &amp; Family Cindy &amp; Stacey Young &amp; Family Love, Rose Love, Rose Loved &amp; missed by all her Family</p>
---	---

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

Friends & Family  
Merry Christmas to all Friends & Family  
Merry Christmas  
Art & Frances Klassen  
Family & Friends  
Family & Friends  
Family & Friends  
Merry Xmas  
Merry Christmas  
Deanna Tomlinson  
Family & Friends  
All Our Friends  
Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas

**FROM**

Thiessen Family

Ron, Terrie Hager & Family  
Bridgette & Jack Gerrard  
Paul & Wendy & Family  
NCS Counselling  
Kevin McNiven  
Shelley Matthews  
Bildersheim Colony  
Tony & Vicki Steidel  
Lots of Love, JoAnn  
Wilma Rommens  
The Armstrongs  
Sandra Lawrence-Lambe  
Paula & Chad Galbraith  
Cindy & Stacey Young & Family

## THANK YOU!

*Thank you for your great response to our 2024 Trees of Hope campaign. We have taken great care to ensure our records are accurate but if there are any errors or omissions, we sincerely apologize.*

*Thank you to the following Sponsors of Venues: The Well, Rolling Hills, Festival of Trees, Duchess, Pollockville, Burnt Earth/Cassils, St. Joseph's Collegiate, Newbrook Lodge, HomeCare Office, and the Brooks Bulletin. A special thank you to all the volunteers that helped at these sites.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE  
From the Prairie Rose Hospice Palliative Care Board of Directors

## Merry Christmas

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# Merry Christmas

*and Happy New Year*

Whatever the occasion, we can't think of anywhere we'd rather be celebrating than right here with all of you!

On behalf of our entire team, thank you for your continued support. We are so grateful for the trust and generosity you've shown us throughout 2024, and we look forward to partnering with you in the new year and beyond.

*Very best wishes to everyone we know for a beautiful holiday season and a wonderful new year!*

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BROOKS, ALBERTA





## Denver voters reject lamb plant closure... animal rights zealots vow to continue the fight



In a previous column, I suggested how the Denver plebiscite on closing a slaughterhouse within their city limits would set a serious precedent. The coalition of extremist animal rights and vegan zealots behind the plebiscite presumed that a victory would enable them to take their cause to close down food animal processing almost anywhere. They chose Denver because it is one of the few big cities with a slaughterhouse within their city limits. It's also a city that is considered progressive, liberal and green - which makes Denver voters easy dupes for animal rights disinformation and propaganda. That voter gullibility and the precedent-setting nature of the referendum saw prominent national

livestock organizations donate to the no side, including the National Cattlemen Beef Association and the National Pork Council, in supporting a lamb processing plant.

Perhaps animal agriculture groups and those dependent on that industry learned some lessons from their loss in the California gestation crate plebiscite and their lack of support in stopping the closure of the commercial horse processing business. Those victories emboldened animal rights and vegan zealots in their quest to shut down the entire livestock industry. Picking easy targets for victories has a cumulative effect and drives easily misled folks to donate even more to the devious animal rights lobby industry.

However, a united animal agriculture industry lobby saw the no side accumulate a war chest of \$2.7 million

to fight the closure vote. That industry effort was rather positive to see, as with other anti-agriculture initiatives, agriculture commodity groups are rarely united, and green and anti-agriculture lobby groups tend to win by default. Perhaps the animal rights groups and their green lobby allies sensed the size of the united animal industry support, as they could only collect \$400,000 for their close-the-plant campaign. In the end, the save-the-plant side won by 64%. That's not bad, considering that most Denver city folks would quite naturally be feeling squeamish about the very existence of a slaughter plant within city limits.

The Denver lamb plant had some positive aspects that helped their side: the plant is locally and employee-owned and not a part of some corporate global entity; the 160 plant workers/owners were predominantly

Hispanic; the plant is located in a hard-pressed side of town, so out of sight and out of mind for most Denver voters. Interestingly, the Denver Democratic party and a coalition of unions supported the save-the-plant side in opposition to their traditional allies - environmental and animal rights groups. Union support was limited as the lamb plant, being employee-owned, was not unionized.

One might surmise that what happens in Denver doesn't much affect animal agriculture and the meat processing up here in the faraway great white north. The fate of the Denver plant does have some impact on the Alberta lamb business. Depending on the year as many as 5,000 feeder lambs from southern Alberta end up in Wyoming and Colorado feedlots that then supply those fattened lambs to the Denver plant. Of course, the folks that

had the most to gain from the closure of the Denver lamb plant were importers of Australian and New Zealand lamb into the USA. They already dominate the US market (as they do in Canada), and closing a domestic plant that supplies 20% of the US market would have opened up new markets.

The precedent-setting tactic used by animal rights groups to chisel away at animal agriculture also lives in Canada. There is a bill (C-355) before parliament supported by Liberal/NDP MPs that would terminate the shipping of live horses for feeding and slaughter to Japan. It's not based on facts and science but on emotion and political expediency, as it is specific to only one animal species destined for a single use - human consumption. The Conservative and Bloc Quebecois opposition have clearly identified

the factual flaws of the Bill and have rightly noted that it will be precedent-setting.

Soon, other legislation will be forthcoming that would place further onerous restrictions on the animal agriculture industry. The closure of the Fort MacLeod horse processing plant is surely the next target of the anti-food animal activists who have duped the Liberal/NDP government into supporting the Bill. If that happens, new targets will be the lamb plant in Innisfail, bison plants, and the Red Deer pork plant - death by a hundred cuts. The Canadian animal agriculture industry must lobby against the precedent-setting devious Bill C-355 and not just wait for a change in government.

*Will Verboven is an ag opinion writer.*



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# Brooks and area RCMP report

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

## Man arrested following assault

Brooks resident Kayle Libke and an unnamed female were arrested following police responding to an assault and locating a stolen vehicle on Dec. 9.

RCMP attended the Sutherland Drive 7-11 to find a male victim with cuts and bruises on his face.

The suspect, later identified as Libke, was located by police who conducted patrols in the vicinity.

Following a brief foot chase Libke was apprehended.

At the same time, a city peace officer reported finding a stolen SUV at the public works office.

Police confirmed the vehicle had been stolen and found paperwork inside that belonged to Libke and he and the female driver were taken into custody.

Libke was remand into custody.

He has been charged with assault, obstruction, possession of stolen property, and three counts of failing to comply with an order.

Counsel attended court on behalf of Libke. The charges were adjourned until Dec. 18.

There is no word from

police on the female who was charged.

## Van vs truck

The passenger of a commercial delivery van that collided at an intersection with a northbound truck on Dec. 9 at 5:15 p.m., was transported to hospital with unknown injuries.

Witnesses at the Hwy. 873 and Township Road 192 collision told police that the westbound van failed to stop at the stop sign and collided with a northbound truck.

Both vehicles came to a stop in the ditch. The van driver received tickets.

## SUV loses control on ice

On Dec. 10 the driver of a westbound SUV lost control when it fishtailed on ice on Cassils Road (Hwy. 542) and collided with the back of an eastbound truck.

There were no injuries in the 7:05 a.m. incident

"Fortunately, there were no reported injuries from the incident," stated police.

## Vehicle's occupants transported to hospital

On Dec. 7 at 10:40 p.m. Brooks RCMP responded to a single-vehicle accident in the county.

The driver lost control and veered into a ditch and struck a tree at the intersection of Hwy. 873 and Twp. Rd. 204.

The driver and passenger were transported to hospital in stable condition with serious but non life-threatening injuries.

## No impaired driver's



## found during Candy Cane checkstops

About 200 vehicles were stopped by Brooks RCMP during the Candy Cane checkstops on Dec. 7 during National Impaired Driving Day.

Drivers were checked for sobriety by RCMP who worked alongside traffic and sheriffs.

"We are pleased to report that no impaired drivers were found, a few tickets were issued and a lot of warnings were given," stated RCMP in a press release.

"Drivers expressed their gratitude for the RCMP's presence and were supportive of the check stop."

## Police find empty beer cans in stopped vehicle

On Dec. 9 at 5:05 a.m. Brooks RCMP received a 911 call reporting a suspected impaired driver who had pulled over on Hwy. 873.

Police responded and found empty beer cans in the back of the vehicle. Police reported that the driver had slurred speech and a strong odour of alcohol.

The driver refused to provide a breath sample which resulted in her arrest, a provincial sanction, fine and vehicle seizure.

# Utilities board to set hearing date for Pace's Brooks project

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) has determined that there are people who would be affected by Pace's proposed Salt Flat solar farm which will warrant a hearing.

Pace Canada has proposed constructing a 25.9 megawatt project on 175 acres of grazed land in Brooks adjacent to the

Uplands area in the west half of Section 5, Township 19 Range 14.

The AUC granted 37 residents intervener status after they demonstrated that they would be directly and adversely affected as they own, occupy or reside on land close to the proposed solar project.

On Friday the AUC granted standing to BLOG, a registered party

that is representing the 37 applicants plus one additional person whose name is listed as having no standing.

The AUC is seeking additional information from 30 applicants by Dec. 23.

The Commission also determined that 33 people do not have standing.

A hearing date is expected to be set early in the new year.

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from Management & Staff  
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**Merry Christmas!**

Great big thanks to everyone and a Happy Holiday!

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23	24	25	26	27	28
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30 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	31				

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**Merry Christmas!**

Wishing you frosty days filled with joy, peace and the feeling of Christmas!



**Cassils Clarion**  
 JODI NIZNIK



CASSILS/ANTELOPE CREEK - Submitting this last news of 2024 with wishes to all for a healthy, happy, successful 2025. I hope that the Christmas holiday season is full of special moments and time spent with loved ones. Safe travels to all who are heading down the road to another destination. We are looking forward to the end of this week as both Kate and Sarah will be home and we will all be together for 10 days.

Thank you to all the hard working hands that put together a wonderful Christmas supper. It was a fairly full house and everyone should have left full of delicious supper! Thank you to Santa for stopping by and bringing so much joy to 33 young ones!

Congratulations to Ben, Heather and Bennett Commodore on the safe arrival of Millie Marie. A slightly early, but beautiful and healthy little pink bundle. Congratulations

and welcome to the neighbourhood Millie.

The Newell County Band concert Sweet Sounds of the Season was last week and such a treat as always. These bands are comprised of BCHS and BJHS students, and always impressive to hear the growth over time. Community members involved were Brynn Biette and Boyd Burnard-Wilson. These students have 2 mandatory performances a year for their grades, this being one and the 2nd one in May. Both are open to the public to come and enjoy.

The Cassilope Ladies Club tickets were sold out again this year, thank you to the many buyers. Draws are ongoing, good luck!

Anyone with news or information to share please call Jodi at 403-501-1583 all hall rentals and inquiries can be directed to Heather at 403-793-3890.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Charlotte Plumer sits on Santa's knee because you're never too old. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

**Thanks for Choosing Us**

It's been another wonderful year, and we have customers like you to thank for it.

**With appreciation in our hearts, we wish everyone a beautiful and happy holiday season!**



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**Merry Everything!**

Wherever you are, however you celebrate, we hope the holiday season brings love to your heart, peace to your soul and joy to your spirit.

**With our gratitude and best wishes!**



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# Brooks victim services unit part of larger society

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The Southern Alberta Regional Victim Servicing Society (SARVSS) took over the Brooks and County Victim Services Unit on Oct. 1 as part of the province's transition from about 60-locally based units to four regions.

"There's been a lot of rumours that the transition was difficult for the province but overall it's one of those things that there's been more commentary than actual concerns," said Jerry Cook, chief executive officer for SARVSS.

In 2022 the government announced the replacement of RCMP-based victim services units with a regional model, 'to improve stability, consistency and sustainability of victim's services in communities across Alberta.'

"From the access capability of somebody being able to talk to a person face-to-face that has not changed one bit," he said.

The change is the four regions to align with the RCMP detachment districts, including the Southern Alberta District, which contain the city and county.

While there have been some reports that the new system will not provide the proper level of care to those who access the program Cook said the system is improved.

He said people saying it has been a massive change is one of his frustrations.

"Really it isn't except for the benefits that are going to happen as this develops and grows," he said.

Fundraising is no longer required for local units to remain operational and

boards are not required.

"That is the benefit of this. We receive our funding from the government of Alberta. It makes things very clear. We know exactly what our mandate is. We know exactly what we are responsible for. We have our resourcing and they hold us accountable," he said.

"I do think this is a positive thing."

The victim services staff who continue to work out of the Brooks detachment are unchanged from prior to the transition and Cook said there are 42 others available at their fingertips as well as human resource support and technology.

Cook said the next phase

is to work on the after hours volunteer advocates which needs to be built up in southern Alberta. Locally, three people are interested but 18 are needed. The need is the same across the province so discussion is taking place for the after hour volunteers to work in more than one detachment area and who are available by phone.

"GOA (government of Alberta) did a really excellent job the way they approached this and set up the funding and everything with this. I don't think they get the credit they absolutely deserve," said Cook.

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The FedEx pick-up and drop-off centre at The Bulletin will be closed during the holidays from Friday, December 20, 2024 to Friday, January 3, 2025.

As well there will be no parcel pick-up for other parcel companies for that period of time.

**Brooks Bulletin Closing Christmas, New Year's**

With both Christmas and New Year's falling on a Wednesday, The Bulletin will not publish a newspaper either week.

The Bulletin office will be closed for the holidays from Monday, December 23 until Friday, January 3. The newspaper will resume publishing with the January 8, 2025 issue. The deadline for advertising and copy is Friday, January 3 at noon.

*We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

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# Shortgrass requests budget increase

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Shortgrass Library System is requesting a budget increase for 2025 and 2026 from its member municipalities.

The per capita increase for members is from \$4.97 to \$5.04 in 2025 and \$5.19

per capita the following year.

Shortgrass had originally sought a funding increase in 2024 to \$5.13 per capita but the province increased their funding by five per cent so the increase was withdrawn until this year and next year's budgets were completed.

*Thanks for Keeping Us Running!*

We hope the spirit of the season lifts you up and fills your heart with joy. Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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# Trials and experiments will continue at CFB Suffield

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Although the UK military will not be sending thousands of their military to train at CFB Suffield, its future appears secure.

"The new mission of the base is to enable readiness and training through the provision of institutional support, range training areas and resources to units and lodgers within southern Alberta and Mainland British Columbia," Lieutenant Colonel Joe Andrechek told the city-county joint services committee last week.

Andrechek said instead of downsizing Suffield they received additional responsibility to include support for maintenance and environment at British Columbia base's as of April 1, 2025.

There are 580 people employed at the base with a monthly salary of about

\$3.8 million and although it isn't seeing thousands of British soldiers using the 2,700 square kilometres as it did in its heyday, the base will remain active.

In 1971 the Canadian and British governments signed a 10-year lease to allow the army to conduct armoured warfare exercises. A year later the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) was established.

In 2006 Suffield was made an indefinite location for the British to maintain their training practices but in 2023, due to COVID, UK financial constraints and consideration to consolidate training within the UK, a substantial reduction was announced by the British government which stopped all training for at least two years.

"We not going to see 2,000 British soldiers here anymore. What we're going to see is probably between 50 to 100 that come over to

do a trial."

Those trials would include long range weapons systems.

He said Canada's new air defence weapons will be tested with live rounds at the base, it recently tested the CC-295 Kingfisher, Canada's new search and rescue plane and it will continue to host regular precise response training for NATO.

With an expanded interest in drones and UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) Suffield has been working with industry in Medicine Hat and recently the UK were flying autonomous drones, he said.

"The UK is becoming Trials and Experimentation and will continue to do that. A new MOU (memorandum of understanding) is being negotiated and so until that's actually finalized we won't know at the end of the day what it looks like," he said.



Brooks RCMP Cpl. Dave Searle, Kelly Sanford of Safe Communities and Cpl. Sharon McCready with the toy donations they collected over the weekend at the RCMP Toy Drive. | SUBMITTED PHOTO

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# Bow River MP presents King Charles III Coronation Medals

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Bow River MP Martin Shields has started to host individual ceremonies for local recipients of the King Charles III's Coronation Medal.

Each constituency across the country will present up to 20 medals to those who made a significant contribution to Canada, a province, territory, region or a community or who has made an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada.

On Saturday Shields presented his former constituency assistant Karen Kallen.

"Karen has dedicated over 30 years to public service in the City of Brooks and County of Newell by supporting constituents about the Bow River riding and formerly the Brooks-Medicine Hat riding well. And that's with three MPs," said Shields.

Kallen was the constituency assistant for members of parliament Monte Solberg, LaVar Payne and Shields.

"Anybody for 30 years who will work for three MPs, ought to be knighted!" he said.

Other individual presentations were made on Saturday to Duncan Gillespie, former



**Karen Kallen receives a King Charles III Coronation Medal from Bow River MP Martin Shields. Each recipient receives the medal along with a mini medal.** | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

superintendent at Brooks School District from 1986-2000 and from 2006 to 2007, Tony Steidel, who is the mayor of Duchess and is a community member on various boards and committees and John Thiess, a former pastor, retired firefighter and current chaplain for the Brooks Fire Department.

This weekend the final three medals will be presented to Ahmed

Kassem, executive director of Global Village, Molly Douglass, who served as county reeve from 2004 to 2021 and Dr. Erich Van der Linde who has been involved with the medical community and continues work on physician recruitment and retention.

He has earned a number of recognitions including a Rural Service Award by the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada in 2020.




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# Duchess Dispatch

LINDA MOREY



DUCHESS - I cannot believe that another year is coming to a close. 2024 was filled with the important things like family, work, friends and community. I am taking a moment to say how very grateful I am to live in Duchess. There is a lot of 'crazy' going on in this world and when I go somewhere, I come back home and the village makers remind me how blessed I am to live in a safe and caring environment. I appreciate the warm hellos as I walk my dog each day with friends and acquaintances. I love that we have responsible pet owners here. I love the reminders from neighbours

to watch my step as that portion of the sidewalk is pure ice. I love that after a snowfall, we can be assured that our Village staff are on their machines clearing us to safety. I love the small businesses and the people who support them. Thankfully, much of this extends to the entire County of Newell, but I'm very happy to live where I do. My faith in humanity remains intact, despite the world around me.

Thank you to our Duchess Fire Hall for continuing their tradition of sounding the sirens on December 17th, going door to door to say hello and

handing out candy canes. We appreciate you all.

We are reminded, that after a snowfall, please do not shovel snow onto street. Please feed it to your lawns.

The Duchess Mennonite Church is hosting a Christmas Eve candlelight service on December 24th at 6:30.

The Duchess and District Public Library unveils a new layout, prompting positive feedback from the community. All are invited to come in and browse our new look! With winter holidays quickly approaching, the library will be closed Dec 21st - Jan

1st, 2025. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year when we open again, January 2nd. Happy Holidays!

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy your family and friends over the holidays and stay safe. My next deadline to receive your news, is in the new year, on Monday, January 6 at 8:00 am. Sunday always works best for me, by calling, or a text to 403 793 1630, or you can email louie63@hotmail.com

Quote as we close out 2024: "Take a moment to reflect and look back, but only for an instant, because new possibilities are just over the horizon."

## Tilley 4-H CLUB NEWS

The Tilley Beef 4-H club has had a great year so far and we recently provided cookies and hot chocolate at the Tilley Fire Hall on December 8th during the Holiday Train. Submitted by Club Reporters Austin Undershute and Hunter Lutes.

In Photo: Ryker, Peter, Abe, Evan, Susana, Tanner, Kate, Cheyenne, Hunter, Austin, Sophie, Lena  
Missing: Remi, Navada, Myra, GW

51p

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Twins Neila and Reggie Fontaine White, 8, prepare to slide down the toboggan hill at Duke of Sutherland Park. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

# Rainier Record

COLLEEN VAN DEN HOEK



RAINIER - The Brooks Bulletin will be taking a two week break, with that I also get a two week break from writing the Rainier column. Merry Christmas to everyone near and far. I hope you all can enjoy some downtime, along with time with your loved ones. "Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." Quoted from Dr. Seuss

Happy Birthday wishes to Alex on Dec 19, Louis on Dec 23, Mathew Haag on Dec 23, Cyndi Graham on Dec 26, Liam Anderson on Dec 27, Brad Biette on Dec 28, Warren Johnson on Dec 31, Nancy Bellward Carlson on Dec 30, Cianna Slenders

on Dec 31.

Alcoma School News- If anyone has any bottles for recycling they would like to donate to the school please leave them by the quonset looking building. Thank you for your donations.

Last day of school before Christmas break is Dec 20th, everyone returns Jan 6th. A big thank you to Alcoma School for an awesome Christmas concert!

Alcoma Community Library will be open to the public Dec 19, 6:30pm to 8 pm, Dec 26 closed, Jan 2, 6:30pm to 8pm Resuming back to school hours Jan 6th and Thursday evenings 6:30pm to 8pm.

Join Scandia Lutheran Church on Dec 22nd @


4:30pm for Christmas Carols and a children's Christmas program. Potluck to follow, please bring your favorite side, salad, or dessert.

Stay in the loop with the Rainier Community Facebook Page for more Alcoma & Community Events! Have an upcoming event in the County? We are happy to include it in our emails and promote it in our community! Send us an email @ rainiercommunityclub@gmail.com with your information.

I welcome any emails of information you would like included in this column.

Please contact Colleen by Sunday @ colleenvandenhoeck@gmail.com

**Eastern Irrigation District  
Penalty Notice**



Irrigators of the Eastern Irrigation District are hereby reminded that a **penalty of 8%** will be added on the **1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2025** to all amounts remaining unpaid on the collector's roll as of the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 2024. [s. 132, Irrigation Districts Act] [Rate Bylaw #971 (2024)]

**The Office of the Eastern Irrigation District will be closed at 5:00 pm on December 20, 2024 through and including January 1, 2025.**

Payment may be made by cheque, cash, credit card, or online through your financial institution. A payment drop box is also located at the front of the District building. All payments mailed to the District that are postmarked by the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 2024 will be deemed to have been received by the District as of that date.

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Merry Christmas

Deepest thanks and brightest wishes to everyone who has connected with us this year and supported us!

We are honored to be a part of this community, and we wish you all the best this holiday season and always.



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## Tidings of Peace, Comfort & Joy

The staff at Edo Brooks wants to wish everyone Merry Christmas & Season's Greetings. We thank everyone in the community for your continued patronage, support and friendship.

We are looking forward to the new year to strengthen our partnerships with local schools, sports teams and community based organizations.



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# Grasslands celebrates employees

Grasslands Public Schools recently hosted the 2024 Employee Recognition evening. The event honours staff members who have been with the school system for five years and longer.



**Celebrating 5 Years** are Lisa Marie Labossiere-Taylor, Kaley Herman, Leah Redpath, Danny Short, Debbie Paetkau, Harlen Dahl, Glenjen Ochate, Maria Pascual, Edith Pelisco, Marialyn Yabut, Jodi Massick and Amanda Stevens. Missing are Cassie Bradly, Beverly Depeno, Daisy Fougere, Mary Giesbrecht, Brandy Gleisner, Julia Godínez-Reyes, Brita Goldie, Jazmyn Johnson, Michele Kezar, Erin King, Anna Martens, Lindsay Matthews, Michelle Norton, Jenna Smith and Timothy Whittle. | SUBMITTED PHOTO



**Celebrating 10 Years** are Edna Ayeni, Zandy Aguilar, Cheryl Guttman, Brent Meyer, Sean Beaton, Carey Rodgers, Charmy Cataluna, Shelby Giesbrecht, Hilary Clow, Carlene Roth, Vanessa Bonora, Raquel Mondonedo and Lisa Kingston. Missing are Laurel Beaton, John Black, Rose Klassen, Rose Matheson, Suna McAleese-Pavka and Kaelyn Quinton. | SUBMITTED PHOTO



**Celebrating 15 Years** are Kallie Freimark, Donna Philpott, Erin Norrish and Steven Deveaux. Missing are Ciera Sonntag and Jason Wandler. | SUBMITTED PHOTO



**20 Years** shown are Marlyssa Willford, Brandy Hagg, Twila Buckosky, Mona Harris and Marina Mercier. Missing are Laurie Burkholder and Cindy Harris. | SUBMITTED PHOTO



**Celebrating 25 Years** are Jaret Hofer, Tammy Karasek, Vanessa Plett, Loretta White, James Vaage and Jennifer Schmidt. Missing are Nico Prins and Donna Timko. | SUBMITTED PHOTO



**Celebrating 30 and 35 Years.** Marilyn Olson and Ryan Berg, 30 years. Lynne Morris, 35 years. Jacqueline Hoffman and Julie O'Farrell, 30 years. | SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Newcomer youth program receives provincial grant



**Tanya Fir, minister of arts, culture and status of women with Ahmed Kassem, executive director of Global Village, premier Danielle Smith and Brooks mayor John Petrie.** | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The provincial government has invested \$150,000 into Global Village Centre's John Ware Youth Empowerment Program.

"This investment will help more newcomer youth to build healthy relationships and become more economically empowered. Alberta's government is proud to support this community initiative that enables all Albertans to reach their full potential," said Tanya Fir, minister of arts, culture and status of women.

"The Global Village Centre aims to integrate new Canadians and leverage Alberta's diverse community to model a culture of inclusion," states the province.

The city is home to a diverse and growing population and last year

Brooks had the fourth highest percentage of newcomers in Alberta, welcoming 925 new permanent residents.

As they adjust to life in a new place, many newcomer youth face challenges pursuing life and career goals due to a lack of connections and resources.

To help solve the issue the province provided the funds to increase the capacity of the youth program to provide more newcomer youth in rural communities with social supports and opportunities for career planning.

"The Global Village Centre has been a central point for newcomers in Brooks for over a decade, and its John Ware Youth Empowerment Program is making a difference in the lives of youth," Premier Danielle Smith said during a press conference at Global Village in Brooks on Friday.

"I am inspired by the

dedication of the team at the Global Village Centre. I know this funding will help hundreds more youth find opportunities and pursue their dreams in Alberta."

"The support will allow local youth to participate and learn life skills such as gender-based violence prevention while seeing the program expand to other municipalities," said Ahmed Kassem, executive director, Global Village.

In addition to last week's contribution, the province has contributed about \$460,000 into the John Ware program since 2021.

Some of those funds are covering Lessons Learned, a documentary that is being developed by Global Village.

A preview clip of the documentary is expected to be released by the end of the year.

# Hicks, Free to Top Prospects game

Hicks, Parker Lalonde previously announced to All-Star game...

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Brooks Bandits forward Nathan Free was not selected by BCHL fans for the All-Star game but he was not overlooked.

Free, 18, and goalie Johnny Hicks, 19, were selected for the 2025 Top Prospects game on Jan. 17 as part of the All-Star weekend at Rogers Rink in Salmon, Arm, B.C.

Free is ranked as the fourth overall skater in the BCHL. He has 18 goals and 18 assists in 26 games including Saturday's game when he collected five points for his two goals and three assists.

Hicks is the top goalie in the league with 18 wins and three losses and a .943 save percentage.

The prospects game is for the top NHL draft eligible players along with 16 and 17-year-old draft prospects with the selections made by coaches and general managers.

The nine league players who were listed on October's NHL Central Scouting Players Preliminary Players to Watch List received automatic entries.

Players and those who were are 2004-born who are no longer draft eligible were not considered.

The All-Star weekend will include the All-Star game on Jan. 18 of which Hicks was previously selected along with 20-year-old winger Parker Lalonde who has 17 goals and 15 assists in 26 games.

The mid-term NHL rankings should be released near the All-Star weekend. There were no Bandits on the preliminary list.



# Tilley Telegram

ANITA CHAPPELL



TILLEY - Merry Christmas, one and all! And a Happy New Year, too!

Faith Lutheran Church in Rolling Hills will offer a Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service at 4:00 pm on Monday, December 23 with Reverend John Theiss. All are welcome.

The Rolling Hills Seniors Club will not have their Soup & Sandwich Lunch this month. See you in January!

Bethany Lutheran Church offers regular worship services at 11:00 am each Sunday. All are welcome to attend. There will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service on December 24, 2024, at 4:00 pm with Reverend

Edmonds. All are welcome to attend.

Tilley & District Public Library hours are Mondays 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and 4:00 to 7:30 pm; Wednesdays 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and 4:00 to 7:30 pm; Saturdays 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Tilley Seniors Society luncheon is the last Thursday of each month at 12:00 pm for all members and invited guests.

How do Christmas Trees get ready for a fun night out on the town? They spruce up!

To submit news items, please PHONE Anita Chappell at 377-2259. You may also email at goombaw@eidnet.org with

subject line Tilley Telegram. Please contact me by or before 8:00 pm on Sunday evenings to have your news included for the week. On long weekends, news is due Thursday morning before the holiday.

**Sweet Tidings to You & Yours**

May you enjoy the full measure of joy this special season brings.

Thanks for keeping us in the mix this year! We always appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

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**Christmas Greetings!**

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

*Wishing you a blessed Christmas.*

Gerald & Stella Torkeelson & Family

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# Bandits are 22-4 on the season including four wins in a row

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The BCHL Brooks Bandits go into the Christmas break with four consecutive wins in December including one against the Sherwood Park Crusaders which has been a tough team to defeat this season.

The Bandits, who have maintained first place since September, are close to the season's halfway mark.

They've played 26 games and have won 22 and lost four. The team has 28 games remaining in the regular season.

Last week the Bandits doubled Sherwood Park 4-2 with Julian Fantino earning the first goal at 2:17 of the opening period.

AJ Lacroix had a powerplay goal at 5:41 and helped to close out the period with the 2-0 Bandits

lead.

Ethan Beyer found the back of the net for the Bandits lone second period goal at 1:16 while the Crusaders managed their first goal.

In period three Nick Peluso got the team's fourth goal at 6:46 to take a 4-1 lead but Jeremy Loranger, the league point leader, added a Crusaders goal.

In their four meetings, the Bandits have won two games against Sherwood.

At home in their final game before Christmas the Bandits shutout Salmon Arm Silverbacks 8-0.

The hometown game got off to a quick start. Before the opening whistle, a Bandits player was handed a misconduct penalty while a Silverback received a misconduct and unsportsmanlike penalty.

During the first period Caleb Mahar received a

major penalty for checking from behind and a game misconduct. The penalty was reevaluated over the weekend and Mahar was suspended for one game.

Multiple penalties were issued on both sides of the bench but the vast majority were handed out to the Silverbacks and at one point it was a five on three game.

Nathan Free scored twice for the Bandits and Liam Fitzpatrick, Jace Letourneau, Quinn McCall, Nathan Brown, Ty Gordon and Nick Peluso each scored a single goal.

Last week Trail Smoke Eaters acquired the playing rights to former Bandit Josh Wiebe in exchange for future considerations.

The Bandits host West Kelowna on Dec. 28 and Salmon Arm at 4 p.m. on New Year's Day.

**Happy Holidays!**

WISHING OUR COMMUNITY A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON FILLED WITH PEACE AND SPECIAL MOMENTS. THANK YOU FOR MAKING GRASSLANDS SUCH A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LEARN AND GROW.

**Grasslands Public Schools**



# Classifieds

**Deadline for Classifieds word ads is Monday - 3 PM**  
**Call 403-362-5571**

## obituaries



**SHEGA** - Berta (Betty) Schega of Brooks, passed away in Brooks on December 6th, 2024 at the age of 98 surrounded by family. She was born in St Goar, Germany on January 14th, 1926. She came to Canada and married Werner Schega in 1958. Mom ran the local flower shop, Brooks Greenhouses, for over 40 years where she always greeted everyone with a warm smile, a never-ending compassion for her customers, and offered heartfelt advice. Mom never forgot a face and was always willing to help anyone in their time of need. Her life was guided by her unwavering faith which set an example for her family and the people she encountered. Her memory lives on through her daughters

Bernice, Janet, Liz (Greg), and Maria (Danny); grandchildren, Jen (Mark), Jordan (Jordan), Jarrid (Devan), Janyssa (Dave), Alyssa (Kelly), Ashley (Quinton), Brody (Macey), Summer, Tanya (Graeme), and Matthew; great-grandchildren, Zander, Zara, Benson, Harper, Adeline, and another on the way. A Prayer Service was held on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:45 PM from St. Mary's Catholic Church. Rev. Eligio Canete officiating. Funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, December 11th at 11:00 AM from St. Mary's Catholic Church. Rev. Eligio Canete Celebrant. Interment followed at Brooks Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to:  
**SMITH FUNERAL HOME LTD. AND CREMATORIUM**  
 BROOKS, ALBERTA  
 Condolences may be forwarded through [www.sfh.ca](http://www.sfh.ca)  
 Telephone 403-362-4636 or Toll Free (866) 362-4652  
*"Our Families Serving Your Family Since 1951"*

### lost & found

FOUND - Cell phone found. Owner can claim at Brooks Bulletin office. Must identify. 50fn

### lost & found

FOUND - Man's driver's license dropped off at Brooks Bulletin. Can claim at office.

## business announcements

**LONGHORN TINNING**

JACOB REIMER 403-957-1231

TINNING ROOFS ★ SIDING BUILDING CUSTOM SHEDS

23-35p

## obituaries



**RING-MILLER**, Krystal Ring-Miller - It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Krystal Ring-Miller on December 10, 2024 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born in Kemptville, Nova Scotia, on June 4, 1963 and there she was raised. She was sweet-natured, kind hearted, and deeply loyal. Krystal was an exceptional cook and baker, and passionate about protecting and helping people and animals, especially children, the vulnerable, and those without a voice. Krystal was pre-deceased by her father Selwyn Ring, and her nephew Logan Ring. She is

survived by her loving husband Kevin Miller, her mother Myrna Allen, her sister Polly (Ray) Bullerwell, brother Earl (Polly) Ring, Minard (Diana), Glen (Peggy), and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles. A Funeral will be held Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 2:00 pm at the Church of Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints - #40 - 10 Street West, Brooks, Alberta.

The funeral will be livestreamed, you can go to <https://go.avayda.ca/KrystalStarRingMiller>. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made directly to the Brooks Animal Protection Services. For further information, light a candle or to leave a message of sympathy, please visit [www.thomsfuneralhome.com](http://www.thomsfuneralhome.com) or call (403) 501-1010.

**Thom's**  
 FUNERAL HOME AND RECEPTION CENTRE

### feed & seed

**HAY FOR SALE** - Round bales, mesh wrap - 1st cut grass (\$100 to \$130 bale) and 1st cut Alfalfa (\$150 a bale or best offer). No rain. Tom Adams 403-633-0445, Duchess, Alberta 33-52P

**ALFALFA FOR SALE:** Mid-size square bales. 200 - 1st cut, 200 - 2nd cut, 200 - 3rd cut. Tests available. Call 403-793-1508. 48-51p

CLASSIFIED  
 DEADLINE  
 Monday  
 3:00 pm

## obituaries

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### coming events

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

Mon & Sat  
 8:00 pm Brooks United Church, 507 - 3rd Ave. W., Brooks  
 Tues. & Thurs.  
 8:00 pm Trinity Lutheran Church  
 Wednesday  
 8:00 pm Bassano Health Centre  
 608 - 5th Ave. Bassano  
 811 Cassils Rd. W., Brooks  
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 403-793-4796**

01-52p

The Brooks Bulletin has a selection of verses and memorial tributes to remember your loved ones with.

### Sample verses:

**Mother or Sister**  
 On year has passed since that sad day,  
 When one we loved was called away,  
 God took her home, it was His will,  
 But in our hearts she liveth still.

**Father or Brother**  
 We often think of days gone by  
 When we were all together,  
 A shadow o'er our lives has cast,  
 Our loved one gone forever.

**Wife or Daughter**  
 No one knows our heartaches,  
 Only those who have lost can tell  
 Of the grief that we bear in silence  
 For the one we loved so well.

**Husband or Son**  
 Nothing can ever take away  
 The love a heart holds dear.  
 Fond memories linger every day,  
 Remembrance keeps him near.

**Child**  
 He has gone to be an angel,  
 Secure in our Father's care,  
 And his dear little feet now patter  
 along  
 The beautiful streets up there.

**Friend or Kin**  
 We cannot, Lord, They purpose see,  
 But all is well that's done by thee.

Please call 403-362-5571 or stop in to place your ad.

**BROOKS BULLETIN**  
 SERVING BROOKS & THE COUNTY OF NEWELL SINCE 1910  
 403.362.5571  
 Fax: 403.362.5080  
[www.brooksbulletin.com](http://www.brooksbulletin.com)

click on

[www.brooksbulletin.com](http://www.brooksbulletin.com)

## legal notices

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS**  
 Estate of Patsy Wenner who died on November 10, 2024.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by February 10, 2025. with MacLean Wiedemann Lawyers LLP at Box 124, 103- 2nd Avenue W Brooks, AB T1R 1B2 Telephone: 403.793.2227

and provide details of your claim.

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have. 51&02c

## legal notices

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS**  
 Estate of Raymond Darrell Anderson also known as Raymond Darrel Gosby and Darrell Anderson who died on 2022-04-29.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by 2025-01-18. with Kenneth M. Lutes of MacLean Wiedemann Lawyers LLP at 422 - 6th St. SE, Medicine Hat, AB. T1A 1H5.

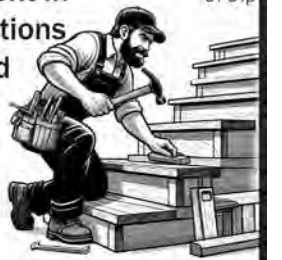
and provide details of your claim.

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have. 51c

## business announcements

### LOCAL CONTRACTOR

Local contractor proficient in Exterior/Interior renovations as well as new build construction.



Please call/text me, Angus at 403-633-7754 to receive a quote

### wanted

**WANTED: LADY FOR CASINO BUS TOUR**  
 February 17-22nd  
 \$1389  
 Passport Required

My Phone #403-363-2475, leave message with your phone number.

51P

### employment

**CITY TAXI**  
 We're hiring dependable FT/PT FOR DAY OR NIGHTS  
 Please call/text 403.501.4395

47-51P

## crematorium

**SMITH FUNERAL HOME LTD. AND CREMATORIUM**

In November of 2015, Smith Funeral Home Ltd. purchased our own crematorium, conveniently located in the City of Brooks, alleviating the unnecessary need to transport your loved one out of the local area and allowing cremations to be conducted as soon as possible.

Our deep roots in the community are a source of pride, as we grow side by side with the families we serve. We hope you will consider us your source for compassionate care and exemplary service. Our pledge is to help you honor your loved one in a meaningful way, offering thoughtful guidance and personal attention to every detail.

**SMITH FUNERAL HOME LTD. is now "LIVE STREAMING" funeral services with family approval.**

Ph: 403.362.4636

has been serving Brooks and areas with compassion and respect since 1951.

50c

## in memory

### Memorial Contributions

If you would like to make a tribute in the name of your loved one's charity or society, here is a listing of some worthy charities in the area - more can be added by contacting the Brooks Bulletin staff...

- PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: 310-0000
- BROOKS FOOD BANK FOUNDATION 403-793-2535
- SENIOR'S OUTREACH SOCIETY 403-362-4131
- BASSANO & DISTRICT HEALTH FOUNDATION: Box 120, Bassano, AB. T0J 0B0 403-641-6100
- BROOKS & DISTRICT HEALTH FOUNDATION: Bag 300, Brooks, AB. T1R 1B3 403-793-6663
- PALLIATIVE CARE 501-3210
- SPEC ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES 403-362-5056
- DIABETES ASSOCIATION 403-362-5914
- BROOKS & DISTRICT TOY LENDING LIBRARY 403-362-3232
- BROOKS & DISTRICT MUSEUM 403-362-5073
- BROOKS WOMEN'S SHELTER 362-2766
- COMMUNITY FOUNDATION 403-527-9038
- NEWELL COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP 403-362-6661
- BROOKS ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY 403-362-4323
- BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS
- ASSOCIATION OF MEDICINE HAT & DISTRICT: 403-527-6640
- CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY 403-528-2125
- GOOD SAMARITANS SOCIETY 403-528-5068
- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY c/o 362-4141
- HALO, #557 - 18th St. SW, Medicine Hat, AB. T1A 8C4 and 12 - Airport Dr. SW, Med. Hat T1A 5G4 403-528-9088
- GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP IMMIGRATION CENTRE 403-362-6115
- STARS CALGARY BASE - 1441 Aviation Park NE, Box 570, Calgary, AB. T2E 8M7
- CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION 403-266-5295
- KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA 403-526-4192
- ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF ALBERTA D401 - 3rd St. SE, Medicine Hat T1A 0G8
- MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY T01, 1201 Kingsway Ave. S.E., Medicine Hat T1A 2Y2 403-529-6797
- PRAIRIE ROSE HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE SOCIETY, Bag 300, Brooks, AB. T1R 1B3 403-633-9281

There are so many worthy causes and this is just a little view... watch for next year's additions.



# Classifieds

**Deadline for Classifieds word ads is Monday - 3 PM**  
**Call 403-362-5571**

## AWNA blanket ads

**Auctions**  
**MEIER GUN AUCTION**, Saturday, December 21 - 10 am, Wetaskiwin - Selling over 200 Rifles, Shot Guns, Antique Firearms, Ammunition, Scopes. Consign now. Free Pick-up. Call 780-440-1860; www.meier-auction.com.  
**Career Training**  
**GET YOUR MESSAGE SEEN ACROSS Alberta.** The Blanket Classifieds

or Value Ads reach over 600,000 Alberta readers weekly. Two options starting at \$269 or \$799 to get your message out! Business changes, hiring, items for sale, cancellations, tenders, etc. People are increasingly staying home and rely on their local newspapers for information. KEEP people in the loop with over 75 Weekly Community Newspapers.

Call THIS NEWSPAPER now or email classifieds@awna.com for details. 1-800-282-6903, 780-434-8746 www.awna.com.  
**Coming Events**  
**FIREARMS WANTED** FOR OUR 2025 AUCTION PROGRAM: Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, Email Us at sales@switzersauction.com or Visit Us @ www.switzersauction.com for Auction Dates & Details.

**Commercial Property**  
**BLANKET THE PROVINCE** with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach almost 80 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903 ; www.awna.com; email classifieds@awna.com.  
**Feed and Seed**  
**ALBERTA FEED GRAIN:** Buying Oats, Barley, Wheat, Canola, Peas, Screenings, Mixed Grains. Dry, Wet, Heated, or Spring Thresh. Prompt Payment. In House Trucks, In House Excreta Cleaning. Vac

Rental. 1-888-483-8789.  
**Services**  
**CRIMINAL RECORD?** Why suffer employment/licensing loss? Travel/business opportunities? Be embarrassed? Think: Criminal Pardon. US entry waiver. Record purge. File destruction. Free consultation. 1-800-347-2540. www.accesslegalmjf.com.  
**PRIVATE MORTGAGE LENDER.** All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct

with lender and get quick approval. Toll free 1-866-405-1228; www.firstand-secondmortgages.ca.  
**Publisher Approval**  
**Employment Opportunities**  
**SOUTHERN ALBERTA NEWSPAPER GROUP** is looking for Mailroom evening staff. Lots of room for advancement within the company. Email rturner@abnewsgroup.com for more information.

### for sale misc.



**TIRES FOR SALE**  
 4 Hercules  
 Avalanche  
**WINTER TIRES ON RIMS**  
 225/65R16  
 Used one season  
**\$100**

### for rent

**SHOP FOR RENT**  
 40L x 30W  
 14x12 Doors  
 \$1,000 includes utilities  
 No water available.  
 2 km West from CRA  
 If interested call SCOTT MARTIN  
**403-376-8721**



Rubin Seidlitz, left, and Rick Hirsekorn of Prairie Pioneers share excess funds that were raised during a Medicine Hat Casino with food bank manager Aurora Champlone. | SUBMITTED PHOTO

click on [www.brooksbulletin.com](http://www.brooksbulletin.com)

To advertise your company call 403.362.5571

# Business directory

BROOKS BULLETIN

### AUTO WRECKERS

(403) 377-2484 Fax: (403) 377-2415  
 Toll Free: 1-888-377-2488

**Flatla AUTO WRECKING**  
 DALE FLATLA  
 OWNER-OPERATOR  
 Over 3500 Cars & Trucks Of All Makes  
 E-mail: flatlaautowrecking@gmail.com  
 Website: flatlaautowrecking.ca

R.R. #1  
 TILLEY, ALTA  
 T0J 3K0

### DENTAL/DENTURE

**NEWELL DENTURE CLINIC LTD.**

- Complete Dentures
- Implant Retained Dentures
- Partial Dentures
- Relines & Repairs
- Free Consultations
- Sports Mouth Guards & Night Guards

Darren Strach  
 Denturist

**403-362-3181**  
 220 - 3rd Street West • Brooks, Alberta T1R 0S3

### GOVERNMENT

**MARTIN SHIELDS**  
 MP | BOW RIVER

Toll free: 1-844-241-0020  
 Email: martin.shields@parl.gc.ca  
 Website: www.martinshieldsbowriver.ca

### ACCOUNTING

**Bevan & Partners**  
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
 Bay 2, 320 - 8th Ave. W.  
 Brooks, Alberta  
 Ph: 403-362-3472

**Murray & Associates**  
 BOOKKEEPING, ACCOUNTING  
 TAX RETURNS  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 Diane Murray Don Murray  
 C212 - 3rd Ave. West  
 Box 759, Brooks, AB. T1R 1B7  
 Phone: 403-362-2285

**Brooks Denture Clinic Ltd.**  
 Alan Treiber, DD

Complete Dentures - Partial Dentures  
 Relines & Repairs

(403) 362-5803  
 103, 428 - 2nd Street West  
 Brooks, Alberta T1R 0E9

**BROAD REACH at an AFFORDABLE PRICE**  
 Advertise Province-wide  
 with a combined circulation of over 650,000 for only...  
**\$799** plus GST  
 Ask about the Value Ad Network  
 Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association  
 toll free 1-800-282-6903 x225  
 email classifieds@awna.com  
 or visit your community newspaper

**LIBERTY TAX SERVICE**  
**TAX Preparation**  
 Address: 215 - 3rd St. W. • Brooks, AB. T1R 0N8  
 Phone: 403-793-2674 • Fax: 403-793-2884

### EYECARE

**FOR SIGHT VISION CENTRE**  
 South Shore Centre  
 640 Cassils Rd. E.  
 Brooks, AB.  
 403-362-5063  
 www.forsightbrooks.ca  
 Dr. Dallas Wagner, OD  
 Dr. Darren Wagner, OD

click on [www.brooksbulletin.com](http://www.brooksbulletin.com)



# WORLD OF WONDER

By Laurie Triefeldt

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

Thomas Nast's illustration, "Merry Old Santa Claus," was first published in Harper's Weekly on Jan. 1, 1881

# SANTA CLAUS

In North America, Santa Claus is usually depicted as a jovial, plump fellow with a long beard, wearing a white fur-trimmed suit of red, black boots and a pompom-topped cap. In other times and in other places, Santa is portrayed differently.



Russian icon depicting St. Nicholas, 1294 Novgorod, Russia

## St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas (270–343) was a Christian bishop born in the village of Patara (in modern-day Turkey). From a wealthy family, he spent his fortune secretly giving gifts to the needy. He was especially fond of children and sailors.

After his death, Nicholas' tomb in Myra became a place of pilgrimage, and the legend of St. Nicholas grew. The tomb at Myra was not well protected, so most of St. Nicholas' bones were moved in 1087 to Bari in Italy. Celebrating St. Nicholas' feast day (usually on December 5th or 6th) helped keep the stories of his goodwill and selfless giving popular through the centuries.

## In a word

The name **Santa Claus** is derived from the Dutch name for St. Nicholas, **Sinterklaas** (an abbreviation of Sint Nikolaas). Santa Claus is also known as Saint Nicholas, St. Nick, Kriss Kringle, Pelznickel, Babbo Natale (Italy), der Weihnachtsmann (Germany), Father Christmas (England) and Père Noël (France).

## How Santa evolved

There are many similarities between the Sinterklaas brought to America by the Dutch in the 17th century and the modern Santa Claus we know and love today.

In his Dutch form, Sinterklaas carries a staff, rides a huge white horse and has fun-loving helpers who listen at chimneys to find out whether children are being bad or good. Dutch children hope St. Nicholas will leave them gifts, and they leave carrots and hay in their shoes for St. Nick's horse.

In 1809, Washington Irving (under the pseudonym Diedrich Knickerbocker) wrote a story describing the arrival of the Dutch Saint Nicholas on horseback.

In 1823, Clement Clarke Moore published his poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (or "The Night Before Christmas"). The poem describes St. Nicholas with eight reindeer and lists their names.



Illustration from the 1864 edition of "A Visit from St. Nicholas"

In 1931, Swedish artist Haddon H. Sundblom painted a series of illustrations for Coca-Cola ads.

In 1939, Rudolph (the ninth reindeer) with his red and shiny nose was the brilliant idea of advertising writer Robert L. May for the Montgomery Ward Company.



Nast's images of Santa became the standard for how many children imagined this holiday hero

## Where in the world?

For many years, it was believed that Santa lived at the North Pole, but in 1925, newspapers revealed that Santa Claus lived in Finnish Lapland.

Since the 1950s, Santa has "lived" in Rovaniemi, Finland. Letters from children around the world are delivered to the official Santa Claus village post office there. Korvatunturi mountain, where Santa lives, is strictly off-limits to people.

## Anti-Clauses

Long ago, during his annual rounds, Santa often had an accomplice who went by many different names. This companion gave coal and a spanking with a switch to the naughty children as Santa left gifts for the good ones.



Santa Claus still doesn't bring presents to bad children.

## Elves and helpers

According to Scandinavian legend, Santa is assisted by a busy group of elves.

**Bushy Evergreen** invented the magic toymaking machine.

**Shinny Upatree** is Santa's oldest friend and helped establish the secret village in Lapland.

**Wunorse Openslae** looks after Santa's sleigh and cares for the reindeer.

**Pepper Minstix** guards the secret location of Santa Village.

**Sugarplum Mary** heads the Sweet Treats kitchen. She also assists Mrs. Claus.

**Alabaster Snowball** is keeper of the naughty-and-nice list.

## Did you know?

St. Nicholas has more than 2,000 churches dedicated to him in France and Germany.

St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of banking, pawnbroking, scholarship, pirating, sailing, thievery, haberdashery, orphans, royalty and New York City.

The first mention of Mrs. Claus was in the 1849 short story "A Christmas Legend" by James Rees.

It is estimated that Santa's sleigh would weigh more than 400,000 tons if it carried enough toys for all the children in the world.

In Austria and Britain, beer and sherry are left for Santa Claus instead of the milk and cookies popular in North America.

The most popular cookies left out for Santa are chocolate chip and Oreos.