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## Lethal force justified in Mack Mall apprehension: IIOBC

Local police acted in accordance to duty in apprehending a man outside Mackenzie Mall last June, the Independent Investigations Office of B.C. concluded in a report released January 27.

The man had attempted to cash a cheque at a bank that bore the signature of a person whom the bank cashier knew had died in 2021, according to the report. The cashier called police and kept the man waiting until officers arrived.

A cell phone video recording by a bystander captured the interaction outside the north mall entrance which led to the suspect's death.

The apprehending officer, who had left the mall with the suspect ahead of his partner, began to have difficulty in controlling the man.

Two civilians, a woman and a man, attempted to intervene to help the officer but the suspect gained

*See 'IIOBC' over →*

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## Service cuts weighed in District budget crunch

A long-anticipated revenue shortfall of \$1.7 million has left the District facing an operational deficit of just over \$1 million for 2025.

Chief Financial Officer Kerri Borne has been presenting the financial outlook to both council and the community.

A major factor in the shortfall is the loss of industrial tax revenue. Two major properties, shuttered for several years, were downgraded to Level 2 closure last year. Borne said this means that equipment has been removed and operations are not intended to resume. The resulting tax contribution from the reclassification drops significantly.

A big shocker from Borne's presentation is the overall drop in the portion of tax revenue coming from local major indus-

*See 'Budget crunch' over →*

## AI beagle helps users with legal

A canine chatbot launched last year at People's Law School, a non-profit legal information society in B.C., is one of the first legal chatbots to be powered by generative artificial intelligence. It has helped over 6,000 users to navigate legal problems, with 99% accuracy.

The bot has been presented at legal conferences around North America. You can access it at [peopleslawschool.ca](http://peopleslawschool.ca).

## CNC layoffs

Although it has released no news, CNC Mackenzie campus has begun laying off administrative staff, according to remarks made by Mayor Atkinson at the last council meeting. The mayor remarked that up to half of the administrative team at the Mackenzie campus have received layoff notices.

A federal change last year to rules for international enrolment has affected college budgets around the country.

*(See also Buzzette Nov 28 issue.)*

## Did you know?

Residents of a town in the Yakutia region of Russia, which gets temperatures down to -70 C, have no running water. They have to melt blocks of frozen river water for their daily washing and cooking.

Their houses are constructed of wood, which is the only material that can handle the temperature swings from extreme cold to summer heat.

During the coldest parts of winter they cannot hang their laundry in the house because any extra humidity inside the house could cause cracks the wood beams. They dry their laundry outside, with the clothes freezing in seconds once on the line.



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# The Macktown Buzzette

Feb 6 - 19, 2025

## SD57 navigates next 10 years

Consolidating Morfee Elementary and Mackenzie Secondary schools is one preliminary recommendation from School District 57's Long Range Facilities Plan, discussed by the School Board at its last meeting.

The plan, drafted by a consultant, also calls for disposal of excess properties, including Mountainview, and three school closures elsewhere in the district.

SD57 projects a decline in student enrolment over the next decade. While the total population within the district is expected to grow by 9.1%—reaching 115,360 by 2033—the school-age population (ages 5-17) is set to decline by nearly 10%.

Mackenzie's enrolment numbers in 2023 stood at 299 elementary students, and 276 at the secondary level. By 2033, those numbers are expected to drop to 193 elementary students and 240 secondary students.

Overall, School District 57 anticipates a 9.3% decline in full-time equivalent (FTE) students, amounting to 1,200 fewer students over the next decade. The decline will be most pronounced at the elementary level, with an expected decrease of 1,033 students, or 13.7%.

Capacity utilization for the school district as a whole is expected to decrease to 81%, adding 1,200 surplus student spaces over the next 10 years. With the projected decline in enrolment at Morfee Elementary and Mackenzie Secondary,

*See 'Next 10 years' over →*

## Quotes:

“Let the future tell the truth, and evaluate each one according to his work and accomplishments. The present is theirs; the future, for which I have really worked, is mine.”

— Nikola Tesla

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## Trivia:

What former U.S. president was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame? (Answer over →)



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Mackenzie Mixed Dart League Standings

February 5, 2025

High Scores:		Low Scores:
Nathen 100;	Dick 100 x 2;	Shawna x2,
Jarrold 100; Darren	105, 114; Luke	Maggie, Darren,
100; Cory 100 x 3;	Jim 133, 121;	Luke x3, Barry,
Anita 114; Ashley	100	Janette, Pia,
		Danny, Erik x2,
		Sandra, Arlene,
		Mike

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'IIOBC'...

control and was sitting on top of the officer and holding a pistol.

It was at that moment that the apprehending officer discharged his firearm and was able to get out from underneath the suspect. The second officer arrived at that point and saw the suspect slumped over with a gunshot wound to the

neck. The suspect was taken by ambulance to hospital where he was declared dead.

Forensic firearms examinations found that the suspect's firearm was a 9 mm printed plastic gun, loaded with 9 mm ammunition.

The Independent Investigations Office of British Columbia is an independent, civilian-led agency.

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CRYPTO-QUOTE

MEF THUGM MKBF MH EPQF P EFPUM  
PMMPLC KG YDUKRW P WPBF HX  
LEPUPYFG. - YFBFMUK BPUMKR

MINI CROSS from Jan 25: Select answers Across: 1. Suspect 3. Captive 5. Guides. 8. Spray. Down: 2. Uranus 3. Septics 7. Tyee  
WORD MORPH: windy - winds - minds - mines - miles - males - gales  
- gates  
TRIVIA ANSWER: Abraham Lincoln ... in 1992! A competent wrestler, Lincoln was defeated only once in roughly 300 matches.

I saw a sign the other day that said, "Watch for children." I thought, "That sounds like a fair trade."

'Budget crunch'...

try. In 2014, major industry accounted for 58% of the District's property tax revenue—by 2025, that figure is projected to be just 8%.

Department heads have been identifying cost-saving measures, and Council has reduced its budget for travel, training, and conferences.

However, service cuts are under consideration. One proposal would close the Rec Centre for a half-day on Mondays; another would add a Sunday closure from April to October.

The District has been gathering public input, including at an Open House on

Wednesday night. Feedback will be incorporated into the Provisional Budget presentation in the coming weeks.

In 2020, the District started funding a Financial Stability Reserve and has used some of the funds in previous budgets.

Send in your news!



thebuzzette@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NOTES

MACKENZIE MEN'S HOCKEY TOURNAMENT DANCE Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 9 pm @ the Legion. \$10 @ the door. 19+.

FREE TAX WEBINAR FOR PEOPLE 65+ GST/HST credits, pension splitting, where to find free tax support, and other Canada Revenue Agency services. Feb. 12, 11 am collaboratevideo.net/cra-arc/CRA-69V/

SENIORS COFFEE MEETING w/ Williston Lake Elders Society Feb 13, 2 pm @ the Legion.

EUCHRE February 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm @ the Legion. \$10/team or \$5/person. Doors open at 6 pm. Registration closes at 6:50.

WINTERQUEST Feb 21 - 23 Food, Ice sculptures, Skating, Tobogganing @ John Dahl Park & Spirit Square. More info @ the Rec Centre.

ACCESSIBLE TOURS Side-by-side tours of the WinterQuest ice sculptures for people with mobility challenges. 9am, 9:30am, 10am, 10:30am, Feb 22 & 23. More info: Rec Centre.

LIVING ROOM LIVE is looking for hosts in northern BC for its spring & fall season. Info @ livingroomlive.ca

CURLING CLINIC Feb 21, 5:30 pm. Learn the basics or brush up on your skills. Contact curlmackenzie@gmail.com

YOUTH WEIGHTROOM ORIENTATION Friday, Feb 28, 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Ages 13 - 15. \$30.

BOOK CLUB February: Ali Hazelwood's "Bride". Meet March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5 pm @ the Library.

MAGIC SQUARE

Each row, column and centre diagonal must add up to the same sum. No repeating numbers!

3		16	
15	14		
	7		12
			8

BE MINE

Jodi, I'm so glad you came back. I want you to know that you are loved, so very much. I want to eat your banana bread for the rest of our lives. Lol.

Happy Third Valentines Day Rob. I love you more than salt. From Cheyenne

Happy 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day, Poppet! You're the sweetest part of my every week. Love, Nana

'Next 10 years'...

capacity utilization here will be at 53% and 44%, respectively.

The ministry target for school districts with enrolment greater than 7,500 is 95%, with exceptions for small rural schools.

The School Board will be continuing discussions and gathering community input before deciding on next steps.

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