

New Parkland Female Hockey Program

Program to help support future female hockey players in rural Saskatchewan and Parkland Region

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Hockey Associations in the region have come together to form the Parkland Female Hockey Program (PFHP) for the upcoming hockey season.

The PFHP will help support girls’ hockey teams among the participating hockey associations.

The PFHP has also announced a rebrand of three AA female hockey teams as the Parkland Phoenix out of Yorkton for this upcoming season.

Nicole Korpusik of the Parkland Female Hockey Committee, is a representative for U13 girls’ hockey on the new board and explains the new PFHP.

“We have created a female hockey program that is all encompassing for the communities that wanted to participate in the Parkland area.

“Different Hockey Associations around the area like Moosomin, Esterhazy, Canora, Churchbridge, Fort Qu’Appelle, Indian Head, Kamsack, Langenburg, Norquay, Preeceville, Rocanville, Whitewood, and Yorkton have agreed to come together to form the PFHP. We had reached out to the associations—the PFHP is an umbrella association for female hockey players to be able to move within the system. There are some different rules when it comes to girls playing hockey where they can play on a co-ed team with boys or they can play on a girls’ team, but when you need affiliate players, younger players, to help your roster you can only do an affiliate if you are within the same association. Otherwise our girls would have to actually register with us rather than just being an affiliate or a call-up. I used to coach co-ed hockey in Preeceville and then I also coached an all girls team, but in a different association. So, if I needed an affiliate the girls from Preeceville would have to actually register with us rather than just being a call-up.”

Purpose of new hockey program

Korpusik explains the significance the program will bring to rural Saskatchewan female hockey teams.

“This whole thing is to allow more opportunity for girls to play on different teams within the rules of Sask Hockey.

“It is also our greatest hope and vision for this, to be a collaboration, so working together with all of these communities because we are pretty spread apart and not all very familiar with each other, but we want to ensure that girls in our area have a place to play hockey if they want to, and have the opportunity to build all-female teams whether they are full-time in the Sask Female Hockey League or if they are carded tournament teams, so the girls have a chance to play all over, but this wasn’t really happening when we aren’t all communicating and on the same page so the formation of Parkland Female Hockey Program (PFHP) is to enable all of that to happen. We can all work together and pool resources to have all-female hockey camps—to get us all working together.”

She explains the new PFHP board is made up of representatives of the different hockey associations.

“The hockey associations were asked if they could put forward names of people in their community, so we could have as a representative and be part of our board. It is really exciting and has caused some questions because it’s different and people are apprehensive because they have done a lot of work building their female hockey programs—Moosomin has an incredible and growing female hockey program. They have done an incredible job growing female hockey in your area and it is awesome and we understand people don’t want to lose ownership of that and that is not what this is about—it is about collaborating, pooling resources, and all working together. We are hoping the people from Moosomin can shed some light on how they have done that and share the things they know so other communities can do the same.”

About Parkland Phoenix

Korpusik says the committee has announced the Parkland Female Hockey Program as well as a rebrand for three AA female hockey teams in our area.

“There are two different parts to this program. The Parkland Female Hockey Program is simply a space for us to connect the area. We also rebranded the U13, U15, and U18 AA teams originally based out of Melville with a new name and new colours. We are going to be called the



The new Parkland Phoenix logo for the U13, U15, and U18 AA Female Hockey teams for the upcoming 2025-26 season.

The Parkland Phoenix is a rebrand of the AA Parkland Fire based out of Melville, and will be part of the new Parkland Female Hockey Program (PFHP) along with many other hockey associations in the Parkland area.

Parkland Phoenix.

“The Phoenix represents rebirth, resiliency, and then taking flight. So just the AA U13, U15, and U18 teams will be called the Parkland Phoenix and any other team under this umbrella (the PFHP) for example, such as Moosomin—will still be the Borderland Badgers—the teams are all involved in this program, but still their own entity.”

Opportunities with PFHP

Korpusik lists the exciting opportunities for hockey associations that are part of the new Parkland Female Hockey Program.

“It is just a space—if we become one big association—think of it like Moosomin Hockey where you have a bunch of different teams under the Moosomin Hockey Association—this is like a sub-association that the female teams would belong to that then allows Moosomin to possibly affiliate a player from Esterhazy or from Churchbridge if needed.

“The hope is that we all work together to support all female hockey initiatives in the area, and get as many girls involved as possible. It is all just working together. It is not us creating teams besides those three AA teams, those were already created, but now just rebranded and based out of Yorkton— besides that it is about us all of us working together and making sure girls have a place to play. It is being a resource to help girls find where to play and wherever is needed. We are all on the same page.”

Strengthening female hockey in Southeast Saskatchewan

Korpusik says some hockey associations in the Parkland region were apprehensive about agreeing to be part of this program.

“Not all associations were onboard with this because it can be scary, and it can feel like you are giving up your autonomy over your teams—but that is not what it is. It took a lot of explaining and understanding of this agree-

ment that we are all just here together to collaborate. We are not taking anything away from any teams, we are just here as a resource and have a representative from your community who people can go to and ask questions and can get answers and possibly direct them toward the next closest centre that would have a place for them to play.

“Melville is still considering signing on, but haven’t yet and so far Balcarres didn’t feel it was something they wanted to be part of. It is totally the associations’ prerogative and I get that Melville may be on the fence because Melville had control before and we have now divided their control amongst everybody in the area to make it more fair and welcoming. So I can see why they might be on the fence and I hope they do see in the next year or so that it is something that has been created to help strengthen girls’ hockey in our area, not to benefit one community, it is for everybody. It will take some time and lots of questions because it is so new and can be confusing so we are just hoping to make it more clear.”

Umbrella association

Korpusik explains the idea behind the PFHP.

“It is an umbrella that all these associations are part of. We don’t have any control over the associations, but we are here as a support and a way for teams to navigate Hockey Sask rules and female hockey.”

She says Western Saskatchewan has had a program similar to the PFHP for many years.

“We have actually mimicked—they have done this exact thing on the west side of the province. They are called Western Prairie around Kindersley, Unity, and that area. They’ve done this years ago now so we are simply following in their footsteps because it did work really great. Actually north of us I think they have done something similar or are looking into it—in the Melfort-Tisdale area.

“I think a lot of places are doing it because it is so much easier when we all work together.”

Continued on page 6

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Moosomin holds grand opening for new water treatment plant

☞ *Continued from front*

“There’s infrastructure that we can all get excited about in our communities often—a new hockey rink, a new curling rink, pavement on our roads—but before you ever get to the paving stage, you need to take care of the pipes that are underneath that particular pavement, and then ultimately what is flowing through those pipes, which is safe water or clean water or waste water plants. This is the infrastructure that every community needs and every community has been looking at investing in, has invested in, or is continuing to invest in as we see our Saskatchewan communities growing.

“It’s really a true honour for us to partner in the ICIP program or the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program that we have, that allows infrastructure like this to actually become real, where you have the federal government show up with a portion of the funding, just over \$5 million in this particular case. You have the provincial government show up with a portion of that funding about \$4.6 million in this case, and then you have the municipality also show up with a portion of that funding, but the core initiative comes from the municipality and comes from the people that live here and so for that we are truly grateful for the opportunity to participate in this.”

“It’s great to be here to see this project come to a completion. This conversation actually started with the council in 2017 when we decided that the old water plant was past its lifetime and we need to do something looking forward into the future,” said former mayor Larry Tomlinson. “We were lucky enough to apply for the ICIP and we got it between the two governments.

“I want to thank my past council for being on board with what we did, and looking into the future, it’s going to mean a lot . . . It’s going to be great water for everyone in town, and will now supply up to approximately 5,000 people and I’m grateful to see this project come to completion.”

“It is an important day for our community and we need to celebrate,” said Mayor Murray Gray. “When you have a big win, when you do something great, you need to celebrate it. You need to make sure you take a look from 10,000 feet and that we are doing good things and we are going to continue to do good things. All



Moosomin EDO Casey McCormac unveiling a plaque paying tribute to the past and current town councils who worked on the water treatment plant.

of those things are done for the residents and not for ourselves. We want to make this a better place to live, play and work.

“This was an idea originally that we went to the design, then on to tendering, then two years of construction, three councils, eight years, many meetings and discussions, but today we celebrate all the hard work and all the effort to officially open our new plant.

“Simply, this new plant makes great water and will make great water into the future for many years to come and allow us to grow.”

“I’d like to thank the town of Moosomin and the council for the wonderful opportunity to work on this project from the conceptual design through to this grand opening,” said engineer David Germin with KGS. “This is actually my first project that bridged a municipal election and saw two sets of town councils, something that I thought was going to be a challenge, but instead turned out to be a very smooth transition. Both past and present councils were a pleasure to work with and they showed true passion and engagement during this vital project through all stages. Whether it was a simple or complicated decision, the commitment was evident by their timely responses to keep the project on track.”



Premier Scott Moe speaking at the grand opening of Moosomin’s water treatment plant. At left is MLA Kevin Weedmark, engineer David Germin and Mayor Murray Gray.



People clapping during the speeches at the grand opening.

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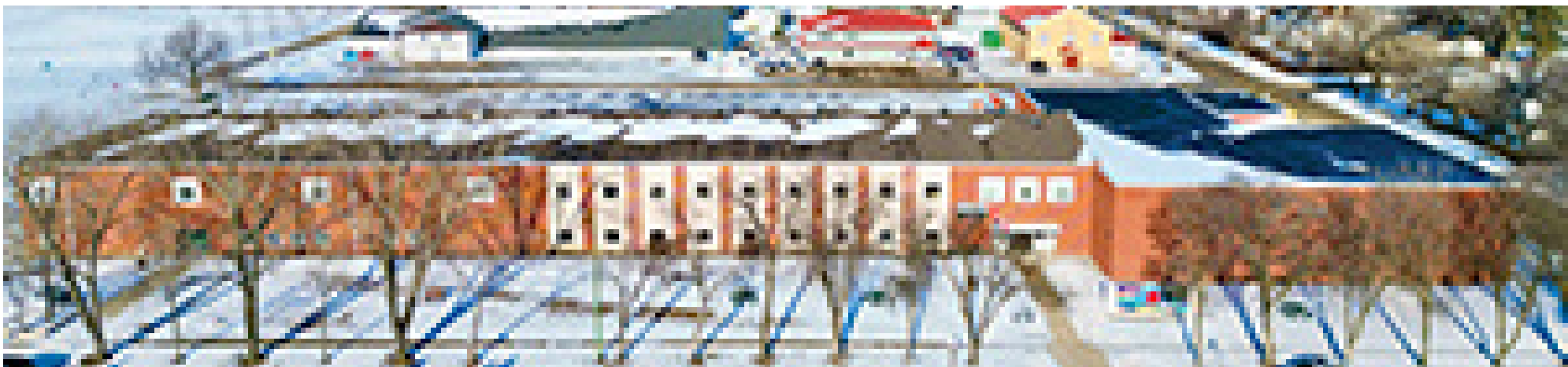
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An aerial photo of McNaughton High School taken by Kevin Weedmark.

School Division applying for \$3.5 million capital upgrade to McNaughton High School

BY KARA KINNA

South East Cornerstone School Division has applied to the Ministry of Education for \$3.5 million in capital upgrades to McNaughton High School.

The application is one of two minor capital projects that the school division has put forth this year. The other is for upgrades at Estevan Comprehensive School. If approved, the upgrades at McNaughton High would include the addition of air conditioning in some parts of the school, electrical upgrades, fire suppression upgrades, upgrades to the library, roof repairs, and updates to create accessible washrooms.

“Every year the board gets to determine which schools will be forwarded to the ministry for a minor capital project,” says Keith Keating, the South East Cornerstone School Division Director of Education. “We can submit two minor capital projects per year. There are 28 school divisions we are competing against to get those upgrades in place.”

“The last two years we’ve put in a similar application for McNaughton. This year we’ve got McNaughton and ECS that we’ve submitted for. We’ve really been focused on our larger schools that haven’t had a complete upgrade in a number of years. Those projects are anything in the \$1 million to \$10 million dollar range. We have been working with PMR (preventative maintenance and renewal) dollars to try and update our schools. The Home Ec lab at McNaughton last year is one example. We are trying to do bits and pieces across the school division in some of our schools, but we just don’t have the preventative maintenance renewal dollars to do large scale projects like that.”

Keating says there are only so many provincial dollars to go around and the ministry determines each year which projects are approved.

“I believe they set an amount every year in the provincial budget to determine how much they will spend on minor capital projects,” he says. “It would be similar to their major capital projects—they have some stipulations on the pieces that need to be put in place in order to be successful on a major capital project, but there are only so many dollars to go around so only so many of those get approved each year.”

“We are looking at about a \$3.5 million dollar upgrade for McNaughton School. That would allow us to address some of the piece around fire suppression and electrical systems, an upgrade to the library, air conditioning, roof replacements—we would replace a number of sections of the roof and there has been a little bit of work done on that already—and some washroom upgrades to improve accessibility.”

The upgrades would

also include some air conditioning in hotter parts of the school.

“We would likely be going with DX air conditioning units. It’s too cost prohibitive to try and get all the ducting and stuff in for two storeys. We would likely focus on the second level and it would be rooftop systems,” says Andy Dobson, manager of facilities and transportation for South East Cornerstone School Division. “They would be individual air conditioning units on top of the building. It would be air conditioning for the building, but they would be slated for individual units on top of the roof. We would likely concentrate it on any computer labs and areas like that, and heat rises, so we would be concentrating on the second level.”

Continued on page 24



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Sleep schedule: strategies for transitioning from summer



Shifting from a relaxed summer sleep schedule to a structured school routine can be challenging for children and parents. Here are some strategies to make the transition smoother:

Encourage physical activity

Regular exercise can help children fall asleep faster and enjoy deeper sleep. Encourage outdoor play or physical activities during the day, but avoid vigorous exercise close to bedtime.

Gradually adjust bedtime

Adjust your child’s bedtime and wake-up times about a week before school starts, shifting them earlier by 15 to 30 minutes each night until you reach the desired schedule. This gradual transition will help your child’s body adjust to the new routine without feeling too abrupt.

Sticking to the same schedule on weekends is essential to maintain a consistent sleep pattern!

Limit screen time before bed

Encourage your child to power down electronic devices at least an hour before bedtime to reduce exposure to blue light, which can disrupt sleep patterns. If your child must use electronic devices before bedtime, consider using blue light filters or adjusting the brightness settings to reduce the impact on sleep.

Create a calming bedtime routine

Establish a consistent bedtime routine to signal your child that it’s time to wind down and prepare for sleep. This includes activities like reading, bathing or listening to soft music. Try to create a relaxing environment in your child’s bedroom by adjusting the lighting and temperature to promote better sleep.

These tips can help your child ease into a new sleep schedule and start the school year feeling well-rested and ready to learn.

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Moonlight Madness Hot Chocolate Festival

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Christmas events this week in Moosomin

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It's going to be a busy week for Christmas events in Moosomin this week, with Moonlight Madness set for this Thursday, December 4, along with a number of other events planned for the week.

Hot Chocolate Festival

Week of Dec. 1-7

New to Moosomin, the Hot Chocolate Festival starts this week, with seven different restaurants offering different hot chocolates from December 1-7.

People will get a chance to try them all and vote on their favorite as they are out and about doing their Christmas shopping that week or during Moonlight Madness on Dec. 4.

Trends Mercantile, Witch's Brew, the Crate House, Cork & Bone, Red Barn, Dairy Queen and the Country Squire will all have hot chocolate on offer.

People can vote for their favorite at hotchocolate@world-spectator.com for a chance to win Moosomin Bucks.

All seven restaurants are being extra creative with their drinks. The Crate House will be serving a candy cane hot chocolate with an option to add espresso to make it a mocha latte. Trends Mercantile is serving a lavender white hot chocolate. The Red Barn is serving a butter pecan hot chocolate topped with whipped cream and caramel drizzle.

Dairy Queen is planning on serving a frozen hot chocolate that comes in three flavors—caramel, double fudge, and peanut butter. Witch's Brew is serving a gingerbread brown sugar hot chocolate. The Country Squire is serving a melted snowman hot chocolate, and Cork and Bone is serving two creations—a black forest hot chocolate and a toasted coconut white hot chocolate.

Moonlight Madness

Thursday, Dec. 4

Moonlight Madness in Moosomin is this Thursday, Dec. 4. Stores will be open until 9 am on Thursday, giving people a chance to do some late-night Christmas shopping. There will also be a draw for \$100, \$250 and \$500 in Moosomin Bucks that people can enter when shoppers get their Moonlight Madness card stamped at five different stores on December 4.



The Moosomin Visual Arts Centre will also be open on Thursday with hot chocolate, a Christmas ornament class, cookie decorating and a pottery wheel demonstration, all at no charge.

Free movie

Saturday, Dec. 6

On Saturday, December 6 the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a free movie matinee at the Moosomin Community Theatre. How To Train Your Dragon will be on at 2 pm, giving parents a chance to drop their kids off that day and do some local Christmas shopping.

Lions Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, Dec. 7

Kicking off the day on Sunday, Dec. 7, the Moosomin Lions Club will be serving a pancake breakfast at the Moosomin Armoury Hall from 7:30 to 10:30 am.

The breakfast is a fundraiser for Sherri Moffatt, who was injured in a farming accident on November 16. The Lions will also be using the proceeds of the breakfast to help fund a new washer and dryer for the Kin Ability Centre, and also as a general fundraiser for the newly formed Moosomin Lions Club.



Moonlight Madness in Moosomin left, and the Squire's melted snowman hot chocolate, above.

Santa Day

Sunday, Dec. 7

The Moosomin Kinettes are hosting Santa Day on Sunday, December 7. Santa will be at MacLeod Elementary School from 1-4 pm that day, giving kids a chance to get their photos taken with him. The cost is \$10 per picture.

Carol Festival

Sunday, Dec. 7

Wrapping up the weekend is the Moosomin Carol Festival on Sunday, December 7. There will be one show only this year at 7 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church. People are being asked to bring a non perishable item for the food bank to the festival.

"It's going to be a busy week in Moosomin this week, and we hope people enjoy everything the town has on offer," says Moosomin Chamber of Commerce President Kevin Weedmark. "Moosomin has amazing businesses and organizations, and we always look forward to offering a lot for people to do during the week of Moonlight Madness."

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Whiteboard session on downtown parking tonight

BY KARA KINNA

The town of Moosomin will be holding a whiteboard session this Monday with business owners and the public to discuss ideas for adding parking to downtown Moosomin. The meeting will be the Monday, July 28 at 7 pm in the lobby of the Mike Schwean Arena. The topic of discussion will be the consideration of changing from parallel to angle parking on Broadway Avenue, from Birtle Street to Carleton Street.

At their meeting on Wednesday council held some discussion around angle parking on Broadway Avenue and

reviewed drawings from MPE Engineering that were requested by council outlining two parking layout options along Broadway Avenue. The drawings add angle parking on the north and south sides of Broadway Avenue and remove the boulevards in order to accommodate the angle parking.

The town also reviewed a quote from Southwest Paving for paving the area where the grass boulevards are located. Councillor Heather Truman added that she had called Estevan, Dauphin, and Carlyle—three communities that all have or had angle parking, and there were mixed re-

views on it.

The issue of needing more parking in downtown Moosomin was brought forward by a number of downtown business owners and voted on by the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce at their last meeting. The Chamber members voted in favor of converting to angle parking along Broadway avenue.

Business owners, the general public, and members of Moosomin town council will be at the whiteboard session tonight to discuss a number of options and ideas before any firm decisions are made.

Moosomin Town Council Building permit for new daycare approved



Above and below: Renderings of the second daycare building that will be built south of MacLeod School.



BY KARA KINNA

At their meeting on Wednesday, Moosomin Town council passed a motion to approve the development permit and building permit for a new 90-spot daycare being built by Playfair Daycare on land south of MacLeod Elementary School.

The new daycare is over 12,000 square feet and is being built in addition to the existing daycare building on Gertie Street, giving Moosomin a second daycare.

The tender package for bids will be going out within the next few weeks, and the daycare committee is hoping that sod will turn on the new daycare this fall.

The project is estimated to cost between \$4.5 and \$5 million. The daycare has received \$1.3 million in funding from the provincial government for the new building and has raised around \$300,000 internally, with around \$1.7 million raised in total so far for the project between government funding, donations, and internal fundraising.

Fundraising is ongoing for the new daycare.

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Moosomin Town Council

Council tables second reading of bylaw to rezone land for UFA cardlock

BY KARA KINNA

At their meeting last week, Moosomin town council tabled the second reading of a zoning bylaw amendment to rezone land on Celebration Drive from commercial to industrial to allow for a UFA cardlock west of Celebration Ford and across from Skout Brewing.

Before voting to hold the second reading of the bylaw amendment, council reviewed written submissions in regards to the zoning bylaw amendment and held a public hearing at the meeting. There were 14 written submissions presented (of which two were a duplicate), and one person, the owner of Skout Brewing, Aaron Grandguillot, who attended the public hearing.

Eleven of the written submissions were in favor of the town rezoning for the cardlock, while two were against it.

The town received written submissions from Tyler Thorn, the owner of Celebration Ford, from Jeff Cole, from Wayne Beckett, from Tykeda Ventures (owned by Tyler Thorn, Kim Setrum and Dale Nixon), from Kristjan Hebert, from Craig Roy, from Josef Tesar, owner of Motel 6, from Steve Sulea with Eecol Electric, from CBA administrator Randi Thorn, from Randi Thorn writing on behalf of the CBA membership, from Jay Hamilton, owner of South Prairie Design, from Aaron Grandguillot, owner of Skout Brewing, and from Teddi Taylor, of LB Taylor Trucking Ltd.

Of the written submissions in favor of the cardlock, the majority laid out reasons why they felt a UFA was needed in Moosomin, why they felt it would be good for the town's economy, why the town could use a service like UFA, and most felt that the cardlock was well situated by the highway.

Both Grandguillot and Taylor listed concerns about the cardlock. Grandguillot pointed out that he had built his brew pub on commercial property and that the business has been swiftly growing to include more and more food as part of its daily operation, and a lively outdoor space that is used in the summer. He cited concerns about



A digital rendering of the UFA cardlock site by Celebration Drive.

noise, traffic, fumes, and an overall negative effect on his business if the town were to go ahead and rezone. He pointed out that all other UFA cardlocks in Saskatchewan are either in an industrial area, or not in town limits.

Taylor laid out concerns about traffic and safety on the east side of town, which is already a busy area with trucks turning into the co-op cardlock. She also had concerns about it having a negative effect on existing commercial operations in the area.

Since Grandguillot attended the public hearing, he was also allowed to speak on his concerns.

Continued on page 5

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