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Heated Rivalry becomes the focus of new university courses as second season begins filming

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Heated Rivalry becomes the focus of new university courses as second season begins filming

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COURTESY: CRAVE



HEATED RIVALRY IN THE CLASSROOM

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As production begins on the second season of the Canadian hit Heated Rivalry, UVic is bringing the phenomenon into the classroom this fall.

A show about two hockey players falling in love has become something bigger than television, and now students at the University of Victoria (UVic) will have a chance to study exactly why.

As production begins on the second season of the Canadian hit *Heated Rivalry*, UVic is bringing the phenomenon into the classroom this fall with two courses that use the series and its source material to explore storytelling, culture, law and queer representation.



Actors Hudson Williams, left, and Connor Storrie are shown in a scene from Crave's "Heated Rivalry" in this handout image. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Handout - Bell Media (Mandatory Credit)

The courses offer a closer look at what happens when a story moves from the page to the screen, and what it can mean when that story reaches an audience far beyond its Canadian roots.

English 321, *Authors on Screen: Rachel Reid's Heated Rivalry*, using Rachel Reid's bestselling *Game Changers* books and their adaptation as a case study.

Law 357 will explore the relationship between law, sports, popular culture and queer joy, using cultural works such as *Heated Rivalry* to examine how ideas about identity, relationships and belonging are shaped.



Heated Rivalry - (L to R) François Arnaud as Scott Hunter and Robbie G.K. as Kip Grady in Episode 103 of Heated Rivalry. Cr. Sabrina Lantos © 2025

The timing is hard to ignore.

The series, created by Canadian filmmaker Jacob Tierney and based on Reid's books, has become a cultural touchstone since its debut, drawing a global audience to the story of rival hockey players Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov.

It has also helped bring two worlds into the same conversation that have not always comfortably shared the same space: professional hockey and queer culture.

The stories people watch, read and share can become a way to understand changing attitudes about identity, relationships, representation and Canadian culture itself.



This image released by Crave shows Hudson Williams, left, and Connor Storrie in a scene from "Heated Rivalry." (Crave via AP)

And *Heated Rivalry* offers plenty to unpack.

The series has been distributed internationally and is now available in more than 130 countries. Its success has also sent viewers back to Reid’s books and helped shine an international spotlight on Canadian actors, creators and culture.



Emily Hampshire, Edwin Ryding, Robert Naylor, Sabrina Jalees, and Priyanka join Hudson Williams, Connor Storrie, Justice Smith, and Charlie Gillespie.

Season 2 is now in production and is set to premiere on Crave in spring 2027.

At UVic, however, the next chapter of *Heated Rivalry* won't just be something to watch.

It will be something to study.



This image released by HBO Max shows Connor Storrie, left, and Hudson Williams in a scene from the series "Heated Rivalry." (HBO Max via AP)

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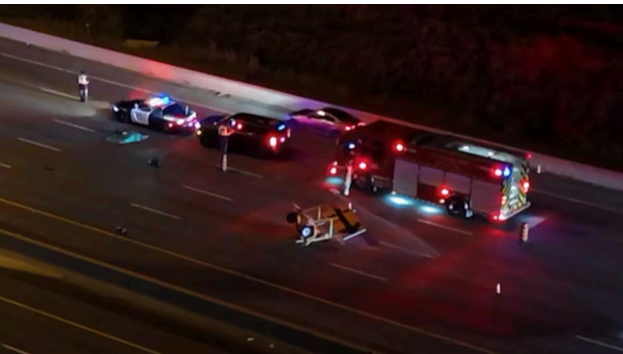
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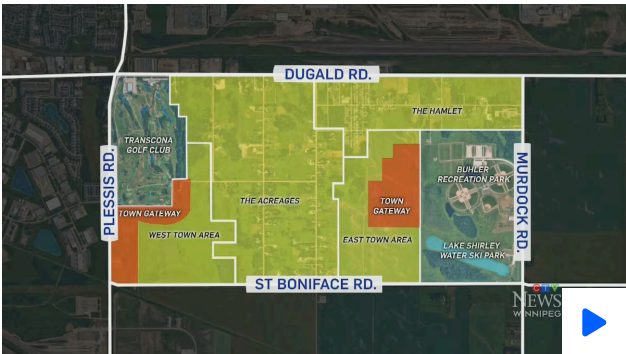
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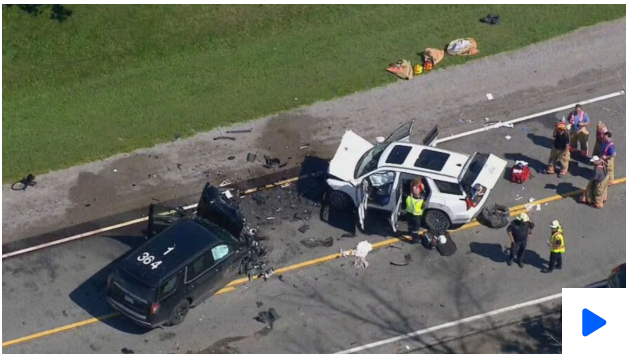
Four critically injured in east London collision



Plane takes off, never comes back: OPP



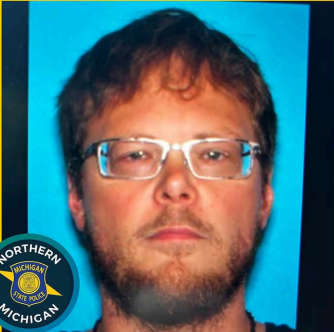
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PERSON OF INTEREST
MISAUKEE COUNTY
SHOOTING

CHAD HICKMAN, 39
Lake City/Jennings, MI resident
May be driving a white pickup

**MAY BE ARMED &
DANGEROUS**

6 dead, including suspect, in series of killings in Michigan



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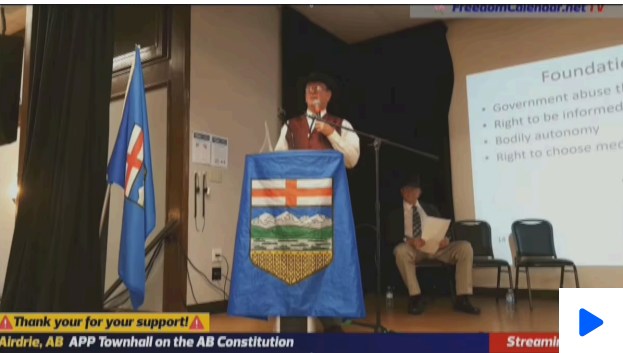
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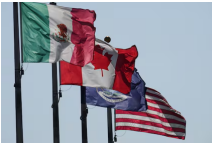


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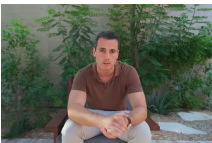


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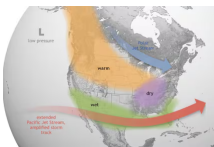


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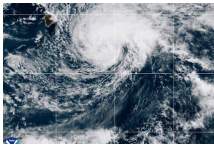


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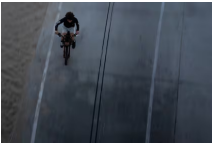


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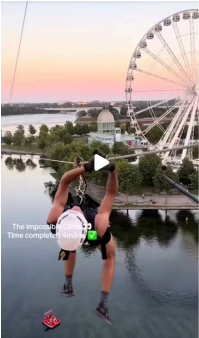
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