

BROOKS BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025



As the days get longer more people are out for evening walks. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO



Dinosaur Provincial Park is not only a great place to see fossils but the trees along the trails are magnificent. According to the plaque at the base of the cottonwood tree, this tree is well over 200 years old. Plains Indians used trees such as this as burial places putting their dead on platforms in the trees. It's also believed that the river flooded its banks hundreds of years ago as cottonwood catkins burst open with seeds. Cottonwoods have died from age, disease and their distance to water. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

O&G companies owe \$455K in taxes to County of Newell

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

Some oil and gas companies continue to be a financial burden on Alberta's rural municipalities.

In 2024 rural municipalities identified over 200 operational and non-operational companies that are in tax arrears and owe \$67.8 million in property taxes. That brings the total owed to rural municipalities to \$253.9 million since 2019.

"The issue of unpaid taxes is clearly worsening and the impacts on municipalities are becoming more severe. Companies are increasingly aware of the loopholes at their disposal; something that must be confronted in 2025," states the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA).

The number of non-operational companies owing taxes to municipalities was larger for the first time in 2024 and accounted for over 60 per cent of unpaid taxes, according to RMA.

"This sharp rise indicates that municipalities are facing even greater challenges in recovering taxes during bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings," it states.

From 2024, the County of

Newell is owed \$455,306.67.

"Non-operational companies owe the majority of the balance," said county CAO Matt Fenske.

"Of that balance, one company in particular has recently filed for bankruptcy and owes over \$430,000," he said.

Last week the Globe and Mail reported on the confidential Alberta Mature Asset Strategy (MAS) draft.

"The MAS is focused on leveraging policy and regulatory changes to stimulate economic growth in Alberta's mature producing regions," states the report.

The report suggests that if natural gas in central and southern Alberta is disconnected from main export pipeline and operated at a lower pressure, it would present opportunities to reduce compression costs, serve local markets more efficiently and produce the province with flexibility "not available with trans-provincial pipelines that fall under the jurisdiction of federal regulators."

It also claims that a way to support the marginal and inactive producing asset base, "is through higher natural gas prices that reflect full-cycle costs, including closure."

There are 274,215

wellbores and unclaimed surface locations in the province that carry over \$1 billion annually in fixed costs.

Of the 56,034 marginal wells that are primarily producing gas, 55 per cent of them are found in the counties of Newell, Cypress, Wheatland, Kneehill and Special Areas.

While companies are required to reclaim the land and plug unused wells the costs are huge and cleaning up the liabilities have created problems between the industry, government and rural municipalities.

"The trust has been broken," states the report.

The MSA suggests that a Legacy Asset Insurance Fund be developed which would be financed by licensee contributions "but ultimately backstopped by the province" to provide dedicated capital.

With the more than 240,000 "mature" wells across Alberta the total cost for cleanup could range from \$33 billion to over \$100 billion, states the report.

Premier Danielle Smith told media that plans for clean-up are expected to be released in April and that public funding will not be needed for the new initiatives.

City's updated harassment policy accepted by OHS

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) has accepted the city's updated violence, harassment, abuse, sexual abuse and bullying policy as they had directed last month.

The city filed the policy immediately following Monday's council meeting despite a concern by councillor Ray Juska who questioned the reference to the Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act.

He said he doesn't know what it is although the reference to the Act looks like a fairly important one.

"If this is an issue or concern we can always bring it up in the next change but at this particular point we have to have a policy approved today and literally within a short period of time. We'll be looking at some other things so if this is a concern we can look at this," said CAO Chris Parker.

The changes that were made were fairly minor including removing some of the specific OHS sections

that are referenced because of the constant update of the OHS Act itself.

The city's policy states that they will investigate an incident, prepare a report and keep it on file for two years from the day of the incident so it's available for inspection by an OHS officer.

The city had been directed to review the 2021 policy as a result of complaints that had been made February. The policy also has to be reviewed every three years and when a complaint is filed.

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DOWNY BROME **WON'T WAIT!** WHY SHOULD YOU?

If you see Downy Brome on your land, **TAKE ACTION NOW**. Left unchecked, this noxious weed will spread rapidly, choking out native vegetation and creating a major fire risk

By late June, Downy Brome dries out completely—turning into FUEL for wildfires.

Landowners are required under Alberta's **Weed Control Act** to take active measures to control the spread of Downy Brome. Here are the best management strategies:

1. Mechanical Control

- Hand-pulling is effective for small patches but must be done before seed maturity.
- Mowing helps suppress growth when timed correctly—after the seed head develops but before seeds reach the milk stage (when they turn a silver hue). Ensure mowers are cleaned to avoid spreading seeds to new areas.

2. Chemical Control

- Non-selective herbicides can be applied in late fall (if Downy Brome has already emerged) or early spring before seeding.
- In-crop herbicide options exist but are limited. Identifying infestations early allows for targeted applications.

3. Cultural & Preventative Control

- Soil disturbance can help manage growth, but it should be done carefully to avoid spreading seeds.
- Equipment sanitation is critical—always clean tillage, mowing, and haying equipment before moving between fields.
- Competitive planting of perennial grasses can help suppress Downy Brome by reducing available space and resources.

GET HELP MANAGING DOWNY BROME! The County's Agricultural Service Board is here to assist landowners with identifying and managing Downy Brome. If you suspect an infestation or need guidance on control methods, please contact us at 403-362-3266.

SCAN THE CODE for more information on Downy Brome



SCAN THE CODE to access and download our Downy Brome brochure



COUNTY RESIDENTS

The County of Newell is seeking **three** public members to serve on the

COUNCILLOR COMPENSATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This committee reviews and recommends appropriate honorariums, per diems, and other compensation items for elected officials to ensure fairness and transparency.

The time commitment is approximately 7-10 hours.

Committee members must be **County residents over 18 years old** and will be selected through a random draw if more than three applications are received. Meetings are not open to the public, and recommendations will be presented to Council by September 1.

DEADLINE TO APPLY HAS BEEN EXTENDED



Or visit the **Opportunities page** on the County website

SCAN THE CODE TO READ TERMS OF REFERENCE & APPLY TODAY!



LAND FOR LEASE IN ROLLING HILLS

Crop restrictions will apply as the land is used for applying sanitary waste water from the Hamlet of Rolling Hills.

Irrigation equipment includes two (2) buried mainlines, pivot, and two (2) pumps.

Sealed Offers to Lease will be received up until **2:00 pm** local time on at the **County Administration building** located at 183037, Range Road 145, Brooks, AB.



For an offer to be considered:

- ✓ You must be the registered owner of not less than 100 acres of land with irrigation acres within the County of Newell.
- ✓ Your offer must be on the official Offer to Lease form provided by the County of Newell.



The County of Newell reserves the right to waive informalities, reject any or all offers, and to accept an offer that provides the greatest benefit to the County.

A detailed information package is available on the County's website.

Visit the **Tenders & Requests for Proposals** page under **Opportunities**.

OR SCAN THE CODE



Call 403-794-2311 for more info.



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTY FIRE BYLAW

WHAT CAN & CANNOT BE BURNED

The **County of Newell Council** is considering amendments to the County's **Fire Bylaw** which has received First Reading. Public input is requested before it's given additional consideration by Council.

AMENDMENTS INCLUDE

BURN BARRELS:

- Use of Burn Barrels in County Hamlets is specifically **PROHIBITED**
- Updated standards for the use of Burn Barrels in rural areas outside of Hamlets have been incorporated into **Schedule 'C'**, attached to the Bylaw
- **No longer required** to obtain or renew two-year incinerator permits

FIREWORKS:

- Use of Fireworks in County Hamlets is specifically **PROHIBITED**
- A permit will be **REQUIRED** for the use of fireworks in all other areas of the County
- Limitations and preplanning requirements for the use of permitted fireworks outside of Hamlets have been incorporated into **Schedule 'C'**, attached to the Bylaw

PLANNING AND PREPARATIONS REQUIRED PRIOR TO CONTROLLED BURNS:

- Specific standards and conditions that apply to various types of controlled burn fires are outlined in **Schedule 'C'**, attached to the Bylaw



APPROVED DEBRIS:

- Straw & stubble
- Grass & weeds
- Dead & dried leaves and tree pruning's
- Brush & fallen trees on newly cleared land or associated logging operations
- Used power & telephone poles that do not contain preservatives
- Wood material from the constructions or demolition of building which does not contain wood preservatives
- Household waste materials (excluding PROHIBITED DEBRIS)



PROHIBITED DEBRIS

means any material that, when burned, will result in the release to the atmosphere of dense smoke, offensive odours or toxic air contaminants in accordance with Federal or Provincial Legislation, statutes and Municipal Bylaws written to protect and enhance the environment, and shall include but is not limited to materials described as:

- preserved wood
- material from automobile bodies and tires
- rubber
- plastic (i.e. ABS, PVC piping)
- used oil and other petroleum-based products (i.e., Styrofoam)
- manure
- pathological waste
- asphalt shingles
- any other materials described as prohibited from burning or incineration under any Legislation, act or regulation, including the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, RSA 2000, c. E-12 and amendments thereto



You can find the **Bylaw** and its attachments for review by going to **12.4 on the March 6 Council agenda** found here > <https://bit.ly/newell-fire-bylaw>

Tell us what you think!

✉ Email: fergusona@newellmail.ca

✉ Mail or drop-off:
County Administration Office
183037 Rge. Rd 145
Brooks, AB
T1R 1B2

OR SCAN THE CODE for the online form



DEADLINE



12:00 PM (NOON)

With the introduction of Prohibited Debris, penalties have been introduced for its unauthorized burning.

Brooks and area RCMP report

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

Warrant execution
On March 14 Brooks RCMP executed their third warrant in a week.

At 2:07 p.m. RCMP assisted peace officers at a traffic stop which led to the identification of Timothy Setter.

Setter was found to have multiple outstanding warrants from various jurisdictions, including fraud, theft and assault. A search of the vehicle revealed open alcohol containers and a small quantity of meth. He was charged with possession of a controlled substance and provincial offences.

He pleaded guilty on March 17 and was fined.

Hit and run, vehicle identified

On March 14 at 4:17 p.m. police received a report of a hit-and-run at the Shoppers Drug Mart parking lot where a Jeep backed into a vehicle and then fled.

A witness who was on scene provided the victim with the suspect's license plate number and a description of the vehicle which allowed officers to locate the registered owner. Charges are pending against the driver.

Police identify man who entered Tilley shed

On March 16 at 8:40 a.m. police received a report of a suspicious man entering a shed and stealing a socket set and a bag of empty cans

at a residence near Tilley.

The homeowner provided surveillance to the officers and the suspect, who was observed to have been driving what is believed to be a stolen diesel Ford crew cab, has been identified.

Police are looking to locate him. Residents should immediately report crimes to police so they may be appropriately investigated.

Tilley seasonal cottage

The owner of a seasonal cottage south of Tilley discovered that the property had been used without permission.

On March 18 at 5:58 p.m. police were called to find that a break and enter had occurred. The owner discovered that the property was being used without permission and officers located items belonging to the suspect.

A potential suspect has been located and police are actively working on the investigation.

Wrong lane on Hwy. 36

On March 17 RCMP received a report of a possible impaired driver heading southbound on Highway 36.

Officers located the vehicle and saw that it was driving in the opposite lane and conducted a traffic stop. The driver showed no signs of impairment but was found to be operating the vehicle without a valid driver's licence. The driver was ticketed for driving without a supervisor and for failing to maintain the lane.



Police remained on scene until a properly licensed driver could take the vehicle home.

B&E

On March 17 at 2:39 p.m. Brooks RCMP received a report of a suspicious male inside the Crosstown Truck Service yard. Surveillance footage captured the suspect entering the yard, rummaging through unlocked vehicles and inspecting various pieces of equipment.

The suspect was seen pulling a plastic sled.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with information related to these or any other criminal activity is encouraged to contact RCMP at 403-362-5535 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Vehicle Theft

On March 20 at 8:28 p.m., RCMP received a report of a stolen vehicle.

The victim had momentarily exited her van to check her mail when a female suspect entered the vehicle and drove away.

The stolen vehicle was identified as a blue Dodge Caravan with an Alberta license plate.

The vehicle was found by a county peace officer the following day on land near Highway 36.

The investigation is ongoing.

Three county residents required for up to 10 hours

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

The County of Newell is seeking three residents to help review and recommend fair pay for the reeve and council for the

next four years.

The councillor compensation advisory committee meets once every four years.

"This is your chance to have a direct impact on local government and the

time commitment is only seven to 10 hours," states a post.

No experience is necessary. The deadline is April 4.

Contact the county office for more information.

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What's Happening

Stay Informed with Council Highlights!

We're committed to keeping residents informed and engaged in the decisions that shape our community.

Here are the key highlights from the March 17 Council Meeting:

- RCMP Report – Council received the February RCMP Report, covering crime stats, community initiatives, and investigations.
- Delegations – Christ the Redeemer School Division thanked the City for its support, and the EcoBrooks Committee shared updates on environmental projects.
- BRZ Board Appointments – Eight members were appointed to the Business Revitalization Zone Board for 2025-26.
- New Workplace Safety Policy – Council revised a policy focused on preventing workplace violence, harassment, and bullying.
- Surplus Land Declared – A parcel of land at College Dr E & Cassils Pl E will be listed for sale.
- Business Improvement Area Tax Bylaw – Council passed first reading of Bylaw 25/10 to set tax rates for businesses in the Brooks Town Centre Revitalization Zone.

Stay informed and engaged! For full details and links to reports, visit: Brooks.ca/342/News

Calling All Organizations! Join the Volunteer Resource Fair!

Looking for passionate volunteers to support your organization? The Volunteer Resource Fair is the perfect place to connect with community members eager to give back!

- Date: April 26
- Location: JBS Canada Centre Fieldhouse
- Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

As a vendor, you can showcase your organization, recruit volunteers for board positions, events, mentorship, and more—all at no cost! Plus, enjoy a FREE Volunteer Appreciation BBQ during the event.

Reserve your spot by April 16 by emailing victoria@grasslandsregionalfcss.com or calling 403-362-4549.

Current Job Opportunities

Looking for a rewarding career? Check out the latest job opportunities with the City of Brooks!

- Human Resources Advisor
- Interim Director of Recreation and Protective Services
- Safety Officer
- Temporary Utility Operator
- Recreation Casual Labourer
- Recreation Casual Operator
- Water & Wastewater Operator
- Water and Wastewater Technician Co-op Practicum

Apply today: Brooks.ca/313/Careers

Public Notices

Next Council Meeting

- Monday, April 7 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
- The agenda will be available on the Friday before the meeting at Brooks.ca/agendacentre

Next Council Committee Meeting

- Tuesday, April 15 at 4:30 PM
- Brooks City Hall - Hayes Room (201 1 Ave W)
- Open to the public
- The agenda will be available on the Friday before the meeting at Brooks.ca/agendacentre

Road Ban Notice

Starting March 24, a 75% road ban was put into effect on designated roads within the City of Brooks to help protect infrastructure during the spring thaw.

What did this mean?

Heavy vehicles are restricted to 75% of their registered axle weight when off the truck route. Drivers are advised to watch for posted signs and plan accordingly.

Gopher Control

On March 24, the Parks Department began gopher control due to the number of gophers. This includes putting an oat/pellet poison into gopher holes.

Please obey signs posted at sites.



Stay Connected with the City of Brooks!
Everything you need, all in one place! Stay up to date with city news, programs, services, and events.



SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

Bassano and area RCMP report

of a residential fire in the 400 block of 6th Avenue in Bassano.

The fire was not been suspicious and is believed to have been caused by an electrical issue.

There were no injuries. The investigation is continuing.

The following afternoon at 1:46 a.m. there was a vehicle fire in 500 block of 5th Avenue.

Police report that a

vehicle fire in a yard spread to the garage.

"There was significant damage to the vehicle and garage," states a police report.

There were no injuries and it's believed that the vehicle fire was caused by a block heater. That investigation is also continuing.

Police at this time do not believe that the fires are connected.

Pair of fires

Bassano RCMP and firefighters responded to a pair of fires in the community last week.

On March 19 at 8:14 p.m. there was a report

Two more regular season games for Brooks Bandits

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

With two regular season games remaining in the BCHL, the Brooks Bandits remain in second place, four points behind the first place Penticton Vees.

Over the weekend, the Bandits defeated the Sherwood Park Crusaders 5-3 coming back from a 3-1 deficit on Friday in which Luke Bibby scored twice.

Bibby continued his goal scoring on Saturday in Cranbrook with an additional one to help the Bandits defeat the Cranbrook Bucks 4-1.

In the meantime, the first place Vees are not only making headlines as the top team in the league, but it was officially confirmed on Monday the team will move to the Western Hockey League (WHL) along with a new Chilliwack team.

A statement from the BCHL noted that the Vees ownership will retain its membership in the BCHL and will look to relocate in the near future.

The Chilliwack Chiefs organization, who had no involvement in the city's WHL expansion process, has formally indicated they will play in the BCHL league in 2025-26.

"We thank the Vees organization for their contributions to the league and we look forward to continuing to work with them as they move forward with their relocation," said Rich Murphy, BCHL board chair.

As a member of the BCHL, there will be no interruption to the Vees current season.

The Bandits final regular season games are Friday at home against Spruce Grove and on Saturday when they travel to Okotoks.

The Vees will host Cranbrook and Salmon Arm this weekend.

Wardlow Westerly

JEAN LAVOIE



WARDLOW - The Celebration Choir, consisting of 46 members from all over the county of Newell and conducted by Joanne Dyck in Rosemary, is performing at 3 concerts in celebration of Lenten and Easter. The Celebration Choir has sung together and every second year they put on a series of concerts, just before Easter and make some significant donations to the world food bank as well as helping local family's and cause.

This year the recipients of the donations are the St. Vincent de Paul, Catera House and Maggi Kosterawa (a local family's with medical needs).

The Choir is performing in 3 concerts, April 11 at Bassano Knox Presbyterian Church, April 13 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooks, and April 14 at Rosemary Mennonite Church in Rosemary. Admission is a free will offering.

Mark it down for a lovely evening out.

Prairie Rose Hospice Palliative Care Society is hosting a Palliative Care Workshop in Brooks on April 11 - 12/ 25, from 8:00 - 4:45 pm at the Heritage Inn Hotel and Conference Centre. This is a no cost two day, in person training that follows that follows the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association Training program which is recognized across Canada. It will give Volunteers, caregivers and interested community

members the confidence to provide support services in any setting, whether that is in hospice care centres or in a private home. You can register at www.eventbrite.ca or call 403-208-4208.

If you have any questions regarding this workshop you can contact Audrey at 403-793-7806.

I wish I could take in

this workshop but have already committed to a volunteer endeavour those days.

It looks like another couple of busy weeks coming up, at least at our place.

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

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BUDGET 2025

For full details visit alberta.ca/budget

Alberta



EMS attends to the driver of an SUV that was involved in a collision on Thursday afternoon at about 2:15 p.m. Police reported that a southbound van attempted to turn left at the Cassils Road and 4th Street W intersection when it collided with a northbound SUV. Three people were transported to Brooks Health Centre for evaluation. The driver of the van was issued a ticket for careless driving. | SUBMITTED PHOTO

School bus parking now permitted in hamlets

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

County unanimously approved the parking of school buses within hamlets.

On Thursday, Mark Harbicht, the county's

manager of municipal services read portions of eight responses that he had received that were all in support of the bylaw.

One stated that the bylaw is pivotal to supporting the profession as it is hard enough to get bus drivers so

it's important to eliminate as many roadblocks as possible, another stated they have a bus parked across the road and there are no issues currently and "Yes. Allow them to be parked in hamlets."

Bassano Banner

BASSANO/GEM/ROSEMARY

TOM McPHAIL



BASSANO - Bassano is proud to announce that there are 5 local boys playing Provincial Hockey for the Duchess U18 Storm team. Mark your calendar for March 27th to 30th. That is happening very soon. This would be a good time to see our local boys in action.

There are a few local celebrants about to have birthdays this week and into early April. All the best to Kayla Bell, Craig Jones, Laralee Bell, Anita Roen, Taylor McCoomb, Carla Rabadan, Laurie Steinbach, Grace Beddows, Monica Marks, Riley Anderson, Klayton Lepp, Jayne Hale and Wyatt Augustine. I am sure to have missed some names.

Looks as if I am going to miss the Horse Race Game at Playfair Lodge today at 2:00 p.m. Sure sounds like fun though. If you miss this event, there is always floor curling on Thursday. Dust off that old broom!!!

I wonder how many Playfair residents realize that William Shaw Playfair and his wife, Isabella, came here originally from Scotland in 1900 and 1912. While here they raised three daughters, Winnifred,

Florence and Chrissy.

Now you know the rest of the story.

Your correspondent always appreciates local news, whether it is from Gem, Rosemary or right here in your own neighborhood.

Community help required to clean, replant edible garden

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

Maureen Lynn of EcoBrooks confirmed that the edible garden will grow at Lake Stafford this year.

Last spring the garden didn't get planted due to concerns that the raw water being used wasn't safe.

Last year a water test indicated that fecal levels were high but further sampling throughout the summer found that the water was safe for

gardening. It is strongly advised that any food from the garden should be properly washed before it's eaten.

Councillor Ray Juska said the plan is to begin the garden after the May long weekend but the plots will have to be cleaned prior.

"The one challenge may be cleaning as it was dormant for the year," he said.

Juska said he hopes there is a lot of community participation.

"It's not a community

garden, per se. It is an edible garden, more of an education display. It's an opportunity to take part and learn about garden planting and maintenance," he said.

Through the program fruit and vegetables, many from other countries, are grown to allow the public to not only sample the products but to also see if it will grow in our climate.

If anyone wants additional information contact Juska at 403-362-0899.



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COMMENT

Spare us the hollow 'patriotism' of the federal Liberals

LORRIE GOLDSTEIN
TORONTO SUN

For the Liberals to portray themselves as "Team Canada" in this federal election displays a level of shameless hypocrisy, given how they sneered at Canadians during their decade in power.

Led by a self-righteous and hypocritical Justin Trudeau — who took every opportunity to bash Canada, Canadians, our institutions and history — they are in no position now to don the mantle of ginned up patriots because they have a new leader in Mark Carney and an election ad with Mike Myers touting their mutual love for Canada.

Where were the Liberals when Trudeau, shortly after winning the 2015 election that brought him to power, bizarrely boasted to the New York Times that, "there is no core identity, no mainstream in Canada" making us "the first post-national state?"

If Canada has "no core identity" and "no mainstream," then what are they talking about preserving when they claim they are in the best position to fight a tariff war against U.S. President Donald Trump?

It's certainly not based on their economic record.

As Jake Fuss, director of fiscal studies for the Fraser Institute writing in The Hub last year noted, real GDP per capita in Canada during the Trudeau era — a widely accepted measure of a nation's prosperity — rose by a mere 1.9%, compared to 14.7% in the U.S. during the same period.

The Liberals' decade-long failure to increase productivity and business investment through their anti-business, anti-energy agenda has severely weakened Canada's ability to take on Trump in a tariff war today.

Instead, they obsessed over identity politics.

When critics pointed out that the Liberals' massive increases to Canada's immigration levels would raise the cost of living, reduce housing affordability and put already beleaguered public services such as health care under additional stress — Trudeau and Co. accused them of racism.

This despite the fact the government had been warned by its own public servants this would happen, which it ignored.

Eventually even Trudeau had to admit their policy was a disastrous mistake — after the economic damage it caused had already happened.

"There are many institutions that we have in this country, including that big building right across the street from us, Parliament, that has and is built around a system of colonialism, or discrimination or systemic racism."

This coming from a prime minister who couldn't remember how many times he wore racist blackface prior to entering politics (so committed to it that for Trudeau it was more like blackbody).

When Time magazine uncovered during the 2019 federal election that Trudeau had done so as a teacher at a private school in Vancouver, Trudeau responded that his white privilege prevented him from knowing blackface was racist.

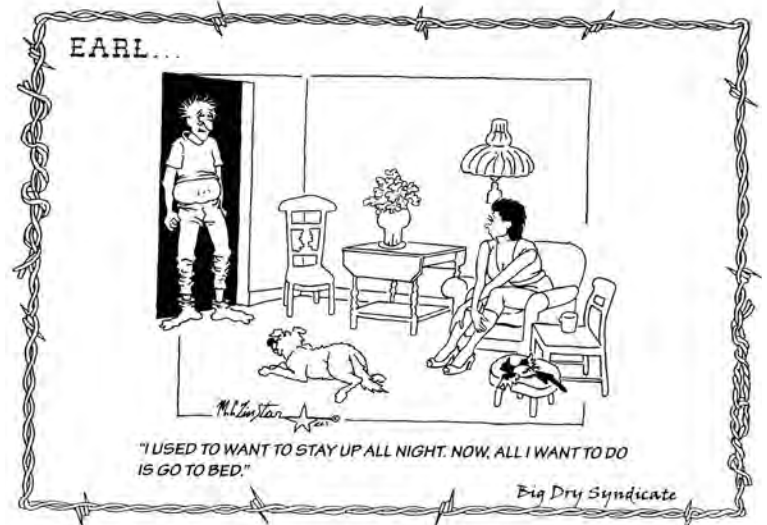
Seriously? At the age of 29, in 2001 — when the incident occurred — Trudeau didn't know blackface was racist? That beggars belief.

Accusing Canadians who disagree with them of racism and other evil intentions is ingrained in the Liberals' DNA going back decades.

In 2001, Liberal MP Hedy Fry, then minister of state for multiculturalism, falsely accused people living in Prince George, B.C. of burning KKK crosses on their lawns.

In 1991, then Liberal MP Sheila Copps compared Preston Manning to former KKK leader David Duke.

Gift the Liberals another majority government in 2025, and it will happen all over again.



TIME CAPSULE

Pheasant Sales gas pumps on main street, March 1966.



Congo: The Tail Still Wags the Dog

COLUMNIST

GWYNNE DYER



"Joseph Kabila boycotted the election and is preparing an insurrection because he is the AFC," said President Félix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo last October, and lo! It is coming to pass just as he predicted. But you can't tell the players without a programme, so a little bit of explanation first.

Well, a lot, really. Please be patient. It's quite a tangled tale

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo or just DRC), so-called to distinguish it from a much smaller country on the other side of the river that also calls itself 'Congo', is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa and the second most populous (115 million people). The eastern part has been at war for the past 30 years, and it's about to get worse.

The fighting has been almost continuous for two reasons. One is that the eastern part of the country is very rich in scarce minerals -- gold, copper, cobalt, tin and above all coltan, which is essential for smartphones and other electronic devices. (DR Congo has 60% of the world's coltan). The government is 1,600 km away, and most of the mineral wealth is stolen.

The other reason is that just across the DRC's eastern border is Rwanda, where the Tutsi minority suffered a genocide in 1994. With the help of neighbouring Uganda, the Tutsis fought back and they now effectively rule Rwanda — but the Rwandan president, Paul Kagame, also

takes a keen interest in the eastern DRC. In fact, he sort of controls it.

There are also Tutsis in the eastern DRC, and Rwanda has created various militias from among them over the past three decades to keep the 'génocidaires' (perpetrators of the genocide who fled to the DRC) at bay. However, the same militias also ensure that the minerals dug out in the eastern DRC by tens of thousands of small-scale miners actually go to Rwanda.

In March 2023, the DRC's finance minister Nicolas Kazadi reported that the country was losing about \$1 billion annually due to minerals reaching the market illegally through Rwanda. That's almost exactly the sum that Rwanda reported earning from mineral exports in 2022, although it has very limited reserves of tin, tungsten, tantalum, gold, coltan and the rest.

It's a highly profitable game, but it can only go on so long as the DRC's government in Kinshasa is weak and the Congolese army is corrupt. That hasn't generally been a problem for Rwanda (or for Uganda, which also takes its share of the loot), but once in a while they need to change the president in Kinshasa.

The first time they did that was in 1997, when they found a washed-up Congolese ex-revolutionary called Laurent-Désiré Kabila running a bar and brothel in exile in Tanzania and made him the president of the DR Congo.

Kabila, then a Communist, had worked with Che Guevara when he showed up in the country in 1965 on a quixotic mission to spread the Cuban revolution in Africa, but he ended up running a secessionist Marxist mini-state in the mountains of South Kivu province. That vanished in

1988, and so did he — until the puppet-masters of Rwanda and Uganda found him.

Rwanda's Kagame and President Yoweri Museveni in Uganda needed a Congolese face for their fake revolution, and Kabila suited their purposes perfectly. After a bloody campaign he was duly installed as the new president in Kinshasa — but he subsequently fell out with Kagame and Museveni, and was assassinated in 2001.

Ten days later his son Joseph Kabila was made president at the age of 29 (by whom it was never clear), but he won elections of a sort in 2006 and 2011. Joseph ran an authoritarian and corrupt regime, but he was certainly more than a puppet. He was finally forced to step down in 2018 — whereupon his links with Kagame and Museveni began to revive.

The militia that is overrunning the mineral-rich parts of eastern DR Congo now, made up mostly of Congolese Tutsis and stiffened as usual with some thousands of Rwandan and Ugandan regular troops, is called M23. It completely controls two provinces and is advancing into a third.

M23 is part of a broader coalition called the Congo River Alliance (AFC) — and they all really work for Rwanda and Uganda, though many of them don't know it. As Joseph Kabila's close ally Ramazani Shadary said last month, "Our objective is to regain power democratically in the DRC." Or undemocratically. Who cares?

A handful of people, some Congolese and some not, have determined the fate of more than a hundred million ordinary citizens of the DRC for thirty years. They could not have done worse if they tried — but it looks like they will go on trying. The tail is still wagging the dog.



BROOKS BULLETIN

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Elsie Nygaard celebrates 100th birthday with friends, family

Friends and family were on hand at Newbrook Lodge Saturday, March 23 to celebrate the 100th birthday of Elsie Nygaard.

"I feel on top of the world," said Elsie, who added she has no secrets to staying young.

She came to Rolling Hills with her mother Anna Skuban and family in 1941 from Arena, Saskatchewan and married Alf Nygaard in the spring of 1948.

They worked for Roland Sugden near Duchess that year and in the fall moved back to Rolling Hills where they bought a house.

In 1950 they bought a farm. She said in the Rolling Hills history book that those first years were hard work for both of them but like all the rest starting on their own they had good times and bad.

They sold the farm to Lee Nygaard in 1990 and moved to Bassano where they lived until Alf's death in May of 2000.

She remained in Bassano until 2004 when she moved into Newbrook Lodge.



With 100 friends and family members in attendance, Elsie Nygaard celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday at Newbrook Lodge. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

The Power of Three Words

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT OF THE WEEK



MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION
PASTOR MAGGIE THEISS, TRINITY LUTHERAN

My girl posted on her stories recently and I responded with tears and then some deep faith ponderings. The story in short was about the youngest child in a family gathering going to the eldest member in the group and in unintelligible language that sounded like, "Ha! Buhbuh ba ha" he drew the grandmother to the garden where they crouched down together as the wee one continued to speak and point while she gave her full attention.

The child was trying to the best of their ability to say three words, 'Come and see'. And the grandmother in their wisdom understood and

went with them. Three words. 'Come and see!' Words that people of all ages have used to draw someone to share in the wonder and awe of what they have found. This story spoke to me on two different levels, first as a Gamma who loves to be taken to see new wonders through the eyes of a child, and second, as a believer in Christ Jesus. How does this story have anything to do with Jesus?

Jesus says these three words when asked where he was staying. His response was a simple, "Come and See"! When Andrew first heard Jesus speak and realized that this was the One, the Messiah, promised by God for centuries, what was the first thing he did? He ran to his brother Simon (Peter), whom he loved, and brought Simon to Jesus, in effect saying, "Come and See." Jesus then calls a man named Philip and says to him, "Follow me". What does Philip do? He finds Nathaniel, who has no

interest in anyone from the hick town of Galilee, and so Philip simply says, "Come and See!". (John 1) A Samaritan woman encounters Jesus at a well and what does she do? Runs in the heat of the day to town to tell everyone to "Come and See."

Jesus spoke three different words from a cross on Calvary over two thousand years ago. Three words that have continued the work of "Come and See". What were those words? "It is finished." (John 19:30) The work of salvation was done. The innocent One died for ALL the guilty. Three simple words that carried all the hope and light and love our world will ever need. Christ FOR us! Other simple three-word phrases follow to hold us in faith each day - "You are forgiven", "You are loved", "You are mine". Three-word phrases that continue to change the world. "Come and See" Jesus!

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Worship Service: 10:30 am

Drugs, traffic and property crime RCMP's '25-'26 mandate

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

The March community consultation has result in the Brooks RCMP continuing to prioritize drug enforcement, reduce property crime and enhance traffic enforcement over the next year.

"Year after year the city says that they want us to focus on drugs and property crime and traffic enforcement and I'm honestly inclined to agree with them," Cpl. Dave Searle told city council last week.

He said many crimes stem from the distribution of drugs and many of the property crimes are related to drugs.

"They go hand in hand and I think it's something that we definitely need

to focus on in all our communities across Alberta," he said.

Searle added that the public needs to report property crimes rather than just posting them on social media to help police.

"Today (March 17) there were some thefts in the community and a couple of them were reported to us but a quick glance on social media would say there's probably a few more thefts that occurred this weekend

that weren't reported to us so, it makes it tough for us to do our jobs," he said.

One of the thefts that was

both posted and reported to police occurred in Tilley. That led to the identification of the suspect who police

are attempting to locate.

"I think the city and the county are bang on with the survey results."

Scandia Sketch

SCANDIA - The Scandia Hall would like to send a huge thank you to everyone for the donations and support at the pie auction and pancake supper! There

was a great turnout and everyone was so eager to support the hall rebuild and see the progress happening.

The Scandia Hall will be having an AGM at the

Scandia Honey Meeting Room March 31 at 7pm.

Join us for a Bridal Shower honoring Laci Quiring, bride elect of Rylee May, at the Scandia Lutheran Church on April 13th @ 2pm. Gentlemen are welcome to attend.

Curling league champs

The Brooks Curling Club's league matches have wrapped up for the season. The winners for the men's, women's and mixed leagues have been announced.

Norma Douglass, Karen Morrison, Heather Wilson and Katie Crump will represent the Brooks Curling Club at the provincials on April 2 in Okotoks.

Join us for Scandia's annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th @ the EID Historical Park @10am. Call or text Echo at 14033629630.

Prairie Rose Hospice Palliative Care Society is hosting a Palliative Care Workshop in Brooks on April 11-12/25, 8:00 - 4:45 p.m. at the Heritage Inn Hotel and Convention Centre. This is a no cost, two day, in-person training that follows the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association Training program which is recognized across Canada. It will give volunteers, caregivers and interested community members the confidence to provide quality support services in any setting, whether that is in hospice, care centres or a private home. You can register at www.eventbrite.ca or call 403 208-4208. if you have any questions regarding this workshop you can contact Audrey at 403 793-7806.

Alcoma School News-the schools casino will be taking place in Lethbridge in June. We are in need of volunteers Tuesday, June 17 from 8pm-4am, if you are able to help out please contact the school. Thanks to everyone who has already signed up.

Alcoma has started a school wide Jump Rope for heart fundraiser. Our Goal is to raise \$1,000 with our jumpathon on March 27th. Our goal is not necessarily monetary, but a sticky goal. For every ten dollars brought to the school or collected online, the students will get 1 foot of tape to tape a teacher to the wall. Students can put their money in the teacher's jar they wish to tape to the wall. Our jumpathon will run as stations with a talent show/skill competition afterward. All parents/siblings/community members are welcome to join on March 27th. This is where we will try to successfully tape the teacher to the wall as well. Check out the Alcoma Facebook page for a link to donate. There will be NO SCHOOL this Friday.

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.



The Brooks Curling Club's men's league champions are Paul Conrad, Chad Falkenberg, Robin Niebergall and Brian Shantz. | SUBMITTED PHOTO



The ladies league champions at the Brooks Curling Club are Laura Marie Elgersma, Heather Harbinson, Kristen Niznik and Crystal Mulvey. | SUBMITTED PHOTO



Team Gerdung is the Brooks Curling Club's mixed league champs. Albert Gerdung, Karen Morrison, Olga Fyfe and Corrine Burton. | SUBMITTED PHOTO



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FARM and RANCH

Carney Ag Policy a mystery ... expect no real changes



Ag Writer

WILL VERBOVEN

Federal Liberals elected a new leader they believe will save them from political obliteration in the next election. According to recent polling trends, they may survive with fickle NDP voters' support. It won't be with much support from ag industry and rural voters who traditionally favour Conservative parties. That reality has seen decades of neglect of agriculture by successive Liberal governments, except for their zealous fanatical support of supply management (SM). The past Trudeau government worsened that neglect by turning Ag Canada into a tool to promote climate change ideology - well away from its original mandate of research and

industry development. The list of mindless climate change-related grants, contests, and other schemes wasted millions of dollars that could have been used to promote actual ag research. It reached heights of absurdity when grant applications had to have a 30% climate change component, along with connections to DEI goals. Add into that bilingualism requirements and regional political parity, and it's no wonder that consulting companies grew rich creating intensely politically correct applications for federal grants. But I digress. There was probably no expectation that agriculture issues were going to be mentioned in a Liberal Party leadership campaign. Although one of the candidates made a dutiful appearance in front of some Quebec dairy cows declaring unwavering support for SM. It does cause

one to wonder if the word "agriculture" ever passed the lips of Mark Carney. Would he know the difference between a doorknob and a Hereford. I jest, but I expect I am painfully close to the truth. To be fair, he is probably unaware of many issues facing other sectors of the economy, but ignorance of agriculture is usually much more prevalent among federal Liberal government politicians. The fear is that if Mr. Carney wins the next election, the regressive climate change policy that so permeates Agriculture Canada will just continue as senior department bureaucrats who guided that devious ideological policy will feel reassured and emboldened. Prime Minister Carney has reduced but not eliminated the hated carbon tax to 0% because it became such a politically charged issue. Carbon taxes have received Mr Carney's unequivocal support

for many years in his global environmentalist efforts to save the planet. One suspects that it's difficult to teach an old dog new tricks. Reducing the tax from being in the face of the voter is probably as far as climate change warrior Carney is willing to go. You can expect a newly elected, emboldened and politically duplicitous federal Liberal government will try to find every possible way to install a hidden shadow carbon tax. Expect new and increased taxes on energy companies' emissions, refiners, pipelines, etc. New taxes on nitrogen fertilizer are a sure bet. Methane taxes on cattle will be unleashed (supply-managed dairy cows will be exempted). Loathsome Liberal Minister Guilbeault will continue his evil crusade against Alberta no matter what portfolio he is in. Folks who produce SM commodities will probably feel a sigh of

relief if a Prime Minister Carney government is elected in the upcoming election. Unflinching loyal devotion to SM is the one ag policy that is central to Liberal ideology. Few would know that federal Liberal governments created national SM in the '60s and '70s. To be fair, every major federal and provincial political party and every provincial government supports SM. The degree of support goes from the zealous for Liberals and NDP to passive for conservative-leaning parties and governments. The killer hornet annoying the supply management honey pot is President Trump, who, in his mercurial way, is making Canadian dairy tariffs a major trade target. I have little sympathy for the dairy lobby in this situation; in many ways, they created the present dairy trade dispute with their incessant opposition to genuine reform of dairy supply management

policy over the past 50 years. You reap what you sow is so true in this situation. It's an old saw horse of mine, but wilfully restricting least cost, large-scale milk production in Alberta through national quotas to preserve 8,000 small-time Quebec producers has made Canadian milk production uncompetitive against American imports. Ironically, it may be President Trump who may finally break the nefarious control of the Canadian dairy industry by the Quebec-controlled dairy lobby. I suspect a Carney government will dutifully try to die on the dairy supply management hill - but will, in the end, surrender to Trump triumphalism. The demise of SM will be good for Alberta.

Will Verboven is an ag opinion writer and policy advisor.

Cassils Clarion & Antelope Creek

JODI NIZNIK



CASSILS/ANTELOPE CREEK - Thank you to all those who were able to come out Sunday night for the Cassils Hall AGM. There were several in attendance as we worked through the past year and planned for the one before us. Up and coming first is the spring clean up. This is an evening we can use all available hands to help get the hall spruced up and ready for the the busy rental season. May 5th at 4pm or as soon as you can be there! Lots to do inside and out. Rainy day backup is Wednesday May 7th. Hope to see you there!

Hayden Mulvey was in Saint Paul this weekend riding in a Bull Riders Canada Rodeo. He finished 2nd in long go but bucked off in short go.

The Eyremore Grazing Association AGM will be held at Cassils Hall on Monday April 7th at 7pm. Questions or more information contact Curtis Harbinson at 403-363-4777 or Bruce Niznik at 403-363-7330.

The Celebration Choir has 46 members from all over the County of Newell

and has been singing together for several years. Every other year they put on a series of concerts and this year it is just before Easter. They have managed to make some significant donations to World Food Bank, we helped a local family buy a handicap van and many other causes have benefited. The Celebration Choir is performing at 3 concerts, April 11 at Bassano Knox Presbyterian Church, April 13 at Trinity Lutheran Church and April 14 at Rosemary Mennonite Church. All concerts start at 7 pm. It is a concert of Lenten and Easter selections and admission is free will offering. This year the recipients of our donation are St. Vincent de Paul, Cantera House and Maggie Kosterawa (a local family with medical needs). Everyone welcome!!

Prairie Rose Hospice Palliative Care Society is hosting a Palliative Care Workshop in Brooks on April 11-12/25, 8:00 - 4:45 p.m. at the Heritage Inn Hotel and Convention Centre. This is a no cost, two day, in-

person training that follows the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association Training program which is recognized across Canada. It will give volunteers, caregivers and interested community members the confidence to provide quality support services in any setting, whether that is in hospice, care centres or a private home. You can register at www.eventbrite.ca or call 403 208-4208. if you have any questions regarding this work-shop you can contact Audrey at 403 793-7806.

There will be a bridal shower for Kylee Herman bride elect of Brody Thurmeier on May 3rd Cassils hall @ 2pm. Any one with news or information to share please contact Jodi at 403-501-1583. For hall rentals and inquiries please contact Heather at 403-793-3890.

"Your cell phone has already replaced your watch, camera, calendar, and alarm clock. Don't let it replace your family!"

Special Areas selects new board chair

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

Jordan Christianson. He added that Kovitch has a genuine interest in connecting with people. "I am very excited for the opportunity to lead this organization and continue the tradition of exceptional service to our ratepayers and region. "I want to thank Jordan for his leadership over the last 10 years," said Kovitch. Christianson will remain in an advisory role until

Special Areas chair



SHAUNE KOVITCH

Annual collection of irrigation taxes approved

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

The annual irrigation special taxes were approved by county council last week. The EID invoices the county for the total rate

and the county collects the same rate from the property owners, a practice that has been going on since 2008. This year the county will collect \$16,060 or \$110 from each hamlet property using the Rolling

Hills communal raw water system and \$5,580 or \$60 from each Scandia property based on the estimated costs incurred to operate and maintain the hamlets' systems.

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4-H and Rodeo Queen leader receives Women in Ag Award

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

Nikki Peltzer of Rosemary has been awarded a Community Builder Award by the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation's (AFSC) Women in Ag. During The Notables reception in Calgary on March 16, Peltzer and seven other women an AFSC's Women in Ag award which celebrates women who are helping to shape the future of agriculture in Alberta.

"This year's Women in Ag Award recipients are breaking down barriers, setting new expectations and bringing fresh ideas and practices to the agriculture industry," states the AFSC.

Peltzer said she was quite surprised by the award that recognized her for her volunteer contributions to 4-H and the Rodeo Queen

program in Strathmore. "I have a strong belief that the Rodeo Queen program is a great mentorship for young women and supports rodeo and agriculture in general. They go hand in hand," Peltzer said.

She said through the program girls are judged and critiqued on everything from how they wear their hair to how they talk.

"For young girls to do that in a society of peer pressure and body image is huge. I think it's great that these young girls put themselves out there and believe in the agriculture program and rodeo enough to go out and become an ambassador."

Peltzer has been a volunteer with 4-H for more than 25 years.

While some volunteer organizations are folding, Peltzer sees a future in the 100-year-old-plus program.

Women in Ag award



NIKKI PELTZER

The club wants to get projects into schools that can be done for credit.

"To actually get 4-H credits for doing their projects would be great," she said.

The awards were presented during an event that was held in conjunction with the Advance Women in Agriculture West Conference.

Duchess Dispatch

LINDA MOREY



DUCHESS - Happy Spring! The sun feels pretty warm already and between the sun and the wind, we have hardly any snow left at all. Except my front yard. I believe it's the last yard with snow in our whole neighbourhood.

The 50+ Club will be having our luncheon on April 3rd, 2025 at 12:00 pm in the Duchess Curling Rink Lounge. The lunch will consist of Lasagna, coleslaw and Date squares. To be a member the cost is \$30.00, The cost for the meal is \$7.00 for members and \$10.00 for non members. The club has people residing in Duchess,

Patricia, Rosemary and Brooks. If you have any questions please call Daryl at 1-403-501-4107.

The Celebration Choir is made up of 46 people from the County of Newell who have been singing together for several years. Celebration Choir is performing at 3 concerts, April 11 at Bassano Knox Presbyterian Church, April 13 at Trinity Lutheran Church and April 14 at Rosemary Mennonite Church. All concerts start at 7 pm. It is a concert of Lenten and Easter selections. Admission is free will offering. This year the recipients of our

donation are St. Vincent de Paul, Cantera House and Maggie Kosterawa (a local family with medical needs).

Duchess School has Jersey Day on Thursday, March 27 as well as an elementary dance after school. The students are then off on Friday, March 28, and Monday, March 31. Teachers are off Friday but working on Monday.

Please call or text me at 403 793- 1630 with any news items.

Quote" Spring is far more than just a changing of spirits; it's a rebirth of the spirit!"

Bow City Signal

WANDA SMITH



BOW CITY - Big birthday coming up for Sylver Voutier the Blg 16. And Kevin on same day, but Kevin is a little older. April birthdays are Fay Calvert and Cindy Voutier on April 2, Robin Peterson, seventh of April, John Ketchmark on April 10, Brody Ketchmark On April 16, Vicki Calvert on 23 April and Nixon Voutier On 27 April.

Happy anniversary to Brad and Carrie Palko on 27 April.

What a great turnout we had for the Bow City Community meeting. Thank you all for attending, our new vice president is Logan Andrews.

We had the pleasure of having Greg and Blair Cyr come on Sunday for some great crib teas and don't wanna tell you who the winners were but thanks Greg and Dan.

Carrie and I travelled to Medicine Hat for my visit with the surgeon. Things are coming along. Great I

should be able to drive in two weeks. Can't wait. Look out everybody. We also did a little shopping. Had Chinese food that night with mom and dad and was a great day.

Don Gallagher was here to visit with Brad and Carrie Palko on Tuesday spent the night and him and Brad Palko took a trip to Medicine Hat on Wednesday. It's always great to have a visit with him. Thank you for inviting us to say hi.

My dad and Brad Palko went to Longview to get a load of wood on Friday. Was nice enough when they got home. They started splitting some. They had a great visit with Don.

There will be a shower at the Scandia church for Laci Quirring bride elect to Rylee May, April 13 at 2:00. Gentlemen welcome.

The little Calverts rode in the family fun buckle fun at the Silver Sage today. Everyone is so supportive and friendly to each other. What a wonderful

atmosphere. And what a great time we had with the grandkids.

I went to the butchers the other day and I bet him 50 bucks that he couldn't reach the meat on the top shelf. He said, no steaks are too high. Ha ha, with the price of beef any-more

Please get a hold of me with any news that you would like to share with an our community at 403-363-7496.

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MARCH

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26 Count Ridge Bull Sale 1:00 pm	27	28 Regular Sale 9:00 am	29

APRIL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3 Acadia Ranching - 2 Yr. Black & Charolais Bull Sale 2:00 pm	4 Regular Sale 9:00 am	5
7 Pre-book Yearling Sale 9:00 am	8 11th Annual Rebel Creek Red Angus Bull & Heifer Sale 2:00 pm	9 Pre-book Yearling & Replacement Heifer Sale 9:00 am	10	11 Regular Sale 9:00 am	12
14	15	16 66 Ranch 2 Yr. & Yearling Black Angus Bull Sale 1:30 pm	17 Regular Sale 9:00 am	18 EASTER CLOSED	19
21 EASTER CLOSED	22	23	24	25 Regular Sale 9:00 am	26
28	29	30			

For a list of all upcoming sales & pictures visit our website www.bowslope.com

General Manager: Diane Van Essen 403-915-7156
Assistant Manager: Sam McKinnon 403-793-1731
Auctioneer: Art Paetkau 403-793-4716
Auctioneer: Logan Hopp..... 403-501-9778
Field Rep: Lachie McKinnon 403-362-1825



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YOUR LOCAL AGENT FOR

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403-362-5571

NOTE: If you are expecting a Fedex Package and have not received please check here.
FEDEX only leaves here 5 DAYS!

King Charles III Coronation Medal



Jamie Nesbitt, left, Brooks Bulletin owner receives a King Charles III Coronation Medal from Bow River MP Martin Shields. Nesbitt was recognized for his many years with the paper as well as the multiple years as a volunteer. Below, Shields also presented Florence Juska a Coronation Medal, "For a lifetime of volunteering." | SANDRA M STANWAY/SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Evergreen Activities Centre

PRAIRIE PIONEERS - Prairie Pioneers Club will be having their last Pie Day March 27th. 1:30 to 3 PM. You don't want to miss it, last one till fall.



We do **COLOR** PHOTOCOPYING



BROOKS BULLETIN

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Rainier Record

COLLEEN VAN DEN HOEK



RAINIER - Happy Birthday wishes to Barry Kuefler & Brielle Christensen on March 27, Dylan Sandau on March 29, Alyssa Slenders & Lisa Jennings on April 1.

Alcoma School News- There will be a mini basketball tournament at Alcoma, March 26th at 4pm. Along with a cash concession. Friendly Reminder, No school March 28th & 31st. May 2nd please join Alcoma School for their Spring tea & open house, and Kindergarten open house. They will be opening the 2000 time capsule. Further time details to come.

Alcoma has started a school wide Jump Rope for heart fundraiser. Goal is \$1,000. Our kick-off assembly starts on Friday, Feb. 28th with our jumpathon on March 27th. That gives us 30 days to fundraise. Our goal is not necessarily monetary, but a sticky goal. For every ten dollars brought to the school or collected online, the students will get 1 foot of tape to tape a teacher to the wall. Students can put their money in the teacher's jar they wish to tape to the wall.

Our jumpathon will run as stations with a talent show/skill competition afterward. All parents/siblings/community members are welcome to join on March 27th. This is where we will try to successfully tape the teacher to the wall as well.

Here is a link to donate: <https://jumpropeforheart.crowdfunder.ca/80376>

Alcoma Home and School Association will be doing the casino fundraiser at the Lethbridge Casino June 16 and 17 2025. Still looking to fill June 17th 8pm - 4am shift. People can contact the school to sign up 403-362-3741 or text Danielle 403-363-9938.

Alcoma Community

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

Please join to celebrate Laci Quiring & Rylee May for a Bridal Shower, April 13th @ 2pm at the Scandia Lutheran Church. (Gentlemen are welcome)

Celebration Choir is performing 3 concerts, starting April 11 at Bassano Knox Presbyterian Church, April 13 at Trinity Lutheran Church and April 14 at Rosemary Mennonite Church. All concerts start at 7 pm. It is a concert of Lenten and Easter selections. Admission is free will offering, This year the recipients of our donation are St. Vincent de Paul, Cantera House and Maggie Kosterawa (a local family with medical needs)

Prairie Rose Hospice Palliative Care Society is hosting a Palliative Care Workshop in Brooks on April 11-12, 8:00am to 4:45 p.m at the Heritage Inn Hotel and Convention Centre. This is a no cost, two day, in-person training that follows the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association Training program which is recognized across Canada. It will give volunteers, caregivers and interested community members the confidence to provide quality support services in any setting, whether that is in hospice, care centres or a private home. You can register at www.eventbrite.ca or call 403 208-4208.

If you have any questions regarding this workshop you can also contact Audrey at 403 793-7806.

Scandia board would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone for their support at the pancake breakfast & pie auction. Tons of support with efforts to the rebuild of the hall.

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



The Brooks Communities in Bloom wind structure near Duke of Sutherland Park was vandalized. The only piece that remains is the pole. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

MUSIC FEVER!

All Over Town!

BROOKS MUSIC FESTIVAL

March 31st - April 4th

FINAL CONCERT

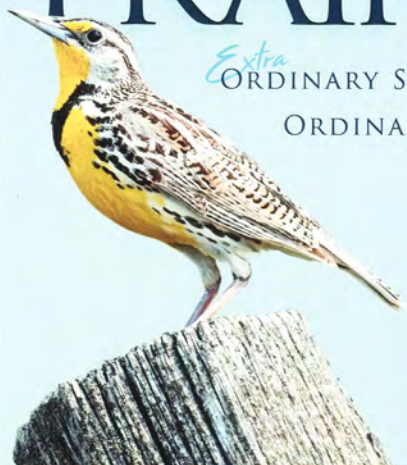
April 9 | Griffin Park | 7 pm

Check our brooksmusicfestival.ca for schedule & locations.

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WOMEN



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March Madness MEMBERSHIPS

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GST.



Classifieds

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

obituaries



BUNN - Vera May Bunn of Brooks, loving wife of the late George Bunn, passed away in Brooks on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025 at the age of 86 years. Vera was born on March 10th, 1938 in Regina, Saskatchewan and resided in Brooks. Vera and family lived in the Vulcan area and received her first few years of schooling. She moved to the One Tree area and lived with her sister Lois and brother-in-law Wendell for the remaining four years of her education. She worked as a telephone operator in Bassano, Brooks and Calgary. While living in the One Tree area, Vera met George Bunn at the community dances. Vera said that her and George were "just friends", however that relationship

grew, and they were married in Calgary on December 18, 1958. They resided in the One Tree area for several years and then moved to Brooks, in approximately 1969. Vera Bunn pursued many careers during her lifetime, working for Newell Veterinary Clinic, Anderberg's Sport Store, and Shamrock Gift Store. Later, Vera and her sister Lois owned Shamrock Gift Store. Vera also managed Cassils Center Mall for several years. Vera also worked for Brooks Industrial Metals, Kay, Kay and Riggins, as well as selling Copper Kraft in Home Parties. Vera special interests was her love to sing and dance, play cards, and be part of her children's, grandchildren's and great grandchildren's activities. She was a devout member of the Sprit of Grace and an actively involved in the social aspects of the church. Vera belonged to the Brooks Figure Skating Club, Brooks Minor Hockey, was a commissioner of the Girl Guides and Brownies for many years and was a member of Beta Sigma Phi for over 50 years. She was also President of the Brooks Chamber of Commerce and served as Vice President of the Alberta Chamber of Commerce. Vera and family were also active members and volunteers with Ducks Unlimited. Vera was an active member of the Brooks Fire Department and participated as a fire wife in fund raising and other activities. Vera was known for her smile, laughter and always volunteering or fundraising for the community of Brooks. She loved to socialize and play cards. In her early years, she was known for starting very large water fights. Vera was predeceased by her husband George Bunn, her parents, Mary Olsen and Thomas Clarke, and sister Lois (Wendell) Bunney and brothers, Bob Clarke and Glenn Clarke. Vera is survived by daughter Laurel (Greg) McCartney, son Greg (Jennifer) Bunn, and daughter Carol (Pat) Gummesson. Six grandchildren, Jessica (Jeff), Britteny (Mike), Sydney (Kyle), Natasha (Matt) Chloe, and Elisha. Four great grand children, Maria, Rhett, Roran, and Reese as well as extended family Lee (Carly) Gummesson, Emily and Nate. Vera is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held on Friday, March 28th, 2025 at 2:00 PM from the Brooks United Church/Spirit of Grace. A Private interment will take place prior to the services. Rev. Janice Whitelock officiating. A reception will follow services at the United Church/ Spirit of Grace.

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

Funeral arrangements entrusted to:
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BROOKS, ALBERTA
 Condolences may be forwarded through www.sfh.ca
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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

obituaries



HILDENBRAND - Virginia Hildenbrand April 5, 1926 ~ March 12, 2025 Virginia Lorraine Hildenbrand (nee Anderson), a caring mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, passed away peacefully at AgeCare Sunrise Gardens in Brooks, Alberta, on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at the age of 98 years. Virginia was born in Brooks on April 5, 1926, the first of five children to Fred and Olivia Anderson. She spent most of her

early life on the farm in Scandia, helping with her four younger siblings as well as the home and farm chores while attending Jenny Lind School. Virginia was also an accomplished pianist and vocalist, singing in numerous choirs over the years. She enjoyed singing in church choirs, especially the opportunity to sing with her Anderson family at Salem Lutheran Church in Scandia.

Jim and Virginia were married in 1948, moving to Taber shortly thereafter. This is where they spent the majority of their married life, raising their family while contributing to the social and economic life in Taber. While in Taber, they spent a number of their retirement winters in Yuma, Arizona.

In their later years, Jim and Virginia moved to Medicine Hat where she continued to enjoy canning and baking, journaling, quilting and especially sharing her highly popular cinnamon rolls and ginger snaps, the recipes for which have been passed down.

Jim passed in 2008, while they were living in Medicine Hat. Thereafter, Virginia found companionship with Edwin Deering, and they spent a number of years together until her health necessitated another move. This time, she moved back to her old stomping grounds in Brooks to AgeCare Sunrise Gardens where she spent her last years respectfully and warmly cared for by a wonderful staff as well as her loving nieces, nephews and extended family. Family wish to thank everyone for the care, love and understanding Virginia received over her many years, some of which were not easy.

Virginia was predeceased by her parents; three brothers, Kermith, Ron and Doug; son, Robert and husband, James. She is survived by her sister, Elaine; sister-in-law, Carol; son, Don (Henny) and daughter, Deb (Bryan). She is also survived by grandchildren, Scott (Krista); Erik (Victoria); Corina (Trevor) and Taylor (Hannah); great-grandchildren, Olivia, Naomi and Eve Gelmon and their father Michael; Izayah Tomczyk, Nathaniel, Eliza and Madeline Hildebrand.

Heaven has received another deserving member of the team of walking and whistling angels. Virginia's celebration of life will be held at a later date. (Condolences may be expressed by visiting our website at www.cooksouthland.com) Honoured to serve the family is Cook Southland Funeral Chapel, Crematorium & Reflections Reception Facility, 901 - 13 Street S.W., Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 4V4. Telephone toll free: 1-877-528-6455. 13p

business announcements

LONGHORN TANNING



JACOB REIMER 403-957-1231

TANNING ROOFS ★ SIDING BUILDING CUSTOM SHEDS

23-35p

feed & seed

HAY FOR SALE - Round Bales mesh wrap - 1st cut Grass, 1st cut Alfalfa, or 2nd cut Alfalfa. No Rain, Semi-loads, loading available. Tom Adams 403-633-0445, Duchess, Alberta. 03-18p

livestock

WANTED: FARM LAND TO RENT.

Contact Gerwin 403-654-8140

lost & found

FOUND - Pair of sunglasses found by Catholic School. Can claim at Brooks Bulletin. Must identify. 12-13p

obituaries



MCLAREN-CATTERSON, Janice Marie McLaren Catterson, loving wife of Albert Catterson, passed away on March 6, 2025 in Medicine Hat Hospital. With heavy hearts, and until we meet again, we love, miss you, and honor you, Jan. Jan was the fifth and youngest child born to parents Cliff(Mac) and Freida McLaren Sept 21, 1961 in Brooks, AB. Jan is lovingly remembered by her husband, Albert, her children; Camille (Ben), Jamie (Hannah), Randy (Yvette), grandchildren; Zach,

Sierra, Sienna, Riyah, Randy Jr., Phoenix and Quinn. Siblings; Sharon, Deb, Glenn and their families. Jan was predeceased by her parents, brother Randy, nephew Shane McLaren and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Jan's schooling began in Rolling Hills, AB then Brooks, AB High School, graduating in Calgary, AB. Being raised on the farm in South Bantry, AB, Jan had a love for animals, especially kittens. She was just like a Mother Hen and would gather up the kittens and her dolls and care for and play with them. All throughout life she was always caring for others, helping when she could with family and friends alike. As a result she made lasting friendships throughout her school years, work life, wherever she went, including another province where Jan and her first husband, the late Terry Klus, moved to Sask where Camille was born, then they moved back to Brooks, where Jamie was born. Albert and Jan were married in Brooks in 1995. Jan previously worked in a daycare in Brooks, and the service industry until some health issues prevented further employment. Albert was there to care for Jan as she was now the one to be on the receiving end of caregiving her latest years, and how grateful she was to her husband for being there for her, "he is my rock" she would say. Her greatest joy was being with her family and especially the grandchildren. She was proud of her daughter and sons, grandchildren, and was a heartfelt supporter to them and their families. Get-togethers for holidays, celebrations, BBQ's were the home-life Jan always wanted. Albert and Jan were avid fans of the Brooks Bandits and enjoyed watching and supporting the team along with all their fans. As Jan's faith became stronger, as we prayed for complete healing, there were some miracles along the way. Sometimes though, that complete healing is in the form of a new Heavenly body now free from pain, and that's what we can rejoice in, a soul set free. The essence of Jan, her loving, giving, generous, fun loving heart is what we will remember our precious loved one for...til we meet again, love and hugs! A celebration of Jan's life will be held at Thom's Funeral Home and Reception Centre, 477 Margaret Avenue East, Duchess, AB T0J 0Z0 to be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the charity of your choice in honour of Jan.



FUNERAL HOME AND RECEPTION CENTRE

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

coming events

DIVISION THREE REC BOARD FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Available and due until April 1, 2025

Email: patriciaagsociety@gmail.com

12-13p

PATRICIA GRAZING ASSOCIATION AGM

Thurs., April 3
 7 pm
 at Patricia Hall

13-14C

Eyremore Grazing Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mon., April 7, 2025
 Cassils Hall - 7:30pm

Contact Bruce Niznik 403-363-7330 or Curtis Harbinson 403-363-4777 for further details.

13-14C

see us online at www.brooksbulletin.com

Classifieds

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

obituaries



PHELPS - March 28, 1968 – March 18, 2025
Dr. Ian James Phelps passed away peacefully at Brooks Health Centre on March 18, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his devoted wife, Krista Phelps; his children Megan Marguerite Jesse (Dalton) of Medicine Hat, Robyn Nicole Phelps of Medicine Hat, and James Roy Celso Phelps; and his cherished grandchildren, Amelia and Blake. Ian is also survived by his mother, Jean Mary Phelps; his brother, Roy Phelps (Coral) of Kelowna, BC; and his nieces and nephews, Cody Brian Freele, Nicholette Adrienne Freele, and Tyler James Freele. He was predeceased by his father, James Stanley Phelps, in 1992. Born and raised in Southern Alberta, Ian excelled in academics and had a deep passion for music. He earned his Bachelor of

Science from the University of Saskatchewan before embarking on a career as an EMT and later a Paramedic. His dedication to emergency medicine led him to earn a Master's Degree from Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, before returning to school at the University of Calgary, as a mature student, to attain his Doctor of Medicine (MD), specializing in Family Medicine. This contributed to career progressions that culminated in Ian serving as EMS Medical Director South & North Zones. Ian found his calling as an ER physician, particularly cherishing his time in Fort McMurray and Brooks, where he formed lifelong friendships and had many unforgettable experiences. His career accomplishments went beyond the clinic and ER department as he also excelled as an organizational leader serving as the Senior Medical Director of Emergency Medical Services for Alberta Health Services from 2011 to 2018. Outside of his career, Ian loved traveling the world with Krista, visiting five of his goal of eight continents. He also had a passion for adventure, especially on his Harley Davidson, with his 2019 trip to Sturgis, South Dakota being a highlight. However, his happiest memories were made at Lake Newell, his lifelong place of comfort, fun, and family. Whether boating on the water or simply enjoying the outdoors, Ian found his greatest joy in the company of those he loved. Ian's adventurous spirit, kindness, and dedication to both his family and his career will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A celebration of Ian's life will be held at 2:00 pm on Friday, March 28th at the Heritage Inn in Brooks, Alberta. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to either the Brooks Health Foundation or the Northern Lights Health Foundation. For further information or to leave a message of sympathy, please visit www.thomsonfuneralhome.com or call (403) 501-1010.

Thom's
FUNERAL HOME AND RECEPTION CENTRE

obituaries



MAGUIRE - Marlene Maguire, September 26, 1951- February 6, 2025

Marlene died peacefully February 6th with her children beside her at her home. Born in Victoria to Chuck and Frieda Syrett, her and her older sister Lorna were raised there and in Burnaby. She made her way to Alberta in 1974 whereupon she would meet Brian Maguire, marry (1975) and have both Kelly (1976) and Michael (1981), residing in Bassano for most of her life. Unofficially the boss of the RCMP detachment, she kept things in order and the Mounties in line until retirement in 2011.

Involvement in numerous community organizations, volunteer and school events, she gained friends everywhere she went with her positive attitude, her wicked sense of humour and zest for life. She was hardworking, fiercely independent and loved her children with every ounce of her being. She had many artistic talents, from decorating her home to putting together the best outfit from Value Village. Her expertise with gold spray paint remains unparalleled!

In 2021 a move to Strathmore added to her coteries of friends and where she resided until her passing.

Wine, golf, travelling (especially in her well appointed holiday trailer in Yuma, AZ) and entertaining, provided countless memories for her and her friends, which surely will be recounted at a celebration of her life, occurring at Bassano Community Hall on Sat., April 5th. Doors open at 2 pm with a small program beginning at 3 pm.

Donations in her memory can be sent in support of the Bassano & District Health Foundation (and choosing Long Term Care, Palliative Care or Greatest Needs) where our grandpa, Boppee, received such great care. Mom also suggested the Salvation Army.

A sensibly priced glass of wine can be raised in her honour, at anytime.

You'll be missed Mumsy.

13p

in memory

JOHN KOCH
August 28, 1915 -
March 29, 1974

**ESTHER KOCH-
WITTIG**
November 16, 1917 -
March 27, 1995

Time slips by and life goes on
But from our hearts you're never gone.
We think about you always,
We talk about you too.
We have so many memories
But we wish we still had you.

There will always be a heartache
And often a silent tear.
There will always be precious memories
Of days when you were here.
We hold you close within our hearts
And there you will remain
To walk with us throughout our lives
Until we meet again.

Always loved and remembered,
Reg, Ken, Carol, Merle
Ann and Families

13p

garage sales

**48 PRAIRIE
MEADOWS ROAD W.
GARAGE
SALE**

Moving & Downsizing

Furniture and household items in excellent condition.

**Sat., April 5th
9 am to 3 pm**

13-14p

coming events

**ROLLING
HILLS GOLF &
COUNTRY CLUB**

AGM
Wednesday,
April 9


at 7:00 pm

at the Clubhouse.

EVERYONE
WELCOME!

13-14C

in memory



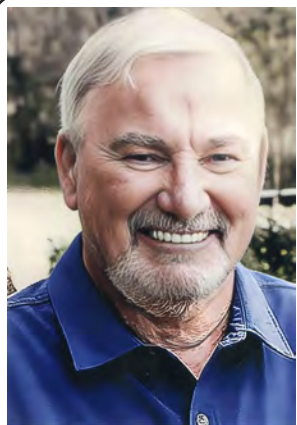
Steve Beblow
March 20, 2011

BB

It is so hard to believe
You are no longer here,
We think of you,
You feel so near,
In some small way, every single day,
Memories of you come our way.

Dearly missed...
By Your Family

in memory



*On the "5th"
Anniversary since you
went away,
we miss you so!*

IN LOVING
MEMORY OF

**JIM
MEADOR**

Sept. 21, 1950 -
March 21, 2020

Those special memories of you will always bring a smile
If only we could have you back for just a little while.
Then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do
You always meant so very much and always will too.
The fact that you're no longer here will always cause us pain
But you are forever in our hearts until we meet again.

Always loved, greatly missed, with love...

Sandy, Tammy, Chris & Family
Daryl, Jackie & Family

Your grandkids were your pride & joy, now having great-grandkids, you would have been over the moon!

Kristen, Brandon & baby Drew
Josh, Haley & baby Charlie
Taylor, Kallen, Carter

Mae Cage

March 19, 2010

In loving memory of our
Mom, Grandma,
Great-Grandma &
Best Friend

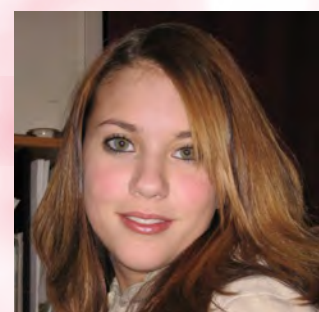
MOM

Gone are the days,
we used to share but in my heart you are always there, our memories of you will never close.

I miss you more than anyone knows,
now & forever...
Until we meet again.
I Love You Mom!

Lovingly remembered & always in our hearts... Diane, Dana, James, Austin & Slade, Shawna, Arland, Harper, Nash & Kenzie

in memory



**Jennifer
EVANS**
1990 to 2010

We said goodbye 15 years ago,
but in our hearts, you never left

Love, your friends and family

business announcements



METAL ROOFING

Exterior Renovations • Siding/Facia/Soffit
ALEX SCHMITT 403-363-8631

11p

Classifieds

Deadline for Classifieds word ads is Monday - 3 PM
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