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Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba
April 2016 • Volume 9, Number 4



JESS MOSKALUKE OF ROCANVILLE



ALEX RUNIONS OF KIPLING
SHOOTING HIS FIRST VIDEO



ELI BARSİ OF MOOSOMIN



JOHN CUNNINGHAM OF MOOSOMIN

Southeast Saskatchewan artists dominate SCMAs

BY KARA KINNA
The 2016 Saskatchewan Country Music Association awards will be held from April 22-24 in Saskatoon, and this year artists from Southeast Saskatchewan are nominated for a significant number of awards.

Eight artists from Southeast Saskatchewan are nominated for a total 24 awards in 15 different categories at the SCMA awards.

Jess Moskaluke, who grew up in Langenburg and now calls Rocanville home, is nominated for six awards, more than any other artist in the province.

Alex Runions from Kipling is nominated for five awards, more than any other male artist.

Samara Yung of Yorkton has been nominated for five awards.

Eli Barsi and John Cunningham, a Moosomin couple, were nominated for three individual awards each, and were nominated as a couple for Record Producer of the Year.

Blake Berglund of Kennedy and Teagan Littlechief from White Bear First Nation, have been nominated for one SCMA award each, as has

Brian Kelly, who lives in Regina but is originally from Rocanville.

Moskaluke up for six

Jess Moskaluke—originally from Langenburg, now living in Rocanville—is up for six SCMA awards.

Moskaluke has been nominated for Fan's Choice Entertainer of the Year, Female Vocalist of the Year, Song of the Year, Single of the Year, Video of the Year, and Album of the Year.

Moskaluke's career continues to rise. She has just released her song "Take Me Home" as a single and a video, and released her album "Kiss Me Quiet" in September of 2015.

Moskaluke was nominated for her first Juno award in 2015 for Country Album of the Year and Breakthrough Artist of the Year.

She won her first Canadian Country Music Association award in 2014 for Female Artist of the Year, in addition to receiving two additional nominations—Rising Star of the Year and Interactive Artist of the Year.

Her single "Cheap Wine and

Cigarettes" quickly became the highest charting song on the iTunes top 200 singles chart for any Canadian artist. She also achieved GOLD record status in August 2014, becoming the first Canadian female solo country artist to surpass 40,000-plus downloads for a song since Shania Twain.

In 2014 the single "Good Lovin'" won Song of the Year at the 2014 Saskatchewan Country Music Awards, in addition to Moskaluke also receiving both a 2014 SCMA Fan Choice Entertainer of the Year and her second consecutive SCMA Female Vocalist of the Year title.

So how does someone go from growing up in Langenburg to become a rising Canadian country music star?

"That's a pretty long story," says Moskaluke in an interview with the World-Spectator recently, "but I started singing when I was 15, but I started singing when I was 15, just kind of the same way anyone starts playing basketball or volleyball or anything like that. I just kind of started doing it and singing in the church choir. Eventually I started taking vocal lessons and it kind of escalated from there. I

started doing some YouTube stuff and writing my own material, and it gradually got better and better."

Moskaluke says there wasn't one moment when she decided to be a professional musician.

"There wasn't a point where I decided that," she says. "It was kind of decided for me. Opportunities were getting bigger and my time was becoming more and more invested while I was still in university and I was getting offers for artist development deals and publishing deals for songwriting."

"I just kind of decided I'll try it and see what happens because I can always go back to school, but these opportunities are the type that will not always be here. So I started going with the opportunities that were coming in."

"I loved it, and when those opportunities come your way you don't know if and when they'll ever come back, and if you're going to say no now, you might as well just kind of forget about it."

"I just loved it so much and just really wanted to see where it goes."

Moskaluke says she is pleased to

see she has been nominated for so many SCMA awards this year, but the biggest highlight for her will be seeing other Saskatchewan artists at the awards.

"It's really, really nice," she says. "I'm just looking forward to going and seeing everybody and celebrating everybody else's successes, because musicians have crazy schedules and they are very rarely in the same place at the same time. So more than anything, I am looking forward to getting together with all the other Saskatchewan musicians that I don't get to see that often."

Moskaluke says making it in the music industry is a challenge for anyone because it takes so much dedication.

"There is a challenge to make it in the music industry no matter where you're from or who you are or what you do. It's not an easy road. It is a 24-7 job. You don't get days off. This is my day off but I have interviews scheduled all day. So you're not really off, you just have to love it enough to want to do it all the time."

Continued on page 18

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Kahkewistahaw principal named among Future 40 winners

BY TERRI EGER

For Evan Taypotat, excellence starts with the little things. As the principal of Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School, Taypotat has turned his school around and instilled a sense of responsibility and pride in both his staff and students.

"You have to pay attention to details," he said. "You'll see differences when you come to my school. The parking lot is clean, the flags are new and flying properly, there are nice welcome signs."

A sense of pride in a well-kept building and school grounds carries into the building as well. Each Thursday is jersey day and the leader makes sure each member of his staff has Hurricanes gear on to match those worn by the students.

"Our community takes pride in our teams too," he said. "Our senior girls' and boys' volleyball teams have made it to provincials every year and they have matching uniforms. The teams look good and people notice that."

"If they look the best, they will train the best." Giving his students an incentive to strive for excellence on and off the court is a driving force behind Taypotat who ensures that each student is doing well in school before allowing them to play sports.

"It's the carrot we dangle in front of them," he said. "It's the incentive to keep them working hard."

Education is a passion for Taypotat who is currently in year three of a five year plan to improve his school. He has implemented some unique solutions to problems in mathematics by assigning one specialized teacher to each of the elementary, middle years and high school level classes. The results have been adding up and math levels are rising. Work continues in the reading programs as solutions are found to ensure excellence in this area as well.

Ensuring his students are given equal opportunities is a driving force for Taypotat who is currently enrolled in graduate studies at the University of Regina and is writing his Master's Thesis on the aboriginal funding gap in education.

"First Nations Reserve schools are underfunded," he said. "Each student on a reserve gets \$4,200 less than other students. This is Canada. We shouldn't be letting this happen. We owe it to these students to give them a



EVAN TAYPOTAT

fair chance."

While many people are talking about the issue, Taypotat is not going to sit back.

"I am a very loud advocate for making sure the gap is closed. We are going to do something about it."

Taypotat says he owes his strong leadership skills to time he spent with the Canadian Forces. In 1999, he joined the Bold Eagle Program, an initiative by the Canadian Military aimed at aboriginal youth. He graduated from the Faculty of Education at the University of Saskatchewan and taught in his home community for two years before enlisting in 2007. Following military officer training in CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick he was posted to the 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry at CFB Edmonton in 2009. Taypotat spent seven months in Afghanistan as part of Canada's Missions Transition Task Force in 2011. After five years in the service, he had achieved all his goals, and left the forces. He had just began his Master's Degree at the University of Alberta

when his home community put out a call needing strong leadership and Taypotat was the man for the job.

He has been the principal of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 school for the past three years and is leading the 200 students and the staff in a new, positive direction.

"I couldn't do the job I do without the training I received from the Canadian Forces," he said. "Learning to lead men and women and finding solutions were all important then and now in my school."

In a video at a Think Indigenous Conference for First Nations educators, Taypotat explained how he helped turn the school around. He identified key areas of conflict at the school stating that outside interference from parents and people in power in the community was an issue. The negative relationships among the staff and with the students was causing problems as was the disrespect the students had for their teachers.

"They say you can't teach a dog new tricks but you can," he said.

He has turned the school into an environment where learning is front and centre. The school and greater community know that Taypotat is in charge of the school and there is a feeling of respect among the staff, students and community. Academic scores are rising and attitudes are improving under his leadership.

Taypotat's hard work has not gone unnoticed. He was recently awarded a Future 40 Award presented by CBC Saskatchewan.

"Evan Taypotat is a true leader," writes Ross Brown for the nomination. "He is a First Nations role model, a coach, a mentor and a support to Kahkewistahaw First Nation. He leads through motivation, participation and student support. Students at CKCS are developing pride in their accomplishments."

Taypotat himself takes great pride in his home community where he says he was "born and raised and where I'll grow old." As such, he is invested in the students he is teaching.

"It's the reason why I am the way I am with my kids," he said. "The kids that are in my classroom right now, those are our future teachers, those are our future chiefs, those are our future councillors. We owe it to them to give them the proper education. If we don't, this cycle that we want to break will never be broken."

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Meeting on closure of Grades 7-9 at Wapella:

Parents express frustration with board

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

There was a lot of frustration expressed at a meeting on the closure of Grades 7-9 at Wapella recently.

The Southeast Cornerstone board of education is considering permanently closing the three grades at the school.

Currently Wapella is classed as a K-9 school, but students in Grades 7-9 go to McNaughton High School in Moosomin.

The grade closure was intended to be temporary for the 2013-2014 school year, and at the time the school board agreed that "a moratorium will be put in place, effective immediately, on approval of transportation for Wapella students requesting transfer to an out-of-area school."

Parents at the meeting Wednesday said the board continues to grant many exemptions to parents, allowing them to send their children to school in Moosomin on the bus that was originally intended to take only high school students.

According to parents, providing transportation of Wapella students to Moosomin makes it difficult for other students to stay in Wapella in higher grades, as class sizes diminish.

With no students enrolled in grades 7-9, Wapella's enrolment is below the 58 students required to avoid school review for a K-9 school.

On Jan. 19, the board of education passed a motion to consider closure of grades 7-9 at Wapella.

Wednesday's meeting was part of the required process for school reviews.

"I'm the father of three young girls, ages seven and under," Mark Knutson told the board Wednesday. "Two of those girls currently are attending Wapella School in Grades 3 and 1, and I have a four-year-old who will be joining kindergarten next year.

"My wife and I moved here when we found out we were pregnant with my oldest daughter eight years ago, and we moved into a very different community than the one we currently reside in. That community was in a state of decline. Over the last eight years we have seen a tremendous upswell in growth in young families in this town. We now have a very strong playschool that is feeding our school. We currently have eight four-year-olds who will be joining our kindergarten next year. We have 10 three-year-olds who will be joining our school in two years. The smallest class we have is the current one-year-old class with six children. So we have a large amount of young children.

"The number of students within the school has been increasing and the young families we have in the area

shows that trend will continue, not decrease. We see a bright future in this town. We chose a small-town lifestyle. We have the ability here to watch our children walk to school. We can allow our seven-year-old to ride her bike to school. We have the ability to monitor very closely what's happening in our school, we have the ability to take an active part in our school, be part of our children's

education, know the teachers personally, know the other students very well, know the parents of the other students personally, and that is something that is very important to us.

"I will always support freedom of choice for parents to make the choice of the education they want for their *Continued on page 32*"

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Maryfield U18 team wins provincials

Rachel Erickson and her U18 team of third, Sarah Hoag of Gravelbourg, second, Kelly Kay of Maryfield, lead, Jade Goebel of Churchbridge, and coach, Shane Kitz of Oxbow won the U18 Provincial Championship and are off to the Optimist International U18 Championships in Edmonton, Alta., from March 30 to April 6.

Erickson captured a berth at the provincial level competing in the South East Region U18 playoff in Estevan on March 13. The girls lost their opening game to Englot of Neudorf but rebounded to take the B side, defeating first Hauptstien of Weyburn and then Murray of Gainsborough.

Both Englot and Erickson represented the South East Region at the U18 Provincial Playoff in Regina on March 17-20.

In provincial play, Erickson went on a winning streak. They captured the A Event, defeating Jones from the Regina Tartan Club, Buller of Hodgeville and finally Regush of Lumsden.

In the eight-team triple knockout format, teams drop through all three events. Erickson dropped into the semifinal of the B-event where she defeated Jones and Regush once again to capture the

B Event. Erickson then dropped into the semifinal of the C-event. In the C she defeated Englot of Neudorf but then lost to Jones in the C Final.

Since Erickson had won the A and B Events, Jones had to defeat Erickson twice if she hoped to capture the title.

The two teams went the distance in the "True" Triple Women's division as Jones defeated Erickson in the first of two playoff games.

Erickson prevailed in the final game. The title came down to the eighth end on the third and final game with Erickson making no mistake on a hit to take three in the eighth end and the 7-5 win.

The Erickson team is excited to represent Maryfield and Saskatchewan at the Optimist International U18 Championships in Edmonton from March 30 to April 6. A send-off for the girls was planned for Monday, March 28 at the Maryfield Curling Club.



Provincial champs

Rachel Erickson from Maryfield and her team won the U18 Provincial Curling Championship in Regina March 17-20.

The team went on to compete in the Optimist International U18 Championships in Edmonton from March 30 to April 6.

From left are Shane Kitz, Rachel Erickson, Sarah Hoag, Kelly Kay, and Jade Goebel.

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Assisted suicide for those with mental illness a risky proposition

Who but those who have experienced it can appreciate the soul-crushing anguish of mental illness?

Afflictions of the mind can be paralyzing and fundamentally change the way we perceive ourselves (I am worthless), anticipate the future (my prospects are hopeless), and experience the world (life is unfair and unforgiving). The combination of self-loathing, hopelessness and despair can tragically lead to suicide.

Parliament's Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Death, nevertheless, urged the federal government not to exclude individuals with psychiatric conditions from being considered eligible. Their reasoning comes down to this: mental suffering is no less profound than physical suffering, so denying individuals with mental illness access to physician-hastened death would be discriminatory and a violation of their Charter rights.

People with mental illness are no strangers to discrimination. Two-thirds suffer in silence for fear of rejection and mistreatment. Only one in five children who need mental health services receive them, either because of concerns they will be stigmatized or because supports are simply not available. Doors are constantly being closed on the mentally ill, denying them stable employment, social opportunities, secure food and housing; and sometimes fundamental protections under our criminal justice system. They are marginalized, victimized and vilified.

Mental illness is one of the best predictors—more so than poverty—of inequitable access to health care in Canada. People with severe mental illness die about 25 years earlier than adults in the general population.

Making a fairness argument for the availability of phy-



Harvey Max Chochinov

sician-hastened death for a group of people treated so unfairly seems a cruel irony. In Oregon, having a psychiatric condition does not preclude eligibility for physician-assisted suicide. However, that condition must not impair the patient's capacity to give consent and must, as in every other eligible case, occur alongside a medical condition with a prognosis of less than six months. It is difficult to fathom the idea of providing assisted suicide purely on the basis of non-terminal psychiatric disorders.

In the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, psychological suffering stemming from a physical or mental condition is considered a valid legal basis for physician-hastened death. They account for a small but growing minority of death-hastening cases.

Last month, a critically important study was published in the journal JAMA Psychiatry by American psychiatrist Scott Kim.

Kim and his team reviewed 66 case summaries, published by a Dutch euthanasia review committee between 2011-14, of people who received either euthanasia or assisted suicide for psychiatric reasons. The majority were women, with issues including depression, psychosis, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and substance abuse; some also had various forms of cognitive impairment (e.g. intellectual disability, early dementia) and autism. Most had personality disorders and were described as socially isolated and lonely. In one-quarter of instances,

despite differences of opinion between physicians, death hastening proceeded. About one-third of cases initially refused were carried out by new physicians willing to comply.

The Canadian committee's position seems premised on the recognition that physical suffering and mental suffering can be equally devastating. That does not mean they can be approached the same. The nature of mental illness often leads people to see themselves as worthless, to believe that their situation is hopeless and to perceive that their lives have little value. But this should help us see that a death-hastening response runs counter to a recovery-oriented practise advocated by the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

Like all Canadians, people with mental illness have rights under the Constitution. And like all Canadians, these rights need to be balanced against the interests of a free and just society, wherein vulnerable persons must be protected. The most effective protections health-care providers offer patients are built on a caring and committed therapeutic relationship.

For patients whose illness tends towards self-destruction and for patients whose suffering is rooted in social conditions like loneliness, a physician-assisted death option will crack that relational foundation. Evidence shows that vulnerable persons will fall through that crack.

The committee, in its wisdom, expressed confidence that physicians would figure this out. Hopefully, as lawmakers draft legislation, deeper wisdom will prevail.

Dr. Harvey Max Chochinov is a professor of psychiatry at the University of Manitoba and an expert advisor with EvidenceNetwork.ca. He holds the only Canada research chair in palliative care. He led an external panel, appointed by the federal government, looking at legislative options to Carter vs. Canada.

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Kitchen says Liberal budget going in the wrong direction

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Souris-Moose Mountain MP Robert Kitchen expressed disappointment in the Liberal government's first budget.

"I was extremely disappointed from a Saskatchewan point of view," Kitchen said in an interview Wednesday. "I anticipated a deficit, and when they said they wouldn't hit their \$10 billion target and it might be around \$30 billion, and I was pretty close. We're talking big broken promises, a 300 per cent increase over what they promised, it's just amazing. If it was going to create some jobs, I would be happy about it, but it's not going to create jobs."

"They are projecting that, at the end of this four years, it will still be at \$14.4 billion, which is above that \$10 billion they said would be there for just two years. They are not going to bring it back to a balanced budget."

"Over the next five years you're looking at \$113.2 billion that will be added to the debt. I know when I talk to my family and my kids, you always talk about the fact that you can't let that borrowing get away from you. They have projected based on low interest rates right now. If it doesn't stay at low interest rates right now and they start to go up, and they will eventually go up, then the costs will be exponentially higher."

Kitchen also criticized the Liberal govern-

ment's broken promise on small business tax rates. Everyone from small business owners to farmers to incorporated professionals pays the small business rate on their business income. The federal portion of the rate was scheduled to be reduced from 10.5 per cent this year to 10 per cent next year, 9.5 per cent the next year, and 9 per cent the next year.

In the budget, the government announced that will change and the federal portion of the rate will remain at 10.5 per cent.

"I don't think it will fly at all, and not only for businesses in communities like Moosomin, Weyburn, and Estevan, and other smaller communities, because that's the heart of those communities. Our farmers are small businessmen, so their taxes are based on that small business tax. It was in the legislation to have it drop down to nine per cent and the Liberals will have to introduce legislation to stop that. As far as I'm concerned, our farmers and our agriculture industry was ignored in this budget. The only one that's going to get ahead will be funding of Ottawa bureaucrats."

Kitchen said he is hopeful that the funding announced for First Nations will help on First Nations in the riding, but he isn't holding out much hope for infrastructure funding.

"I'm hoping the funding for First Nations will make a difference," he said.

"They're putting \$2.6 billion over the next five years into an education system. I think that's imperative. We have to improve that education system and those skills, so I see that as a win."

"The question on the infrastructure funding is where is that funding going to go? Some of it is going to transit. Last I checked, nobody is putting in an LRT in Moosomin, so I don't see that helping a lot in the riding. Great, that's going to be good for Saskatoon and Regina where they're going to have some of that funding. We don't really know where a lot of that infrastructure funding is going. We have a lot of communities that have put in bids for shovel-ready projects for water treatment facilities and that type of thing."

Kitchen said the Liberals' first budget was what he expected.

"It's what I thought it would be," he said. "I was hoping that, with a lot of what we talked about in the house, about the suffering we're seeing in Saskatchewan and in Alberta with the downturn in the oil industry, and the steps the prime minister was talking about, creating instant money for Alberta and for Saskatchewan, and hoping to see some of these funding issues come to fruition, I was hoping to see something like that, but there was nothing in there."

"The only thing they've talked about is increasing EI up to five weeks, and for long-term workers, to allow that to go up

by 20 weeks. Well, that provides funding for right now, but it doesn't create jobs.

"The people in my riding, and I think a lot of Canadians, they don't want hand-outs, they want a hand up. The part that people don't understand is that funding that's going to EI is going to 12 centres and of those 12 centres, two are in Saskatchewan, one in Saskatchewan, and one in northern Saskatchewan. It doesn't even talk about southeastern Saskatchewan or southwestern Saskatchewan. Even the people in our area will not be able to apply for those benefits."

Kitchen says the budget provides some insight into how the Liberals will govern for the next four years.

"It's going to be challenging times. It's not going to be sunny ways, it's going to be challenging ways."

"I will do everything I can over the next four years to get in the face of the Liberal government and make them understand that the people of Saskatchewan are part of this country. Saskatchewan means business. Business is what's going to make our region go."

"We're an exporting region in the south-east part of the province and we need confidence in the market to do that. We need markets to get the product to. We have the products and we can move them but government policies that are going to ensure that we will be able to do that."

Spy Hill getting behind toddler

BY TERRI EGER
Rayne Bryans is a four-year-old who can capture your heart in a moment. Her big dark eyes and bright smile win over friends in an instant.

"She isn't shy," said her mom Tina Matijak. "She will take anyone by the hand and start telling them a story."

As Rayne plays and laughs, it's hard to wrap your head around the issues that she has to deal with every day. Rayne was born with Spina Bifida, an incomplete closure of the backbone and membranes around the spinal cord.

"We were told she may or may not walk and she may be mentally handicapped," said Matijak.

Neither seems to be the case. Rayne is an active four-year-old who is very mobile and alert.

"She likes Dora and Little Einstein. She's bright and funny and full of life."

While Rayne suffered from hydrocephalus initially, the condition was brought under control and she no longer requires a shunt to drain fluid off her brain. Her legs were twisting, but through the use of bilateral twisters to keep them straight, Rayne has been able to walk and run alongside her friends. However, time out of the braces has caused her legs to begin twisting again and the family and doctors are currently monitoring Rayne's growth to see if she'll need the braces again.

While Rayne appears to be a healthy toddler, her mom

has to continually watch the clock to be sure they are home in time to use the washroom facilities.

"We still go to the park. She can run, jump and fall like every four-year-old, but we have to be home every two and a half to three hours to catch her."

Because of her condition, Rayne will never urinate or have a bowel movement on her own. She requires incontinent supplies such as catheters, alcohol wipes, vinyl gloves, saline filled syringes, and leg bags to simply take waste out of her body. The cost of the supplies is \$1,500 each month.

"We aren't ones to ask for help," said Matijak.

While the family may not be willing to ask, they have a number of friends wanting to do their part. A close friend set up A Go Fund Me page online to accept donations.

"She said, 'This is your child. You have to advocate for her. It's okay to ask for help.'"

Continued on Page 8

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Above: Dad David in back, big brother Jason holding little sister Autumn, Rayne and mom Tina.

Spy Hill getting behind toddler

Continued from page 7

After moving to Spy Hill in June, the family discovered Rayne was not eligible for support assistance through Saskatchewan Aids For Daily Living and Group Benefits from her dad's job will only go so far.

"We looked at Saskatchewan because of the programs in the province for kids with Spina Bifida. It's supposed to have better programs for her but it turns out she's too high functioning," said Matijak.

While supplies have been covered in the past and continue to be covered for others, the rules have changed and the family has been told Rayne is not covered. Her application has been rejected twice but the family is not willing to give up.

"No one seems to know when the rules changed and they were unaware that they had," said Matijak. "We need to bring it to the attention of the Health Minister."

As the cost of the supplies continues each month, along with travel expenses to doctors in Regina and Saskatoon, the fam-

ily is struggling to make ends meet. With the care that Rayne needs, Matijak is unable to work outside the home and having only one income makes things stressful for the family.

While the rules and regulations are unwelcome, the community spirit and support Rayne is receiving from her new friends and neighbors in Spy Hill is overwhelmingly positive.

"We've moved into a beautiful village," said Matijak. "It's a very supportive community and we can't thank them enough."

Through the generosity of friends and neighbors an All-Star Hockey Game was held March 13 in Rocanville to raise money for Rayne, raising more than \$4,000.

"The support we've had has been amazing," said Matijak. "We are so fortunate to live here."

Money continues to come in through the online donation site. For more information on how you can help Rayne, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/raynebryans>.



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Wapella School Grad 5 and 6 students went to space on Friday, March 11.

The students spent several weeks building a "space station" out of black garbage bags and tape. The space station had various pods interconnected by hallways, and was inflated at one end using a fan. Once done the space station was set up inside the Wapella School gym, taking up roughly half the floor

space of the gym. The lights were turned out, and students were sent inside with flashlights, laptops, and other electronics.

Students spent the entire morning inside the space station completing various science-based and space-related assignments and communicating electronically with mission control, which was set up outside the space station in the gym.



Left: Melissa Boardman and Sierra Dodd, left, along with Lucis Sauve and Carter Raiwet, right, working on a project in their pod.



Right: Grant Taylor, Amy Rutten and Wendy Johnson manning "Mission Control."

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NOW: \$10,723</p> <p>2010 Chevrolet Impala LT White, 180,457 kms Stock# 9692A WAS: \$8,723 NOW: \$5,723</p> <p>2006 Chevrolet Cobalt SS Supercharged Yellow, 132,725 kms Stock# 9682A WAS: \$10,723 NOW: \$8,723</p>	<p>2013 GMC Terrain SLE2 AWD Grey, 58,024 kms Stock# 16193A WAS: \$27,723 NOW: \$25,723</p> <p>2013 GMC Acadia Silver, 33,723 kms Stock# 16233A WAS: \$35,723 NOW: \$34,723</p> <p>2012 Buick Enclave CXL2 Gold, 94,400 kms Stock# 16229A WAS: \$32,723 NOW: \$31,723</p> <p>2012 Buick Enclave Silver, 133,385 kms Stock# 9624A WAS: \$26,723 NOW: \$25,723</p> <p>2012 Chevrolet Equinox LS AWD Black, 111,726 kms Stock# 16199A WAS: \$14,723 NOW: \$13,723</p> <p>2012 GMC Terrain SLE Brown, 105,978 kms Stock# 9617A WAS: \$18,723 NOW: \$17,723</p> <p>2012 GMC Terrain SLE Silver, 110,011 kms Stock# 16198A WAS: \$19,723 NOW: \$18,723</p> <p>2012 GMC Acadia SLT1 AWD White, 87,542 kms Stock# 9634 WAS: \$32,723 NOW: \$30,723</p> <p>2012 GMC Yukon XL 1500 AWD White, 122,119 kms Stock# 16211A WAS: 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Chevrolet Silverado Crew 1500 4WD Red, 25,416 kms Stock# 9629 WAS: \$46,723 NOW: \$38,723</p> <p>2015 GMC Sierra Short Box Crew 1500 4WD Brown, 14,245 kms Stock# 16247A WAS: \$52,723 NOW: \$51,723</p> <p>2014 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ 1500 4WD Crew Black, 81,316 kms Stock# 16085A WAS: \$36,723 NOW: \$35,723</p> <p>2014 Chevrolet Silverado Crew 1500 4WD Black, 27,426 kms Stock# 16252A WAS: \$41,723 NOW: \$40,723</p> <p>2014 Chevrolet Silverado Crew 1500 4WD White, 59,035 kms Stock# 9524 WAS: \$46,723 NOW: \$45,723</p>	<p>2014 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ 1500 4WD Crew White, 53,372 kms Stock# 15673A WAS: \$45,723 NOW: \$44,723</p> <p>2014 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ 1500 Crew White, 54,252 kms Stock# 16220A WAS: \$47,723 NOW: \$46,723</p> <p>2014 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 4WD Crew Cab White, 77,271 kms Stock# 15687A WAS: \$49,723 NOW: \$48,723</p> <p>2014 GMC Sierra SLT 1500 4WD Crew Black, 69,386 kms Stock# 15510A WAS: \$42,723 NOW: \$41,723</p> <p>2014 GMC Sierra SLT 1500 4WD Crew Grey, 85,556 kms Stock# 16114A WAS: \$41,723 NOW: \$40,723</p> <p>2014 GMC Sierra SLE 1500 4WD Double Cab Brown, 58,527 kms Stock# 16076A WAS: \$36,723 NOW: \$35,723</p> <p>2014 GMC Sierra Denali 1500 4WD Crew White, 24,582 kms Stock# 16181A WAS: \$57,723 NOW: \$56,723</p> <p>2014 GMC Sierra Short Box Crew 1500 4WD White, 36,290 kms Stock# 16222A WAS: \$50,723 NOW: \$49,723</p> <p>2014 GMC Sierra Crew 1500 4WD Black, 74,280 kms Stock# 15519B WAS: \$42,723 NOW: \$41,723</p> <p>2013 Chevrolet Black Diamond Avalanche LTZ White, 57,518 kms Stock# 16202A WAS: \$46,723 NOW: \$45,723</p> <p>2013 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ 1500 Crew White, 65,473 kms Stock# 16122A WAS: \$38,723 NOW: \$37,723</p> <p>2013 Chevrolet Silverado LT 1500 Ext Cab Red, 85,046 kms Stock# 16070A WAS: \$26,723 NOW: \$25,723</p> <p>2013 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 Grey, 38,728 kms Stock# 15612A WAS: \$26,723 NOW: \$25,723</p> <p>2013 Ford F-150 F14 White, 77,188 kms Stock# 9695 WAS: \$36,723 NOW: \$35,723</p> <p>2013 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE Blue, 58,001 kms Stock# 16088A WAS: \$35,723 NOW: \$34,723</p> <p>2013 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT Black, 25,308 kms Stock# 16176A WAS: \$42,723 NOW: \$41,723</p> <p>2013 GMC Sierra K1500 Denali White, 46,943 kms Stock# 15663A WAS: \$44,723 NOW: \$43,723</p> <p>2013 GMC Sierra 1500K Denali White, 33,982 kms Stock# 16162A WAS: \$44,723 NOW: \$43,723</p> <p>2012 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 4WD Brown, 36,072 kms Stock# 16070A WAS: \$33,723 NOW: \$32,723</p> <p>2012 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 LS Red, 47,008 kms Stock# 16114A WAS: \$34,723 NOW: \$33,723</p> <p>2012 Ford F-150 F14 Black, 114,185 kms Stock# 16066A WAS: \$32,723 NOW: \$31,723</p> <p>2012 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT Silver, 122,555 kms Stock# 15533A WAS: \$33,723 NOW: \$30,723</p> <p>2012 RAM 1500 Laramie Longhorn Red, 108,035 kms Stock# 15641A WAS: \$36,723 NOW: \$35,723</p>	<p>2011 GMC Sierra 1500 2WD Reg Cab Grey, 69,010 kms Stock# 9696 WAS: \$17,723 NOW: \$16,723</p> <p>2011 GMC Sierra K1500 SLE 90,485 kms Stock# 16186A WAS: \$30,723 NOW: \$29,723</p> <p>2010 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 LTZ White, 100,561 kms Stock# 16106A WAS: \$29,723 NOW: \$28,723</p> <p>2010 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT Grey, 107,045 kms Stock# 16102A WAS: \$31,723 NOW: \$26,723</p> <p>2009 Cadillac Escalade EXT Black, 149,069 kms Stock# 9635 WAS: \$31,723 NOW: \$30,723</p> <p>2009 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 Blue, 90,094 kms Stock# 16219A WAS: \$25,723 NOW: \$24,723</p> <p>2009 Chevrolet Silverado Blue, 143,693 kms Stock# 15668B WAS: \$29,723 NOW: \$19,723</p> <p>2009 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 Black, 193,765 kms Stock# 16084A WAS: \$22,723 NOW: \$21,723</p> <p>2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 4WD Blue, 256,000 kms Stock# 9690A WAS: \$11,723 NOW: \$10,723</p> <p>2008 GMC Sierra K1500 Silver, 178,602 kms Stock# 15670A WAS: \$19,723 NOW: \$18,723</p> <p>2006 Honda Ridgeline RTL Grey, 192,403 kms Stock# 9618 WAS: \$12,723 NOW: \$11,723</p> <p>2005 Chevrolet Avalanche 1500 4WD Red, 172,225 kms Stock# 9576B WAS: \$15,723 NOW: \$14,723</p> <p>2005 GMC Sierra K1500 Green, 195,345 kms Stock# 15278B WAS: \$12,723 NOW: \$10,723</p> <p>2004 Chevrolet Silverado EXT Red, 188,394 kms Stock# 15708 WAS: \$12,723 NOW: \$11,723</p>
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PRE-OWNED 2500 TRUCKS

2014 Dodge Ram 2500 ST Black, 55,462 kms Stock# 9695 **WAS: \$12,723 NOW: \$11,723**

2012 Dodge Ram 2500 ST White, 120,080 kms Stock# 15467A **WAS: \$32,723 NOW: \$31,723**

2011 Chevrolet Silverado K2500 HD LTZ White, 120,312 kms Stock# 15669A **WAS: \$45,723 NOW: \$44,723**

2011 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Black, 201,296 kms Stock# 15441A **WAS: \$34,723 NOW: \$31,723**

2011 GMC Sierra K2500 SLE White, 182,077 kms Stock# 16161B **WAS: \$34,723 NOW: \$33,723**

2010 GMC Sierra 2500 4WD Standard Box Ext Cab Black, 79,818 kms Stock# 9689 **WAS: \$29,723 NOW: \$27,723**

2009 GMC Sierra K2500 Red, 177,511 kms Stock# 15231A **WAS: \$27,723 NOW: \$26,723**

2004 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 EXT 4WD Silver, 291,345 kms Stock# 15542Z **WAS: \$13,723 NOW: \$10,723**

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2008 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 4WD Crew Gold, 210,627 kms Stock# 16250 **WAS: \$34,723 NOW: \$33,723**

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Jacqui Harrison photo
A majestic bald eagle sits atop a spruce tree in a farmyard just east of Moosomin recently. There have been a lot of bald eagles seen in the area over the last few years.

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GT models shown

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*0% APR Purchase Financing is available on select 2015/2016 Mazdas. Terms vary by model. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of \$25,015 for the new 2016 CX-5 GX (NVXK66A00), the cost of borrowing for a 48-month term is \$0, monthly payment is \$521 and total finance obligation is \$25,015. †No charge navigation offer valid on purchase, finance or lease of select new and unused 2015 and 2016 Mazda models. Program is valid only on vehicles that are sold, registered and delivered between March 1-31, 2016. Note: In the event the selected model is pre-equipped with navigation, or selected model is not equipped for navigation, customer may substitute a cash discount of \$425 (\$705 for 2015 CX-9). Cash discount substitute applied before taxes. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Note: Navigation offer not available on 2015/2016 Mazda5 models - cash discount substitute of \$425 can be applied. ‡Based on a representative example using a finance price of \$23,146/\$24,741/\$17,478 for the 2016 CX-3 GX (HVKX86A00)/2016 CX-5 GX (NVXK66A00)/2016 Mazda3 G (D4K66A00) at a rate of 2.99%/2.49%/2.49% APR, the cost of borrowing for an 84-month term is \$2,535/\$2,244/\$1,586, weekly payment is \$71/\$74/\$52, total finance obligation is \$23,682/\$26,986/\$19,064. Taxes are extra and required at the time of purchase. All prices include block holder, \$20 new tire charge, \$100 a/c charge where applicable, freight & PDI of \$1,695/\$1,895 for Mazda3/CX-3, CX-5. As shown, price for 2016 Mazda3 GT (D4TL66A00)/2016 CX-3 GT (HXTK86A00)/2016 CX-5 GT (NXTL86A00) is \$27,678/\$31,746/\$37,538. PPSA, licence, insurance, taxes, down payment (or equivalent trade-in) are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers valid March 1-31, 2016, while supplies last. Prices and rates subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details. *To learn more about the Mazda Unlimited Warranty, go to mazdaunlimited.ca.

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2016 Chev Tahoe LT 4x4 WAS: \$68,870 CASH \$65,207 \$469 BI-WEEKLY  T16-043	2016 GMC Terrain SLE2 AWD WAS: \$36,690 CASH \$34,495 \$235 BI-WEEKLY  T16-102	2016 Chev Equinox LS FWD WAS: \$00,000 CASH \$24,482 \$180 BI-WEEKLY  T16-003	2016 Buick Encore Premium AWD WAS: \$37,870 CASH \$36,772 \$242 BI-WEEKLY  T16-012
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2011 GMC Terrain SLT-1 AWD 115,000 kms FINANCE \$16,600 \$176 BI-WEEKLY REDUCED!  T16-015A	2011 Chev Equinox 2LT AWD 79,000 kms FINANCE \$18,500 \$199 BI-WEEKLY REDUCED!  T16-069A	2009 Hyundai Santa Fe GL AWD 151,000 kms FINANCE \$8,900 \$117 BI-WEEKLY FRESH TRADE!  T16-095B	2015 Chev Camaro 2LT Convertible 19,000 kms FINANCE \$31,900 \$255 BI-WEEKLY  C26-022A
2015 Ford Taurus SEL AWD 9,000 kms FINANCE \$26,800 \$215 BI-WEEKLY FRESH TRADE!  C26-031A	2015 Chev Malibu 1LT 28,000 kms FINANCE \$18,900 \$153 BI-WEEKLY  C26-023A	2015 Chev Cruze 1LT 28,000 kms FINANCE \$15,900 \$129 BI-WEEKLY  C26-027A	2015 Chev Cruze 1LT 24,000 kms FINANCE \$15,900 \$129 BI-WEEKLY  C26-021A
2015 Chev Cruze 1LT 31,000 kms FINANCE \$15,700 \$127 BI-WEEKLY  C26-020A	2012 Chev Cruze 1LT 56,000 kms FINANCE \$11,900 \$128 BI-WEEKLY FRESH TRADE!  C26-026A	2010 Buick Lucerne CXL 128,000 kms FINANCE \$10,500 \$113 BI-WEEKLY  T15-102A	2009 Nissan Altima 2.5 S 114,000 kms FINANCE \$8,900 \$117 BI-WEEKLY  T16-085B

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A pipeline as unifying as the CPR

It was just a simple piece of crude iron that fitted in one hand—but it still stands as an iconic symbol of nation building.

The Last Spike was hammered home at 9:22 a.m. on Nov. 7, 1885, at Craigellachie, B.C. and marked, symbolically, the economic and political binding of a young nation. From coast to coast, two ribbons of steel snaked across Canada's vast and challenging plains and mountains. The Canadian Pacific Railway was complete.

But as an ambitious undertaking, it wasn't without the travails of conflicting political agendas, finances, geography and climate.

Sound familiar?

It took 15 years to finish and another year to get stock rolling. The CPR was British Columbia's price for agreeing to join Confederation. It completed both a country and an economic union that in many ways created the trade, transportation and communications foundations we enjoy today. Its proponents wouldn't have had the benefit of modern business terminology, but they would wholeheartedly agree that a national supply chain was also birthed.

The CPR's Last Spike has defined Canada in many ways, but it may be fading from our memory. It is physically honoured by just one of the many historical cairns glimpsed through the windshield as Canadians race through their lives along national transportation systems we now take for granted.

So why aren't we talking about the First Weld and rejuvenating interest in a key historic moment that has so indelibly shaped our present and should continue to point us forward?

What's the First Weld?

It's a chance to do some contemporary nation building



Bill Whitelaw

in geographic reverse—west to east—and create a sense that the race for Canadian unity has never really had a finish line. The First Weld is also a timely opportunity to do some national role reversal by foregrounding Quebec's place in Confederation.

Quebec is conducting hearings on the Energy East pipeline proposal and while the results hold no technical weight, they do hold political heft.

The First Weld is an opportunity for TransCanada Corp. and its pipeline customers and supporters to create some Energy East unity buzz. And what better time to do it than with Canada's 150th birthday looming in 2017?

Energy East construction is slated to start that year, pending National Energy Board and federal cabinet sanctions. But instead of waiting until the project's commissioning in 2020, why not celebrate its beginning by recalling a pivotal moment in Canadian history?

Use the symbolism around the Last Spike to create a similar fervour around the First Weld: the emblematic act of metal fusing with metal, provinces melding to provinces, to create a new national transportation system - this one a pipeline, arguably as important an economic link in the 21st century as the CPR was in the 19th.

Pick a place in Quebec that is powerful for its symbolic import. Start promoting the First Weld as the notional launch of Energy East. Build community ties around it

and stretch them across Canada. Build history around it. Embed it as a pivotal moment in Canada's 150th birthday. Build an eastern Craigellachie. The blueprint is there.

Pick a date to celebrate in 2017 and get the momentum going.

The allusion of a pan-Canadian pipeline to the CPR's importance is not new: former Enbridge chief Patrick Daniel consistently used the historic reference while promoting the Northern Gateway pipeline. Now it's popular with Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and others as they quite correctly argue for pan-Canadian support for the Energy East initiative.

But the concept of the First Weld could ignite real grassroots interest in why Energy East's importance transcends the hydrocarbons it will transport. It also offers a way for ordinary Canadians to have their voices heard in a celebratory rather than regulatory context.

In his epic poem, Towards the Last Spike, E.J. Pratt valorized the efforts of CPR's proponents and opponents. Like the railway, Pratt's poem has been scrutinized and criticized, intensely interrogated and analyzed by historians and the literati alike.

It is indeed a dense work but Pratt—who won a Governor General's Literary Award for it—captures and distills the project's essence, in terms of the interplay between key actors, prevailing politics and the vagaries of climate and geography. He acknowledges the struggles and tensions, but also underscores the railway's importance as a national aspiration.

The First Weld: it's the foundation for a new Canadian epic. Let's get everyone excited.

Bill Whitelaw is president and CEO at JuneWarren-Nickle's Energy Group.

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BRIAN KELLY FROM ROCANVILLE

Southeast Saskatchewan artists dominate SCMAs

Continued from page 1

"It is challenging for that as well as many other reasons, but it's also a very rewarding job at times.

"That's a good problem to have. It's great when people want to talk to you and about you. It's always a major part of the job.

"In the music industry you don't have an average day-to-day life. One day you have a day off and you're home doing interviews and the next day you're up at three in the morning to get to the airport and the next day you're singing at a show until four in the morning, so it's very, very different every day."

Asked why she has made Rocanville her home base, Moskaluke says it's all about family and the small town life.

"I live here with my boyfriend who also grew up here," she says. "It wasn't really a choice. It was the classic 'you meet a boy and you start your life somewhere' situation. I really, really love the people from Rocanville. They've really accepted me as one of their own. I'm a small town girl all the way. I don't want to live in a city. In this industry you'll be in Ontario one day and Nova Scotia the next, so it doesn't make sense to live somewhere for the purpose of music for the right now. I just want to live close to my family and friends."

So what's next for Moskaluke?

"We released an album as well as a single and a video, so right now we're just kind of hoping that climbs, and I'm doing interviews to promote the single 'Take Me Home' as well as the album 'Kiss Me Quiet,'" she says.

"I'll be starting on the next album soon, but don't wait up for that one to come out because we just released an album—obviously you just have to stay ahead of the game."

Moskaluke says the "Kiss Me Quiet" album is doing well. "It's still on the iTunes charts, which is fairly rare for a Canadian musician this long after we've released it," she says.

"We're just riding the wave right now. We have a brand new album. It's hard to say what's next when you're really focused on promoting the thing you spent years on making, but we'll just have to wait and see."

When asked what her goals are, Moskaluke says she's already achieved more than she hoped for.

"My goal has always just been to be able to make music for a living so that I don't have to have a day job that I'm just doing so that I can do music. I have already achieved that, which I'm very thankful for.

"I'm more of a realist than a dreamer I guess. I'm not the kind of person that sets goals for that reason because I've already exceeded so many more things than I ever thought possible, and I'm so very thankful for that. I don't want to set a goal and then maybe not achieve it and disappoint myself. I've already achieved my goal and my goal is just to continue doing this for as long as I can."

When asked what it takes for aspiring musicians to make it in the industry, Moskaluke says that's a tough question to answer.

"That is an extremely long conversation. There are so many things that I learned. It's impossible to wrap up the music industry in one piece of advice, but the most important one is just to be true to yourself and make sure that you love it, because like I mentioned earlier it's a 24-7, 365-day-a-year job. You don't get Christmas off just because it's a stat holiday. When you're not working you don't get paid, so you really, really have to commit 100 per cent and make sure it's absolutely what you want.

Barsi, Cunningham each up for four awards

Moosomin-based artists and husband and wife team Eli Barsi and John Cunningham are both up for four SCMA Awards this year.

Barsi has been nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year, All Star Band (Guitar), All Star Band (Specialty), and for Record Producer along with Cunningham.

Cunningham has been nominated for All Star Band (Bass), All Star Band (Specialty), for Record Producer along with Barsi, and for Manager.

Barsi says it's nice to be recognized for some of the work that she and Cunningham do behind the scenes as musicians.

"These are a little bit different, these categories, which is great," she says. "I don't have a new album out yet, I'm

working on that, so I wasn't eligible for some of the categories for new songs, new videos, new albums, but we are eligible for a lot of other stuff that we do.

"Of course for Producer of the Year, we work on lots of albums, not just our own. We work on other people's projects too, so that's nice. We're always busy working at our studio too, and it's always nice to have recognition for those other things. And John of course is a great musician, and so he's got some nice nominations for both bass and harmonica this year.

"It's a little more of the other work we do, which is great. People only see the performance part and that's really only 10 per cent of what I do, the 90 per cent is before I get to the show. I'm my own agent, John and I manage my career together, it's countless hours of booking shows and travel and marketing and promotions. That takes tons of time. It's a full-time job for a few people."

Barsi says it's always a surprise to be nominated for awards.

"I'm always surprised. We're so busy, we're on the road a lot and you never know what's going on back home sometimes. So it's really nice to have this recognition and that people are recognizing that we are doing all that we are doing. It's nice, it's a real honor."

She says she is pleased to be nominated for Female Artist of the Year.

"As many years as I've been performing I've never been a Saskatchewan female artist winner. It will be 31 years for me this fall. It's a huge honor, it's a nice surprise. I've been blessed to get the roots artist a couple of times and roots album. I've only been nominated for the female vocalist a few times."

For the last two years, Barsi has won roots artist awards at the SCMA awards.

This year at the SCMA awards, Barsi will be hosting the roots cafe during the awards and Cunningham will be hosting the gospel showcase and performing at the industry awards.

Barsi says music is a part of her.

"I couldn't live without it. It's been my passion since day one. It's in my blood. Music picked me long before I picked it. I'm driven, even if I'm tired and been through so much and seen everything, I'm still so driven and passionate about it."

Runions nominated for five SCMA awards

Alex Runions, who grew up in Kipling, has been nominated for five SCMA awards, more than any other male artist.

"Each year things get better and better and this is the most I've ever been nominated for," says Runions. "I have been nominated in the past, but I have yet to win that elusive SCMA award. I've been playing for over 10 years now and I've never won one."

Runions has been on the country music scene for a while now, but his career has started to undergo some changes.

"Last September I released my second full length album. That was recorded in Calgary with the MCC recording studio, and they're the two time (Canadian Country Music Awards) award winning studio of the year. From that album I released three tracks and all of them were charting. It did quite well on radio.

"I just recently released another single called 'If I Won the Lotto.' And that one is gaining a lot of traction now. I just signed with a manager out in Nashville, and I've been working with another manager. So that's sort of where we're at—we play at all the major festivals and play a lot of cabarets and we still do a lot across Canada. It's really busy, but things seem to be getting better and better."

Runions has just finished shooting his very first country music video in Nashville.

"It is my first music video, it's huge and it's exciting," he says. "I'm so new to it. It was a cool experience, and it took me a little while to get the acting down.

"It's a good marketing tool and it's a really great away for the audience to finally see you instead of just hearing your song. It's a really nice way to bridge that gap, and then they can see you as a person. We're also trying to translate that through the video—the type of person that I am. I think it is a really significant step in my career because I've never done a professional video."

Runions, who has been involved in music since high school, says it was in 2003 that he decided to really dig in and try to make a go at having a professional country music career.

"You get into music because you love to perform and you love to song write and sing," he says. "But ultimately I'd love to have a long lasting career, and a successful music career. I'd also like to be known as a songwriter as well because I write constantly and I co-write with people from all over the place.

"It's funny because it seems like all I did was play for maybe seven years and we were really steady for shows, and now it's almost like the focus is on the recording and the writing. Playing seems to be such a small fraction sometimes when you're doing all the back end stuff. I was always part of the business side when it came to booking and trying to come up with my own business plan. But now that there's a bit of a team behind it. It's now full-on business and marketing planning."

Runions is based out of Regina, but has no intention of forgetting his Kipling roots. He says growing up in Kipling has had an impact on his music and songwriting.

"I do call Regina home now, but I do emphasize that I'm from Kipling," he says. "I do enjoy having that under my belt. They put up a sign with my face on it (in Kipling), so that's a pretty huge honor.

"Growing up in a small town, there's that whole rural aspect you can write about. You can write about gravel roads and the small town parties, falling in love, that kind of stuff. You have a lot of experiences. On my uncle's farm we spent a lot of time there, and coming from those years and those experiences, I really think that growing up there did help me out.

"All the writing really comes from personal experience and I do think it had a big impact on me."

Runions says the toughest part of making it in the music industry is trying to stand out from everyone else trying to make it.

"I think the biggest challenge is how saturated the market is. There are so many people trying to follow their dreams, and that's great. But the market becomes so saturated that anybody can record an album if you have enough money. So I think that is the toughest part.

"You're trying to have a bit of commercial success and you're really working hard at writing great songs and working with great producers and you make it on the radio the same time as 10 other people do. And you're competing with them as well as your Paul Brandts and your George Canyons."

Runions says you need to be positive and have a thick skin if you are going to stick with it.

"You have to be positive, you really do. You just have to shake things off. You also have to have a really thick skin in this industry. For years, even just playing in bars, people would say that you're not good enough. The same with releasing your song. In a way that song is your baby, you created that and then a lot of times people say that they don't like it. But you have to stay positive, and you can't really show that it's affecting you much. Really, you do it because you love it. If you're chasing it because of the money, then you'll never get it."

Littlechief nominated for Aboriginal Artist of the Year

White Bear's Teagan Littlechief has been nominated for Aboriginal Artist of the Year.

Littlechief says she is looking forward to the SCMA awards.

"It feels awesome. I've never been to one before, it's exciting for me to be able to go pick out some clothes and go see all the performers throughout Saskatchewan," she says. Littlechief says she has only been nominated once before for an SCMA, but it has been years ago.

"I've released four singles in the past five years," she says. "Currently I am performing every so often. A lot of my music is getting a lot of radio play and a lot of play on the internet. It's on the charts and if people are interested in my music it's on iTunes and CD Baby, it's on my website."

Littlechief works in White Bear, and is has been busy raising her son for the past few years, but says she wants to start pushing out into the music scene in a bigger way.

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Southeast Saskatchewan artists dominate SCMAs

Continued from page 18

"I'm looking into getting professional musicians behind me so we can get out there and start playing again," she says.

"I want to get out there, to start playing all over. I want to play in the States, I want to play in Eastern Canada and Western Canada, I want to play all over. I want it to be my job."

What does being nominated for an SCMA mean to her? "It means a whole lot to me because my son has inspired me so much to come this far already," she says. "He's my biggest fan, and to actually be nominated is something I can tell him that mommy did."

"I have lots of fans and a lot of family and friends that back me when they say I should be out there singing."

Brian Kelly nominated for bass player award

Brian Kelly, originally from Rocanville, now living in Regina, has been nominated for an All Star Band Bass award. He has been nominated for the award four other times and has won it three times in the past.

"The nomination is always great. It's nice to know that people are thinking about me," says Kelly.

"I was full time up until four and a half years ago. I'm primarily freelance and play bass guitar for different acts, different solo artists, different groups if they need a bass player. I also front my own group as well, the Brian Kelly Band."

Kelly hasn't been a full-time musician for about four years, but says he tries to play as much as he can still. He started playing the bass guitar when he was around 14.

Somewhere around the age of 14 or 15 Mom and Dad decided to get a bass guitar for me because we were backing up my mom for various shows and events around the community and it just seemed to come pretty naturally for me," he says.

"I would love to get back to the point where music was my main source of income. I've been really fortunate. I always get contacted by various artists to play for them. Sometimes I can, sometimes I can't."

Kelly says it's always nice being recognized by SCMA. "What's really nice is the recognition, that's the best

thing. It's not so much that I feel I need to be recognized. It is just very gratifying and humbling to be recognized by my peers. Because that's primarily who the people are who are voting at the SCMA. It's just really nice to know I haven't been forgotten, especially since I'm not playing as much as I used to play."

Kelly says he will also be performing as part of the house band at the SCMA awards show.

Blake Berglund nominated for Roots Artist award

Kennedy native Blake Berglund has been nominated for an award for Roots Artist of the Year.

This is not Berglund's first SCMA nomination. In 2011 he won the Rising Star Award at SCMA and in 2013 he won the Roots Artist of the Year award.

"It's just another thing that makes people pay attention to what you're doing," says Berglund. "Sometimes the whole award system you don't really know what it means or where to go with it, but at the end it definitely changes things when you win an award. I've noticed that with the 2011 award and in 2013."

"It's a very small community, and when you're nominated for something in a small community you know it's recognition by your direct peers. For me that's what it's about. The people I work with and who support my music and fellow songwriters see me worthy enough to be in a category with them. That means the most to me."

"When you're alongside artists like Jessica (Moskaluke) and Alex (Runions) and Eli (Barsi), that's crazy talent. The success they've had in their careers is pretty mindblowing. When you're put alongside them it's a nice feather in the cap, so it means a lot to me."

Berglund is currently working on an album alongside Jason Plumb in his studio in Regina. He says the album is some of his best work yet.

"It's a cross between Waylon Jennings and Pink Floyd, that's what it sounds like," he says. "We have a lot of keys, we're very confident with the songwriting, the songs that we are going in with, I feel are very strong. It's the strongest material I've written to date, and it's my road band in the studio with me."

"I'm doing the album with Jason Plumb who used to be in a band called the Waltons. Jason became a friend of mine a few years ago and we had chats about working together, and it just kind of all lined up. He has a wonderful studio in Regina and he invited us in to work on this new record in it. It's going great. It's definitely pushing an envelope I haven't pushed before."

Why does Berglund think he has been nominated for an SCMA?

"The fact that we're always touring, the fact that we're always on the road all the time and writing consistently and performing consistently and recording consistently—that adheres to that roots approach to a career," he says.

"It's an honor to be recognized for that. That's kind of why we do it is just to be seen as people who are out there working. And I've always held a lot of pride in the fact that we're busy on the road."

What is Berglund's ultimate goal as a musician? "To be eighty years old and continuing to do it," he says. "That is honestly my goal."

"If all my decisions are made to just write the music I can possibly write and create the best art I can possibly create and hold myself to the fire and continue to get better, I really believe everything just falls into place."

"As far as my personal goals go, they are to continue out-doing myself with my writing. If my most current project is the strongest writing that I've had to date, then I'm achieving my goals."

Berglund says the SCMA awards are just one more way for him to have a relationship with his fans.

"It's just one more thing that you can add to the resume that gets one more person out to a show," he says.

"I think it's very important to have personal relationships with as many of your fans as possible. And opportunities like the SCMAs make the opportunity greater to have those personal relationships with people."

Yung nominated for five awards

Samara Yung from Yorkton is up for five SCMA awards. Yung has been nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year, Fan's Choice Entertainer of the Year, Single of the Year, Video of the Year, and Album of the Year.

Hello, you're going to jail

It was the kind of phone call you really don't want to hear on your message machine.

The voice at the other end said that it belonged to a Canada Revenue agent who was about to issue a warrant for my arrest. I was being charged with tax fraud. He left a number for me to call him back. Immediately.

Damn. I knew I shouldn't have claimed those Tim Horton double-glazed as a business lunch.

Still, something smelled a little off. For one thing the agent had a Middle Eastern accent you could cut with a canoe paddle. For another, I could hear an awful lot of phones ringing and people yammering in the background. Also some weird balalaika-ish music. It didn't sound like any government office I'd ever been in.

So I didn't phone the agent back at the number he left. I phoned the RCMP instead.

The voice at the other end chuckled. "It's a scam," he told me.

"There's a lot of that going on right now. Just ignore it."

I told him that I'd kept the phone number. He could track these crooks down, or maybe pass it on to some special investigations unit.

He chuckled again. Nothing they could do, he told me. These crooks were untraceable. "They use 'burner' phones," he said. "As soon as they hear from the authorities, they toss the phone in the garbage."

So a citizen who gets one of these calls should...? "Just ignore it. It's a scam."



Arthur Black

But what if the target doesn't ignore the call? What if it's some gentle, unworried widower who's spent his whole life obeying the law and is terrified out of his wits by the message? What if the victim falls for it, calls back and asks how he can avoid getting arrested?

That's when the real scam begins. If the mark is gullible enough and the crook is sufficiently silver-tongued the mark will be let off with a 'fine' of several hundred dollars. Even worse, the crook may be able to wrinkle credit card information out of the mark, in which case his bank account may be drained before he hangs up the phone.

Bottom line: Revenue Canada agents do not make threats over the phone. Ever.

But not everyone knows that. Too often the scam works. And there's really nothing the police can do.

I'm not the only person who's dubious. In a letter to the editor, Victoria resident Bruce MacKenzie points out that recently the RCMP in British Columbia spent nearly a

million dollars in overtime to entrap a couple of pathetic, drug-addicted delusionaries who had incoherent plans to bomb a government building in Victoria. But when a scammer impersonating a policeman or a Canada Revenue agent makes threatening calls and leaves a call-back number, "the CRA and RCMP issue public statements warning us not to call back."

American lawmen have found these crooks not to be so untraceable. Last year U.S. authorities tracked down and arrested a phone scammer by the name of Sahil Patel. He was found guilty of aggravated identity theft and conspiracy. The judge sent him to prison for 14 years.

RCMP please copy.

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SARM supports Energy East

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities has passed a resolution in favor of Energy East.

The resolution passed by an overwhelming margin at the SARM convention in March.

It was put forward by the RM of Moosomin and 12 other municipalities. The RM of Moosomin originated the resolution.

TransCanada wants to convert 3,000 kilometres of existing natural gas pipeline and build about 1,600 kilometres of new pipeline in Quebec and New Brunswick.

It is expected the west-east pipeline would transport 1.1 million barrels a day of crude oil from Alberta to the Irving Oil refinery in Saint John.

Also planned are new pumping stations, oil storage terminals and a joint venture with Irving for a new \$300-million deep-water marine terminal.

The Moosomin area would play a key role in Energy

East. A tank farm would be built next to TransCanada's Moosomin compressor station northeast of town with the capacity to hold 1,050,000 barrels of oil.

TransCanada would also build a feeder pipeline from Cromer, Manitoba to the Moosomin compressor station, where the Bakken oil would be added to the TransCanada system to be piped to eastern Canada.

A separate pipeline proposal, the Upland Pipeline, would bring crude from Williston, North Dakota to be added to the Energy East pipeline at the Moosomin Compressor Station.

"I think Energy East is pretty important to the community and the whole country," said Garnet Fawcett, who was at the SARM convention.

"The resolution was worded to show support for Energy East to proceed. It passed with more than 97 per cent support. Pretty much everyone was onside. There was just one speaker who got up and spoke to it, and thought that

SARM should be sending a delegation to Ottawa about it, more so than sending a letter of support, but SARM has already been to Ottawa, and has done some work on it, and had put in a letter of support last year toward Energy East, so this just kind of confirmed for SARM that the municipalities were all onside."

Fawcett said he believes it is important that SARM show its support.

"With the present-day government, I think they're going to need all the support they can gather. I think the Energy East project will go ahead in time, but I think it's going to take more time than they were hoping for."

He said he believes the project is important to the Moosomin area.

"I think it's very important to the Moosomin municipality because of the tank farm, but I think it's important to the whole country, which was actually said at the meeting."

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Couple sees lots of support in wake of fire



Bruce Edwards and Stephanie Leduc

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Dr. Bruce Edwards and Stephanie Leduc, who moved to Moosomin in November to work at Moosomin Dental Centre, have found out just how welcoming a small community can be.

After a fire hit the home they were renting on Feb. 29, the couple have found they have a lot of support in their new community, and from their friends back home.

"We just got in the door from a vacation around 8 o'clock that evening," says Bruce. "Around midnight, Steph's mom, who was up visiting, started smelling smoke."

"We woke up and the house had a lot of smoke in it," says Steph. "In my mind I wasn't thinking the house was burning down. We just got out of the house thinking something burned. It wasn't until the fire department got there and got the hoses out I realized that it was a real house fire. You couldn't see it because it was between the floors. Standing outside, you

could just see the house filling with smoke."

"I went downstairs to see if there was anything coming from the furnace room," says Bruce. "By the time I got down the stairs, I heard them yelling from upstairs that we have to get out. It was just a matter of a few minutes."

Steph says that while almost all of their belongings were lost in the fire, she is grateful no one was hurt. "We have two dogs and we were able to save both of them and ourselves. We just ran out, we grabbed coats and boots. Bruce happened to have his wallet in his coat so at least we had his wallet and a credit card and his identification. I didn't even have socks on when we left—we left really quickly."

Bruce said he is grateful for the efforts of the Moosomin Volunteer Fire Department.

"We were really impressed with the volunteer firemen," he says. "Watching them you could tell they knew exactly what to do. They all had their job to do, and you could tell they had a lot of training. For a small town volunteer fire department they knew their stuff."

Steph said the loss hit her the next day when they returned to the house. "It didn't really hit me how bad it was until the next day when we went through the house because you couldn't really tell from the outside of the house. People driving by wouldn't have thought there was a fire in there. Even the house now doesn't look very bad from the outside."

The couple lost some items of sentimental value, including their photos and diplomas.

"Our computers were lost so all of our pictures are gone," says Steph.

"We're going to take our laptops and see if we can get anything off the hard drives, but I'm not too optimistic," says Bruce.

Unfortunately the busy couple hadn't had time to buy renters' insurance so they had no insurance coverage on their losses.

"The firefighters were able to take our car out of the garage, and that was huge for us," says Steph. "When you're missing so much, to still have our vehicle is so helpful."

The couple headed to a local motel for a couple of days before finding a new place to rent.

"We had stayed at the Motel 6 for a couple of nights and they were unbelievable there," says Bruce. "They couldn't be more helpful."

"We couldn't be more grateful for the manager and his wife," adds Steph. "We got there at 3:30 in the morning, and they were very accommodating. They gave us an upgraded room with a kitchenette so we could cook our meals."

They then found an apartment to rent. "Greg Nosterud, he hooked us up with a one bedroom spot, which was really good of him," says Bruce.

"When we left the motel, Greg had a couch, a table and a bed in there for us," says Steph. "The Motel 6 gave us dishes, towels, sheets, a toaster, a coffee machine, mugs—he went through everything extra that he had. He was so nice and so helpful."

The couple quickly found how friendly a small town can be.

"People from the community lent us scrubs to go to work, sneakers, clothes, gift cards for food," says Steph.

"The office where we work, they stepped up and they helped a lot the first couple of days, and the other dental office helped out too."

"Rose Mullett at RONA gave us a gift card there, so people really helped a lot," says Bruce.

"You really realize in a small town people really help," says Steph.

"That was our first concern," says Bruce. "We're from back east, and you think we're that far from home, and we're not going to have the support that we would if we were back home around family and friends, but the town proved us wrong."

Meanwhile, friends back home in Newfoundland wanted to help out as well.

Friends set up a GoFundMe page for the couple, which had raised more than \$14,000 by Friday.

"That was my best friend who set that up," says Steph. "We didn't want anything set up in our names. We were just grateful that we were okay, and the dogs were okay, and my mom. My friend sent me a message after we talked and said 'I hope you're not going to be mad, but we set up a GoFund Me account,' and that's incredible too."

Continued on page 27 ^{ES}

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Margaret Ashcroft created wooden replica of original St. George's Anglican Church in Birtle, built in 1884. Fire erases original St. George's Anglican Church in 1955

Wooden replica created by Birtle citizen, enhances original church built in 1884

Fire has played destructive role in area communities, destroying various businesses, and churches including the Anglican Church in Birtle. The church was rebuilt between 1955 and 1956, after fire broke out in 1955 and the beautiful, big building was reduced to smouldering rubble.

The original St. George's Anglican Church, occupying the same site, was built in 1884. Here in the photo is a replica of the first St. George's church. It is 40 cm long and 23 cm high.

Margaret Ashcroft, a lady with many talents, decided that she would like to make a replica of the original building where she and her husband, Frank, had been married in 1952. There were no blueprints to guide her in this undertaking. The only way to figure out the proper proportions of the church was to study an old photograph of the original church.

In the photo, you can see a door at the west end of the building. This was the only entrance. Along the south side, were three

windows, with a stained glass window in the middle. Apparently a fire inspector pointed out that the building should have a second door. Some time after 1952, the window nearest the front (at the east end) of the church was replaced with a door. This turned out to be a great blessing.

The day of the fateful fire, which started at the west end, it was through this second door that men got into the church and were able to save so many items before the fire reached them. Among the items saved were two stained glass windows, a heavy, solid brass lectern 1.4 m high, a baptismal font and the pulpit. All these are still in use today.

Inside the current St. George's there are three flags hanging: the Canadian Flag, the Manitoba Flag and the Union Jack. The Union Jack (originally known as the British Flag in the early 1600s) was used as the official flag of Canada until 1965. For historical accuracy, Ashcroft chose to have the Union Jack flying above her replica of the original St. George's Church.



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