

# BROOKS BULLETIN

*Serving Brooks & County of Newell since 1910!*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

## Tumultuous month for BCHL, Bandits ahead of trade deadline

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

About 40 players, including four Brooks Bandits, left the BCHL over the past month to play major junior hockey in Canada and the United States as a result of the NCAA eligibility rule change.

The eligibility change was made in November and it is expected to go into effect on Aug. 1 which will allow "professional" players in the Canadian Hockey League (CHL) in the OHL, QMJHL and the Western

Hockey League (WHL) to be eligible for NCAA Division 1 colleges.

CHL players are considered to be professional because they receive compensation and signing bonuses. As long as they do not receive more than their necessary expenses they will be eligible for Division 1.

Bandits goalie Johnny Hicks, who was slotted to play in the BCHL Top Prospects match and All-Star tournament for the Interior Conference, Montreal Canadiens draftee

goalie Mikus Vecvanags, and defensemen Mathieu Taillefer and Quinn McCall have moved to the major juniors.

Bandits president Paul Seaton confirmed that the players have joined other leagues.

Hicks signed with the Victoria Royals of the WHL, Vecvanags is with the Acadie-Bathurst Titan of the Quebec Junior Major Hockey League (QMJHL), Taillefer is with the QMJHL's Halifax Moosehead and McCall is with the Ontario Hockey League's Erie Otters.

"The rule change permits them to retain their college commitments and play major junior," Seaton said.

Following an emergency meeting of the BCHL in November the league stated they will continue to move forward.

"There's no doubt that this rule change has altered the landscape of junior hockey but as our league has always done, we will adapt to the new regulations and continue to thrive," said BCHL Commissioner Steven Cocker.

Cocker acknowledged

that while a small percentage of players left the league, teams are recruiting highly skilled athletes from other leagues.

"As a league without a draft, the BCHL has always supported players choice. We will always be in favour of athletes doing what they think is best for their development," he said.

BCHL players have left other teams due to the rule change including five from the Chilliwack Chiefs, four each from the Nanaimo Clippers and West Kelowna Warriors, three from the Vernon Vipers, two players each from the Coquitlam Express, Cowichan Valley Express, Langley Rivermen, Salmon Arm Silverbacks, West Kelowna Warriors, Vernon Vipers and Penticton Vees, two from Cranbrook Bucks (one returned) and one each from the Alberni Valley Bulldogs, Powell River Kings and Prince George Spruce Kings.

The BCHL Vipers, Chiefs, Powell River Kings, Silverbacks and West Kelowna have signed players from the major juniors.

Since the end of December the Bandits have recruited forward Cooper Pierson from the United States Hockey League's Muskegon Lumberjacks, defenceman Shane Burns from the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Steinbach Pistons, goalie Chris Quizi from the Ontario Junior Hockey League's Oakville Blades and defenceman Kristis Retenais, who started his season with the Aberdeen Wings of the North American Hockey League.

He was a member of Team Latvia at the 2025 IIHF World Juniors in Ottawa in December and January.

Retenais was a teammate of Vecvanags on the 2022-23 Latvia U17 national team.



The Bandits were defeated by the West Kelowna Warriors on Dec. 28, 4-3, in a match that saw a trio of new Bandits take to the ice to replace other players who had left the team a day or two prior to play as major juniors. In his first game as a Bandit Cooper Pierson, tries to get the puck past West Kelowna goalie Bor Glavic. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

## City 'scrooged' residents on recent utility bill

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Some residents are not happy with the city after they received notification that they would have to pay a 10 per cent levy on a utility bill that was issued during the postal strike.

One resident on social media noted that he received a letter dated Dec. 18 that indicated his Nov. 15 account was overdue for the period of Sept. 1 to Oct. 31.

He noted that the city pointed out that the invoice was due on Dec. 16 and could not be mailed.

"I do not feel the city is justified in charging a penalty when an invoice has not been presented," he said.

Many believe that the city should have "eaten" the costs rather than profiting on the mail strike.

"I expect there will be a lot of time expended

with council discussing complaints about unjustified utility penalties," he noted.

While the city charged the penalty, the County of Newell issued a notification which stated there would be no penalties levied during the strike.

The municipality offered an extension that was equivalent to the strike period. If the strike had continued for three weeks a three-week extension would have applied.

The strike took place from Nov. 15 to Dec. 16.

The Town of Bassano also applied late penalties, however, the utility bill will not be available until this week. Town officials have urged residents to sign up for paperless billing.

"It is important to stay current on your payments to avoid additional charges," stated the town.

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As we step into 2025, we extend our heartfelt wishes for a year of happiness and success.

**Thank you for making our community an amazing place to live!**

### 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 is now OPEN and will remain open until 12:00 PM (noon) 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.

Detailed Candidate Information Packages, which include the prescribed nomination form, are available on the County of Newell website: [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 8:00 AM & 4:30 PM or NOON on September 22
- ✓ Address: 183037 Range Road 145, Brooks, AB
- ✓ Nomination deadline: September 22, 2025 at NOON

MUNICIPAL 2025 ELECTION



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



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR

The County of Newell is seeking an enthusiastic self-motivated leader with a strong technical aptitude to join our team as an Engineering Supervisor.

Preference will be given to applicants possessing:

- Education in Civil Engineering, or related field
- Previous experience in construction management is an asset
- Experience in RTK GPS Survey, Design, and CAD Drafting is an asset
- Minimum three (3) to five (5) years of experience in a similar capacity, including proven skills
- Must work efficiently in a computerized environment
- Excellent interpersonal, public relations, and technical skills
- Must possess a valid Class 5 Driver's Licence
- Must be bondable.

This is a full-time permanent position reporting to the Manager of Planning, Development and Engineering Services. The position is responsible for the coordination and implementation of annual construction and maintenance programs, including budgeting, data collection, design, tendering, and supervising. It is also responsible for the coordination of County Asset Management Plans, the collection and processing of assets and features of assets in GIS for all infrastructures related to transportation, water, wastewater, and storm water services, and for assisting with long-range capital planning and the coordination of professional services to execute annual workplans.

**Areas of Responsibility:** A variety of administrative and technical tasks related to civil engineering, survey, design, construction, and asset management are performed by this position. The primary responsibilities will focus on the total life cycle management of all County infrastructure, including making recommendations for both acquisition and disposal processes in accordance with County policy.

The County of Newell offers a competitive salary and benefits as well as excellent training and education programs. A pre-employment drug and alcohol screen and an occupational health assessment for new and returning employees is required as per County policy. The successful candidate is required to provide a clear criminal record check prior to employment.

**This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.**

#### INTERESTED?

Please submit a cover letter with your resume in confidence, including salary expectations, and 3 references to:

Attention: Human Resources  
County of Newell  
183037 Range Road 145  
PO Box 130  
Brooks, AB, T1R 1B2  
Or email [HR@newellmail.ca](mailto:HR@newellmail.ca)



### CROP DIVERSIFICATION CENTRE SOUTH REVITALIZATION

#### AGRICULTURE. INNOVATION. COLLABORATION.

Located near Brooks, Alberta, the Crop Diversification Centre South (CDC South) is a well-established facility with a rich history in supporting innovation and development in the agricultural sector.

Spread across over 740 acres, the facilities include irrigated research lands, park space, state-of-the-art greenhouses, and a variety of specialized equipment.

With an added cultural and community value, this property features an arboretum, scenic park space, and walking trails which provide an attractive setting for recreational activities and cultural events.

**The County of Newell is accepting responses to a call for Expressions of Interest in accessing the Crop Diversification Centre South**



Scan the code with your phone to find out more about CDC South and to access instructions on submitting an Expression of Interest.



# Policing takes up the bulk of the city's 2025 budget

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Saving for multi-generational projects and funding the RCMP are the major reasons why rates will increase for city taxpayers and utility users this year.

The city will levy \$16,246,933 in property taxes of which \$15,046,933 is related to taxes to support the budget. The city will also collect \$1.2 million for paving.

Policing costs will account for most of the tax increase at 3.25 per cent on the 5.75 per cent interim budget. The city's

policing cost has climbed by about \$2 million to \$5.096 million compared to last year to cover the pay for detachment members and required equipment including bodycams that are expected to arrive this year.

Mayor John Petrie said while he has no complaints about the RCMP the municipality has no control over their expenses but they do have control over the number of members assigned to the detachment. That number has been a point of discussion over the years and could result in fewer RCMP members and more city peace officers.

Through the 2024 budget the city began transferring money to reserves for policing in anticipation of a population increase that is expected to exceed 15,000 by 2027. At that point, the city will be responsible for 90 per cent of the costs.

The province, though, did announce in November that it will cover \$27 million in rising police costs in 2025 "so that municipalities' costs remain stable," states a November government release. Meetings are expected to be held on the issue between the province and municipalities.

In addition to policing,

the city has increased its utility rates to put money away for its future wastewater system which is currently estimated to be \$30 million.

The city budget includes \$5,328,362 in capital projects, some of which are grant-dependent.

Projects that will be completed this year include locker upgrades at JBS Canada Centre, Duke of Sutherland waterpark and resurfacing the Griffin Park tennis courts. The city will also begin to increase and improve the irrigation at the Commemorative Forest.

"There's some good things in the budget. The city will look at the lockers at the JBS Canada Centre, the tennis courts will be redone, and a spray park is coming to Brooks," he said.

Mini spray parks valued at \$100,000 were last discussed as part of the 2024 budget and are grant-dependent. The parks were not part of any public portion of the budget meeting.

The city will continue to replace fitness equipment, traffic light controllers, playground equipment, fire SCBA as well sewer mains and the southeast main loop.

The Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF), which used to be the MSI funds, will be used to help fund trails, street improvement projects and the underground servicing at new junior high school.

The city has also budgeted \$254,614 for the surface improvement at the

7th Street East rail crossing.

"With any budget they're always difficult because you're cognizant of the taxpayer but you also have to be cognizant of the needs," said John Petrie.

There was no mention of the \$20 million broadband project of which the city paid \$5.4 million with its gas tax money and which should

have been making money by now. The project was to have been completed in 2023 but was finished in 2024. As of a last update in May 2024, Galaxy was boasting that 1,500 customers had signed up for internet. In December, Petrie said it is something that he expects will be discussed by council this month.

## AUC sets hearing for Pace's Brooks solar project

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

A virtual hearing has been set for three days beginning on April 14 for Pace's Salt Flats project in Brooks.

The 25.9 megawatt project proposed to be built on 175 acres of grazed land in the city adjacent to the Uplands area, received about 100 statements of intent to participate in a hearing.

A group called BLOG will be represented by legal counsel at the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) quasi-judicial hearing.

Prior to the holidays Claude Mindorff, director of strategy development for Pace Canada, received

support for the project from county council.

Although the project is proposed to be located within the City of Brooks, which has also given the project support, the AUC now requires that discussions are held with the surrounding rural municipality that surrounds the project.

"Part of this is in compliance with what the AUC would expect and secondly this project borders on county lands with a number of landowners living right across the road from," Mindorff said.

"Yes there are some concerns. I don't know of a single project anywhere that there hasn't been."

He explained to council

that the project proposes farming, agrivoltaics, a four kilometre granular walking path around the development, interpretative centre, dog and human watering area and a shelter belt to screen the project.

Reclamation plans are part of the application which would see about \$1 million deposited by Year 10 of the project.

"I just want to clarify one thing. I think there was a comment that maybe we would speak on behalf of residents of the county. I mean they still have their own opinion on this. Definitely nothing we would say would get in the way of that as long as that's well understood," said reeve Arno Doerksen.



Brooks.ca | 403-362-3333



### What's Happening?

#### Pickleball Club Registration Now Open

Looking for a fun way to stay active this winter? Join the Pickleball Club at the JBS Canada Centre!

Details:

- Location: JBS Canada Centre Flexhall
- Dates: Thursdays, January 23 to March 13
- Time: 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- Teams: Each team consists of 2 players and 1 spare
- Fee: \$130.08 per team
- Registration: Closes January 13. Register at the JBS Canada Centre or call 403-362-3622!
- More: <https://www.brooks.ca/836/Clubs>

Paddles are available for use, but we encourage players to bring their own if they have one.

#### Youth Night

Join us for an exciting evening of Pictionary fun!

- Friday, January 10
- 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Ages 8–12

For more information, call 403-362-3622.

#### Get Active: Explore Our Recreation Schedules

Looking for drop-in gym times, arena skate times (including shinny and public skate), pickleball, or swimming pool hours? Check out our full recreation schedule to plan your next activity!

View schedules here: [brooks.ca/402/Schedules](https://www.brooks.ca/402/Schedules)

#### Subscribe to Our Recreation Newsletter

Stay updated on leagues, events, and news with the City of Brooks Recreation Newsletter! From skating and pool schedules to community highlights, there's always something new. Visit [tinyurl.com/bddh3xxh](https://tinyurl.com/bddh3xxh) to subscribe today!

### Public Notices

#### Next Council Meeting

- Monday, January 20 at 4:30 PM
- Brooks City Hall - Council Chambers (201 1 Ave W)
- Open to the public
- Streaming live on the City of Brooks Facebook and YouTube
- Find the agenda at [brooks.ca/agendacentre](https://www.brooks.ca/agendacentre)

#### Next Council Committee Meeting

- Tuesday, January 14 at 4:30 PM
- Brooks City Hall - Hayes Room (201 1 Ave W)
- Open to the public
- Find the agenda at [brooks.ca/agendacentre](https://www.brooks.ca/agendacentre)

#### Utility Bill Penalties - Important Information

We want to address concerns related to utility bill penalties.

Due to the Canada Post strike, we were unable to mail out utility bills as usual. We communicated this delay through social media, our website, and other channels, and informed residents that payments were still due by the original deadline.

Unfortunately, as a result, penalties were applied to accounts that were not paid on time. We understand this may cause frustration, and we appreciate your understanding during this challenging situation.

Please remember, all utility bills must be paid by the due date to avoid penalties. For future reference, you can always view your utility bill online or sign up for e-billing to ensure you receive timely notifications. Visit <https://ico.brooks.ca:9191/> to get started.

If you'd like to contact the Utilities Department, please email [utilities@brooks.ca](mailto:utilities@brooks.ca).

### 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



# Passenger in stolen vehicle airlifted following rollover

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Charges are expected to be laid in connection with a minivan that was stolen from Medicine Hat and rolled multiple times on Highway 1 east of Highway 56 on Dec. 23 at about 8:40 a.m. Bassano RCMP reported that the van had been stolen on Dec. 22 and as it drove

towards Calgary, the female driver lost control on the icy road and the minivan rolled several times before it came to a stop in the median. After firefighters from Bassano and Standard freed the male passenger he was airlifted from the scene by STARS to a Calgary hospital. The driver and another female passenger were transported to hospital with serious but non-life

threatening injuries. The three are from the Medicine Hat area and are between the ages of 28 and 34. As of Christmas Eve all three had still been in serious condition. The investigation is continuing to determine the factors around the collision, theft and criminal charges.



One man was airlifted and two others were taken by ground ambulance to hospital following a rollover on Dec. 23 on Highway 1 east of Highway 56. | SUBMITTED PHOTO

# MP sees the AIS task force report as a first step

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The Alberta Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, which focused on invasive mussels, has come up with seven recommendations for the province to try and halt the expansion of invasive mussels into the province. The report was released in December which looks at recommendations to keep Zebra and quagga mussels out of the province.

Mussels multiply by the millions and attach to intake water pipes or hard surface and pile on top of each other and quickly clog pipes. There is no proven way to destroy them and with estimates of \$200 million by one irrigation district to deal with when they arrive, they are a concern. "I think the report is a first step," said MP Martin Shields who was a task force member.

He would like to see some of the 2026 recommendations moved to this year including the dip tank pilot which is a huge tank filled with hot water that a vehicle and boat drive through. He also believes that sniffer dogs need to be returned to the program which is not part of the recommendations.

In December Manitoba announced that they had found evidence of zebra mussels in the Assiniboine River and Clear Lake which drains into Alberta. "Because this has progressed further west I have said in many places

and at many times there should be a moratorium on watercraft at our borders."

He said boaters should not be the ones who are able to hold the liability of the risk to the agricultural and municipal costs.

"You're not affecting the tourism industry to any great extent."

He said the task force was told it will take years to train them and they are expensive but Shields has learned it takes three weeks to train a sniffer dog.

While he does believe there is more to do, Shields said Taber MLA Grant Hunter, who led the task force, did a good job in getting the work completed in a short period of time according to his mandate but he doesn't believe it has gone far enough.

"I think there's more that we could be doing," he said.

Hunter said if the recommendations are accepted and when they are implemented he believes they will be enough.

He said dip tanks have proven to be successful in Utah.

"They were able to stop the spread - it's been about 10 years - from one lake to other lakes in the state," Hunter told the Bulletin.

"Each province has to take it seriously. We have to stop the spread," Hunter said.

This year the province is expected to open three more inspection stations which will mean seven will operate and the plan is to return the province to 11 stations as it was in 2014-15.

Last year boaters who failed to stop at an open inspection station could be fined \$4,200 and anyone who failed to remove a drain plug was fined \$600.

"I think we are doing as much as we can to be able to keep them out," he said.

"If they come in it will be devastating to our irrigation and our waterways."

The task force recommendations, which have to go through the ministry of Environment and Protected Areas and the budget includes recommendations for 2025 and 2026.

By 2026, it recommends a mandatory provincial annual sticker program with all the revenue to be put into the AIS program and a second sticker that provides proof of inspection at stations.

Other recommendations include:

- By 2026 a dip tank program (watercraft drives through a unit filled with hot water).

- By 2026 there should be a mandatory watercraft inspection from the eastern or southern borders.

- By March 2025 the minister should advocate to the federal government for more chemical options to be registered.

- By March 2025 there should be an early detection and rapid response plan and a tactical plan for AIS.

- May 2025 and May 2026 tabletop and field based exercises for mussel response training should be conducted.

**Scandia Sketch**  
KARLYN TAKEDA

SCANDIA - I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is refreshed and ready for the New Year.

Save the date for the Scandia Community Hall Pancake Supper & Pie Auction- March 4th

Alcoma School News-ECS registration is now open, please stop in at the school or visit the website to register your little one. School resumes this week with SPEC playgroup happening on Friday from 9:30-11.

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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**Branson & the Black Hills Oct. 18 - 29, 2025**

**306.533.0860**  
[www.corbentours.ca](http://www.corbentours.ca)

**Solar Energy, Farming & Irrigation**  
**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE on JAN 23, 2025**

Rosemary Rec-Plex - 101 Centre St., Rosemary, AB  
Bring your bill & drop in anytime from 3 - 9 pm

**Learn how solar works and how it can be integrated into farming operations!**

Free Donuts & Coffee/ Presentation 7 pm / Q & A Period  
Azgard Solar Inc. 403-236-5501 or visit [www.azgard.com](http://www.azgard.com)

**Brooks & District**  
Fish & Game Association

**Annual Awards Night and Wild Game Supper**  
Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025 at 5:00 PM  
Duchess Hall

- BRING A WILD GAME DISH TO OUR WILD GAME SUPPER -  
• PRIZE FOR WILD GAME DISH •

• Live Auction: 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm •

• Supper to follow Auction • Awards: 7:30 pm

• Door Prizes • Bucket Raffle • Mystery Meat Challenge  
• Silent Auction • Kids Raffle

**Tickets: 6 to 13 yrs: \$20 ~ 14+: \$40**  
**Tickets Available at:**

Brooks Home Building Centre 620 5th Street West  
Wild Life Taxidermy 507 3rd Street East Phone: 403-362-2667  
Sport Side - Source for Sports 140 1st Street West  
Sally Bartman Phone: 403-362-1929  
Lester Janke Phone: 403-362-0733

• Grand Prize for all Trophy Entries submitted in Youth & Adult Categories  
• Enter Your Unfilled 2024 Tags for a Grand Prize Draw

**Everyone Welcome, come out and see some Nice Trophies**

**Trees of Hope**  
Sponsored by Prairie Rose Hospice  
Palliative Care Society

**IN MEMORY OF**  
Albert Gosling  
Gladys Conners  
Les Conners  
Stan Conners  
Ella Nannt

Our loved ones, family & friends

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**  
Wishing all a blessed Christmas

**FROM**  
Carole Christiansen  
Carole Christiansen  
Carole Christiansen  
Carole Christiansen  
Forever missed, Rolf, Kathy,  
Kyle & Meghan  
Rolf & Kathy Nannt & Family

**FROM**  
Rolf & Kathy Nannt



# LETTERS

## Tax hike unjustified

Editor, The Bulletin;  
I have a hard time seeing how the city of Brooks can justify rising residential taxes by 5.75 per cent. In one paper they say they are giving 20 acres of prime land to the Catholic School and in another paper it says city council is taking a pay raise.

Instead of raising taxes—

sell the land.

They have three or more bylaw officers driving around and on my walk I see at least five per cent of people never shovel snow off their sidewalks, people with cords across the sidewalk and tuckers using their Jake brake in the city at early hours of the morning.

Why don't the city bylaw

officers and police ticket these law breakers?

Instead of raising taxes, sell your land and have the bylaw officers and police do a better job.

I also think that seniors shouldn't have to pay school tax once they start getting their old age pension.

BEN KARASEK,  
Brooks, Alta.

## Woman deposits company cheque in personal account

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Tauni Lynn Nicklom, 36, received a conditional sentence order (CSO) following her August 2024 guilty plea to fraud under \$5,000.

During December's sentencing, the court was told that while Nicklom was an employee at A to Zed Plumbing she deposited a \$1,034.83 cheque to the company into her account in March 2024.

A banking official called the customer asking who the cheque was made out to as the name on the cheque appeared to have been altered to reflect Nicklom's

name.

The owner of A to Zed was contacted by the customer who advised them what had occurred and it was later discovered that there had been no trace of the cheque in the system. Nicklom told police she had taken the cheque and put it into her own name and took full responsibility.

The cheque never cleared the bank.

While the theft was at the low end with no loss to the company, the Crown suggested 90 days in custody and 12 months probation or a six month CSO with the same amount of probation.

Nicklom has moved out

of the community to gain employment in central Alberta but she does intend to return to the community in the future.

The sentence included a six month CSO during which time she is to remain on its grounds 24/7 for the first three months, except to attend work, shopping and medical needs and other necessities. During the final three months Nicklom is to remain on her grounds from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. seven days a week.

She was also ordered to attend probation, attend for assessment and counselling and she is not allowed to go to A to Zed Plumbing.

GREAT LEARNING STARTS HERE!

# HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY REGISTER FOR FULL-TIME KINDERGARTEN



PROGRAM OPTIONS:  
**FULL DAY/FIVE  
DAYS PER WEEK  
OR TWO FULL  
DAYS PER WEEK**

Kindergarten students must be 5 years of age or older by Dec. 31, 2025

REGISTRATION ALSO  
OPEN FOR GRADES 1 TO 4

**DROP-IN  
OPEN HOUSE !!**

Tuesday, Feb. 4  
9 am to 4:30 pm

You do not have to be registered to attend



TO REGISTER VISIT  
visit <https://holyfamily.redeemer.ab.ca>  
403-362-8001

Visit us on social @holyfamily.ctr

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

02&04c



WINE | SPIRITS | BEER

JANUARY 7 - 20, 2025

<p><b>SAVE OVER \$6</b></p> <p>ALBERTA PURE VODKA</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$19<sup>95</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$7</b></p> <p>CANADIAN CLUB 100% RYE</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$22<sup>95</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$8</b></p> <p>APPLETON ESTATE SIGNATURE BLEND</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$25<sup>95</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$5</b></p> <p>CELLI'S SIGNATURE CREAM</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$16<sup>95</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$9</b></p> <p>BULLEIT BOURBON FRONTIER WHISKY</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$34<sup>95</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$4</b></p> <p>JACK DANIEL'S WINTER JACK</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$20<sup>95</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$9</b></p> <p>KNOB CREEK BOURBON/ RYE WHISKEY</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$42<sup>95</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$8</b></p> <p>JOSE CUERVO ESPECIAL GOLD/ SILVER TEQUILA</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$31<sup>95</sup></b></p>
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<p><b>SAVE OVER \$3</b></p> <p>COPPER MOON WINES - ASSORTED</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$8<sup>95</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$3</b></p> <p>VIVO WINES - ASSORTED</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$9<sup>95</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$9</b></p> <p>WAYNE GRETZKY RED CASK/DOUBLE OAK/ MAPLE</p> <p>750ML</p> <p><b>\$29<sup>95</sup></b></p>	<p><b>SAVE OVER \$7</b></p> <p>BLACK CELLAR WINES - ASSORTED</p> <p>4L</p> <p><b>\$33<sup>95</sup></b></p>
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<p><b>HEY Y'ALL NON-ALCOHOLIC REAL ICED TEA</b></p> <p>4PC</p> <p><b>\$6<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$1</b></p>	<p><b>LONETREE DE-ALCOHOLIZED APPLE CIDER</b></p> <p>4PC</p> <p><b>\$7<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$2</b></p>	<p><b>CORONA SUNBREW</b></p> <p>6PB</p> <p><b>\$8<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$1</b></p>	<p><b>NUTRL - ASSORTED</b></p> <p>6PC</p> <p><b>\$12<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$3</b></p>	<p><b>CO-OP BEER LAGER/LIGHT/ PILSNER</b></p> <p>15PC</p> <p><b>\$15<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$4</b></p>	<p><b>OLD MILWAUKEE LAGER/ LIGHT</b></p> <p>15PC</p> <p><b>\$22<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$4</b></p>	<p><b>PILSNER</b></p> <p>24PC</p> <p><b>\$33<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$7</b></p>	<p><b>BUDWEISER/BUD LIGHT/ KOKANE</b></p> <p>15PB</p> <p><b>\$28<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p><b>SAVE OVER \$5</b></p>

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# COMMENT

## Penalty on utility bill a bit “Grinchy”

City utility customers were handed a surprise Christmas gift in the form of a 10 per cent penalty on accounts which were unpaid, most likely because the city was unable to mail statements.

The great majority of us are very diligent when it comes to paying our city utility bills and so we were surprised that the city would penalize us even though no bills went out. The city posted a “news flash” on their site, most likely after a few complaints, that said, “Due to the Canada Post strike, we were unable to mail out utility bills as usual. We communicated this delay through social media, our website and other channels and informed residents that payments were still due by the original deadline.

“Unfortunately, as a result, penalties were applied to accounts that were not paid on time. We understand this may cause frustration and we appreciate your understanding during this challenging situation.

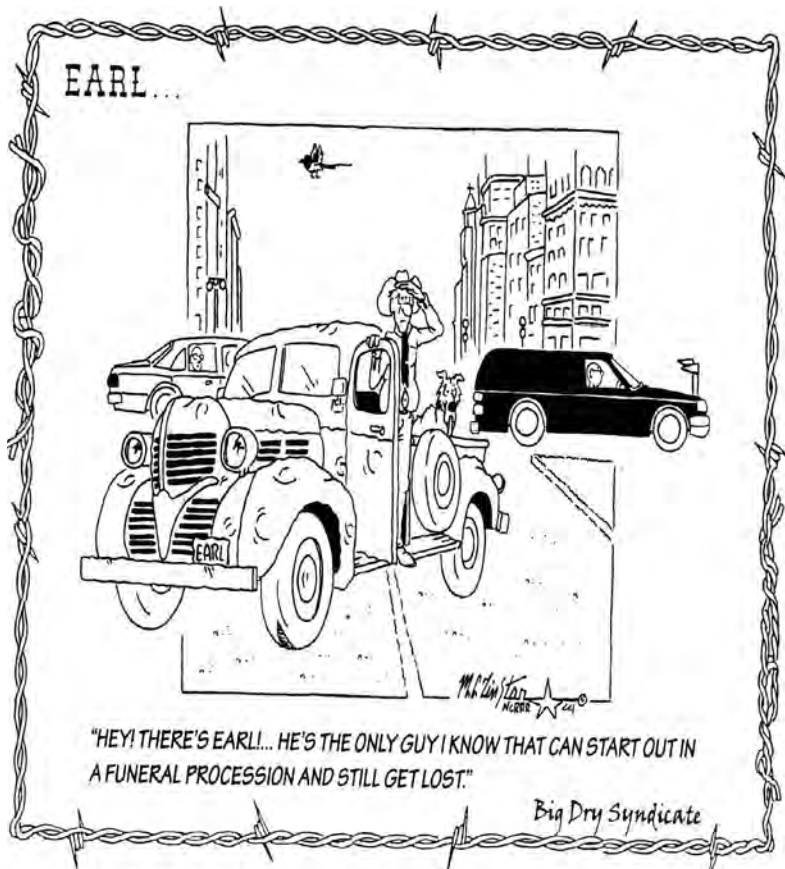
“Please remember all utility bills must be paid by the due date to avoid penalties. For future reference, you can always view your utility bill online or sign up for e-billing to ensure you receive timely notifications....”

Well, we are glad that the city appreciates our understanding but perhaps they are a bit presumptuous. We recognize that the city policy is that utility bills must be paid on time, bill or not, however, we are in the habit of paying our bills when the statement arrives. And we are used to having the bills arrive in the mail every month.

And while we recognise the mail strike made this impossible, we were not focused on the fact that our bill wouldn't arrive. This was compacted by the fact that it was the Christmas season and our minds were on other things.

All this is to say that the city should be more flexible when it comes to something like a mail disruption, especially at Christmas. Perhaps they could follow the lead of the County of Newell who decided that since the mail strike lasted three weeks, they would add three weeks' more time to pay the bill.

Now that's the Christmas spirit!



# TIME CAPSULE



Lakeside Spurs - 1980.

## Welcome to ‘Uncharted Territory’

COLUMNIST



GWYNNE DYER

New Year is when we do the accounts for the year, and the bad news always gets top billing: how many wars are going on, how big were the natural disasters, etc.? Climate change now has its own slot in this annual accounting, and here is what the climate pundits will say.

First they will acknowledge that 2024 has been the hottest year since we began keeping records a few centuries ago. This will be accompanied by the usual clucking about how naughty we have all been, not cutting our greenhouse gas emissions fast enough.

The only remedy for this, they will explain, is make those cuts now, and very fast. Almost none will mention that we have never managed to cut our net global emissions at all, except once in the peak Covid year when everybody was locked down.

Only if you can “believe six impossible things before breakfast,” like the White Queen in ‘Alice Through the Looking Glass’, could you believe that we can voluntarily shift from growing our global emissions by about 1% a year to slashing them by 7% a year in the next five years, which is the minimum change needed to avoid a catastrophe.

Human beings in large numbers simply cannot react that fast even when the catastrophes begin. The Philippines were hit by six cyclones (hurricanes) in one month last autumn – utterly unprecedented – and still there's no big public demand there for a rapid switch from

fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

The second thing you will hear (if your media sources are reality-based) is that there was a big, unexplained leap in the warming in June 2023. The average global temperature jumped by three-tenths of a degree in one month. That is the amount had been predicted to occur over the next ten years.

This explains why we have seen a sudden upward lurch in wild weather all around the planet: bigger windstorms, fiercer forest fires, hotter, longer heat-waves, torrential rain causing floods and landslides, the lot.

And here's the thing. Because climate scientists did not know what was causing the acceleration, most of them kept quiet until they had something more to say than “I don't know.” The unfortunate side-effect of that was that the general public does not share their sense of panic – and no panic means no dramatic responses either.

Only in the past two months has a likely explanation emerged for the surge in temperature. Scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) think the world's reflective cloud cover has shrunk in the past two decades by a small but significant amount. Therefore more sunlight is reaching the surface, which boosts global warming.

Unfortunately, the climate scientists still don't know if this is just a one-time jump, after which the old rate of warming will resume. It could just as easily be a new, higher rate of warming that persists or even accelerates further. The ‘permanent emergency’ has actually arrived – but still the reluctance to level with the public continues.

In almost every report, there is a reassuring note to say that we haven't really crossed any irreversible threshold yet. Yes, the average global temperature

in 2024 has been higher than the ‘aspirational’ never-exceed warming of +1.5 degrees C, but don't despair: it will be many years before we must accept that we have broken through that boundary for good.

This is pure sophistry. Temperatures fluctuate, so meteorologists usually calculate the average temperature of a place by averaging the variations over twenty years. However, when the change is always upwards, as it has been for the past fifty years, then taking into account temperatures from cooler years now long past gives you an answer that is much too low.

In present circumstances, the relevant average global temperature is simply whatever it is right now, and people who offer you less alarming interpretations are either deluded or seeking to deceive you. “If the trend holds up, we're in trouble,” said Bjorn Stevens of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology. “We hope, hope it changes its direction tomorrow.”

If it doesn't – if we are already “in uncharted territory”, as Gavin Schmidt, the director of GISS, puts it – what do we do next? There is no realistic short-term way to double or triple our emissions cuts: even if the will were there, the alternative energy sources take much time to build.

What we could do more quickly is to deploy various climate engineering methods that would reflect more sunlight and directly cool the planet. We could start putting sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere in a couple of years. With a crash programme, thickening low-level marine clouds could be active on a large scale within five years.

In practice, of course, we'll probably spend that time arguing about it instead, while the heat-driven feedbacks cascade. Happy New Year.



# BROOKS BULLETIN

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# County signs 10-year leases to operation CDC South

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

By a vote of 7-3 county councillors agreed to sign two 10-year lease agreements with the provincial government to operate the Crop Diversification Centre. Councillors Ellen Unruh, Neil Johnson and Dan Short were opposed. The council signed a head lease that includes the CDC South and about 700 acres of mostly irrigated land including Ponderosa which is along the lake road, as well as another parcel near Bow Island in the County of 40 Mile. A sublease was also signed showing that the province as a tenant will compensate the county. The discussions have been going on for two years and recently the county approved spending \$170,000 for the project. While work has been done and the council has been kept in the loop some councillors got cold feet when it came time to sign on the dotted line especially with an annual cost of about \$800,000 beginning in April. CAO Matt Fenske said the intention is not to download

costs to the ratepayers while noting that the municipality is on the hook for the costs of the site. "Alberta covers a portion of those but leaves a gap and that gap needs to be filled by paying tenants," he said. While there has been some interest for space at the site no financial commitment has been received. "What we've received today you can't take to the bank," he said. He said that Alberta Agriculture will provide about a third of the operating costs for both the Griffin Building and the greenhouse which requires capital reinvestment and is expected to be part of the spring provincial budget. Fenske said if nothing changes in the next year, such as no tenants, the county (or the province) can back out of the lease. "That's the worst case scenario. At most you're exposed for a year if you don't like how things are going," he explained. Councillor Kelly Christman who is a member of the CDC South committee said the province has done their work.

"We either take it or we leave it," she said. She said the county has committed funds as well as hundreds of hours of work. "Now we're concerned about taking the next step? The next step is one year of work. So we sign," she said. Fenske said from the beginning of the process with government officials the county's message has been they are interested in "leaning into" the CDC South to see if they can establish a better framework for management of the site. Councillor Neil Johnson said he is concerned that there are no tenants and the greenhouse will be extremely expensive to upgrade. "We have interest. We're putting our signature on the line," he said. Johnson suggested that the county wait up to three months before signing. Reeve Arno Doerksen said nothing had changed in the previous month except there is now paperwork from the province. "Now we can actually go and entertain someone whose interested in doing something out there," he said.

# "On Bended Knees"



**Josh Mueller,  
Rosemary Mennonite Church**

One of my favorite Christmas lyrics is found in the hymn "O Holy Night". "Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!" It is actually a strange image we're given in Jesus' birth. Grown men falling on their knees before an infant born not in a palace and a royal crib but a stable and lying in a crude animal trough. Maybe none of us have ever fallen on our knees before another human being. We may actually pride ourselves

being resolved to bow to no one, no king or government, no boss, no other person who tries to be controlling. And yet the gesture of total surrender and worshipping in awe at the feet of this infant is more than appropriate. No matter how small and weak and frail this baby appears, He is still the One who flung the stars into the sky, and He is the Saviour of the world. He is God come down to us in the second person of the Trinity, the eternal Son of God. The knees are bent here in adoration and worship because the Light of the World has appeared in the midst of our dark world, and He entered even the darkness of a God-forsaken existence when He hung on the cross, praying for the Father's forgiveness

for the very people that mocked and tortured Him. He was not just born to be the "Immanuel", the "God with us", but to die for our sins and to show us the way home, the way to a reconciled relationship with the Heavenly Father, and to a life that is being transformed to reflect our true humanity in the image of God again. I invite you to take some time during the holidays to reflect on what God has done for you. If you haven't received the gift of God in His Son yet, this is the perfect time to surrender your life! In any case, may you be filled anew with joy, love, peace, and deep gratefulness for God's indescribable gift!

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<p><b>Alliance Church</b></p> <p><b>BROOKS</b> 304 Cassils Road East Phone 403-362-8908 Website: <a href="http://www.brooksalliancechurch.com">www.brooksalliancechurch.com</a></p> <p><b>PASTOR DAVID BRADFORD</b></p> <p><b>SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45 am</p>	<p><b>DUCHESS LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCC)</b> PASTOR ANDY KAHLE Phone 587-832-3221</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service 11:30 am Everyone Welcome!</p> <p><b>LUTHERAN HOUR</b> Sundays 7:30 am CHAT FM94.5 RADIO 8:30 A.M. CKMX 1060</p> <p>"What's This Neighborhood Coming To?" (John 1:14)</p>	<p><b>Duchess Mennonite Church</b></p> <p>Box 298, Duchess, AB. T0J 0Z0 Phone 403.633.2829 Email: office@duchessmennonite.ca Website: <a href="http://www.duchessmennonite.ca">www.duchessmennonite.ca</a></p> <p>Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Pastor Nathan Ramer Pastor Terry Jackson</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesdays to Thursdays 8:30 am to 12 Noon</p>	<p><b>BROOKS UNITED CHURCH</b> REVEREND ESTHER CREWS</p> <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM ALL ARE WELCOME Kids Programs Available. For online worship please see our Facebook page or <a href="http://www.brooksunitedchurch.com">www.brooksunitedchurch.com</a></p> <p>507 - 3rd Ave. W. Brooks, AB. Phone/Fax: 403-362-3637 Email: bksunite@shaw.ca Office Hours: 9:00 to 12 Noon (Tues. - Fri.)</p>	<p><b>ENCOUNTER CHURCH</b></p> <p>Pursuing God, Life, Family &amp; Purpose</p> <p>God is doing a NEW thing! Jesus came so we could all have life, and life in abundance. Come &amp; encounter your fullest life with us!</p> <p>Worship Service &amp; Kids SuperChurch (K.G.6) <b>Sundays   10:00am</b></p> <p>Youth Group (Gr. 7-12) Fridays   7:30pm</p> <p>Pastor Aaron &amp; Cynthia Barrington 15th Ave &amp; 3 St W 403.362.7785</p>	
<p><b>CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH</b></p> <p>One Block North of Cassils Rd. at 11th Street West</p> <p>Join us for <b>Sunday Worship</b> 10:00 am</p> <p><b>403-362-8142</b> <a href="http://www.brooksrc.org">www.brooksrc.org</a></p>	<p><b>Rosemary Mennonite Church</b></p> <p><b>403-378-4933</b></p> <p>Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am</p> <p><b>Welcomes Everyone!</b></p> <p><b>Pastor: Josh Mueller</b></p>	<p><b>BROOKS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</b></p> <p>Pastor Ryan Reeves 780-232-2926</p> <p>420 - 2nd St. W.</p> <p><b>SATURDAY SERVICE</b> Sabbath School: 10:00 am Worship 11 am</p>	<p><b>Trinity Lutheran Church</b></p> <p>Worship Sundays at 10:00am</p> <p>Ed. Hour : Gr 5 + at 9:00am Age 3- Gr 4 during Worship</p> <p>Pastor Maggie Theiss 811 Cassils Road West 403-362-4259 <a href="mailto:brkstrin@telusplanet.net">brkstrin@telusplanet.net</a></p> <p>For more info on Trinity go to <a href="http://brookstrinity.ca">brookstrinity.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Church of God</b></p> <p>SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30 am</p> <p>JOIN US AT OUR NEW CHURCH HOME 190004 RGE RD 142 ACROSS THE OVERPASS ON ONE TREE ROAD</p> <p>SCAN THE QR CODE CALL 403-362-8697</p>	<p><b>Brooks International Gospel Church</b> 120 1st Ave E. Brooks, AB. T1R 0S4 403-363-0843 <a href="mailto:big.church@yahoo.com">big.church@yahoo.com</a> 2024 Year of Doing New Things Bible Study: 9:30 am Worship Service: 10:30 am</p>





Juniors



Intermediates

The Tilley Tigers Hockey Club Junior, Intermediate, and Senior teams took part in the 30th Annual Drumheller FunTeam Tournament this past weekend. We would like to thank all the players, coaches, parents, and volunteers who participated and helped out! Go Tigers! | SUBMITTED

# Unique items stolen from Royal Helium

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Unique items were stolen from the Royal Helium site near Patricia last month.

Police report that they were contacted about the theft on Dec. 24 and found a large hole had been cut into the building and several large and expensive pieces of equipment had been stolen.

"These items are extremely unique and have limited value outside of their intended use," noted RCMP's acting media relations manager Troy Savinkoff.

While Brooks RCMP investigates the public is being asked to help locate the items.

If you have any information call the Brooks RCMP at 403-362-5535 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).



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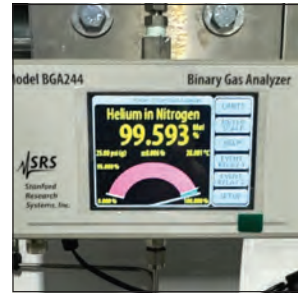
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## Rainier Record

COLLEEN VAN DEN HOEK



RAINIER - Welcome 2025,

Happy belated Birthday wishes to Corrie Davidson on Jan 3 along with myself (Colleen Van den Hoek), Up & coming birthday wishes to Zed Brummelhuis on Jan 12, Ashley Christensen & Ollie Takeda on Jan 13.

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. SPEC playgroup will be at Alcoma School Jan 10 & Jan 24 - 9:30 am to 11am. All are welcome! JH Girls & Boys basketball starts Jan 7. If you're interested in a schedule you can contact myself or the school and we would be happy to share. Alcoma, Rolling Hills & Tilley will be joining forces to create teams.

Alcoma Community Library will be open to the public during school hours and Thursday evenings 6:30pm to 8pm.

Rolling Hills AG Society invites you Feb 15th for a Prime Rib Supper. Tickets can be purchased online @ rollinghills.ca (under general store tab), other options include RH post office, or Cordon Electric in Brooks. Doors open @ 5:30 pm, Supper @ 6:30pm. There will be a live band from 8:30pm-12:30am. No tickets sold at the door. If you need more info contact Michele @ 403-793-4130

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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Tues., Jan. 21, 2025  
7:00 pm • at JBS Centre

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**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2025**

Recognize a volunteer who makes a difference

Nominations for the Brooks-Newell Citizen & Jr. Citizen of the Year are now open!

Nomination deadline is February 21, 2025.  
Call 403-362-4549 for more information or to make a nomination

02-05c



# Bandits player in Slovenia for U20 international hockey

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

Brooks Bandits forward Mathis Dufour had a goal and an assist as a member of Team France at the Division 1, Group A 2025 IIHF Hockey U20 World Championship in Slovenia. The Dec. 9th to 15th event was the second U20 worlds championship for the Briançon, France born 17-year-old. Dufour's assist was in the third period against Austria but it wasn't enough as France was defeated by

Austria 4-2. His next tournament point came as a goal against the home team Slovenia which also helped Dufour win the Best Player of the Game Award. The team was defeated in their final match 4-1 by Norway to finish fifth overall. The loss was a drop of three spots from the 2024 U20 tournament during which time Dufour's Team France earned a silver medal. The winner of the Division 1, Group A earns

a berth to the IIHF World Juniors. Last year's Group A winner, Kazakhstan, participated in this year's worlds in Ottawa from Dec. 26 to Jan. 5. This year's Group A winner Denmark won the berth to the 50th Anniversary World Juniors which will be held in the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota Dec. 26, 2025 to Jan. 5, 2026. As a Bandit, Dufour has one goal and four assists in 18 games this season.

# Road allowances at Snake Lake to be leased to EID

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The county has approved closing and leasing about 20.3 acres of road allowances under the existing reservoir and 12 acres under the proposed expansion of the Snake Lake project to the Eastern Irrigation District. The district wants to purchase the allowances which were estimated to be \$20,950, however, while

some councillors believed that is a low estimate, they approved leasing the allowances which is the same as the county did in 2016 to maintain public access under Lake Newell Reservoir. Maria Jackson, the county's supervisor of planning and development said the preferred option was road closure and lease to be consistent with past practice which would maintain public access to the new future reservoir.

Jackson explained that if the road is closed and sold the public would be crossing EID or private land to access the water. The expansion plan will increase the live storage by approximately 53,000 acre feet from the current 14,000 acre feet for a total of approximately 67,000 acre feet. The project continues to undergo regulations including the environmental impact assessment.

## Duchess Dispatch

LINDA MOREY



DUCHESS - We all work hard to get back into routines after holidays. Some of us were busy, busy and others, like us, spent a quiet couple of weeks just at home and enjoyed the peace and solitude while we gear up for a memory-making 2025!

The Duchess 50 plus club will be meeting on

January 9th, 2025 for our luncheon. The board is unsure what the meal will be due to the holidays. I, myself can't wait to see all of you in the New Year. We will be asking for member dues which will be \$30.00 per person, in the new year. The luncheon meals will also change to, \$8.00 per person for members and \$10.00 per

person for nonmembers. Any inquiries regarding the club can be directed to Daryl at 403-501-4107.

The Rolling Hills Ag Society is holding a Valentine's Prime Rib Supper on Saturday, February 15th in the Rolling Hills Communicate ity Hall. Supper starts at 6:30 and live entertainment, "The Chevelle SS 396", start at 8:30. Tickets can be purchased at Cordon Electric in Brooks, online or by stopping at the Rolling Hills Post Office.

Stop by or phone the Duchess Rec Centre and inquire about the fitness opportunities that are available.

Quote: "What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you will bring to the new year."

have been on the back burner so long.

Happy birthday to the many who started their lives in the month of Janus that became January.

As you read this, the Men's Curling Bonsel is well underway. Happy sweeping, gentlemen!!!

## Bassano Banner

BASSANO/GEM/ROSEMARY

TOM McPHAIL



BASSANO - Your correspondent wishes all our readers a happy and healthy 2025. If you made any significant resolutions, good luck with them. My list includes getting healthy again and getting back on task with my many projects such as my family history and so many others that

## Buffalo Briefs

LORRAINE MONKMAN



BUFFALO - Happy new year to all my readers. May 2025 be kind to all of us with a good crop and nice rains.

School students are back at school and happy about it I'm sure!!

Marg and Simon Schonhofer have returned from the west coast where they spent Christmas with family. And very shortly after, they learned of the devastating loss by fire of the resort at Telegraph Cove, B.C. owned and operated by their friends Gordie and Marilyn Graham. The Grahams have spent many good times in Buffalo hunting and visiting.

Buffalo Ag Society will present Jake Mathews in Concert at the hall on Saturday, February 28, 2025. This is the show that was originally set for December. Tickets already purchased will be honored or contact Ag Society members for

them. Ham supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. with the

show at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there.

ROLLING HILLS  
AG. SOCIETY

### Valentine's Prime Rib Supper

- Saturday, February 15, 2025
- Rolling Hills Community Hall
- Formal wear is encouraged
- Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.
- Supper: 6:30 p.m.

**Live Band:**  
"Chevelle SS 396"  
8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

- Tickets sold:
  - online at rollinghills.ca (under General Store)
  - Rolling Hills Post Office
  - Cordon Electric- Brooks
  - **NO tickets sold at the event**
- Tickets \$55 each
- Limited # of tickets printed
- Reserve a table for 8 : \$440 and receive a bottle of wine!

50/50

02-04c

NEED MORE INFORMATION?  
CALL/TEXT MICHELE @ 403-793-4130

# WIN a New 2025 Ford Escape AWD!

The Medicine Hat Health Foundation is raising funds for local healthcare, and that means you could win big this spring.



**Grand Prize**  
Draw Date:  
March 31, 2025

**Early Bird Draw (\$1500 Gas King gift card):**  
February 28, 2025

**1 ticket for \$20**  
**3 tickets for \$50**  
**10 tickets for \$100**

Tickets and full contest rules are available online at Rafflebox or at the MHHF office at (403) 528-8133. Scan the QR code for your chance to drive away victorious!



MSRP value of vehicle is \$41,994.00. Prize must be accepted as awarded; no cash in lieu of prize. Vehicle must be claimed by the winner at Big M Ford in Medicine Hat. Any transportation costs will be the responsibility of the prize winner. Entry is open to all Alberta Health Services staff, volunteers, and members of the public over 18 years of age. Tickets may be purchased by residents of other provinces. Rafflebox employees, and board members and staff of the Medicine Hat Health Foundation and their spouses and relatives living in the same household are prohibited from entering. Raffle License Number: AGLC-703337

# VISION PASSION ACCOMPLISHMENT RECOGNITION



### NOMINATE A DESERVING INDIVIDUAL TODAY!

Our region thrives thanks to the contributions of many people who share their knowledge, passion, and energy. Each year, Medicine Hat College recognizes these contributions by presenting an honorary applied degree at our convocation ceremony.

We encourage you to recognize an outstanding citizen who exemplifies community contribution by providing a nomination for this honour. Traits to consider include achievement and distinction in scholarship, the advancement of learning, welfare and social responsibility, creativity and innovation, enterprise, and public service.

To learn more and submit a nomination, please visit [www.mhc.ab.ca/degree](http://www.mhc.ab.ca/degree). The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2025.







## It's time again for BC follies... Newfoundland may be new folly ground



Ag  
Writer

WILL VERBOVEN

It's amazing how folks in BC can consistently come up with astonishing and baffling ideas, scams, and nonsensical whims and turn them into businesses. They seem to thrive on ever more zany hoaxes to separate the gullible from their money. In the last BC Follies, I noted that clever operators offered guided forest bathing where one could receive soothing tree energy to relieve stress. Some of those operators are now offering music medicine. I guess if forest bathing wasn't strong enough to wash away your cares, a good dose of CCR rock and roll will do the trick - okay, the latter works for me, along with a few beers.

I think I am on the right track, though - according to a music therapy journal: "Because of music's connection to the limbic system in the brain, it can help you access the relaxation response and calm your nervous system, slowing down your breathing. It really helps shift your mind from what it's stuck on or worried about and helps you land in the moment you're in." Apparently, there is a difference between music therapy and music medicine; as one might expect, BC wellness resorts offer assorted music therapies and forest bathing. I guess the combined services are for hard-core cases. It gets even better with the latest new-age feel-good flight of fancy.

Are you feeling sluggish, depressed, sad, tired, or just generally blah - well, you need to rush over to BC, where several crafty

entrepreneurs have a cure for what ails your over-stressed soul and inner spirit. All you need is 15 minutes, or more if you feel super blah, inside a Harmonic Egg. In the words of one of the BC operators, it's an egg-shaped enclosure that utilizes light, colour, sound, frequency, and vibration to activate the body's natural ability to balance and restore itself and reset the autonomic nervous system at the cellular level. Apparently, it's an energy therapy based on the science of bio-resonance with the ancient wisdom of sacred geometry. Wow, and here I thought goat therapy was supposed to help folks with too much time on their hands.

Harmonic egg therapy is not just a BC phenomenon, but it's sure taken off in that airhead province, as one might expect. Images from harmonic egg promoters show

a somewhat cramped enclosure - anyone with even the slightest sense of claustrophobia might find it a terrifying experience rather than a relaxing regenerative wellness encounter.

I can understand why BC citizens are stampeding to engage in new-age airhead therapies, considering the woeful state of their medical system. Last year, BC spent \$16 million on a program to send cancer patients to Bellingham, Wash., for radiation therapy. The services are carried out by two large American "private" clinics. That would be private clinics that the BC NDP government refuses to allow to be established in their socialist healthcare paradise. BC healthcare unions are curiously quiet about spending those millions on a private clinic.

One can imagine the enraged howls of protest from ideology-obsessed

Alberta healthcare unions if the UCP government sent Alberta patients to Montana for timely healthcare services. It gets worse; my BC relatives report going to hospital emergency departments just to get a prescription. Apparently, by accident or design, there are very few walk-in medical clinics in BC. Those that exist require appointments to, I guess, walk in.

A report from a BC think tank observed that due to the extra hoops, permitting, environmental assessments, blockades, etc., the TMX pipeline's completion was delayed by two years. All those extra billions in expenses and delays will cost every BC taxpayer \$500 each in lost taxes and higher prices for retail gas. The elitist gang of BC anti-energy critics responded that the cost of the delay to the Alberta oil energy and government was

probably a lot higher. It's hard to beat that logic, but then I guess BC citizens like higher prices and more taxes being they re-elected their NDP government. It boggles the mind.

Another province is trying to horn their way onto the folly list. A clever farmer near St John's has been offering cow-cuddling sessions as a relaxation therapy for stressed city folks. I guess there aren't enough yoga goats around, and cows have now been brought in to help deal with the thousands of uptight Newfoundlanders who are in dire need of animal relaxation therapy. I expect the farmer is laughing all the way to the bank.

*Will Verboven is an ag opinion writer.*



*Happy new year!*

Wishing you all the best in 2025!

**Cozy up to a new home!** Is a wood burning stove or a yard full of produce and vegetables to enjoy this season on your mind? Let us help you transition to a dreamy new home this winter!

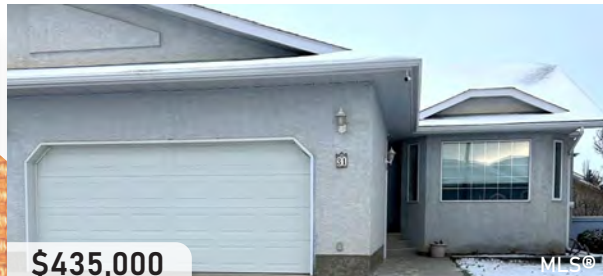


**\$399,999.99**

**243 16 Street E Brooks**

- Brand new contemporary home by Wembley Homes
- 3 Beds, 2 1/2 baths with sleek, modern finishes
- Grey vinyl plank flooring and quartz countertops
- New Home Warranty program applies
- Unfinished basement with wet bar & bath plumbing

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**31 Ludor Close E Brooks**

- Highly desirable 45+ living in Lu-Dor Close
- Duplex with attached garage and spacious living
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- 3 Bedrooms plus a den, and 3 bathrooms
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**3.62 Acres Tilley**

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- Landscaped yard and recent renovations to enjoy

**Ben Van Dyk (403) 393-4040**



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**315 15 Street E Brooks**

- Well designed & luxurious home in Meadowbrook
- 5 Bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and many updates
- Hardwood floors and custom kitchen
- Impressive media/family room
- Detached heated garage/workshop

**Julie Jenkins (403) 793-5045**



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ID#1102475 • SUFFIELD, AB

**19,000+ ACRES**

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- Great location just off of HWY #1
- **Deadline to submit offers: Jan 14th, 2025**

**JEROEN JACOBSEN**  
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The artwork of Bassano student and library user Victor Situ, 11, is featured on the hood of the Shortgrass Library System's delivery van. Shortgrass hosted an art contest for cardholders up to 18-years of age and 13 winners from six libraries were selected. "The contest was designed to encourage creativity and self-expression with children from all Shortgrass libraries submitting their works on the theme of 'Why I love my library'. The works of the winners were then used as decals to design the new Shortgrass delivery van. We've been impressed with the talent and enthusiasm shown by all the participants," said Sadaf Hakimizadeh, librarian, library development services at Shortgrass. She said that Situ is a regular visitor and event participant at his library. "It was quite a surprise for him and his mom to see the van. He was very happy and proud," said Hakimizadeh, following the late November presentation. | SADIF HAKIMIZADEN PHOTO

## Bandits, Chiefs coaches selected for All-Star, Prospect games

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The head coaches and general managers for the Brooks Bandits and Chilliwack Chiefs will coach the Jan 17 BCHL's Top Prospect Game in Salmon Arm.

The Bandits Ryan Papaioannou will coach Team Interior and the Chiefs Brian Maloney will coach Team Coastal.

The selection was based on the team that has the highest winning percentage at the holiday break.

Prior to the break, the Bandits were tied for first in their Interior conference with a record of 22-4 and had played two fewer games than the Penticton Vees who also have 44 points. Brooks had a league-best 90.5 per cent penalty kill with a BCHL high plus-67 goal differential.

Papaioannou's hockey career started with the Western Hockey League where he played for three teams from 2001-2003 which was followed by a season at the AJHL and his final one in 2003-04 with the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

With Papaioannou as head coach the Bandits,

while they were in the Alberta Junior Hockey League (AJHL) won eight AJHL titles and four national championships.

On the opposite bench will be Bassano-born Brian Maloney whose Chiefs were first in the Coastal Conference and had a record of 18-6-3 (W-L-OTL). They were tied in points with the Alberni Valley Bulldogs but with two games in hand they had a conference best plus-36 goal differential.

Maloney is in his ninth season with the Chiefs and was a captain when he played with the team in the late 90s. He led his team to their second appearance in the league finals in 1997. Maloney also played in the AJHL with the Olds Grizzlies, attended Michigan State University, played in the American Hockey League and the Deutsche Eishockey Liga (DHL).

He retired as a player after the 2013-14 season.

## Cassils Clarion & Antelope Creek

JODI NIZNIK



CASSILS/ANTELOPE CREEK - Happy New Year! In Ireland it's tradition at midnight on New Years Eve to open your back door to let the old year out and open the front door to welcome the new year in. "Out with the old, in with the new"! I hope your front door was opened to beginnings of a great year!

Passing along community sympathies to two families over the holidays. To Ken and Arlane Sharpe and family on the passing of Ken's aunt Clara Sharpe of Munson. Clara had lived many years in Antelope Creek with her husband Gordon, she passed away in Calgary last week.

Condolences to Jack, George, and Ron Niznik and families on the passing of their sister Fiona. Fiona was married to Ed Forner for 60 years and they lived many places in her lifetime. At present she was living and passed in Sylvan Lake Alberta. Funeral services will be held Friday January 10th @1pm at StMarys Catholic Church in Brooks.

The holiday weeks were full of busy visiting and lots of travelling guests. We were very happy to have all the girls home at the same time this year. Kate and Cam came from Toronto for a week and Sarah was home from Edmonton for 2 weeks. Heather and Curtis Harbinson's house was full with all kids and grandkids home for a short while! Chad, Kourtney, and Palmer were over from Swift Current, and Haley James, Jaida and Lennon were up from Arizona. It was so nice to see all the little ones running around and getting to know each other and for everyone to meet Lennon. Some homes weren't as

fortunate with their loved ones travelling about. Both Brooklyn Niznik and Mason Hofer are over in Australia right now, working and travelling about. Continued safe travels to you both.

Thank you to all of the supporters of the Cassilope Ladies Club 12 Days of Christmas raffle. It was once again sold out and there were many fortunate winners! Congratulations to Gail Kozma from the Brooks area who won the grand prize quilt and quilt ladder. Next years plans will be in the works at the next ladies club meeting on Tuesday January 21st @7:30 at the hall. This is when we celebrate our Christmas after Christmas with an appetizer meeting. Watch for an email from Crystal

with more details.

The month of live is around the bend and the Rolling Hills Ag Society would like to invite you out to their Valentines Prime Rib Dinner and Dance on February 15th. Tickets are only pre-sold on line at rollinghills.ca, the Rolling Hills Post office, or Cordon Electric. \$55 each or a table of 8 for \$440. Doors open at 5:30, formal wear is encouraged, and dance the night away to the band "Chevelle SS 396". For more information contact Michelle@403-793-4130.

Have a great week! For news and information to share please contact Jodi @403-501-1583. For hall rentals and inquiries contact Heather @403-793-3890.



# Bandits redeem themselves in front of hometown crowd

Bandits go 1-3 since Dec. 28....

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

It was a slow start in the second half of the season for the BCHL Brooks Bandits as four new players had to quickly learn plays.

The team held first place in the league prior to the holidays but at the end of December four players left the team, including top goalie Johnny Hicks.

The Bandits were scrambling.

Griffin Wright a back up goalie in Brooks for the Dec. 28 game but he has not yet played. The 17-year-old played during the 2023-24 season with the South Side Athletic Club U17 of the Alberta Elite Hockey League.

In the meantime, the Bandits also signed Chris Quizi, 19, reportedly, at midnight on Dec. 28 and he was on the ice for that

night's game against West Kelowna Warriors.

Quizi had been playing with the Ontario Junior Hockey League's Oakville Blades.

The Warriors led the Bandits 4-1 in the second period. The Bandits were only able to score a couple of more goals handing the Warriors the win while the Bandits took their fifth regulation time loss of the season.

The Bandits lost their next two games in shootouts. The first SO loss was to the Salmon Arm Silverbacks on New Year's Day, 4-3. The second was in Cranbrook against the Bucks, 5-4, on Jan. 3.

The Bucks were in Brooks on Jan 4 where, in front of a hometown crowd, the Bandits won 6-1 as the new players have no doubt been learning the plays and working with coaches.

Michal Kiščínský and Davide Patella each had a power play goal. Patella

scored the final goal of the third period while Nathan Brown and Parker Lalonde each had a goal.

At 7:45 of the final period players from each team had been sent to the bench for penalties and the Bucks decided to pull their goalie to have a one man advantage.

However, it didn't work. Bandits Cooper Pierson quickly found the back of the empty net for his first BCHL goal.

As of Sunday, the Bandits were in second place in the league so they will have work to do in hopes of returning to the top.

During the Bandits 'slump' the Penticton Vees took over first place and have since lost one game but they are ahead of the Bandits by two points and have played two additional games.

The Bandits hopefully will continue to win when they host the 10th place Vernon Vipers on Friday.



Bandits goalie Chris Quizi stretches out for the save on the way to his BCHL win on Saturday against the Cranbrook Bucks. Quizi, who earned his first win, made 25 saves and allowed one goal to help lift the Bandits to their first win in four games. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

## Bow City Signal

WANDA SMITH



BOW CITY - Happy New Year to all. I'm sure everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's. Now holidays are over back to the grind for a lot of people.

Birthday wishes for January are Rick Thiebert on the 9th and Miriam Brummelhaus on 12th. Have a great day. Happy Anniversary to George and Kathy Ketchmarks on the 8th.

Joyce Calvert had her ladies Christmas party on December 14. About 20 of us ladies were in attendance and we all had a great evening of fun. Thank you Mom for this wonderful night.

Helene Mathieu and Vickie Calvert enjoyed a Christmas party at Helene's daughter Carole on December 7 in Langdon. Lots of fun as I was told.

Brad and Carrie Palko made a few trips in December to Calgary for doctors appointments and visits with family. Jacob and Kelsi Palko were visiting with Brad and Carrie for the weekend of 21/22.

Rob and Dana Bridges celebrated Christmas with their families on December 21 in Calgary at Heritage Park. Was a beautiful day. Then on December 29 Dana's parents and daughter

Zerina came out for a great afternoon and visiting.

Brad and Vickie's news.

Christmas celebrations took place on December 23 with Curtis, the kids, and a wonderful gathering of family. Cynda and Curtis hosted the festivities, joined by Brad, Vickie, and Cynda's parents, Dawn and Don. Bree, Amara, Bennett, Braden, Keaton, and their families also came together to celebrate. The evening featured a beautiful dinner and warm, festive cheer! This Christmas was made even more special with the exciting news of Brad and Vickie's engagement! The announcement filled everyone with joy, making the holiday truly unforgettable. On December 27, Vickie headed into the Kananaskis for a magical sleigh ride with Bree, Brittany, and the grandkids. The day continued with a lively outing to see "Beauty and the Grinch" at Jubilation, making for a fun and memorable experience. Bow City rang in the New Year with unexpected fireworks, adding an extra touch of magic to the evening! With the grandkids in town, it turned into a night to remember.

Jerry and Joyce made a couple trips to Medicine

Hat for shopping and appointments. Christmas Eve they were at Barry and Carol Pearsons for their Anniversary and Christmas cheers. Had great visit as Kent Pearson was here from Longview, Tammy, Clayton and Ashley Koenig. Christmas Day they were in Taber at Mark and Jamie's for dinner. Thank you for bringing back a goodie bag for us. Boxing Day was held at hall with all the family. Kim and Karey from Lac la Biche were here for a couple days with mom and dad. Mark, Jamie, Grady and Justine from Taber, Justin and Kim from Black Diamond, Jordie from Strathmore, Garrett

and Meagan from Grande Prairie, Devon, Dallas and Lavonne from Calgary, Brad and Carrie Palko and Dan and I all joined in plus our grandkids Beau and Lucus. Was a great afternoon and evening supper as we had our seafood and lots of other foods. And then we always have our Chinese Christmas gift exchange that's always interesting.

Helene and Ernie enjoyed Christmas with their family at daughter Carole and family.

Dan and I had a very quiet Christmas, as Christmas Day we spent with Brad and Carrie Palko playing Wii for the evening.

And of course, Boxing Day, visiting with our kids and all our family that we are very thankful for. It was so nice to see them all and our grandkids.

Joyce, Jerry and Donna Gillespie enjoyed the rodeo at the Silver Sage on New Year's Eve. And a few others had done the same. Nice to see people out there cheering on Brody Ketchmark,

The Voutier Family spent a beautiful week of sunshine and fun in Mexico. Heard it was a blast.

Greg and Blair Cyr along with Dan and I had a great New Year's Eve with Brad and Carrie Palko.

June and Brian Bell had the pleasure of having June's sister Peggy and her husband Morris here for a few days after the new year. Morris and Jerry spent one afternoon out ice fishing and only one fish caught. Joyce went down for a visit.

I would like to say a big thank you to the Bow City Community for the beautiful flowers. Thank you for thinking of me.

Here's to 2025. Hope we all prosper with health and happiness in the new year.

Please get a hold of me with your news at 403-363-7496.

## Millicent Mirror

MILLICENT LADIES THURSDAY CLUB

MILLICENT - For all your news submissions please call Brenda 403) 378-4010 or email bandana.ra@hotmail.com.

Some of the children in our Community are getting together at Red Roof Studio on a weekly basis. Although Rita is retired, she still welcomes Children and Adults to make some Art Work and help them improve their skills. There are small groups of Homeschooled and School kids who come to the Studio on Highway 544 to work on a project. This is what one of the Children from our Community recently made. For more info about times

available, please contact Rita at (403) 456-2933.

Birthday wishes go out to Paul Daniels - Jan. 2nd hope he has a wonderful day.

Ray and I attended the Christmas concert put on by the Mennonite community school in the Patricia hall. The children did an amazing job. Well done.

Thank you to Kersey Daniels for hosting our Millicent Ladies Christmas get together where we made ornaments for our tree. Always a festive evening.

Wishing each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2025.

## HOW CAN YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT HELP?

Your Member of Parliament, Martin Shields and his staff are here to assist you with questions regarding programs or services from the Government of Canada.

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# fcss 2025 Funding

Grasslands Regional Family and Community Support Services



Grasslands Regional Family and Community support Services is a partnership between the Provincial Government and the municipalities of Brooks, County of Newell, Duches, and Rosemary, dedicated to providing preventative social services in our region. We are pleased to announce our 2025 core funding recipients:

- Life Talk Counselling - Client Subsidy \$30,000
- Brooks Child Development Society - Toy Library & Parent Tot \$33,000
- Big Brothers Big Sisters - Youth Mentoring \$40,000
- Crossroads Clinic - Client Support \$10,000
- SPEC Association - Makerspace \$50,000
- SPEC Association - Community Services \$70,000
- SPEC Association - eSafety \$32,000
- Seniors Outreach - Seniors Supports \$70,000
- Newell Christian Chaplaincy - Senior Visiting \$15,000
- Christ the Redeemer School Division - Family School Liaison Workers \$10,000







**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN  
**Vehicle flees after hitting light pole**

Police are seeking information about a truck that struck a light pole in Hussar on Dec. 28 at about 8:30 p.m.

A tan pick-up had been seen driving erratically throughout town, speeding and sliding around corners.

It then slid into a light pole and broke it, leaving the light pole laying with wire in the street on the northeast corner of 1 Street and 2nd Ave West.

The vehicle is believed to have been a Dodge pick-up.

If you have any information please contact the Bassano RCMP at 403-641-3677. If you have information about this and you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

**Continue to drive cautiously in winter conditions**

On Dec. 22 Bassano RCMP assisted numerous motorists including semitruck drivers, whose vehicles had slid into the median along Highway 1.

Bassano RCMP reported that between the town and Brooks there were over 25 cars and at least eight commercial vehicles in the

## Bassano and area RCMP report

median or jackknifed on the roadway throughout the day.

The adverse driving conditions caused by melting ice and then freezing rain created a skating rink on the roadways.

Highway crews and tow trucks worked to rescue the vehicles which had created an additional safety hazard.

Highway 1 was shut down at various times to retrieve the commercial vehicles that remained partially on the freeway.

There were no serious injuries or damages in the collisions.

"Driving behaviour for the conditions played a part in all the incidents either to speed, lack of distance in between vehicles and lack of proper winter tires," said Bassano RCMP Sgt. Joe Schmidt.

Police urge drivers to have proper winter tires on their vehicles, use the headlights and drive a safe distance from the vehicle ahead to give you more time to stop in less-than-ideal road conditions and prepare a winter vehicle survival kit for you and your passengers that should include some food, water and extra warm clothes.

**Cut fence found at compound**

Two batteries were stolen from a battery box and a fence was cut at a gas compound near Makepeace.

Bassano RCMP report

that the Co-op compound on Range Road 193 about 2.5kms north of Highway 1 had received about \$2,000 in damages.

Police are unsure when the incident took place as there is no video surveillance and no physical evidence was left behind.

RCMP Criminal Analysts were notified to track this offence and confirmed similar incidents where well site batteries have been targeted near Bow Island and Redcliff areas.

Analysts are tracking the property offences in an effort to identify the individuals involved.

**Homeowner struck with crowbar**

A homeowner was assaulted with a crowbar while he tried to intervene as a man broke into his car on Dec. 9.

The victim suffered a minor injury.

Police report that the suspect is believed to have been a hitchhiker or walking westbound on Hwy. 1 prior to arriving at the farm site at Range Road 205 and Hwy 1.

The suspect left on foot and was not located after hours of searching.

The male suspect is described as between 50 and 60 years of age. He was wearing blue jeans, a black jacket, toque and gloves and was carrying a yellow backpack.

The investigation is ongoing.

## Man fined 15k for 'extraordinary' neglect of livestock

**SANDRA M STANWAY**  
BROOKS BULLETIN

The sentence of a 65-year-old Bassano man is being appealed on the grounds that the judge erred in interpretation of the Animal Act.

On Dec. 18 in Brooks court, following two days of hearings over several months in a Medicine Hat courtroom, Justice Ted Fisher ordered Robin Graham to pay a \$15,000 fine, including the victim surcharge or about 124 days in custody in default if the fine is not paid by Dec. 23, 2027, after he was found guilty of not providing proper care of an animal and causing an animal to be in distress in connection with the neglect of 73 cattle in 2020. The animals were seized and two were euthanized.

Crown prosecutor Brian Shantz said the neglect was "extraordinary" as the court heard from a veterinarian during the hearing, however, the evidence that was presented to the court was from between Dec. 6 and Dec. 18, 2019. He said that Graham was given the opportunity to help the animals but he failed to do so and he did not rectify anything including the food or water issues even after a small amount of insufficient hay was dropped by someone for the animals.

"The vet was not asked to attend," Shantz said.

The SPCA seized the

cattle and although two were euthanized the remainder received proper care did recover.

Shantz told the court there is a wide sentencing berth under the Act including a maximum fine of \$20,000 and although his preference was to keep Graham out of the industry with a lifetime ban, he suggested that there is a \$15,000 fine and a 15-year prohibition which would be followed with an allowance of 30 bovine and equine animals.

"This city exists because of a long term relationship with the JBS facility, the long term relationship with the ranchers so the proper care and maintenance of cattle is of extraordinary importance over and above the standard when we're dealing with the care of animals," he said.

"The entire livelihood of this jurisdiction is based on that," said Shantz.

Defence argued he agrees with the Crown's interpretation of the Act regarding the power they allow but said there is no prior history of a similar type of offence and there is no evidence of a repeated failure that was committed by the generational farmer who is willing to take responsibility including furthering his education.

"This case involves isolated failings, in my view," said the defence lawyer.

He agreed with the fine and registration in a cattle production course as well as allowing the SPCA or peace officers random access to the properties for two years.

In his sentencing order Fisher, who holds a veterinarian degree saw photos of the cattle over an approximate two week period when they were seized.

"There was absolutely no doubt that these cattle had been neglected for a period of time ... but it took a longer period of time than that for these cattle to be put into the condition they were in," he said.

No prohibition period from owning cattle was part of the sentence, however, by March 1, 2025 Graham must provide his land locations to the Alberta SPCA along with information and photos of each animal. For two years the SPCA is to receive the land locations for all livestock under Graham's care and they are allowed to attend his land without a warrant, they can access a vet if they believe the animals are in distress or neglect and they can remove animals as required. All costs are to be borne by Graham.

Fisher said the Graham cattle were in horrific condition.

"Any further appearances before the court in relation to this will lead to a prohibition - if it's me."

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# Classifieds

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## obituaries



**LEVIE** - Boni Marie Levie of Brooks, beloved wife of Randy Levie, passed away in Medicine Hat, AB, surrounded by family and loved ones on Monday December 23rd, 2024 at the age of 61 years, after her long courageous battle with cancer. Born in Edmonton, AB on April 13th, 1963 to Elaine Foo (Fetter). She resided in Calgary through her formative years alongside her twin sister Kim, brothers Mike and Rick, mother Elaine, and father Edward. Boni started her college education at the University of Calgary taking a Bachelor of Commerce Degree, when she found her passion in teaching, receiving her Bachelors of Education from the University

in 1987. Boni started the first year of her career in Loon Lake a northern Metis community of Alberta. She then accepted a teaching position in Brooks at Central Elementary School moving her to the community. Later she transferred to the Brooks Composite High School as a guidance councillor. Shortly after making the move to Brooks, Boni met the love of her life Randy Levie, a long-time resident of the community, through Randy's sister Char. They married on February 14th, 1990 in Brooks. They welcomed their first son Brennan in 1991, and their second son Kelson in 1994. While balancing motherhood, Boni also pursued her Masters Degree in Education at the University of Lethbridge graduating in 1997. As her sons grew, she was widely involved in their interests. Whether it was tying skates on the bench, or cheering from the sidelines, she volunteered with many sports associations her sons were involved with and the schools she taught in. Boni had a heart for others, she held the chair position with the Brooks Woman's Shelter, until 2000, and was honoured as the Brooks Citizen Of The Year that same year. She continued her work with Grasslands Public Schools as a grade one teacher until her retirement in 2018, with a grand total of 30 years as an educator. In retirement she had a passion for art and painting, relaxing with a good book, spending time with her Eckankar group, travelling with numerous close friends, and spending quality time with her grandchildren Archer and Everly. Boni is survived by her husband Randy, her son Brennan (Kristen), her son Kelson, grandchildren Archer and Everly, her mother Elaine (Fetter) Foo, twin sister Kim (Brian) Moncur, brother Rick (Jennifer) Foo, and numerous in-laws, nieces, and nephews. She was predeceased by her father Edward Foo, and brother Mike (Maryse) Foo.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 11th at 11:00 AM from the Heritage Inn and Convention Centre. Rev. John Theiss officiating. Interment to follow at Brooks Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Boni's memory can be made directly to "Art for Boni" at Red Roof Studio helping fund accessible art classes for children and teens in the community. E-transfers are accepted to artforboni@gmail.com.

Cremation is entrusted to and conducted at Smith Funeral Home Ltd., Brooks



Funeral arrangements entrusted to:  
**SMITH FUNERAL HOME LTD. AND CREMATORIUM**  
**BROOKS, ALBERTA**

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## obituaries



**HARINK** - Keith Ryan Harink of Brooks, AB., beloved husband of Deborah Harink of Brooks, passed away unexpectedly in Medicine Hat, AB with his family at his side on Friday, December 20th, 2024, at the age of 73 years. Born on June 1st, 1951, in Lethbridge, AB, to John and Johanna Harink, Keith was raised on the family farm in the Winifred and Bow Island, AB. area. He attended Senator Gershaw High School in Bow Island and after graduating studied Heavy Duty Mechanics at SAIT, Calgary, AB. Keith married his high school sweetheart Deborah (Reber) Harink on November 21st, 1970,

and bought their first home in Bow Island. Shortly after marriage, Keith went to work on the oil rigs with Precision Drilling. He enjoyed this work until 1977, when he then joined Quinn Testers and moved his family to Brooks. In 1988, Keith's entrepreneurial spirit led him to start his own company, Desert Blasting & Painting Ltd., which he ran until 2010 when his son, Corey, took over the family business. Despite retiring, Keith continued to go to work every day, and in total spent 37 years working in the business with his son, earning him the title of "The hardest working retired guy". Keith worked hard and played hard, enjoying many hobbies in life, including hunting, fishing, camping, snowmobiling, curling, and even flying, having earned his pilot's license and buying a Cessna 150. In many ways, Keith was a kid at heart, always acquiring the latest gadgets and toys to amuse himself. He loved to travel with Debbie, sharing many trips with family and friends. Countless hours were spent on the lake, boating with loved ones, and even water-skiing at the age of 70—just because he could. Golfing was a constant hobby, and he played both locally at the Brooks Golf Course and internationally when traveling. During retirement, Keith and Debbie took cruises to foreign lands and thoroughly enjoyed traveling to Arizona in their motorhome, embracing their freedom and adventures as snowbirds. Keith's love of woodworking was passed on to his grandkids, who spent many hours building projects together in his shop. Keith was immensely proud of his children, Corey and Lacey, and their families. He had a great relationship with his daughter-in-law, Angela, and his son-in-law, Dean. He was especially proud of his grandchildren, Steven, Austin, Sarah, and Hudson, finding joy in their activities and watching them grow. Keith is survived by his wife, Debbie Harink; son, Corey (Angela) Harink, and their children, Sarah and Hudson, of Brooks; daughter, Lacey (Dean) Satink, and their children, Steven (fiancée Regan) and Austin (fiancée Emma), of Langdon, AB; brother, Robert; sister, Ann; and many in-laws, cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, John and Johanna, and his brothers, John and Alan Harink. Keith was hardworking, generous, kind, and an inspiration to his family and friends. His passion for life and strength of character will be remembered in our memories of him and all that he did. We love you, Keith! Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 18th at 11:00 AM from Trinity Lutheran Church. Rev. John Theiss officiating. A private interment will be held at a later date.

Cremation is entrusted to and conducted at Smith Funeral Home Ltd., Brooks



Funeral arrangements entrusted to:  
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## obituaries



**CYR** - Ellen Jessie Cyr  
 March 27, 1943 – December 12, 2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ellen Jessie Cyr on December 12, 2024, at the age of 81 at the Grande Prairie Care Center. She slipped from this world peacefully with her family by her side.

Ellen Jessie Hellmer was born in Bassano Alberta (near Brooks) on March 27, 1943, to Alex and Irene Hellmer. Ellen was second youngest to 7 siblings. She grew up on the farm near Tilley AB. Ellen did not like farm life and was determined to get off as soon as possible.

When she turned 16, she earned her hairdressing license in Calgary, moved to Bow Island and worked in a salon doing what she loved. The love bug bit her at a local New Years eve dance in 1959/60 after being introduced to Armand Cyr. In April of 1963 they were married and as Dad wanted to get into farming, they moved up north to answer that call. In 1964 with two little ones in tow, Crystal and Miles, they moved to Rycroft for a bit, then to Fourth Creek, back to Rycroft where Lex was born, and finally back to Fourth Creek as Dad worked out and acquired more land.

Mom still did not like farming, but Dad must have been very convincing. She made the best of it. She excelled in producing large productive gardens, continuing her hair dressing at home. Her gardens produced and Mom canned, pickled, froze and made jams, buying only basic staples from the grocery stores to complete our menus. Dad provided the meat with hunting and supplemented with local beef and pork. Mom helped with most aspects of farm life, making suppers and taking them out to the field, running to town for parts, picking roots and rocks, but she really enjoyed running the combine at harvest. I think it was because she knew the active farming season was coming to an end for the year and she could see the payoff for all the hard work. Ellen tried her hand at selling Trichem liquid embroidery, Shakley vitamins, and Regal products for many years. They lived a total of 40 years on the farm before Dad said it was time to pack it in and move to town. She was glad to get off the farm, she had been bidding her time for so many years. They bought a house in Grande Prairie with a big picture window facing the street. It was Mom's dream, finally she could sit and watch the traffic go by, this was civilization!! She was down to making buns mostly now and we all greatly appreciated those delicious goods. Everyone loved those buns.

Mom enjoyed her 2 grandkids so much as they lived not far away for most of their growing up years. She got to babysit a few times, and she always was so happy to have them come around. Later she was able to enjoy time with 2 of her 4 great grandkids as they lived in Grande Prairie as well. They had a special bond.

COVID broke out and their lives were never the same. Both Mom and Dad showed signs of Alzheimer's. It was a difficult few years coming to terms with that. Mom went to live at the Pioneer Lodge after Dad was admitted to the Care Center. After a year and a half, she moved her to a different wing of the Care Center, and she was able to have supper with Dad twice a week as he was in the locked wing. She was so happy to be near him again. They hated being apart as they were always so close and never parted unless Dad had to work out. Mom loved Dad so much. He was her world. It was hard that they could not be together till their ends. Now at last, they are together again and Lex too. She will have never missed a Christmas without Dad. We are grateful for that and all that she was to us all.

Ellen will be greatly missed by her children Crystal (Stan Trider) Cyr-Martin of Hines Creek, AB, and Miles (Debbie Levey) Cyr of Williams Lake, BC, her sisters Rita Lapointe of Calgary, AB, and Joyce (Martin) Timko of Tilley, AB, her grandchildren Veronica (Jeremy) Dougherty of Grande Prairie, AB, and Kimberly (Adam) St. Amant of Lethbridge, AB. The time she spent with them will also be cherished by her great-grandchildren Ethan Dougherty, Austin Dougherty, Bailey St. Amant, Elliot St. Amant, Torunn Mortensen, and Scarlett Mortensen. She will be remembered by her in-laws Eva Wikenheiser of Calgary, AB, and Roland Anderson of Lethbridge, AB, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

Ellen joins in Heaven her husband Armand Cyr, her son Lex Cyr, her parents Alex and Irene Hellmer, and her siblings Angelina Zahenaiko, Bernice Neilson, Verna Wigemyr, Marvin Hellmer, and Sylvia Brost.

A Celebration of Life for Ellen was held on Friday, December 20th, at 2:00 pm at the St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Grande Prairie, AB.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Stars Foundation or the Alzheimer's Association in Ellen's honour.

Care entrusted to Bear Creek Funeral Home 780-830-7742 info@bcfh.ca



**BEAR CREEK FUNERAL HOME**

Phone 780-830-7742  
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 11802 99 Avenue  
 Grande Prairie, Alberta  
 T8W 0C7

## 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**

50c

## 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

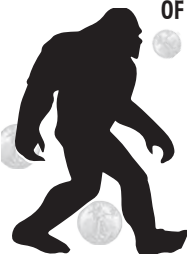
## feed & seed

**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

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# Classifieds

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

## obituaries



**MACKENZIE** - Gerald Reid Mackenzie of Brooks, beloved husband of Ruth Thompson passed away in Brooks on December 20, 2024 at the age of 78. He is survived by his daughter Kim (Jason) Hilfrich, son Gregory McKenzie, grandson Bradley and granddaughter Holly, brother Graden, (Carol) Mackenzie, sister Bonnie (Keith) JOHNSTON, sister Kathy (Pete) Robinson and nieces Donna and Carla. Gerald enjoyed working with oil companies and operating his boiler and water trucks; watering down roads and working all over different counties. He was an avid fan of Stock Car Racing and would attend any race that he could and videotape so others could enjoy the event as well. He was predeceased by his mother Etta and father Donald and nephew Davie, Johnston.

well. He was predeceased by his mother Etta and father Donald and nephew Davie, Johnston.

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## business announcements

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## 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.

## employment

**FARM WORKERS REQUIRED**  
 12 POSITIONS AVAILABLE  
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 Duties include potato grading inspection. Wages are \$17.70 per hour with housing available. Monday - Saturday with some Sundays 60+ hours a week. Job start date: March 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025  
**Fax resume to: 1-403-328-1559**

02-03p

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18-19c

## lost & found

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

## lost & found

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

## wanted

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

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

02P

## employment

### Eastern Irrigation District We Are Hiring!



The Eastern Irrigation District (EID), Brooks, Alberta, seeks an energetic, well organized individual to serve as **CAMPGROUND MAINTENANCE FOREMAN** for the District's Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground located 20 km south of Brooks.

The Campground Maintenance Foreman is responsible for overseeing and performing the maintenance and repair of all campground facilities, grounds, and equipment. This role will ensure the campground operates efficiently and safely while maintaining high standards of cleanliness and functionality. The ideal candidate will have hands-on technical skills, strong leadership abilities, and a commitment to providing a safe and well-maintained environment for campers and visitors. This seasonal position will be from May - September 2025.

The individual must have a broad set of qualifications and skills, including, but not limited to:

- Previous experience in maintenance, construction, or a related field, with supervisory experience preferred.
- Prior experience with small engine repair and maintenance, as well as servicing landscaping equipment like zero-turn mowers and weed whackers, is preferred.
- Strong organizational skills with the ability to manage and prioritize multiple tasks.
- Effective interpersonal communication skills.
- Valid Alberta Class 5 Driver's License that is insurable under the District's coverage.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume to [humanresources@eid.ca](mailto:humanresources@eid.ca), stating their experience, qualifications, and salary expectations along with three recent work-related references.

We thank all applicants for your interest in the EID; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. This competition will remain open until end of day Friday, February 7, 2025.

02-05c

[eid@eid.ca](mailto:eid@eid.ca)

[www.eid.ca](http://www.eid.ca)

403-362-1400

### Eastern Irrigation District We Are Hiring!



The Eastern Irrigation District (EID), Brooks, Alberta, seeks an energetic, well organized individual to serve as **CAMPGROUND MANAGER** for the District's Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground located 20 km south of Brooks.

The Campground Manager is responsible for the overall operation and management of the campground. This role involves ensuring excellent customer service, maintaining the facilities, and promoting a welcoming and enjoyable environment for all visitors. The Campground Manager oversees day-to-day operations, staff, and financial performance while ensuring compliance with local regulations and safety standards. This seasonal position will be from May - September 2025.

The individual must have a broad set of qualifications and skills, including, but not limited to:

- Previous experience in campground or hospitality management.
- Strong organizational skills with the ability to manage and prioritize multiple tasks.
- Proficient in reservation systems and basic financial software.
- Effective interpersonal communication skills.
- Valid Alberta Class 5 Driver's License that is insurable under the District's coverage.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume to [humanresources@eid.ca](mailto:humanresources@eid.ca), stating their experience, qualifications, and salary expectations along with three recent work-related references.

We thank all applicants for your interest in the EID; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. This competition will remain open until end of day Friday, February 7, 2025.

02-05c

[eid@eid.ca](mailto:eid@eid.ca)

[www.eid.ca](http://www.eid.ca)

403-362-1400



# Classifieds

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

## obituaries



**In Loving Memory of Fiona E. Forner**  
 October 25, 1942 – January 2, 2025

With our deepest sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved Fiona E. (Niznik) Forner in Rimbey, Alberta on January 2, 2025. Born on October 25, 1942, in Bassano, Alberta, Fiona grew up amidst the serene beauty of Antelope Creek, where her greatest entertainment was wandering the expansive prairies, immersing herself in books, and intently studying the intricate details of plants and the natural world. This ageless connection to her surroundings sparked her lifelong thirst for adventure and

discovery, laying the foundation for the inquisitive and vibrant spirit she carried throughout her life.

Fiona's curiosity and determination led her to nursing, one of the few educational paths available to women in the 1960s. This decision marked the beginning of an extraordinary career. As a registered nurse, she excelled in emergency departments, labor and delivery, internal medicine, gastroenterology, an innovative burn unit and palliative care. She worked tirelessly on the front lines of the AIDS and HIV epidemic in the late 1980s and retired as a compassionate advocate for patients in palliative care. Even in her final years, as Alzheimer's advanced and her sense of place faded, Fiona's innate wisdom and deeply caring spirit continued to shine. She often offered thoughtful insights to the care team about the needs of other residents, a testament to her enduring compassion, and excellent clinical skills. Despite the challenges, her gentleness and humor remained intact, endearing her to everyone around her. The caregivers at Bethany frequently shared how much they adored her.

In 1964, Fiona married Ed Forner in Brooks, Alberta, in the same church where her final life ceremony will be held. Together, they embarked on a journey filled with love, adventure, and family. Their journey took them to Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Grand Prairie (where Cathy and Cori were born), and Calgary (where Christine was born). From there, they moved to Fort St. John, British Columbia; Saskatoon and Clavet, Saskatchewan; Selkirk and Winnipeg, Manitoba; and finally back to Calgary in 1979. In 1992, Fiona and Ed relocated to Kelowna, British Columbia, where Cori and her children joined them. They returned to Alberta in 2004 to live next door to Christine. In 2020, they moved to Sylvan Lake to be near Cathy, where Fiona spent her final peaceful years, ultimately residing at Bethany Care Centre. Last year Mom and Dad celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Fiona was a natural athlete with an effortless ability in sports like skiing, golfing, scuba diving and other physical activities. Her grace and agility were beautifully matched by her boundless creativity. Fiona was a gifted artist, crafting stunning paintings that captured her unique perspective. She was also a talented pianist and guitarist, effortlessly playing by ear, and an exceptional seamstress whose skill brought intricate designs to life. Her talent extended to the outdoors, where her natural green thumb created enchanted wonders, transforming our yards into vibrant retreats that looked straight out of a botanical garden. She lovingly crafted clothing, doll outfits, and treasured costumes for her children and grandchildren. Her hands wove magic into the lives of those she loved.

Her greatest joy was her role as a mother and grandmother. Fiona was a nurturing presence to two generations of children, always ensuring everyone was cared for. She became an unwavering support to her daughter Cori and her two children, Alea and Aryk, in the 1990s, and later played a crucial role in helping Christine raise her three children, Jon, Zack, and Jill. Fiona

was a devoted supporter, rarely missing a soccer game, hockey tournament, ski meet, or dance recital. Amid her busy schedule, she still found time to bake and cook for these extra households, her love and care evident in every effort. Her pride in her children and grandchildren's accomplishments was radiant and palpable, a testament to her unwavering dedication and boundless affection for her family.

Fiona had an incredible zest for life and an adventurous spirit, paired with a love of travel that took her across Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Ukraine, Hawaii, and South America—where she impressively climbed Machu Picchu at the age of 74! Whether she was transporting horses or embarking on long drives with Ed, Fiona approached every journey with excitement and an insatiable curiosity, turning each trip into an adventure. Her wonder extended far beyond the physical world; she was deeply fascinated by all kinds of spirituality, often mischievously referring to her interests as 'woo-woo.' Fiona's thirst for knowledge was insatiable, and her open mind and venturesome heart allowed her to explore life in all its dimensions.

Her final years in Sylvan Lake and at Bethany Care Centre were marked by her wit, grace, and warm spirit. She was a favorite among everyone, always smiling, making people laugh, and bringing light to those around her.

Fiona is survived by her devoted husband, Ed, her daughters Cathy (Marie Pijeu), Cori, and Christine Forner, her grandchildren Alea (Damon Ausberry), and Aryk (Tessa Miller) Smaniotto, Jon (Maddison Tiffin), Zackery, and Jill Proudfoot. She is also survived by her brothers Jack (Donna and Charity), George (Joan, Tracy, Brad, and Bruce), and Ron (Glenda, Wanita, Lori, Dustin, and Aaron) Niznik. She is predeceased by her mother, Jenny (Genovia) Niznik, who passed away on December 20, 2023, and her father John Niznik who passed in 1985, and her brother Pat who passed in 1976.

Fiona taught us all what it means to love and to truly understand, in our hearts, the essence of nurturing and caring. Her life was a testament to love, creativity, a strong-will, inquisitiveness, and grit. Her absence leaves a void that can never be filled. She loved us deeply, even through the hard times. Mothers' voices are often dismissed as biased, but we want to shatter that myth and declare that her love for us wasn't born of bias, it was born of clarity. She saw us with unflinching truth, acknowledging both our struggles and our strengths, and she believed in our worth even when we struggled to see it ourselves. Her greatest wish was for us to see ourselves as she did - with love, kindness, pride, adoration, joy, and unwavering acceptance.

We all have a new guardian angel who will continue to move mountains to ensure her family is cared for. She is somewhere, her mind sharp and clear, her body finally free of pain, holding a pen and intently observing the world around her. She is savoring the joy of finally having all the time she needs to explore everything that fascinates her, fully immersed in the endless wonders that captivate her spirit. Writing in her new journal, capturing all she is learning, and, with her signature playfulness, exploring the many ways she can influence and gently haunt us.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1:00 PM on Friday, January 10, 2025, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 511 4 St W, Brooks, Alberta. Rev. Eligio Canete Celebrant. Interment to follow at Brooks Cemetery. Lunch will follow at Cassils Community Centre, 190073 Range Road 155, Newell County No. 4, Brooks, AB. For directions to the Cassils Community Centre, you can view the map here: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/xH33bxBL7DMVEkMT8>



Funeral arrangements entrusted to:  
**SMITH FUNERAL HOME LTD. AND CREMATORIUM**  
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## obituaries



**WATSON** - Miles Maurice Watson - Age 77, of Brooks, Alberta passed away peacefully and surrounded by his family and loved ones on December 25, 2024, in the Brooks Health Centre. He was born to the late Jennie and Chester Watson on July 26, 1947 in Truro, Nova Scotia where he lived most of his years before moving to Alberta in 2002. Miles worked hard all of his life as an automobile mechanic but also in the forestry and oil and gas industries. Miles loved his cars and had many of them. He could build a car from the bottom up and even built race truck in his retirement. Miles' favorite place to go was the garage. He also enjoyed spending time with friends and family as he made many voyages driving across the

country and back again to see family and friends. Miles was a stoic man and not one to complain. He lived with gratitude and integrity. Miles was mild and meek in his manner, but not to mistake it for weakness, he was strong in character. One of the phrases he loved was 'don't forget the salt'. Miles is survived by his children; Kim (Dutch), Tracy, Nathaniel (Keisha), Brienne (Kyle), and Chester; his brother, Laurie and his sisters, Barbara, Nina, and Eleanor; grandchildren, Cinnamon, Cherokee, Luciel, Liam, and Connor. Besides his parents, Miles was predeceased by his wife, Gale; sisters, Ola and Carrie and brothers, Vincent, Reg, and Harrison. From the bottom of our hearts, the family would like to thank to the staff at Brooks Health Center for their care during his time there. Miles received a lot of love there and he talked about the staff as "family" who gave him peace of mind. Cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service will be held in the Maritimes in the New Year. Arrangements have been entrusted to Thom's Funeral Home, Duchess, Alberta. For further information or to leave a message of sympathy please visit [www.thomfuneralhome.com](http://www.thomfuneralhome.com) or call (403) 501-1010.



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## employment

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Grounds Manager is responsible for the campground maintenance for all areas. Operating and maintaining small equipment, supervising staff, and a good knowledge of underground sprinklers. Must be willing to work weekends

Office Manager is responsible for registering campers, ordering and picking up supply's, schedule staff, supervising staff, processing transaction's, banking. Computer experience is required. Willing to work most weekends

Grounds staff are to assist the managers, operate small equipment and maintenance of the campground, clean bathrooms. Must be willing to work weekends

Office staff are to assist the managers, registering campers, cleaning bathrooms, selling product, serving ice cream. Must be willing to work days, evenings and weekends

Security person is responsible to enforce the campground rules, deliver fire wood. Must be able to work evenings and nights

All staff have to have a drivers license

If interested please send a resume to Crawling Valley, Box 567 Bassano AB, T0J0B0. You can email your resume to [crawlingvalley@gmail.com](mailto:crawlingvalley@gmail.com)

Cut off is February 7/2025. Only those considered for a position will be notified.

CRAWLING VALLEY RECREATION SOCIETY is looking for **GARBAGE REMOVAL** for 2025 season. If interested please send a quote to [crawlingvalley@gmail.com](mailto:crawlingvalley@gmail.com) or mail it to Box 567, Bassano, AB. T0J 0B0. The cut off is February 7, 2025.

## in memory

### Memorial Contributions

If you would like to make a tribute in the name of your love 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...

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- 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
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- 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 101, 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.

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## employment

### Eastern Irrigation District We Are Hiring!



The Eastern Irrigation District (EID), Brooks, Alberta, seeks an energetic, well organized individual to provide **CAMPGROUND SAFETY PATROL** for the District's Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground located 20 km south of Brooks.

Under the direction of the Campground Manager, the Campground Safety Patrol will be responsible for performing regular rounds of the entire campground and ensure all rules are being followed, ensure all gates are locked and outbuildings are secured nightly, and assisting campground management and staff when required. This seasonal position will be from May - September 2025.

The individual must have a broad set of qualifications and skills, including, but not limited to:

- Strong organizational skills with the ability to manage and prioritize multiple tasks.
- Self-motivated with the ability and willingness to work independently.
- Effective interpersonal communication skills.
- Valid Alberta Class 5 Driver's License that is insurable under the District's coverage.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume to [humanresources@eid.ca](mailto:humanresources@eid.ca), stating their experience, qualifications, and salary expectations along with three recent work-related references.

We thank all applicants for your interest in the EID; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. This competition will remain open until end of day Friday, February 7, 2025.

02-05c

[eid@eid.ca](mailto:eid@eid.ca)

[www.eid.ca](http://www.eid.ca)

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BROOKS BULLETIN

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# Brooks and area RCMP report

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

## Breach of conditions

On Dec. 23 at 1:40 p.m. the Brooks RCMP detachment's general investigative section observed a vehicle in the Brooks area that was associated to Tyler Blackburn who was known to have been on a release order with multiple conditions stemming from child luring charges which are still before the courts. When officers made contact with Blackburn they noted that at the time of arrest he was not in his assigned residence, was connected to the internet and was in the possession of pornography all of which were in breach of his conditions. Officers arrested Blackburn without incident and he was held for a bail hearing. He was released by the courts with conditions.

## Recovered Stolen Vehicle

An abandoned, stolen truck was found in the parking lot of the Ramada Inn on Dec. 27.

Calgary Police Service was notified and arranged for the truck to be towed.

## Traffic collisions

On Dec. 28 police responded to a vehicle that struck a post.

The unsupervised Class 7 driver was transported to hospital with minor injuries.

The driver was issued a ticket.

On Dec. 29 just before 5 a.m. a passenger vehicle struck a semi-trailer. There were no injuries were reported.

Police determined that the driver of the passenger car carelessly entered the oncoming lane and the driver was issued a careless driving ticket.

## Med Hat man jailed with 12 charges over Christmas Eve

An unidentified Medicine Hat man, 25, has been remanded and charged with three counts of assault of a peace officer, three counts of assault with a weapon, three counts of uttering threats, two counts of mischief and one count of resisting arrest following an incident on Christmas Eve in Tilley.

Brooks RCMP reported

they attended a home at 9:50 p.m. on Dec. 24 for a report of a man who had been threatening people with a weapon. The man, who had been known to the party, fled the residence on foot but when he was found in a nearby field he resisted arrest.

He was remanded to custody for a January court appearance.

## Man assaults woman

Police reported that a 19-year-old female was transported to hospital with non-life threatening injuries following an assault with a weapon by 28-year-old man on Christmas Eve. Police were called to a residence on Greenbrook Road at 10:50 p.m.

An unidentified man was charged with assault with a weapon. Police did not report if he was remanded into custody.

## Attempted B&E

An investigation is ongoing following an attempted break and enter at Impact Health at 403 2nd Ave W. on Dec. 24. No additional information was available.

## Kelowna man arrested on warrants

Patrick Michael Kenneth Waldrum, who was listed on Central Okanagan's most wanted list, was arrested in Brooks on Dec. 19 at 2:44 p.m.

The 45-year-old has been on three outstanding warrants since Nov. 4 from Kelowna, B.C. for offences from January 2021 including two counts of possession of child pornography and one count of luring a child.

Waldrum was found at a local hotel and is believed to have been returned to Kelowna.

## Pick-up collides with snowplow

On Dec. 18 at 9:02 a.m. police responded to a report of a snow plow that had been rear ended by a pick-up truck on Highway 1 near Brooks. The driver, who it was determined was following too close, was transported to hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The pick-up had significant damages.

## Man found passed out at Tim's

On Dec. 17 at 11:23 p.m. RCMP were dispatched to Tim Hortons for a report of an intoxicated male who was observed in the parking lot and then went inside where he passed out on the floor.



The man was arrested for public intoxication and was taken to cells. He was released once he was sober.

## Drunk man breaks pool cues

On Dec. 14 RCMP received a call from the Tilley Hotel regarding a male who became aggressive after being cut off from alcohol purchases.

Staff told police when he was told he would be cut off he began to break pool cues and flipped a table.

He was removed from the premises but attempted to re-enter.

The unidentified man was arrested and was later released on charges of mischief under \$5,000.

## Man attempts to break into one house, escorted out of another

On Dec. 14 at 1:17 p.m. RCMP received a report of a male attempting to break into a residence in the city. Police found the suspect who, they reported, was under the influence of drugs.

Police found that the man had attempted to break into one house but after failing to enter he entered an adjacent home and was escorted out. He had also attempted to take a delivery van. The accused was taken into custody and has been charged with breaking and entering, theft of a motor vehicle and causing a disturbance.

## Man sleeping on highway had Calgary warrants

On Dec. 13 at 12:46 p.m. Brooks RCMP received multiple reports of a man sleeping on Highway 1 east of Brooks. The man told police he was walking to Manitoba, however, it was later confirmed that he had outstanding warrants from Calgary. He was arrested and later released. He is scheduled to appear in court date on Jan. 29.

# One Tree World

IRMA MERKL



ONE TREE - Wow! Here we are in the New Year -2025!! I hope everyone had a great time during the holidays. Many things have happened in the past two or more weeks.

\*\*Just a reminder that the Brooks United Church UCW ladies, of our meeting is this Thursday at 1:30pm and that it's a pot luck lunch. See you there.

Well here we go with news from prior to and Christmas Day, till the present time.—

The week before Christmas Karl and Linda Slomp went to Leduc and Edmonton and had a good visit with friends and with the Afghani family they had helped get to Canada. They now live in Edmonton and they were glad to see and have a visit with Karl and Linda.

On the 17th I had the pleasure of my niece Cory (Merkl) and Mike Meyer of Chestermere stop in on their way back from Medicine Hat, where they had attended the funeral of friend. It was great to see them and we had a nice visit over tea and goodies.

On the weekend of December 22nd I had the pleasure of having my niece Lori Johnson, her partner Dale and both their daughters Hannah and Page, all of Medicine Hat and her brother Mike, Lois Zvolensky and their daughter Kierra of Las Vegas, Nevada come for dinner. We had a very nice visit. It was great to see them all.

Leighton Slomp has been at the home of his parents over the holidays from S.A.I.T. While he was home he and a couple of his friends stripped the leafcutter bee boxes for his dad. He has to be back to his studies on the 6th.

Also all the kids from school are all returning to classes also on the 6th..

Dianna Visser of Cheadle was in the area a couple of times in December, once on the 17th and then 27th staying at my place, as she was going to attend the funeral service for the late Cheryl Romuld, wife of Duane Romuld of Brooks on the 28th.

Our deepest sympathies go to Duane Romuld of Brooks and all his families on the loss of his dear wife Cheryl and to his children on the loss of their dear mother and to all her extended families. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Charlotte Noronha went to Drumheller and spent Christmas Day with her son Corey and Jessica Noronha and her little grand-daughters, Summer and Saige. They were fun to watch and she had a great time while there.

Karl and Linda Slomp had their families here; arriving on the 22nd were Joel and Rachel and family of Abbotsford, BC, on Christmas Eve Sandra and Matt Smith and their family of Lethbridge arrived. They were here till the 28th. Then on Christmas Day, Carolyn and Levi Wadsworth and family of Brooks, and David

and Melissa and sons arrived and helped with the celebrations. It sounds like it was a very busy and lively household. Then on the 28th Joel and family and Sandra and family all left for their homes.

Visiting at the home of Joe Hajash as of Christmas Eve was his son Ben and his partner Laurie of Edmonton who were here for Christmas Day and then on Boxing Day they left and went to Lethbridge to visit with his mother.

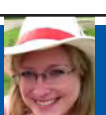
The home of Thomas and Barbara Mahrer had Christmas extend from Christmas Eve to the 27th at which time their sons, Jordon and David of Lethbridge and Stephen of here were all home. Inge Ellefson and Erwin Unger were also present there for some of the festivities. It sounded like everyone had a lot of fun, with lots of eating and playing games.

On New Years Eve the Mahrer's all went to Lethbridge to their daughter's place and then went bowling with their families. Then they had New Years dinner at their daughter Carina and Tyler Seward and their family's place. It sounds like everyone had a fun time.

Christmas time at the home of Ozzie Schalm was a busy one too. All of Ozzie's children and families were home, with the exception of Sherwin's children, Emma and Calem and of course Sherraine and family of Italy weren't there. Most of them left on Boxing Day. They all had a great time together.

I spent Boxing Day at Frank and Judy's place for supper, along with Judy's mother Betty Hok of Newbrook Lodge and Dillon and Amy and sons, all of Brooks. It was fun to watch the little ones play with their new toys. Judy made a super, good meal again as usual. Thanks Judy!

Tilley Telegram  
ANITA CHAPPELL



TILLEY - Happy New Year to one and all, and welcome back!

Faith Lutheran Church in Rolling Hills will offer worship service at 10:00 am on Sunday, January 26 with Reverend John Theiss. All are welcome.

Rolling Hills Ag Society will host a Valentine's Prime Rib Supper on Saturday, February 15, at the Rolling Hills Community Hall. This will be a formal event with a live band playing for the dance following dinner. Tickets are available at rollinghills.ca, the Rolling Hills Post Office or at Cordon Electric in Brooks. Call or text Michele at 403-793-4130 for more information.

Bethany Lutheran Church offers regular worship services at 11:00 am each Sunday. 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

Lyn Ellefson arrived home from Mexico on Christmas Day, so he rested up for a day and then Inge said she made a Danish Christmas meal for them all on the 27th.

Earl and Joy Christman had their family; Bonnie and her children; little Karli and wee Brant home on Christmas day along with Earl's sister Valerie and her husband Rob Heiland of Hanna for dinner. I'm sure they all had an enjoyable day.

Ty and Glenda Charlton had their daughter Shawna, Kyle Jensen and son Rhett of Sylvan Lake here from Christmas Eve till Boxing Day. Their son Tyler and Tamina and family were there too for the festivities. I'm sure they had a great time together.

On Christmas Day Will and Melissa Allaby and family had his parents Tim and Peggy Allaby of Brooks come out to help take in all the celebrations.

Birthdays for the coming week go out to Eli Slomp of Abbotsford, BC on Jan. 8th; to Les Schuett and to Robert Day of Bragg Creek, both on Jan. 9th; to Carrie Collins on Jan. 10th; and to Linda Slomp on Jan. 14th. We wish each of you all a great day and a very "Happy Birthday" to you and to everyone else that is celebrating. We wish everyone all the best in the year ahead.

There aren't any anniversaries this week that I know of.

If you have any news or announcements you'd like in my column, Please give me a call at 403-362-3023 or email me at the following -simerkl@eidnet.org by Sunday evening no later than 8pm. If I need more information I'll contact you. It would sure help a lot if folks would call me. So! Folks till next week.

# Annexation request nixed by county council

SANDRA M STANWAY  
BROOKS BULLETIN

County council has refused a residential annexation request but suggested that the resident work with the Eastern Irrigation District (EID).

A Duchess resident wants to be annexed to the county to allow them to access EID raw water for their 1.65 acre parcel on the west boundary of Duchess.

"The EID does not grant rural water use agreements to any property within a village, town or city. If the certificate of title reads anything other than the County of Newell, a new agreement cannot be set up," said Maria Jackson, the county's supervisor of planning and development. The landowner can

irrigate with potable water from the village.

The parcel was originally annexed by the village in 1974 because they required additional lands for residential development.

"The annexation documents outline that this property could not be serviced by the gravity sewer system, however the Village annexed the fragmented lots facing Railway Street and indicated the owners may receive urban sewer and water services as they become economically feasible," she said.

The annexation was again discussed in 2023.

"The village indicated they were not interested in pursuing the annexation request."

Councillor Neil Johnson said there are other nearby landowners.

"If we go with this everybody's going to come and get us to do the EID's dirty work for them. I can't see going ahead with this," he said.

"I think annexing part of the Village of Duchess would be an absolute last resort thing we would ever even consider," said councillor Dan Short.

Although the estimated cost to begin the annexation was said to be about \$10,000, to be paid by the landowner, Jackson said it is quite low as professionals would have to be involved in the process and one on one meetings with landowners.

"It really could open up a can of worms," said Jackson.