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Correction to last issue!

The article "No extension for Ernie Bodin tenants" in the first print copies of the January 11th Buzzette stated that CHMM (Mackenzie & Area Radio Society) in addition to rent support, received \$25,350 as a one-time grant from the District to help with relocation costs. In fact, the one-time sum granted was \$2,000. The Buzzette apologizes for the error.

PG: Driest year since 1918

Despite a wetter than normal December, Prince George experienced its driest year on record since 1918 with a total of 342.3 mm of precipitation recorded at the airport for 2023, much less than the more typical 594 mm annually, according to the Prince George Citizen. The region was at drought level 4 at the end of November.

Mackenzie and region were at drought level 3 as of November 30, and the Peace region at drought level 5.



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Where are the RCMP reports?

Mackenzie RCMP's monthly Mayor's Report will no longer include Investigations of Interest, a list of incidents the detachment responded to each month, excerpts of which were published in *The Buzzette* every month as well.

Responding to a council query, new Detachment Commander Chris Bezaire told the Committee of the Whole this week that the inclusion of detailed incident information in the Mayor's Reports was "over-reporting" and is not typically part of the monthly report to a local council. He said some incident details have to be treated as protected information.

Monthly RCMP reports are published in council agendas for Committee of the Whole. A quick survey by *The Buzzette* found that the Investigations of

See 'RCMP' over →

News of the Odd:

An 1800s silk bustle dress bought in 2014 at an antique shop

became an enigma for amateur cryptologists over the next seven years.

Found inside a secret pocket were cryptic notes scrawled on two scrunched up papers, with one readable phrase stating: "Bismark Omit leafage buck bank / Paul Ramify loamy event false new event."

The puzzle became one of the top 50 unsolved encrypted messages until a University of Manitoba data analyst finally cracked the code.

After numerous decoding attempts, Wayne Chan deduced that the codes were a sophisticated way to telegraph condensed weather observations for stations across the United States and Canada in the year 1888. The reason? That remains a mystery.

Williston Reservoir operations open house

BC Hydro is hosting open houses in Hudson's Hope and Mackenzie to discuss Williston Reservoir operations. Members of the public are invited to attend.

Due to low inflows from ongoing drought, below average water levels are forecast for Williston Reservoir this spring.

Hudson's Hope public information session:

- Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024
- Time: 6:00pm to 7:00pm MST
- Location: Hudson's Hope Community Hall, 10315 Kylo St., Hudson's Hope

Mackenzie public information session:

- Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024
- Time: 6:00pm to 7:00pm PST
- Location: Mackenzie Recreation Centre, Sas Da'Ghe room, 400 Skeena Drive, Mackenzie

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The Macktown Buzzette

Jan 25 -
Feb 7, 2024

Short-term rentals rules need updating: Council

In a bid to address a rising demand for short-term rentals in the community, the District is contemplating updates to its bylaws, and will present amendments to Council in the weeks to come.

Current rules allow for hotels and bed-and-breakfasts but not for other kinds of rentals, such as those on platforms like Airbnb and VRBO.

A staff report says there has been an expressed need for more short-term rentals in the community. Organizers for the upcoming Community Forest Association AGM in June, an event that is expected to bring up to 250 participants

to Mackenzie, have also expressed concerns about a room shortage.

The report says an update to the rules could improve professional recruitment and local services by freeing up more accommodation for travel nurses and physicians, industrial workers, and encourage more conferences and sporting events.

The proposed change coincides with the Province's announcement of tighter regulations including, among other things, a principal residence requirement, and a mandate for operators to display valid business licenses.

Rare earth project generates buzz

An agreement to partner on a rare earth elements (REE) mine north of Prince George was announced last week between the McLeod Lake Indian Band (MLIB) and Defense Metals of Vancouver.

Wicheeda mine, planned as an open pit project 35 kilometres east of Bear Lake, would produce neodymium and praseodymium, metals that the company says are

used in the production of green energy and defence technologies.

Once running, the mine is projected to employ a work force of 200 full-time with a capacity to produce 25,000 tonnes of rare earth oxide, 10% of the global supply of REE, according to company statements. The raw product would initially be shipped to China for processing, according to the Prince George Citizen.

See 'Wicheeda' over →

Nordic skiing event in PG

The Caledonia Nordic Ski Club will be welcoming over 300 athletes to the Teck BC Cup this weekend in Prince George.

The event offers a chance for young and upcoming club skiers to challenge themselves against peers from other clubs. It serves as a stepping stone for those aspiring to compete at the national level.

The public is invited to enjoy the events. Admission is free. Check the club website for any changes due to weather.

www.caledonianordic.com

Quotes:

"We are not all in the 'same boat'. We are in the same storm. Some have yachts, some have canoes, and some are drowning. Just be kind and help when you can."

— Seen on coffee shop sandwich board

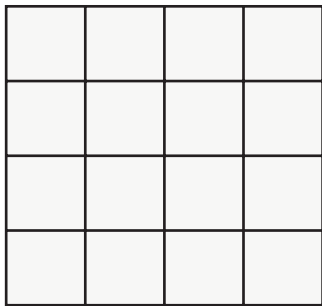
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PLAY FOUR



WORD MORPH from last issue: FIVE -
DIVE - DOVE - DOPE - POPE - POPS

Marriage is like a game of chess except the board is flowing water, the pieces are made of smoke and no move you make will have any effect on the outcome. – Jerry Seinfeld



'RCMP'...

Interest write-ups were a recent addition, beginning in 2019. They did not appear in reports from earlier years, at least going back to 2008.

Bezaire also reported that Mackenzie will see fewer court dates in the coming year, with some months seeing no court dates at all, due to decisions made in the circuit court.

'Wicheeda'...

MLIB also announced an equity purchase of 2.6 million common shares in the company. The project agreement will see "a joint planning approach, empowering MLIB to play an integral part in the design and decision-making".

The project is still in its exploratory and planning phase.

2024 Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP 3) Mackenzie Natural Resource District

Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (Canfor), and Nak'al Koh Timber Ltd. have prepared a draft Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP 3) to replace the current approved version of the existing Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) for operations in the Mackenzie Natural Resource District. **The Draft Plan is available for public review starting on January 31, 2024.**

FSP 3 is required to:

- Replace the existing approved Forest Stewardship Plan;
- Update the licenses and agreement holders to which the plan applies; and
- Review Results/Strategies for revision as necessary.

In accordance with the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, the draft Plan, FSP 3, is available for public review and comment from January 31, 2024 to April 2, 2024 at the following locations during regular office hours (8:00 am to 4:00 pm):

Canadian Forest Products Ltd., 5162 Northwood Pulpmill Road, P.O. Box 9000, Prince George BC V2L 4W2; Phone: (250) 962-3343
Email: Shannon.Burbee@canfor.com

Please make arrangements for viewing at our office by contacting the phone number listed above. Representatives will be available to discuss the draft Plan (FSP 3) at the above office location and to receive comment(s).

If an interested party is unable to review the draft Plan (FSP 3) during regular business hours, please contact us by phone or in writing to arrange a suitable time.

Mackenzie Mixed Dart League Standings

January 24, 2024

1. Dart Vaders 66
2. Outsiders 65
3. We Can Fix That 56
4. Sharp Shooters 42
5. Shazaam 42
6. Cereal Killers 40
7. Blazing Darts 40
8. Double Vision 35

High Scores: Nathan 100, 121; Dick 120; Ben 114; Steve 140; Dave 100, 108; Nate 122; Collin 117; Joe 125 x 2, 100; Arlene 116; Mike 100; Luke 121

Low Scores: Collin, Cindy, Ashley, Erik, Doug, Anita, Luke x2, Darci, Jim, Joe, Christine

~ COMMUNITY NOTES ~

MINOR HOCKEY Tournament Jan 26 - 28. U-18 Jepson Petro Knights. Allan Sheppard Arena @ the Rec Centre.

TECK BC CUP Nordic Skiing competition. Jan 27 - 28, 9 am - 3 pm. 8141 Otway Rd., Prince George. Free for spectators.

WALK TO ITALY Join us for a 9,966 km walk to Rome, Italy! Starts January 29 and runs to April 22. Register at 250-997-5283 or recoffice@districtofmackenzie.ca.

ALZHEIMER CARE-GIVER SUPPORT GROUP Jan 29th, Noon - 1:30 pm @ Mackenzie Community Services.

SCAMS and IDENTITY THEFT Webinar Jan 30th, noon. Sign up at peopleslawschool.ca

HOUSE CONCERT Jan 30th: Mimi O'Bonsawin & Noelle Frances. Doors 6:30 pm. Concert starts 7 pm. Tickets \$25. BYOB. Contact Linda at (250) 997-3013.

2024 VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW Jan 31 to Feb 4. BC Place & Granville Island. Tickets VancouverBoatShow.ca

CURL MACKENZIE FUNSPIEL Saturday Feb 3rd, 10 am - 4 pm followed by pizza, prizes, drinks @ the Elks. Register as a team or individual, Rec Centre front desk. \$45/player.

Did you know?

- Cats are more popular than dogs. In America an estimate is 88 million cats vs 74 million dogs.
- Cats make more than 100 sounds. Dogs only make 10.
- Female cats are typically right-pawed. Males are typically left-pawed.
- When a cat chases its prey, it keeps its head level. Dogs and humans bob their heads up and down.
- Every claw on a cat's paw points the same way. To get down from a tree, a cat must back down
- Owning a cat is said to reduce your heart attack risk by more than a third.
- A group of cats is called a "clowder."

CURL MACKENZIE RAFFLE 1st prize \$1000 coop food card; 2nd prize \$500 Mackenzie Bucks; 3rd prize \$250 Petro Canada fuel card

WILLISTON RESERVOIR OPEN HOUSE Feb 8th, 6 - 7 pm Rec Centre. BC Hydro presentation (*See notice front page*). All welcome.

"OLDIE-WEDS" GAME Mackenzie Public Library. Feb 9th, 1 pm. Compete with your spouse, friend, grandchild to see how well you know each other! Sign up @ the Library (250) 997-6343

INTERESTED IN MIXED MARTIAL ARTS? Seeking core group of dedicated students to teach once a week. Fedo de Baat: 250-997-3722

KIDS PROGRAMS @ MCAC Imagination Market, Caribou Club, Open Studio Weds to Sats 3:30 - 5 pm. Also "Saturdays With..." drop-off crafting and free play, noon - 2 pm every Saturday. Pre-register: (250) 997-5818.

THROWBACK DANCE PARTY Saturday, Feb 10th, 8 pm at the Legion. Music and karaoke from the '80s to the 2000s. Dress the part! Fundraiser for Mackenzie Community Services. Tix \$10.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS Monday Night Music @ the Baptist Church, Song Circle / Jam night. 7 - 9 pm

 **thebuzzette@gmail.com**

Maurice Austin Callaghan

December 17, 1937 – January 15, 2024



Maurice Austin Callaghan, formerly of Chase, Mackenzie, Wells, Honeymoon Creek, Prince George, McBride, and Cold Lake passed away on January 15, 2024, in Prince George, BC, at the age of 86.

Maurice was born in Cold Lake, Alberta, and was the youngest of twelve siblings. He was an outdoorsman and loved to go hunting, fishing and camping. He was a very skilled heavy equipment operator. He was always willing to lend a

helping hand and loved to fix things and be a part of the action. He enjoyed spending time with his family and playing cards, going on adventures, and attending his children's and grandchildren's activities. He was a member of The Knights of Columbus.

Maurice is survived by his children Maureen (Hans), Louise (Mike), David (Brenda), Naomi (Todd), his brother Art, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his mother Elizabeth Curtin, his father Dennis Callaghan, his spouse Cecilia, his sisters Lucille, Loretta, Margaret, Mary, and his brothers Pat, Bernard, Dennis, William, George and Fergus.

Prayers will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Assman's Funeral Chapel, 1908 Queensway Street, Prince George, BC. The Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, January 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, 887 Patricia Blvd., Prince George, BC. A live stream service will be available for those unable to attend in person. Following the service, a Celebration of Life will be held at David Callaghan's residence at 1429 Shady Valley Road, Prince George, BC for family and close friends. The burial service will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Chase Cemetery in Chase, BC.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Maurice may be made to the Prince George Hospice Palliative Care Society.

Condolences may be offered at:
www.AssmansFuneralChapel.com

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble to spell out three home appliances.

vow over iceman _ _ _ _ _

shared wish _ _ _ _ _

rear tire frog _ _ _ _ _

The Buzzette is a community news flyer for Mackenzie BC and area, published every second Thursday and distributed to restaurants, businesses and public venues around town and on Highway 97. An e-edition is also available online. You can support The Buzzette by advertising, liking or sharing it on Facebook, or by participating! Share your news, pics, events, puzzles, bad jokes. Call (250) 997-5038. E-mail: TheBuzzette@gmail.com  themacktownbuzzette.com  /macktownbuzzette