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NEWS



Barn quilt workshop
brings a colourful new
craft to Peace River.

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NEWS



BL sets public hearing
for energy corridor
structure plan.

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Donnelly seeking names for byelection

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(Donnelly) - Village of Donnelly is seeking residents to put their names forward to sit on council in an upcoming byelection.

Recently, Deputy Mayor Vance Yaremko gave his resignation from council, creating the need for the Village to have a byelection to fill his vacancy.

"We need to have a byelection due to a councillor that has resigned when his spouse became the Chief Administrative Officer for the Village," says Mayor Myrna Lanctot.

"He resigned last month and we are opening nominations to fill his spot on council."

The Nomination period will be open until Oct. 5, Lanctot says anyone interested in sitting on council is urged to go to the Village office to pick up a nomination package.

The nomination period will remain open until Oct. 5. If more than one individual puts their name forward, an election will be held on Nov. 16 at the Village of Donnelly office.

"Yaremko chose to step back because he felt that it would be a conflict of interest," explains Lanctot. "He chose to step back from his council position to have a clear window of zero conflict."

Lanctot says they were set to choose a new deputy mayor at the regular meeting on Sept. 8 but chose to wait until their annual organizational meeting to choose.

"Every October we have an organizational meeting and that is when Council decides who is going to be Mayor and Deputy Mayor," explains Lanctot.

Cont. on page 9



It could be yours!

High Prairie Quilt Guild member Magalie Frechette, left, and president Marla Willier show the quilt that will be given away as the grand prize in the raffle at the High Prairie Quilt Show and Sale set for Sept. 26-27. See story on page 14.

Funding denied to HP Friendship Centre

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) - Town of High Prairie council has denied a funding request from the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre for \$10,000.

At its regular meeting Sept. 8, council defeated a motion from Mayor Daniel Vandermeulen that council approve a grant for \$5,000 to the friendship centre.

A recommendation to approve \$10,000 was presented by CAO David Joy in the agenda.

Councillor Hemann Minderlein did not support the request.

"We're not in the business of bailing people out," says Minderlein a retired CAO, including several years with the

Town of High Prairie.

"This is to keep them operating in 2026."

Councillor Dave Temple says he is not happy with \$10,000.

The centre has had limited funds to operate since January 2025 when the friendship centre was expelled from the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA).

The ANFCA cut its operations funding to the local centre and the ANFCA will not reverse the decision.

The High Prairie centre cannot apply to be reinstated and received funding until Jan. 11, 2027, but even that is not guaranteed.

Council heard a request from society president Trish Long who ap-

peared as a delegate at council's regular meeting Aug. 11.

Specifically, the \$8,000 is budgeted for two staff wages and \$2,000 for utilities.

Councillor Bryce Shunter suggested council offer legal services.

The mayor agrees.

"The best the town may be able to do is provide legal services," Vandermeulen says, referring to the town's lawyers.

"This is an emergent situation."

Shunter says council is obligated to use funds wisely to support community organizations.

"When council gives taxpayer dollars to any community organization, I personally believe

we have two core responsibilities," Shunter says in a prepared statement to explain his position requested by South Peace News.

The first is "to ensure council gives taxpayer dollars to any community organization, I personally believe that the money is actually spent on what it is supposed to be spent on".

Secondly, council must ensure there is a clear public benefit.

"Council does not have a right to simply give tax dollars to charity," Shunter says.

If people want to donate to charity, that's their individual decision, he notes.

Cont. on page 5

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Berwyn welcomes new CAO

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(Berwyn) - Village of Berwyn is excited to welcome its new chief administrative officer (CAO), Michael Geoghegan.

Geoghegan comes to Berwyn with a lengthy professional curriculum vitae, one that is sure to benefit the Village in its future endeavours. Geoghegan began his contract with Berwyn on July 27, taking over from former CAO Jatin Saini. He began his tenure working remotely from Campbell River, British Columbia but is set to move to the Berwyn area later this month.

“My fiancé got a job as the economic development officer in Barrhead,” says Geoghegan, who adds that he saw the job posting for Berwyn’s CAO shortly after. “I look forward to getting to know Council, staff, residents, and local businesses while working together to build on the Village’s strengths. My focus is on delivering results that support investment, create opportunities, and help Berwyn continue to grow and thrive.”

Geoghegan says he and his family are looking forward to the move to Alberta. He says his initial month was focussed on creating working relationships within the community and with surrounding communities.

Geoghegan has an extensive professional background in various administrative roles including working for the British Columbia provincial government.

“I have a degree in economics from the University of Victoria,” says Geoghegan. “I worked at the BC legislature for seven years, for four and a half of those years I was a Chief of Staff to a cabinet minister.”

In his role of Chief of Staff, he worked in ministerial portfolios including Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, and Small Business, Tourism and Culture.

“One of the programs I helped develop was the Buy BC program,” he says. “We focussed on Agri-Food sector and encouraging people to buy BC produce and other homegrown items.”

With extensive leadership experience in gov-



Michael Geoghegan

ernment, economic development, municipal administration, and the private sector, Geoghegan brings a wealth of knowledge to the role. He’s hoping to bring his various experiences into his new role and help Berwyn continue to grow and thrive.

“I’m in the process of developing a very positive relationship with other municipal governments in terms of Grimshaw, Peace River, and the county,” he says. “That’s something that I’m very keen on doing and that work is already underway.”

Geoghegan says he’s looking forward to having a very cooperative relationship with surrounding municipalities. He says the region benefits when everyone works together for the betterment of the area.

“My focus is also engaging with the community and looking at trying to leverage things as much as possible,” he explains. “This includes seeing what we can do if there is a go ahead with the nuclear reactor, there’s all kinds of infrastructure and housing that will be required. How can we maximize the benefit to the region in terms of creating jobs and much needed infrastructure and housing.”

Geoghegan says one of the upcoming challenges is also filling two vacant council spots, with a byelection set to be held at the end of September.

He notes that they are still waiting to hear from Alberta’s Ministry of Municipal Affairs to see if they need to have an additional nomination period.

“I had a chat with the provincial minister,” says Geoghegan. “We’re waiting to hear if we

have to have separate elections or if we can combine them to have one election.”

Going forward, Geoghegan says there are a several interesting endeavours that the community of Berwyn is working on.

“We’re definitely looking at a number of possibilities for getting some economic growth happening,” says Geoghegan. “We also have a new recycling system coming in that allows for curbside pickup. We’re looking to do the kind of things that result in increased community pride.”

Geoghegan says he is currently working on having public works put down some new turf at the Village Hall to eradicate weeds and beautify the area.

“If we are going to expect homeowners to keep their properties to a certain level standard, we have to lead by example,” he concludes. “I’m a big believer in don’t fix things that aren’t broken, but I’m also a strong believer in fix things that are broken.”

Geoghegan says their municipal team is excited to work cooperatively with neighbours and see what can be done to bring about the best outcomes for the community and the region.

“Council is pleased to welcome Michael to the Village of Berwyn,” says Mayor Nicole Johnson. “His diverse background in leadership, economic development, and municipal administration will be a tremendous asset to our community. We look forward to working together as we continue building on the opportunities ahead and wish him every success in his new role.”

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Community Calendar

Note: Community Calendar listings are free. AGMs and church services not included unless also advertised. Call [780] 523-4484 with your item or e-mail southpeacenews@hotmail.com. All events subject to change depending on late changes or holidays.

Wednesday, September 16

National Guacamole Day!
World Ozone Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer!
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 Joussard Community Association Hall. \$2 fee.
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.
7:30 p.m. – Play cribbage at Joussard Homesteaders Hall.

Thursday, September 17

World Patient Safety 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 Joussard 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 18

National First Love Day!
National Cheeseburger Day!
International Equal Pay Day!
10 a.m. – Kinuso Seniors Coffee Time at Kinuso Seniors Centre. New members welcome.
1:30 p.m. – Enjoy trump & whist 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 19

International Coastal Cleanup Day!
Batman Day!
Talk Like a Pirate Day!
8 a.m. – 10 p.m. – Triangle Harvest Festival 15 kms west of High Prairie.

Sunday, September 20

Wife Appreciation 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.

Monday, September 21

World Gratitude Day!
International Day of Peace!
World Alzheimers Day!
1 – 3 p.m. – Crib & Cards Social at Multi-Plex Building at Spruce Point Park. Snacks provided.
3:30 – 5:30 p.m. – HP CRC After-School Program (8-12 Years) at HP Children’s Resource Centre.
7 p.m. – Drop-In Beanbag/Cornhole at Joussard Community Association Hall. \$2 fee.
7 p.m. – Ladies Time Out at Kinuso Seniors Centre.
7:30 p.m. – High Prairie AA chapter meets at HP Church of the Nazarene.

Tuesday, September 22

National Elephant Appreciation Day!
World Rhino Day!
First day of fall! Time to rake the leaves!
9:30 a.m. – Northern Sunrise County meets in council chambers.
10 a.m. – Noon – Drop-In Coffee at HP Golden Age Club.
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.
6 p.m. – Town of High Prairie meets in council chambers.
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 Joussard JCA Hall. \$2 fee. Beanbag toss if enough interest.

Wednesday, September 23

International Day of Sign Languages!
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.
Noon – 1:30 p.m. – Humble Delights Kitchen open at HP Native Friendship Centre 4919-51 Ave.
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.
7 p.m. – Drop-In Beanbag/Cornhole at Joussard Community Association Hall. \$2 fee.
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.
7:30 p.m. – Play cribbage at Joussard Homesteaders Hall.

Thursday, September 24

World Gorilla Day!



History

A trip down memory lane

Looking Back...

Sept. 16

Sept. 16, 1915: The Grouard *News* reports Edgar Robertson is surveying 20 miles of road in the Salt Prairie area anticipating a rush of settlers. Father Giroux is instrumental in opening this area.

Sept. 16, 1968: In a rare conviction in High Prairie provincial court, Irene Brick pleads guilty to keeping and selling liquor in her home, contrary to the Liquor Act. She is fined \$300 plus costs.

Sept. 16, 1969: Don McBride, of the Department of Indian Affairs, arrives at St. Bruno Mission School in Jousard and tells staff the building is a fire hazard, and that the expense to upgrade it is too costly to warrant its use as a boarding school. The school is closed and staff are dismissed or employed elsewhere.

Sept. 16, 1970: High Prairie town council hires Al Weinhandl as industrial coordinator at a salary of \$415 a month.

Sept. 16, 1977: Whitefish Band Chief Fred Thunder lays the ceremonial block for a new recreational building at Atikameg.

Sept. 16, 1978: The High Prairie Regals host a farewell dinner and dance for Tom and Tanis Iannone.

Sept. 16, 1983: RCMP estimate 75 people become involved in a fight at the Park Hotel in High Prairie.

Sept. 16, 1985: Court is held upstairs in the Sports Palace for the first time after the Provincial Building fire. Revenue from the rent was \$37,200 per year. That night the recreation board meets and a dispute arises. The I.D. approved a budget that included the revenue figure for the money to be spent through “usual channels” and “arena renovations.” The Town wanted the money put directly toward the debenture.

Sept. 16, 1987: High Prairie town councillors say they might take over operation of the recreation board, following a notice from the I.D. that they will be decreasing their contribution.

Sept. 16, 1988: Patricia Greentree, 28, of High Prairie, and Gwen Ward, 25, of Grande Prairie, die in a well explosion 17 km southwest of High Prairie.

Sept. 16, 1992: I.D. resident Dennis Cox circulates a petition opposing the I.D.’s plans to build a \$1 million administration building.

Sept. 16, 1999: Ron and Sandra Marquardt open Beaumark Feed and Seed in the old Kozie’s Auction building in High Praifrie.

Sept. 16, 2000: A Road Race Challenge organized by Gift Lake Metis Settlement members raises over \$4,000 for walking trials in the community.

Sept. 16, 2005: Driftpile Cree Nation celebrates the grand opening of their fitness centre.

Sept. 16, 2005: the Alberta government announces that two new schools will be built in East Prairie and Peavine. The Peavine School will cost \$9.1 million, the East Prairie School \$3.3 million.

Sept. 16, 2009: *South Peace News* reports the High Prairie Regals are in danger of folding if new executive members and players do not step forward.

Sept. 16, 2010: The annual Alzheimer Coffee Break at the High Prairie Golden Age Club nets almost \$2,000. It is the most in the eight years the coffee break is held.

Sept. 16-19, 2010: A traffic-speed counter is set up on the Peavine Road which indicates 518 out of 750 vehicles were speeding.

Sept. 16, 2015: *South Peace News* features Samantha Stokes and her dream of competing and winning the Miss Rodeo Canada title, which she does two months later.

Sept. 16, 2015: *South Peace News* reports that local First Nations oppose the extension of the Swan Hills special waste treatment plant licence.

Sept. 16, 2016: Jousard School celebrates its official grand opening.

Do you remember?



In the Nov. 11, 1981 *South Peace News* a photo was published of Peter Clarke. In business for six months, Clarke worked out of his home at 5501 – 48 Street. He would later buy Seens Photography, which he owns and operates to this day.

1915 fish industry is booming business

Sept. 16, 1915
Grouard News

“Fifty to sixty thousand dollars annually can be realized from the fishing industry of Lesser Slave Lake,” said S. Travers, Fisheries Inspector, who returned Monday from a trip of inspection around the lake. Continuing, Mr. Travers said: “Sawridge and Wagner are busy places, while the lake is dotted with fishing shacks and motor boats hurrying in all directions in an effort to get the fishermen out in order to secure a sufficient supply to carry them over the closed season. The demand for fish is very keen. “There are at present three companies buying fish and employing about 20 hands. Northwest Fish. Co., Capt. Nicols: The Alberta Fisheries Ltd., T.J. Bourgeois: Slave Lake Fish Co., F. Miller. Each of these companies have large contracts to fill during the closed season of October and November and are securing sufficient to carry them over, placing the fish in cold storage in Edmonton. The Slave Lake Fish Co. supply from 3,000 to

The Grouard News

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R.S. BURNS, Editor and Manager

5,000 pounds of fish weekly to the soldiers at Sarcee Camp.” “During the coming winters icehouses are to be erected and with the reopening of the season, points at which fish will be bought, will be chosen all along the south shore of the lake and the industry will thus directly affect Grouard. “The demand locally for whitefish, was exceptionally small during the first part of the season,” said Mr. Travers, “but this is rapidly being overcome and the consumption of whitefish from Lesser Slave Lake is growing daily throughout the province. Over 700 pounds are being shipped weekly to Peace River Crossing, while with the opening of the country to the west and north, there will be an ever growing demand for the fish from this lake which means an industry of some magnitude.

“For this reason the department is now enforcing the regulations most strictly, and unless it is done, this lake will follow the others in the province and become depleted and an industry that means much to Grouard would be lost.” Mr. Travers stated that a fish hatchery was to be established on the lake in the near future, but even were it established within the year, it would take three years before the fish raised in it were large enough to be used for commercial purposes.

Salt Prairie anticipates rush of settlers

Anticipating a rush of settlers in the Salt Prairie district, Edgar Robertson and party are now engaged in surveying some 20 miles of roads through that stretch of country.

Salt Prairie, which is situated north of town, is acknowledged to be one of the best districts in the north, both from a mixed farming and stock point of view, and comprises some 30,000 acres of land. The country is rolling and covered with clumps of light poplar with open stretches of prairie, while the soil is of a rich loam. Little settlement has taken place in this district as of yet, the reason being that it is situated a little to the north of the main trail of travel into the Peace River and few settlers have heard of this new prairie.

Land returns for August

The returns for the month of August at the local office of Dominion Lands shows a total of 41 homesteads filed, one land sale and seven applications for patent. In the Timber Branch there were 29 timber permits issued, 23 hay permits, one grazing lease, one coal lease issued.

The total revenue for the month was \$588.59. For the same month last year the revenue was \$2,801.84.

HP YAC building not extensively damaged – mayor

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Town of High Prairie council is upset that the municipality was not given full information about the condition of the High Prairie Youth Assessment Centre that was closed after it was damaged by fire in November 2023.

At its regular meeting Sept. 8, council approved a motion by Councillor Bryce Shunter to send a letter to Premier Danielle Smith to express concern about the report of the condition of the building and a decision to relocate the 10 beds at YAC to Grande Prairie.

“I feel we’ve been short-changed with the facts of the YAC building,” Shunter told council.

Vandermeulen agrees.

“We were not fully informed – and cabinet was not fully informed – of the condition of the building after the fire,” Vandermeulen says.

The letter to the premier is to inform her and her colleagues that the decision to transfer the YAC beds to Grande Prairie and a renovation budget for Grande Prairie was not based on full information, he notes.

Copies of the letter will also be forwarded to Lesser Slave Lake MLA Scott Sinclair, Grande Prairie – Wapiti MLA

Ron Wiebe, who also serves as parliamentary secretary for rural health, Mental Health and Addictions Minister Rick Wilson and Children and Family Services Minister Searle Turton.

“Previous correspondence from the province identified a report detailing damage to the building, summarized that the damage exceeded reasonable costs and that the provincial cabinet determined it to be cheaper to move our beds to the Grande Prairie facility,” Shunter says in his notice of motion to council.

Vandermeulen toured the YAC building Aug. 7 and found a different view.

“The tour showed that damage is not significant,” says Shunter, who also serves as deputy mayor.

“Even with government bureaucracy, I’d bet it could be fixed for well under \$100,000.”

The mayor told council the damage was not as extensive as the municipal and previous council has been told by government.

Vandermeulen viewed the interior of the building in a tour arranged by Big Lakes County through Alberta Addictions and Mental Health.

“The fire was restricted to a single bedroom pod,” Vandermeulen says in his written monthly report to



The High Prairie Youth Assessment Centre was damaged by fire in November 2023. Town of High Prairie Mayor Daniel Vandermeulen toured the building Aug. 7 and says the building was not extensively damaged.

council in the agenda package. The pod comprises of four single bedrooms, and a small common area.

“The fire did not structurally damage the roof, walls or windows,” Vandermeulen says.

“Glass was intact – the fire scorched the walls, floor and ceiling.

“It appears the pod door was shut immediately and the fire died when it consumed all the oxygen, hence the scorching.”

The building can be easily repaired and usable, he says.

“Repairs will require a new ceiling, wall panels and paint,” Vandermeulen says.

“While the concrete floor is a little wavy and all the doors fit properly.”

“The letter to the premier should demand a clear and honest answer as to why the beds were moved, as well as advocate for funding to re-open the YAC build-

ing in some capacity,” Shunter says in his notice of motion.

“If it can’t be a youth centre, it can be something else.

“There is no reason for a perfectly good building to be left empty.

“Make no mistake, it very much appears to be a perfectly good building.”

Late last year, Wiebe announced the decision to relocate the beds from High Prairie to Grande Prairie.

“Every young person deserves a safe, supportive place to heal, learn and build a better future,” Wiebe says in the news release with excerpts of his quotes included in Shunter’s notice of motion.

“These investments will ensure vulnerable youth in our region can access specialized, therapeutic care close to home in modern facilities that reflect their needs to respect their culture.

“This is about giving northern youth the stability and support they need to thrive.”

Those statements upsets the High Prairie councillor.

“Wiebe’s comments are a slap in the face to the High Prairie region,” Shunter says.

“How can it be said that they are keeping youth closer to home when the most vulnerable youth from the High Prairie region and surrounding Metis settlements and First Nation communities are now having to travel?”

Government previously announced \$5 million committed in Budget 2025 to develop detailed design plans and a feasibility study for a new centre in Grande Prairie, Shunter notes.

He spoke with Smith about the issue during the premier’s visit to High Prairie to meet with municipal officials Aug. 26.

“The premier’s re-

sponse that the fire raised the question of potential safety risks in smaller facilities and that larger facilities have more staff to mitigate those risks,” Shunter says.

“It is clear how this is a reasonable answer because they are removing 10 beds from High Prairie and adding 10 beds in Grande Prairie, the facilities will be the same size.”

The premier also commented that unfortunately, ministers can make these studies “say whatever they want” to justify a decision, he notes.

He adds that Wiebe was the interim United Conservative Party government representative for Lesser Slave Lake when Sinclair was not in the UCP caucus.

Sinclair was expelled from the caucus in a vote by the caucus March 8, 2025 and returned to caucus in a caucus vote May 7, 2026.

HP council approves economic development position

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Town of High Prairie council has given the green light to create a regional eco-

nom ic development officer position with Big Lakes County.

At its regular meeting Sept. 8, council approved a motion to hire a regional economic de-

velopment officer with 60 per cent of the salary contributed from Big Lakes and 40 per cent from High Prairie.

Support came after council tabled the motion with several concerns at its regular meeting Aug. 11.

The officer will report directly to the High Prairie CAO and will be based in the town office, CAO David Joy states in his report.

In consultation with the Big Lakes CAO David Reynolds, Joy says he would also work with the regional committee to review the work being done by the economic development officer.

The annual salary would range from \$84,000 to \$109,000, depending upon the level of experience of the selected candidate.

He says the probation-

ary period will be from three to six months, depending upon prior experience.

“I would like to see a six-month probation,” Councillor Carol Hanlon says.

A job description has been established, Joy says.

CAOs from both High Prairie and Big Lakes will interview and select the best candidate.

An economic development officer and a part-time economic marketing co-ordinator are recommended in the Big Lakes – High Prairie Regional Strategic Economic Development Plan presented by project consultant Deloitte Canada to both councils in April.

“At this time, we will not hire a marketing co-ordinator but administration will work with

the EDO and regional economic development committee if a marketing co-ordinator is determined to be required in the future,” Joy says.

Councillor Bryce Shunter says he prefers a 60-40 split for the position what will serve the region.

“Everyone benefits from High Prairie businesses,” Shunter says.

The report and position of economic development officer were nearly put on the shelf for 12 months after the mayor erred on an initial motion to hire a regional economic development officer with a 50-50 split between High Prairie and Big Lakes.

When the motion by Vandermeulen was defeated, he made an abrupt statement.

“You have just killed

the report – and the position – for one year,” Vandermeulen.

Later in the meeting, he back-pedalled on his statement.

“I want to apologize for my error in not hearing the friendly amendment,” Vandermeulen says.

Then the friendly amendment to hire a regional economic development officer with 60 per cent of the salary contributed from Big Lakes and 40 per cent from High Prairie was restated by Councillor Hermann Minderlein, a former municipal CAO, including many years in the Town of High Prairie.

Big Lakes council was scheduled to discuss the position at its regular meeting Sept. 9, but the item was removed from the agenda.

Funding

Continued from page 1

“But when supporting an organization or event that brings people into our community, strengthens local businesses, provides services to all residents or creates economic development and social benefits, that support can be a legitimate investment in the community and that’s where council grants play a vital role,” Shunter says.

He says he has issues with the funding request. “I lacked confidence that there was in fact a need and that spending as responsible,” Shunter says.

The only operational funding that the centre has received was in 2025 from Big Lakes County, which contributed \$16,000, with \$11,000 for operational and \$5,000 for seniors’ programming, Long says in her responses to council’s questions.

First Nations and Metis settlements do not get funding they can use to financially support other organizations, she adds.



Editorial

Your Opinion Counts!
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P.O. Box 1000,
High Prairie, Alberta Canada T0G 1E0

Regional

More smoke and mirrors

More of the same old, same old!
Peace River – Westlock MP Arnold Viersen says he endorses a plan by fellow Conservative MP Richard Bragdon to support and build small towns.
It is predictable for any party member to support a colleague. It is the way politics works. Politicians love to hear themselves talk.
It is commendable for the Conservatives to devise a plan to help small towns. The problem is, when the Conservatives were last in power, communities like High Prairie, McLennan and Falher did not exactly experience a sudden rise in development, commonly called an economic boom. Truth be told, the communities cited above have been in a steady downward spiral for decades. Development is not keeping up with taxation revenue needed to operate our communities. The result? More money taken from the pockets of taxpayers to fund government's insatiable need for money.

*'Taxpayers
have every
right to
question what will
be different this
time.'*

the federal Conservatives never want to mention, is that under former prime minister Stephen Harper's leadership, not a single pipeline was built. Pretty easy to criticize the Liberals but perhaps one should look at their record first.

Today, we have the Town of High Prairie and Big Lakes County moving forward on hiring an economic development officer (EDO). Previous attempts by EDOs have failed miserably but it does not mean the next one will also fail. The problem is, if it fails it will cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

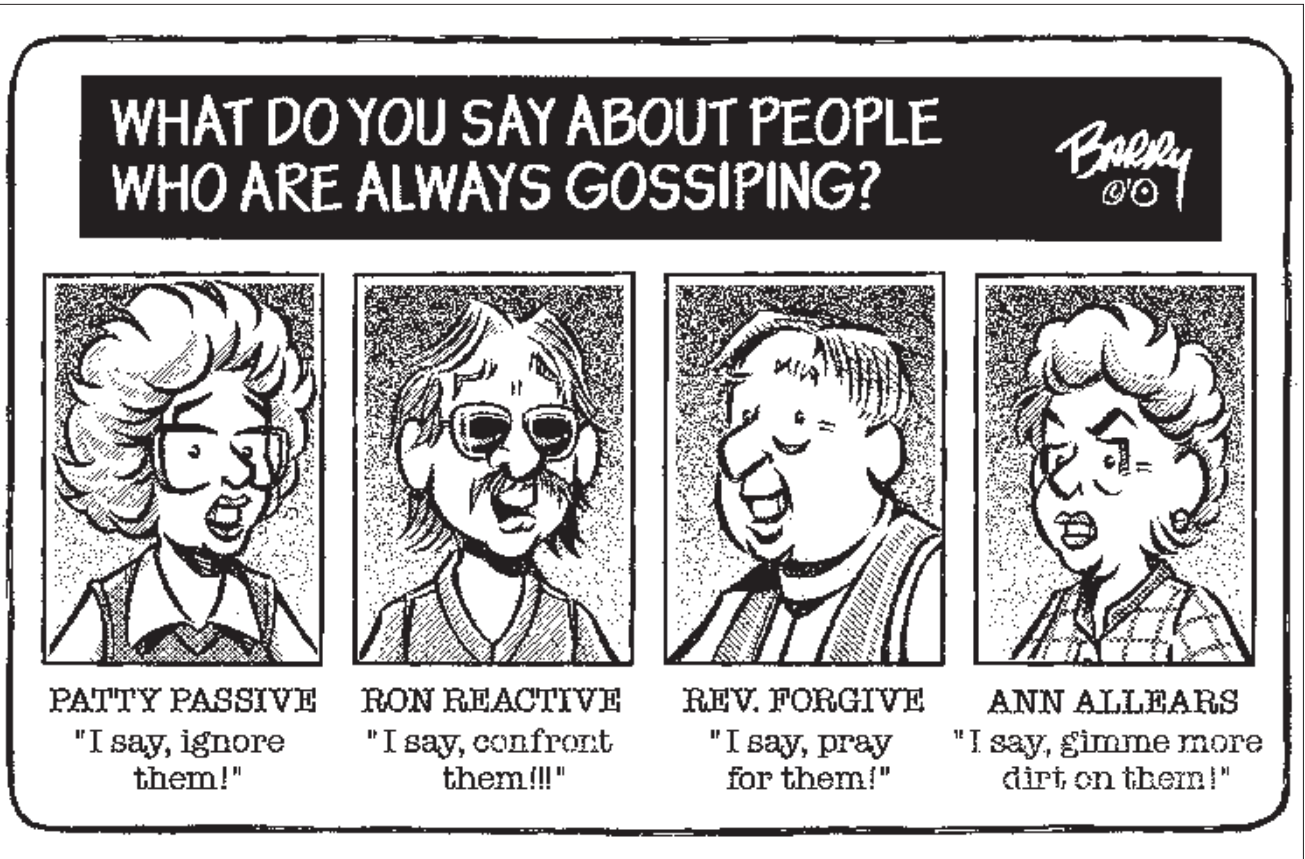
Taxpayers have every right to question what will be different this time around. Different CAOs supervising the position? Different councils? Perhaps. Time will tell.

What might be concerning is the economic study was released at a public meeting April 13. Just short of five months later, the two governments last week were ironing out details to hire an economic development officer. Five months! Where is the urgency?

All the governments representing the people would be best advised to roll up their sleeves and get to work. Spending nearly \$100,000 on a study and letting it sit for five months before acting suggests it is not a high priority.

Truth be told, it is.

- Chris Clegg.



Autumn musings from a favourite fall novel

Commentary by
Sara Driedger

There is something about autumn that makes old stories feel new again.

As the light lowers and the first chill settles into the evenings, myths seem less like distant tales and more like practical companions. It is a time when change is not an abstract idea but something we can see from the kitchen window.

That may be why Madeline Miller's novel *Circe* feels especially fitting for this time of year.

Miller reimagines the mythic witch Circe not as a monster at the edge of a hero's journey, but as the centre of her own life. In the older myths, Circe is often remembered for turning men into pigs. Miller's generosity is to ask what kind of life might have led to that moment, and what kind of person might exist beyond it.

Her Circe is not born powerful in the simple, shining way of the Olympian gods.

She is awkward, overlooked, and underestimated. She longs to belong, makes mistakes, and learns by consequence. Her magic develops not as a tidy gift, but as a craft—something discovered through attention, labour, and necessity.

That idea feels seasonal. Autumn is a pretty farewell. But anyone who gardens, teaches, parents, or simply pays a heating bill knows autumn is

also work. It asks us to prepare. We pull what is left from the soil, cover what needs protecting, mend what winter will test, and learn again the old discipline of limits. Like Circe on her island, we discover that survival is rarely dramatic.

More often, it is repetitive, domestic, and patient. It is a dance of chopping, storing, checking, tending, remembering.

Circe's exile to Aiaia begins as punishment, but over time it becomes the ground of her independence. Cast out from the halls of the gods, she must make a life with what is at hand. At first, solitude wounds her. Later, it teaches her.

This is one of the novel's most moving truths. Not every banishment remains only a loss. Not every lonely season is empty. Sometimes separation strips away the noise that kept us from hearing our own voice.

Many of us know what it is to be set apart for a while: by illness, grief, caregiving, financial strain, a job change, or the ordinary exhaustion that arrives after a demanding year.

We may not call it exile, but we recognize the feeling of watching the world continue while our own life narrows. Miller expertly words that state of reflection. "All my life had been murk and depths, but I was not a part of that dark water. I was a creature within it."

There are seasons when we do not expand outward. We deepen.

Autumn is the season of dying things, but it is only a season that we must move through.

Gods in Miller's world are dazzling, but often cruel because nothing truly costs them. Mortals, by contrast, are fragile and brief.

Their beauty lies partly in the fact that they do not last. Autumn teaches the same lesson without ever speaking a word.

A tree in full colour is moving because the brilliance is temporary. The last garden tomatoes taste better because we know frost is coming. The last warm afternoon of the year carries a sweetness that a sunny June day can't seem to manage.

Miller's novel honours the strength that comes not from pretending to be untouched, but from being altered and still choosing to act with courage.

We do not need to be mythical witches to understand transformation. We practice it whenever we compost, repurpose or preserve what can nourish us later.

Circe endures because it takes a figure once pushed to the margins and allows her to speak in her own voice.

Autumn, too, gives dignity to the margins. It reminds us that endings are not only endings. They are also preparations, reckonings, and beginnings in disguise.

As we move into this season, Miller's *Circe* offers a timely invitation: to accept transformation without rushing it.

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Letters

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Thank you to our supporters

To the Editor:

In last weeks paper Brenda Coulombe wrote a letter to the editor in support of our Centre as she knew that we had reached out to the Town of High Prairie for financial support.

We truly appreciate those who come to our Centre to support us and write letters like Brenda.

Our request to the Town was voted on at the September 8th Town Council meeting.

The motion to give us any financial support was unfortunately defeated. We understand that not all requests for financial support are approved.

What we don't understand are the comments that were made during the meeting about our Centre.

During the meeting the following comment was made by a town councillor.

"I've danced around the topic in previous council meetings, but I am going to come out and say it. They're located in a horrible spot. They attract the vagrants and the homeless to the downtown core, and you can't have a goal of supporting the Friendship Centre and a goal of supporting local business at the same time. Those two items are counter productive to one another."

other. The Friendship Centres location hurts our ability to support businesses in the downtown core because of the people that the Friendship Centre attracts." – (The meeting video can be found on youtube for the September 8, 2026, Town Council meeting part 2)

The High Prairie Native Friendship Centre has been in existence since April of 1978.

Our doors have always been open to people of all ages and races, and we will continue to welcome all people.

The people we attract are people from all walks of life and we value them all equally.

Everyone who comes here is someone's family member and they deserve to be respected like any other human in this world.

We do not judge them for who they are or where their journey has led them.

We support all people and that will not change.

It is unfortunate that the above opinion of our Centre exists in High Prairie.

Charles Calhoon Jr.
Vice President
on behalf of the
High Prairie
Native Friendship
Centre
Board of Directors



Following is a list of the most read stories on southpeacenews.com over the last 14 days, effective Friday, Sept. 11, 2026.

1. **High Prairie RCMP seeking public assistance in shooting incident**
[posted Thursday, Sept. 3]
2. **Indian Relay Races return to HP Sept. 12-13**
[posted Monday, Aug. 31]
3. **Powwow showcases culture, friendship**
[posted Saturday, Aug. 29]
4. **Presale Aug. 27 for steak and lobster dinner, dance at Kinuso**
[posted Saturday, Aug. 29]
5. **Obituary – Robert Despins**
[posted Thursday, Sept. 3]
6. **Guided hike promotes joy of local nature**
[posted Saturday, Aug. 29]
7. **Avis memorial donates to food bank**
[posted Wednesday, Sept. 2]
8. **Dolphins win 4 bronze at provincials**
[posted Sunday, Aug. 30]
9. **Today's Happenings: September 7, 2026**
[posted Saturday, Sept. 6]
10. **Today's Happenings: August 29, 2026**
[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 the RCMP who are catching people speeding in the 80 km zone at Sucker Creek.



To the Town of High Prairie for turning down a request from the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre for funding. The Centre offers so much to all people.

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.

Many people do not have access to websites

To the Editor:

The Peace River Energy Alliance (PREA) contracted, at great taxpayer expense, Summit PCG (Jake Pastore), a communications and planning specialist from Ontario, with experience in promoting the nuclear industry, to develop a POSITION PAPER titled "Building Social License For Nuclear Energy Development in Northwestern Alberta".

On August 26th I sent

letters to both County of Northern Lights and the Town of Manning (which were two of the eight municipalities which signed this paper supporting nuclear development in our area), asking that they please print the entire five page Position Paper in our local newspapers.

They have provided a link to it on their websites but many people do not have access to this type of technology so printing it in the newspaper would make

it easily accessible to all residents.

When eight municipalities take it upon themselves to "position the Peace Region as Alberta's model nuclear hub" perhaps the opinions of residents and taxpayers in said municipalities should be obtained first.

A concerned citizen's group, Northern Action Alliance, has arranged for world-renowned nuclear physicist, M.V. Ramana, to visit our area and give presenta-

tions on the downside of nuclear development, in Manning on Tuesday, Oct. 6 and Grimshaw, Wednesday, Oct 7th at their Legion Halls, beginning at 7 p.m.

This is your opportunity, as a citizen of the Peace area, to become more informed on ALL aspects of nuclear development, then lobby your municipality to have a voice in this proposed development.

Karen Gardecki
Manning, AB

Grouard bridge may get roof

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(Grouard) – People fishing on an old road bridge on Highway 750 may have a roof over their heads in the coming months as a project of Big Lakes County.

At its regular meeting Sept. 9, council passed a motion to direct administration to prepare and present a report to council outlining the estimated cost of retaining a qualified professional engineer to assess whether the bridge on Highway 750 near the

Hamlet of Grouard could safely accommodate the additional loading and modifications required to support a roof structure.

The motion was presented by Grouard Councillor Rob Porter in a notice of motion to discuss at a future council meeting.

Adding to his written notice of motion, he clarified his proposal.

"I'm not looking at something that will cover the full length of the bridge – maybe one quarter of the length," Porter says.

Porter has received requests from residents of the Hamlet of Grouard to explore the feasibility of providing a roof structure over the bridge on Highway 750 near Grouard.

"Residents utilize the bridge area for fishing, and a roof structure may provide protection from inclement weather and allow residents to continue using the area during less favourable weather conditions," Porter says.

Administration contacted the regional director of transportation

regarding the bridge and was advised that the bridge is currently managed by Big Lakes County and that any modifications to the bridge would be the responsibility of the county, he says.

Administration was further advised that an initial step would likely be to obtain an engineering assessment to determine whether the existing bridge structure could safely accommodate additional loading or modifications associated with a roof structure.

Sucker Creek First Nation to hold memorial round dance

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

(Sucker Creek) - Sucker Creek First Nation (SCFN) will mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with a memorial round dance honouring residential school survivors and the children who never made it home.

The event, scheduled for Sept. 30, is a Residential School Memorial Round Dance.

Tannis Willier, health director for Sucker Creek First Nation, says the round dance is being held in honour of survivors of Canada's residential school system and those who tragically did not make it home.

Round dances are often held as community gatherings rooted in prayer, song and connection.

The memorial round dance is connected to the legacy of Residential

School in Jousard, Alta. The former school operated from 1913 to 1969 and was attended by students from Sucker Creek and other Treaty 8 communities.

In recent years, survivors, descendants and community members have gathered at the former school site and in Sucker Creek to remember former students and speak about the ongoing impacts of residential schools. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is observed each year on Sept. 30.

The day was established as a federal statutory holiday and is also marked as Orange Shirt Day.

Across the country, communities use the day to remember the children who did not return home, honour survivors and reflect on the intergenerational effects of the residential school system. Many people wear orange as a

public sign of remembrance and support for the message that every child matters.

SCFN has also marked Sept. 30 through permanent memorial work. In 2025, the First Nation unveiled a Residential School Survivors' Memorial along Highway 2. The monument was dedicated to Sucker Creek students who attended residential school and to the broader effort to recognize the experiences of survivors and families affected by residential schools.

Previous community gatherings around the school have drawn survivors, relatives and members from across Treaty 8 territory.

The Sept. 30 round dance continues that work of remembrance by creating a space where survivors, families and community members can gather together.

Big Lakes moves council meeting to Sept. 22

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) - Big Lakes County has rescheduled its second council meeting of September, which will also include a public hearing.

At its regular meeting Aug. 26, council rescheduled its regular meeting of Sept. 23 to Sept. 22 starting at 10 a.m.

"We have too many conflicts on Sept. 23," Reeve Tyler Airth says.

Several council members will be away at other events, including the Alberta Municipalities fall convention and trade show Sept. 23-25, he notes.

A public hearing set for Aug. 26 to present proposed bylaw 20-2026 to close several roads in Grouard was also rescheduled to Sept. 22 at 1 p.m. in the council chambers of the Big Lakes administration building in High Prairie.

The public hearing for the bylaw must be rescheduled from Aug. 26 because public notification was not entirely completed, says Pat Olansky, director of

community services and planning.

"Adjacent landowners and utility companies were notified; however, notification to the general public was not completed," Olansky says.

At its regular meeting July 22, council gave first reading to bylaw 20-2026 to close First St., Badger Ave., Washington Avenue, and Dominion Street, a lane within Block 29 and a lane within Block 30 lying within Lot 2, Block 1, Plan (to be determined by the Alberta Land Titles Office) in Grouard.

"The original road closure bylaw (29-2019) contained an error in the road closure description so it must be redone," Olansky says.

"This bylaw is necessary to accommodate

the consolidation of lots as approved by the Municipal Planning Commission (Subdivision File 26-03)."

Once first reading is given, notification was sent to adjacent landowners and franchise utilities.

The bylaw will then be sent for approval by Transportation and Economic Corridors Minister Devin Dreesen before the bylaw can receive second and third readings, Olansky says.



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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

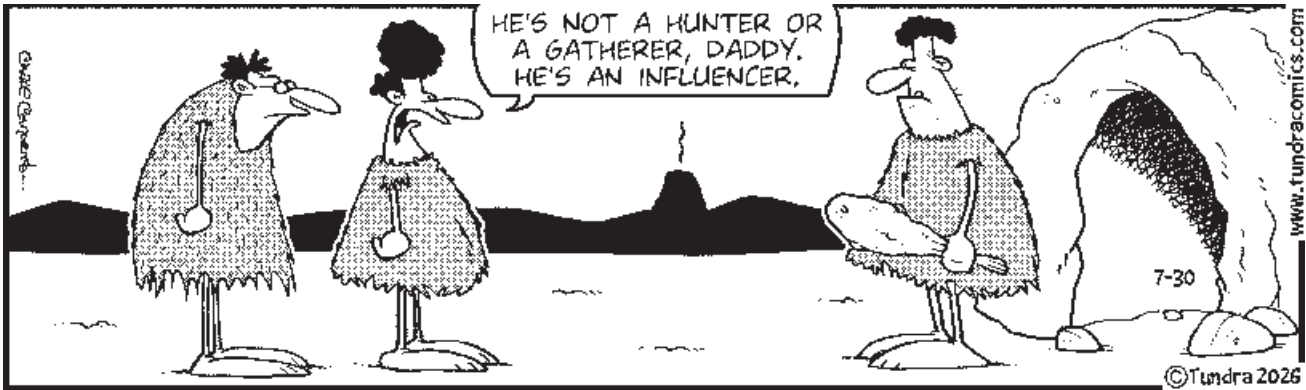
Fr. Jean-Cornelis Nkuanga Phone: 780-837-2151

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Phone: 780 523-4484 or Email: sales@citylive.com



The Page

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Hard to believe it was 10 years ago today that Jousard School celebrated its grand opening!

The Page was admittedly shocked to hear High Prairie town council denied a \$10,000 request to help the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre continue operations until the end of 2026.

It certainly looks bleak for the centre unless they can sell the Eagle's Nest Hall by Enilda to generate much-needed cash. Here is hoping the centre can find a solution before the end of the year.

The Page is a big fan of the TV show *Alone*. The show involves releasing 10 survival experts in the wilderness to fend for themselves with the winner taking home a big cash prize. Past locations were in Saskatchewan, Labrador, the Northwest Territories, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Mongolia and Patagonia, Argentina.

This season, which ended Sept. 9, involves 10 people from around the world competing for \$500,000 cash. They were dropped off just west of the Mackenzie River delta and must use survival skills to survive. It came down to three people from Australia, Canada and Slovenia. A man from Slovenia won, Can-

ada second, Australia third. No Yankee in the top three!

The Page is wondering if President Donald Trump will still declare the American the winner!

Lucky thing no one from Russia competed. If they lost, Putin would have banished the loser to Siberia!

More on Donald Trump's plans to rename Lake Ontario Lake America. How about renaming Montana the state of South Alberta?

Does anyone remember the proposal to rename Mount Logan (Canada's highest mountain) Mount Pierre Elliott Trudeau? That was in October 2000. The idea died quicker than a Calgary Flames cheer at an Edmonton Oilers game.

What The Page forgot was in 2006 a mountain in British Columbia near Valemount was renamed Mount Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

The Page heard the peak is cold as hell, affected by big winds, and blows toward Alberta while sucking air from Vancouver. Sounds about right!

The Page remembers years ago when the former I.D. council at High Prairie was debating a

new name. It was then-reeve Alvin Billings who jokingly suggested the M.D. of Billingsly!

We were that close to Billingsly and perhaps renaming Lesser Slave Lake to Lake L'Heureux.

Today? How about the entrances to Kinuso named the Hunt Highway, to Faust the Nygaard Expressway and the highest hill south of Jousard Mount Mifflin? The green area to the north Forseille Forest Reserve and the quaint highway crossing at Triangle Nelson's Nook?

The Page has plenty of great ideas to honour those serving us!

The Harvest Festival is at Triangle this weekend, Sept. 19.

The Page heard he was entered in the hot wings eating contest but has generously declined to give the other contestants a chance to win!

Drop by Triangle to enjoy a day of fun. Details can be found in this newspaper.

Edmonton Oilers' superfan Mama Stanley (Mary Loewen) has announced she no longer supports the team after signing Alex Formenton, who was one of five junior hockey players acquitted of sexual assault charges in London, Ont., in 2018.

Mama Stanley, herself a sexual abuse victim, says she cannot support the team and is asking the Oilers to reverse the decision.

Her petition has already collected over 4,000 signatures as of Sept. 10.

The age-old question is asked again: does everyone deserve a second chance! In this case, remember Formenton was acquitted. Not because of the alleged acts, but mainly because the victim was not a credible witness and consent became the main issue at the trial.

Canada and Ukraine might sign a 100-year deal that would lock the two countries into military, political and financial support.

Given Canada's massive budget deficit and mounting debt, The Page is all for receiving some help from Ukraine!

The Page hears the High Prairie Quilt Guild is holding its annual show and sale again this fall. Watch for details soon!

A man was bragging to his boss he was doing the work of three men and deserved a raise.

"Hmm," said his boss. "I can't give you a raise but if you give me their names, I'll fire them!"

An interesting historical note: on Sept. 16, 1969, Irene Brick pleads guilty in a High Prairie court to keeping and selling liquor in her home, contrary to the Liquor Act. Brick is fined \$300 plus costs.

How times have changed?

On Sept. 16, 1970, The Town of High Prairie hired Al Weinhandl as industrial coordinator at a salary of \$415 per month or \$4,980 a year!

The suggested starting salary of the economic development officer is around \$90,000 a year!

The Page would love to see the movie *Back to God's Country* again!

Four years ago, the High Prairie Museum showed the black and white film shot in 1919 at Lesser Slave Lake. It was one of the earliest feature Canadian films and is still cited as the most successful silent films made in Canadian history.

How about it, museum people!

The Page enjoyed the move and free popcorn!



Weekly Horoscope



Aries – March 21 – April 20: This week calls for a break from your usual fast pace! If you have been burning the candle at both ends, your energy reserves will be depleted! Focus on fortifying yourself!



Taurus – April 21 – May 21: Miscommunication is likely if you rush your words! Take an extra breath before responding when someone asks you a question or when addressing emails!



Gemini – May 22 – June 21: It is time to audit where your money is going! If you have been overspending as a balm to stress, hit the brakes! Look for areas where you can plug any financial leaks!



Cancer – June 22 – July 22: The spotlight is firmly on you now! You might feel a sudden urge to change your style, update your resume or shed an old identity that no longer fits! Trust this instinct!



Leo – July 23 – Aug. 23: The universe is asking you to clear out some psychic debris this week! It is a great time for journaling and heavy solo time! If secrets or old resentments bubble up, just let them go!



Virgo – Aug. 24 – Sept. 22: Your social life is getting a bit of a reality check! You might realize that certain friendships have felt a bit one-sided! Seek people who inspire you!



Libra – Sept. 23 – Oct. 23: The spotlight shines brightly on your professional zone! Instead of waiting for recognition, create your own! Update your portfolio or pitch an idea you have been sitting on!



Scorpio – Oct. 24 – Nov. 22: You may be craving a breakdown of boredom! If you can not physically travel right now, satisfy this urge by stretching your mind another way!



Sagittarius – Nov. 23 – Dec. 21: This week drags you into deeper psychological waters than you might care to swim in! It is a powerful time for intimacy or understanding behaviours!



Capricorn – Dec. 22 – Jan. 20: Relationships take centre stage! If there is an imbalance of power, it will need to be corrected! Approach conversations this week with diplomacy!



Aquarius – Jan. 21 – Feb. 18: Your daily habits are catching up to you! If you have been eating poorly or skipping sleep, your body will demand a reset! Focus on micro-habits to get back on track!



Pisces – Feb. 19 – March 20: Your playful side is begging for attention! Make time for hobbies, art or romance that serve no purpose but to bring you joy!

Celebrity Birthday Calendar

Date	Celebrity	Claim to Fame	Year
Sept. 16	H.A. Rey	Curious George Author	1898
Sept. 16	Allen Funt	Candid Camera Creator	1914
Sept. 16	Peter Falk	Colombo Actor	1927
Sept. 16	David Copperfield	Magician	1956
Sept. 17	Charles the Simple	King of France	879
Sept. 17	Wenceslas II	King of Bohemia/Poland	1271
Sept. 17	John Ritter	Three's Company Actor	1948
Sept. 17	Wile E. Coyote	Roadrunner's Nemesis	1949
Sept. 18	John Diefenbaker	Prime Minister of Canada	1895
Sept. 18	Eddie Anderson	Jack Benny's Rochester	1905
Sept. 18	Scotty Bowman	NHL Hall of Fame Coach	1933
Sept. 18	Darryl Sittler	Toronto Maple Leaf	1950
Sept. 19	Duke Snider	Montreal Expos Broadcaster	1926
Sept. 19	Brian Epstein	The Beatles Manager	1934
Sept. 19	Sylvia Tyson	Canadian Songwriter	1940
Sept. 19	Trisha Yearwood	Country Singer	1964
Sept. 19	Jimmy Fallon	American Comedian	1974
Sept. 20	Sophia Loren	Italian Actress	1934
Sept. 20	Sylvester	Looney Tunes Pussycat	1941
Sept. 20	Guy Lafleur	Montreal Canadian	1951
Sept. 20	John Tavares	Toronto Maple Leaf	1990
Sept. 21	H.G. Wells	War of the Worlds Author	1866
Sept. 21	Larry Hagman	Dallas Actor	1931
Sept. 21	Stephen King	The Shining Author	1947
Sept. 21	Bill Murray	Ghostbusters Actor	1957
Sept. 22	Tom Lasorda	LA Dodgers Manager	1927
Sept. 22	Junko Tabei	1st Female Everest Climber	1939
Sept. 22	Joan Jett	I Love Rock 'n Roll Singer	1958
Sept. 22	Scott Baio	Happy Days Actor	1960

Donnelly

Continued from page 1

"This is when we also choose all the appointments to committees."

Committees that the new councillor could potentially sit on include Emergency Management, Donnelly Recreation Society, Guy-Donnelly Sportex, Smoky River Regional Council Committee, Smoky River Regional Economic Development Smoky River Physician Recruitment, and many more.

"To sit on council, it would be beneficial to have an open mind, a passion for the community, and some spare time in their day because it will take time to complete village work," says Lanctot. "Some items that require time are reading through council package, organizing yourself for the meeting, sitting on committees, and other village obligations."

If you would like more information on putting your name forward to sit on Village of Donnelly's council, phone the village office at 780-925-3835.

HP council plans public crime meeting

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Town of High Prairie council will host a community meeting in late November to discuss concerns with crime and proposals to curb criminal activity.

At its regular meeting Sept. 8, council approved a motion to schedule the meeting

for Nov. 25 at the Gordon Buchanan Performing Arts Centre at 7 p.m.

“We planned to host a meeting in June, but decided to do it in spring,” CAO David Joy says in his report to council.

He presented a recommendation to stage the meeting in spring 2027. But council members want it sooner.

“I’d like to see it done before then – like No-

vember,” Councillor Brian Martinson says.

“We need to answer questions.”

Councillor Bryce Shunter agreed the meeting needs to be held sooner.

At the meeting, council also passed a motion by Shunter to direct administration to draft a bylaw to regulate public nuisance, a curfew, vagrancy, homeless en-

campments and other improper behaviour.

He suggests closing local parks from dusk to dawn.

Council passed a motion at its regular meeting June 23 to direct administration to schedule a community meeting to review progress over the last 12 months and discuss future plans regarding crime-prevention initiatives, he says.

“Council previously planned to hold a crime-prevention meeting to provide residents with an opportunity to discuss community safety issues, crime-prevention initiatives and potential solutions with council and relevant stakeholders,” Joy says.

Joy says he is preparing a report on crime and strategies that he plans to present to coun-

cil at its regular meeting Sept. 29.

During the meeting, council heard one woman share her concerns and ideas about crime that Joy says he would consider in his upcoming report.

Over the past several months citizens have expressed concern about a growing problem of crime and improper activity.

BLC reeve wants auto repair services in agri districts

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – A Big Lakes County council member proposes that automobile repair services be allowed in agriculture land-use districts.

At its regular meeting Sept. 9, council passed a motion to direct CAO David Reynolds to prepare a report and bylaw to amend section 3.4 of land-use bylaw 26-2024 to add automobile repair services as a discretionary use in the agriculture (AG) district at a future council meeting.

The motion was presented in a notice of motion by Reeve Tyler Airth.

Big Lakes County land-use bylaws in the past included industrial uses such as small scale industrial pursuit as a permitted use and general industrial and auto body and paint shop as discretionary uses, he states.

The 2017 land-use bylaw removed most industrial uses from the agriculture district resulting in landowners being required to re-district their properties from AG district to rural

industrial district.

The 2023 land-use bylaw further removed a number of commercial and industrial uses from the AG district.

There are several vehicle repair shops located on land within the AG district throughout the county. A few of these shops are operating legally with the appropriate permits in place that were obtained prior to the 2023 land-use bylaw.

Those operations with valid permits are now considered legal non-conforming.

Few of the existing vehicle repair shops gen-

erate complaints or cause traffic concerns or damage to county infrastructure.

Adding automobile repair services as a discretionary use in the AG district will allow each development permit application received to be considered and decided upon based on its own merit.

The notice ends with the motion.

Plans by the owner of a trucking business located south of High Prairie to expand its services has been denied by Big Lakes council after hearing con-

cerns from neighbours as reported in the *South Peace News* print issue of Aug. 19.

At its regular meeting Aug. 12, council defeated second reading to proposed land-use bylaw 18-2026 to amend the land-use bylaw to re-district part of NW 10-74-17-W5 located southwest of High Prairie to rural industrial (RI) district from agriculture district.

The applicant currently operates an industrial trucking company as a major home occupation on a portion of the property and is

proposing to utilize the existing shop for commercial truck repairs, says Pat Olansky, director of community services and planning.

“The Alberta Motor Vehicle Industry Council (AMVIC) requires confirmation from the municipality that the development complies with the land-use bylaw,” Olansky says.

Located on the southeast corner of Range Rd. 173 and Township Rd. 742, the existing business was previously approved as a discretionary use within the agriculture district.

Big Lakes sets budget meetings for Nov. 27, 30

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Big Lakes County council has set two days in late November to discuss and adopt interim operating and capital budgets for 2026.

At its regular meeting Sept. 9, council approved a motion to schedule special meetings for 2026 interim operating and capital budget deliberations for Nov. 27 and 30 starting both days at 9 a.m.

Residents and other interested citizens will have an opportunity to express their ideas and suggestions during public delegation time on the first day starting at 9 a.m.

Recommended dates were presented by Joe

Zdeb, director of corporate services.

“Dates were chosen on availability of staff and council,” Zdeb says.

At a special meeting April 20, 2025, council adopted a 2025 final operating budget of \$37,393,820 in expenses.

The budget also includes \$43,166,870 in revenue, contributions of \$4,451,210 to capital reserves and \$1,557,030 to operating reserves, while the county will withdraw \$11,082,102 from reserves for capital and \$178,730 for operating.

Current service levels will be maintained,” said Joe Zdeb, director of corporate services.

Municipal tax revenue is based on the final 2026 property assessment values and no increase

to the municipal tax rate.”

He notes taxpayers may have an increase in municipal taxes only if their property assessment increases.

Staff received a 1.7 per cent increase in the cost of living allowance

(COLA).

Reeve Tyler Airth says council was committed to hold the line on municipal taxes.

“Council chose no increase to the municipal

mill rate as we see a significant rise in property assessment that helps follow the inflationary pressures we are facing,” Airth said.

“Council’s hope in

freezing the mill rates reflects directly from our strategic plan to maintain fiscal responsibility and help keep this an affordable municipal to call home.”

The way to gain a good reputation, is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear. ~Socrates

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Our Hair is Sacred Workshop in Sucker Creek shares cultural teachings

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

(Sucker Creek) - Sucker Creek First Nation (SCFN) members and residents are invited to register for the Our Hair is Sacred Workshop, a session focused on sharing sacred teachings and bringing more awareness to cultural knowledge con-

nected to hair. Sheena Willier, Suicide Prevention with SCFN, says the workshop is set for October 17 and 18 2026 at the SCFN Health and Wellness building. Willier says the hope for the workshop is to share sacred teachings and bring more awareness to the knowledge connected to hair. By creating a dedi-

cated space for this topic, the workshop gives participants an opportunity to listen, learn and reflect on teachings that may not always be discussed in everyday settings. The session is intended to support cultural learning and help community members better understand the importance of passing knowledge forward.

Willier says learning cultural teachings helps make it possible to transfer that knowledge to future generations. When teachings are shared and understood, they can continue to live within families and the wider community. The workshop will support that transfer of knowledge by encouraging participants to learn

about the sacredness of hair and the role cultural teachings can play in strengthening identity, understanding and connection. Registration is open to SCFN members and residents. Willier says people who are interested in attending are encouraged to register, as the workshop is intended to provide a re-

spectful and focused learning space. Those interested can register by calling Brenda at 780-523-4390. The session will give participants the chance to deepen their understanding of cultural teachings while also helping ensure that important knowledge continues to be shared with younger generations.

Duncan’s First Nation Autumn Market returns Oct. 17

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

(Peace River) - The Duncan’s First Nation Autumn Market is returning for its second year on Oct. 17 at the JTM Center. The event aims to bring together local vendors and community members for a celebration of culture, creativity and connection. Market organizer Alexis

Testwich says the autumn market grew out of seeing the range of talents within the community and wanting to create a space where people could share their work while supporting one another. “I just wanted everyone to come together and show off their talents and support each other,” Testwich says. This year’s autumn market is the second seasonal market of its kind, following a handful

of other markets hosted in the community. Testwich says she hopes the event encourages people to see their hobbies as something that can grow beyond the home. She hopes the market inspires vendors and visitors alike to recognize that handmade items, artwork and cultural creations can become something bigger — a way to inspire others and find a place in other people’s homes.

Testwich says she is hoping for a strong turnout and wants the wider public to know the market is open to everyone. “Everyone is welcome,” she says. “We love to show the culture and art.” Anyone interested in becoming a vendor can contact Testwich at 780-834-8938 for more information. A Christmas market is also planned, with a focus on sui-

cide prevention. Testwich will team up with Casey Szmata for that event, where people will be able to donate items for a raffle. Market attendees can bid on the donated items, with proceeds going toward suicide prevention through the Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention North Peace. The autumn market takes place Oct. 17 at the JTM Center in Duncan’s First Nation.

Cooking class helps youth build confidence in the kitchen

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

(Sucker Creek) - Sucker Creek First Nation (SCFN) members and residents are invited to register youth for an upcoming Kids Cooking Class held at the rec centre on September 24 from 5-7 p.m. Sheena Willier, Suicide Prevention with (SCFN), says the class is being offered as a way to support youth in learn-

ing practical skills they can use in the kitchen and at home. The class will focus on helping participants build confidence, learn safety practices and become more comfortable preparing food in a supportive environment. Willier says one of the hopes for the class is that youth leave with new skills and a stronger sense of independence. Learning how to work safely in a kitchen

can make cooking feel less intimidating, especially for young people who may be trying new tasks for the first time. The class will give participants a chance to ask questions, learn by doing and understand why kitchen safety matters, from handling food properly to being aware of tools, heat and shared workspace. Registration is required for the Kids Cooking Class, and ca-

capacity is limited. Willier says families should also be aware that some youth cooking classes have age restrictions depending on the session, and a consent form must be signed before a child or youth can take part. These requirements help ensure the class is safe, organized and appropriate for the participants who attend. For community members, the class is also an

opportunity to encourage youth to see cooking as a useful life skill rather than just a household task. By learning in a group setting, participants can build confidence alongside their peers and take pride in what they are able to make. Willier says the goal is to create a positive learning space where youth feel supported while gaining knowledge they can continue to use after the

class is over. SCFN members and residents who are interested in registering a youth participant are encouraged to do so as soon as possible because space is limited. To register text or call 780 507-6194 or 780 523-6338. The September 24 class is intended to be hands-on, practical and welcoming, with a focus on helping youth feel safer and more capable in the kitchen.

BL funds upgrade at Homesteaders’ Hall

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(Joussard) – A seniors’ association will receive funding of more than \$95,000 from Big Lakes County to upgrade its hall. At its regular meeting Sept. 9, council passed a motion to direct administration to allocate \$97,040 from the Community Upgrade Fund for Joussard to support renovations and improvements to the Joussard Homesteaders’

Hall for the 2026 year. The motion was presented in a notice of motion from Joussard Councillor Richard Mifflin. At its regular meeting May 13, council passed a motion to send a letter of support to the society in its ATCO Community Energy Fund grant application for facility upgrades. The society has received grant funding of \$7,500 toward the project and has applied for additional grant funding. Funding announcements for

the additional grant applications are expected later in 2026, he says in his notice. “They’re still waiting to hear back from two funding requests,” Mifflin says at the meeting. The society has also provided administration with a detailed budget for the proposed hall improvements, outlining the anticipated costs for labour, materials, and other related expenses. Mifflin has received requests from the society to ex-

plore potential funding options to assist with necessary repairs, renovations, and improvements to the hall, the notice of motion states. The hall is utilized by local residents and for a variety of functions, events, and activities. The association has identified several areas of the facility that require repairs and improvements, with a focus on improving accessibility, energy efficiency, functionality, and the overall condition of

the hall. The proposed renovations and improvements include, but are not limited to: -Improvements to accessibility, including accessible washroom facilities. -A new range hood for the kitchen. -A new furnace. -Replacement of windows -Painting and flooring -New tables and chairs -A new sound system and projector. -Installation of ceiling fans.



Barn quilt workshop will bring a colourful new craft to Peace River

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

(Peace River) - A growing artistic tradition that blends quilting, painting and community pride is making its way to Peace River this fall.

The Quilter's Palette, a Priddis-based business specializing in barn quilt workshops and supplies, will host a class at the Peace River Agricultural Fairgrounds on Oct. 4, giving participants the opportunity to create their own barn quilt, regardless of their artistic experience.

Jane Morgan, owner and founder of The Quilter's Palette, started the business five years ago with a much different vision in mind. Initially, the goal was to paint and retail finished barn quilts. However, it did not take long for customers to become curious about the process.

"People kept asking how I did it," Morgan said.

That interest quickly

evolved into a teaching business. Today, The Quilter's Palette offers workshops throughout Alberta and British Columbia, employs two certified instructors and is in the process of adding two more. The company also sells barn quilt supplies across Canada and has developed its own instructor certification program.

Morgan uses Benjamin Moore paints for all of her barn quilt projects and supplies many of the products needed for participants to complete their own creations.

Barn quilts themselves have a history stretching back roughly 20 to 25 years. While the name suggests a connection to traditional quilting, no fabric or sewing is involved.

Originally, barn quilts were painted quilt block designs displayed on barns. Over time, the medium evolved. Many modern barn quilts are now created on aluminum composite mate-

rial, or ACM, a lightweight, durable material that resists rust and weather damage.

"It's still a quilt block, just painted instead of sewn," Morgan explained.

One of the biggest misconceptions surrounding barn quilts is that participants need previous artistic experience. Morgan said that is simply not the case.

"There is no sewing involved, and you don't need painting or sewing experience," she said. "We walk you through the entire process."

The barn quilt movement began in Ohio before spreading across North America. Communities have increasingly embraced barn quilt trails, self-guided routes that showcase painted quilt blocks displayed on homes, barns and businesses. These trails often become tourism attractions, drawing visitors interested in local art, history and rural culture.

Morgan first encoun-

tered barn quilts more than 10 years ago while visiting her husband in the United States. Already an avid quilter, she immediately became fascinated by the concept.

What began as a small hobby to occupy her time has grown into a thriving business that now takes her across Western Canada.

"I thoroughly enjoy what I do," she said.

One aspect she especially appreciates is the opportunity for personal expression. Participants can choose colours and designs that reflect their own tastes, family histories or meaningful memories. In some cases, old family quilts that are no longer usable become the inspiration for a painted barn quilt design.

Earlier this year, Alberta unveiled its first official barn quilt trail in the Rimbey area, a development Morgan hopes will encourage greater interest in the art form across the



One of Morgans barn quilts mounted near Vulcan, Alta. Photo courtesy of Jane Morgan

province.

"I would like to see them everywhere," she said.

While based in southern Alberta, Morgan has spent considerable time teaching classes throughout the province. Earlier this year, she led a workshop in Manning and is looking forward to her upcoming visit to Peace River.

She said one of the highlights of her work has been getting to know communities in northern Alberta and sharing the growing barn quilt movement with new audiences.

A local resident who had previously taken one of Morgan's classes expressed interest in hosting a workshop in Peace River, leading to the Oct. 4 event. The Quilter's Palette helps promote locally hosted classes while providing instruction and supplies.

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High Prairie Quilt Show returns Sept. 26-27

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – The High Prairie Quilt Show and Sale returns Sept. 26-27 after taking a break in 2025. The show is open Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Organizers expect more 150 large quilts, lap quilts, bed quilts and wall hangings and table runners will be on display at the show at the High Prairie Curling Rink, says Marla Willier, president of the High Prairie Quilt Guild. “We enjoy providing a quality quilt show for our community and beyond,” Willier says. “We have a large quilt show for a small community and although I am biased, I think we have the best show in the north.” The guild has moved to host the event every other year after being an annual event with the 27th annual event in 2024. “Setting up the quilt show is a lot of work, so the guild decided to go every other year,” Willier says.

“We need some younger members to join the guild and climb.” Each quilted item at the show will be clearly marked whether it is for sale or just for display. Many of the quilted items will reflect the events’ theme “The Places We Will Go”, she says. Every quilt is made “from the heart” by the guild’s talented members. Those who attend the show have the opportunity to select their favourite quilt. “Votes will be counted and the overall favourite gets a ribbon,” Willier says. In addition to the 100-150 quilts expected at the show, several vendors have been confirmed to date, including Tiger Lily Spa, of High Prairie, Pink Petunia’s Quilting, of Little Smoky, Dearest Pea Patch Quilters’ Plot, of Thorhild, and Homestead Quilting, of Barrhead. The guild’s annual raffle has several prizes with a beautiful queen-size quilt valued at \$1,800 as the top prize.



A quilt titled Dance of the Dragonflies was one of the quilts on display at the 2024 High Prairie Quilt Show and Sale hosted by the High Prairie Quilt Guild. The 2026 show is scheduled for Sept. 26-27.

Second prize is a lap quilt and third prize is a mondo bag. Tickets are \$2 each and available at the door and from guild members. “Tickets are going fast and expected to sell out quickly,” Willier says. New to the show will be a raffle for a hand-made dollhouse. The house comes complete with furniture and dolls, with proceeds going to High Prairie Elementary School and the elementary department of St. Andrew’s School, she says.

Tickets are \$2 each and available at the show and from guild members. Various dolls and doll quilts will also be on display, for sale or as raffle prizes. Fundraising is a key part of the event and guild. “Our raffles support our guild projects which are quilts for patients undergoing cancer treatments, children in residential care, baby quilts for our local High Prairie Children’s Centre and various school and community

endeavours,” Willier says. The show will again have a silent auction with many items up for bids. “If you see something on the silent auction table that you would like to have and don’t want to wait on the bidding process, pay the buy-it-now price and you can leave smiling with your hand-made item,” Willier says. The show will also have a 10-for-\$5 table where people can buy 10 tickets for \$5 and place their tickets in the prize you hope to win. Kinuso Lakeside 4-H Club will help set up and take down. The club will also provide a canteen and funds raised will go directly to the club. The quilt guild appreciates support from the community. “We generally don’t canvass businesses for donations as we make enough money from door entry to pay our expenses,” Willier says. “Our vendors and members donate to our raffles and silent auctions during the show.

“We prefer to partner with community businesses or groups when we are working on large projects or simply asking for donations.” The guild currently has more than 35 members that come from the High Prairie, Valleyview, Slave Lake, Wabasca, Little Smoky, Fox Creek and Mayerthorpe regions. The guild meets the third Friday of each month at St. Paul’s Roman Catholic Church hall in High Prairie at 7 p.m. except in June and July. “We have one meeting a year in Slave Lake and one in Little Smoky to share travelling,” Willier says. New members are welcome to check out a couple of our meetings before committing to joining. “We are a fun group and enjoy learning and sewing together, quilting retreats and some quilting courses from time to time,” Willier says. Each year, the guild usually picks a project or a group locally to donate their time and quilts to, she notes.

Upcoming Museum Events



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Student-Grown Lettuce Expands to Freson Bros. High Prairie



Pictured left-to-right : Agricultural Technician Keshav Bhattarai and Freson Bros. High Prairie Manager Steve McLeod.

High Prairie School Division’s student-grown lettuce is now available at Freson Bros. High Prairie as *Always Growing*, HPSD’s vertical farm, heads into its second year of operation.

The vertical farm allows high school students to complete dual credit courses in partnership with Olds College, microcredential courses in agriculture, and work experience.

Approximately half of the lettuce produced is donated to the High Prairie & District Food Bank Society, as an important part of this project has always been to engage and support community.

Lettuce is sold to HPSD schools at a reduced rate to support hot lunch programs, salad bars, home economics labs, and breakfast and nutrition programs (wraps). Any revenue generated through lettuce sales is reinvested into the farm to offset operating costs.

Always Growing lettuce is now available at High Prairie Wholesale Market and Freson Bros. High Prairie. Customers can also order online at alwaysgrowing.ca, with pickup available at Marigold Enterprises in High Prairie.

As Always Growing enters its second year, the farm continues to bring together student learning, locally grown food and community support — from the classroom and vertical farm at E.W. Pratt to school meal programs, the local food bank and grocery shelves throughout High Prairie.

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30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

7 - Labour Day - No School

15 - Board Meeting

25 - PD Day - No School

30 - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - No School

JOIN SCHOOL COUNCIL

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. **All parents are welcome to attend the upcoming Annual General Meetings (AGMs).**

AGM dates and times vary by school. Please check your child’s school website and social media page for meeting details.

Terry Fox Fundraising Underway at HPSD Schools

Fundraising campaigns are underway at many HPSD schools in honour of Terry Fox as we progress into September.

A high school basketball player and distance runner, Terry had just begun post-secondary studies in kinesiology at Simon Fraser University when he was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma. Less than a week later, his right leg was amputated above the knee.

Adapting quickly to crutches, Terry underwent physiotherapy and learned to walk with a prosthetic leg. He returned to university and sports remarkably soon after surgery. After being approached by fellow British Columbian Rick Hansen, Terry made the wheelchair basketball team and competed in tournaments while undergoing chemotherapy. His team went on to win three national championships.

Terry’s chemotherapy lasted 16 months. During that time, being surrounded by other cancer patients profoundly affected him and convinced him of the importance of cancer research. In Terry’s words, he decided to meet his disability “head on,” and his experiences in the cancer clinic—witnessing both the hope and despair of other patients—helped transform what began as a personal challenge into something meant to help others.

On April 12, 1980, Terry embarked on the Marathon of Hope. He set out hoping to raise \$1 from every Canadian for cancer research. He ran 5,373 kilometres over 143 days, raising \$1.7 million and averaging close to a marathon a day before the return of his cancer forced him to stop near Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Forty-six years later, Terry’s original goal has been surpassed on a scale he couldn’t possibly have imagined. The movement now involves millions of people, with more than 10,000 Canadian schools expected to participate in Terry Fox School Runs this year, and more than \$1 billion raised to date for cancer research.

Students can choose to run in honour of a family member, friend, or someone else whose life has been affected by cancer, giving the Terry Fox Run personal meaning while connecting them to a much larger cause. Participating also gives students an opportunity to see the power of teamwork, citizenship, and community as they work together toward a shared goal. Keep an eye out for fundraising details on your child’s school website and for forms coming home in students’ backpacks as we work together to keep Terry’s dream alive.

Work underway on a regional workforce assessment

Emily Plihal

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

(Peace River) - A regional initiative is making headway with work underway on a regional workforce assessment.

Last spring, Northern Sunrise County, Town of Peace River, and Lac Cardinal Economic Development received \$250,000 in funding for a Workplace Planning Project. The funds were received in part from the Labour Market Partnership (LMP) program funded in part by the Government of Canada through the Canada-Alberta Workforce Tariff Response .

The three groups will be working together to develop a Workforce Planning Grant project that will aim to strengthen workforce readiness and support long-term economic growth across the region.

“The region shares many of the same workforce challenges, including skilled labour shortages, youth outmigration, housing pressures, and difficulty attracting workers to rural communities,” explains NSC Economic Development Officer Lynn Florence. “By partnering together, the municipalities can take a regional approach to workforce de-

velopment, share resources and research, and create stronger long-term strategies that benefit the entire region rather than working independently.”

Lac Cardinal Economic Development Officer Misty Velichka adds that the project aims to better understand current and future workforce needs across the region and identify opportunities to support business growth, workforce attraction, and employee retention.

“The consulting team leading the project is currently preparing a business survey and has begun engaging with local Economic Development Committees and regional stakeholders,” says Velichka. “These early discussions will help ensure the assessment reflects the unique opportunities and challenges facing employers throughout the region.”

Both EDOs add that local businesses play a critical role in the success of their project.

“When the survey is distributed, employers are strongly encouraged to participate and share their experiences,” says Florence. “Responses will provide valuable insight into workforce shortages, recruitment challenges, training needs, succession planning, and emerging labour market trends.”

Information collected is intended to help guide future workforce development initiatives and strengthen the region’s ability to attract and retain workers.

“By taking a few minutes to complete the survey, businesses can help ensure that future strategies and investments are based on real local needs and opportunities,” explains Velichka. “Northern Sunrise County, Lac Cardinal Economic Development and Town of Peace River want to thank businesses, community partners, and Economic Development Committee members for their continued support and looks forward to sharing project updates as work progresses.”

Florence and Velichka says the survey is targeted to be launched at the beginning of October and the Economic Development Officers of each municipality will be sharing the survey through business contacts and local chamber of commerce branches.

“A strong workforce is essential to the long-term success of our communities and businesses,” explains Florence. “We encourage all employers to participate in the survey, as their input will help shape workforce solutions that support economic growth across our region.”

Canning workshop offers hands-on food preservation skills

Sara Driedger

South Peace News

(Sucker Creek) - Sucker Creek First Nation (SCFN) members and residents can take part in a Community Canning Workshop on September 10. Sheena Willier, Suicide Prevention with SCFN, says the workshop is being offered to help community members learn food preservation skills in a

safe and supportive setting. The session will introduce participants to canning and give them an opportunity to build confidence while learning practical information they can use at home.

Willier says the hope for the workshop is to teach new skills, build confidence and support safety in the kitchen. For people who are new to canning, the process

can feel unfamiliar, but a workshop setting gives participants a chance to learn step by step and ask questions along the way. The focus will be on helping attendees understand the basics while also feeling comfortable enough to continue building their knowledge after the workshop.

Registration is required for the Community Canning Workshop,

and capacity is limited. Willier says interested SCFN members and residents are encouraged to register early so they can secure a space. Keeping the workshop size limited helps make the session more hands-on and allows participants to receive guidance while they learn.

The workshop is also a way to strengthen everyday food knowledge

in the community. Canning can help people better understand food preparation, storage and preservation, while also encouraging confidence in the kitchen. Willier says learning these kinds of skills can support families and individuals by giving them another practical tool to use when preparing food and planning for the future.

Participants do not

need to be experts to attend. The workshop is intended for community members who want to learn, gain experience and feel more comfortable with canning. By offering the session in a welcoming environment, the September 10 workshop will create space for people to build skills together while learning more about safe kitchen practices and food preservation.

Big Lakes commits to expand fiber optics

Richard Froese

South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Big Lakes County has committed to invest more than \$3.2 million to add fiber optic infrastructure to strengthen internet service in parts of the county.

At its regular meeting Sept. 9, council passed a motion to participate with Canadian Fiber Optics Corp. in the expansion of fiber optic infrastructure to the hamlets of Grouard, Jousard, Faust, and Kinuso, to a maximum county contribution of \$3,255,000, and approve a 2026 budget amendment of \$425,000, with the remaining \$2,830,000 to be included in the 2027 budget.

Total county contribution is a maximum of \$3,255,000 – about \$4,895 per premise, for infrastructure with an expected service life more than 50 years, says Joe Zdeb, director of corporate services.

“The investment would support the expansion of fiber optic infrastructure to the hamlets

of Grouard, Jousard, Faust, and Kinuso,” Zdeb says. “Approximately 665 homes, businesses, and farms would gain access to high-speed internet, telephone, and television services by the end of 2027.”

Big Lakes has been involved in various studies and research to offer high-speed internet options to residents since 2012, he says.

“The Regional Strategic Economic Development Plan, received by both Town of High Prairie and Big Lakes County councils in April 2026, names broadband gaps outside High Prairie and states that planned fiber expansion is expected to improve service levels in the area beginning in 2026,” Zdeb says.

“Canadian Fiber Optics first engaged with the county through its 2017 request for proposals for internet service and has provided a proposal during a closed session delegation on July 22, 2026, to expand fiber infrastructure to Big Lakes hamlets that are not covered under the

approved project through the federal Universal Broadband Fund.”

CFOC, which delivers retail internet services under the Northern Lights Fiber brand, is requesting a contribution of \$3,255,000 from the county, he says.

“Canadian Fiber Optics is well-known across Canada,” Zdeb says.

One councillor asked if the county would get any return for investment.

Zdeb says no.

However, Jousard Councillor Richard Mifflin say it would be indirectly.

“Return on investment will be economic development,” Mifflin says.

“It’s good for businesses, our residents.”

Kinuso Councillor Roberta Hunt notes that Centre St. in Kinuso is under construction and is concerned that the road may have to be dug up to lay the infrastructure.

Heart River – Salt Prairie Leo Forseille says he prefers to support a local company.

Through the contribution agreement, CFOC

will commit to:

-Offer service to every premise passed in the four hamlets;

-Hold these packages at prices no higher than UBF-committed rates, adjusted only for the Consumer Price Index, for three years following each hamlet’s activation.

CFOC has confirmed commitment that residents and businesses in the four hamlets will receive the same fiber packages and pricing that CFOC has committed to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) under the Universal Broadband Fund for its federally funded builds—including a residential 100/100 Mbps package at \$89 per month and a 1000/1000 Mbps package at \$139 per month.

“As fiber to the home is not available in any of the hamlets today, residents and businesses rely on copper, fixed wireless, or satellite connections. CFOC has received UBF funding for eligible areas of the county including portions of Jousard and

Faust, the hamlet of Enilda and some rural areas with infrastructure being built out over the next few years, Zdeb says.

“Federal and provincial funding will not close this gap in fiber to the

home availability.

“Under the UBF, Grouard, Kinuso and portions of Jousard and Faust fall outside the eligible area, and no current or announced federal program changes this eligibility.”

High Prairie appoints two members to library board

Richard Froese

South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Town of High Prairie has named members at-large to the local library board.

At its regular meeting Sept. 8, council approved a motion to appoint former town councillor James Waikle as a member at-large and re-appointed Kerrie Cox to the High Prairie Municipal Library board for three-year terms expiring Sept. 8, 2029.

“Administration received four expressions of interest; three are from High Prairie and one is from Big Lakes,” says CAO David Joy.

Cox is a resident of Big Lakes County.

High Prairie council has the responsibility to appoint members at large to the library board, Joy says.

Trustee 1 must be a High Prairie resident while trustee 2 can be a resident of either High Prairie or Big Lakes, he says.

BL sets public hearing for energy corridor structure plan

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Big Lakes County has introduced a bylaw to set guidelines to develop the Swan Hills energy corridor east of Swan Hills in the southeastern corner of the county.

At its regular council meeting Sept. 9, council gave first reading to proposed bylaw 23-2026 to adopt the area structure plan for the energy corridor.

A public hearing was scheduled for Oct. 14 at the council chambers in High Prairie at 1 p.m.

Beairsto & Associates was contracted by Big Lakes last October to draft an ASP for the energy corridor on provincial Crown land east of the Town of Swan Hills surrounding the site of Swan Hills Hazardous Waste Treatment Centre that is scheduled to close in 2026 by the provincial government.

The draft area structure plan has been completed, says Pat Olansky, director of community services and planning.

“It has progressed through an internal review process and has been circulated to municipal, provincial and federal agencies, Indigenous communities within the county, utilities, pipelines and telecommunications companies, energy and forestry operators, environmental, community and other interest groups,” Olansky says.

An open house Aug. 25 in Faust attracted 13 citizens while 42 people attended an open house Aug. 27 in Swan Hills, says Olansky.

The events allowed people to review the draft plan and provide comments and ideas about the proposed vision, development concept, transportation services and environmental concepts for the corridor that encompasses 126.9 square kilometres.

“The general response at both open houses was positive,” Olansky says.

No comments were recorded.

A link to an online survey was posted and paper copies were available at the open houses.

Big Lakes received 142 responses, Olansky says.

Based on comments at the Swan Hills open house, two land-use updates were made that:

–The commercial and light industrial areas south of Township Road 670 have been removed and changed to medium industrial.

–The light industrial area has been extended east around the Chrystina Lake Provincial Recreation Area to provide a lower-intensity transition around the recreation area and reduce potential impacts.

“Some of the discussion at the Faust open house focused on the impact of future development on the watershed, types of land use proposed within the plan area, the future of the Swan Hills treatment centre and potential data centre development,” Olansky says.

“Some of the discussion at the Swan Hills open house focused on the types of industry in the ASP area could attract, potential data centre development, water supply, transportation routes and protection of an existing recreation area.”

The vision statement explains that the Swan Hills energy corridor will be a strategic, investment-ready energy and industrial hub that supports innovation, responsible development, economic diversification and long-term prosperity for Big Lakes and the surrounding region.

The plan focuses on land uses for light industrial, medium industrial, heavy industrial, commercial and recreational.

The plan area consists of predominantly Crown land and includes established industrial activity, energy infrastructure and transportation and utility connections, the



Big Lakes County hosted an open house Aug. 25 at Faust and Aug. 27 at Swan Hills for citizens to review a proposed area structure plan for the Swan Hills energy corridor east of the Town of Swan Hills in the area of the Swan Hills Hazardous Waste Treatment Centre. The proposed plan was drafted by Beairsto & Associates engineering and survey consultants. Left-right, at the Faust open house, are Pat Olansky, director of planning and development for Big Lakes, Big Lakes and Kinuso Councillor Roberta Hunt and Baily Lapp, Beairsto & Associates manager of development and planning.

report states.

Those attributes support the development of a large-scale energy energy and industrial corridor capable of accommodating traditional industries and emerging technologies.

The plan is intended

to:

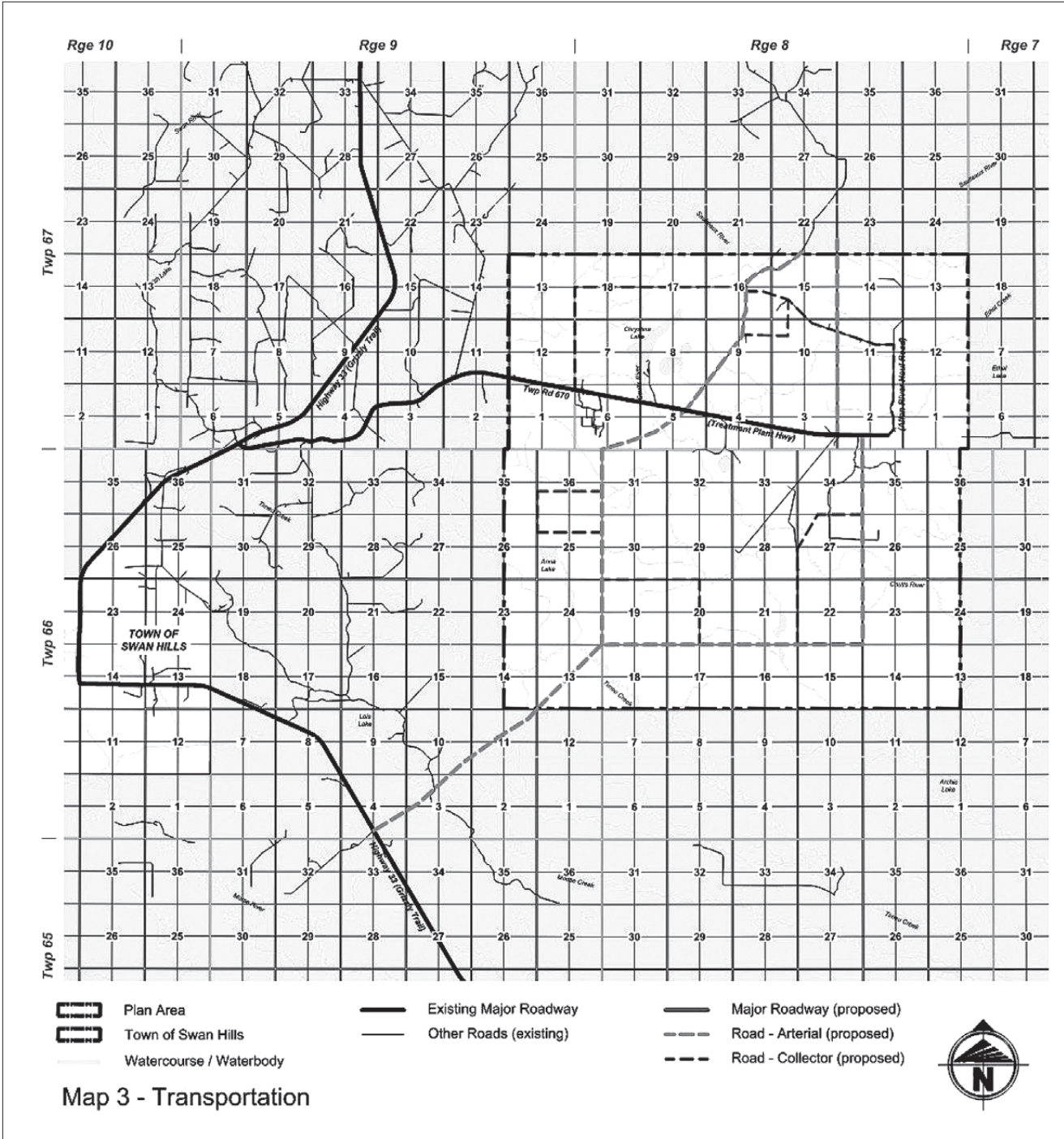
–Provide regulatory clarity and flexibility by co-ordinating municipal requirements, provincial approvals, public land processes and infrastructure capacity.

–Support economic diversification and

long-term investment while respecting environmental and historical resources and co-ordinating with Indigenous communities and neighbouring municipalities.

Planning principles set priorities to support

industrial growth, and economic diversification, provide certainty and flexibility, co-ordinate infrastructure and phasing, protect resources and existing operations and support collaboration and implementation.



Map provided by Beairsto & Associates shows the Swan Hills energy corridor plan area east of the Town of Swan Hills with the entrance northeast of Swan Hills. The area is 126.9 square kilometres.





High Prairie street earmarked for paving

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – A residential street in the Town of High Prairie will get a new surface.

At its regular meeting Sept. 8, council approved a motion to resurface 52 Ave. between 44 and 46 streets and approve the quote of \$95,360.14 from Wapiti Gravel Suppliers, of Grande Prairie.

It is estimated that resurfacing such as this would generally cost \$160,000 to \$180,000 if tendered out to other contractors,” CAO David Joy says. “That road has to be repaved,” Joy says.

“The town has \$30,000 left in our roads resurfacing program that we will not be able to use because of time constraints and other work priorities, so the total request for funding would be \$65,360.14 to come from the roads

capital reserve.”

During the major rehabilitation on 44 St. over the summer, contractors have been running their equipment on 52 Ave., which has caused more damage to an already-severely-damaged road, he says.

“In the spirit of goodwill and facilitating a good contractor and town relationship, Wapiti Gravel Suppliers is willing to resurface that portion of 52 Ave. at a significantly reduced rate,”

Joy says.

By agreeing to this capital project now, there will be no mobilization costs because all the necessary equipment is on 44 St.

The town hasn’t had many issues with the watermain on that avenue over the past several years, he notes.

“This overlay extends the life of the road and could give the town another seven to 10 years before a full rehabilitation of the road has to be done.”

The Souls Purpose offers new healing space

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

(Peace River) - What began as personal healing journeys for two sisters has grown into a shared space where clients are invited to slow down, look inward and explore what healing can mean for them.

The Soul’s Purpose, owned by sisters Ashley Yuremchuk and Amy Robinson, operates out of The Healing Room in Peace River. The space is also shared with Brandi Campbell, a registered nurse who owns Guided by Nurse B. The three women often collaborate on offerings that combine energy work, intuition, holistic education and community connection.

Yuremchuk says The Soul’s Purpose was born after a period when she felt lost in life.

During her own healing journey, she says spiritual gifts began to come forward, but only after she made time to turn inward and understand what was happening within her.

“I didn’t know until I took the time to go within,” Yuremchuk says, explaining that the experience changed how she understood herself, her health and the connection between the mind, body and energy.

Robinson says she watched her sister become more grounded over the course of that journey. Both were shaped by their father’s illness, which they say helped lead them toward healing work and the belief that people can carry healing capacity within themselves.

Everyone is a healer in some way, says Robinson, and their work is about facilitating an opportunity for people to discover that for themselves rather than telling clients what they should feel or believe.

For Yuremchuk, that



Amy Robinson (left) and Ashley Yuremchuk (right) of the Souls Purpose. Photo courtesy of Ashley Yuremchuk

belief came through lived experience. She says she dealt with medical issues connected to her nervous system being on high alert, and when doctors could not provide a clear diagnosis, healing work became proof to her of the power of the mind and of the connection between mental, physical and energetic well-being.

Yuremchuk now offers services including muscle testing, which she says can be used to help release trapped emotions. She says she considers herself logic-brained and needs to experience something before she believes it, which made her own healing journey especially important in shaping the way she works with clients today.

Alongside that healing, Yuremchuk says her psychic gifts developed. She says her work allows her to bring perspective and healing to people who may be seeking clarity, release or a stronger understanding of their own inner experience.

All three women describe themselves as empaths. They say people who are highly sensitive to the emotions and energy around them can

sometimes pick up others’ emotions as though they are their own, especially if they have not learned how to regulate their nervous system.

The Healing Room, they say, is designed to help people develop that awareness.

Clients may come in for Reiki, sound healing, mediumship or psychic services, workshops, courses, holistic nursing support or group offerings, but the goal is often similar: to create a space where people feel safe enough to notice what is happening within them.

The Healing Room also hosts children’s workshops, run by Robinson. She says she grew up with intuitive gifts and was an introverted child, while Yuremchuk was more extroverted. That experience has helped Robinson understand how overwhelming sensitivity can feel for young people who may not yet have language for what they are carrying.

Robinson says she wants to use the children’s programming to teach children how to deal with their sensitivity and protect themselves emotionally and energetically. She is also

a children’s author who publishes under the name Amy May and illustrates her own books.

Robinson has been publishing children’s books for five years and says she has 10 books published in seven countries. She says the stories are centred on love and written so children can relate to them. She plans to continue writing and hopes to release 30 books.

A registered nurse by trade, Campbell says she experienced a spiritual awakening after loss and later took a course in holistic nursing. She started Guided by Nurse B last year, offering holistic nursing and nurse coaching informed by 22 years of nursing experience across hospital settings. Campbell wanted to show up differently in nursing by blending clinical experience with holistic health. She says coaching differs from traditional counselling or therapy because it creates space for people to reflect and be guided as they consider what they need.

Getting to know Yuremchuk as a client, she and Campbell birthed a collaboration.

Campbell and Yuremchuk completed their master level of Reiki together in 2024.

Yuremchuk’s Reiki practice initially began in 2018 and grew from there.

The Soul’s Purpose has been operating for about two and a half years. Yuremchuk and Robinson each ran their businesses from home for about a year before moving into their current space in February 2026. Before settling there, they had combined their work at another location in town but quickly realized they needed a larger space that better fit their needs.

Robinson says The Healing Room became theirs in February and proved to be the right fit for what they were trying to create: not a clinical office, not a retail storefront, but a shared healing space where practitioners could work both independently and together.

The businesses offer mediumship and psychic services, sound healing, Reiki, courses and workshops. Campbell says the trio also offers collective Reiki once a month. During those sessions, she says people often experience some form of release, awareness or intuitive message.

Campbell says many people who attend return and bring a friend.

The response, the women say, reflects a growing openness in the community to services that focus on nervous system regulation, energy awareness and personal reflection.

Yuremchuk says one of the biggest misconceptions about their work is that it is “woo-woo” or scary. She says the fear often comes from misunderstanding what healing work asks of people.

“The scariest part of healing is being accountable for what’s inside you,” Yuremchuk says.

Robinson says people often leave the space with awareness and validation about what they may need to do next. For these women, that outcome is part of why the space matters: it does not have to provide every answer, but it can help people feel seen and supported while they reflect on their own healing.

The Healing Room will also host a holistic market on Oct. 3, offering another opportunity for people to gather, learn and share healing-focused work in the community.

Bookings can be made online through The Soul’s Purpose or Guided by Nurse B websites.



Brandi Campbell, owner of Guided by Nurse B. Photo courtesy of Ashley Yuremchuk

Conference focuses on rural healthcare

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

(Peace River) - If you're interested in rural health and keeping facilities close to home, a conference will be held in Peace River in October called Building the Future of Rural Healthcare.

The conference is being hosted by Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RHPAP) and will be held from Oct. 6 to 8 at the Chateau Nova. RHPAPA Chief Executive Officer Tracy Sopkow explains that RHPAP helps Alberta build and sustain the rural healthcare workforce.

"Our role extends across the entire workforce journey, from introducing rural high school students to health careers and giving post-secondary learners meaningful rural experiences, to supporting the education, attraction, integration and retention of practising health professionals," explains Sopkow.

"Rural workforce challenges cannot be solved through recruitment alone. Health professionals are more likely to come to rural Alberta and remain there when they have positive rural training experiences, opportunities to maintain and expand their skills, and strong connections to their communities."

Sopkow adds RHPAP brings those pieces together by working directly with healthcare professionals, educational institutions, health-system partners, municipalities and local volunteers.

The RHPAPA Conference is held every two years and Sopkow says it's a great opportunity for healthcare professionals and people interested in rural healthcare to come together to network and brainstorm.

"Its purpose is to bring together people who may approach rural healthcare from different perspectives but share the same goal, keeping healthcare close to home," Sopkow explains.

"The conference creates space for healthcare professionals, community volunteers, municipal and provincial leaders, learners, educators and health-system partners to compare experiences, learn what's working in other communities and build relationships that can continue long after the event."

She adds that the conference is also an opportunity to turn discussion into practical action by giving participants ideas and tools they can take back to their communities.

The RHPAP Conference is in a different rural Alberta community every second year. Sopkow says the location is an important part of the conference experience.

"Taking the event to different communities enables attendees to see rural Alberta firsthand, understand the distinct opportunities and challenges of the host region, and learn directly from local healthcare professionals, municipal leaders, and volunteers," she says.

"It also allows the host community to showcase what makes it a good place to live, work and prac-

tice."

Peace River was chosen for this year's conference as an opportunity for attendees to experience northern Alberta and to better understand how geography, distance, and local circumstances shape healthcare.

"At the same time, the region demonstrates the resilience, innovation and community leadership that are essential to successful rural healthcare," says Sopkow.

"Peace River is not simply the backdrop for the conference; it is part of the learning."

This year's theme is Rooted in Community. Sopkow says this reflects a fundamental truth about rural healthcare: lasting solutions grow from the community itself.

"They are built through local knowledge, trusted relationships, shared responsibility and collaboration among healthcare professionals, municipalities, organizations and residents," she explains. "Recruiting a healthcare professional is only one part of the equation. Long-term retention is also influenced by whether professionals and their families feel welcomed, connected and supported. The theme recognizes that communities are active partners in healthcare workforce sustainability, not simply recipients of healthcare services."

Sopkow says anyone who cares about the future of rural healthcare are urged to attend the conference. She explains that people do not need to work in healthcare to attend and adds that rural healthcare is a community issue. She says many of the people making a difference in rural healthcare are municipal leaders, local employers, educators, volunteers, and other community members.

"The conference also helps people realize their community is not alone," Sopkow says.

"Rural leaders and healthcare professionals often carry considerable responsibility and connecting with peers who understand that experience can be both professionally valuable and personally energizing. We want attendees to leave with useful tools, renewed confidence and relationships they can call upon after the conference."

Sopkow notes that the conference will bring together people affected by similar challenges in the same room, allowing information to be shared, common priorities to be identified, and partnerships to be strengthened.

"An attraction, integration or retention practice developed in one community may be adaptable in another," Sopkow provides an example.

"A discussion among a healthcare provider, municipal leader, educator and government representative can uncover solutions that would be difficult for any single organization to develop alone."

The conference costs \$300 plus taxes and registration fees.

The cost includes the three days of programming and conference meals.

She explains the event is a three-day affair because delegates travel from across the province and RHPAP wants their trip to provide real value.

"Three days allow them to learn, develop meaningful relationships and reflect on how the information applies to their own community or organization," she adds.

"The October 6-8 schedule also includes two evening networking events that allow attendees to explore Peace River, so it does not mean three uninterrupted days in a meeting room."

Highlights of the event include Dr. Aaron Johnston and Dr. Richart Martin discussing the importance of rural exposure in developing the future healthcare workforce.

Strategist Hal Danchilla will examine advocacy through a rural-health lens.

"Practical sessions focused on healthcare attraction, integration and retention (are included)," says Sopkow. "(There will be) perspectives from healthcare professionals, learners, community leaders and rural champions, opportunities to connect with decision-makers and partners from across Alberta, and a special community experience showcasing Peace River and the surrounding region."

Sopkow says one of the most valuable features will be the mix of voices in the room.

"The conference is deliberately designed to connect professional expertise with lived rural experience," concludes Sopkow.

RHPAP is working with the Towns of Peace River and Grimshaw, the Village of Nampa, Northern Lights and Northern Sunrise Counties, Municipal District of Peace, Smoky River Regional Health Care Professionals and the Grimshaw Regional Healthcare Attraction and Retention Committees, to host the event.

Registration is open, and tickets are limited. To purchase tickets and to see a complete list of speakers, go to rhpap.shorthandstories.com/2026-conference/.



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Thank You!



The High Prairie Palliative Care Society wishes to thank the following sponsors who helped make our July training workshop a great success:

West Fraser, Homestead Seeds,
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and Bill Lesiuk.

We are also very grateful for support received from:
Town of High Prairie, Prairie River Gas Co-op,
Chapel of Memories, County of Big Lakes,
High Prairie Legion, and Audrey Martinson.



We now have several trained Palliative Care Volunteers in our community.
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Peace River Navigators taking a year off

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

(Peace River) - After lengthy discussions and assessments of its player roster at the beginning of September, the Board of Directors of North Peace Navigators decided to request a leave of absence from competition for the 2026-2027 season.

General Manager and Head Coach Jody Menssa says the decision to not ice a team in this upcoming season was made after the recent training camp. He says it was clear the team did not have the depth or player numbers to ice a competitive Junior B hockey team.

“We’re not icing a team this year because we do not have enough players,” explains Menssa. “There’s multiple reasons for that decision, but the immediate cause is the league expansion.”

Menssa says that his main concern is the league expansion, noting that now the pool of potential hockey players is spread out over more interested teams.

“The current number of teams in the region, including Fairview, Slave Lake, and the Navigators, did not work previously,” says Menssa. “So why would it work now when there are less players in that regional pool from a hockey growth prospective at the younger ages.”

Menssa says North Peace Navigators’ traditional player recruitment area was directly impacted by the league expansion.

He says the team recognizes that expansion and growth are part of junior hockey and that players ultimately make their decision of where they want to play. However; because the team operates in a northern area with a small regional player pool, extra teams competing for the same players has added an extra layer of complexity to their ability to recruit. This has made a direct impact on their ability to assemble a competitive roster for the upcoming season.

“This is not a fault of Slave Lake, but it is an envi-

ronment that we are in,” he explains. “Now we’ve got our eight teams in the league and many of us are pulling players from the same recruitment area. We were not approached or offered any insight as to how this could possibly affect our organization. We came off a good season on and off the ice and this has hit us hard.”

Menssa says this same issue is being faced by teams throughout North America, with an extensive expansion throughout both Canada and the United States. He says it is widely known that enrolment into hockey programs has diminished because of the expense of having children play. As a result, when the kids progress through the system there are fewer players to choose from but continually more teams.

Menssa says in Peace River’s case, there were some very promising players and prospects showing talent through the training camp, but the board did not believe it would be responsible to enter the season hoping that enough additional players would become available.

“As a result of the expansion, we lost three of the players who were expected to play for us,” Menssa explains. “We also lost an assistant coach to the expansion. Any potential players we had coming from that area were no longer coming here.”

He says that ultimately an additional six of the guys who were expected to return to the NAVs decided that they were not coming back for various reasons.

“Most of them had different opportunities, mentioning that they wanted to go to the states because they had a buddy that was going,” Menssa says. “So, the buddy recruited them to go down and now they’re doing different options because they want to have different hockey experiences or different life experiences.”

Menssa says in the spring it is hard to replace those numbers, but more likely. When it is just days before the training camp and they’re faced with player departure, with players going to school or a

variety of other locations, the chance of replacing them is much less likely.

He adds that the board thought of trying to continue recruiting through September, hoping to assemble a roster by October. However; he explains that would incur additional expenses and asking the league, fans, and community partners to continue planning around a team they could not guarantee they could ice.

“Making this decision now gives our players the best opportunity to find places to play, gives our sponsors and partners clarity, and allows the league time to adjust the schedule,” he says. “We intend on using this year to rebuild our model and position the North Peace Navigators to return to ice for the 2027-2028 season.”

Menssa explains they still intend on continuing to operate this year, maintaining the NAVs locker room, operating Flight Deck Concession and Lounge, and remaining active in the community.

Menssa says the whole board is in a grieving stage, and this was a very difficult decision for them to make. He adds that they do acknowledge that they may have to change their player recruitment strategies and the model they’ve been following.

“It’s not a decision that was taken lightly,” he concludes. “We know something has to change from the structure itself, and the expansion was our downfall.”

Menssa says that the board will let the dust settle for the next couple of weeks and give themselves to clean up some administrative tasks. He says their team is determined to be back at the rink in 2027.

“We’re going to formulate a strategy of what we’re going to do through the winter to review our organization as a whole, recruitment, and other aspects of our team,” he adds. “We need to look at ourselves and the values we stand for to see if we will continue with those or going to change in order to match a recruitment model that we need to do. We need to strategize and work collaboratively to determine how we set ourselves up for success going forward.”

Miserable Miles marks decade of obstacles, scenery and community in Peace River

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

(Peace River) - What began as a conversation between friends during a run along the dyke has grown into a decade-long community tradition in Peace River, with Miserable Miles recently marking its 10th event.

Miserable Miles, an obstacle race known for combining physical challenge with the scenery of the Peace River Valley, marked its 10th event this year. Founder Nadine Kacho says the race first started in 2016 and only paused once, in 2023, making this year’s event a milestone for volunteers, participants and the broader community.

“From the moment you drive into the Peace River Valley, it’s obvious that we have something really special here,” Kacho says. “The scen-

ery is breathtaking, and it deserves to be showcased.”

Kacho says the idea came from a group of friends who loved fitness, healthy living and community events, but found themselves travelling around Alberta to take part in races and challenges. Eventually, they began asking a simple question: why not create something at home?

During one run along the dyke, the group again found themselves talking about how well Peace River’s landscape would suit an obstacle race. By the end of the run, Kacho says, they sat down in the grass and decided to stop waiting for the perfect moment.

“We sat down in the grass and ripped the Band-Aid off,” she says. “Instead of dreaming about it, let’s just do it.”

That same day, the group created the original Misera-

ble Miles logo on a cellphone, launched a Facebook page and shared the idea with friends and the community. Once the concept was public, there was no turning back.

The race has since become a way to highlight the valley’s natural beauty while bringing people together for a demanding but welcoming outdoor experience. Kacho says what began as a way for friends to enjoy an obstacle race without leaving town has grown far beyond the original idea.

“What has made the event truly remarkable is the incredible support of our volunteers, sponsors and community members,” she says. “Their enthusiasm and dedication have helped it grow into something much larger than we ever imagined.”

For Kacho, the continued involvement is driven by the atmosphere on race day. She

says the organizing committee faces its own challenges long before participants reach the course, including stressful days and sleepless nights as race details come together.

Still, she says, the payoff comes when the event opens and the team can see the community response firsthand. This year, she was especially looking forward to celebrating a full decade of Miserable Miles with the people who have helped organize it year after year.

Of all the festivities, Kacho says race day was what she had most looked forward to. She says she looked forward to “celebrating an entire decade of Miserable Miles with the team of people who put this amazing event on year after year.”

She says the committee often wonders whether each

year might be the last. But when race day arrives, the energy, camaraderie and enthusiasm remind the team why they started and inspire them to do it again.

Kacho also wants more people to understand that Miserable Miles is not only for serious athletes. While the name and the obstacles can sound intimidating, she says the event is designed for a wide range of participants, from experienced competitors to people just beginning their fitness journeys.

Some participants come ready to push themselves on the course, while others take a slower approach, hiking the trails, enjoying the scenery and taking part in the experience at their own pace. The focus, Kacho says, is on personal challenge, accomplishment and the atmosphere around the event.

A chance to record your memories

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

(Eaglesham) - Are you looking for ways to benefit your mental clarity and growth?

Smoky River Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is hosting two journaling sessions this month to help people achieve just that.

“Guided Journaling allows you to reflect on past events and remember good times,” says FCSS Community Program Coordinator Anita Portsmouth.

“Guided journaling can increase your self-awareness. Our journaling workshop will give those that wish to attend the opportunity to create their own life story.”

Journaling Workshops will be hosted by FCSS on Sept. 22 at Eaglesham Seniors’ Centre from 10 am until noon, and Sept. 24 at Girouxville Club Etoile from 1:30 pm until 3:30 pm.

“The workshop is open to anyone who wishes to attend,” Portsmouth says. “We will be offering guided sessions monthly in Eaglesham and Girouxville.”

Portsmouth says it’s commonly known that journaling can enhance mental clarity, serve as a tool for self-reflection and personal growth, reducing stress, anxiety and promoting relaxation and better moods, inspire creativity and help brainstorm ideas or express thoughts visually.

“We aim to make our workshops available to as many as possible and Eaglesham and Girouxville seem to meet the needs of most,” Portsmouth explains on location choice. “We will bring notebooks that those attending will be able to decorate to make it personal. Each month we will offer prompts for participants to use to record memories and other ideas. Attendees will learn how to record their memories and thoughts through these guided prompts.”

Portsmouth says people should attend to practice self-care and learn to channel thoughts in a healthy way.

“Studies show that journaling can help reduce stress and anxiety, increase self-awareness and offer a safe release for thoughts and feelings,” she says. “This is a chance to record your memories and thoughts in a fun and creative way. Our guided journaling workshop will offer the chance to be creative in crafting your journal and let you record your memories and thoughts for you to reflect on at a later time.”

Portsmouth says FCSS does not charge for people to attend this work.

She adds that people do not need to pre-register for the workshops, just show up at the locations at the correct time and join fellow journaling enthusiasts in some reflection time.

For more information about the workshop, phone FCSS at 780-837-2220.

The story of Graceful Lilac Massage

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

(Peace River) - For Melanie Fillion, a career in massage therapy began with a personal experience that changed the way she viewed pain management.

Fillion, owner of Graceful Lilac Massage, has been practicing massage therapy for four years and has operated her business since 2022. Working from her home-based clinic, she has built a growing client base by focusing on techniques designed to address pain and improve mobility.

Her journey into massage therapy started when she was 23 years old and experienced a back injury.

“I pulled something in my back and went to see a massage therapist,” Fillion says. “I was really nervous, but it ended up being such a positive experience.”

She was surprised not only by how comfortable the appointment was, but also by how quickly it helped.

“I was amazed at how well it worked,” she says.

Around the same time, a friend who worked as a massage therapist shared stories about helping people improve their quality of life through treatment. The combination of her own experience and her friend’s encouragement made a lasting impression.

“My friend recommended distance learning, and I pursued it immediately,” Fillion says.

She quickly enrolled at South Edmonton Massage. Within a month of applying, she had been accepted into the program and was on her way toward a new career.

“Everything came together really quickly,” she says.

Today, Fillion operates Graceful Lilac Massage, a name inspired by a former workplace connection. At the time, a friend was opening a tattoo shop and had chosen the name Black Orchid. Since Fillion wanted her business to have a simi-

lar style and feel, she settled on Graceful Lilac. Although Black Orchid is no longer open, the name Graceful Lilac remained and has become the identity of Fillion’s clinic as she operates from her home.

One aspect of her practice that she wishes more people knew about is a technique known as RAPID NeuroFascial Reset, commonly referred to as RAPID treatment.

The technique focuses on the fascia, the connective tissue that surrounds muscles, and works to address tension, restrictions and pain. Fillion says RAPID treatment aims to reset the nervous system’s response to pain and can often provide significant relief in a relatively short period of time.

“I wish more people knew there was a way to experience pain relief,” she says.

According to Fillion, many conditions involving nerve pain or tissue restrictions may benefit from the treatment. She regularly works with cli-

ents experiencing issues such as bursitis, carpal tunnel syndrome and thoracic outlet syndrome.

In many cases, she says clients notice improvement after a single appointment.

“I’ve been able to help people significantly with just one session,” she says.

As awareness of alternative approaches to pain management continues to grow, Fillion hopes more people will

learn about the options available to them and seek treatment before chronic discomfort begins affecting their daily

lives. Those interested in booking an appointment can do so online or by calling 780-837-5233.

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Miserable

Cont. from page 22

“Miserable Miles is a community event, and it is for everyone,” she says. “We intentionally create an environment where everyone feels welcome.”

That sense of welcome extends beyond the course itself. Kacho says people do not have to register for the race to enjoy the day. Spectators can cheer on friends and family, spend time at the family-friendly beer gardens, listen to a DJ, en-

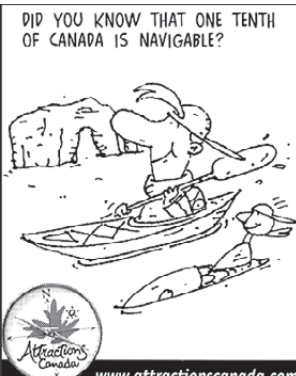
joy food and beverages or simply soak in the atmosphere.

The milestone event offered a chance to look back on how far Miserable Miles has come while also celebrating the participants, volunteers and supporters who continue to keep it going.

Over the years, Miserable Miles has become as much about Peace River as it is about the course. For the team that organizes, the race offers a chance to showcase the landscape, but also the spirit, generosity and pride of the people who call the region

home.

After its 10th running, Kacho says the event’s success remains rooted in the same idea that launched it in 2016: creating something local that challenges people, brings them together and celebrates the Peace River Valley.



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Amy Jaquish of Okotoks has been chosen as the winner of the C.A. MacLean Local Journalism Grant, in recognition of her award-winning essay on the current challenges facing local news outlets.



Pictured: AWNA and C.A. MacLean director Amanda Zimmer (left) presents Amy Jaquish with a cheque for \$2,000.



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Quotefalls 1

Answers on next page!

Deadline extended for AgriStability enrolment

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(Peace River) - Grain and livestock producers who have been affected by extreme wet conditions in Alberta are now able to apply for AgriStability, with an extended enrolment deadline of Oct. 1.

“The governments of Alberta and Canada agreed to open AgriStability late participation for the 2026 program year due to the wet conditions that have affected many Alberta producers since the program’s April 30 enrolment deadline,” says Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) AgriStability and Pricing Manager Daniel Graham.

“In addition to late participation, the amount an Alberta producer participating in AgriStability can receive as an interim payment has increased for the 2026 program year. Participants eligible to receive an interim payment can now receive up to 75 percent of their estimated benefit pay-

ment, up from 50 per cent.”

Graham says AgriStability helps producers who experience a significant decline in income because of a production loss, adverse market conditions, or increases in input costs.

“In the case of wet conditions, AgriStability can help mitigate the impact to the overall income of the farm,” says Graham.

“AgriStability is part of a suite of programs under the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership agreement between the federal, provincial and territorial governments. It is cost shared by the federal and provincial government on a 60/40 basis, 60 per cent federal and 40 per cent provincial.”

If producers have not yet applied for AgriStability but are concerned about crop yields or ability to harvest said crops, Graham says the process to apply for late AgriStability participation is straight forward.

He says to complete the 2026 AgriStability

Application for Fee Notice Form for late participation application by Oct. 1.

“Once the application is submitted, a Late Participation Enrolment Fee Notice will be issued by mail,” he explains.

“This notice will show a \$300 non-refundable up-front fee. Pay the fee within 30 days of the issue date of Late Participation Enrolment Fee Notice.”

He says then a producer package will be issued by mail, requesting historical financial and production information needed in determining potential program benefits.

This information can be submitted at any time.

The final submission deadline is June 30, 2027; the same time that 2026 tax and supplemental information is due.

“Once this information is received for the 2026 program year, the application will be verified and processed and potential benefit payments issued,” he says.

“Benefits are calculated by comparing a participant’s financial

information for the current year to historical years to determine if there has been a shortfall in their income. Historical years may also be adjusted to better reflect the current year’s productive capacity or commodity mix.”

Graham explains any Alberta producer or ranchers can enrol in AgriStability through late participation.

“If a producer’s income for the 2026 program year falls below the threshold of 70 per cent of their historical average, program benefits are triggered,” he explains.

“For every dollar of income that falls short of the threshold, a \$0.80 benefit is paid. The benefit must be a minimum of \$250 before a payment is issued, and the maximum benefit payment is limited to \$3.0 million or 70 per cent of the producer’s historical average, whichever is less.”

For producers who enrol through late participation, any benefit payments will be reduced by 20 per cent.

Graham says the 20 per cent reduction is an incentive to have producers proactively participate in the program.

“The September 1 Al-

berta Crop Report estimated that harvested crops provincially are lagging between seven and 10 per cent behind when compared to the five- and 10-year averages for this time of year,” Graham explains.

“The Peace region was at 3.3 per cent completed compared to the five-year average of 13.3 per cent.”

He adds that the August 25 Alberta Crop Report estimated dryland yield index for the province to be 20 per cent above the five-year average and nine percent of the 10-year average.

“The Northeast lags the province at just under one percent of the five-year average and almost six percent below the 10-year average,” says Graham.

“The Peace Region is approximately nine percent above the five-year average and two percent above the 10-year average.”

Graham further explains that AgriStability is designed to help producers who experience a significant decline in income from events beyond their control.

“It protects against production loss, increased input costs, decreases in inventory val-

ues, and changing market conditions—covering a broad spectrum of risks that can reduce farm profitability,” he notes.

“Participants enrolling in AgriStability can choose how they want to file the financial information used to determine their historical average, selecting either the optional reference margin (ORM) or the default accrual adjusted reference margin (AARM).”

Graham explains the optional reference margin is based on tax-reported income, eliminating the need to provide inventory or accrual records for determining their historical average.

“On the other hand, the accrual adjusted reference margin considers inventory, payables, purchased inputs, and deferrals; however, the added information increases the precision of the program,” he concludes.

Producers looking for more details on AgriStability and late participation can visit AFSC’s website at AFSC.ca or contact AFSC’s Client Care Centre at 1-877-899-2372 or reach out to a preferred AFSC branch office.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ALBERTA INFRASTRUCTURE AND VEOLIA WASTE SERVICES ALBERTA INC. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Alberta Infrastructure and Veolia Waste Services Alberta Inc are proposing to amend the Swan Hills Treatment Centre (SHTC) Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) approval to gradually end the waste management operation at the Plant and simultaneously undertake the decommissioning and remediation activities. Full scale of decommissioning and remediation are anticipated to take five years to complete. The SHTC opened and commenced operation in 1987, is a fully integrated hazardous waste treatment facility designed to treat hazardous waste. The SHTC is located approximately 13 kilometres northeast of the Town of Swan Hills.

A directly affected person may provide input into certain regulatory decisions, as allowed by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (section 73). Specifically, any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

Environment and Protected Areas
Regulatory Assurance Section
Approvals Unit
5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza
9915 - 108 ST
EDMONTON, AB T5K 2G8
Email: epa.epeaapplications@gov.ab.ca

The written statement of concern should include the following information to be assured it can be considered:

- The application number 023-1744.
- Describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.
- Explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activities proposed in the application.
- Provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable
- State the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application.
- Contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer. Please provide a telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact.

Environment and Protected Areas will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and concerns that are relevant to the application and for which the Director has delegated authority to address in the decision on the application, will be considered in the technical review of the application. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department’s website at <https://avw.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx>.

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

Veolia Waste Services Alberta Inc.
Attention: Louisa Ramsey
SWAN HILLS TREATMENT CENTRE
10,000 CHRYSTINA LAKE ROAD
SWAN HILLS, AB T0G 2C0
Telephone: 780-333-4197 ext 1229
Email: louisa.ramsey@veolia.com



Find-a-Word

Cartoon

Fill in the Blanks

The quotation answer: Add taste to a meal.
Words in order from top to bottom: Cilantro, Dill, Cardamon, Thyme, Basil, Parsley, Nutmeg, Cayenne, Mint, Clove, Sage, Cumin, Celery, Garlic, Chili.

Name Scramble

1. Beethoven 2. Chopin 3. Vivaldi 4. Wagner 5. Brahms 6. Schubert

Quotefalls

Quotefalls 1: Spring is the time of plans and projects. - Leo Tolstoy
Quotefalls 2: Money is just the poor man's credit card. - Marshall McLuhan

Syl 'la'cros' tic

The quotation answer: God loves each of us.
1. Goldilocks 2. Offend 3. Diminutive 4. Lobster 5. Opposition 6. Vassal 7. Enclave 8. Sordid 9. Erie 10. Astute 11. Cinderella 12. Haymaker 13. Optimum 14. Friar 15. Upholsterer 16. Sicily

Sudoku

Easy

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

Hard

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

The future of agriculture through the eyes of the next generation

Sara Driedger
South Peace News

The following is the ninth article in a series on local agriculture. If you know a local farmer who may be interested in being featured, please reach out to sara@lakesideleader.com.

(Kinuso) - On a Hereford beef farm near Kinuso, three-year-old Bennet Gallagher has already found his favourite place to be: anywhere near the cows.

For Gallagher, the herd is not just livestock. They are his “mummas and babies.”

“He talks about the cows and calves with the kind of pride usually reserved for seasoned farmers. At only three years old, he already knows which animals belong to whom, which ones he likes best and which moments on the farm are worth telling again.

One of his favourite stories involves a calf across the river and the

reaction that followed. “The white baby was over on the other side of the river,” Gallagher says. “He said moo and all the mamas came running.”

It is the kind of detail that shows how closely Gallagher watches life on the farm. While other children his age may be learning the names of colours, toys or cartoon characters, Gallagher is learning the personalities of cows and the rhythm of farm life around him.

“Blaze is my favourite mamma,” he says. “Mummy’s favourite is Lucy and Daddy likes Black Bull.”

Life near the cattle has given Gallagher an early connection to agriculture. He sees the work that happens around him, from caring for the animals to making hay, and he is eager to be part of it in whatever way a preschooler can. Sometimes that means riding along. Sometimes it means making sure he is properly supplied for the day.



Cattle on Gallagher’s family farm

Gallagher says he takes his lunch box on the tractor to eat snacks while his parents make hay.

For farm families, those small moments are often how the next generation first learns the work. Long before children are old enough to drive equipment, fix fence or make decisions about livestock, they learn by watching. They ride along in tractors, ask questions, carry snacks, point out calves and begin to understand that the animals need daily care in every season.

Gallagher’s interest also reflects one of the quieter realities of rural childhood: the farm is both a workplace and a home. The chores, animals, weather and equipment are part of the landscape of everyday life. For Gallagher, the cows are familiar companions, and the calves are stories waiting to be told.

The farm is not the

only place where Gallagher has had a taste of rural tradition. He also tried his hand at a rodeo event, riding a sheep — an experience he remembers clearly.

“I rode a sheep at the rodeo,” he says.

When asked if it was fun, Gallagher gave an honest answer.

“No,” he says. “It was scary.”

On the family’s Here-

ford beef farm, Gallagher’s passion for his “mummas and babies” is a reminder that agriculture is not only measured in acres, herds or harvests. It is

also passed along in small hands holding a lunch box, in wide eyes watching a calf across the river and in the simple joy of knowing a favourite cow by name.

southpeacenews.com

CHECK IT OUT!



Bennet Gallagher climbs a side by side and tells stories about his ‘mummas’ and ‘babies’

Govern thy life and thoughts as if the whole world were to see the one, and read the other.

~Thomas Fuller

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of Roy Lawrence Callioux who died on April 10, 2026.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by October 30, 2026 and provide details of your claim with: Callioux Law

at: Suite 1800, Sun Life Place, 10123-99 Street NW Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3H1

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

TOOL of the WEEK

ALL CHOICE RENTALS

9 Locations to serve you better

Guess the Tool! Every week a Tool of the Week will be featured. Take a guess at what that tool is and enter your name for a chance to win a monthly prize! Scan the QR code.

Only one entry per person per day.

BIG MEADOW
- AUCTION SERVICES LTD. -

Upcoming Auctions

Unreserved Acreage and Shop Dispersal for Tim Engebretson

Saturday September 19, 2026 - 10:00 A.M.

65046 Southshore Dr. E - Widewater, AB

Featuring: Keystone Springdale 5th Wheel Camper, Citation Supreme Truck Camper, Ford F-150, a complete shop dispersal, and more.

Auctioneer’s Note: Due to removal timelines no online bidding will be available for this sale. Plan to attend on-site. Watch for signs, lunch available.

2026 Fall Consignment Auction

Saturday October 10, 2026 - 11:00 A.M.

High Prairie Agriplex - High Prairie, AB

NOW PRE-BOOKING CONSIGNMENTS OF:

Farm & Ranch Equipment, Vehicles, Construction Equipment, Boats & RVs, ATVs, Snowmobiles, Trailers, Buses, Tools & Shop Equipment, Household & Miscellaneous Items, Farm Birds and Small Critters, and More.

Auctioneer’s Note: All items must be pre-booked no later than October 5th. Deadline to have items include in advertising is September 21st.

Additional Info Available at www.sellbigmeadow.com

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Auctioneer: T.J. Walker



NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY

www.northensunrise.net



NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Northern Sunrise County is a vibrant and action-oriented municipality. If you enjoy working in an environment that encourages development, fosters growth and looks at the big picture, then you would thrive here.



HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

POSITION
HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

DEPARTMENT
OPERATIONS & INFRASTRUCTURE

POSITION TYPE
FULL TIME - PERMANENT



The Heavy Equipment Operator performs various duties, including manual labor and the operation of equipment used in the maintenance of the County's infrastructure, including, but not limited to, a gravel truck, snow plow, front-end loader, and skid steer/bobcat. The successful applicant must have a valid Class 1 Alberta Driver's License, a positive driving record, and strong mechanical aptitude.

FOR JOB DESCRIPTION, REQUIREMENTS AND MORE INFORMATION

<https://northensunrise.net/career-opportunities>

Position open until a suitable candidate is found.

APPLY TO:

jhigginson@northensunrise.net
Northern Sunrise County
Bag 1300, Peace River, AB T8S 1Y9

Annual Public Appointments to Boards and Committees

Northern Sunrise County invites individuals interested in serving as a Board or Committee member to submit their applications for positions on the County's various boards, commissions, and committees.

Eligibility requirements are outlined in Policy 1.34, Public Appointments to Boards and Committees.



Policy 1.34 Public Appointment to
Boards and Committees



The deadline to submit applications is
OCTOBER 9, 2026.

Apply via webform for Boards and
Committees



Council will appoint members at the
OCTOBER 27, 2026
Organizational Meeting.



Apply via webform for Youth
Council Advisory Committee
(Ages 14-17)



Please direct applications and inquiries to:

Lisa Robinson, Executive Assistant

780-625-3274

lrobinson@northern sunrise.net

NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY



NORTHERN
SUNRISE
COUNTY

Northern Sunrise County proclaims

September 21-27, 2026, as Rail Safety Week.

This week is a reminder for everyone to stay alert around railway tracks and crossings, obey all signs and signals, and make safe choices near rail property.

Together, we can help prevent rail-related incidents in our communities.

