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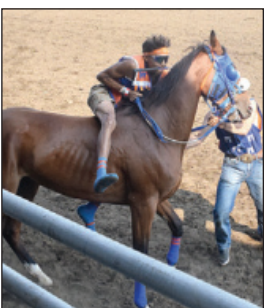
NEWS



A local musician's journey to a new album.

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SPORTS



Indian Relay Races ready to roll in High Prairie.

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Peace River appoints new CAO

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(Peace River) - Town of Peace River announced its newly appointed Chief Administrative Officer at a special meeting on Aug. 31.

Council officially hired Kayla Parsons as its newest CAO. Mayor Shelly Shannon says the team is happy to move Parsons into this role, noting that she has been a strong member of the administrative team for a number of years.

"Ms. Parsons has been a valued member of our organization for the past four years, bringing with her a strong understanding of both our municipality and the region," says Mayor Shannon. "During that time, she has continued to grow professionally, earning her CLGM (certified local government manager) designation while serving in Legislative Services.

Parsons was born and raised in Grimshaw, Mayor Shannon says



Kayla Parsons

this helps her bring the added advantage being truly rooted in the Peace Region.

"We are very fortunate to have exceptional local talent with the skills, education and regional knowledge needed to help lead our

organization forward," says Shannon. "Her appointment is also a great example of what can happen when we recognize and develop talented people from within our own organization and our own region."

Parsons says she is excited to take on the new role and is eager to help council forge the path they've set.

"Being entrusted with the role of CAO is both an honour and a responsibility that I do not take lightly," says Parsons. "This position gives me the opportunity to work alongside council and lead our talented staff team as they continue to make a meaningful difference in our community."

Parsons says she is excited to help keep up the momentum that the Peace River team has built.

"In the last few months, we've seen key infrastructure projects completed to improve day-to-day life for residents, like new sidewalks and refreshed paving," Parsons says. "We've also been making improvements behind the scenes to our internal processes to enhance service delivery for residents, and we are proactively planning for 2027 and beyond. My focus will be on continuing

that work, supporting council's priorities, and ensuring the town is well-positioned to capitalize on future economic development opportunities."

Mayor Shannon says that Parsons has excelled in her role in Legislative Services, giving council extreme confidence in her ability to navigate the Peace River organization and that Parsons demonstrated changes they were seeking.

"Kayla is not afraid to think outside the box," says Shannon. "She brings a creative, solutions-focused mindset and, rather than accepting no as the immediate answer, she looks for another way forward. Having grown up in this region, she has real skin in the game. This is her community too, and that connection is reflected in the strong sense of accountability and responsibility she brings to her work."

Parsons officially started her tenure as Chief Administrative Officer on Sept. 1.

Wood donated to High Prairie fire department stolen

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) - High Prairie Fire Department has lost a valuable donation to a theft in the last week of August, although it does not involve emergency equipment.

Wood products, including oriented strand board (OSB), donated for the fire department's training facility by the High Prairie Airport, were stolen sometime on Aug. 27 or early Aug. 28, fire chief David Martinson says.

"We noticed it Friday morning," Martinson says.

"There were fresh wet tire tracks.

"The locks were cut, they backed up and took

the whole lift of OSB and the lumber."

He says the theft is a concern.

"It's sad," Martinson says.

"Theft is a growing problem in the area."

The OSB that was taken was rejected material and does not meet the required standards for structural or building purposes, says a fire department news release.

It was donated specifically for use at the training facility, where it can be used for safety and training props and exercises.

Materials should not be used for construction, structural applications or building purposes.

"The materials were

generously donated by local businesses to help us improve our training facility and provide better training to our firefighters," the release states.

"The locks were cut, they backed up and took the whole lift of OSB and the lumber."

"It is extremely disappointing to see donations intended to benefit our fire department and our community taken in this way."

The theft was reported Aug. 28 to the High Prairie RCMP, S/Sgt. Jason Barber says.

"This a big impact to

the fire department as it impacts their ability to keep their skills updated for any emergency situation in the community," Barber says.

Closed-circuit television surveillance video did not show who the suspects were, he notes.

The fire department values various donations from the community.

"Thank you to the businesses and community members who continue to support the High Prairie Fire Department," the release says.

The fire department also welcomes any tips about the incident.

"If anyone has any information regarding this theft, saw anything suspicious around the

training facility or knows where these materials may have gone to, we would greatly appreciate you reaching out," the release states.

"Any information, no matter how small, could help."

Contact the fire department by phone at (780) 523-3525 or (780) 523-7733 or e-mail to firechief@highprairie.ca.

Anyone with information on the incident is also requested to phone High Prairie RCMP at (780) 523-3370 or report tips anonymously to Crime Stoppers by phone at (1-800) 222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.crimestoppers.ab.ca or on www.p3tips.com.

WHOLESALE MARKET SUPPLIED BY CO-OP Prices effective Sept 10-16, 2026 100% Canadian Owned High Prairie, AB 4920-53 avenue		Open: Monday to Saturday 9 a.m - 8 p.m. Sunday - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. PROUDLY CANADIAN TGP		Boneless Pork Loin Centre Chops \$4 lb \$8⁸²kg or Centre Cut Roast Cut In-store by Your Local Butcher Value Pack Raised in Western Canada	
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Dairyland Butter 454 g \$6	Folgers Coffee 544 - 865 g \$18	Raspberries or Blackberries Produce of USA 340 g \$6			
Kraft Peanut Butter 2 kg \$11	Betty Crocker Hamburger or Tuna Helper 158 - 233 g 2 FOR \$5	Looking for additional savings? Check our Facebook page for limited time offers. Scan the QR here to get our flyer in your inbox. https://www.facebook.com/TGPWholesaleMarket			
Pillsbury Pizza Pops Package of 4 or Toaster Strudel Pastries Package of 6, Frozen \$3	Kellogg's Family Cereal 480 - 650 g Select Varieties \$6	Philadelphia Dips 227 g Select Varieties \$2		SAVE! every day saving is easy when you can SAVE! every day.	
Kraft Singles 410 g or Cheez Whiz 450 g or Philadelphia Cream Cheese 227 - 250 g \$4	Purex Bathroom Tissue Package of 12 Triple Rolls or Ultra or Sponge Towels UltraPRO Package of 4 \$10	Co-op Gold Cheese 600 - 700 g \$10		The Grocery People will, wherever possible, fulfill all orders. We reserve the right to limit quantities on products ordered and have set maximum order limits to ensure every store receives adequate inventory. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by any shortages. The Grocery People®, SUPER A FOODS® and BIGWAY FOODS®, Wholesale Market stores make every effort to supply sufficiently advertised merchandise to meet your needs. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, some items may be out of stock. Due to the size of some The Grocery People, SUPER A FOODS and BIGWAY FOODS stores, a complete line of advertised items may not be carried. Errors sometimes can occur. When an error is discovered, a correction notice will be posted in stores to bring the error to your attention. Images are for illustrative purposes and may differ from actual products advertised. Some illustrations are serving suggestions only. *All Fresh In Store items including meat, bakery and deli, may not be available at all locations. Please check in store for availability GST is extra where applicable. *Plus Deposit, Levies or Enviro Charges Where Applicable. The Grocery People, TGP design, Super A Foods, BIGWAY Foods and design, Co-op and design, Co-op Centisables, Market Town, Care + and design, Lucky Dragon and design and Co-op Gold Pure are trademarks of Federated Co-operatives Limited, Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 3M9.	
Co-op Mini Cucumbers Greenhouse Grown Produce of Western Canada Canada No. 1 Package of 6 \$3	Co-op Gold Chicken, Beef, or Pork Entrées 600 - 650 g Frozen \$9	Pepsi Products* 6 x 710 mL 2 FOR \$9			



Big Lakes County Fire Services welcomed a new pumper-rescue fire truck to its fleet for the Grouard fire hall. Left-right, are Colin Penner, of Sea Hawk Service, firefighters Trent Mindel, Brandon Cardinal, Melvin Goulet, Grouard Councillor Rob Porter, firefighter Herman Sutherland Jr., Ron Vanderzwaag, of Sea Hawk, and Big Lakes fire chief Jason Cottingham.

Grouard welcomes pumper-rescue truck

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(Grouard) – Big Lakes County Fires Services welcomed a new pumper-rescue truck to the Grouard fire district. Approved by council as part of the 2024 budget, the new truck replaces a 22-year-old truck serving Grouard, states a Big Lakes news release dated Aug. 26. The new truck arrived Aug. 26, Big Lakes fire chief Jason Cottingham says. “On behalf of Big Lakes County Fire Services, I thank council for its support in making this addition to our fleet possible,” Cottingham says. “This new truck is part of our strategy to replace aging equipment with a more-versatile vehicle that offers multi-purpose capabilities. “This not only improves our operational efficiency, but also re-

duces our reliance on specialized units, ultimately enhancing our response times and capacity.” Manufactured by Acres Industries at Wawanesa, Manitoba, the new truck has capacity to carry 800 gallons of water and is equipped with modern firefighting and rescue equipment to improve firefighter safety, response capabilities, and operational efficiency, he says. Designed to be versatile, the truck can respond to wildland fires, structure fires and a range of others emergency situations. After more than two years from order to delivery, the new apparatus is expected to serve the Grouard fire district for 20 years, he notes. The new truck reflects the county’s ongoing commitment to invest in public safety and emergency response while ensuring its fire ser-

vices team has modern and reliable equipment. Reeve Tyler Airth says council is committed to protect citizens and properties in emergency situations. “Investing in our fire services is an investment in the safety of our communities,” Airth says. “This new pumper-rescue truck gives our firefighters the equipment they need to respond to a wide range of emergencies. “We appreciate the work of our fire services team and council’s continued commitment to ensuring our communities have the resources they need when it matters most.” Big Lakes fire service is actively recruiting for more firefighters. Those interested may contact deputy fire chief Luci Martinson by phone at (780) 523-1547 or e-mail deputyfirechief@biglakescountry.ca.

Berwyn holds by-election

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(Berwyn) - Withdrawal period for Village of Berwyn’s 2026 Municipal by-election has closed, with two candidates officially submitting their names to seek election for one vacant Councillor position. In accordance with Alberta’s Local Authorities Election Act, the submission of two names will trigger an election to determine who will fill the position. The two individuals who have put their names forward include Edward Lock and Kenneth Montie. Advance voting will

take place September 14-18, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Election Day is Monday, September 21, 2026, with polls open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. All voting will take place at the Berwyn Agriculture Hall. “It’s always been a privilege to serve on council,” says Mayor Nicole Johnson, who says she understands this feeling all too well after being voted for twice. “It shows the community has trust in you; it also holds us accountable to make sure that we are doing what we can to help make our community the best it can be. You need to show up, listen, and make decisions that are in the

best interest of your municipality whether it’s good or bad, easy or hard.” The Village of Berwyn thanks both candidates for stepping forward and for their willingness to serve their community. Johnson says putting one’s name forward for Council is an important commitment, and the village appreciates the interest in helping shape the future of Berwyn. “I think it’s important that residents show up to vote not only to show they’re interested in their community but to also have a say in who is representing them,” says Johnson.

Cont. on page 9

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Associate: Lynne Tardif
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Community Calendar

Note: Community Calendar listings are free. AGMs and church services not included unless also advertised. Call [78] 523-4484 with your item or e-mail southpeacenews@hotmail.com. All events subject to change depending on late changes or holidays.

Wednesday, September 9

International Day to Protect Education From Attack!
9 a.m. – M.D. of Smoky River meets in Falher in council chambers.
10 – 11 a.m. – Storytime at HP Municipal Library. (Ages 2-5 Years with Parent)
10 a.m. – Big Lakes County meets in High Prairie in council chambers.
10 a.m. – Noon – HP CRC Baby & Me program for children 0-12 months.
Noon – Grouard Seniors Lunch at Grouard Northland School Elder’s Room.
12:30 – 5:30 p.m. – Marigold Farmers Market in HP at 4724- 53 – Ave.
1:30 p.m. – Play Floor Curling at HP Golden Age Centre, 4824-53 Ave. \$1 coffee charge.
5:30 p.m. – Play bingo at Kinuso Ag Hall. Pre-call 6:30 p.m., regular games at 6:45 p.m.
6:30 p.m. – Town of McLennan meets in in council chambers.
7 p.m. – Drop-In Beanbag/Cornhole at Jousard Community Association Hall. \$2 fee.
7 p.m. – Village of Girouxville meets in in council chambers.
7 p.m. – Town of Falher meets in in council chambers.
7 p.m. – AA meetings at Grouard in Brown Building behind Kapawe’no Hall #55.
7 p.m. – Faust Silver & Gold meeting at Faust Hall.
7 p.m. – Work bee at Pioneer Threshermans Association grounds at Triangle.
7 – 8 p.m. – Outdoor Concert Series at Cecil Thompson Park: featuring They Call Me Sir.
7:30 p.m. – Play cribbage at Jousard Homesteaders Hall.

Thursday, September 10

International Makeup Day!
World Suicide Prevention Day!
10 a.m. – Noon – HP CRC Bright Beginnings program for children 0-6 years.
1 – 2 p.m. – Join Walk & Talk at Falher Smoky River Community Hall. Bring clean shoes! \$2 fee.
1:30 p.m. – Play Mah Jong at HP Golden Age Club.
2 – 3 p.m. – Bumble Buddies at Falher Library for children 0-5 years and caregivers.
6 p.m. – Narcotics Anonymous meetings in High Prairie at 4919- 51 Ave.
7 p.m. – Drop-In Pickleball at Jousard JCA Hall. \$2 fee. Beanbag toss if enough interest.
7 p.m. – Play Bridge at HP Golden Age Centre, 4824-53 Ave. \$1 coffee charge.

Friday, September 11

10 a.m. – Kinuso Seniors Coffee Time at Kinuso Seniors Centre. New members welcome.
1:30 p.m. – Enjoy whist games at the HP Golden Age Centre, 4824-53 Ave. \$1 coffee charge.
7:30 p.m. – High Prairie AA chapter meets at HP Church of the Nazarene.

Saturday, September 12

National Day of Encouragement!

Sunday, September 13

National Bald is Beautiful Day!
Grandparents’ Day!
International Chocolate Day!
Attend the church of your choice.
1:30 p.m. – Enjoy cribbage games at the HP Golden Age Centre, 4824-53 Ave. \$1 coffee charge.
6:30 p.m. – Enilda & District Society for Recreation and Culture meeting at Bowling Alley.

Monday, September 14

1 – 3 p.m. – Crib & Cards Social at Multi-Plex Building at Spruce Point Park. Snacks provided.
1:30 p.m. – Play Mah Jong at Jousard Homesteaders Hall.
2 – 4 p.m. – HP Municipal Library Teen Game and Lego Drop-In (13-17 years).
3:30 – 5:30 p.m. – HP CRC After-School Program (8-12 Years) at HP Children’s Resource Centre.
5 p.m. – Town of Peace River council meets in council chambers.
7 p.m. – Drop-In Beanbag/Cornhole at Jousard Community Association Hall. \$2 fee.
7 p.m. – Ladies Time Out at Kinuso Seniors Centre.
7 p.m. – Jousard Community Association meeting upstairs at JA Hall.
7:30 p.m. – High Prairie AA chapter meets at HP Church of the Nazarene.

Tuesday, September 15

International Day of Democracy!
International Dot Day!
10 a.m. – Noon – Drop-In Coffee at HP Golden Age Club.
1 p.m. – High Prairie School Division meets at HP Learning Centre.
1 p.m. – Kinuso Seniors Coffee Time at Kinuso Seniors Centre. New members welcome.
1 – 2 p.m. – Join Walk & Talk at Falher Smoky River Community Hall. Bring clean shoes! \$2 fee.
1 – 4 p.m. – Senior Drop-In at HP Native Friendship Centre 4919-51 Ave.
7 p.m. – Whist games at Big Meadow Hall north of Enilda. Stella Sware at (780) 523-2009.
7 p.m. – Drop-In Pickleball at Jousard JCA Hall. \$2 fee. Beanbag toss if enough interest.

Wednesday, September 16

National Guacamole Day!
10 – 11 a.m. – Storytime at HP Municipal Library. (Ages 2-5 Years with Parent)
10 a.m. – Noon – HP CRC Baby & Me program for children 0-12 months.
Noon – Grouard Seniors Lunch at Grouard Northland School Elder’s Room.
1:30 p.m. – Play Floor Curling at HP Golden Age Centre, 4824-53 Ave. \$1 coffee charge.
4 – 7 p.m. – Peace River Job Fair at Riverdrive Mall.
5:30 p.m. – Play bingo at Kinuso Ag Hall. Pre-call 6:30 p.m., regular games at 6:45 p.m.
7 p.m. – Drop-In Beanbag/Cornhole at Jousard Community Association Hall. \$2 fee.
7 .m. – AA meetings at Grouard in Brown Building behind Kapawe’no Hall #55.
7 p.m. – Faust Silver & Gold meeting at Faust Hall.
7 p.m. – Work bee at Pioneer Threshermans Association grounds at Triangle.
7:30 p.m. – Play cribbage at Jousard Homesteaders Hall.

Thursday, September 17

World Patient Safety Day!



A trip down memory lane
Looking Back... Sept. 9



Sept. 9, 1970: *South Peace News* publishes a story on Grouard Constituent MLA Roy Ells, who announces he will not seek re-election in the next provincial election due to personal business plans.

Sept. 9, 1970: *South Peace News* announces three seats will be vacant during Town of High Prairie council elections this fall. Councillors Jack Sanders and Dr. Phil Rutter's terms expire, while Annah Holt announces she is not seeking re-election.

Sept. 9, 1972: Arne Fevang catches a 15 1/2-pound jackfish at Whitefish Lake.

Sept. 9, 1972: High Prairie's Rodney Cox reports to the New York Rangers training camp. He played with the Medicine Hat Tigers and was chosen Best Defenceman in their playoff series.

Sept. 9, 1981: *South Peace News* reports Bev Matthews opens a hair shop in the SAAN Mall in High Prairie.

Sept. 9, 1985: Community groups in High Prairie hold a meeting and plan to build a bingo hall. The meeting is in response to the owner of Grande Prairie's Winners Circle Bingo Hall expressing the same desire.

Sept. 9, 1985: Roger Monahan opens Monahan Ford Sales in High Prairie.

Sept. 9, 1985: Taekwondo instructor Albert Clow meets with 64 interested students at High Prairie Elementary School in regard to starting a junior taekwondo program.

Sept. 9, 1987: *South Peace News* reports Indian bands in the High Prairie area request the Indian Health Care Commission to investigate complaints of services and treatment at the hospital and health clinic.

Sept. 9, 1990: High Prairie Mayor Rollie Johnson decides to not seek re-election.

Sept. 9, 1997: Craig Bissell challenges the legality of the High Prairie library board before it begins its first meeting. Reps go home instead of arguing the issue.

Sept. 9, 1998: *South Peace News* reports at least 30,000 waterfowl die during an avian botulism outbreak at Kimiwan Lake.

Sept. 9, 1998: The M.D. of Big Lakes council says it is a waste of money to change its name to the County of Big Lakes.

Sept. 9, 1998: The Town of High Prairie limits residents to four pets per household, provided only two of them are dogs.

Sept. 9, 1998: High Prairie town council hears the post office may restrict access due to vandalism.

Sept. 9, 2011: The DVD Store re-opens in its new location at 4838 – 51 Ave. in High Prairie across from RONA.

Sept. 9, 2012: The two-day High Prairie Trade Show called Expo 2012 concludes. Over 1,000 people attend and over 100 booths sold. Organizers hail it a success.

Sept. 9, 2019: A soaring deficit to run the Peace River Airport worries Peace River town council.

Sept. 9, 2020: Long-time Village of Girouxville Councillor Carmen Ewing resigns after serving almost 25 years.

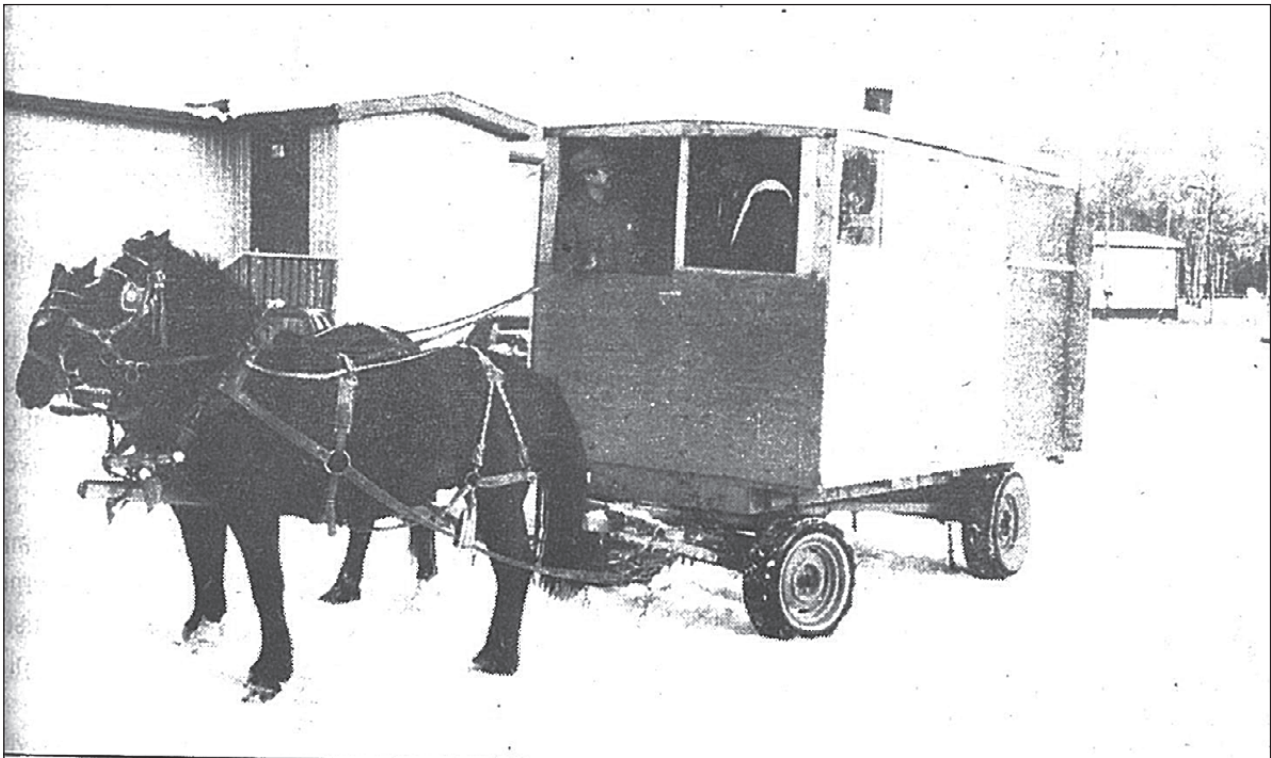
Sept. 9, 2020: Big Lakes County agrees to add Kinuso volunteer Roberta Hunt to its Wall of Fame.

Sept. 9, 2020: Excitement overcomes Falher when a mother bear and her three cubs roam near the M.D. of Smoky River administration building. The bears are quickly caught and taken away by Alberta Fish and Wildlife.

Sept. 9, 2020: The M.D. of Smoky River discovers it has 341 outdated bylaws on its books. Council begins the process to remove them.

Sept. 9, 2020: M.D. of Smoky River ag fieldman Normand Boulet reports that clubroot, a disease devastating to canola crops, is found in the district.

Do you remember?



In the Nov. 22, 1995 *South Peace News* a photo was published of a horse-drawn bus used to transport students to and from school in Loon Lake. Inside were members of the Governance Review Task Force. In the photo, left-right, are Loon Lakers Paul Letendre and Jerry Noskey.

Small crowd attends 1915 High Prairie Fair

Sept. 9, 1915
Grouard News

With all fairness to directors of the Agricultural Society, it can hardly be said that the fair this year came up to the usual standard, according to those from town who attended.

The cause attributed to the falling off in attendance and exhibits in all classes, is the early dates, which were two weeks in advance of any previous year. The farmers were in the midst of their harvesting and were not in a position to take the time off that was necessary to prepare their animals and other exhibits. The crop this year was far heavier than any previous harvest and the ideal weather was taken full advantage of.

The rain on Tuesday night prevented many from town attending, making the roads poor for travel.

Judge Beck takes up finances

In an effort to relieve the present financial burden of the Town of Grouard, Judge Beck, on his return to Edmonton, will take up this matter with Premier Sifton and endeavour to arrange a conference of Premier Sifton, Hon. J.R. Boyle, and Hon. Wilfred

The Grouard News

A Weekly Paper published in the interests of Grouard and the Peace River Country at our office in Grouard, every Saturday.

Subscription \$2.00 a Year.
To U.S. and other Countries \$2.50
Advertising Rates on Application
R.S. BURNS, Editor and Manager

Gariepy, and a representative from Grouard, in an effort to have the government shoulder a portion of the town's liability until financial conditions readjust themselves.

The matter was discussed by council and Ald. Tomkins was chosen to represent the town, while the secretary was instructed to write Judge Beck re this matter.

The present liabilities are upwards of \$15,000, while the tax amount due the town is over \$10,000. Should the town be successful in having the government shoulder a portion of this debt, many small outstanding accounts could and would be wiped off.

Secretary-treasurer Cook resigns

Back to the simple life, away from cares and worries of the maddening crowd, Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Cook and son "Chick" leave tomorrow for Spirit River, where they will engage in farming.

To a full appreciation

of Cook's ability as secretary-treasurer of the Town of Grouard, which position he has held since the incorporation in 1913, he has added an abundance of energy and forethought, while his sound business judgment has carried the council and the town through many trying periods.

Not only will Cook be missed in his capacity as secretary-treasurer, but in matters of interest to the town in general, in which he has taken a most active part, while in the field of athletics, his departure will be a loss. A good sportsman and entertainer with a keen sense of humour, Cook has commanded the respect and won the friendship of all.

With Mr. and Mrs. Cook go the best wishes of a host of Grouard friends, among whom they will be greatly missed.

Peace Country in the movies

The Peace River country is to figure in the

movies.

Mr. Hulbert Footner, who several summers ago made a trip from Edmonton west to Fort George, then north to the Peace, down it to Fort Vermilion, overland to the Hay River and back to Edmonton by way of Lesser Slave Lake, found plenty of material. It resulted first in the best written Canadian book of travel that has been given to the public in recent years, *New Rivers of the North*.

A novel *The Sealed Valley* came later and it is this which has now been turned into a picture drama. The leading role is in the hands of Miss Dorothy Donnelley, one of the most talented of American actresses.

As Mr. Footner knows the country of which he has written, the play should prove of not a little real value, in contrast to most of those that have had a Canadian setting.

Around the town

...J. McArthur was appointed secretary-treasurer of the town.

...the school attendance this year shows a considerable decrease over last year.

...the Diamond P. company have been busy shipping considerable stock to their store at the Crossing.



Hedibuilt Farms, of Faust, isselected as the Big Lakes County recipient for the 2026 Family Farm Award for northern and central Alberta presented by the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies. Left-right, are son Gabriel Hedrich, Tara Hedrich and Joe Hedrich with Big Lakes County Reeve Tyler Airth.

Hedibuilt Farms honoured for 2026 Farm Family Award

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(Faust) – Big Lakes County has selected a Faust family as its recipient for the 2026 Farm Family Award for northern and central Alberta sponsored by the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS). Hedibuilt Farms operated by Joe and Tara Hedrich was nominated as Big Lakes’ recipient of the award as council passed a recommendation at its regular meeting Aug. 12. The Hedrichs were recognized for the award Aug. 27 at the county

hamlet barbecue in Faust. Hedibuilt Farms will receive the official award Feb. 6 at the 2027 AAAS convention in Edmonton on behalf of Big Lakes, along with a commemorative gift. The Hedrichs will also receive a \$2,000 allowance from Big Lakes for travel and accommodation to attend the event in Edmonton. They have deep roots in the field as the farm celebrates 100 years in 2028, states a Big Lakes news release dated Aug. 27. “Farming is in our blood,” Tara Hedrich

says. “It’s more than just what we do, it’s a way of life that has shaped who we are, the values we carry and the importance we place on hard work, family and community.” The Hedrich family’s connection to farming in Faust dates back to 1928 when the family homesteaded the farm. Over the years, the family has developed strong ties to the community by selling quality farm products, including eggs, meat and vegetables.

Cont. on page 17

IT'S ALMOST HERE!

2026

HARVEST Festival

SEPT. 19, 2026 | 8AM - 10PM

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Everyone, and every story, is welcome!

\$5.00 at the door / free for members. Meet @ Museum.

Visit our website for more information about upcoming events.

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Ages 12-18

NO Registration fee

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6:15pm ~ Sept - June

High Prairie Legion Hall

4721-51 ave, High Prairie, AB

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Editorial

Your Opinion Counts!

Post on the Message Board at southpeacenews.com for instant feedback or write The Editor c/o South Peace News P.O. Box 1000, High Prairie, Alberta Canada T0G 1E0

Regional

Lots of culture to celebrate in local regions

Local communities and other regions across Alberta have a rich history of culture and heritage.

Just look around the local region and discover the many many and diverse ethnic cultures, from Indigenous, French Canadian and Ukrainian, to European, Asian, and other countries around the globe.

Alberta Culture Days is celebrate in the month of September for communities promote their culture and roots.

History and culture of local communities are well-documented at museums that serve the High Prairie, Falher-McLennan and Peace River regions.

It is important to preserve the history of communities and the culture, ethnic groups, organizations, businesses, government and people who have contributed to shape their communities.

Visit museums in the region to explore, discover and learn about the local heritage and history.

They have a wealth of information.

Local history books are also a valuable resource for longtime residents and people new to the community.

All too often, local people don't visit their hometown museums.

Take advantage to get a taste of Alberta's international heritage and culture at various community events.

It's a great opportunity for communities and ethnic groups to showcase their culture and for citizens to experience the multicultural mosaic of Alberta.

Several official Alberta Culture Days events have been set for the Peace River region.

The Peace River Municipal Library hosts several small events on various days throughout the month, that feature Filipino and Jamaican food, bilingual story time for children in English, French and Cree, and Indigenous arts and crafts.

Both the Falher-McLennan and Peace River regions have deep francophone roots.

Francophone culture takes centre stage at the St-Isidore Cultural Centre on Sept. 13 organized by the ACFA Regionale de Riviere-la-Paix.

Epluchette de ble d'Inde et celebration culturelle will showcase local culture, arts, music and the region's francophone community.

Other events are planned in the coming weeks.

Indigenous culture will be promoted at the Sucker Creek First Nation Indian Relay Races from Sept. 12-13 at the High Prairie Elks Rodeo Grounds.

Beside watching the exciting race action take the opportunity to visit the tipi village and learn more about Indigenous heritage in the region.

Another culture to celebrate is agriculture.

Step back in time down on the farm at the Triangle Harvest Festival on Sept. 19 hosted by the Pioneer Threshermans Association.

Take a look at old tractors and farm equipment and watch volunteers demonstrate threshing, flour milling and saw milling the way they were done generations ago.

- Richard Froese



Be a partner in children's education

Commentary by
Richard Froese

Well, it's already back to school for students in local schools.

Most returned before the Labour Day holiday.

Usually, classes start after the long weekend.

That can be attributed to the fact that Labour Day this year was on Sept. 7, the latest it can fall on the calendar.

Still, as school is in its second week of classes, it's vital that students get and have the support they need to have a successful year of learning and growing.

For younger students and those with learning difficulties, help and supports are close at hand at from professionals at schools and from school divisions.

They can also refer families to other agencies and resources that serve the northern regions.

All students deserve the support and a quality education.

Parents and other adults in the community can offer and provide a lot to help educators shape our youth into responsible and intelligent citizens and leaders.

Adults are strong support for students and schools and do much to strengthen that link.

By participating in the school council, parents can serve as a key role to build partnerships with their children and the school and to build the school

community.

School councils are committed to enhance the educational experience, provide leadership for school activities and raise funds for projects such as playgrounds an educational resources.

Service organizations and other citizens have long supported schools in any community such as those in the High Prairie, Slave Lake, Peace River and Falher regions.

As students start a new school year, parents can help their children with some tips provided by Alberta Education.

-Homework:

Help your child study and establish a routine. Ensure the room where your child studies is quiet, has plenty of light and has school supplies close at hand.

Remove distractions by turning off all electronics during homework time. Ask your child about school activities and talk about what was discussed in school that day. Provide guidance to homework assignments.

Learn about how your child learns.

Understand your child's learning style and develop routines that best support how he or she learns best.

Encourage good study habits. Help your child get organized.

Discuss homework with your child. Talking about an assignment can help your child think it through and break it down into

small workable parts.

-Read With Your Child:
Make reading a priority.

Let your child know how important it is to read regularly.

Establish a regular time and place for reading. Make time to read to your child on a regular basis. Ask your child to read to you.

Have your child read aloud to you.

Keep reading material nearby. Visit the library.

Make visits to the library a regular activity and let your child select their own books.

-Safe Internet Use:

Do your research. Find safe and relevant sites and child-friendly search engines. Make an agreement.

Create an agreement with your child that outlines which sites are allowed to visit and which areas and activities are off-limits. Involve your child in this activity. Stay aware.

Keep lines of communication open so you know what websites your child is visiting.

Pay attention to you child's surfing habits.

Let your child know that he or she can come to you in case of trouble.

Report suspicious activity.

If you or your child encounters suspicious or dangerous situations online, report them to your Internet service provider and local police.



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Letters

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www.southpeacenews.com
www.highprairie.com

High Prairie Native Friendship Centre needs support

To the Editor:

In the Aug. 26 issue of the South Peace News, there was a write-up about the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre.

The friendship centre is requesting funds from the Town of High Prairie council.

This is a request that I hope council will approve.

The sign on the building says it all: "High Prairie Native Friendship Centre – Serving the Whole Community".

This states everything that needs to be said.

The community hub is open to any person who cares to become a member.

This, I have to admit, I didn't know a few years ago.

Once I realized "Serving the Whole Community", I joined.

What I learned was this – there is something for everyone; lessons for the young, youth and seniors.

I have learned to bead, work with clay for pottery.

My grandgirl made a Christmas wreath and so much more.

There has been seniors' footcare, there's a

small second-hand store, lessons on ribbon skits, an annual Elders' banquet, Indigenous Remembrance ceremony and more.

A newsletter is sent out every month, letting all members know what is coming up at the centre.

The staff that work at the centre are very welcoming and hard working.

Big Lakes County has supported the centre with \$16,500 this year to help keep this wonderful organization open.

I'm hoping that the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre has

also asked Peavine Metis Settlement, Sucker Creek First Nation and East Prairie Metis Settlement for financial support.

It would be great if businesses in the High Prairie area also showed their support.

Every amount of support helps.

Again, I hope that High Prairie council shows their financial support.

It is support that would benefit the whole town.

**Brenda Coulombe,
High Prairie**

Peace River break in has RCMP calling for public assistance

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

(Peace River) - Peace River RCMP are asking for the public's help as they investigate a break and enter that resulted in thousands of dollars worth of electronics being stolen from a local business.

According to RCMP, the incident occurred during the early morning hours of Aug. 27 at City Furniture, located on 74 Street in Peace River.

Police say the break and enter happened at approximately 1:48 a.m. Security personnel were dispatched after an alarm was triggered at the business. Upon arriving at the scene, security staff discovered that the front window of the store had been smashed and immediately contacted Peace River RCMP.

Officers attended the location and cleared the building. No suspects were found inside the store at the time.

As the investigation continued, police reviewed security footage and were able to obtain images of the suspects believed to be involved in the incident.

Information provided by the business indicates that several high-value electronic items were stolen

during the break-in. RCMP say six televisions and six sound bars were taken from the store.

Police have not released an estimate of the value of the stolen merchandise and have not announced any arrests in connection with the investigation.

RCMP are now appealing to the public for assistance as they work to identify those responsible.

Investigators are specifically asking anyone who may have security camera footage, dash camera video or other recordings from the area around City Furniture on 74 Street between midnight and 2:30 a.m. on Aug. 27 to review their footage for anything suspicious. Even information that may appear minor could prove valuable to the investigation.

Police are also asking anyone who recognizes the suspects captured on surveillance footage or who has information about the break and enter to come forward.

Residents with information can contact the Peace River RCMP detachment at 780-624-6677.

Those wishing to remain anonymous can provide information through Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), submitting a tip online through P3 Tips, or by using the P3 Tips mobile application. The investigation remains ongoing.



Following is a list of the most read stories on southpeacenews.com over the last 14 days, effective Friday, Sept. 4, 2026.

- 1. Slave Lake man gets 2.5 years in deaths of two motorcyclists**
[posted Wednesday, Aug. 26]
- 2. Trucking business denied request to add service**
[posted Tuesday, Aug. 25]
- 3. Nahachick, Turcotte claim High Prairie Open title**
[posted Tuesday, Aug. 25]
- 4. Obituary – Gerard Lapointe**
[posted Thursday, Aug. 27]
- 5. Powwow showcases culture, friendship**
[posted Saturday, Aug. 29]
- 6. Presale Aug. 27 for steak and lobster dinner, dance at Kinuso**
[posted Saturday, Aug. 29]
- 7. Today's Happenings: August 25, 2026**
[posted Monday, Aug. 24]
- 8. Sweet support for grandson's sports**
[posted Friday, Aug. 21]
- 9. Trip down memory lane!**
[posted Thursday, Aug. 27]
- 10. Guided hike promotes joy of local nature**
[posted Saturday, Aug. 29]

Be sure to check southpeacenews.com for regular updates on *South Peace News*' two-time Canadian Community Newspapers Association award-winning website!
More stories, more photos, more reading, more entertainment!



To Freson Bros. in High Prairie for having nice clean public washrooms for people to use. Greatly appreciated especially by travellers.



To people who don't pay attention to speed signs. Speed limit is 80 km in Sucker Creek yet people go flying down the highway totally ignoring the signs.

Letters to the editor policy
South Peace News welcomes readers to write letters to the editor. A maximum of 300 words is preferred but not necessary. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. Please send letters to *South Peace News*, Box 1000, High Prairie, Alta., T0G 1E0, or fax to (780) 523-3039; or please E-mail to southpeacenews@hotmail.com.



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Sing praises to the Lord

High Prairie Church of the Nazarene hosted the regular High Prairie Community Gospel Sing on Aug. 30, held on the fifth Sunday of a month. People from the community and local churches are invited to join the evening where people choose their favourite hymns and other inspirational songs. Time is also given for people to offer special numbers in song. Following the service, time is given for fellowship and refreshments. The next Gospel Sing events are scheduled for Nov. 29 and in 2027 on Jan. 31, May 30, Aug. 29 and Oct. 31.



Left Photo: Matt Neufeld plays his harmonica as people sing hymns at the High Prairie Community Gospel Sing that returned Aug. 30, held on the fifth Sunday of the month.



Left Photo: Cliff Nafziger sings a solo and plays guitar at the High Prairie Community Gospel Sing that returned Aug. 30, held on the fifth Sunday of the month.



NORTHERN LAKES COLLEGE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

For over 50 years, the Northern Lakes College vision has been to increase accessibility to educational opportunities. With 25 locations across northern Alberta, program sites throughout Alberta, and a unique Supported Distance Learning model, students can access quality educational opportunities without leaving their community. Students can study from the comforts of home, work, on the road, or from one of the many College locations. Northern Lakes College offers a variety of university transfer, diploma, and certificate programs, including Academic Upgrading, Business & Administrative Studies, Health & Human Service Careers, Pre-Employment & Apprenticeship Trades, Resource Technology, University Studies, and Continuing Education & Corporate Training certificates and courses. We support and promote professional development and wellness opportunities, and provide our employees with an attractive benefits plan and competitive salaries. The College service region offers numerous sport and recreational activities for the entire family to enjoy!

Northern Lakes College has the following **Full-Time Position** available:

Educational Support
Reference #NLC-2320
Salary: \$52,428 to \$63,972 per year
Location: Slave Lake, High Prairie, Peace River or Fairview
Start Date: September 28, 2026

Qualifications:

- Educational Assistant, Office Administration, or Business Administration Certificate
- Experience working with Microsoft Office 365
- A clean vulnerable sector criminal record check prior to commencement
- A valid Class 5 driver's license
- A combination of education, training and experience may be considered

Assets:

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong organizational and administrative skills
- Knowledge of educational technologies

The Successful candidate must provide College or University transcripts and a clean Criminal Record Check to Human Resources prior to commencement.

This position is covered under the Collective Agreement between Northern Lakes College and the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees.

For complete details on this employment opportunity, visit us online at www.northernlakescollege.ca click on **Careers at NLC**. Please submit a **resume quoting the reference number NLC-2320** to: Northern Lakes College, Human Resources, 1201 Main Street SE, Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A3 or alternatively, fax resume to: 780-849-5881

Closing Date: September 14, 2026

NOTE: Northern Lakes College thanks all applicants for their interest in employment; however, only those candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.



Your Friendly Community Church Directory

High Prairie, McLennan, Falher, Tangent, Eaglesham, Donnelly, St. Isidore, Girouxville

McLennan Victory Life Church 010 Railway Ave., McLennan, AB
Pastor: Todd & Emma Moore
Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m. Children Service: 10:00 a.m.
Friday Night Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.
Office Hours: M-T 8:30 a.m.-Noon Phone: 780-324-3039
Email: office@mcLennanvictory.com



Website:
www.mclennanvictory.com

McLennan United Church/High Prairie United Church
020 - 2nd Ave (Behind Home Hardware), McLennan, AB
Sunday Church Service: 10:00 a.m. Presiders: The whole people of God.
Come join us for Worship & Fellowship. Visitors & new members are welcome.
Phone: (780) 324-3771 or (780) 324-3688

Redeemer Lutheran Church 5105 53 Ave. (Hwy 2), High Prairie, AB
Riverside Plaza beside Subway. Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Reverend Terry Goerz Phone: 780-523-7656



Milestone Christian Church 5105 53 Ave. (Hwy 2), High Prairie, AB
Riverside Plaza beside Subway. Saturday Worship: 6:00 p.m.
Pastor Val Orena Phone: 780-906-6855
A Filipino-International Christ-Loving Community

Newlife Church 5026-51 Avenue, High Prairie, AB
Two doors west of HP Bottle Depot.
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Doug Isaac Phone: 780-523-7146



St. Paul's Catholic Church 4633-52 Ave., High Prairie, AB
Saturday Mass: 7:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month Mass at J.B. Woods
(5101 38 Street) 3:30 p.m. Phone: 780-523-3140



High Prairie Church of the Nazarene 4900 59th Ave, High Prairie
Sunday Church: 11:00 a.m. Tuesday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
via ZOOM or in-person
Phone: 403-928-5999 pastortracystewart@gmail.com

St. Mark's Anglican Church 4701 - 53 Ave., High Prairie, AB
Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.
Pleasantview Lodge (4600 Pleasantview Dr): 1st & 4th Sunday
McLennan every 3rd Sunday: 2:30 p.m.
Colleen Greer Phone: 780-523-6323

High Prairie Victory Life Church
4915-52 Ave., High Prairie, AB
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Phil Lutton Phone: 780-523-3398
Email: hpvictorylife@gmail.com



Website:
www.hpvlc.com

Paroisse Notre Dame de Lourdes 4904-50 Ave., Girouxville, AB
Father Hansel Nwachukwuji, SMMM
Phone: 780-323-4268 Email: girouxvilleparish@gmail.com



Girouxville Sunday mass @ 10:30 a.m.
Daily mass: Monday, Tuesday & Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday @ 7:00 p.m.

Tangent - St. Martyrs des Canadiens and Eaglesham - St. Francois Xavier
alternate Saturday and Sunday masses. Sunday masses: 9:00 a.m.
Saturday masses: winter @ 4:00 p.m.
summer @ 7:00 p.m.

Please contact Father Hansel for more information: 780-323-4268

Paroisse Ste Anne Parish 1 Ave. SE, Falher, AB

Mass for the month of: **SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER**
Saturday: 5:00 p.m. St. Isidore - St. Isidore
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Sacre Coeur - Donnelly
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sainte Anne - Falher



Facebook page:
Paroisse Ste Anne Parish

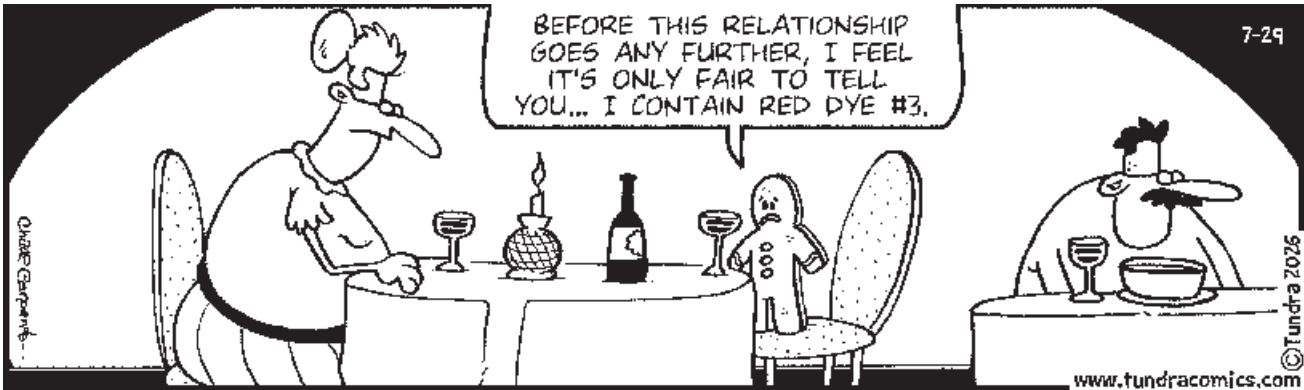
Fr. Jean-Cornelis Nkuanga Phone: 780-837-2151

To list your church in the church directory in print and online at
southpeacenews.com and smokyriverexpress.com
Phone: 780 523-4484 or Email: sales@citylive.com



The Page

For more photos
Visit us online@
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www.highprairie.com



Don't forget to attend the Sucker Creek Indian Relay Races Sept. 12-13! Please see full page ad on page 16 for details and story in this week's edition!

How many people can say they had a direct impact on an encyclopedia making a correction?

The Page can! The Canadian Encyclopedia reported in its online edition June 22, 2009 that the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia railway bypassed Grouard in 1915. Anyone with knowledge of local history knows in fact it was in 1914.

In early August, The Page set about correcting this inaccuracy and emailed the Canadian Encyclopedia. They requested proof. Easy enough. The Page sent them information in High Prairie's history book, *Trails We Blazed Together*, and stories from the Grouard News in 1914, which diligently tracked the railway's arrival from the first train crossing the Athabasca River July 24, 1914 to the arrival of the first train in High Prairie Dec. 28, 1914. The train mural in downtown High Prairie also notes this date.

Earlier that year, the railway reached the West Prairie River Dec. 9 and the first mail arrived at Sucker Creek by train Dec. 19. All this information was sent to the Canadian Encyclopedia. Af-

ter examining the overwhelming evidence, a correction was made on-line Aug. 21. It reads:

"In 1915, Grouard's population was about 2,000. In late 1914, the town was bypassed by the railway, and soon thereafter, the town collapsed."

Given the dates, the railway bypassed Grouard sometime in December. The railway reached Giroux Bay by Driftpile on Oct. 24 and, oddly, at Sucker Creek Oct. 23. This was because different crews were working on the railway line at the time. Dec. 9, the same time as the first mail reached Sucker Creek by train, steel reached the West Prairie River, well past Grouard.

There can be no doubt the correct year was 1914, not 1915. They Page thanks the Canadian Encyclopedia for correcting the error.

The Page wishes he was in Scarborough, Ont. On Sept. 2.

This may be hard to believe but DraftKings held a "Gameday Fuel" promotion at Danforth Gas and Wash and gave away free tanks of gas to eligible passenger vehicles on a first-time, first-served basis while supplies lasted.

No doubt this cost Draft Kings a pretty penny. No doubt long lines occurred at this gas station.

The promotion was

held to kick off the NFL football season. Odd considering the Canadian season began months ago and the American season begins Sept. 9. No big promotion for the CFL! The Page figures DraftKings is just as confused as President Donald Trump, who renamed Lake Ontario Lake America.

Oh, well! The Page figures no one cared while receiving free gas!

Now, if only we could find a sponsor to hold a similar promotion in High Prairie, Falher, Peace River, or some location in-between!

All the fuss over Lake Ontario being renamed Lake America, at least in Trump's mind.

At or near Sudbury, there lies Trump Lake. A move is afoot to rename Trump Lake in retaliation.

Take that, Don!

Lucky thing President Donald Trump is a good speller! Imagine if he forgot the "T" in his name!

Oh, the places we could name after Don!

Quite the shock out of Peace River Sept. 2 that the North Peace Navigators are taking a leave of absence from the North West Junior Hockey League this season.

The team posted on its Facebook Page the reasons: a lack of players and player depth.

"Following the conclusion of our recent training camp, it became clear that we do not currently have the player numbers or depth required to responsibly ice a competitive Junior B hockey team."

Here's hoping the Navigators can reorganize for next season!

It looks like High Prairie will also be without a junior hockey this winter.

All things are extremely quiet on the Red Wings front. The Na-

tional Junior Hockey League has still not released a schedule although they still have the Red Wings listed on its website.

But, an Aug. 29 email from NJHL commissioner Derek Prue was interesting.

"As the team has not yet received available dates for the upcoming season, it remains impossible to include them in any schedule for next season."

To The Page's knowledge, this may not be 100 per cent true. The local rec committee did reach out to the Red Wings regarding booking ice.

As well, the NPHL released its schedule. The NPHL also inquired earlier about Red Wings' dates to book High Prairie Regals home games around the Red Wings but heard nothing.

The Page's grandfather was a farmer and he had a saying, "If it starts raining in early September, may as well wait until October to harvest the crop!"

More often than not, this was true.

The Page hopes it is not true this year, with the early September rain. Here's hoping for a stretch of good weather!

The Page was showing off his muscles one day to his nephews.

First, he held up a 5-pound potato sack and extended his arms straight out. Next, a 10-pound bag, then a 50-pound bag.

The Page's nephew, pipes up and says, "Now, how about putting potatoes in the sacks?"

The Page is a little worried: he's been on holidays for two weeks and no one has noticed!

You know you're a drunk if you can pay for a steak dinner for two by recycling the bottles around your bed!



Weekly Horoscope



Aries – March 21 – April 20: It may feel like you are coming out of the dark and into the light this week! A weight has been lifted, but there is still some emotional components to work out!



Taurus – April 21 – May 21: Have a look at the world around you instead of just moving forward with your nose to the grindstone! Enjoy a night out with friends! Take an active role in the evening!



Gemini – May 22 – June 21: Question what you hear this week, and do not take all of the information you receive at face value! You might need to read between the lines.



Cancer – June 22 – July 22: This is a great week to go out and get things done! Even if you feel a little indecisive, do not sweat the small details! You do not have to make any great commitments!



Leo – July 23 – Aug. 23: Action is the name of the game for you right now! You might notice a sudden burst of physical energy at some point, and that can be channeled into a walk or bike ride!



Virgo – Aug. 24 – Sept. 22: Take some of the knowledge you have picked up and processed over the past few weeks and spread it around! It is time to put your communication skills to work!



Libra – Sept. 23 – Oct. 23: Physical stamina is strong for you this week! Consider working out to release some of that pent-up energy! A sport or hobby can channel it as well!



Scorpio – Oct. 24 – Nov. 22: Take a break from the seriousness that has taken root lately! You will find some upbeat conversations are the way to navigate the waters this week!



Sagittarius – Nov. 23 – Dec. 21: The things you say to others will have a profound effect! Be mindful of the words you choose! Enjoy a physical group activity!



Capricorn – Dec. 22 – Jan. 20: Your solid footing may become a bit unstable this week! Do not fret! In fact, infuse a bit of laughter and playfulness into things!



Aquarius – Jan. 21 – Feb. 18: There is no excuse for laziness this week! Make sure you get out of bed each day and engage in something that gets your body and mind working!



Pisces – Feb. 19 – March 20: It is time to take action! See how far you can take all of the tasks that are on your to-do list! You may be surprised to find that you accomplish so much!

Celebrity Birthday Calendar

Date	Celebrity	Claim to Fame	Year
Sept. 9	William Bligh	Mutinied on HMS Bounty	1754
Sept. 9	Col. Sanders	KFC Founder	1890
Sept. 9	Tom Wopat	Dukes of Hazzard Actor	1951
Sept. 9	Adam Sandler	Happy Gilmore Actor	1966
Sept. 10	Rin Tin Tin	German Shepherd Dog	1918
Sept. 10	Arnold Palmer	Golf Legend	1929
Sept. 10	Margaret Trudeau	Pierre Trudeau's Wife	1948
Sept. 10	Dan O'Toole	TSN Sports Anchor	1975
Sept. 11	O Henry	American Writer	1862
Sept. 11	Ferdinand Marcos	Philippines President	1917
Sept. 11	Tom Landry	Dallas Cowboys Coach	1924
Sept. 11	Ludacris	American Rapper	1977
Sept. 12	Henry Hudson	English Navigator/Explorer	1575
Sept. 12	Richard Gatling	Gatling Gun Inventor	1818
Sept. 12	Jesse Owens	American Olympic Athlete	1913
Sept. 12	George Chuvalo	Canadian Boxer	1937
Sept. 12	Linda Gray	Dallas Actress (Sue Ellen)	1940
Sept. 13	Daniel Defoe	Robinson Crusoe Author	1660
Sept. 13	Laura Secord	Canadian War Heroine	1775
Sept. 13	Milton S. Hershey	Hershey Chocolate Tycoon	1857
Sept. 13	Rascal Flatts	Country Singer	1975
Sept. 14	Robert Raikes	Sunday School Pioneer	1735
Sept. 14	Margaret Sanger	Birth Control Advocate	1879
Sept. 14	Harry Sinden	1972 Team Canada Coach	1932
Sept. 14	Walter Koenig	Star Trek Actor	1936
Sept. 15	Marco Polo	Italian Explorer	1254
Sept. 15	Agatha Christie	English Crime Writer	1890
Sept. 15	Fay Wray	King Kong Actress	1907
Sept. 15	Prince Harry	Prince of Wales	1984

Berwyn

Cont. from page 3

"Over the past few months, we have experienced a lot of changes from both administration and council, and we have worked very hard to fill these positions. With our team almost complete we are excited to move forward and continue doing the work our residents elected us to do."

The Village encourages all eligible voters to take part in the by-election and make their voices heard. Johnson says municipal elections give residents an opportunity to have a say in the leadership and decisions that shape our community, and every vote matters.

A local musician’s journey to a new album

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

(Peace River) - After more than three decades of performing in churches, community halls, festivals and local bands, Peace River musician *They Call Me Sir* is preparing to release what may be his most personal project yet.

The Alberta singer-songwriter, whose real name is Scott Randall, is set to release his new album *Fireweed* this October, a collection of songs rooted in family, resilience, gratitude and the people who have shaped his life. While the album marks a new milestone, Randall says the path leading to it began long before he ever imagined performing as a solo artist.

Like many musicians, his journey started in his teenage years. Drawn to rock and heavy metal in the mid-1980s, Randall picked up an electric guitar in high school and joined a series of amateur bands.

“It was all part of that rebellious teen thing,” he says, recalling his introduction to music. What began as a hobby quickly became something more meaningful, giving him opportunities to meet people, gain confidence and learn how to perform in front of an audience.

After moving to Peace River with his wife in the early 1990s, music took on a different role in his life. At 22, he began playing regularly at church and soon joined a gospel group called Gethsemani Way. The group performed throughout the region and even recorded an album, providing valuable experience in singing and vocal harmonies.

At the same time, Randall immersed himself in several other genres. He played bass and sang in a polka band while also performing with the bluegrass group The Peace Valley Boys. Whether on local stages or gathered around kitchen tables, those experiences helped shape his musicianship.

“Playing with these experienced musicians really helped to ground me in the classic songs and taught me how to perform songs in front of an audience,” he says.

Today, Randall occasionally performs along-

side established artists, including Nova Scotia Hall of Fame musician George Brothers, but he is best known for appearing on stage alone under the name *They Call Me Sir*.

The unusual stage name carries a personal meaning. Randall points out that its initials match his own — S.I.R. — but the name is also a nod to his other career. He is a high school English teacher and spends his weekdays in the classroom, where students regularly address him as “sir.”

Although he had been writing songs since first learning guitar, Randall says songwriting became a more serious pursuit after attending the Songrise songwriting conference in Peace River in 2008. The event allowed him to learn directly from accomplished writers and performers, including Duane Steele and Tenille Townes, helping him further develop his craft.

This year, the songwriter will come full circle when he returns as a mentor at the 2026 Songrise Conference, scheduled for Oct. 2 and 3 in Peace River.

Randall officially launched his solo project in 2020, following the retirement of many of his longtime bandmates. As fellow musicians moved away or stepped back from performing, he realized it was time to bring his own material to the forefront.

That decision led to the release of his debut album, *Great Big World*, in 2021. Recorded in his own studio, the album represented the culmination of years of songwriting and experimentation. However, Randall soon found himself searching for a more polished sound.

To achieve that goal, he partnered with Falher musician and producer Joël Lavoie. The collaboration resulted in the EP *Beautiful Day*, which received radio airplay and encouraged Randall to continue refining his work.

The partnership continued on *Fireweed*, an album he describes as his strongest collection of songs to date.

“We went into the studio with 18 songs ready and narrowed them down to 10,” he says.

The final selection, he explained, is united by common themes of perseverance, gratitude and appreciation for life.

The album’s title track was inspired by a trip through Jasper and a visit to the Fireweed Festival in Fort Smith. Witnessing landscapes recovering and thriving after devastating wildfires prompted him to write about overcoming adversity.

That theme carries throughout the project.

One song, *Grateful*, reflects on his father’s lengthy battle with cancer. Another was written for his grandson Felix, who has Down syndrome. Many of the album’s tracks are drawn from Randall’s own experiences, while others emerge from observing the lives of people around him and imagining how they might navigate difficult circumstances.

“I hope that my songs resonate with others and that maybe they can hear their own lives in my songs,” he says.

That connection with listeners remains the driving force behind his work.

Earlier this year, Randall completed a small tour across Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where he found encouragement in seeing unfamiliar audiences sing along and engage with his music. Those moments, he says, affirm the value of songwriting.

“I really enjoy the process of creating something that others can relate to,” he says.

Like many independent artists, Randall acknowledges the realities of today’s music industry. Streaming revenues remain modest, performance opportunities can be limited, and touring often provides little more than enough to cover travel expenses.

Yet those challenges have not diminished his enthusiasm.

“Producing music is done simply for the love of it,” he says.

Instead, he views recordings as a way to reach new audiences and create opportunities for future performances. He hopes *Fireweed* will help raise his profile and lead to additional festival bookings in 2027.

Among the stages he dreams of playing are the Jasper Folk Festival,



Musician Scott Randall. Photo courtesy of Scott Randall

North Country Fair and Bear Creek Folk Festival. At the same time, he remains deeply appreciative of the smaller community festivals that have supported him throughout his career.

Looking further ahead, Randall also hopes music might one day take him overseas. A small tour through the British Isles remains high on his wish list. An-

other dream is performing in Australia, where his daughter lives.

For now, however, his focus remains on the album release and a series of performances planned across northwestern Alberta.

Randall is assembling a full band for release shows in Peace River, Fairview, Valleyview and Spirit River following the album’s launch this

fall.

After more than 30 years of making music in one form or another, he says his goals remain simple: keep writing, keep performing and keep connecting with audiences.

“I love performing,” he says. “I love having my songs inspire others. I love when I hear others singing along to a song that I wrote.”

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Harvest Festival has old-time farm fun for everyone

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Life on the farm the old-fashioned way will be celebrated at the annual free Triangle Harvest Festival on Sept. 19.

A fun-filled day with activities for everyone from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. has been planned by the Pioneer Threshermans Association.

Festival co-ordinator Roeby de Voogd van der Straten says the festival has become a popular event for all ages since it started in 2021.

“The day is really about bringing people together to celebrate our agricultural heritage in a fun and relaxed way,” de Voogd van der Straten says.

“There will be something for everyone, whether people come to watch the demonstrations, browse through the vendors, take part in the games, see the old tractors or simply enjoy the atmosphere and visit with friends and neighbours.”

The festival continues to grow.

“We will have 66 vendor tables, both inside and outside Triangle Hall,” de Voogd van der Straten says.

Vendors will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Food trucks are being added to give visitors even more options throughout the day, she notes.

Activities kick off with breakfast from 8-10 a.m. for \$10 each.

Children’s games are

set from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. while a candy drop will occur throughout the afternoon.

Demonstrations of sawmilling, threshing and flour milling also run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rotating every hour.

Arm wrestling is set for 11 a.m. to noon.

People can tour the museum and children are invited to partici-

pate in a scavenger hunt from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Visitors will have the opportunity to see the progress on the restoration of our old church,” de Voogd van der Straten says.

“It is an important project for the association and we are excited to share the work with the community and show people how the restoration is coming along.”

The antique tractor parade starts at noon.

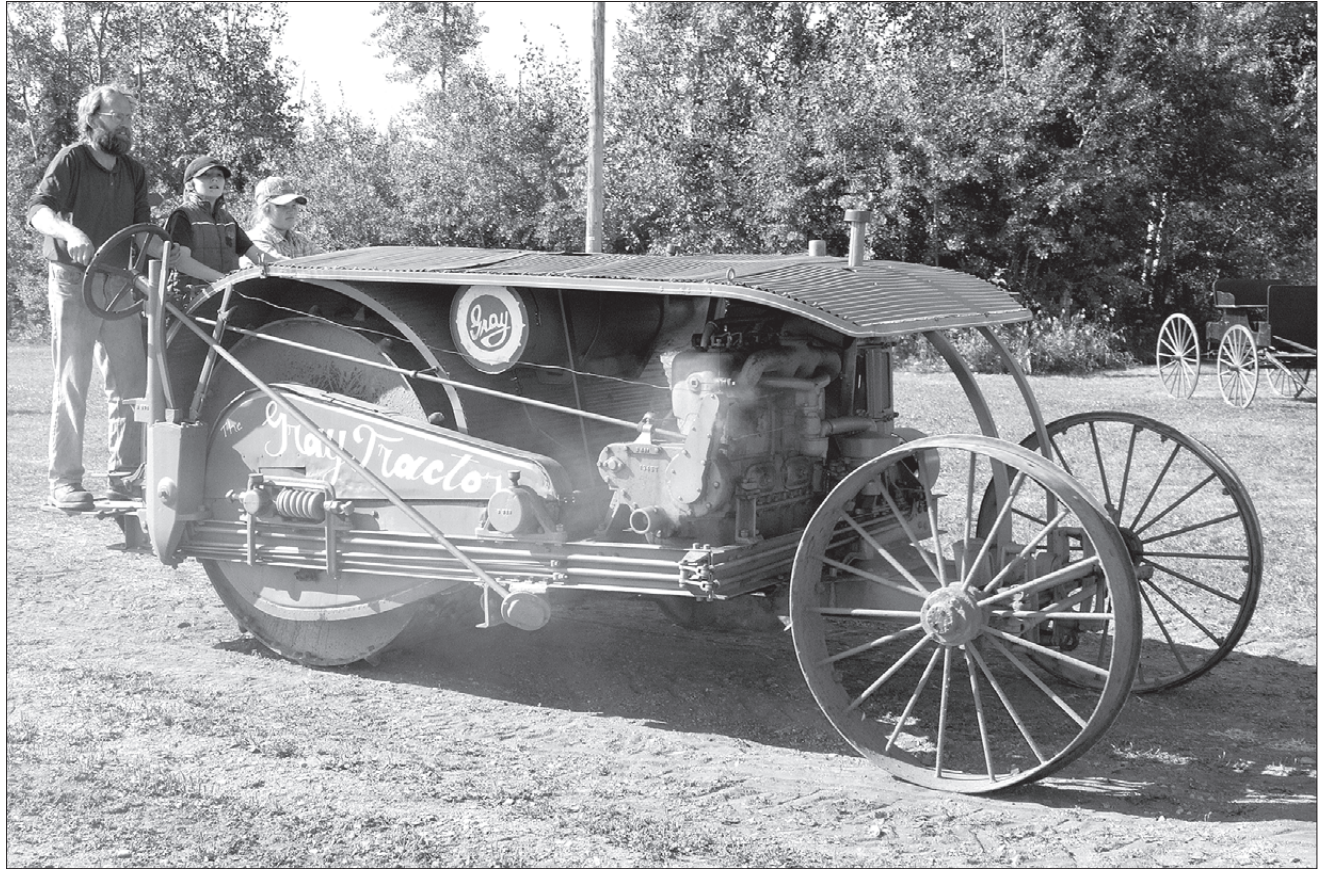
Crews are working hard to get the tractors ready and running on time, she says.

“The antique tractor parade remains one of the highlights of the day and really brings the old-fashioned harvest atmosphere to life,” de Voogd van der Straten says.

Kemp Honey bee train will run all day while people can enjoy wagon rides from 1-4 p.m.

A new ski team race has been added this year.

The race will be on all day so people can make their own teams, de Voogd van der Straten says.



The Gray Tractor, a 1920 model, driven by Thomas Claydon, was part of the antique tractor parade at the 2022 Harvest Festival at Triangle hosted by the Pioneer Threshermans Association. Beside him are his children, Travis Claydon, 12, middle, and Leah Claydon, 10.

Tractors barrel racing and water witching are scheduled from 2-4 p.m.

The Hot Wings Challenge for ages 18 and over return for the second year, from 2-3 p.m.

“It was a fun addition to the festival and we are looking forward to see who will be brave enough to take on the challenge again,” de Voogd van der Straten says.

Lawn mower races will hit the track from 3-4 p.m.

Drivers must be a minimum of 18 years of age and register by 11 a.m.

“We are expecting more racers following the very positive response to last year’s introductory race,” de Voogd van der Straten says.

A lumberjack competition is set from 4-5 p.m.

Supper starts at 5 p.m. for \$35 while children under six are free.

Festivities conclude

with a music jamboree inside Triangle Hall from 6-10 p.m.

Volunteers are also wanted for the event.

For more information,

visit the association website at

www.trianglehall.com or phone or text de Voogd van der Straten at (780) 291-0112.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

For over 50 years, the Northern Lakes College vision has been to increase accessibility to educational opportunities. With 25 locations across northern Alberta, program sites throughout Alberta, and a unique Supported Distance Learning model, students can access quality educational opportunities without leaving their community. Students can study from the comforts of home, work, on the road, or from one of the many College locations. Northern Lakes College offers a variety of university transfer, diploma, and certificate programs, including Academic Upgrading, Business & Administrative Studies, Health & Human Service Careers, Pre-Employment & Apprenticeship Trades, Resource Technology, University Studies, and Continuing Education & Corporate Training certificates and courses. We support and promote professional development and wellness opportunities, and provide our employees with an attractive benefits plan and competitive salaries. The College service region offers numerous sport and recreational activities for the entire family to enjoy!

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Reference #NLC-2322

Salary: \$62,520 to \$94,716 per year

Location: Slave Lake

Start Date: October 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Qualifications:

- Licensed Practical Nurse; Registered Nurse is an asset
- A valid registration with College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA), College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta (CPRNA), or College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA)
- Minimum one (1) year continuing care clinical experience in a health care facility
- Good working knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Willingness to travel
- A clean vulnerable sector criminal record check prior to commencement
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- A combination of education, training, and experience may be considered

The Successful candidate must provide College or University transcripts and a clean Criminal Record Check to Human Resources prior to commencement.

This position is covered under the Collective Agreement between Northern Lakes College and the Faculty Association of Northern Lakes College.

For complete details on this employment opportunity, visit us online at www.northernlakescollege.ca click on **Careers at NLC**.

Please submit a **resume quoting the reference number NLC-2322** to: Northern Lakes College, Human Resources, 1201 Main Street SE, Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A3 or alternatively, fax resume to: 780-849-5881

Closing Date: September 17, 2026

NOTE: Northern Lakes College thanks all applicants for their interest in employment; however, only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted.



A old-fashioned threshing demonstration, complete with a threshing machine and a truck, was popular at the 2022 Triangle Harvest Festival hosted by the Pioneer Threshermans Association. Standing in the truck are Martin Brand, left, and Ramona Bokhout.

Peace River Legion 100-year celebration

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(Peace River) - Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 62 is inviting community members to help celebrate 100 years. The Peace River Branch will be celebrating a century of honour, service, and community on Sept. 19 at the legion with a Homecoming Dinner.

“Royal Canadian Legion came to existence in 1926, starting out as the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service,” explains President Brian Whelen, adding that the name was only changed in the 1960s when they were granted the moniker Royal by Queen Elizabeth II. “Many legions have already celebrated our 100th, but we chose to wait until after summer holidays were done to hold our festivities.”

Whelen says the supper will include slow-smoked brisket, lemon chicken, Caesar salad, assorted desserts for \$40.

Whelen says it is important to highlight that Legion Branches are not government funded. Legions are a non-profit organization that must generate the funds needed to operate and maintain by each branch. Building expenses, utilities, repairs, renovations and day-to-day operations are supported through their bar, events, rentals, fundraisers, memberships, volunteers, and the generosity of the community.

“We’re also going to unveil the 100th anniversary mural that we’re going to mount outside of our building that was funded by generous donations from various community businesses



and organizations,” Whelen adds. “The mural will show an evolution of Canadian Armed Forces for the past hundred years. It kind of goes from first World War to Second World War, UN Peacekeeping and then to modern day.”

Whelen would also like to remind community members that the legion is not just for veterans.

“Any Canadian citizen can become a legion member,” says Whelen. “We like to encourage more membership, and we’d like to encourage more people to come see

and use the building. We have some historical things put up and it’s a cozy atmosphere to be in.”

Whelen says they hope that people will stop by the legion, see all the activities that are organized at the legion, and sign up as a member. He says they are also considering adding a bingo night this winter to help encourage more use.

He urges people to keep an eye on their Facebook page to see all the activities coming up or drop by the legion for a drink and some social time at the bar.

To purchase tickets for the 100th Anniversary supper, either drop by the legion or send an e-transfer to rylcdn1@telus.net with the password dinner.

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Gary Poloz

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Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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The memorial service will be followed by a light lunch and an opportunity to visit, share stories, and remember the many moments we shared with Gary.

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PR honours Dolly Parton with bridge tribute

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

(Peace River) - The Peace River bridge glowed pink on August 28 as the community joined municipalities and landmarks around the world in recognizing the legacy of the late great Dolly Parton.

The tribute came after a community member approached Mayor Elaine Shannon with a formal request to light the bridge in Parton's honour. Similar requests have been made to the Town of Peace River in the past for community tributes and awareness campaigns.

According to Town of Peace River CAO Kayla Parsons, administration reviews requests on a case-by-case basis before approving and programming the bridge's lighting system.

"The town was happy to accommodate this community request, similar to many other municipalities and landmarks," Parsons says. "Our participation helps highlight just how widely Dolly's impact

was around the world." The pedestrian walkway beneath the west-bound Peace River bridge is equipped with colour-changing LED lights. The bridge itself was constructed between 2017 and 2020, and the pedestrian corridor was included as part of the project.

For this tribute, the lights were changed to pink to align with other landmarks and municipalities participating in similar recognitions.

Parsons says the request also provided an opportunity for the community to acknowledge Parton's contributions to literacy.

"Dolly Parton's commitment to literacy through her Imagination Library program touched the lives of families in our small northern community," she says. "This light the bridge request presented an opportunity for our community to come together to acknowledge her legacy and local impact."

That impact has been felt in Peace River through Dolly Parton's



The Peace River Bridge lights up pink to honour Dolly Parton.
Photo courtesy of Julia Molaro

Imagination Library, a program that provides free books to children from birth to age five. The program officially launched in Peace River in October 2025 through a partnership involving the Peace River Rotary Club and the Peace River Friends of the Library Society.

The Dollywood Foundation oversees book selection and covers administrative and overhead costs associated with the program, while local partners fund the

community's share of the cost for each participating child.

Since December 2025, the Peace River Municipal Library & Art Gallery has mailed 340 books to local children through the Imagination Library program.

Sarah Lawrence, director of the Peace River Municipal Library & Art Gallery, says the program has already made a positive impact on area families.

"Lighting the bridge was a meaningful way

for our community to recognize Dolly Parton's incredible legacy and the difference she has made for children and families through her commitment to early childhood literacy," Lawrence says.

"The Imagination Library has already become a wonderful part of our community," Lawrence says. "By putting books directly into children's hands and giving them something to enjoy at home, the program helps encourage a love

of reading from an early age."

Lawrence also thanked the organizations and individuals who have helped make the program successful in Peace River.

"Thank you to the Town of Peace River, the Peace River Rotary Club, the Peace River Friends of the Library Society, and everyone who has helped spread the word and support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in our community," she says.

BIG MEADOW

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Directions: From the west end of Valleyview on Hwy. 43, take Rg. Rd. 224 south 1 km to TWP Rd. 702, go east .8 km to yard on left side.
From the Paradise Inn & Petro Can service station go west .8 km to yard on right.
• For more info or to view items please call ahead: Robin at (780) 524-6844 •

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Recreational and Misc: (2) Tow behind Motorcycle trailers • 2001 Embassy Triple E motorhome w/1 slide, 110,445 kms showing • Truck camper ice fishing shack • 1989 Blue Bird cab over bus • Arctic Cat 650 EXT snowmobile • Dune Buggy w/3 cyl. Eng. • Custom hunting buggy w/350 Chev eng. • Pig roaster on trailer • Remington field trimmer, 22in. **Misc. Shop Equipment & Truck Parts:** Forward vehicle lift 12,000lb. lift • Number of bolt bins w/bolts • Assort. of brake pots, brake drums, brake pads/shoes, wiring parts, belts, check valves, service valves, safety valves, airbags, bearings, oil filters • Fuel rail carbon cleaner DFS 910 • Model A crimp machine, 10,000 PSI max • Wood lathe • Blue Bullet exhaust pipe bender • Maintenance hardware and specialty fittings • No. of Toolboxes loaded w/tools • Refrigerant center BMC Series AC900 • Parts washer • Drill press • Large HD Gantry w/chain hoists • Good assort. of Impact sockets up to 2 ½ in. • Lincoln welder • Welding supplies • Oxygen/acetylene cart • No. of Jack stands • 20-gal. Snap-On air compressor • (2) Gray wheel lift systems, 20,000lb. lift • Gray truck scissor jack • Metal steps w/deck • Fuel tanks • Simplex jack • Large steel work benches • Vises • (4) pallets of bagged pellets for pellet stove • Honda 11hp. trash pump • Honda 5000 Generator • Honda 4hp. Pump • AC Machines • Table Saw.

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DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT PERMIT HAS BEEN ISSUED:

Permit Number	Applicant / Developer	Legal Description	Proposed Development	Date of Notice of Decision
26-24	Canadian Natural Upgrading Limited	SW.24.85.19.W5M	Ancillary Use (Borrow Pit)	September 9, 2026

Any persons affected by these decisions may appeal to the Clerk, Development Appeal Board, Bag 1300, Peace River, AB T8S 1Y9.

Such an appeal shall be in writing and delivered in person or by registered mail so as to reach the Clerk of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board at the County Office along with a \$150.00 non-refundable Appeal Fee and Appeal Reasons within 21 days of the Date of Notice of Decision.



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- September 16 - La Petite Ecole from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the St. Isidore Cultural Centre.
- September 16 - Kids Konnection from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Nampa FCSS Office.
- September 17 - 55+ Chair Yoga from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Cafe du Coin in St. Isidore.
- September 22 - Seniors' Coffee Catch-up from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Nampa Foods.
- September 23 - Kids Konnection from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Nampa FCSS Office.
- September 24 - Tech Talk at 10:00 a.m. at the Cafe du Coin in St. Isidore.
- September 24 - 55+ Chair Yoga from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Cafe du Coin in St. Isidore.



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SPCA gets go ahead to build

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(Peace River) - After a long appeal process, Peace Regional SPCA has received approval for its Development Permit to build in its former Lot 15, Block 15 downtown location.

"We received the decision from the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board on Aug. 27," says Peace Regional President SPCA Penny Steffen.

"We are incredibly excited to get to this stage. It has been a challenging journey for a volunteer organization."

After years of planning, fundraising, navigating approvals and facing appeals, the Peace Regional SPCA says it is officially ready to move forward with building of its new shelter at its original location.

"With all the delays we have faced we have lost prime construction time as we move into fall," explains Steffen.

"The delays have had a considerable financial impact as we will now face an increase in building materials and paying rent for a longer period of time."

The delay in building was caused after some residents near the 94th Avenue location petitioned against the construction of the new facility.

As a result of the ap-

peal, the decision had to be taken to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board.

Steffen says they had many individuals support their efforts to stay in the 94th Avenue location, noting that the location is a prime place to acquire volunteers and attract potential adopters.

"The location of 94th Avenue has been home to the SPCA for 34 years," explains Steffen.

"After being at our temporary location, we have seen a decrease in volunteers due to the lack of walking trails and space to take the dogs out safely. Access to the dyke has been missed."

The new animal care facility will be used as a shelter to house, care for and adopt animals to new homes.

The building proposed will have a variety of spaces to accommodate daily operations, animal welfare needs, and staff activities.

This facility will include indoor and outdoor dog kennels, a cattery and cat condominium areas, and designated isolation rooms for both cats and dogs.

It will also have an adoption room to facilitate animal viewing and placement, a medical room for basic care, reception area, staff offices, conference room, kitchen and staff lounge.

"The facility is purpose-built meaning it is designed to be an ani-

mal shelter and compatible in the land use district," explains Steffen.

"We spent a significant amount of time ensuring the building would be beneficial for the animals in our care and the neighbourhood. Rather than having one large room we have enhanced the space to improve their welfare. We have added specialized rooms for both dogs and cats to help them adjust better to being in the shelter."

The new cat wing will have two cat condo rooms and three cattery rooms which Steffen says will allow cats to come into the facility, be monitored, and receive any necessary medical care.

"We then have the option to move them into one of our 3 cattery areas where they can socialize with other cats," she says.

"We have three main areas for dogs - one larger general population area, one smaller area and then a low stress area designed for dogs that need some extra time to adjust being in the shelter."

The new facility will also have designated isolation areas for both cats and dogs which the old shelter did not have.

The SPCA will be able to isolate animals for medical reasons, once the facility is built.

"There is a multi-purpose room that can be used for meetings or



Drawing of the new building.

events," she adds.

"As well we have an adoption area where potential can spend time with an animal they would like to adopt in a safe, calm, and private area away from other people and animals. Having this space will improve adoption success."

Steffen says there will also be an accessible washroom and an outdoor play area at the back of the facility.

Steffen says even with the lengthy delay, the SPCA team is still hoping it will be able to break ground this fall.

She says construction of the facility will take approximately one year to complete.

"We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has stood by us throughout this

process and over the last 37 years that the shelter has been in Peace River," Steffen exclaims.

"We have had tremendous support from our community, especially since we first shared our preliminary plans back in 2023."

Steffen says their team is still fundraising for the new building.

She says Peace Regional SPCA received a significant inheritance from Joyce Ford Watmore that will allow the team to construct the shell, but they still require some funds to enhance the inside of the shelter.

"Without a local shelter, surrendered, stray, injured or abandoned animals would have far fewer options," concludes Steffen.

"Having a shelter in Peace River means animals can receive immediate care locally rather than relying entirely on organizations that are farther away or putting pressure on municipal resources."

Steffen notes that although they have approval to build, appeals still can be made for 30 days.

Anyone interested in learning about volunteer opportunities or donating to the build of the new facility can reach out to Peace Regional SPCA's team by emailing info@peaceregionalspc.a.com or phoning 780-624-3633.



Farm

Continued from page 5

Joe and Tara Hedrich credit their son Gabriel, Joe's mother Audrey Hedrich, Ed Hedrich and Nadine Owchar, as well as friends and neighbours and community members for their continued support.

Big Lakes council congratulates the Hedrich family for their commitment as stated by Reeve Tyler Airth.

"The Hedrich family is an excellent example of the dedication, resilience and community spirit that make our agricultural community so strong," Airth says.

"From their family roots in Faust nearly a century ago, to the innovative ways, they continue to connect local agriculture with consumers today, their commitment to farming and community is something to be proud of."

"On behalf of Big Lakes County, I congratulate Hedibuilt Farms on this well-deserved recognition."

Joe and Tara Hedrich have continued the tradition of the farm roots while adapting to changing consumer needs, recognizing that people wanted a

closer connection to their food and to know where and how it was produced.

In July 2020, they opened The Farm, a small store selling their home-raised beef and lamb.

The store also offers pork and cheese from other small Alberta producers, along with small-batch condiments from other provinces.

All products are sold are Canadian-made.

Last spring, the family expanded its business by purchasing FIX. Coffee Bar & Bakery in Slave Lake, with plans to eventually expand The Farm into that location.

Helibuilt Farms has welcomed visitors during Alberta Open Farm Day from 2022 to 2025.

The Hedrichs appreciate being part of the province-wide event.

"Participating in Alberta Open Farm Days was a way to host a fun event while also introducing people to the way that we farm," Tara Hedrich says in a story in the *South Peace News* print issue of Aug. 27, 2025.

"One of the farm's core values is transparency, so this event helps show people how we farm and also ask questions about farming to get information they don't know."

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Big Lakes hosts BBQ in Faust

Big Lakes County hosted its second annual end-of-summer hamlet barbecue Aug. 27, this year at the Faust Multicultural Gathering Place. The event attracted 150 people, up from 120 in 2025 on a wet cool day in Kinuso. Pulled pork, salads and desserts were served by council. Big Lakes gave away small bags of birdseed and copies of the book In Our Own Words featuring stories about longtime residents published in 2019.



A delicious meal was served to 150 people. Left-right, are Louise Mifflin, Guy Berube, David Whillans and Brenda Whillans.



Big Lakes gave away small bags of birdseed and copies of the book In Our Own Words featuring stories about longtime residents published in 2019. Left-right are communications co-ordinator Victoria Zahacy, Big Lakes Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) manager Nicole Hanna and agriculture services manager Sarah Cairns.



A Faust couple gets ready to have a meal. Left-right, are Bryan and Sandy Heroux and their grandson Taylor Gray holding a bag of birdseed.



Council members serve salads. Left-right, are Faust Councillor Robert Nygaard, Enilda – Big Meadow Councillor Lane Monteith and Grouard Council-lor Rob Porter.

Klyne added to Big Lakes Wall of Fame

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(Kinuso) – A Kinuso woman noted for her commitment to community service for many years was recognized as the newest inductee on the Big Lakes County Volunteer Wall of Fame. Ashley Klyne, was honoured Aug. 27 at the county hamlet barbecue in Faust. She was unable to attend the county barbecue June 25 in High Prairie where the main ceremony is held. The annual award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their community and have made a lasting positive impact through years of volunteer work, leadership and service.

Klyne was nominated by Holly Malanowich and Kinuso Councillor Roberta Hunt. “Ashley is a go-getter,” Malanowich says in her nomination. “She gives her heart and sole to her community.” She has been a member of the Kinuso-based Central Slave Lake Agricultural Society for 10 years, Kinuso School volleyball coach for at least 10 years and a member of the Kinosayo Museum Society for eight years. She is always volun-

teering at something, be it the agricultural society finding sponsors for something or planning events such as curling, a farmers’ market, Christmas socials and dances. Klyne volunteers for museum events and opens the school for community drop-in volleyball. “She wants everything to be done successfully for the community,” Malanowich says. She organizes the school community clean-up, Remembrance Day ceremony,

Italian Knights’ Supper and coaches volleyball on her own time. “Her latest successful endeavour has been drop-in volleyball,” Malanowich says. The activity held twice a week attracts 20-30 youth and adults from the local community, Driftpile and Swan River. Hunt adds other information about Klyne’s volunteer service. “Her commitment to Kinuso goes above and beyond,” Hunt says. “She is fully committed through her lifestyle and work.” Klyne started a volleyball tournament at the Kinuso Fall Fair in recent years. She organizes the hamlet clean-up with students at the school.



Big Lakes County honoured a dedicated volunteer on its Volunteer Wall of Fame on Aug. 27 to recognize her service to the community. Left-right, are Ashley Klyne and Reeve Tyler Airth.

“She wants everything to be done successfully for the community.”

Indian Relay Races ready to roll in HP

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Exciting horse racing returns at the fourth annual Sucker Creek First Nation Indian Relay Races set for Sept. 12-13 at the High Prairie Elks Rodeo Grounds.

The event celebrates a great tradition passed down through the generations, says Shirley Calliou, director of economic development and tourism and the lead organizer of the event.

“Bring your family, your friends and come and experience the energy of Indian relay races,” Calliou says.

“The event provides an opportunity for people to experience Indigenous culture firsthand while enjoying an exciting weekend of racing and

entertainment.”

Payout of \$100,000 and championship buckles will be up for grabs at the event.

Accredited by the Horse Nations Indian Relay Races, the event counts as one race toward the Champion of Champions Race.

Grand Entry both days starts at 1 p.m.

Gates to the grounds open at 10 a.m.

Bronc and bull riding starts at 1:30 p.m., followed by the relay races.

The event will feature racing competition in several categories, including the Men’s Relay, Ladies’ Race, Chiefs’ Race and Warriors’ Race.

Dancers and drummers will also be in the spotlight.

A tipi village will feature Indigenous culture and arts and crafts.

“Come enjoy the tipi village with knowledge sharing and cultural awareness with traditional values,” Calliou says.

Children’s activities and family-friendly entertainment will be hosted by Treaty 8 Urban Office.

“Activities are geared towards cultural sharing and gaining knowledge of Cree Peoples of our area,” Calliou says.

“We want to create activities where children and families can have fun and be part of the experience.

“The goal is to make this an event where there is something for everyone.”

Food vendors will also be on site.

The event is a celebration of culture, community and competition –

and keeps growing.

“Sucker Creek First Nation has a vision of developing Indian Relay Races into a signature annual event for the region – one that attracts teams and visitors from across Canada and the United States,” Calliou says.

“We are always looking at ways to build the event, keep it exciting for our spectators and create an identity that is unique to Sucker Creek.”

The Nation sees the Indian Relay Races as an important part of its broader tourism and eco-

nomie development strategy, she adds.

“Through events like this, Sucker Creek First Nation is creating opportunities to share its history, culture and land with visitors while building sustainable economic development for its members,” Calliou says.

“The 2026 event is another step toward that vision.”

For the Sucker Creek First Nation, hosting the Indian Relay Races is also about creating opportunities for the community, she adds.

“The event supports

local employment and businesses, vendors, tourism, youth participation and economic development,” Calliou says.

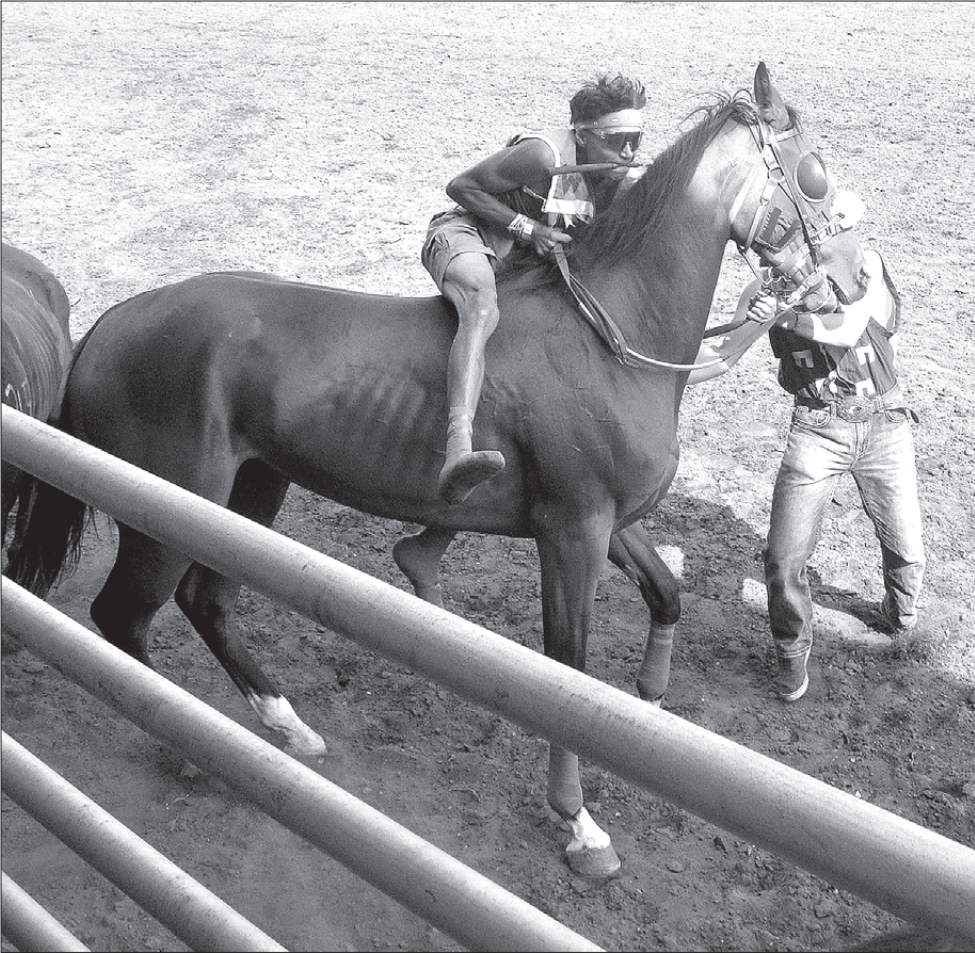
“It brings visitors to the region and creates opportunities for people to showcase their businesses, talents, food, crafts and services.

“Most importantly, it gives our youth an opportunity to see their culture, traditions and accomplishments celebrated on a large stage.”

Organizers request visitors to park in the parking lot at the north end of the grounds.



Princesses carry the Sucker Creek First Nation flag in the Grand Entry last year at the Sucker Creek Indian Relay Races in High Prairie.



A rider gets on a new horse in the exchange – where the rider is the baton – at the Sucker Creek Indian Relay Races in High Prairie last year.

Member At-Large Appointments

Big Lakes County

Annually the Council for Big Lakes County seeks interest from individuals to be a part of various boards and committees to serve our public. Council seeks individuals with interest and expertise in the following areas:

Big Lakes County Library Board (three (3) year term)	1 member at-large
The Big Lakes County Library Board is a seven-member board consisting of two (2) Councillors, one (1) staff and four (4) members-at-large. The Board functions as a separate corporation under the Libraries Act and delivers library services by contributing to the Kinuso Municipal Library.	
Time commitment: Approximately four times per year on an ad hoc basis with late afternoon meetings.	
High Prairie Airport Advisory Committee (one (1) year term)	1 member at-large
The High Prairie Regional Airport Advisory Committee consists of two (2) Big Lakes County Councillors, two (2) Town of High Prairie Councillors, one (1) Big Lakes County at-large members. The High Prairie Regional Airport Advisory Committee will:	
● Advise the airport manager and CAO's on operational matters ● Advise Council's on recommended capital requirements ● Advise Council's and CAO's on recommended future development and operational opportunities for the betterment of the region	
Time commitment: Hearings are held as required.	
Municipal Planning Commission (one (1) year term)	2 members at-large
The Municipal Planning Commission consists of nine (9) Council members and two (2) members at-large. The Commission provides advice to Council on land use, making decisions on subdivisions and development permits deemed as discretionary within the County's Land Use Bylaw.	
Time commitment: Meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m.	
Assessment Review Board (three (3) year term)	1 member at-large
As a Board or Committee representative, members will assist in municipal operations through research and decision making on current issues. The Assessment Review Board hears and deals with complaints about property assessment that has been received by Big Lakes County. This Board consists of a pool of trained candidates, which convenes an annual panel of no more than three (3) members, of which no more than one may be an elected official.	
Time commitment: Mandatory multi-day training session required as prescribed by the Government of Alberta, prior to participating in a Board hearing. Meetings are infrequent.	
** Appointments will be made during the Organizational Meeting of Council scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m.	
**Applications can be found on our website https://biglakescounty.ca/government/county-council/boards-committees/ or at the Administration Office in High Prairie or Kinuso. Please forward applications by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9, 2026, to:	
Janelle Olansky Big Lakes County P.O. Box 239 High Prairie, Alberta T0G 1E0 Fax: 780-523-4227 Email: jolansky@biglakescounty.ca	



HPE welcomes new principals and 3 teachers

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – High Prairie Elementary School welcomes a new principal, a new vice-principal and three new teachers as the 2026-27 school year starts.

Hassan Bouakir is the new principal after serving as principal at E.W. Pratt High School in High Prairie the last two years.

He succeeds Lyndsay Fleming who become the principal at Pratt.

“I’ve always believed that education is ultimately about people, programs, strategies and data matter,” Bouakir says.

“But the relationship a teacher builds with a child can change that child’s life, experience of school and sometimes their direction in life.”

He also says new and young teachers are vital to help a child learn.

“I believe a strong school is one where experienced educators share their wisdom while new educators bring fresh perspectives and everyone continues to learn from one another,” Bouakir says.

“Education is at its best when both the teacher and the student remain curious, inspired and excited to discover what comes next.”

Tracy Trethewy became the new vice-principal.

She has many years of experience in administration and in the classroom in several grade levels, many countries and continents.

Trethewy comes from Roland Michener Second-



High Prairie Elementary School welcomes a new principal, a new vice-principal and three new teachers. Left-right, are teacher Kimber-Lee Sharpe, vice-principal Tracy Trethewy, principal Hassan Bouakir and teachers Karenda Swain and Korie McAdam.

ary School in Slave Lake where she has taught drama, foods and social studies the past three years. She has led major drama productions – such as Elf Jr. and The Lion King Jr. – that involved up to 100 students in various roles such as acting, technical, design and leadership, including students from the Community Classroom and Career and Technical Studies (CTS).

Karenda Swain teaches music and English language arts. She has eight years of teaching experience both in Canada and internationally.

“I look forward to contributing to the school com-

munity and getting involved throughout the year,” Swain says.

Korie McAdam teaches kindergarten.

She has worked in the education field for three years as a kindergarten teacher, a child development specialist, numeracy and a literacy strategist.

Already, she have become active in the community.

“This year, I am also teaching dance with the Repertoire Dance Society,” McAdam says.

Kimber-Lee Sharpe teaches Grade 2.

She has previously taught home economics.

Pratt welcomes new principal and three teachers

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – E.W. Pratt High School in High Prairie welcomes a new principal with a familiar face, along with three new teachers.

Lyndsay Fleming returns to Pratt to become the new principal after serving as the principal at High Prairie Elementary School for the past four years after two years as the vice-principal.

The move comes full circle for her.

When she was first hired by High Prairie School Division, she served as the vice-principal at Pratt for the

2018-19 school.

Fleming succeeds former principal Hassan Bouakir who becomes the principal at HPE after two years at Pratt.

She is delighted to return to the Pratt to serve in her new role as principal.

“I’m so excited to be back at E.W. Pratt and Prairie View Outreach,” says Fleming.

“We have an absolutely fantastic team (of staff) at both schools and I couldn’t be more thrilled in all the amazing thing we are doing.

“The added bonus is that I get to see my previous High Prairie Elementary School stu-

dents again at Pratt.”

Greg Styles is the new art and photography teacher and also teaches Career and Life Management (CALM).

Coming from Lethbridge he has 10 years experience teaching, all in southern Alberta.

He plans to get involved in other school activities.

“I want to develop a club,” Styles says.

Bryn Peppler will be teaching Science 14, Science 10-4 and 20-4, Math 15 and 10C and Chemistry 20. Coming from Fairview, this will be her first teaching position.

She graduated in spring 2026 from the



E.W. Pratt High School in High Prairie welcomes a new principal and some new teachers. Left-right, are new teachers Bryn Peppler and Greg Styles, new principal Lyndsay Fleming and new teacher Tannisha Mackenzie.

University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Education.

Tannisha Mackenzie is the new teacher for Career and Technology

Studies (CTS) for Grades 10-12 and cosmetology.

She transfers from High Prairie Elementary School where she

was on staff for 10 years.

Teaching kindergarten last year, she also taught Grades 2-3, music and physical education.

HFCRD

Continued from page 12

Cormick says there will be a division-wide Faith Day in Sept., introducing the plan to all trustees, teachers, and administrators.

Trustees will engage directly with the archbishop and local priests on the Bishop’s Assurance Plan and the division’s Faith Plan.

The division has also created a Numeracy Framework and expanded literacy resources that will be introduced this year to strengthen teaching and learning.

The division is hopefully to raise Grade 9 Provincial Achievement test and diploma results.

“Every student in our division deserves the chance to succeed,” says Cormick. “With our new numeracy framework and expanded literacy supports, we’re giving teachers the tools they need to help students build strong foundational skills from kindergarten through grade twelve.”

In addition, Indigenous Student Support Workers are at every school to support First Nations and Métis students academically. Cormick says the Col-

laborative Response Model will continue to expand the delivery of timely and targeted supports for students in every grade.

HFCRD is excited to announced that the Government of Alberta accelerated the St. Thomas More School replacement project in Fairview, pushing the project into design stage.

This will bring modern learning spaces into Fairview for students and their families.

“We are thrilled to see the Fairview project accelerated into the design stage,” says Cormick. “This is a significant investment in the future of Catholic education in Fairview, and it means students there will soon learn in a modern, purpose-built space.”

Cormick adds that HFCRD is continuing to advocate for a new St. Andrew’s facility, noting that the K to 12 school has been serving the High Prairie and area community since 1957.

She says the provincial value scoping exercise confirmed the replacement cost at over \$8.7 million in current maintenance needs, foundation settlement, and water infiltration.

The division feels a new St. Andrew’s school would resolve the maze-like layout, add Career and Technology Studies (CTS) spaces, and save an estimated \$250,000 annually.

The division is also hoping to modernize Good

Shepherd School in Peace River.

The mechanical system upgrade is the division’s next capital priority after St. Andrew’s is completed.

“Good Shepherd School has served Peace River families for decades, and keeping its systems safe, efficient, and reliable is essential,” Cormick notes. “This modernization project reflects our commitment to responsible stewardship of every facility in our division.”

As for the HFCRD board, Kelly Whalen continues as Board Chair for 2026-2027, with John Kuran Vice Chair.

These decisions were finalized at the Aug. 19 organizational meeting.

The board has three strategic priorities: Authentic Catholic Identity, Success for All, and Governance Excellence. The board is developing a new division-wide advocacy plan to champion Catholic education and respond proactively to emerging issues affecting local families.

“Strong Catholic education depends on strong partnerships with our families, parishes, and communities,” concludes Cormick. “As we begin this school year, our Board of Trustees is renewing its commitment to transparency, advocacy, and meaningful engagement across every community we serve.”

St. Andrew's School welcomes new teachers

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – St. Andrew's School in High Prairie welcomes four new teachers, three with familiar faces at the school.

Jodi Cuthbert teaches Grades 1 in her first full-time teaching position.

She graduated recently with a Bachelor of Education from the University of Calgary.

A longtime resident of the High Prairie region, Cuthbert has five of her children enrolled at the school.

Brandi Matula teaches Grade 5 in her first full-time teaching position.

She graduated recently with a Bachelor of Education from the University of Calgary.

A longtime resident of the High Prairie region, Matula previously worked with Helping Our Students To Succeed in local schools for 10 years.

She says she plans to get involved in extra-curricular activities, likely as a coach in sports.

Chelsey St. Amour teaches Grades 2 and 3.

She comes to the school with teaching experience of four years, including at Ecole Providence in McLennan, Peace River, Grimshaw, and Grande Prairie.

Jordan Taylor teaches Grade 8 religion and social studies and foods for Grades 10-12.

He has been teaching in the High Prairie and Smoky River regions for the past seven years, returning to St. Andrew's



St. Andrew's School in High Prairie welcomes four new teachers. Left-right, are Brandi Matula, Chelsey St. Amour, Jodi Cuthbert, and Jordan Taylor.

after serving in McLennan, at Ecole Providence and previously at High Prairie Elementary School, High Prairie region.

He will continue serving as a referee for school volleyball and basketball.

Prairie River welcomes two new teachers

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Prairie River Junior High School in High Prairie welcomes two new teachers.

Sandi Stone teaches math for Grades 7-9 and Career and Technology Studies options in her

first full-time teaching position.

Outside the classroom, she will coach the school's handgames team.

She will also develop some extra-curricular programming for Indigenous arts and crafts.

A former Prairie River student and a

graduate of E.W. Pratt High School in High Prairie, Stone grew up in Sucker Creek.

She graduated in 2026 from the University of Calgary with Bachelor of Education specializing in Revitalizing Indigenous Language.

Braydn Heckbert teaches physical educa-

tion for Grade 7-9 in his second year of teaching.

He will coach junior boys' volleyball and basketball and school track and field.

"We are also planning to start an archery team

which I will coach," Heckert says.

Last year, he taught kindergarten at St. Andrew's School in High Prairie in his first full-time teaching position.

Heckbert graduated in 2019 from Georges. P. Vanier School in Donnelly.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Education in 2025 from the University of Alberta.



Prairie River Junior High School in High Prairie welcomes two new teachers. Left-right, are Sandi Stone and Braydn Heckbert.

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Terry Fox Run set to go in McLennan

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(McLennan) - Cancer survivors, family members, community members, cancer patients, and visitors will be coming together later this month to raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation.

The annual McLennan Terry Fox Run will start at the Ecole Providence parking lot on Sept. 20 from 1:30 until 3:30 pm.

Organizer Kristen Blanchette is excited for the annual run and says she hopes folks will come out for a great cause.

“Terry Fox is such an inspiring person, and I want his legacy to continue, I also want those who have cancer, have survived cancer and their families to feel support from the community,” says Blanchette. “All proceeds go directly to the Terry Fox Foundation for cancer research.”

Blanchette’s father Francis Lessard began organizing the McLennan run in 1984 and it is a legacy that she has been proud to

embrace.

“He was inspired by Terry Fox and wanted to keep his legacy alive,” Blanchette explains. “Then for a few years Ryan Hicks took over organizing the event and then I decided to take over the reins and organize it.”

Each lap of the run is three kilometres and Blanchette says that

“It’s a great opportunity for the community to come together, raise money for cancer research and get outside.”

people are welcome to complete the lap as many times as they would like.

Three laps are encouraged, but not necessary.

“It is a very small thing that I feel I can do,” she says of organizing the run. “I’ve seen friends and family battle cancer and lost my cousin to cancer last fall. Over the years the community has raised over \$75,000.”

This year’s theme na-

tion-wide is ‘Finish It’.

The Terry Fox Foundation and the Terry Fox Research Institute work together in pursuit of Terry’s dream to end cancer through research.

The nation-wide run is one of the many ways that money is raised to help accomplish this dream.

“It’s a great opportunity for the community to come together, raise money for cancer research and get outside,” says Blanchette. “We would like to see as many people as possible participate. The route is all on pavement so people can run, walk, cycle, blade, roll.”

Blanchette says she would like to see people of all physical abilities attend, whether on foot or in a wheelchair.

She says this is a great opportunity to help raise funds for an important cause and get some much-needed outside time.

Interested runners can participate by donation to the Terry Fox Foundation.

She says to show up on Sept. 20, register, and enjoy the day with fellow residents.



Francis Lessard (middle) was the first organizer of the Terry Fox Run in McLennan in 1984. His grandchildren Rosalynn (left) and Remy (right) Blanchette are pictured with him at the run in 2024. Lessard passed away earlier this summer but his memory lives on with his family and the longstanding Terry Fox Run in McLennan.

Registrations open for wreath-making class

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(Falher) - If you’re thinking about Christmas already, Smoky River Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is taking registrations for the Ladies’ Night Christmas Wreath Making Class.

FCSS Community Program Coordinator Anita Portsmouth says the program will be a great way to transform your old ornaments into a fresh, green wreath.

The event will take place in December, date not set at this juncture, but registrations must be sent in by Sept. 30.

“Ladies’ Nights are a great way to promote social inclusion and a fun way for women to take an evening for themselves,” explains Portsmouth. “At this point we only have our wreath making night established, although we plan to develop two or three more (ladies’ nights) in the upcoming year.”

The cost to attend the Christmas Wreath Making Class is \$65 per person and will be taught by local florist Sandy Primeau.

“These events give women in the area a chance to learn something new, meet new people and connect with neighbours and friends,” says Portsmouth. “Activities such as this are fun and a form of self care. The stronger the people in a community are,

the stronger a community is.”

Portsmouth says the specific date and location has not been determined, but they need to confirm interest to order supplies for the wreaths.

“Ladies’ Nights are fun and an great opportunity to learn a new craft or skill,” Portsmouth urges. “We offer ladies the opportunity to create something they made themselves.”

The fee of \$65 will cover the costs of supplies and other fees.

Portsmouth says it’s a great opportunity to gather with friends for a night of festive fun and creativity.

“We are asking for registration by the end of September to ensure the lowest cost for the wreath supplies, early ordering gives us a better deal,” says

Portsmouth.

“Although we don’t have any other ladies’ nights planned, if anyone has a request for something specific please let us know and we can look into a class or workshop.”

Portsmouth says the wreath making class will help people get into the spirit of Christmas.

“We are encouraging participants to bring any old ornaments, toys, jewellery or whatever they would like to include in their wreath,” she adds. “The wreath will encourage memories of past holidays. We will also be offering a small craft for those who have completed their wreaths ahead of others to be gifted to those who may not receive gifts.”

Ladies can register for the event by phoning office at 780-837-2220 or email anita@srfcss.com.



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2026-27 North Peace Hockey League Schedule

Saturday, Oct. 17
Fox Creek at Grande Prairie
High Prairie at Dawson Creek

Sunday, Oct. 18
Fort St. John at Grande Prairie

Friday, Oct. 23
Grande Prairie at High Prairie

Saturday, Oct. 24
Dawson Creek at Fox Creek
Fort St. John at Grimshaw
Manning at Spirit River

Thursday, Oct. 29
Grande Prairie at Dawson Creek

Friday, Oct. 30
Grimshaw at High Prairie
Valleyview at Spirit River

Saturday, Oct. 31
Dawson Creek at Valleyview
Fox Creek at Fort St. John
Grande Prairie at Manning

Friday, Nov. 6
Fox Creek at Falher
Valleyview at Grimshaw

Saturday, Nov. 7
Dawson Creek at Manning
High Prairie at Fort St. John
Spirit River at Fox Creek

Thursday, Nov. 12
Falher at Valleyview

Friday, Nov. 13
Grande Prairie at Falher
Spirit River at Valleyview

Saturday, Nov. 14
Fox Creek at Dawson Creek
Grimshaw at Spirit River
Manning at Fort St. John

Thursday, Nov. 19
Falher at High Prairie

Friday, Nov. 20
Fox Creek at Valleyview
Manning at Grimshaw

Saturday, Nov. 21
Grimshaw at Fort St. John
Spirit River at Grande Prairie
Valleyview at Manning

Friday, Nov. 27
Dawson Creek at Spirit River
Grimshaw at Falher
Valleyview at High Prairie

Saturday, Nov. 28
Falher at Grande Prairie
Fort St. John at Fox Creek
Manning at Dawson Creek

Friday, Dec. 4
Falher at Manning
Grande Prairie at Valleyview
Spirit River at High Prairie

Saturday, Dec. 5
Grimshaw at Dawson Creek
Manning at Fox Creek
Valleyview at Fort St. John

Friday, Dec. 11
High Prairie at Fox Creek
Valleyview at Falher

Saturday, Dec. 12
Dawson Creek at Grande Prairie
Falher at Spirit River
Fort St. John at Manning
Fox Creek at Grimshaw

Sunday, Dec. 13
High Prairie at Grande Prairie

Thursday, Dec. 17
Falher at Grimshaw
Fort St. John at Dawson Creek
Grande Prairie at Spirit River

Friday, Dec. 18
High Prairie at Valleyview
Manning at Falher

Saturday, Dec. 19
Dawson Creek at High Prairie
Grande Prairie at Fox Creek
Spirit River at Fort St. John

Thursday, Jan. 7
Grimshaw at Valleyview
Spirit River at Dawson Creek

Friday, Jan. 8
Fox Creek at High Prairie

Saturday, Jan. 9
Dawson Creek at Grimshaw
Fort St. John at Falher
High Prairie at Manning
Valleyview at Grande Prairie

Thursday, Jan. 14
Spirit River at Grimshaw

Friday, Jan. 15
Grande Prairie at Fort St. John
Grimshaw at Manning

Saturday, Jan. 16
Falher at Dawson Creek
Fort St. John at High Prairie
Fox Creek at Spirit River

Friday, Jan. 22
Dawson Creek at Fort St. John
Falher at Fox Creek
High Prairie at Spirit River
Manning at Valleyview

Saturday, Jan. 23
Fox Creek at Manning
Grande Prairie at Grimshaw
Spirit River at Falher

Thursday, Jan. 28
Fort St. John at Spirit River

Friday, Jan. 29
High Prairie at Falher

Saturday, Jan. 30
Falher at Fort St. John
Grimshaw at Fox Creek
Manning at Grande Prairie
Valleyview at Dawson Creek

Thursday, Feb. 4
High Prairie at Grimshaw

Friday, Feb. 5
Spirit River at Manning
Valleyview at Fox Creek

Saturday, Feb. 6
Dawson Creek at Falher
Fort St. John at Valleyview
Grimshaw at Grande Prairie
Manning at High Prairie

Falher Pirates Schedule



Friday, Nov. 6
Thursday, Nov. 12
Friday, Nov. 13
Thursday, Nov. 19
Friday, Nov. 27
Saturday, Nov. 28
Friday, Dec. 4
Friday, Dec. 11
Saturday, Dec. 12
Thursday, Dec. 17
Friday, Dec. 18
Saturday, Jan. 9
Saturday, Jan. 16
Friday, Jan. 22
Saturday, Jan. 23
Friday, Jan. 29
Saturday, Jan. 30

Fox Creek at Falher
Falher at Valleyview
Grande Prairie at Falher
Falher at High Prairie
Grimshaw at Falher
Falher at Grande Prairie
Falher at Manning
Valleyview at Falher
Falher at Spirit River
Falher at Grimshaw
Manning at Falher
Fort St. John at Falher
Falher at Dawson Creek
Falher at Fox Creek
Spirit River at Falher
High Prairie at Falher
Falher at Fort St. John

High Prairie Regals Schedule



Saturday, Oct. 17
Friday, Oct. 23
Friday, Oct. 30
Saturday, Nov. 7
Thursday, Nov. 19
Friday, Nov. 27
Friday, Dec. 4
Friday, Dec. 11
Sunday, Dec. 13
Friday, Dec. 18
Saturday, Dec. 19
Friday, Jan. 8
Saturday, Jan. 9
Saturday, Jan. 16
Friday, Jan. 22
Friday, Jan. 29
Thursday, Feb. 4

High Prairie at Dawson Creek
Grande Prairie at High Prairie
Grimshaw at High Prairie
High Prairie at Fort St. John
Falher at High Prairie
Valleyview at High Prairie
Spirit River at High Prairie
High Prairie at Fox Creek
High Prairie at Grande Prairie
High Prairie at Valleyview
Dawson Creek at High Prairie
Fox Creek at High Prairie
High Prairie at Manning
Fort St. John at High Prairie
High Prairie at Spirit River
High Prairie at Falher
High Prairie at Grimshaw

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Imagination is more important than knowledge. ~Albert Einstein



BIG RIVER FIRST NATION TRUST OFFICE

BOARD MEMBER CALLOUT

Big River First Nation ("BRFN") is seeking candidates for the Trust Advisory Committee established under the Big River First Nation Treaty 6 Benefits Settlement Trust Agreement (the "Trust Agreement").

Scan the QR Code or go to the BRFN website to see guidelines and to download the application or email trust@brfn.ca for info.



Deadline: 4:00pm September 18, 2026



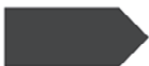
To Apply, Submit Completed Forms By Email: trust@brfn.ca;



Or Drop Off Forms to the Big River First Nation Administration Centre;



Or Mail to Box 519 Debden, Saskatchewan, S0J0S0
Attention: Big River First Nation Trust Office



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Quotefalls 1

Answers on next page!

			9	7		8		1
	1	5					3	
	7	8			6	9		
4					5		6	8
5				6				9
6	8		4					5
		6	7			5	8	
	4					1	9	
8		2		3	9			

MP Viersen promotes Big Plan for Small Towns

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(Ottawa) – Peace River – Westlock MP Arnold Viersen endorses a new plan proposed by a Conservative MP colleague to support and build small towns. The Liberal government under Prime Minister Mark Carney does little for rural regions, Viersen says in a news release dated Aug. 23. He promotes the Conservatives’ Big Plan for Small Towns presented by New Brunswick MP Richard Bragdon, Conservative shadow minister for Atlantic Canada economic development. “We know that when Ottawa ignores rural Canada, it’s our farms, forestry, energy, families,

small businesses and communities that pay the price,” Viersen says. “Northern Alberta is defined by people who work hard, build things, create opportunities and care deeply about the places they call home.” He says the federal government has to support rural communities more. “We need to protect property rights, prevent land grabs, cut red tape and lower costs,” Viersen says. “Conservatives will fight to put rural communities back at the table and defend the freedom, values and way of life that make communities strong.” From the fishing wharves of the Atlantic to Prairie farms and

lumber towns, from Swan Hills to Zama City, rural and remote communities have long been the backbone of this country, he notes. The Conservative shadow minister agrees in the following statement presented Aug. 19. “Unfortunately, after more than a decade of Ottawa-knows-best Liberal mismanagement, too many Canadians from places like these feel patronized, ignored and forgotten,” Bragdon says. “Meanwhile, crime, high costs and needless red tape change so many main streets for the worse. “That’s why Conservatives want to move forward to fight rural alienation and give those communities their

rightful place at the table.” He presented the eight-point plan. Conservatives will fight for: -Farms. Halt the Liberals’ reckless decision to close several Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research stations and create a provincial approval process so products cleared by competent foreign regulators are available to Canadian farmers while preventing land grabs. -Forestry. Streamline federal and provincial regulation to avoid duplication and demand for elimination of the tariff on softwood exports to the United States while maintaining access to timber on Crown lands.

-Fish. Introduce a public registry of quota and licence holders and double the permanent funding for small craft harbours. -Fuel. Cancel the planned Labour Day tax hike and remove all federal taxes on gas until at least July 1, 2027. -Finance. Defer all capital gains taxes on money reinvested in Canada, spurring the growth Canadian businesses need to succeed. -Frequencies. Treat broadband connectivity as essential infrastructure and deliver it on an accelerated timeline, fast-tracking approvals and getting Universal Broadband Fund dollars flowing to shovel-ready projects. -Firearms. Protect hunters and sport shoot-

ers by cancelling the Liberals’ costly gun grab while fighting for better border security to actually stop illegal weapons. -Faith. Take steps to prevent attacks on places of worship, ensuring these crimes carry serious consequences. “These are real solutions to the real issues by rural and remote communities and we are proud to bring them forward,” Bragdon says. “Conservatives will always fight for a country so all Canadians, from coast to coast to coast, can have a seat at the table, where their concerns are heard and they can live out their values of faith, family and freedom wherever they are.”

Big Lakes seeks FireSmart grant to clear underbrush in Grouard

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Big Lakes County will apply for FireSmart funding to complete a project in Grouard to protect land and reduce the risk of wildfires. At its regular meeting Aug. 26, council approved a motion to support a grant application to the Forest Resource Association of Alberta (FRIAA) for funding related to a vegetation modification of the forest fuel for Grouard. Big Lakes County Fire Services would like

to submit an expression of interest to the FRIAA FireSmart grant program, says Pat Olansky, director of community services and planning. “Grant funding would allow the fire service to modify forest fuel within the identified area in Grouard,” Olansky says. “If successful, the fire service will hire a contractor to complete the field work needed to better protect the community. “It’s a fairly large area.” The proposed project will focus on clearing brush in the area, Reeve

Tyler Airth says. “It will be a thinning project to remove underbrush,” Airth says. “The vegetation management plan identifies high-risk fuel types that contribute to fire behaviour which can threaten communities or critical infrastructure,” Olansky says. Preparing for the threat of wildfire is a shared responsibility, Olansky says. FireSmart is a framework designed to mitigate the risk of and educate residents and stakeholders regarding the potential for large

uncontrollable wildfires near communities and critical infrastructure. FireSmart teaches residents and stakeholders how to mitigate the risks and impacts of fires that affect communities and infrastructure. Community members, community leaders, industry and all lev-

els of government have a responsibility to lessen the effects of wildfire. FireSmart implements both preventing and mitigating measures to reduce wildfire threat to Albertans and their communities while balancing the benefits of wildfire on the landscape. In Alberta, FireSmart

is divided into three planning scales: landscape, community and the wildland-urban interface. Industry is another critical component of the provincial FireSmart program and is an important consideration at all three FireSmart planning scales.

Nelson new Ward 4 trustee for CSNO

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(Peace River) – A vacancy for a public trustee on the Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest board has been filled. Corey Nelson was declared elected by acclamation for Ward 4 to represent public electors in the Peace River region (Ward 1) and the Smoky River (Falher-McLennan) region (Ward 2), says a CSNO news release dated Aug. 31. She is scheduled to be sworn in as a trustee before the next regular board meeting Sept. 23, returning officer Rachelle Bergeron says. Nelson fills the va-

cancy created after the board received a letter of resignation from Luc Levesque at its regular meeting June 23. She filed her nomination papers several days after the initial deadline of Aug. 24 by noon. The CSNO extended the initial nomination deadline until a candidate filed a nomination under the provincial Local Authorities Election Act. “So, in our case, the nomination period closed when we received one nomination – on the sixth and final day of the extension period,” Bergeron says. Nominations remained open daily from

10 a.m. to noon, she notes. “Like other francophone school boards, the CSNO has both public and separate trustees to represent francophone separate and public electors,” Bergeron says. “In our case, we have three separate trustees and two public trustees in four wards. “So the vacant seat is for the public trustee of Ward 4 and represents public electors in that ward.” If the CSNO had received more than one nomination, a byelection would have been scheduled for Sept. 21.



Coffee Break

*Answers*

Find-a-Word

Noah

Fill in the Blanks

The quotation answer: Always Obey Signs
Words in order from top to bottom: Parking, Railway, Crosswalk, Cattle, Yield, Stop, Moose, Bump, Littering, Bicycle, Speed, Height, Merge, Turning, Pedestrian

Name Scramble

1. Chuck 2. Sirloin 3. Round 4. Shank 5. Brisket 6. Plate

Quotefalls

Quotefalls 1: The tan lines will fade but memories won't. - Unknown
Quotefalls 2: The love of heaven makes one heavenly. - Shakespeare

Syl 'la'cros' tic

The quotation answer: Ignorance is Bliss
1. Identical 2. Guru 3. Nullify 4. Oklahoma 5. Radium 6. Apostles 7. Nostril 8. Cinnamon 9. Empress 10. Illusion 11. Surrender 12. Bering 13. Luggage 14. Immunize 15. Suspension 16. Steeple

Easy

2	9	3	6	5	7	1	8	4
1	5	4	2	8	9	7	3	6
8	7	6	3	1	4	9	2	5
4	2	7	1	3	6	8	5	9
6	3	9	5	4	8	2	7	1
5	1	8	9	7	2	6	4	3
7	4	1	8	9	3	5	6	2
3	6	5	7	2	1	4	9	8
9	8	2	4	6	5	3	1	7

Medium

2	6	4	9	7	3	8	5	1
9	1	5	2	8	4	6	3	7
3	7	8	5	1	6	9	2	4
4	2	1	3	9	5	7	6	8
5	3	7	8	6	1	2	4	9
6	8	9	4	2	7	3	1	5
1	9	6	7	4	2	5	8	3
7	4	3	6	5	8	1	9	2
8	5	2	1	3	9	4	7	6

2026-27 SCHOOL NEWS

brought to you by



WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Your guide to learning, leadership, connection, and getting involved at HPSD.

Welcome from HPSD and Your Board of Trustees

On behalf of High Prairie School Division and our Board of Trustees, welcome to the 2026-27 school year!

Throughout the year, your Board works to help guide the direction of the division and make decisions that support students and schools. Their work touches many areas of public education, including budgets and funding, student transportation, inclusive education, facilities, policy and, long-term planning.

Trustees also represent HPSD at provincial meetings and events, and advocate with government on issues that matter to our students and communities – particularly the unique needs of rural public education.

We look forward to working together to make this a great year for the students, families, and communities we serve!

Know Your Board

Trustees are elected to represent the communities they serve and help guide the direction of High Prairie School Division.

Find your Trustee, learn more about their role, and discover how to connect with them.

Can I Attend a Board Meeting?

Absolutely! Board meetings are open to the public and are a great way to stay informed about the decisions and discussions shaping education across HPSD. Find upcoming meeting dates, agendas, and minutes online at hpsd.ca

Meetings are livestreamed on our YouTube channel, at youtube.com/hpsd, so you can watch along wherever you are. You can watch meetings live or view past recordings anytime.

How Can I Get Involved?

We welcome you to become a partner in shaping our school communities. School Council gives parents and families an opportunity to stay connected, learn more about school programs and priorities, and share ideas and feedback with school administration and Board representatives.

There are many ways to get involved:

- Join your School Council,
- Attend a Community Engagement Session in your ward to connect, ask questions, and share your ideas and feedback.
- Volunteer for hot lunch, fundraisers, or events,
- Support field trips, sports, and clubs.

Reach out to your school to learn more about opportunities to get involved.

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SPENGYRS/RL/RC, CHANDGYRS/RL/RC

SAVE \$320

959⁹⁵ ea.



AVAILABLE: power reclining, black leather-look

81" Nola Sofa

Loveseat \$529.95 Chair \$429.95

NOLABNSF/LV/CH

TENT SALE SPECIAL

539⁹⁵

SAVE \$530

84" Iverly Sofa

Loveseat \$629.95 Chair \$479.95

IVERTPSF/LV/CH

TENT SALE SPECIAL

639⁹⁵

SAVE \$750

85" Theo Genuine Leather Sofa

Loveseat \$729.95 Chair \$539.95

THEOSTF/LV/CH

TENT SALE SPECIAL

749⁹⁵

SAVE \$850

2-Pc. Kyrie Sectional

AVAILABLE: opposite configuration

KYRITRS2

TENT SALE SPECIAL

1099⁹⁵

SAVE \$900



SAVE \$174

Chair \$179 ea.

CAPRWDS

kort & co.

TABLE

639⁹⁵

Capri Dining Table

CAPRDWTL

5-Pc. \$1279.95 - table + 4 chairs

7-Pc. SHOWN \$1599.95 - table + 6 chairs

AVAILABLE: round table, armchair, counter-height stools, server, matching coffee table and end table, TV stand

built-in recessed lighting



SAVE \$420

GREAT FOR SMALL SPACES

6 storage drawers

ALPWQSD

BUY THE ROOM & SAVE!

5-Pc. Alpine Queen Storage Bedroom Package \$1399.95

Includes headboard, storage footboard, storage rails, dresser and mirror. ALPWQSP5

PURCHASED SEPARATELY

Bed \$859.95
Dresser \$429.95
Mirror \$269.95

TOTAL \$1559.85

AVAILABLE: panel

UP TO 60% OFF⁺

PATIO CLEARANCE ITEMS!

5-PC. HOT BUY

429⁰⁰

SAVE \$110



5-Pc. Arizona Patio Dining Set

Includes table and 4 chairs.

ARIZSET

The **BRICK**

Slave Lake

213 Main Street N,
Slave Lake, AB
780-849-2700

Peace River

7626 100 Ave.,
Peace River, AB
780-624-5000

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36 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS^{*}

FINANCE WITH 0% INTEREST

* TAXES, FEES, AND OTHER CHARGES ARE DUE AT TIME OF PURCHASE. See back page for details.