

Volunteers recognized with medals

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Bruce Neill and Laura Poppy were each awarded the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal during a ceremony at Government House last week. The award was instituted in 1995 and the silver medal bears the Latin inscription “Nos ipsos dedimus,” which means “We Gave of Ourselves.” Only fifteen recipients were selected from numerous nominations for this year’s provincial recognition.

Neill and Poppy both volunteer with the Saskatchewan RCMP Pipes, Drums and Dancers; Neill is the drum sergeant for the group. Pipe Major Mike Berns nominated both for the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, compiling documentation of their volunteer hours and letters of support from multiple organizations.

Lt.-Gov. Bernadette McIntyre presented the medals on April 29, at the beginning of Volunteer Week in Saskatchewan. Neill’s daughter, granddaughter and brother attended the ceremony and reception, along with Poppy’s father and sister. Pipe Major Berns also attended and Lorne Scott was invited as a representative from the volunteer groups with which the couple has served.

Neill and Poppy noted that they have not engaged in volunteer efforts for the purpose of recognition, but said they appreciate the “thank you” that the award symbolizes and feel it was “a huge honour” to receive it. The couple acknowledged that there are many other dedicated individuals in the community of Indian Head who have made contributions similar to theirs. They recognize that “small rural communities could not survive doing the things they do without volunteers,” so the couple commends their fellow volunteers and is grateful to have served alongside them.

Volunteer Experience

Neill has been an active member of the Indian Head community, not only while working at the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) Shelterbelt Centre and the Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada research farm, but also continuing into his retirement. He assisted with Air Cadets programming, founded the Save the Shelterbelt Centre committee and served on the Indian Head Minor Hockey executive board. Neill was also chair of the committee that oversaw the purchase of the Grand Theatre and its reorganization as a community-owned, volunteer-operated facility. This position also included oversight for extensive restoration projects at the theatre.

Similarly, Poppy is now retired but began volunteering with a variety of groups while working at the PFRA and research farm. She recalls that Lorne Scott and Gord Howe were instrumental in her early involvement with local organizations. Her volunteer experience includes roles with the Community Garden, Communities in Bloom, 4-H club and Nature Saskatchewan.

Although nominated individually for the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, the couple often volunteers together due to their shared interests in nature and outdoor activities. This includes capacities leading Scouts, assisting with high school canoe trips or similar initiatives. They both also volunteer with the RCMP Pipes and Drums Band, Neill since 2005 and Poppy since 2009.

Motivation for Volunteering

The couple agrees that volunteering is simply a response to their feeling of commitment and responsibility to the community. They plan to continue their involvement with volunteer initiatives as long as they are able to do so.

“You see a need and you do it,” Neill explained. “You see a need [and think], ‘How can I make that happen?’”



Sask. Volunteer Medal

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Lt.-Gov. Bernadette McIntyre (second from right) presented Saskatchewan Volunteer Medals to Bruce Neill (far right) and Laura Poppy (second from left) on April 29. Lorne Scott (far left) wrote a letter of support for the medal recipients.

Poppy said that her father provided a positive example for volunteerism. Although he was a busy farmer, he still made time to serve on the board for local organizations such as the credit union or co-op.

“It’s in my blood. I grew up in a volunteer household and it’s what I try to pass on to others,” Poppy said. “Volunteering is such an important thing for our communities. You just do it because it’s the right thing to do, and it makes you feel good. Having a passion, some focus and a purpose is so important for the human condition.”

Advocating for Volunteerism

The volunteer opportunities that Neill and Poppy have embraced often resulted from their personal interests or career experience. After her retirement, Poppy volunteered to assist Gord Howe with his urban tree program as a logical progression of her career and her

enjoyment of the outdoors. She and Neill encourage others to begin volunteering in the same way.

“Volunteer in something that interests you; don’t do it just because you feel a sense of duty but because it’s something that fits your background, your values,” Neill advised.

They offered a word of caution, noting that volunteers can certainly “burn out” if they overcommit, and advised others to be realistic in the extent of responsibilities that they assume. Yet they feel that everyone has something to offer and strongly advocate for volunteer involvement, citing the benefits to mental health and the positive impact on the community.

“It helps our communities but we also help ourselves mentally, physically,” said Poppy. “We meet people, we learn new things, we get new skills, we have adventures and opportunities. This is what volunteering does for people



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Regina Qu'Appelle MP

Scheer back as Opposition leader for the interim

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

As expected, Andrew Scheer will assume the duties of Conservative Opposition leader in the House of Commons when Parliament opens on May 26.

The former party leader will fill the role until Pierre Poilievre, who was defeated on election night, can win the yet to be called by-election in the Alberta riding of Battle River-Crowfoot.

"Pierre will be back in the House in no time," said Scheer who referred to Poilievre as "an inspirational leader."

"We got a record number of votes in the history of our party and the highest percentage of the votes in the modern conservative era," says Scheer. He continues to accentuate the positive and ignores the fact that the Liberals gained even more votes than the conservatives. Poilievre blew a 30-point lead going into the recent election and lost to Mark Carney. Scheer has said it is too early to jump to any conclusion about why the Conservatives lost.

"No one is pretending that we won

the election. We are going to approach our caucus and our party movement with the realization that we cannot do the same thing next time," says Scheer, who was returned as the Member for Regina-Qu'Appelle. He says Conservatives need to find "the missing pieces" that will get them the next four or five percent (needed) to form government "and build on the incredible base that Pierre has built."

The Liberals, with three seats short of a majority, are in a good position to govern for at least five years or until Prime Minister Mark Carney decides to call an election.

Poilievre still faces a leadership review, but in spite of grumbling among some disgruntled conservatives in Eastern Canada, he appears to be in firm control of the party.

"When you look at what the Liberals had to do to win, dump a sitting prime minister, suspend Parliament, rush to quickly install a new leader, call a quick election and take advantage of a crisis from the United States – I don't know how they can recreate those conditions in the next election," said Scheer.



Andrew Scheer, MP for Regina-Qu'Appelle and former leader of the Conservative Party, has been selected as the interim leader for Poilievre.



SOUTHEAST COLLEGE BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT

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- 1 representative for 'rural north communities'
- 1 representative from Weyburn or immediately adjacent communities

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Diversity

Southeast College embraces diversity and inclusivity, actively encouraging

- Inclusion of individuals with disabilities Equal
- gender representation
- Representation of visible minorities
- Participation of women in non-traditional roles

Submission

Southeast College Board of Governors invites interested parties to apply, in writing or email, before 1st June 2025:

CJ Johns, Board Liaison
Southeast College
Box 1565, Weyburn, SK S4H 0T1
Email: CJohns@southeastcollege.org

Please include professional background, previous board experience, if any, and describe your interest/aims in serving on the Board of Southeast College. All submissions will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. The board will review applications before making a recommendation to the Ministry of Advanced Education for Ministerial approval.

Please include a resume with professional background, previous board experience, if any, and describe your interest/aims in serving on the Board of Southeast College. All submissions will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. The board will review applications before making a recommendation to the Ministry of Advanced Education for Ministerial approval.

For further information contact CJ at cjohns@southeastcollege.org or (306) 861-5751

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If a Canada Post strike occurs, updates for delivery options will be posted on our website at www.grasslandsnews.ca

Voting dates for CU merger to be held June 3-13

Open to members of Conexus, Cornerstone and Synergy

Submitted
Grasslands News

Conexus, Cornerstone, and Synergy Credit Unions have announced that the voting period for the recommended *Together for a Thriving Saskatchewan* merger will take place from June 3 to June 13, 2025.

Members from the three credit unions will be able to vote online and in 57 branches across Saskatchewan starting on June 3, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. after a virtual Special Meeting takes place at 5:15 p.m. that day.

Over 200,000 Saskatchewan members across the three credit unions will be able to have their voice heard for the future of their credit union.

Credit union members can register for the Special Meeting by visiting their respective credit union website. The special meeting will officially open the voting period and will include a question-and-answer period. The agenda will include a presentation of the amalgamation agreement and resolution to merge, as well as details on how to vote. It is not a requirement to attend the Special Meeting to be able to vote.

Opportunities to Connect

All members will have opportunities to connect with their credit unions and learn more about the merger throughout May.

Members can visit their respective credit union website for details at:

- Conexus Credit Union: Conexus.ca/vote
- Cornerstone Credit Union: Cornerstonecu.com/en/vote
- Synergy Credit Union: Synergycu.ca/merger

About Together for a Thriving Saskatchewan

Conexus, Cornerstone, and Synergy Credit Unions believe that merging will create a stronger, more resilient credit union that remains member-focused and upholds their shared values. *Together for a Thriving Saskatchewan* is an initiative driven by a shared vision to combine resources and strategic investments to ensure they stay strong, competitive and committed to meeting the needs of members both today and into the future.

Conexus, Cornerstone, and Synergy are encouraging their members to take part in shaping the future of their credit union by voting between June 3 and June 13.

If approved by members and the regulator, the newly combined credit union will officially launch January 1, 2026.

To learn more or to ask questions, visit any branch or the shared website: thrivingtogethersk.ca



Fire Dept. barbecue

Grenfell Fire Department hosted its spring hot dog roast and open house on May 1. The event was well-attended with approximately 160 hot dogs and hot cocoa enjoyed by local residents. Members of the Whitewood Fire Department also attended to show their support.

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Town of Whitewood

Email: general@townofwhitewood.ca
Web Site: www.townofwhitewood.ca

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town of Whitewood Council meets at the town office. Upcoming Council Meeting Date: May 20 and June 10 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held via Zoom. Please contact the office to get access information 306-735-2210.

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POTENTIAL POSTAL STRIKE

Canada Post potentially going on strike starting May 22, please call 306-735-2210 or email general@townofwhitewood.ca with your email address to receive your utility e-notice. Thank you for your cooperation.

VOYENT ALERT

Please contact Town Office to get signed up for important alerts, it is a free service.



WATER METER READS

The Town of Whitewood is asking that residents please send their water meter reads in monthly. This can be done by sending a picture of your water meter to 1-306-853-7122. You may still call the town office with meter reads, as well as entering them through the town website. The town staff will still continue reading meters every three (3) months. This is the best way to be sure that readings are accurate each month.

GARBAGE / RECYCLING

Residents are reminded that Garbage or Recycling Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on collection days. Upcoming **Recycling** Date: Wednesday, May 14 and May 28. Upcoming **Garbage** Date: Wednesday, May 21 and June 4.

TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Whitewood Town Council and staff strive to improve the quality of life for the people who live and work in our community. We welcome your comments, questions and feedback.

The Town office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Phone: 306-735-2210 - Fax: 306-735-2262
Email: general@townofwhitewood.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have an event you want advertised please email the town office with your dates.

Swimming Lessons two-week session June 16-20 and 23-27;
One-week session July 21-25; and one-week session August 4-8
June 21st – Whitewood Fire Department Golf Tournament
July 5th – Whitewood Legion Golf Tournament

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 9th - Whitewood Annual Events Day
Throughout the day activities will include:

• Bouncers • Outdoor Curling • Food Trucks • Free Swimming • U11 & U13 - 3 on 3 Hockey Tournament • Whitewood Wiggles & Giggles Golf Tourney

Evening will include:

- Entertainment from local entertainer Shaya Istace
- Street Dance featuring The Resistors
- Food Trucks

PETS

Pets are to be kept in your yard, not to be freely running around town. When you are out walking with your pet, please remember to clean up after them.

RUBBISH PICK-UP

Rubbish pick-up be from May 20 to May 23, leaves must be bagged and trees cut to 4' lengths.

CLEAN UP DAY



Join Us for Clean Up Day! Let's make our community sparkle—volunteer and make a difference.

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Building bureaucracy: Part one

Construction codes affect residential building projects

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

Although some municipalities choose to appoint their own building official, many opt to contract the services of a building official through a private company such as Professional Building Inspections (PBI).

As Bob Baker (Owner of PBI) explains: "We are a private inspection agency in Southern Saskatchewan, where we provide the inspection service and fill the role of building official for about 200 municipalities. PBI is contracted directly with the municipality to provide that service, and the municipality appoints each building official from PBI to do the work for them, representing them on the construction projects. And we can look after all residential and commercial projects for any municipality that contacts us requiring this service."

Baker says that process of completing a residential building project begins with an application for a Development Permit.

"A Development Permit looks at things like drainage, setback requirements, servicing (water, sewer), zoning and other factors related to development. If the Development Permit is approved by the municipality, then the building owner can apply for a Building Permit."

Even a quick perusal of the informational material available from PBI (which Baker confirms is both current and accurate) makes it clear that almost all residential building projects require a Building Permit.

It's been a long winter. Now that spring appears to be here, many are turning their attention to the building projects or home renovations that they would like to accomplish this season.

However, many of those eager to get a start on their project may not know that there is a foundation, consisting of legislation, regulations and standards, which must be in place before a shovel can hit the ground or a board fastened into place.

The cornerstone of this foundation is The Construction Codes Act (CC Act) & Regulations which came into force on January 1, 2022.

Through the CC Act, the 2020 editions of the National Building Code, the National Energy Code for Buildings and the National Plumbing Code became construction standards for the province.

Municipalities and all other local authorities (regardless of size or population) are required to administer and enforce the CC ACT for all buildings within their jurisdiction. In order to do this, a municipality is required to adopt a building bylaw under the CC ACT and issue Building Permits. As well, a municipality or local authority must appoint a building official.

It is the building official appointed by a municipality who reviews building plans and conducts the building inspections that are required by the CC Act and the local building bylaw.



Lifetime Achievement

Former Melville Regional Park employees Duwayne Armbruster and Howard Stein were each awarded the George Rathwell Lifetime Achievement Awards. Pictured are Suzanne Beck, Chair of the Melville Regional Park Authority accepting on behalf of Howard Stein, Mike Armbruster accepting on behalf of Duwayne Armbruster, and Madison Giesbrecht, executive director of the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association.

A Building Permit is required for new homes built on-site, RTM, modular and manufactured homes, garages, carports, boat houses, temporary buildings or structures and any structure or any occupancy that is larger than ten square meters.

Renovations and alterations affecting structural members or safety features (such as bedroom windows), additions to existing buildings, basement development, secondary suites, foundation repairs or replacements, roof replacements and decks or platforms more than 300 mm (12") above ground level all require a Building Permit as well.

A Building Permit is also needed for work involving retaining walls that could affect a structure or are near a property and anyone wishing to install a fireplace, wood stoves or roof mounted solar panels. Moreover, a building owner must have a Building Permit in order to move a building, change its' use, demolish it or remedy an unsafe

condition or fire inspection order.

Building Permits are not typically required for fences, driveways, side-walks, and parking lots, replacement of materials like shingles or siding, cosmetic upgrades not affecting structural members or safety features, or accessory buildings less than 10 square meters (such as a garden shed or tool shed).

An application for a Building Permit will initiate a Plan Review, which is done by the building official to assess a building owner's plan against the standard. In its informational material, PBI lists various documents that may be required for the Plan Review, such as a Site Plan, Building Plan, Energy Code Forms, a Foundation Design (stamped by a Structural Engineer) or a Geotechnical Report.

Baker explains that these documents are needed to ensure the plan is code compliant.

"These are the forms and information that we require to do our review and ensure compliance with the Building Code. And it shouldn't matter if it's PBI doing the Plan Review or a building official that works directly for the municipality. The same documents should be required for a Plan Review for these specific projects.

"A foundation that is above the frost line for example, requires a design done by a professional engineer. And the form that we have for energy efficiency is very complicated because energy efficiency is very complicated. Most homeowners won't be able to fill that out on their own and will need a professional designer to do that."

Baker adds that for some projects, PBI has also created Specifications Sheets to help building owners provide



Park on the Move

The Melville Regional Park was awarded the Park on the Move Award during the Saskatchewan Regional Parks awards ceremony on April 25. Pictured are Suzanne Beck, Chair of the Melville Regional Park Authority and Susan Schroeffer, Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association Board Member. During the presentation they highlighted how the park was cleaned up over the year.

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the information needed to complete the Plan Review.

"We created Specifications Sheets for decks, covered decks, accessory buildings such as detached garages, basement developments and several other types of projects, to make the process easier for people and ensure that they are better able to provide us with the information we need. In the case of a deck, for example, we have created a form. A person can fill that form out and show us their Site Plan, and we can use that for the Plan Review."

Baker notes however, that an engineer's stamp does not necessarily guarantee that the plan will be approved.

"Many people assume that once a document is stamped by an engineer or architect, that it is good to go, and that is not always the case. Engineers and architects are specialists in their field, but they don't actually get Building Code training. Building officials get Building Code training. That's what we do. We're making sure that the plan is code compliant. And we are seeing a lot of plans returned to us that are not acceptable because they are not code compliant."

If the plan is deemed to be compliant with the Building Code, the Plan Review is completed, the building owner is issued a Building Permit by the municipality and construction can begin. However, the building owner is required to have building inspections done at specific points during the construction process.

Although the number of inspections needed may vary depending on the project, the PBI lists these inspections in its informational material as being required for residential projects:

Foundation: Prior to

pouring, once footings, weeping tile (if required), and forms with rebar are in place.

Anchoring: Prior to backfilling for PWF foundations. Prior to skirting the mobile home. Prior to insulating RTM basement perimeter walls or insulating the attached garage.

Framing: Prior to insulating, once framing is complete and plumbing, heating and electrical are roughed in.

Insulation & Vapor Barrier: Prior to covering the insulation and vapour barrier with gypsum board or other material.

Occupancy: Prior to occupancy, before moving in or sleeping overnight. If all work is not completed, a final inspection will be required.

Final Inspection: Done when construction complete and all interior and exterior work complete. The project must pass Final Inspection to close the Building Permit.

As well, Baker notes that, "If an inspection fails, there may be a re-inspection. Or if an owner decides to change something or add to the project, there may need to be an additional inspection."

This regulatory 'foundation' may be familiar to residents in urban municipalities who have successfully completed construction projects in the past. Although the standard used is new, the process for completing a project is essentially the same as what was in place under previous legislation.

However, for those living on farms, The Construction Codes Act & Regulations has brought about some significant changes. Next week, we'll take a look at those changes and some of the challenges that come with attempting to apply this standard on a farm.

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Echo Lake road race to celebrate centennial

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

It rained for three hours on the Victoria Day weekend before the first Echo Lake Marathon began in 1925 but newspaper accounts of the day reported that more than 4,000 people gathered for “one of the biggest sporting events of Southern Saskatchewan.”

That was the year the Regina Leader sponsored a trophy “to offer marathoners, numerous in the making, a new opportunity to show their abilities in a road race in Fort Qu'Appelle to be run in conjunction with the annual field day of the Great War Veterans Association.” After the Regina Leader and the Regina Evening Post became one paper in 1930, the Leader-Post and the Legion continued to sponsor the race for the next 24 years. It was cancelled in 1937 because of bad weather and again in 1943, 44 and 45 because of the war.

This year the race marks the centennial of its beginnings on Sunday, May 18. It is the oldest event of its kind sanctioned by Saskatchewan Athletics, but it was discontinued after the Second World War for lack of interest. Then in 1976 the late Humphrey Bartlett recovered the Leader trophy from the family of the last man to win it in 1948, Fred McNabb.

Bartlett and the late Derek Harrison persuaded the Lions Club to revive the marathon and added more categories to get more runners interested, including the Paul LaSuisse Trophy in memory

of a fleet footed runner from Standing Buffalo First Nation who won the race in the 1930s and qualified for the 1940 Tokyo Olympics.

The present race co-ordinator Jerry Banks recalls that not all of the names of the previous winners were on the trophy when Bartlett found it. A painstaking search through microfiche files was required to have the names of all the winners engraved on the trophy.

The race was revived and has been run every year since 1977 except for the two years of the pandemic. It was almost cancelled in 1997 when a foot of snow fell the evening before, but the road was cleared, and that year Darren Burrows won the race after completing the course in -1C temperatures.

“One of the nice things about the race is that it continues to be run on almost the identical course that it followed in 1925,” said Banks. “It has to be seen as a piece of Saskatchewan history; I think.”

Richard Gill, a farm boy who trained as an athlete by walking behind a team of horses won it in 1942 and ran it again in 1987. “In the 1940s we ran around the lake on a coarse gravel road. There were potholes and tall grass everywhere. It really was rough when it began. It is pavement all the way around now,” he recalled in a 1987 interview.

No one has broken the record set by Bruce Raymer who completed the race in 1 hour, 4 minutes and 23 seconds in 1955 but Ted Jelata has won the race a record 16 times and is expected to be on the



Ted Jelata (left) who has won the Echo Lake Road Race 16 times since it began in 1925 seen here with Don Burrel Bizoza (right) who won the Leader Trophy two years ago.

ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS FILES

course again this year competing for the Bartlett Trophy which is awarded to the oldest runner in the competition. About 100 people are expected to be competing for the Leader Trophy this year.

Sask Firefighters training in Melville this weekend

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Approximately 150 firefighters from across Saskatchewan will be in Melville this weekend to take part in the Saskatchewan Volunteer Firefight-

ers Association (SVFFA) spring fire school. This year's spring event is being hosted by the Melville Fire Department, who last hosted a SVFFA school in the fall of 2021.

The SVFFA hosts fire training schools throughout the province every spring and fall. The schools provide an opportunity for volunteer fire-

fighters from both small and large fire departments to hone their skills in a variety of courses, including basic firefighting, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), ladders and ropes, forcible entry, wildlife firefighting, vehicle extrication, building inspections, pump operations, vehicle fires, traffic and heavy

rescue extrication.

The weekend will see most of the training take place as the Suncrest College fire training grounds with the exceptions of the SCBA course which will be held at the fire hall and the building inspections course which will be held at various locations throughout the community. Firefighters will also

be using Melville Comprehensive School for classes on Friday evening. A trade show and luncheon will be held at the Merv Moore Sportsplex while the banquet and social on Saturday evening will be held at the CN Community Centre.

The SVFFA's fall fire school will be held in Swift Current.

Saskatchewan is served by approximately 6,500 volunteer firefighters who fight more than 90 per cent of all fires in the province.



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Petition urging SK separation referendum emerges

By Provincial
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan NDP is demanding Scott Moe speak out against talk of a vote to leave Canada as a longtime ally of the Premier has launched an online petition calling for a Saskatchewan separation referendum.

The petition, launched by Nadine Ness through her Unified Grassroots organization, comes after Moe refused to answer repeated reporter questions Thursday on whether he supported a referendum on separating from Canada and even refused to tell reporters how he would vote if such a thing were to occur.

“You're getting a little over your skis,” Moe told a reporter who asked him to commit to voting to staying in Canada.

“Yesterday, Trump reiterated his threats about Canada becoming the 51st state. He wants to divide us so he can conquer us. In response? We have Scott Moe, a supposed leader who won't even commit to voting in favour of keeping Canada together,” said Aleana Young. Saskatche-

wan NDP Jobs & Economy Shadow Minister.

“Instead, we have Scott Moe leaving the door open to secessionists – because they're his friends. Barely six months after nearly losing the election, the Sask Party is back, quietly kowtowing to the fringes of their base.”

“This is a complete failure of leadership at a time when we need to be uniting Canada and building our infrastructure from coast to coast in order to protect and grow our economy, create jobs and secure our future.”

The anti-Canada separatist group Unified Grassroots has had a direct line to Premier Moe in the past. In 2021, Moe spoke with its leader, Nadine Ness, for a full hour – a sign of their influence over the Sask Party's political agenda. As of late Sunday, her petition was garnering online signatures in support of a referendum to, “empower the provincial government to negotiate new terms for Saskatchewan's relationship whether as part of Canada or as an independent nation.”

“Scott Moe's own friends and insiders are the ones talking about leaving Can-

ada,” Young said. “Clearly, this is why the Premier has been so weak when it comes to standing up for our country. He would risk our economy to appease radicals who no longer want to be Canadian – this is a stunning failure of leadership at such a critical moment for our country.”

Similar to the one

launched by Ness, a petition in Alberta has garnered tens of thousands of signatures. Alberta Premier Danielle Smith recently lowered the threshold to trigger a referendum, leading to widespread speculation there may soon be a vote on Alberta leaving confederation.

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OPINION

Silly antics aren't for prime ministers

Prime Minister Mark Carney made his first official visit with the United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday where it was obvious that President Trump liked Prime Minister Carney a lot more than he liked (former) prime minister Trudeau.

"I think Canada chose a very talented person," said Trump, congratulating Carney on his election win, which he called "one of the greatest comebacks ... Maybe even better than mine."

Trump had a dislike for previous PM Justin Trudeau and former deputy prime minister Chrystia Freeland (who is in Carney's Cabinet).

Carney may be a step up from Trudeau but really, what does it take to get a prime minister in Canada that shows maturity, respect and doesn't need to claim the spotlight with silly antics!

At this most important meeting with the man who is threatening the demise of Canada by pushing tariffs onto our country that could have serious consequences for every Canadian, and whether Trump's serious or not, the takeover of our country, this was a very precarious meeting. Knowing the reactions of Trump at prior meetings with other country's representatives, one would think that Carney would have responded in a manner that showed the seriousness of the situation.

I'm referring to Carney responding to a question during the meeting while sitting next to the President regarding Canada becoming the 51st state. Carney, rightfully so, said the country "is not for sale (and) won't be for sale ever."

"Never say never," said the president.

"Never, never, never, never, never," Carney emphatically was caught mouthing from one camera angle and with a smile on his face.

The president may not have seen this, but you can bet he had been enlightened on the action by the end of the day!

Responses such as this are nothing more than egotistic actions that can reverse the respect and the future actions of the president who has now seen he was being mimicked behind his back.

If Carney doesn't feel that President Trump is any real threat, one can only wonder what he feels about all the talk, petitions and increasing pressure regarding separatism now gaining speed in our country.

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith tabled a bill that would make it easier for voters there to force recalls and referendums. On Monday, Smith said she will hold a referendum on separation in Alberta next year if citizens gather enough signatures on a petition. Smith said she does not support Alberta separating from Canada, but she has often rallied against how the Liberals have governed the resource-rich province and pushed for Alberta to have more independence and autonomy.

The leader of the sovereigntist Parti Québécois is throwing his support behind a possible referendum in Alberta, applauding Premier Danielle Smith for standing up for her province.

The PQ has launched two referendums on Quebec sovereignty – in 1980 and 1995 – and lost both. St-Pierre Plamondon promises to hold a third by 2030 if his party forms government in next year's provincial election.

In Saskatchewan, a petition calling for a provincial referendum on Saskatchewan's sovereignty has garnered nearly 2,000 signatures in three days. The petition, launched by advocacy group Unified Grassroots on May 2, aims to "empower the provincial government to negotiate new terms for Saskatchewan's relationship whether as part of Canada or as an independent nation."

The provincial government said they do not support separation from Canada.

"I'm a proud Canadian, all members of this side of the house are," Saskatchewan Finance Minister Jim Reiter said. "We're not interested in separation.... We're also not interested in muzzling the voices of people who want to use freedom of speech." (i.e. the legislation on plebiscites).

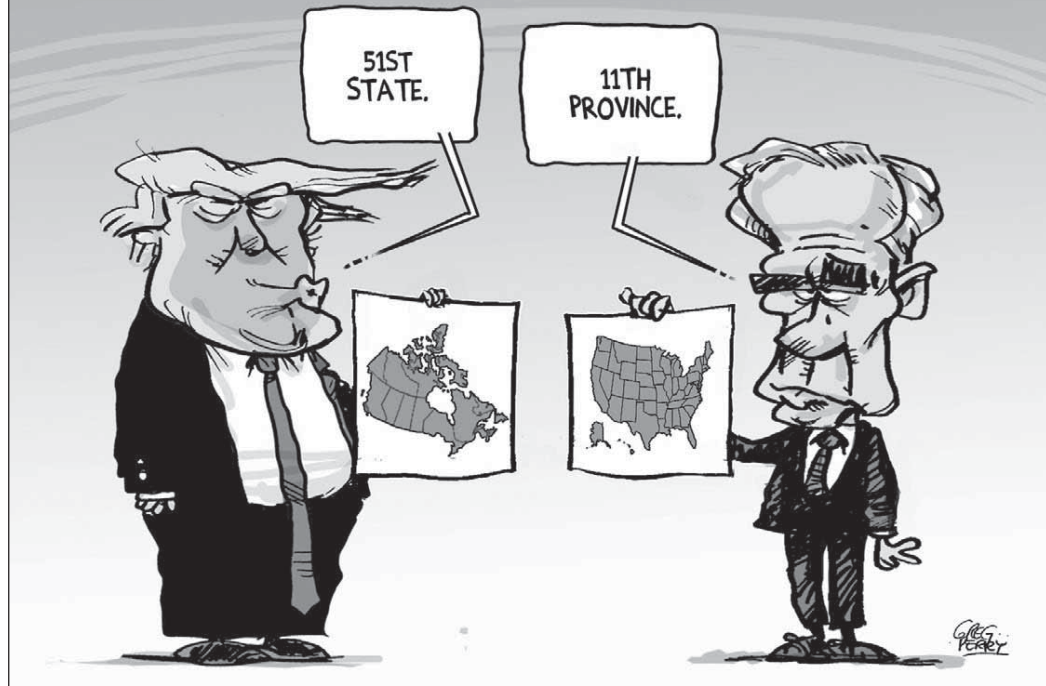
Late Thursday, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, which represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan, also issued a statement. "We are the first peoples of these lands and waters," said FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron. "Those that want to leave are free to do so but all the lands, waters, and resources are First Nations."

The Chiefs of four Calgary-area First Nations also issued a statement saying that "any efforts to separate will be met with our full opposition."

So, Mr. Carney – remember that now is not a time for antics of any sort! Our relations with the United States and the threat against the continuation of a united Canada is not something to mock or smile about.

- Elaine Ashfield, Grasslands News

FACE-TO-FACE: TRUMP AND CARNEY DISCUSS CURRENT CANADA/U.S. RELATIONS



Canada is losing billions by underselling oil and it's hurting us all

Troy Media
Opinion Column

Canadians are right to ask why governments are constantly short of money for hospitals, schools and seniors' care while the country sits on one of the most valuable oil and gas reserves in the world.

The answer? Canada is underselling its oil and natural gas to the United States, and it's costing us dearly.

Forced by a lack of export infrastructure, Canada sells most of its oil and gas to American buyers at a steep discount. While global markets pay full price, Canadian producers settle for less because they can't access overseas buyers directly. Most oil and gas is shipped to the United States, which pays below international prices.

As a result, the country is bleeding revenue.

How much? A new online tracker from the Frontier Centre for Public Policy shows that, as of April 2025, Canada has forfeited more than \$5.7 billion in oil revenue and \$3.8 billion in natural gas revenue this year alone—a total of more than \$9.5 billion and climbing by the second.

Annually, the combined losses are projected to reach \$25.6 billion. That is money that could be spent building schools, hiring nurses, funding national defence or easing the tax burden on struggling Canadians.

This is not an abstract economic problem. It is a self-inflicted wound.

Because Canadian producers are cut off from international buyers, they sell crude oil for roughly \$20 per barrel less than the global price and natural gas at a discount of about \$2 per gigajoule—a unit used to measure energy. With Canada exporting more than two million barrels of oil and over 12 million gigajoules of gas daily, the discount costs add up quickly.

The daily revenue loss is about \$70 million, more than \$2.1 billion per month.

This is not just lost profit for producers. It is lost revenue for governments, lost jobs for workers and lost opportunity for communities across the country.

What could \$25.6 billion a year buy Canadians? It is enough to fully cover the \$19-billion cost of the 88 F-35 fighter jets Canada recently purchased. It could fund more than 340,000 full-time nurses at current salary levels. It could build or expand more than 880 schools across the country. It could provide 1.78 billion hours of in-home care for seniors and Canadians with disabilities. It could add over 54,000 affordable housing units to help ease the housing crisis. It could construct more than a dozen major highway projects like the Regina Bypass.

To be fair, some progress is being made. The federally owned Trans Mountain Expansion pipeline, which runs from Alberta to the B.C. coast, began commercial operations in May 2024. It nearly tripled Canada's westbound export capacity from 300,000 to 890,000 barrels per day, giving producers access to markets beyond the U.S., including Asia and the U.S. West Coast.

But it is not enough.

Canada still lacks the pipeline and port capacity to fully compete on global energy markets. Until we fix that, producers will keep selling low, and Canadians will keep paying the price.

The solution is straightforward: approve and build the infrastructure needed to get our energy to market. The economic benefits are clear, and the alternative—watching tens of billions in public wealth evaporate every year—is no longer acceptable.

Canadians deserve to know what this lost revenue means for their daily lives. Thanks to the Frontier Centre's live tracker, they now can.

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Drunk driver crashes into parked vehicle

Broadview and Moosomin

Detachment

Sgt. Damien Grouchy

Reporting period: April 24 to May 1

Broadview / Moosomin RCMP responded to 113 calls for service, some of which include: 37 Provincial offences including traffic and collisions, six Impaired operation of a motor vehicle, three Person crimes and four Property Crimes.

Come Calls for Service

- 911/MHA/Wellbeing: Members responded to nine, 911 complaints: four Mental Health Act complaints and five well-being checks in the Moosomin/Broadview are during this time period.

- Aggravated Assault: Members responded to a complaint of a fight that occurred on Ochapowace FN. The victim had been struck in the head with a metal object. Members subsequently arrested and charged an adult female for the assault.

- Criminal Harassment: Members received a complaint of harassment in the town of Wapella; members spoke with both parties and learned at this time there was not a criminal offence. The subject of the complaint was advised not to contact the complainant.

- Fraud: Members received a complaint of a possible fraud in Wapella. Members spoke with the complainant and learned it was regarding a license plate that had been sold with a vehicle. The complainant was advised it was not a fraud, and no criminal offence had occurred.

- Mischief: Members received a report of mischief to a vehicle in Moosomin. Members spoke with the complainant who reported damage to their vehicle; unfortunately the complainant was unable to recall where the damage had taken place.

- Off Road Vehicles: Members received information that school kids were ripping around Maryfield on dirt bikes and would like patrols. Unfortunately, members did not locate anyone.

- Impaired Operation: Members responded to a re-



port of a possible impaired driver on Cowessess FN. Members located the vehicle and had the driver provide a breath sample into roadside alcohol screening device (ASD). The driver was subsequently arrested and charged with impaired operation.

- Impaired Operation: Members responded to a vehicle collision notification in Grenfell. Members attended and learned a male drove over two lawns, struck a parked vehicle before coming to a stop on a retaining wall. The driver was transported to Indian Head Hospital for his injuries. Located open alcohol in the vehicle. The driver was subsequently charged for impaired operation. *See photo above.*

- Missing Person: Members received multiple complaints of a possible missing person in the town of Moosomin. Members were advised the subject suffered from MHA struggles. The person was not missing, members provided the individual a ride to the hospital to seek help.

- Firearms Complaint: members received a complaint of a male that showed up at a business located in Whitewood and pulled out what appeared to be a handgun. Members responded and located the male who was arrested without incident. Members recovered a BB gun from the male. The male was held for court on the following charges:

- Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose
- Using an imitation firearm in the commission of an offence
- Carrying a concealed weapon
- Mischief
- Disturbing the peace.

Moosomin RCMP investigating fatal rollover near Rocanville

Submitted

Grasslands News

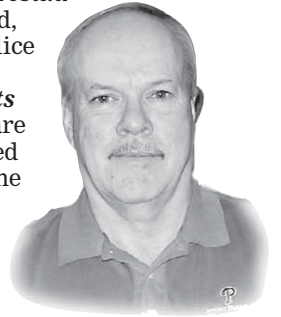
On May 5, 2025 at approximately 8 p.m., Moosomin RCMP received a report of a single-vehicle rollover on Highway #8, north of Rocanville.

Officers responded along with local fire and EMS. The driver was transported to hospital by EMS where he was declared deceased. He has been identified as a 34-year-old male from Regina. His family has been notified.

Moosomin RCMP continue to investigate with the assistance of a Saskatchewan RCMP collision reconstructionist.

Gene Hauta It's a Strange World

In Madrid, the Chinese restaurant Jin Gu has been closed, and its owner arrested. Police claim the restaurant was *trying to locally source its "roast duck,"* and police are pretty sure that two plucked fowl they found stored at the restaurant "were street pigeons." Police claim the restaurant had "more than a ton of foodstuffs of untraceable origin," freezers that had rust but lacked working thermometers, as well as cockroaches and rat traps. That's pretty gross!



Mike Straw entitled this news item as *'Give Life, Then Chill.'* The Rock River Valley Blood Center has a new way of getting folks to donate blood. Dubbed Bleed for Weed, the blood drive in Freeport, Ill., rewards donors with a voucher for pot with a couple of options. While supplies lasted, they could also get a free T-shirt. "This is our fourth time partnering with Lyfe Dispensary, and we've found that it really brings people in," said spokeswoman Maggie Anderson. Straw quipped, "The free snacks at the end are a huge hit."

In Forsyth, Ga., employees at an auto parts store just couldn't take it anymore, and called the cops to confront Jonathan Navas, 29, who had spent the previous hour in the store *barking like a dog.* Innocently, Navas said he "had no idea" his barking was causing a problem, and agreed to go out to the parking lot to get his ID to show to the officers. As he was getting his driver's license from his car, the officers couldn't help but notice drug paraphernalia. "He was arrested, and hopefully put in a kennel."

Legal analysts are concerned about President Trump's continuing conflict with the judiciary, warning that the administration's disregard for judges is steering the country toward a constitutional crisis. Michael W. McConnell, of Stanford Law School said, "The *Trump White House is sabotaging itself* with its unbridled hostility toward the courts. The Supreme Court has been doing its best to defuse the looming clash with the administration — a confrontation that would wreak certain damage both to the presidency and to the courts, and thus to our constitutional republic," he added. In other words, the Trump administration does whatever he wants! "The president has worked quickly to dismantle chunks of the federal government, unraveled post-World War II military and economic alliances and upended global trade networks," wrote former Bill Clinton adviser Doug Sosnick for the New York Times. "His approval ratings are already falling before the public even feels the impact of his sweeping tariffs."

When NASA astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore launched to the International Space Station for an eight-day stay, their Boeing-built space capsule had problems, and they were *"stuck" in space for 286 days.* They stated that they were not upset at being stranded. "This is my happy place," Williams said. "While in space," said NASA spokesman Jimi Russell, "astronauts are on official travel orders as federal employees," and thus entitled to \$5 per day for "incidentals" such as fees and tips given to porters, baggage carriers, hotel staff, and staff on ships." None of those exist in space, and astronauts don't carry money anyway. They continued to collect their annual salary of \$152,258 per year, with no OT.

In Maize, Kansas, a concerned citizen reported seeing an individual who appeared to be too young to be driving a pickup. A police investigation *uncovered the 9-year-old perp.* The boy told police he missed the bus after his father had gone to work. With his mom out of town, he worried about missing state testing and felt he had no other option but to drive himself three miles to school. From all reports, he made the drive safely with no unsafe incidents. In fact, Sergeant Braden Blackburn said that the boy "parked better than most people park." The police took the keys away, but did not cite the kid (or his parents), feeling that he was in enough trouble at home.

In front of numerous visitors to Niagara Falls, a man *drove his pickup right through a fence* and into Niagara Falls Gorge, on the American side. Police discovered a 42-year-old man "suffering from injuries consistent with an accident." In fact, he walked out of the gorge on his own and was transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Meanwhile, authorities are not sure about removing the vehicle. Where's Jamie Davis Towing when it is needed? Or a nine-year-old chauffeur!

I'm so old that I've dialed a rotary phone, listened to music on an 8-track, watched a black & white TV with metal 'rabbit ears', and went a whole day without even thinking about taking a picture of myself.

Although I stole this off the net, I can completely relate to it...and could probably add to the list...




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Community building focused SEDA workshop held in Melville

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan Economic Development Association (SEDA) recently hosted a workshop focused on community building.

The Community Builders Workshop was held on May 6 with speaker Peter Kenyon at the CN Community Centre in the Cornerstone Event Centre. The Workshop, titled Positive Pathways to Rural and Small Town Prosperity, focused on providing community builders the necessary principles, frameworks and tools to drive community change.

Kenyon is a community enthusiast and social capitalist and runs a social enterprise organization, the Bank of I.D.E.A.S (Initiatives for the Development of Enterprising Action and Strategies) and has over 35 years of experience working in the field of community and economic transformation. He has also designed, implemented, tested and refined a variety of change and renewal strategies in a wide range of communities in 59 countries.

Throughout the workshop Kenyon gave tips, told stories, and held discussions on community development strategies. The workshop also featured break off groups with those in attendance.

The workshop started

with Kenyon explaining that community building is about finding out what people care about. Kenyon highlighted that people usually wait until they get help from the government to do work in the community, not engaging with the community itself.

Kenyon said that cultural assets are the key ingredients to grow rural and small town prosperity.

In the third session, Kenyon highlighted that people don't enjoy meetings and that they should be less formal with people sharing ideas.

There were also tips given out on how to recruit volunteers and keep them coming back. Kenyon said that in Australia, volunteer numbers after 2020 dropped by over 1 million people.

Tips for keeping volunteers included holding a volunteer community barbecue annually, ask volunteers for opinions and ideas, create special awards for achievements, and much more. Tips for recruiting volunteers were to ask people if they wanted to volunteer, uti-

lizing forms that ask the volunteers what they want to do, use exit interviews with departing members to provide feedback needed for continuous improvement, and more.

During the workshop, Kenyon broke the group up depending on what people wanted to discuss to facilitate conversations. Topics chosen and discussed by the participants include attracting new businesses, how to encourage entrepreneurship, community owned grocery stores, community gardens, creating Melville as a destination, and housing.

Each group had to find what three pieces from the conversation are key to accomplishing the discussion topic.

The day was filled with productive discussions on how to build a strong community in Melville and surrounding area.

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JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

How to build a community

Speaker and workshop facilitator Peter Kenyon talked to participants about how to build community and revive rural and small towns on May 6, 2025. The workshop was hosted by Saskatchewan Economic Development Association.

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"Doing a smiling business for over a decade and a half"

Junior Garden Club inspires young gardeners to grow

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Evidence of spring is increasingly visible around Indian Head. While many residents are beginning to prepare flower beds and garden plots for the growing season, a group of aspiring young gardeners has also been developing their green thumbs.

Since early April, children in Grades 3 to 6 have been participating in a Junior Garden Club in Indian Head. The free program was made possible through partnership between the Indian Head Library and the Horticultural Society. Weekly, after school meetings began on April 7 and will conclude on May 12. Sessions are held in the Memorial Hall basement and

led by Jillian Heidecker, who directed an Outdoor Enthusiast Program for youth at the library last fall.

Heidecker and two other high school students volunteer their time to inspire young gardeners with enthusiasm for growing plants. Ten to twelve children attend the weekly sessions, engaging in a variety of gardening activities and nature inspired craft projects. Participants have created grass gnomes and fairy gardens with materials from nature, and filled booklets with leaf impressions. They planted small herb gardens with basil and learned how to grow onions and radishes from kitchen scraps. During their final session next week, the group will plant squash, pumpkins, wa-

termelons and sunflowers in the Community Garden on Victoria Ave. Heidecker explained that the program is intended to develop children's interest in gardening and increase awareness of the opportunities available at the Community Garden, such as the Horticultural Society's group garden plot.

Indian Head Horticultural Society was established in 1926 and for many years the group facilitated a School Garden Program, providing seeds to children at the elementary school. Children could use the seeds at their home, or in their family's plot at the Community Garden. For the past few years, a group plot was also available for the school children to use at the Community Garden.

"Lots of adults in Indian Head probably remember participating as kids," commented Christiane Catellier. "When we were no longer able to partner with the school in the last few years, we had to find a new way to deliver the program so the library came up. The librarian and library board were very supportive."

Organizers observed



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Learning to grow

Children learned how to grow onions and radishes from kitchen scraps at the Junior Garden Club. The program was organized by Indian Head Horticultural Society in partnership with the library and facilitated by Jillian Heidecker.

that fewer families were reached through the library than the school, so members of the Horticultural Society collaborated with Heidecker and the librarian to offer the Ju-

nior Garden Club. The program this spring has been well received and participants can continue gardening throughout the summer by helping to maintain the group plot in

the Community Garden. They are also encouraged to display the fruits of their labour at the Horticultural Society's annual Garden Show on August 10.

Travis Keisig
MLA for Last Mountain -
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Friends and Neighbours

Horticultural Society and Community Garden celebrate spring at last

By Allison Kydd
Grasslands News

The Indian Head Horticultural Society tea being held at the Heritage Club on Saturday, May 10th, 2 to 4 p.m. is part of a long tradition – almost 100 years long, in fact. Formed in 1926 to “stimulate a love of gardening in the community” (*Indian Head History Book*, p. 196), the society held its first Lilac Time Tea, in 1932. Also according to the history book, admission was \$1.00, and the proceeds from the first tea were \$17.10.

Longtime horticultural society member and Communities in Bloom columnist Donna Thompson wrote reports to mark the 70th and 80th anniversaries of the society. In her reports, she mentions that “the tea was renamed Blossom Time in 1940.” In more recent years, the event became known simply as “the Spring Tea” or “the Hort. Tea.”

Back to Thompson’s report: “In 1949,” she says, “a plant sale was an added feature.”

This popular feature has continued. Kathy Robb, reigning president of the horticultural society, also mentions it: “The plant sale was a really big deal, with plants donated from the Experimental Farm greenhouse.”

“The PFRA donated their extra potted plants [as well],” she adds. “These were great partnerships with the society in the past.”

Robb was born and raised in Indian Head, though she now lives and gardens enthusiastically at Katepwa Lake, where she sometimes finds herself competing with deer and other wildlife for her produce. Robb says there was a tea in Indian Head almost every Saturday from spring to fall when she was growing up.

“Every organization held a tea or two per year,” she says. “There was usually a strawberry social, the Horticultural Society Tea, [and others] for Royal Purple, Friendly Neighbours, Cubs and Scouts and on and on.”

In the old days, the whole community would be involved with these events.

“Kids would be hired,” says Robb, “– usually the Cubs, but other young ones as well – to walk up and down Grand Avenue ringing a bell. ‘25 cent tea, now going on, in the Memorial Hall,’ [they’d say]. These kids did this all afternoon and probably got a quarter – and maybe tea.”

Though the days of twenty-five cent teas are gone, the

admission price for the horticultural society tea is still very reasonable at \$5.00 for everyone. This includes pie with (or without) ice cream or ice cream with (or without) pie, as well as tea, coffee or iced tea. Robb tells us that there will even be gluten-free pie available.

Just like the teas Robb and others remember from childhood, the horticultural society tea offers a chance for members of the community and guests to visit, exchange gardening stories and visit the plant tables. As in the previous few years, Dave Gehl will have tomato seedlings for sale, and many other local gardeners have saved their extra bedding plants or divided their perennials especially for this occasion.

Besides the plant sale, there will be a bake sale, a door prize and raffles for garden decorations and hanging baskets. Horticultural society memberships are also available – also for the very reasonable price of \$5 – and there will be copies of the society’s official Show Book as well, so those who would like to participate can plan ahead.

“[Having a membership] gives you a chance to enter exhibits in the show without paying an entry fee,” Robb explains. “If new members wish to attend meetings of the society, [they] just need to indicate that [they] would like to participate, and the notices will be e-mailed to [them].”

If the Horticultural Society Tea is the beginning of the garden season, the culmination of the season comes with the society’s annual garden show, which offers the opportunity to show off the fruits of one’s labour and even to win prizes. This year the show will be held on August 10th, also at the Heritage Club. Robb reminds us that entries must be placed on the Saturday evening, August 9th, between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m.

And this isn’t all there is to look forward to, as November 2026 will be the society’s centenary, and throughout the year there will be activities leading up to it.

As Indian Head’s horticultural society begins its season, the Indian Head Community Garden has also sprung into action. Gardeners have signed up for their plots and discussed their plans with coordinator Ruth Anne Rudack. No-till plots have already been marked, and the other plots will soon be tilled and ready to go, possibly by this



Indian Head Horticultural Society president Kathy Robb’s garden in the valley.

weekend.

Rudack says all but one of the 33 plots are spoken for – that plot will possibly be used to grow produce appropriate for the food bank/hampers – and there will be a mix of newcomers and those who have had plots in previous years. Community garden regulars love to talk about the camaraderie of the group and how much members learn from each other. They also suggest newcomers shouldn’t be shy about asking questions. Rudack, in particular, is a fount of information. For instance when I asked about watering if this summer turns out to be dry and hot, as it was two years ago, she sent me a brochure full of tips on being water-wise.

Returning gardeners also talk about members’ generosity. They remember, for instance, how in the summer of 2024 Laura Poppy and Bruce Neill left their extra seed potatoes in the garden shed for others to use. Others shared garlic and zucchini, and the herb garden Rudack planted in the raised garden near the shed was for everyone’s use. Members are also invited to share appropriate compost according to the directions given.

A shared space also means shared responsibility. At this year’s organizing meeting, on April 9th, Rudack mentioned how much committee members

appreciate help with common tasks. If everyone checks the list to see the ways they can help, there is less danger of anyone getting burnt out. Individual gardeners are also responsible for weeding the paths alongside their plots.

Though there isn’t a strict planting time, Rudack suggests gardeners aim to start planting around the long weekend in May, though it’s acceptable to plant any time before July 1st. At the other end of the season, harvesting must be completed no later than Thanksgiving Monday.

Dave Gehl, former Officer in Charge for the Indian Head Experimental Farm and also famous for starting and sharing hundreds of varieties of heirloom tomatoes, is also part of the community garden committee. His specialty is the “hoop house,” a miniature greenhouse that makes it possible for gardeners to grow more delicate plants.

Gehl explains that gardeners don’t need plots in the rest of the garden in order to share the hoop house. They simply have to be interested in sharing the responsibility and the results. In fact, if anyone attending the horticultural society tea on Saturday is interested in being part of the hoop house team, there is still room for a couple of participants. Once Gehl knows how many growers there are, he will “firm

up dates, pre-planting plans, etc. and contact those involved.”

Because the hoop house isn’t large, only one crop is grown at a time.

“Last year sweet potatoes were grown [successfully] in the hoop house,” says Gehl. “In 2023, eight gardeners each grew five pepper plants [there] and took turns watering... produc[ing] an abundant crop of both sweet and hot peppers.”

“At last month’s Annual General Meeting,” he adds, “it was decided that the hoop house would be used for growing peppers again this year.”

He goes on: “While there is room for forty pepper plants in the hoop house, the number of plants each gardener can plant will be determined by the number participating. Each gardener will be responsible for providing and planting their [own] pepper plants and harvesting [them] at the end of the growing season.”

Because space in the hoop house is limited, it also makes sense for participants to take turns watering.

Says Gehl: “Water will be stored in a barrel beside the hoop house so that it can warm up, and after watering *all* of the peppers in the hoop house, the person responsible will refill the barrel (it takes about half a barrel to water the 40 plants). The pepper plants will be planted in late May or early June. The growing season in the hoop house will extend from planting until late September or early October.”

As in the rest of the garden, cooperation is important, and so is respecting other people’s space. The one difference is the watering. Outside the hoop house, gardeners are each responsible for watering their own plots. They are also careful not to trespass on each other’s space. Respect for others also means keeping plots and paths free of weeds, and avoiding growing plants that could shade or encroach on another’s plot.

Gardeners also share the tools housed in the garden shed on site, so it’s important these tools are cleaned and put away after use. Water must also be turned off and the shed locked. None of these are onerous jobs, but just as fences make good neighbours, attention to such small signs of respect and appreciation preserves friends as well as helping our gardens grow.

As always, contact akyddwrt@sasktel.net with comments or suggestions.

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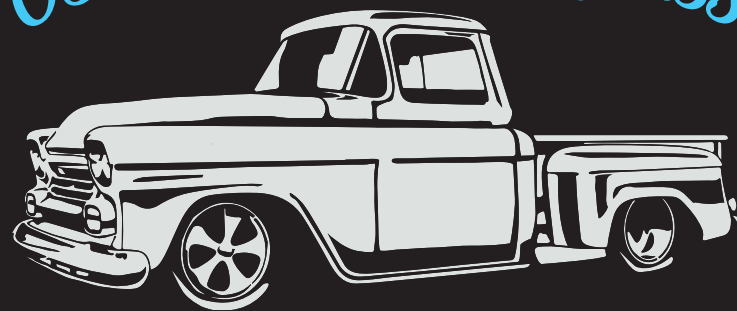
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RCMP investigate fire set at Qu'Appelle

Submitted
 Grasslands News

The Indian Head RCMP is investigating a fire that was set at the Qu'Appelle Fire Rescue Training Center on May 3. Upon investigation it was learned that the fire was started with the use of fireworks.

The fire caused an estimated \$15,000 worth of damage to the facility and prop-

erty of the Qu'Appelle Fire Department. Witnesses provided information that a white truck was seen in the area at the time of the incident.

The Indian Head RCMP is asking the public to come forward with any information that they may have in relation to this incident. Anyone with information related to this advisory is asked to call 310-RCMP for immediate response, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



Fireworks

SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

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SPORTS



LLOYD SCHMIDT | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Blitz brings home the 'Gold'

The Yorkton Blitz Blackout volleyball club went undefeated at provincials in Saskatoon on May 3 and 4 and took the Gold Medal in Division 2-Tier 1. Players are from Yorkton, Melville and surrounding area. Left to right, are, Coach Jarod Butler, #41 Ashlyn Dutchak, #8 Eloise Cristo, #10 Bailey Maier, #24 Layla Szysky, #21 Halle Mykytyshyn, #11 Miah Ruf, #15 Lecina Gray, #12 Alana Gray and #7 Gabbie Marcischuk-Butler

Millionaires sign head coach contract extension

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

The Melville Millionaires like what they've seen from head coach Doug Johnson, and they've inked him to a three-year contract extension.

"Our board has been extremely impressed with the impact Doug has made since joining our organization," explained Millionaires' president Daniel Hope. "In just his first two seasons, he has led the team to back-to-back playoff appearances -- an achievement made even more impressive given the challenges he faced outside of his control."

Hope didn't want to wait too long to sign Johnson to the new pact.

"We felt it was important to extend him now and provide the runway to continue building a team capable, not only of contending for a championship, but of becoming

the first team to bring a title home to Melville," Hope added. "That's a goal shared by everyone in our organization."

It seemed both sides had a similar idea when it came to ensuring Johnson would be on the bench an additional three hockey seasons.

"The extension process was smooth and collaborative. There was a strong mutual desire between Doug and the board to get a deal done, and it was simply a matter of working together to ensure the right pieces were in place," Hope said. "We believe strongly in the work he's done on the ice and are equally excited about the foundation he's laying with our younger prospects."

"Melville has quickly transformed from a place players overlooked to a destination of choice. That's a direct reflection of Doug's leadership and the culture he's helped create."

Johnson, who took over as bench boss prior to the 2023-2024 season, has had modest success, leading the

Millionaires to consecutive playoff appearances, as well as winning a Viterra division banner in 2024.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue working with this organization," Johnson said in a published report. "Melville is a passionate hockey town, and I'm proud to be part of a community that cares deeply about its team. Melville has treated us great and my family is loving it here -- so things got done quickly."

"We've made significant strides, and I'm excited about the direction we are headed. There's still work to do, and I look forward to building something special here and try to bring the city their first championship."

With Johnson on-board for three more years, Hope thinks the future is bright for the Millionaires.

"Our board is confident that Doug and his staff will continue to grow that momentum and take this organization to new heights," admitted Hope. "Doug has been amazing to work with. From day one, he's brought a

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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

While the old Christmas song claims snowy December is the 'most wonderful time of the year', we in the gap know that honour should be bestowed on 'summer, summer, summer', just like Ric Ocasek sang it for the Cars many moons ago.

I can't speak for everyone, but it's beginning to feel like one of those years where we just skip spring and go straight into summer, and I'm totally alright with that.

It seems like forever since we were able to do all those summer things that many of us attempt to cram into a three-month period each and every year.

And while summer is my favourite season, it isn't always about the things that are taken care of in June, July and August, but more so about what took place during those same three months when I was growing up.

Sports were of course at the top of the list, as we'd be getting set for baseball season this time of year when my pals and I were young.

It seemed like everyone I knew was at the ballpark, learning the proper way to throw a baseball, field a ground ball and learning how to move a runner over with a well-placed bunt.

Soon after, the teams were picked and we started playing, and while we all enjoyed playing organized ball, with coaches and umpires, there were probably more of us that loved playing on our own, free of rules and more importantly, free of adults.

We'd play conventional baseball, softball, double-scrub and tennis ball baseball – a game we invented at Kinsmen Park for the hot summer days, when many friends were gone away for summer vacation.

This time of year, we'd get more than one sport taken care of.

In the morning, we'd probably play some road hockey or some crazy and dangerous version of golf – crazy and dangerous because it wasn't usually played on the golf course, and sometimes it wasn't even in a green-space, not that anyone knew what that meant way back when.

Afternoons in summer generally meant some sort of ball game, but almost never soccer, because that was all we ever did in school it seemed.

In early July, we could usually get enough kids together for a six versus six match of some kind, maybe baseball without second base or football, with good old CFL rules.

It was only on a rare occasion that any of us ever picked up a phone and called anybody to arrange any of these sports.

We all knew where each other would be and somehow, we just knew when to go to the place where we'd play games and kibbutz with each other, saving our best insults and off-colour jokes for when we were all together.

These jokes weren't the kind that would alienate anyone or hurt any feelings, they were more endearing than that in that they'd let you know that you were part of the gang or the team, whichever was more suitable on any given day.

Not having phones wasn't the hardship that kids nowadays would expect, since a parent would have to come and remind us that at some point, we needed sustenance and we'd all run home or ride our bikes, devour whatever our folks put in front of us, and vow to meet up in the evening for some more fun of some sort.

We took the two months out of school seriously, trying to wring as much joy out of those 60 days as we could.

We'd go swimming, riding our bicycles all over town, hiking in the country to check out sloughs for frogs and water birds or just walking around town, but we weren't ever idle for long because the season was too short for that.

I can still remember when the best drink you could get was the lemonade that your buddy's mom brewed, and the best meal was a hotdog cooked over an open fire at the lake.

When you tell younger people about the things you did, they don't always believe you, because nowadays, they have a connection to the world in the palm of their hand every day of their lives, and there's pictures of everything they do, floating around somewhere.

Pictures of what we got up to in summer don't exist, because we didn't care if we looked back at those things we did, we just wanted to do them.

I hope kids still feel that vibe to just go out and make things happen, just with their pals.

You have to make those memories now because if you aren't, you're planting the seeds of regret.

The long and short of it is, there's no time like summer.

Enjoy it, before it's gone again.

Telus title for 'Tabby' in final U18 game

By Brad Brown

Grasslands News

If Taylor Tabashniuk keeps up his winning ways, the Melville Millionaires' goaltender of the future may become their goaltender of the past before he ever plays another game with them.

Tabashniuk made 29 saves for his fifth win in five games at the Telus Cup and – who else? – Maddox Schultz scored the overtime winner as the Regina Pat Canadians beat the Chevaliers de Levis 3-2 for national male under-18 hockey championship April 27 in Chilliwack, B.C.

'Tabby' as he is known to his teammates suited up for three games with the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League's Millionaires early this season before being sent back to AAA Regina, where he starred more or less from pillar to post.

"I never doubted this group," he said post-game in an interview with Shawn Mullin, who broadcast the tournament online on HNLive. "As soon as I got back (to Regina) it was just immediately ... I felt a sense of champion within the group so I knew something was brewing and obviously we were rewarded with it tonight."

For his own part, Tabashniuk finished the Saskatchewan Male AAA Hockey League season with 19 wins and four losses, before going 8-1 in league playoffs with a .939 save percentage.

His stint in Melville before Christmas saw him compile a 1-2 record but with a .926 save percentage.

"Taylor's a phenomenal kid," Millionaires head coach Doug Johnson said in a recent interview with Grasslands News. "With goalies, sometimes it's the more they play the better they get ... it's a huge opportunity for him and we're really excited for him."

Unfortunately for the Mils, if the Western Hockey League's Regina Pats feel the same way, Tabashniuk could be major junior bound for the foreseeable future

instead.

The WHL Pats acquired Tabashniuk's rights in a January trade with the Red Deer Rebels.

"He's big, he's square and he has all the movements you want. He has everything you want in a goalie," Johnson continued. "And the things he needed to work on, it looks like he has, in terms of rebound control and mental toughness."

"We'd love to have Tabby back. I think he probably ends up in Regina myself but that's going to be decided down the line and whoever has him is going to be very happy they do."

'Best way you can go out'

Also celebrating the Pat Canadians' national title are defenceman Cooper Bratton and forward Cruz Klapak.

Bratton hails from Moosomin, played in Melville with the U15 AA Millionaires two seasons ago and found the scoresheet with a goal and two assists across the six games he suited up for.

Klapak was raised in Montmartre, currently resides in Pilot Butte, and served as an alternate captain this season. He finished the tournament with one goal in seven games.

Regina's only loss at the Telus Cup – a 6-2 defeat to the Chevaliers in their final round-robin game.

"I think against Quebec, after our loss to them, it gave us a little fire before the final against them, gave us a little extra 'go get 'em,' Klapak said. "I think we played physical and we were hard to play against."

And, like Tabashniuk, age restrictions mean the championship win came in Klapak's last game as a Pat Canadian.

"It's the best way you can go out," Klapak said, before praising his goaltender's work as well.

"It's in the big games when he really shines I think. For him, he's always focused, and if we don't have that I don't think we're winning that game."

Shields receives Graham Christie Memorial

Submitted

Grasslands News

The Weyburn Red Wings of the SJHL recently held their 2025 Awards Night where the Graham Christie Memorial Most Inspirational Award sponsored by the Weyburn Police Association was presented to Ashtyn Shields. Graham's hometown is Grenfell, SK. The player receiving this year's award, like Graham always did, wears his heart on his sleeve. He is the player who exudes his love of hockey; encourages his teammates to keep trying, no matter how dire the circumstances and looks for his weaknesses and always tries to improve. Christie played with the league champion Weyburn Red Wings the season prior to his hockey accident that occurred Nov. 18, 1997, when in the final seconds of a game at Humboldt, the Nipawin Hawks' forward (Christie) blocked the fatal slapshot that stopped his heart in the final seconds of a game between his own visiting team, the Nipawin Hawks and the Humboldt Broncos. The force of the blow stopped his heart. He went into a coma shortly afterwards, never regaining consciousness. He passed away at Saskatoon's Royal University Hospital Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1997, at the age of 20 years.



Future is bright for Mils' coach and team

continued from 12

hard-nosed, no-nonsense approach that has elevated expectations across the board.

"He's deeply committed to pushing our players to be their best and to raising the overall standard of our organization, and that's exactly the kind of leadership we brought him in for."

Hope, who once served as captain of the Millionaires, says working with Johnson has been fairly easy, citing Johnson's willingness to share ideas with the executive and the board of directors.

"What sets Doug apart is that while he demands a lot, he also communicates exceptionally well," Hope told Grasslands News.

"He's transparent, keeps us informed every step of the way, and makes sure the organization understands not just the 'what' but the 'why' behind his decisions."

"That builds trust and alignment, which is crucial when you're trying to move an organization forward."

Johnson and his family are enjoying their time in Melville, so far, and the people from Saskatchewan's smallest city are lucky to have them as friends and neighbours.

"He's shown a real passion for the community and for building something long-lasting here in Melville. Whether it's developing our younger

prospects, improving our culture, or setting a clear direction for the future, Doug is doing the kind of foundational work that makes a lasting impact. We're lucky to have him,

and excited about where he's taking us."

Johnson's new contract will see him with the Millionaires until the conclusion of the 2028-2029 season.



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Canadian goaltending talent falling behind

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

The days of Canadian goaltending dominance in the National Hockey League are long gone. The Europeans have taken over the position made glamorous by the likes of Canadian stars Patrick Roy, Martin Brodeur, Ken Dryden, Jacques Plante, Carey Price and Roberto Luongo.

Check out the most recent NHL goaltending stats and you'll find a preponderance of European stars, a few Americans and then a couple of Canadians in the latter half of the top 10.

At the top of the list is the Winnipeg Jets' American goalie Connor Hellebuyck, who will likely win this year's Vezina Trophy as the league's best. The Russian, Andrei Vasilevskiy, is generally regarded as No. 2 while Russian Sergei Bobrovsky of the defending Cup champion Florida Panthers, Swede Filip Gustavsson of Minnesota, American Jake Oettinger of Dallas and Russian Ilya Sorokin are scattered among the top 10.

A couple of Canadian netminders show up on this list (Adin Hill of Vegas, Darcy Kuemper of Los Angeles and

Logan Thompson of Washington), but none are regarded as game-changers the way Czech star Dominik Hasek was for the Sabres and Red Wings in the 1990s when he compiled an amazing career save percentage of .922. Hellebuyck at .925 was the only goalie surpassing Hasek's career record this season.

How dominant are non-Canadian netminders? Seven of the last eight Vezina winners — Marc-Andre Fleury broke the streak in 2021 — have been either American or European. It's almost enough to make Glenn Hall throw up.

(For you youngsters out there, Hall was a Saskatchewan-born goaltending star for the Chicago Blackhawks in the 1960s who reportedly vomited prior to every game when his nerves got the better of him.)

In the regular season just completed, more than half the games, 52 per cent, featured a European goaltender, according to a report in The Athletic. Canadian goalies played in 26 per cent of the games, while 23 per cent of the games were covered by a U.S.-born goalie.

Jon Elkin, who works with Pittsburgh Penguins' goalies and runs a summer goaltending school in Toronto, told The Ath-

Sports Column
By Bruce Penton



letic the situation isn't dire. "It's not the end of the world here," says Elkin. "It's not as bleak as I think it's made out to be."

"There's really no focus on goaltending development in minor hockey at all," said Rob Gherson, a former Washington Capitals' draft pick, in The Athletic story. "That's one area we've definitely fallen behind. Other places — Sweden, the U.S., Russia — they've put money into goaltending, and they've put a focus on trying to develop goalies."

There was grave concern about the goaltending situation among Canadian hockey fans in February when the 4 Nations FaceOff was held. How could we ever stack up against the Americans when they had Hellebuyck in goal and Canada was stuck with Hill, Jordan Binnington

or Sam Montembault? Well, we know how that played out. Binnington was absolutely sensational and Canada took the title.

Perhaps, like Elkin said, it's not as bleak as it's made out to be.

• Super 70s Sports: "And now let's go over to 15, where it looks like our co-leader is going to have to shape one around a brick. What's he got, Verne?" A putter, Jim. They all have putters."

• Comedy writer Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "Duke's Cooper Flagg received the John Wooden award, which fittingly consists of a manila envelope filled with large, unmarked bills."

• Sportswriter Ray Ratto of San Francisco, in a pre-Kentucky Derby story: "Kids just don't go to the track anymore, which is a shame because it remains a great place for young people to learn to smoke cigarettes and leave the butts in someone else's beer."

• Torben Rolfsen again: "What's with that harmonica group playing the national anthem in Los Angeles? The Oilers should have countered with the Schmenge Brothers."

• One more from Rolfsen: "The NFL held its draft in a Green Bay parking lot. Shedeur

Sanders got a ticket for staying too long."

• A little bit of Canadian sports and politics, from the parody website The Beaver-ton: "Op-Ed: 'Say what you will about us, at least we never blew a 27-point lead,' by Auston Matthews."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Two favourites in Kentucky Derby: Journalism vs Sovereignty. Seems a little too on brand for our country right now."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "In just their fifth win of the season against 25 losses, the Colorado Rockies snapped an eight-game losing streak by beating the Braves 2-1. After the win, players had to ask each other how to celebrate."

• Headline at fark.com: "Bill Belichick's girlfriend instructs him to deny that she's too controlling."

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun, on the Mount Rushmore of coaches from all sports, naming basketball's Greg Popovich and hockey's Scotty Bowman: "Bill Belichick would probably be alongside them, so long as he gets permission from his girlfriend to be included."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Local kids perform well at Maple Leaf Junior tour season-opener

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Two kids local to the Grasslands News region had a strong performance during the season-opener of The Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour (MJT) at Woodlawn Golf Course in Estevan on May 3 to 4.

Austin Nesbitt of Pilot Butte and Keaton Kreklewich of Melville placed in the Bantam Boys division of the MJT.

Nesbitt placed first with a score of 71, 77 (148) while Kreklewich placed fourth with a score of 78, 78 (156).

Nesbitt, the talented 13-year-old from Pilot Butte, SK, opened his 2025 season with a win in the MJT Bantam Boys division, carding rounds of 71 and 77 (148) with three birdies and an eagle along the way. The 2024 MJT Bantam Boys Order of Merit winner in Saskatchewan came into the event well-prepared, sharing, "I prepared all winter by having a goal in mind and spent lots of time on simulators." Nesbitt rated the tournament a "10/10," adding, "Weather was great, staff was great, and course was great. Overall, amazing event."

Nesbitt qualified for the East Coast Junior Championship, FCG World Championship (11-18), MJT National Tour Challenge, and was shortlisted for the Uswing Mo-

ning Junior World Golf Championship (11-18).

Parker Hallam of Whitewood placed 11th (176) out of the 16 entries.

Playing in Juvenile Boys was Brock Dorrance who placed 14th out of the 23 junior boys' golfers.

In the MJT Mini Tour standings, Emma Hallam of Whitewood placed 3rd in the Girls 11 - 12. MJT set the stage for high-level competition with division titles and four coveted international qualifiers on the line.

The non-profit Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour is Canada's #1 Junior Golf Tour as well as the only national junior tour run exclusively by PGA of Canada Professionals and the 'Road to College Golf' in Canada.

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Esterhazy area student wins \$6,000 scholarship

Submitted
Grasslands News

A Good Spirit School Division student from the Esterhazy area has

been chosen as this year's recipient of the Agriculture Student Scholarship, which recognizes students pursuing a post-secondary education in agriculture. Abbey Norek from Ger-

ald, is this year's Agriculture Student Scholarship grand prize \$6,000 winner. "It's encouraging to see such passionate and knowledgeable youth in this year's Agriculture

Student Scholarship submissions," Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison said.

"Saskatchewan producers are generational leaders when it comes to innovation and sustainability and that is why we continue to invest in the education of our future industry leaders. Congratulations to this year's recipients."

Norek's winning video highlighted an urban-rural disconnect when it comes to agriculture. She proposed education and advocacy as key solutions

to this issue.

Demonstrating strong personal commitment to this topic, she discussed her experience building a school garden using recycled materials, leading outreach programs on her family farm and lobbying for agriculture electives in her school division.

Norek said she is excited about encouraging other young people involved in agricultural education.

"What it really comes down to is education and spreading awareness about what farming is

really like so more people can build trust in it," Norek said.

"Hopefully more young people want to come into this amazing industry."

Noah Skoropad from Chamberlin, Rebecca Mayerle from Tisdale and Ty Annand from Nipawin were all awarded \$3,000 as the runners-up.

The recipients will be attending post-secondary at the University of Saskatchewan in the fall at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources seeking a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degrees.

Tips and Tricks to avoid Ticks

Submitted
Grasslands News

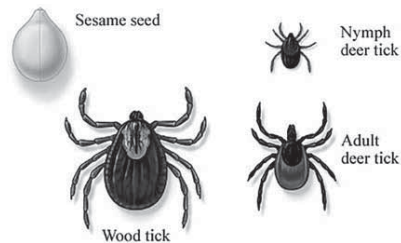
As the weather warms up and the grass starts to grow again, Saskatchewan residents are being reminded to take precautions to reduce their risk of exposure to ticks.

Tick bites occur most often from early spring to fall. The risk is highest in areas with tall grass, brush, and wooded areas, and when in these environments for long periods, like camping, hiking, or hunting.

"Ticks are out. Everyone should be aware of ticks and prepared after being outdoors in the spring through to the fall in case they see one on themselves or their pets.

Not all ticks carry disease," says Dr. David Torr, a SHA Medical Health Officer, "but following a few precautions when heading into tall grass, brush or wooded areas helps to reduce the risk of tick bites."

Our furry friends are also tasty treats to ticks and can transport ticks into our home. People with pets who are active in tall grass, brush, and



wooded areas should be especially aware to monitor for ticks. See safe tick removal tips below.

Preventative measures are important and simple; they include:

- Wear pants, long-sleeved shirts and shoes that don't show your bare feet.
- Tuck your pant legs into your socks to prevent ticks from crawling up your legs.
- Wear light-colored clothes so ticks can be easily seen.

• Use insect repellents that contain DEET or Icaridin. Apply repellent to clothes as well as your skin (after sunscreen). Always read and follow the directions. Some repellents may have age restrictions.

In Canada, clothing that has been treated with the insecticide permethrin has been approved

for use by people over the age of 16.

- Stay on paths and avoid contact with tall grass and overgrown brush when hiking.
- Check yourself, children, and pets for ticks after being outside.
- Shower or bathe as soon as possible after being outside to wash off loose ticks.

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New Catholic priest for Fort Qu'Appelle and area

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

After a six-month delay because of difficulties

with Canadian immigration authorities a Roman Catholic priest has at last arrived from Nigeria to administer to congrega-

tions in Fort Qu'Appelle, Lebret, Balcarres and the File Hills First Nation.

Rev. Augustine Ebido is no stranger to Saskatchewan. He's been here before when he worked for six years with Archbishop Donald Bolen when Bolen was the bishop of Saskatoon.

"I consider the archbishop as a mentor. His simple and austere life touched me when I served under him before," says Ebido. Rev Ebido had been a permanent resident of Canada but under new immigration rules had to give up that status to return to serve here yet again.

Rev. Ebido was born in Onitsha, Nigeria, a city of two million on the Niger River. His father was a photographer who converted to Christianity and became a teacher. He followed the missionaries and became a lay missionary himself. "If he hadn't been married, he would have become a priest," Ebido told The Fort Times. Rev. Ebido has an early desire to be

a priest that saw both he and an older brother enter a Minor Seminary.

Both left the minor seminary without continuing to the Major Seminary.

However, Fr. Ebido returned to the priesthood in 1992, and he was ordained a Dominican priest on July 7, 2001.

"I had a successful business career, but I had to give it up when Jesus kidnapped me," he chuckles. He holds a B.A Philosophy degree of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria; an M.A in Theology, and a doctorate (PhD) degree, both of Dusqueune University in Pittsburgh, Penn. U.S.A.

He came to serve in Canada in 2010 but returned to Nigeria in September 2016. There he served as pioneer director of the Dominican University Project Fund, a member of the Board of Trustees of Dominican University in Ibadan. His last residence was in Lagos, a city of about 20 million people, where, along with other officials of the Dominican province, served (part-time) as pastoral assistant, the parishioners of St Dominic's Catholic Church, Yaba, Nigeria. It's a parish with over 15,000 parishioners!

He says that now he is back in Canada he will have time for deeper re-

flection: "I think I miss the deeper pastoral engagement because of my primary work with the university.

"I need time to think, and discover with clarity, what I need to do at this stage of my life in the primary mission to win souls for Christ."

He concludes: "This second missionary journey is primarily a call to serve God among his people in a place that are in the direst need of priests and the Gospel. It is therefore a journey into God and into self-discovery."

Rev. Ebido is expected to remain with the Archdiocese of Regina for at least three years.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Priest arrives

Rev. Augustine Ebido greets parishioners following Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Lebret on Sunday, May 4.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Melville Churches Welcome You

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
238 - 3rd Ave. E.
Office Ph. 306-728-2551
Office Hours: Mondays
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Clergy: Deacon Kevin Prouten
www.stpaulsmelville.ca

Sunday, May 11:
*11:00 a.m. Worship Service and Sunday School
Followed by Mother's Day Brunch

Saturday, May 10:
*7 p.m. Worship at Trinity Lemb
Sunday, May 11:
*9:00 a.m. Worship at Christ, Neud
Thursday, May 15:
5 p.m. MACC Supper at First U.
Hosted by Melville Baptist Church

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
Church Office 306-728-5764;
306-720-0589
Sunday, May 11:
10:30 a.m. Eucharist Service

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Sunday, May 11:
11 a.m. Worship Service with Warren Crossman
Tuesday, May 13:
3:30 p.m. Council Meeting
Thursday, May 15: Free Community Supper at First United

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER
(A Church with a Caring Heart)
800 Prince Edward St.
(Melville Comm. Works)
Ph. 306-728-2347
Pastor Tim Oehler
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10:00 a.m. Coffee and Welcome
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
www.melwilleriverchurch.org
Facebook @melwilleriverchurch
Recorded messages posted online

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
May 8: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
May 9: 7:00 p.m. Youth
May 11: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
May 5: 3:40 p.m. Confirmation Class
May 12: 3:40 p.m. Confirmation

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Sunday, May 11:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, May 18:
11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

MELVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
473 - 8th Ave. W.
Office Ph. 306-728-5022
Pastor Jon Pettinger
Associate Pastor: Jesse Darby
Sunday:
Connections at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service at 11 a.m.
Online services can be found at:
www.melvillebaptist.com

Growing in Faith Together

Melville Churches Welcome You

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001
Sunday, May 11:
Worship 10:30 a.m.

ST. HENRY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
729 Main St. - Office
Ph. 306-728-5702
Res. Ph. 306-728-2305
111 - 8th Ave. W.
Father Melchor Samonte
Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. - Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zioncpastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, May 11:
11:00 a.m. Divine Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Worship Service ~ 10:30 a.m.
Thursday - Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday Kids Club - 3:30 p.m.
EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY
Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Youth Group - 7 p.m.
Rev. Dr. James R. Graham

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapathil
Sunday, May 11:
11:00 a.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, May 11:
10:30 a.m. Mother's Day and Rogation Sunday
Rev. Cheryl Johnson

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, May 11:
12 noon Communion Service with Potluck to Follow

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, May 11:
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Indian Head Church Welcomes You

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
801 Buxton St. - Indian Head, SK
306-695-3838
Sunday Services 11 a.m.
*Family Play Group - Mondays, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon
*Living with Cancer Support Group 2nd Tuesday of the Month

Kipling Churches Welcome You

KIPLING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
417 3rd Street South
Office: 306-736-8268
Sunday Services 10 a.m.
email: pipestoneparish@sasktel.net

KIPLING UNITED CHURCH
102 Nelson Ave. - 306-736-2237
email: kwpc@sasktel.net
Services Held 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Minister will vary

KIPLING PEOPLE'S CHURCH
701 3rd Street - 306-736-8992
Website: kiplingpeopleschurch.com
Pastors: Kevin & Merodee Hassler
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship and Children's Ministry

ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
418 First St., Kipling
Priest: Father Joseph Villamartin
306-538-2163
Saturday, May 10:
Mass 6:30 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
400 3rd St. South, Kipling
306-736-2447, Doris
306-424-2604, George
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

BEKEVAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
102 Nelson Ave.
(in Kipling United Church)
Sunday Worship in person 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Devon Pattermore
Lay Person/Service Leader
306-736-2479
bkbarnat@gmail.com

PARKLAND BIBLE CHURCH
309 3rd. St. South, Kipling
306-736-2421
parklandagc@sasktel.net
Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship Service
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Coffee with Pastor
Wednesday: 10 a.m. Mom's Group

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH Fort Qu'Appelle
Sunday service 10:30 a.m.
Service is also available on YouTube and will be livestreamed
306-900-0600
Fort Qu'Appelle - valleyalliance.ca

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
202 Bay Ave. S.,
Phone - 306-551-6213
Hall Contact - 306-331-6720

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
194 Bay St., Fort Qu'Appelle
Rev. Jo Mader, 306-332-4455
Sunday School & Service 10:30
Hear the Gospel, sing the faith, feel the family fellowship. Facebook Live.



TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

DISTRICT OF KATEPWA
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before July 9, 2025, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

| Description of Property | Title Number | Total Arrears* | Costs | Total Arrears and Costs |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------|-------------------------|
| LOT 15-BLK/PAR 9-PLAN 62R10577 EXT 0 | 152226367 | \$1,731.23 | \$543.00 | \$2,274.23 |
| LOT 14-BLK/PAR 20-PLAN 79R00363 EXT 0 | 135756119 | \$1,974.53 | \$543.00 | \$2,517.53 |
| LOT 11-BLK/PAR 2-PLAN 63R44066 EXT 0 | 155544329 | \$1,749.33 | \$543.00 | \$2,292.33 |
| LOT 1B-BLK/PAR A-PLAN 86R51516 EXT 2 | 154433213 | \$4,746.87 | \$543.00 | \$5,289.87 |
| LOT 1C-BLK/PAR A-PLAN 101503639 EXT 3 | 154433224 | | | |
| LOT 10-BLK/PAR 2-PLAN 88R07413 EXT 0 | 151320619 | \$1,538.38 | \$543.00 | \$2,081.38 |
| BLK/PAR F-PLAN 101765279 EXT 0 | 142974883 | \$834.88 | \$543.00 | \$1,377.88 |
| | 155542709 | | | |

* Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.
Dated this 1st day of May, 2025. Andrea Ehrmantraut, CAO

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

Town of Whitewood
Province of Saskatchewan

Notice is hereby given under the *Tax Enforcement Act*, that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land described in the following list are not fully paid before the July 9, 2025 a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

| Description of Property | Title Number | Total Arrears | Advertising Cost | Total Arrears & Costs |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| LOT 2-BLK/PAR 14-PLAN 75 EXT 0 | 142875906 | \$1,096.53 | \$457.00 | \$1,553.53 |
| LOT 6-BLK/PAR 18-PLAN 75 EXT 4 | 154831158 | \$419.15 | \$42.00 | \$461.15 |
| LOT 7-BLK/PAR 18-PLAN 75 EXT 5 | 154831169 | | | |
| LOT 8-BLK/PAR 18-PLAN 75 EXT 6 | 154831170 | | | |
| LOT 9-BLK/PAR 18-PLAN 75 EXT 7 | 154831181 | | | |
| LOT 10-BLK/PAR 18-PLAN 75 EXT 8 | 154831192 | | | |
| | 154831204 | | | |
| | 154831215 | | | |
| | 154831226 | | | |
| | 154831237 | | | |
| | 154831248 | | | |
| | 154831259 | | | |
| | 154831260 | | | |
| | 154831271 | | | |
| | 154831282 | | | |
| | 154831316 | | | |
| LOT 15-BLK/PAR 30-PLAN 75 EXT 0 | 156187457 | \$1,944.33 | \$457.00 | \$2,401.33 |
| LOT 1-BLK/PAR 31-PLAN 75 EXT 0 | 145574499 | \$824.23 | \$457.00 | \$1,281.23 |

*Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.
Dated this 6th day of May, 2025. Lisa Istace, CAO

CLASSIFIEDS



ONE AD, SIX NEWSPAPERS: All classified ads appear in the Fort Qu'Appelle Times, Indian Head-Wolseley News, Kipling Clipper, Melville Advance, Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun and Quad Town Forum

Obituary Stewart (Stew) Donald Hourd

Dec. 14, 1944 - April 30, 2025

Stewart (Stew) Donald Hourd passed away peacefully, with family by his side in the Moosomin Southeast Integrated Care Centre on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

Stew was predeceased by his parents Walter and Nell; siblings Agnes (Nip) and Glenn and daughter Wendy.

He is survived by his wife Darlene; his son Walter (Christine) and his grandchildren: Kristy, Nikki and Brooke.

Stew was born on Dec. 14, 1944 and grew up north of Kisbey, SK. After marrying Darlene, they eventually moved to a farm north of Kenosee Lake, SK. In 1976 he started his own business, Moose Mountain Well Services Ltd., that he successfully operated until retiring in the early 2000s. In addition to his business, Stew took great pride in caring for the hundreds of Saskatoon trees on his property. After moving into Kennedy in 2010, Stew stayed busy spending winters in Arizona with his wife and friends and gardening in the summers.

Stew will be greatly missed by his friends and family who will remember him for his love of garage sale-ing, collecting brass and antique tobacco tins and above all, spending time at his shop.

At Stew's request, no official memorial service will be held. A barbecue in his honour will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



Published Fridays
grasslandsnews.ca

Obituary Bernard Noels

Jan. 16, 1930 - April 29, 2025

Bernard Noels passed away peacefully with family at his side on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 in Indian Head, Sask. He passed away exactly one year to the day of his wife Margaret's passing.

Bernard is survived by his children: daughter Debra (Gerald) Florek and their family: Thomas, Samantha (Travis) Greenbank and their family: Rory, Nate and Luke; daughter Brenda (Gord) Callfas and their family: Dana (Stephen) Perras; son Mark (Noreen) Noels and their family: Amber (John) Benson and their family: Parker, Emma and Everly; Ashley (Chris) McCann and their family: Cooper and Harper and son Zachery (Hannah) and baby Noels.

Bernard was predeceased by his parents Ernest and Lucie; granddaughter Stacey Callfas and siblings: Denis, Esther, Armand, Lillian, Bob, Lorraine, Arlette, Adeline and Freddie.

Bernard was born in the Montmartre district on Jan. 16, 1930. In his early years he worked for the DeDecker family where he developed a close relationship. He also worked at different jobs in Jasper, Alta. and Regina, Sask.

Bernard met and married Margaret Brooks in Regina where they lived for a short time. They then purchased a farm in the Stoney Brook area which is southeast of Glenavon, Sask. in 1956. Dad continued to farm for the next 51 years before retiring in Fort Qu'Appelle. In his retirement, Bernard was always tinkering and devising ways to make everyday tasks easier, thus the nickname "MacGyver" was given to him by his kids. He enjoyed his retirement years with his family close by. Upon Margaret's passing, he moved to Hayes Haven in Indian Head where he enjoyed watching sports on TV until his passing.

A private family interment will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



Death Notice



In loving memory of **Audrey Stella Bokor (Kriston)**, who is survived by her loving husband Frank, and their children, Wendy (Keith) and Wayne (Sheila). She will be deeply missed by her grandchildren, Jared (Igor), Landon (Daniel), Carver, Tanner (Dominique), Jade and her newest great-grandson Nathan.

The full obituary can be viewed, and messages of condolence may be left at www.dignitymemorial.com

Card of Thanks

We would like to thank the Fort Qu'Appelle and Balcarres fire departments, all the volunteers, the neighbours, and all the farmers for bringing semi's of water. Thank you to Dave Schill for doing the fire guard and Mike Schill for bringing water and checking up on us.

So once again, our heartfelt thanks to all. It was a job well done. -Demetry and Linda Procyk
Fire at Taylor Beach (332-1512)

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subscribe@grasslandsnews.ca

SADD says Thanks!

Thank You Melville Businesses

The Melville Comprehensive School SADD (Students Against Drinking and Driving) Chapter would like to thank the following Melville businesses for their donation to this year's Designated Driver Recognition baskets: Bank of Montreal, Bonicks, City of Melville, Double R Autobody, Future Ford, Home Hardware, Snackville, Trustmark Insurance, Matty's Family Fun Center, Melville Agencies Ltd., Melville Appliance and Mattress Center, Melville Chevrolet, N & R Concrete, OK Tire, Pharmasave, Royal Drug Mart, Shear Concepts, Suncrest College and Western Pizzeria.

For Sale

SENIOR SELLING the following – garden paraphernalia, planting pots, lawn mower, dahlia roots; a 54-piece cutlery set, never used, in a walnut chest, includes hostess set; a 44 piece dinnerware set; a refinished antique settee and more. For a complete list call 306-728-2131

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cont'd on Page 18

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Assessment Roll Notice

RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No. 187 for the year 2025 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A bylaw pursuant to Section 214 of The Municipalities Act has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment to the Board of Revision is required to file a notice of appeal in writing, accompanied by a \$75.00 appeal fee by July 8, 2025, to:

The Secretary of the Board of Revision
Aileen Swenson
c/o P.O. Box 99
Fort Qu'Appelle, SK. S0G 1S0

Dated this 9th day of May 2025.

Charmain Wowk, Assessor

Notice of Preparation of Assessment Roll

RM of Indian Head No. 156

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the R.M. of Indian Head No. 156 for the year 2025 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on the following days: May 9 to July 11, 2025.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of The Municipalities Act has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal against their assessment is required to file their notice of appeal accompanied by a \$100.00 appeal fee, which will be returned if the appeal is successful, with:

The Secretary of the Board of Revisions, Nicole Hoskins, RM of Indian Head., P.O Box 39, Indian Head, SK S0G 2K0, by the 11th day of July, 2025

Dated this 9th day of May 2025.

Tracy Luscombe,
Assessor

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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Village of Montmartre

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Village of Montmartre for the year 2025 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., on the following days: Monday to Friday, May 9 to July 9, 2025.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person wishing to discuss the notice of assessment or potential appeal may contact the assessor at the Village of Montmartre, Box 146, 136 Central Ave., Montmartre, SK S0G 3M0. A notice of appeal, accompanied by a \$50.00 appeal fee which will be returned if the appeal is successful, must be filed with:

The Secretary of the Board of Revision

Aileen Swenson
Box 146, 136 Central Avenue
Montmartre, SK S0G 3M0
By the 9th day of July, 2025.

Dated this 9th day of May, 2025.

Dale Brenner, Assessor

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

RM of Montmartre No. 126

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the RM of Montmartre No. 126 for the year 2025 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., on the following days: Monday to Friday, May 9 to July 9, 2025.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person wishing to discuss the notice of assessment or potential appeal may contact the assessor at the RM of Montmartre No. 126, Box 120, 136 Central Ave., Montmartre, SK S0G 3M0. A notice of appeal, accompanied by a \$50.00 appeal fee which will be returned if the appeal is successful, must be filed with:

The Secretary of the Board of Revision

Aileen Swenson
Box 120, 136 Central Avenue
Montmartre, SK S0G 3M0
By the 9th day of July, 2025

Dated this 9th day of May, 2025.

Dale Brenner, Assessor

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TOWN OF BALCARRES

Public Works Labourer

Employment Term: Full Time, Summer/Seasonal, Monday-Friday, between the months of June and September

Number of positions: 2

Application deadline: Please deliver resume with experience, qualifications and references to Town of Balcarres by 4:00 p.m. Friday, May 16, 2025

Job Description: Work duties will include but are not limited to waste collection, grass cutting, heavy lifting involved for some duties (50 lbs), weed and tree trimming, painting and building maintenance, and any other duties that may be required by the Maintenance Supervision.

Required Skills/Experience/Qualifications: The successful candidate(s) must be 16 years of age or older, able to work both independently and in a team environment, have excellent communication skills, have the ability to work in a variety of weather conditions, have a valid drivers license and be comfortable in operating a riding lawn mower.

Salary: \$18.00/hour

Student Recreation Worker(s) for the Lions Park

Employment Term: Summer/Seasonal, Monday-Friday, between the months of June and September

Number of positions: 2

Application deadline: Please deliver resume with experience, qualifications and references to Town of Balcarres by 4:00 p.m. Friday, May 16, 2025

Job Description: This position will be responsible for planning, setting up and leading of leisure activities for children at recreation facilities in the town. They may lead activities in areas such as arts and crafts, sports, and games. As well, the position will be responsible for the monitoring, cleaning and sanitization of outdoor facilities.

Required Skills/Experience/Qualifications: The successful candidate(s) must be 15 years of age or older, able to work both independently and in a team environment, have excellent communication skills, have the ability to work in a variety of weather conditions, have knowledge of general first aid skills or be CPR certified and have experience working with children of all ages.

Salary: \$15.00/hour

To apply, please send resumes to the Town of Balcarres:

Mail - Town of Balcarres
P.O. Box 130
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Balcarres, SK
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Email - balcarrestown@sasktel.net

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Damaged house sees another disaster

House damaged in moving and now wind

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

While the owner of the house, or the company that was hired as its mover are not known locally to residents around Whitewood, the history of the house continues, as it sees setbacks on its journey to its new home.

While being moved on Jan. 8, 2025, heading south on highway 9, the house tipped off the moving trailer just north of the junction of highways 1 and 9.

The incident caused both lanes to be blocked and highway 9 was shut down with detours necessary onto back roads while the house was removed. Damage to the house was extensive.

The house was stabilized enough to be moved from highway 9 to the parking lot at Can Am Travel Stops, south of highway 1.

In recent months, more stabilization of damages that resulted from the incident of the house tipping took place but the house

remains at the location of Can Am Travel Stops.

Unfortunately, the house just seems destined for disaster. Grasslands News started receiving reports this past Sunday that the roof of the house had blown off.

One individual stated there was something like a small tornado or plow wind that lifted the roof and tore approximately one half of the roof structure from the building, leaving exposed rafters and insulation.



CHRIS ASHFIELD/GRASSLANDS NEWS

Two incidents cause damage

The house that slipped off the moving trailer in January, blocking Highway #9 to the north, was moved to the Can Am Travel Stops parking lot in Whitewood where wind tore off part of the roof last Sunday.

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Indian Head Stage Left presents 'Spring Roles'

By Sarah Pacio

Grasslands News

Indian Head Stage Left Players continued the legacy of providing local access to performing arts entertainment with its spring performance at the Grand Theatre on May 2 and 3.

Vanessa McDonald welcomed the audience on Friday night and advised them to note the spelling for the production's title, 'Spring Roles.' Her further remarks were met with a chuckle and nods of agreement when she recommended visiting one of the nearby Vietnamese restaurants to find another type of delicious spring roll. Then the program began with live music presented by The Gallery Gang, followed by three one-act plays.

The Gallery Gang is an ensemble that debuted at an open mic session in The Gallery Coffee House, located on Grand Avenue a few blocks south of the theatre. The group is comprised of Erin Lamb, Donovan Wicks, Richard Cochrane, Doug Thorseth, Greg Jones and Bruce Neill. Their performance of three musical selections – with vocals, harmonica, percussion, bass and guitar – was met with enthusiastic applause.

The musicians then quickly removed their instruments from the stage and the first theatrical performance began.



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

I want to stay here

John Brown (played by John Kort, centre) explains to the Matron (played by Sherry Carleton, left) and Nurse Maggie Coates (played by Tracey Gostick, right) that he wishes to remain indoors doing nothing. The group and other members of Stage Left Players presented 'A Separate Peace' at the Grand Theatre last weekend.

Linda Kort directed a cast of young actors and familiar faces in presenting 'Finn McCool,' by May Lynch. In the dramatization of an Irish folk tale, Kort

and her husband John took the roles of Una and Finn McCool, while their children were portrayed by Jasper Beliveau, Thomas Flamant, Joni Lamb and Kyra Nelson. Joni Lamb also filled the role of Grannie. The audience was entertained by the McCool's clever and humorous schemes which deterred Cuhullin the Giant (Nicholas Rennebohm) from causing trouble for the family.

The second performance by Stage Left Players was a monologue presented by Vanessa McDonald. Attired in an old-fashioned dress and head scarf, she shared an excerpt from 'Paper Wheat,' originally produced by 25th Street Theatre of Saskatoon. The play relates the early settlers' experiences and the es-

tablishment of the wheat pool in Saskatchewan. Audience members found McDonald's expressions and mannerism highly engaging as she shared a Latvian immigrant's impressions of the sights and smells that assailed her senses when she arrived in Swift Current.

Following a brief intermission and set change, John Kort directed the final play, "A Separate Peace," by Sir Tom Stoppard. The play was set in a private hospital in the English countryside. It depicted John Brown, played by John Kort, who admitted himself to the hospital without any apparent physical malady but plenty of cash to pay for accommodations. He denied that anything was wrong with him, and simply expressed a desire to stay in a place with a dependable routine where he was not required to do anything. The doctor (Linda Kort), Nurse Jones (Allison Kydd) and matron (Sherry Carleton) all found him mysterious, but the patient's amicable attitude persuaded them to let him stay temporarily.

Elements of comedy were interspersed as the audience began to perceive the somber experience that was troubling John Brown. It became apparent from the patient's conversation with Nurse Maggie Coates (Tracey Gostick) that he had spent four years as a prisoner of war. He found the hospital setting soothing, providing protection from the chaos of the world; until the staff endeavored to reunite him with relatives. Before they arrived, he exited the hospital scene to resume a transient lifestyle with the parting statement, "The trouble is, I was always so well. If I'd been sick, it would've been ok." Although a fictitious story, the audience was left pondering how John Brown's situation might have differed if the other characters had better understood the impact of his wartime experience.



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Too funny

Una McCool (played by Linda Kort, left) laughs at the reaction of Cuhullin the Giant (played by Nick Rennebohm, centre) to Finn McCool, disguised as Baby McCool (played by John Kort, right).



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Admit me

John Brown (played by John Kort, left) asks Nurse Jones (played by Allison Kydd, right) to admit him to the hospital during a performance of 'A Separate Peace'.



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