

# THE MELVILLE Advance

Friday,  
July 11, 2025  
Vol. 99 No. 10  
Agreement # 40011922

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## 31st annual baseball tournament sees over 60 teams

By Jacob Miller  
Grasslands News

The largest minor ball tournament in Canada brought in crowds of people to Melville to watch three days of non-stop baseball.

The 31st annual Melville Minor Ball Association Baseball Tournament took place from July 4 to 6 at the Melville Regional Park.

"I think it was a big success," said Melville Minor Ball President Jordan Keller. "We had over 60 teams in the tournament, and to see the community be able to handle close to 2500 people coming through over the weekend was great. I know it was great for our local businesses in Melville and Yorkton and area, and we really appreciate the cooperation of everybody. It takes an army to pull something like this off, and it takes lots of volunteers, and we've got a really good group of people on the Melville Minor Ball Association."

Keller added that he had heard lots of positive acknowledgments through the participants, players and parents.

The tournament featured 62 teams from 26 communities across six different divisions battling it out on the field for the title of division champion.

Teams were from Assiniboia, Battleford, Carnduff, Eaton, Esterhazy, Estevan, Humboldt, Lumsden, Macklin, Martensville, Medicine Hat (AB.), Melville, Moose Jaw, Muenster, Nipawin, Pilot Butte, Prince Albert, Redvers, Regina, Saskatoon, Unity, Watrous, Weyburn, White City, Winnipeg (MB.) and Yorkton.

The tournament featured teams in 11U AA who utilized Father Tom, Jaycee and Regional Park 1 (RP1) fields; 11U AAA who utilized Jaycee and RP1; 13U AA who utilized Father Tom, Al Walls, Slow Pitch 1 (SP1), SP2 and RP3; 13U AAA who utilized Father Tom and SP1; 15U AA who utilized Bob Stewart, RP3 and RP4, and 18U AA who utilized Pirie Field and RP2.

Crowds out at the regional park were treated to a total of 153 games of baseball that were played over the weekend.

Keller said that all the games ran smoothly and on time, which led to the tournament being successful.

"When you run a tournament this size, it's very important to keep a tight time schedule so that the games start on time and that takes a lot of cooperation from the teams and the parents to get the players to the field and even the umpires is one of the things that we watch closely," said Keller. "If we did get a little bit behind during the day, during the next game or two things were back on schedule, which was really positive. Sometimes in tournaments you get behind and that gets really stressful."

"Very proud of the community and everybody that helped out, from the volunteers to the coaches, and, like I said, the people on the Melville Minor Ball Association, helping out in the canteen or selling 50/50s,"

During the tournament the 50/50s sold out, and the winner will be revealed July 12.

"We want to thank the City of Melville and the Regional Park for helping us achieve our goal and running such a large tournament. We want to thank the businesses in not just Melville but surrounding area that help us run such a large tournament," said Keller.

"We also want to thank the cooperation of the citizens of Melville for dealing with the traffic jams and the swarm of people that come to our tournament every year, and I know it brings a lot of people into the community, but, it's a really good thing, and really good representation of what Melville truly is, and it's a great baseball community as well."

Keller added that any store you went into, it was busy.

"There was lots of action at the swimming pool and



JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

### Pitching hard

11U AA Melville Millionaires' pitcher Caleb Gilchuk reading up a pitch against the Western Dust Devils at RP1 on July 4, the first day of the tournament. The Mils lost 21-4 against the Devils, but played hard and had fun. See page 10 for more pictures from the three day tournament.

the batting cages as well, so very positive for the community.

### Melville and Area Teams

Melville fielded two teams for the tournament, with the 11U AA Millionaires and the 13U AA Millionaires.

The 11U AA Mils fought hard but fell 21-4 against Western Dust Devils, 16-2 against the Redvers A's, 11-1 against the Humboldt Dodgers, and 9-5 against the Regina Buffalos.

The 13U AA Mils did not find any better luck and lost 14-3 against the Humboldt Dodgers, 21-3 against the Sask Five Giants, 24-7 against the Yorkton Cardinals, 22-5 against the Redvers A's, and 14-13 against Saskatoon Royals 64's.

"When you bring in teams from three provinces, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba, you're drawing from 1000s of ball players all across western Canada, and I think our local teams challenge themselves," said Keller. "I know the boys played hard, and one of the things about this tournament, it teaches you what you need to work on and what areas need extra development and coaching. So all in all, I think it was really good for the kids to see, you know, other teams from different areas, and how they warm up and how they practice and how they get ready for the game."

Keller added that he heard that wherever there was

a piece of open grass in the park, there was someone playing ball.

"Really positive to see the kids out and exercising, and the passion of the players and the coaches and everybody around the baseball community; it's a very close knit community," said Keller.

The 18U AA Esterhazy Cyclones ended the tournament in fifth place in the A Pool, losing 15-3 against the Elmwood Giants, 10-7 against the White Butte Broncos, 10-3 against the Regina Blue Jays, and 11-7 against the Macklin Lakers.

### Tournament Results

The 11U AA Humboldt Dodgers beat out the Watrous Lakers to become division champions.

The 11U AAA Estevan Brewers beat Sask Central River Pirates to become division champions.

In the 13U AA division, the Watrous Lakers beat the Muenster Red Sox to become division champions.

The 13U AAA Winnipeg South Wolves beat out the White Butte Broncos to become division champions.

In the 15U AA division the Prince Albert Royals came out on top.

And in the 18U AA division the Moose Jaw Canucks won against the Elmwood Giants in a forfeit.



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**New swimming pool**  
Gerry Fisher, left, makes the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon to open the Montmartre new swimming pool, along with Kemoca Park Authority Chairman Ken Weichel, and Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark.

BRAD BROWN | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Montmartre celebrates new swimming pool in Kemoca RP

By Brad Brown  
Grasslands News

The pool came without water. It came without sliding. It came without splashing and lifeguards and diving.

But the sound wasn't sad. Why, this sound sounded merry. It couldn't be so. But it was merry. Very.

Yes, even with a late-breaking delay in the

completion of the new swimming pool at Kemoca Regional Park, the Montmartre community turned out en masse Saturday to celebrate the facility's grand opening.

Bookended by attractions that included a car show, parade, beach volleyball tournament, slo-pitch, bounce castle, slip and slide, an outdoor market and a cabaret featuring music from Third Degree Birnz, park authority board chair Ken Weichel made the facility's opening official by inviting longtime Montmartre resident Gerry Fisher to cut the ribbon in front of the new office and change room facility.

The park board had announced earlier in the week that the pool would not be open to the public as hoped due to weather-related delays.

"We've had many setbacks, not their fault," Weichel said of Saskatoon company Paradise Pools, which was contracted to build the pool area itself. "It's just the way life has been. Things don't show up. The weather doesn't cooperate. All sorts of stuff. They assure us we'll be swimming in a week or so and we look forward to that day coming."

He then invited Fisher to cut the ribbon, officially opening the office building to the public, who were then invited in for tours.

Fisher, Weichel said, volunteered his time to help develop the park in the early 1970s and was also in attendance for the grand opening of the park's original pool in 1971.

"I think this is unbelievable just to see the amount of people that came out," Fisher told Grasslands News. "It really, really stunned me."

Fisher recalled that the original office and change rooms were housed in a retired schoolhouse that

was imported from neighbouring Candiak. That structure was then lost to fire, which led to the construction of the previous building – itself just torn down in the past 12 months to make way for version three.

The newest iteration also comes with deep local roots as it was designed by Montmartre School graduate Emma Brenner.

Brenner graduated in 2021 and now works as a project manager for CCR Construction, where she created the conceptual design and floor plan for the company's successful bid to construct the outbuilding.

She said her design included an intimate knowledge of both the park board's wishlist and those of current and future employees, based on her own past experience working as a lifeguard at the previous pool.

Improvements to the new facility, which the public was able to tour Saturday, include an accessible family washroom, an accessible corridor for families with strollers or users in wheelchairs, an equipment storage room and a staff-only washroom, in addition to facilities for the general public.

"It means a lot," said a beaming Brenner. "Helping build a building for Kemoca that they really want and to be able to enjoy for generations to come, it was huge and being that I grew up here it's kind of cool to say in years to come, I can tell my kids I played a part in having this building come to life. It means a lot."

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# Millions in 'unfair' legal fees part of a broader problem in First Nations law

By Sonal Gupta, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Grasslands News

Legal fee agreements between a First Nation and its former law firm were unfair and, in some cases, unenforceable, a Saskatchewan judge concluded. Some legal experts say the issue is more common and causes more harm among First Nations than with the general population.

The decision, released Tuesday, settles a 2021 dispute over millions of dollars in legal fees and penalties tied to historic claims against the federal government.

"This was obviously a big win for Beardy's and Oke-masis Cree Nation, but this is also a big win for First Nations generally," said Edwin Ananas, chief of the nation, in a recent press release.

In 1999, Calgary-based Maurice Law, which describes itself as "the first and largest Indigenous-owned national law firm in Canada," was brought in to help prepare claims for treaty payments withheld by Canada after the 1885 Northwest Resistance.

At the time, Canada had labelled the nation and other Prairie First Nations as "Rebellion Nations" and cut off their treaty rights as punishment for their supposed role in the uprising.

By 2005, the communities had signed formal retainer agreements with Maurice Law. The Beardy's case was chosen as a test to set a legal precedent, making it easier for others to succeed.

Over the years, the legal work expanded to cover multiple claims — annuities, salaries, agricultural benefits and flood losses. The law firm recommended its clients take out litigation loans and insurance to cover legal costs as the cases dragged on.

By 2015, Beardy's had won a \$4.5-million judgment for withheld annuities, and in 2024, the nation reached a \$4.1-million settlement with Canada for unpaid salaries to chiefs and council.

However, concerns about legal fees and financing grew. According to the court document, Ananas and the council were worried about rising legal bills and debt from loans and insurance.

In 2021, they ended their contract with Maurice Law. After the termination, the law firm demanded more than \$1.1 million in fees plus a share of future contingency payments — even though it had already been paid through loans and insurance.

The agreements included what the court called "poison pill" clauses: if the clients switched lawyers before a settlement, they could owe up to half the expected contingency fee, plus other charges.

"The penalty or 'poison pill' provisions in the retainer agreements are designed to punish and discourage the client from terminating Maurice or suffer severe financial consequences," the judge wrote.

The nation argued the agreements were confusing and didn't clearly say which claims were covered or what fees would be charged. The court found these penalty clauses unfair and ruled the law firm should be paid a reasonable amount for the services they provided, rather than the specific fees in the disputed contracts.

The judge ordered Maurice Law to reimburse Beardy's more than \$826,000, as well as \$100,000 in enhanced costs, an additional penalty for the unfair agreements. About \$492,000 — the 12 per cent contingency fee

claimed by the firm — remains in trust until the final amount is decided.

The court also found troubling billing practices. Records showed one lawyer claimed 25 hours in a single day, and the nation was charged 338 hours just to draft a declaration of claim. The judge found many of the same problems with contracts Maurice Law had with another First Nation, One Arrow, including confusing terms and harsh penalty clauses, and ruled those agreements were also unfair or unenforceable in part. The judge did not order Maurice Law to pay a specific sum back to One Arrow at this stage. Instead, the court said any fees Maurice Law claims from One Arrow must be based only on the fair value of the legal work actually done. If One Arrow and the law firm can't agree on what's fair, they can return to court to have the fees reviewed again.

In a statement, Maurice Law said working on contingency is a way for the firm to take on clients who can't afford to pay up front.

"We have worked for decades on claims with no guarantee of success. We have spent thousands of hours on claims that were unsuccessful or have not yet been resolved. We believe this is fair — we are only paid a contingency fee when we win. In doing so, we enhance access to justice for Indigenous communities in need. When we are successful, we are paid a percentage of the award to our client — typically in the 4 to 12 per cent range, which is standard in our industry, and lower than what many other firms practicing aboriginal law charge," the firm wrote.

Maurice Law said it intends to appeal the judicial decision. "We acknowledge a small number of our fee arrangements were recently overturned by the Saskatchewan Court of King's Bench. We believe the decision of the Court of King's Bench includes errors of law and we intend to appeal this decision to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal."

The firm said it donates a portion of its contingency fees back to First Nations, amounting to \$2 million so far in 2025.

Indigenous Services Canada did not respond to a request for comment by deadline.

## Exploitative practices

Legal experts who spoke to Canada's National Observer following last Tuesday's Maurice Law case say that while contingency fee arrangements were designed to improve access to justice, they have often led to predatory practices, windfall profits for lawyers and unfair outcomes that disproportionately harm First Nations clients.

This issue is especially common in Saskatchewan because the province has seen a surge in large, complex First Nations litigation and settlement activity in recent decades — drawing more law firms to the region in search of substantial payouts, said Sara Mainville, managing partner of JFK Law.

"There are more and more law firms that are really attracted to this work because of the large payouts," Mainville said.

She pointed out that the principle of "sharing" in Indigenous culture is sometimes taken advantage of by lawyers. Some firms have justified large bonuses or "contingency fees" as a way of sharing in the community's success.

"First Nations feel like they should share, because they've been successful," Mainville said. "[But] those

don't really align with the fact that as lawyers under our law societies, we get paid. We get paid for the work we do, we don't necessarily get bonuses."

Cynthia Westaway, senior counsel at First Peoples Law LLP and former founder of Westaway Law Group, said these issues are especially acute for First Nations — who often come to the negotiation table from poverty resulting from the loss of lands and other historic wrongs.

"Professional support should never take advantage of the limited resources and lack of leverage of First Nations to negotiate a fair contract," she said.

Westaway said contingency fees make sense in certain class actions, such as the recent cases involving the forced sterilization of Indigenous women, but are less appropriate for claims already accepted by Canada for negotiation of compensation owed.

"While there may be situations where contingencies are reasonable, I have never had to go that route to successfully reach large settlements," Westaway said.

Westaway said historically, Canada didn't fund historic claims. Now it usually covers the cost of reports and provides about \$110,000 per claim each year for negotiations. Given this support, contingencies are rarely needed, and courts are unlikely to find fees of five to 20 per cent reasonable on large settlements, which often range from \$200,000 to \$700,000.

These communities have already waited 120 to 150 years to be compensated for their losses, she said.

However, delayed funding forces councils to enter into contingency fee agreements to keep their cases moving.

She said in all cases, First Nations should not have to go to court over legal fees. Instead, any past contingencies should be reviewed for reasonableness and updated to ensure First Nations are paying reasonable fees in line with the case law.

"Canada should be providing funding earlier and more consistently, so there's no need for a contingency," Westaway said.

Mainville said in her own practice, contingency fees are used "when there's no other option" but "taking an unfair cut of damages that are justly given to that generation of citizens of that nation" is "distasteful" and undermines the purpose of reconciliation.

- SEE UNFAIR LEGAL FEES, 4

## Bangor Heritage Club 33rd Annual Heritage Day Sunday, July 20 - Bangor, Sask.

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# Unfair legal fees part of a broader problem in First Nations law

- continued from Page 3

Likewise, Mainville said that “poison pill” clauses are not common in most law firms.

“It’s not a good model retainer, not best practice to use those kinds of [clauses] that suggest that there’s sort of a poison pill if you try to terminate that law firm,” Mainville said. “All my clients have the right to terminate me, they all have the right to seek another lawyer and there’s no penalty for them going elsewhere.”

Westaway agreed — “No First Nation should ever be punished for choosing a different service provider,” she said.

In its statement, Maurice Law blamed its competitors for “encouraging clients to challenge our fees.”

“While they claim to be doing this for noble reasons, the truth is they are being opportunistic. Many of our competitors would never have taken these claims on several years ago, when the client could not afford to pay and the prospect of success was uncertain. These firms wait until Maurice Law has advanced the claim to the finish line, after years of work with no or minimal compensation, and then attempt to lure our clients away at the last minute, when success is guaranteed due to the hard work of Maurice Law.”

## Protecting Indigenous clients

Indigenous organizations are pushing for urgent reforms to how law societies regulate legal fees charged to First Nations.

In December 2023, the Assembly of First Nations passed a resolution demanding that the Federation of Law Societies and all provincial and territorial law societies create rules — developed in partnership with First Nations — to ensure legal fees are fair and reasonable.

The Indigenous Bar Association has called for specific measures, including caps on the percentage lawyers can charge in contingency fee agreements, standardized forms for contingency fee

arrangements, mandatory training for lawyers working with Indigenous clients and bans on fees that aren’t justified by the actual legal work performed, rather than simply being tied to the size of settlements.

Requests for an interview were sent to the AFN and bar association, but no responses were received by deadline.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada told Canada’s National Observer it cannot comment on legal fees charged to First Nations by independent law firms. The department says it does not provide legal advice to First Nations during negotiations, nor does it advise them on which firms to use. Lawyers are regulated by law societies in each province and are accountable to their clients.

A spokesperson for MLT Aikins LLP, the firm representing Bready’s in the matter involving Maurice Law, declined to comment, saying Maurice Law has initiated a defamation lawsuit in Alberta against the firm and three MLT Aikins lawyers in their personal capacity.

In an emailed statement, the Law Society of Saskatchewan said it is aware of the court decision and is reviewing it. The society said that its authority to investigate legal fees is tied to the courts under The Legal Profession Act, 1990, meaning the courts first decide if a contingency agreement or legal fee is fair and reasonable before the Law Society can investigate for potential breaches of its Code of Professional Conduct.

The Law Society noted it provides guidance to lawyers through practice advisors, management courses, and ethics rulings and participates in national reviews of ethical rules — including those addressing the needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis clients — through the Federation of Law Societies’ Standing Committee on the Model Code of Professional Conduct.

“This shouldn’t be happening in today’s society ... I hope a lot of other First

Nations review and take into consideration the path moving forward,” Ananas, Bready’s and Okemasis Cree Nation chief, told Canada’s National Observer.

He said the court’s decision sets a precedent for Indigenous communities across Canada to assert their rights so more settlement funds can be directed to community priorities instead of legal fees.

“At the end of the day, we’re saving millions and millions of dollars. Which First Nation out there doesn’t need millions to be saved? There are so many shortfalls we overcome on a daily, yearly basis. Fighting for that extra dollar was definitely well worth it.”

## Broader trend

The Saskatchewan judge’s ruling is part of a broader trend of First Nations challenging the fairness and transparency of legal fee arrangements, especially in high-stakes, historic claims against the Crown.

In 2024, Mikisew Cree First Nation sued Maurice Law, claiming the firm took over \$8 million in legal fees from their “Cows and Ploughs” settlement but failed to provide proper invoices or records. Mikisew says Maurice Law promised to return two per cent of the settlement (about \$2.7 million) but only paid back \$250,000, and then stopped. The First Nation also says it was not given a chance to challenge the fees at the time, and Maurice Law’s handling of loans and insurance was unclear. Mikisew is now asking the court to order the return of at least \$2.25 million and to review all legal fees paid to the firm.

In 2025, Sweetgrass First Nation went to court after Maurice Law demanded immediate payment of over \$5.4 million in legal fees from a settlement trust. Sweetgrass had already ended its contract with the firm and wanted the fees reviewed first. The judge ruled that Sweetgrass’s right to have the fees assessed comes first, and Maurice Law

cannot demand instant payment before a review. The court also found that the law firm’s agreements did not give it a special claim to the settlement money and ordered the funds to be held until the fees can be fairly assessed.

In 2016, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal found that Maurice Law had already been hired on an hourly basis to represent Sakimay First Nation in land and flooding claims, but after a multi-million dollar settlement was nearly finalized, the firm pushed Sakimay to sign a new deal that would give Maurice Law a three per cent bonus on the settlement. The court decided this bonus agreement was unfair and unenforceable because Maurice Law misled Sakimay about what other lawyers were charging, failed to advise them to seek independent legal advice, and did not clearly explain that the original hourly contract already covered the new work.

Beyond Maurice Law, the push for fairness and transparency in legal fees is happening across the country and involves other law firms as well.

In 2024, two Ontario First Nations — Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and Garden River — challenged a massive \$510-million legal bill related to the \$10-billion Robinson Huron Treaty settlement, arguing the amount was excessive and should be reviewed before lawyers are paid.

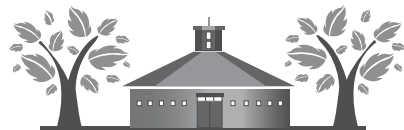
In Alberta, Tallcree First Nation challenged a 20 per cent contingency fee agreement with Rath & Company that would have paid the law firm \$11.5 million from a \$57.6-million agricultural benefits settlement. The court found this fee was unreasonable, given the expected work and outcome, especially since the actual legal work was valued at less than \$400,000. In 2022, the Alberta Court of Appeal upheld a lower court’s decision to slash the fee to \$3 million, ordering the law firm to refund more than \$8.5 million to Tallcree.

— With files from Matteo Cimellaro



## Town Page

For more information call the Town Office: 306-695-3344  
or Indian Head Community Development: 306-695-2742



### Small Town Strong, Canada Proud: Parade Days a Big Success

The 2025 Indian Head Parade Days was a celebration of community spirit, local pride, and Canadian culture — and we couldn’t be more grateful for the incredible support we received.

With beautiful weather, a fantastic turnout, and an unforgettable parade, this year’s event truly lived up to its theme: Canadian Proud! From families enjoying the festivities to visitors exploring our town, the energy and enthusiasm were felt everywhere.

A sincere thank you goes out to everyone who participated — from those who decorated floats and hosted events to the volunteers who kept things running smoothly and all who came out to celebrate. Your involvement makes Parade Days more vibrant each year.

We’d also like to extend a special thank you to our generous sponsors, whose support allows us to grow and improve this event every year. Thank you to the Rural Municipality of Indian Head No. 156, Delage Farms, Firefly Rentals, Trifon’s Pizza, Wooden Nickel Saloon, Hayes Haven Personal Care Home, Woodley Acres Pet Resort, and New West Concrete Ltd. — your contributions are deeply appreciated.

Indian Head continues to show what it means to be *Small Town Strong, Canada Proud*. Thank you for making Parade Days 2025 one to remember!

### Great Opportunities for Summer Programming

Don’t miss the art exhibits, theatre performances, and cultural programs happening in Indian Head this summer!

- the Grand Theatre will offer Arts & Culture summer programming for all ages; exploring Métis culture and learning from many local artists.
- the library hosts a free kids’ summer camp activity every Wednesday,
- The Indian Head Museum opens daily starting July 2, offering a glimpse into our local history,
- Little Castle Childcare also runs a fun-filled summer program. Each week has a new theme, activities and outings!
- Centre 48 will host a Gymnastics Camp July 28 – August 1 at Memorial Hall. Register with child’s name, an email address & contact # by text (306)424-7048 or by email centre48.southsask@gmail.com

Visit the Town website’s Events page for more information and links. There’s something for everyone!

### Request for Proposals – Museum General Repairs

The Town of Indian Head invites sealed proposals from qualified contractors for General Repairs at the Indian Head Museum, 610 Otterloo Street Indian Head. View the full details of the project on the Town website.

Proposals will be accepted via mail or in person at the Indian Head Town Office, 419 Grand Avenue, P.O. Box 460, Indian Head, SK, S0G 2K0 during working hours Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Proposals will be opened and reviewed at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 14th, 2025 in the Council Chambers at the Indian Head Town Office.

### Thinking of Becoming a Lifeguard?

Looking for a summer job that’s fun, active, and makes a real difference? Consider becoming a lifeguard right here in Indian Head! We’re encouraging local youth to take the plunge and start training now — we’ve got plenty of options to help you get there. Sign up for the Junior Lifeguard Club to spend a day in the water with one of our Guards and learn all about what it takes. If you are at least 13 years old, you can take advantage of Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross courses happening this summer. Whether you’re just starting out or ready to take the next step, there’s a path for you. Join the team and help keep our pool safe and welcoming for years to come. Visit our website for full details and to register.

### Apply now for Harvest Hoedown Craft Show & Sale

The Harvest Hoedown Craft Show & Sale is now accepting vendor applications. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, July 15!

This year’s Show will be Saturday, October 18th, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To apply, please email [harvesthoedowncommittee@gmail.com](mailto:harvesthoedowncommittee@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Community Events

- July 11 – Little Castle Childcare Golf Tournament
- July 15 – IHARF Crop Management Field Day
- July 18 – Mobile Early Learning Summer Family Fun
- July 20 – Bell Barn Birthday Bash
- August 10 – Horticulture Society Annual Garden Show

Do you have a great community event coming up? Let us know about it! You can have your event featured on our Community Events webpage by emailing your details and poster to [indianheadcdc@sasktel.net](mailto:indianheadcdc@sasktel.net). Don’t forget to schedule your community event on our sign at least one week before your event date.

[www.townofindianhead.com](http://www.townofindianhead.com)



# Busy weeks ahead in southeast communities

By **Connie Schwalm**  
Grasslands News

at 11 p.m. Rodeo action on Sunday will begin at 2 p.m.

The Glenavon Fair will take place on Saturday, July 26 beginning with breakfast from 7:30- 9:30 and the parade at 10:30. A variety of activities including a Horse Show, Slo-Pitch and various kids' activities will take place throughout the day.

Those fortunate enough to have tickets will also be able to take in two shows featuring Quick Dick McDick at the Glenavon Curling Rink on Friday, July 25 and Saturday, July 26.

On Aug. 1 and 2 at Oly's Trading Post north of Whitewood, there will be an Open/NAIRCA Rodeo held, starting at 3 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday. Events will include bareback, saddle-bronc, tie down roping, breakaway roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing, team roping and bull riding.

Wawota Heritage Day will take place on August 2 in the valley north of town and once again promises a "fun-filled day celebrating our local heritage and community spirit."

Then on Sunday, August 3 those interested in learning more about the unique pioneer history at Cannington Manor can take in the annual Cannington Fair which will begin at noon that day.

For anyone still needing more rodeo action, the 25th Annual Whitewood/Chachas CCA Rodeo will take place on Aug. 15 and 16 at the Whitewood Rodeo Grounds. The rodeo will begin both nights at 7 p.m. and include all major rodeo performances. A full canteen and beer gardens will also be on site.

Before the rode begins on Friday night, at 6:30 p.m., there will be an Indigenous dance group performing with live entertainment provided by Shaya Istace following the rodeo. Saturday night after the rodeo there will be DJ Music by CRT Sound playing until 2 a.m.

The intermission on Friday night will have human chuck wagon races take place while Saturday's intermission will cater to the young ones with muttin' bustin' being held.

Given how eagerly we wait for its arrival, summertime can often seem to be far too brief a season. The days might be longer, but they can pass more quickly than we might expect. So, finding ways to make the most of the summer days we have (however that might look for each one of us) is important.

For those who enjoy going out to attend summertime events, there are plenty of opportunities to do that over the next few weeks. Here are just a few of the events planned in our area.

Friday, July 11 will see the 5th Annual Pipestone Bull Bash take place at the Whitewood Rodeo Grounds, where 24 of the best bullriders from across Canada will compete for some of the top prize money in Canada.

Sunday, July 13 will be a particularly busy day. The annual Bekevar Service and BBQ will be held at the old church beginning at 11 a.m. and organizers observe that "It has never rained on Picnic Sunday."

At the Kennedy Rodeo Grounds, the Summer Sizzler Rodeo beginning at 9 a.m. will feature young cowboys and cowgirls taking part in a variety of activities ranging from Pole Bending and Barrel Racing to the ever-popular Goat Untying and Undecorating.

Then on Sunday afternoon the Emily Dubois Fiddle Concert will take place at the Langbank United Church beginning at 2 p.m. Emily will be attending the Canadian Grand Masters Competition in Kamloops, BC and the concert is a fundraiser to assist her with expenses.

Kennedy will once again become the destination of choice for rodeo fans as the Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo will take place on July 19 & 20. The Annual Rodeo Parade will be held on Saturday afternoon beginning at 3 p.m. with rodeo action set to start at 6 p.m. Sunday will feature a Pancake Breakfast at the Kennedy Friendship Center beginning at 9 a.m. followed by a Cowboy Church Service at the Rodeo Grounds

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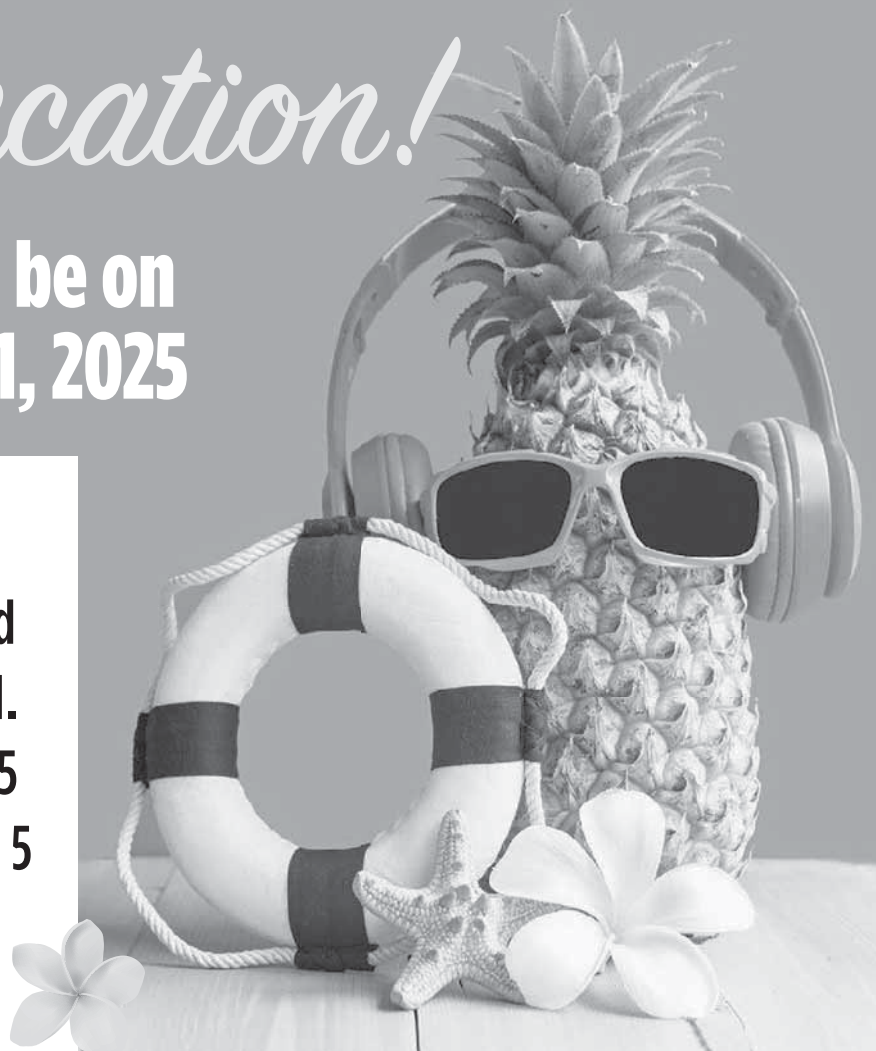
**Your Grasslands News team will be on vacation from July 21 to August 1, 2025**

**PLEASE NOTE** there will be **NO PUBLICATIONS** **JULY 25 AND AUGUST 1**. Our offices in Melville and Whitewood will be closed from July 21 to August 1. Regular Office hours will resume Tuesday, August 5 and regular deadlines will resume Tuesday, August 5 at 12 noon for the Friday, August 8 issue.

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# OPINION

“For the cause that needs assistance; for the wrong that needs resistance; the future in the distance and the good that we can do.”

## SK government failed to control spending in 2024

By Gage Haubrich  
Canadian Taxpayers Federation

If you find yourself digging deeper into a dark financial hole, the first thing any wise friend will suggest is to stop digging and stick to a budget.

A budget makes sure you are only spending money on things you can afford, not on fast food or new accessories for your truck.

But a budget only works if you stick to it, and the Saskatchewan government has been failing to stick to its budget for years and it's costing taxpayers mega bucks.

The government blew past its spending estimates by almost a billion dollars in 2024. The government originally projected it would spend \$20.1 billion last year. The newly released public accounts marking the end of the fiscal year 2024 show the government spent \$21.1 billion.

That's about \$970 million more than what the government said it was going to spend.

The government is spending more than budgeted in nine out of 11 of its main departments. That includes \$8.5 million in overspending in a slop bucket vaguely labelled “general government.”

Taxpayers should be very skeptical about the financial chops of a government that can't stick to its spending plan in “general government.” And this isn't a new pattern. The Saskatchewan government regularly tells taxpayers one thing at budget time and then surprises them with huge increases in spending at the end of the year.

In 2023, the government blew past its budget by \$2.2 billion. In 2022 it was \$1.4 billion. And in 2021 it was \$2.5 billion.

All that overspending has seen the government keep shovelling more money onto Saskatchewan's mountain of debt. When Scott Moe became premier in 2018, Saskatchewan's debt was about \$11 billion. At the end of this year, it's projected to be \$23.5 billion. Moe's government more than doubled the debt in seven years. It took former prime minister Justin Trudeau nine years to double the federal debt.

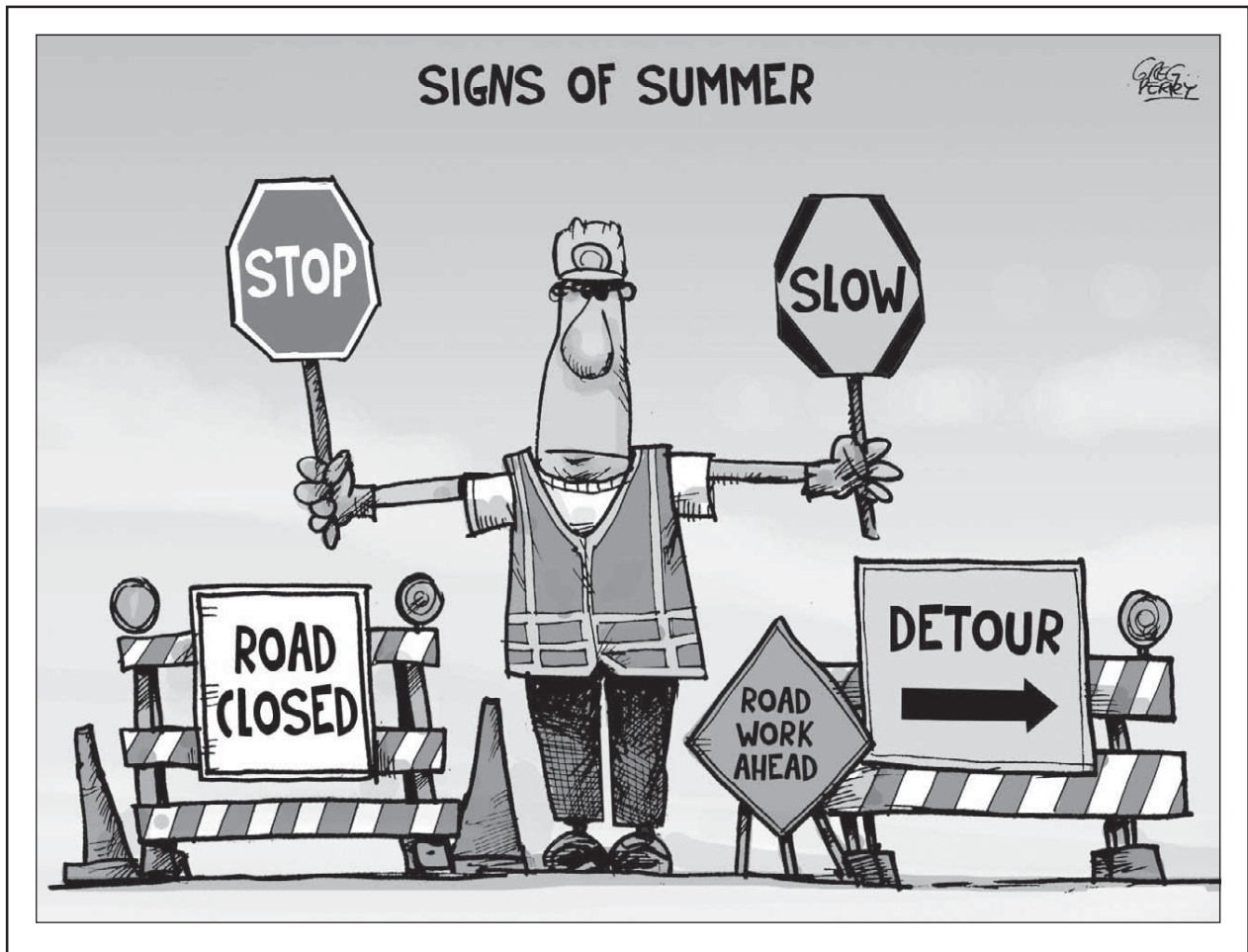
But that's not the worst part, the debt could go even higher this year if the government continues to blow past its own budget projections.

And that has consequences for taxpayers because debt isn't cheap. Taxpayers are forced to pay millions of dollars in interest every year to cover government loans.

In 2024, debt interest payments cost taxpayers about \$699 million, or about \$560 per person. This year, debt interest payments will cost taxpayers \$878 million, or about \$702 per Saskatchewanian.

That per person number is more than double what a family of four making \$75,000 can expect to pay in the gas tax this year. That means every dollar you and your family pay in taxes at the pumps isn't being used for road maintenance or new highways, it's being flushed down the drain to pay for interest charges on the debt.

That's a waste. And the government can reduce the amount of money being wasted on interest payments by not blowing its budget. That's because government revenue also increased by about \$994 million compared to the 2024 budget. If the government hadn't increased spending by almost the same amount, it could have used



that extra cash to start paying down debt and reduce the annual interest bill.

But it couldn't resist the urge to spend. And taxpayers are, literally, paying for it.

A budget isn't supposed to be a suggestion; it's supposed to be a serious commitment about how much the government is going to be spending every year. It's a document that the government should follow to the letter and it's something that taxpayers should be able to

look at to know where their money is going every year.

Failing to follow that budget makes the government less dependable because taxpayers can't trust the numbers coming out of the legislature.

Finance Minister Jim Reiter needs to stick to his budget and stop spending money as fast as it comes in to reduce the cost of government for taxpayers.

**Gage Haubrich is the Prairie Director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation**

## Letter to Editor: Why are the productive people leaving Canada?

Dear Editor,

You want to know why the smarter and more productive immigrants are leaving Canada?

Ask an immigrant.

Ask me.

Canada could be a free and beautiful democratic society, an incredible place to live, but, if nobody wakes up, and comes out of that insidious WOKE and one-sided Indigenous coma, it will soon be lost.

While our American neighbours are fighting tooth and nails to protect their democracy, Canadian politicians are fighting even harder to get rid of it, denying the people a multi-member Proportional ballot that would put an end this political insanity.

Another huge difference is how the media is relating events to the public. The American media is very engaged, and not afraid of telling the truth.

In Canada the media has abandoned their sacred freedom of the

press to become one-sided, woke, and virtually irrelevant, while protecting and promoting Eby's and Trudeau's toxic Indigenous narratives, leaving the doors wide-open for the Chiefs and their lawyers to engage in what has become a massive and complex multi-billion-dollar scam. A vibrant social media info-swamp is attempting to fill the void.

The ugliest part of this disaster is how our mainstream media is denying the people an honest forum to participate in an open exchange to explore how to resolve what has become a disaster of historic proportion.

The relationships between that 6% of the Canadian people who are descendants of the 1600 a. d. pre-colonial earlier arrivals in Canada, and the remaining 94% who are the later arrivals who continue to arrive from all corners of the world, blending colour and cultures, is constantly diluting the blood in the

veins of all Canadians resulting in the inevitable extinction of many. While we are all becoming Canadians, we continue to cherish and celebrate our heritage and cultures.

Defying the spirit and intent of the UNDRIP protocols claims for compensations have become illusive bordering fake, that should be resolved on the basis of the amount of indigenous blood remaining in the claimant's veins. In the official guide to citizenship, immigrants are not told one word about the scope and nature of these massive claims.

Canada is no longer the land of opportunity, where everybody is working hard to enjoy a better quality of life. Instead, Trudeau's disastrous immigration policies has transformed Canada into a world class refugee camp, while the 'economic immigrants' we desperately need to grow our economy are leaving through our back doors.

- Andy Thomsen  
Kelowna, B.C.

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grasslands NEWS | PRINTING  
Fort Qu'Appelle Times • Indian Head-Wolseley News • Kipling Clipper  
Melville Advance • Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun • Quad Town Forum  
Issued Fridays by Grasslands News Group from the office  
at 218 - 3rd Ave. West, P.O. Box 1420 Melville, SK., S0A 2P0  
Ph: 306-728-5448 • Fax 306-728-4004 • Whitewood: 306-735-2230  
Toll Free: 1-844-GNG-NEWS  
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# Romance scammer finally arrested

Connected to women in the area and across Canada

By Elaine Ashfield  
Grasslands News

In April 2024, a local woman identified in Grasslands News as Cindy, the Farmer's Wife, put out a warning to women in the area to be cautious of a man who is a romantic scammer using women to access their finances after meeting them on social media.

This area woman met the fraudster in Grenfell, SK. He was working as a truck driver, crossing Canada and continuing to fraud people of large amounts of money. As many as five women have been working together since 2020 to have him arrested and he will now appear in court in August.

The man, Michael Paul Snow, was arrested June 24, 2025, and has been criminally charged after allegedly scamming a B.C. woman he met online out of \$110,000, according to authorities.

The victim, a 53-year-old woman from the Sunshine Coast, reported the alleged fraud to police and as result of a comprehensive investigation by Sunshine Coast RCMP, a charge of Fraud over \$5000 was approved and a Canada-wide warrant was issued for Michael Paul Snow. During the investigation several additional victims were identified and reports of large amounts of money that were fraudulently obtained were received. It is not known how many, or what further charges, may be filed against Mr. Snow.

"Over the course of several months, Michael Paul Snow gained this Sunshine Coast woman's trust and convinced her to participate in a business venture that was later learned to be non-existent," a spokesperson for the Sunshine Coast RCMP wrote.

"This type of offence is commonly referred to as a romance scam."

Eventually, some of the women became aware of each other and of the scamming that was taking place. The victims wanted him exposed as soon as possible to



MICHAEL PAUL SNOW

save other women from being scammed as the police continued their investigation. "Snowed – the Michael Snow Fraud Story" is a Tic Tok series done by his victims. The story can also be found on Facebook as "Michael Snow is a Fraud."

The videos were being shown to raise awareness to other women in the area and across Canada as his victims state he has frauded and scammed women from coast to coast and works through relationships with several women at one time. It is believed that Maple Creek, SK. is his residence.

On June 24, 2025 Michael Paul Snow was located by Maple Creek RCMP in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan and arrested on the Canada-wide warrant. Mr. Snow was released to appear in Sechelt Provincial Court on August 13, 2025. The man has reportedly served sentences for scams in the past.

RCMP are asking anyone else who may have had fraudulent business dealings with Michael Snow to contact your local police department or Sunshine Coast RCMP at (604) 885-2266 and reference file number 2023-3581.

## Gene Hauta It's a Strange World

His commitment to being on time for a job interview is admirable. His execution, not so much. In Cromwell, Connecticut, a trooper clocked a Mercedes doing 132 mph on a local interstate. The driver "failed to stop and accelerated away while making unsafe lane changes and weaving in and out of traffic."

The trooper called off the chase in the name of safety, but easily tracked down the vehicle's owner. The owner, presumably a parent, explained that 19-year-old Azmir Djurkovic had the car at the time. Azmir then confessed and explained that he was late for a job interview. He faces a number of charges, including reckless driving and engaging police in a pursuit. "No word on whether he got the job *or will ever get the car again*," wondered my source.

Police in Germany *arrested five teens in a raid* against a neo-Nazi group believed to have organized attacks against migrants and designs to topple the nation's form of government. The male suspects were taken into custody in three states in eastern and central Germany on suspicion of belonging to, or supporting, domestic terrorist organizations. Two of the suspects were charged with attempted murder and arson. This has been interpreted as right-wing extremist terrorism knowing no age. The group, called the Last Wave of Defense, was started by young people in April 2024. Prosecutors said it's responsible for attacks against political opponents and on buildings that housed people seeking asylum. Online chats linked to the group praised the Nazi regime and promoted major acts of violence.

"I didn't hear anything," says Johan Helberg of the 5:00 a.m. incident at his home in Byneset, Norway. "Five meters further south and it would have entered the bedroom," where he was sleeping. His house is just a few feet from the Trondheim Fjord of the Norwegian Sea. *The "it" that narrowly missed his house: a 135m (443ft) container ship* that ran aground. Helberg only learned of the close call when a panicked neighbor, who had watched it all happen, ran and rang his doorbell "at a time of day when I don't like to open." In fact, he didn't open it, and the neighbor had to call him on the phone. An unnamed Second Officer, who was on watch duty on the NCL Salten, admitted that he had fallen asleep, and has been charged by local prosecutors with negligent navigation.

"I just went to the store and my girlfriend asked me to get her one of those drinks with her name on it," noted Argus Hamilton. "I bought her a can of Monster, and that's how the fight started."

In Miami, police responded to multiple reports of vandalism in progress at 4:45 a.m. A woman had been seen *smashing three parked cars with a baseball bat*, and some of the damage had been captured on security camera. It turns out she had left her disabled child alone in her own car a block away. Officers witnessed her return to the scene to attack one of the car owners, a woman. The three targeted cars belong to her relatives, and she allegedly also attacked her boyfriend because "she had caught him cheating." The 21-year-old woman was charged with three counts of felony criminal mischief of \$1,000 or more, plus a count each of child neglect, aggravated battery, and resisting arrest. Her name? Antoneisha Fail.

A Vernon driver, who has *racked up 32 driving prohibitions or suspensions* since March 19, 1993, as well as 16 24-hour driving bans, failed to convince a British Columbia judge he should get a lighter sentence than normal for drunk driving because more than six months in jail could get him deported to India. Gurinder Pal Singh Bajwa, a 57-year-old permanent resident of Canada who *escaped deportation in 2019* on an impaired driving conviction with a sentence of five months and 29 days, got a reduced sentence this time because Mounties captured him on surveillance cameras using the toilet in a holding cell after he was arrested for impaired driving again. This violated his Charter right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure. Bajwa immigrated to Canada from India's Punjab region over 34 years ago. I can feel sorry for his troubles, but this type of serious criminality must have consequences. After considering the Charter breach, Judge David Patterson of B.C.'s provincial court sentenced Bajwa to 198 days (just over six months) in jail for the impaired driving conviction, fined him \$2,000 and banned him from driving for three years. For driving while prohibited, the judge handed Bajwa another 120 days behind bars to be served consecutively, for a total of about 10 months in jail.

Until next time...

## SK Party hides amid rural emergency room closures

Submitted  
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan NDP says negligent leadership from the Sask. Party has made access to healthcare in rural communities unreliable and dangerous.

Rural communities across Saskatchewan including Kipling, Broadview, Watrous, Edam, St. Walburg, Paradise Hill, Herbert, Porcupine Planes, Preeceville, Shellbrook, Leader and Arcola, have all experienced healthcare disruptions in the last 2 weeks.

"And those are just the ones we know of," said Keith Jorgenson, Saskatchewan NDP Associate Shadow Health Minister.

"The truth is the Sask. Party tries to hide its failures in healthcare. We hear from people who arrive at these facilities desperately seeking care only to find a sign on the door saying it's closed.

"It is unbelievable that the Sask. Party sits on its hands while rural emergency rooms — which could be the difference between life and death — close without warning. This shouldn't be happening and, when it unfortunately does, there needs to be more than a sign on the door telling people. Someone is going to die rushing

to an emergency room that isn't even open."

With no consistent communication from the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the Town of Watrous has resorted to posting emergency room updates on Facebook to keep the community informed. Residents say they're often unaware of the closures until they arrive at the hospital.

On Monday, another notice appeared that the emergency room was closed as of noon and would not reopen until Wednesday at 8 a.m.

"We've counted more than 30 closures at the Watrous emergency room since the year began — and still the local Sask. Party MLA, the Minister, the Premier, nobody says a thing. This isn't leadership, it's cowardice.

The emergency room Kipling is currently closed for 10 days, according to a sign on the door of the facility.

"Where is the accountability?" Jorgenson said.

"Where is the plan to get us out of this mess?" "Saskatchewan, you deserve leadership, you deserve a government that will fix healthcare and ensure it's there for you and your loved ones. We don't have to settle for this — we can choose a new government that's focused on the future and on delivering quality healthcare right across this province."

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# FlixBus launches daily bus trips in Saskatchewan

By Grasslands News Staff  
Grasslands News

In the heart of Canada's prairies, where the vast fields stretch into the horizon, a new wave of convenience arrived for both locals and travelers alike. FlixBus, the well-known European transportation company, made its grand debut in Saskatchewan on July 1, launching daily bus trips connecting the province's major cities.

For years, Saskatchewan had been underserved by intercity transportation options since the end of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company and Greyhound services on the prairies. The province, with its sprawling distances and sparse population, had long relied on personal cars, regional

airlines, or the occasional road trip for getting from one city to the next. But that was about to change with FlixBus, which now owns Greyhound and has been running other routes in other Canadian provinces since 2022. With its trademark green buses, comfortable seating, and free Wi-Fi, FlixBus aimed to offer something that Saskatchewan's residents and visitors had been craving: a modern, accessible, and affordable way to travel across the province.

On the first day of operation, a bright yellow FlixBus pulled into the station in Regina. A small crowd of eager passengers gathered, some first-time travelers, others seasoned adventurers who had previously made long road trips through the province. Among them was 25-year-old Emily, a university student from Saskatoon. "This is a game-changer," she said, adjusting her backpack as

she boarded the bus. "It's so much easier to travel back and forth without worrying about gas prices or driving myself for hours. Plus, the Wi-Fi is great, so I can catch up on assignments."

The company will operate out of hubs in Regina, Saskatchewan and North Battleford with connections to Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer.

FlixBus will be a direct competitor to Rider Express, which runs routes between Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert, and offers connecting routes to Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg from Saskatchewan. Rider Express buses make several stops at smaller communities between its hubs however where FlixBus routes between cities will be direct.

In a press release, FlixBus highlighted its commitment to sustainability. The company's use of eco-friendly buses aimed to reduce carbon emissions, a promise that resonated with many who appreciated the company's commitment to greener travel solutions.

For FlixBus, launching in Saskatchewan was just the beginning. With plans to expand routes to other parts of Canada, the company hoped to redefine travel in the Great White North—one affordable, comfortable, and eco-conscious trip at a time.



## New bus line

A new passenger bus has launched daily trips in Saskatchewan. The buses will run between Regina, Saskatoon and North Battleford and on to Alberta.

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# Summer camp re-opens near Wolseley under new name

## Love Reins Ranch Wolf Creek

By Sarah Pacio  
Grasslands News

After a year of diligent facility improvement efforts, a summer camp near Wolseley reopened this week under its new name: Love Reins Ranch Wolf Creek.

### Camp History

The facility south of Wolseley was established in 1985 under the name Circle Square Ranch Wolf Creek. It was originally part of a network of camps that were overseen by Crossroads Christian Communications. It was later operated by InterVarsity Canada but closed in 2023 because the ranch had encountered financial difficulties from Covid pandemic restrictions and there were impending costs to repair aging infrastructure at the camp.

Norm Bonk was involved with the initial establishment of Circle Square Ranch Wolf Creek, but had since then moved to BC where he and his wife Joanne operated Love Reins Ranch Okanagan. After hearing about the situation at the Saskatchewan camp, they began a campaign to restore the facility.

Generous donors enabled the Wolf Creek ranch to be brought under the auspices of Debt of Love Missionary Ministries and renamed Love Reins Ranch Wolf Creek. A celebration took place at the ranch in June 2024 and marked the beginning of a year-long renovation and refurbishing of the grounds, infrastructure and amenities. Countless hours of labour were invested by volunteers who played a key role in preparing the facility for reopening.

### Re-Dedication Service

Staff and camper registration began early in 2025 and a rededication service was held on July 6, shortly before the first group of campers was welcomed back to the ranch. Approximately 175 people gathered in the hall on Sunday afternoon for a time of music and encouragement. Norm Bonk led the program; he and Joanne are spending the summer at the ranch. Special guests sang and local pastors shared meaningful words from the Bible. This was followed by a BBQ supper of locally sourced food.

### Campers Welcomed

Seventeen children arrived at Love Reins Ranch on July 7 for the first week of camp. A dozen staff members provide care and guidance for children at the ranch this summer.

One of the staff, Phoenix, recalls attending a Circle Square Ranch near her home in Alberta. Her experience at that ranch was so positive that she chose to assist with the opening week at Wolf Creek.

"I thought it would be really cool to be here for the first week that it reopened, which I think is really impactful because it's the foundation," she shared. "It could be the kids' only time that they hear about Jesus and about his love for them. Some kids don't feel loved, so them being able to feel love is super impactful, and

the fact that we get to do that is such a pleasure."

The main building at Love Reins Ranch includes an office, lounge area with couches, a large kitchen and dining room, as well as accommodations for about 65 people. Elsewhere on the grounds there are 12 covered wagons, each with eight bunks. There is also a tuck shop, a barn that currently houses a dozen horses, a riding arena and a small pond for swimming.

Cooks provide healthy meals and snacks for campers who enjoy participating in a variety of activities such as horseback riding, archery, bouldering and group games. There are also BMX bikes for campers to use on a maintained course. As a faith-based organization, staff members lead Bible sessions for the campers throughout each week.

"If they can walk away from here with hope and peace and truth, that would be amazing," Joanne Bonk stated. "Our slogan, 'Tell the children, Jesus loves them,' sums it up well."

Registrations are still being accepted for the remaining three weeks of summer programming which run from Monday to Friday and are open to children ages 7 to 12. There may also be an opportunity for a weekend of Family Camp following the children's camp. The facility is winterized, so Bonk is optimistic that additional programming can be offered at the ranch after summer camps have concluded. This could consist of retreats for quilters, homeschool families or other groups, as well as public school trips.

### Community Support

Bonk noted that many positive connections have developed with local community members over the past year, and the ranch leadership is grateful for the collaboration that has enabled the camp to reopen.

"We have had nothing but support from the local community; everything we need to run camp is here," she shared. "We've had people from B.C. to Ontario come for a day or two, or a week or two, to help us and we are truly, truly grateful. It has been such a community effort that has spanned five provinces."

Naturally, there will be ongoing financial requirements for operations, so donations continue to be accepted. These will assist with expenses such as meals and camper sponsorships. Volunteer opportunities may also be available for future programming and leaders greatly appreciate ongoing prayers for the ranch.

Along with providing a fun experience and fostering lasting friendships between campers, Bonk said their desire for Love Reins Ranch is "that we could reach kids and change their lives with hope, with love, with recognizing that they can say prayers and God hears them."

Anyone interested in supporting the ranch or registering for programs can visit [www.lovereinsranch.com/wolfcreek](http://www.lovereinsranch.com/wolfcreek) for more information.



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### Camp

Love Reins Ranch Wolf Creek, formerly Circle Square Ranch, re-opened this week.

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**PLEASE NOTE** there will be **NO PUBLICATIONS JULY 25 AND AUGUST 1**. Our offices in Melville and Whitewood will be closed from July 21 to August 1. Regular Office hours will resume Tuesday, August 5 and regular deadlines will resume Tuesday, August 5 at 12 noon for the Friday, August 8 issue.

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# Baseball teams swarm diamonds at MMBA annual tournament



**Focused pitch**  
18U AA Esterhazy Cyclones pitcher Baron Lauer readies up against the White Butte Broncos at Pirie Field.

LLOYD SCHMIDT | GRASSLANDS NEWS



**Batter up**  
13U AA Melville Mills Austin Blenkiron swings at the ball during their game against the Humboldt Dodgers at Al Walls.

JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS



**Run on hit**  
11U AA Melville Mills Jonathan Stien runs to first base after a hit against the Humboldt Dodgers at Jaycee Park.

JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS



**Watching the pitches**  
The 11U AA Melville Mills watch as their team heads up to bat against the Humboldt Dodgers at Jaycee Park during the annual Melville Minor Ball Baseball Tournament.

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# Provincial Gov't invests in new floors and water system

## St. Paul's Lutheran Home

Provincial  
Grasslands News

The Government of Saskatchewan is investing in new flooring and water systems for St. Paul's Lutheran Home.

Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr is visiting Melville and Esterhazy. While in both communities, Minister Carr will meet with local leadership, health care staff and visit several health care facilities.

"By visiting local health care facilities, I am better able to learn from front line health care workers more about the conditions for patients, residents and

staff," said Carr. "I appreciate the opportunity to talk with our dedicated front-line health care workers and personally recognize them for the hard work they do."

Government is investing over \$1.3 million in capital and equipment upgrades in both Melville and Esterhazy over the next two years to ensure safe and comfortable health care facilities for patients, residents and staff.

As part of government's investment, projects in Melville include new flooring at the St. Paul's Lutheran Home, work estimated to cost \$100,000. Additionally, water systems estimated at \$160,000 are scheduled to be replaced at the St. Paul's

Lutheran Home. At the Melville & District Health Centre, flooring work is planned and is estimated to cost \$150,000.

Government previously invested \$145,000 in 2024-25 to replace windows at the St. Paul's Lutheran Home.

In Esterhazy, early planning work is underway to replace the St. Anthony's Hospital and Centennial Special Care Home with an integrated facility with \$250,000 allocated this year. Additionally in 2026-27, there are plans to replace sewer lines at St. Anthony's Hospital, and sanitary waste piping at Centennial Special Care home, projects which combined are estimated at \$650,000.

In 2024-25, the Saskatchewan Health

Authority invested in a ceiling mount digital radiology room with a wall stand. The equipment is currently being installed at St. Anthony's Hospital and will be operational later this year. Equipment funded by St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation and valued at \$358,000 was also recently added. This included: a telemetry system, a chemistry analyzer with interface, a hematology analyzer with interface, a module for a lab information system and an automated medication dispensing system.

"I want to thank the St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation for their contributions to improve health care in their community," said Carr.

# Kaitlyn Kitzan named WESK Rural Ambassador for East Central Sask

Submitted  
Grasslands News

Women Entrepreneurs Saskatchewan (WESK) is thrilled to announce Kaitlyn Kitzan of Yorkton as the new Rural Ambassador for East Central Saskatchewan. Through WESK's Rural Ambassador Program, funded by Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan), Kaitlyn will serve as a community connector and resource for women entrepreneurs throughout the region.

Kitzan is an entrepreneur with deep roots in agriculture. Raised on a farm near Yorkton, where she remains actively involved, she launched her own business in 2023 focused on providing strategic solutions to organizations in the agriculture sector. With her background and passion for rural innovation, Kaitlyn brings a unique and valuable perspective to her new role.

"As the WESK Ambassador for East

Central Saskatchewan, I am honoured to be part of a program that champions women entrepreneurs and provides them with the tools, confidence, and connections needed to thrive," said Kitzan. "In rural and small-town Saskatchewan, being able to see successful women building businesses in our communities has a powerful ripple effect. I'm excited to help amplify those voices, connect local entrepreneurs with valuable resources, and foster a culture of collaboration, innovation, and growth. I believe in the impact of this network, and I'm proud to be a part of the momentum WESK is creating for women in business across our province."

In her first year with the program, Kitzan will work to connect East Central Saskatchewan entrepreneurs to WESK's suite of advisory services, loans up to \$150,000, and business development programs, all while also fostering a vibrant network of women business leaders.

# Summer fun at Melville Public Library

Submitted  
Grasslands News

The Melville Public Library has many events coming up in the summer months!

The TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC) is on all summer so kids can come in, get a reading log, and earn stickers and prizes by reading to beat the "summer slide."

Starting July 14th, the six week in-person Summer Fun program will begin. Registration is still open and as long as there is room will continue throughout the summer. Come on an adventure at the library!

The library will have a display of books about the continents in the world, as well as our TDSRC recommended reads, all summer long. Our last program day is August 22nd and

we will be having a community BBQ plus some family-friendly activities starting at 11:30 am.

This year the kids don't get all the fun – we have an Adult Summer Reading contest going on until September 2nd. Come and get your tracking sheet and enter our raffles for some lovely prizes.

August 27th is a Mobile Early Learning Summer Family Fun event, from 10:30 to noon. This is for

kids 6 and under and their families, and registration will be open soon.

Our Book 'n' Brew Club will meet again in September. If you are interested in this fun and interactive club, ask our friendly staff for more information on the next meeting. We meet on the last Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Watch the library social media for more information.

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# SPORTS

## Kipling hosts 35+ Twiligher Men's Provincial Championship

By **Connie Schwalm**  
Grasslands News

The ball diamonds in Kipling were busy once again last weekend, as seven teams (Riverhurst, Regina Drifters, Wawota, Gull Lake, Lanigan, Assiniboia and Moose Mountain) came to take part in the 35+ Twiligher Men's Provincial Championship. The three-day tournament not only featured some top-quality baseball but also provided an opportunity for players and their families to get together and reconnect with old friends they may not have seen for far too long.

Tyler Vargo (Captain of the host Moose Mountain Team and one of the organizers of the tournament) says the decision to bring the tournament back to Kipling was made last year.

"When we got together to start planning the team out last year, we found there was no host for the 2025 tournament yet. So, our team talked about what we would need to do to host it here in Kipling. I've been told that the tournament was last here sometime during the early 2000's. So, we thought it was time to host it here again and we felt we could make it work."

Vargo notes that recent improvements at the ball diamonds made a noticeable difference during this event.

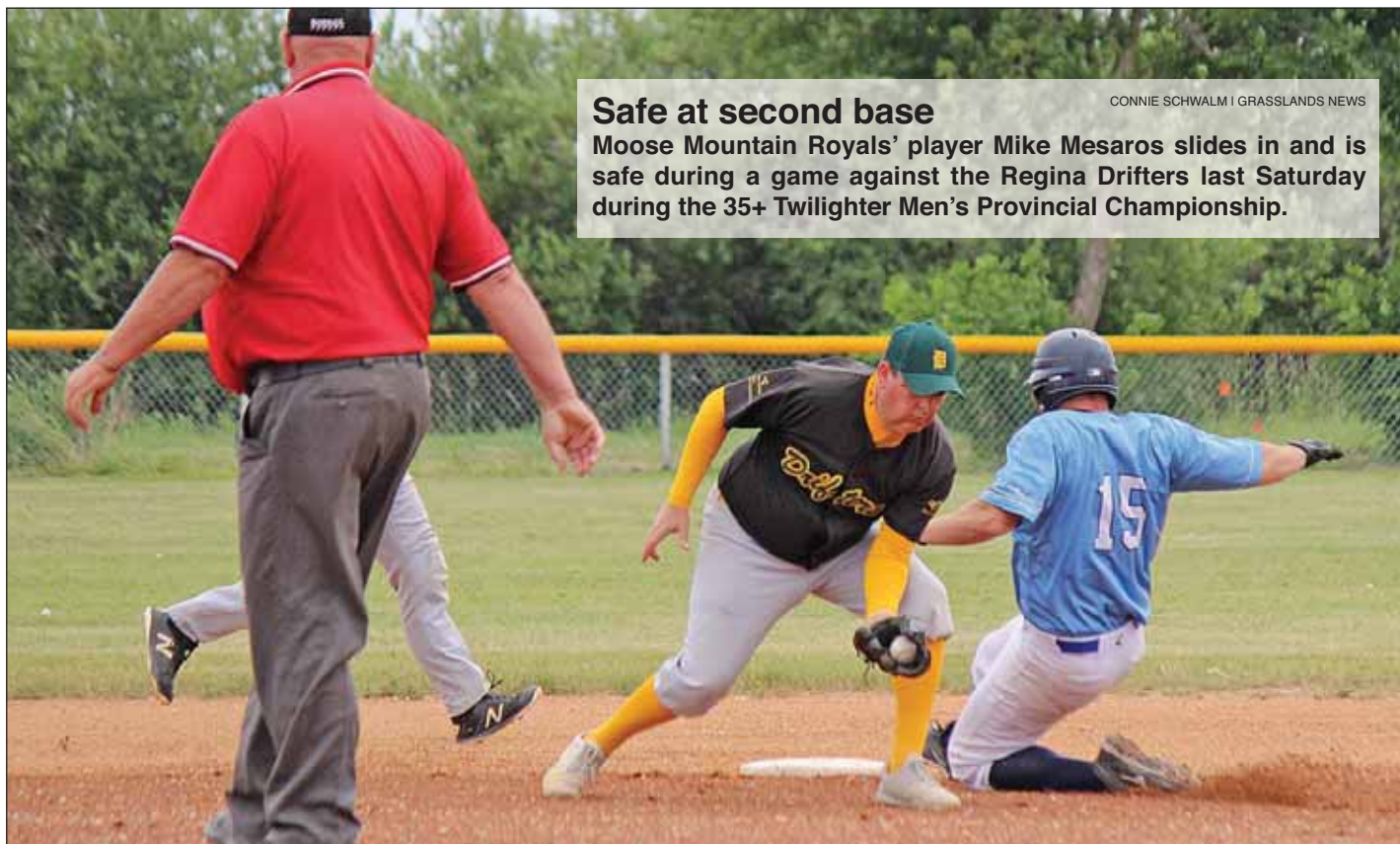
"It made everything so much easier to have good facilities for both the canteen and the beer garden right where we need them to be. That really helped to make the tournament a success, because it's a huge thing to be able to host and have all the amenities right at the ball diamonds."

He adds that the tournament also provided an opportunity to ensure that baseball would continue in Kipling this summer.

"Our senior baseball team is taking a year of absence and there's no U18 baseball. So, other than Slo-Pitch games, the diamonds weren't going to be getting any use for baseball. I think it's a good thing to get baseball going in the community again and hopefully get people out to enjoy these games."

Peter Champagne, who has acted as umpire in various leagues for many years was asked to be one of the umpires at this tournament, and praises organizers for hosting a successful event that featured some top-quality baseball.

"It was very good quality baseball at



**Safe at second base**  
Moose Mountain Royals' player Mike Mesaros slides in and is safe during a game against the Regina Drifters last Saturday during the 35+ Twiligher Men's Provincial Championship.

this tournament. In fact, I thought that what I saw in Kipling was the best 35+ baseball I've seen so far. The tournament itself also went really well. Everything ran like clockwork and the diamonds were well looked after. There were just a lot of good things to be said about the people there and the tournament they put on."

However, Champagne notes that the tournament also gave him the chance to reconnect with some baseball players that he worked with years ago.

"I also coached for a goodly number of years and ran into two players I coached at this tournament that I was very happy to see. One of those players was Tyrell Thorpe who is originally from Langenberg but was playing on the Regina team. I've known Tyrell for a long time. He was on a Pee Wee team that I took to Italy for a tournament years ago and later came to Melville to play regularly on the team I was coaching there.

"The other player was Tyler Vargo. In Bantam and Midget, you were allowed to pick up players from outside your zone

and I'd heard about Tyler Vargo. So, I went and checked him out and invited him to come to Melville and play with us. He did that and played with us in our provincial tournament and in a couple of special tournaments that we took part in.

"So, I worked with both of these players, and it was great to have the chance to connect with them again last weekend. I'm really proud of those two boys. They've done very well and are still excellent ball players."

Vargo says that catching up with old friends was also a highlight of the weekend for him.

"There were a couple of players here for the tournament that I played with during my minor ball days when I was in Weyburn and Melville (during my last year). There were also some other guys from Regina I ran into that I played Junior Ball with and haven't seen for 17 years. And I was really happy to see Peter again. So, this tournament is a chance to catch up with them and see where they're going with their lives. It's a great thing to get together and share

memories with old buddies and people that you played against too."

He goes on to say that the tournament also gave players an opportunity to enjoy the game they love and make some lasting memories with their families.

"There are a lot of good baseball players on these over 35 teams who can still play really well. So, it's nice to have the chance to get out and enjoy the game. And for some guys who don't get out to play too often, this is their one big tournament.

"Being the age we are, most of us also have families that want to come and hang out at the tournament too. We all get together after the games for potluck meals and our kids all play together. It's like a big reunion for these families. There are guys that talk about going to tournaments like this when they were kids and watching their dads play. We want our kids to have memories like that too. So, being able to host the 35+ Twiligher Men's Provincial Championship and give people a chance to make those memories here in Kipling was great.

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# Skubal sparks Tigers' rise from the depths

By Bruce Penton  
Sports Columnist

While Toronto Blue Jays are needed having an unexpectedly great season, baseball fans in general are enjoying a terrific season on a number of fronts as Major League Baseball passes its halfway mark.

Trying to project a World Series winner in July is a fool's game, but it was hardly in doubt back in April when most of the game's followers were declaring the Los Angeles Dodgers to be a repeat winner of the October (that runs into November) Classic. And why not? The Dodgers dominated the 2024 season and returned with almost the same powerful lineup but with one key addition: Slugger Shohei Ohtani was returning to the mound. The Dodgers in a cake-walk, right?

Not so fast. The first team to get to 50 victories this year was somewhat of a surprise: The Detroit Tigers, who grabbed a wild-card playoff berth last year after languishing at or near the basement of the American League Central for nearly a decade. As the calendar flipped from June

to July, the Tigers and Dodgers had identical records atop MLB's 32 teams. Leading the way for the Tigers is arguably the best pitcher in baseball, Tarik Skubal, who won the AL's triple crown of pitching last year (wins, ERA, strikeouts). He's back at it again this year, with a 10-2 record, 2.13 ERA and 138 strikeouts in 109 innings.

But while the Tigers were the first to 50 wins, all teams in the American League must keep their eye on New York Yankees, who would likely prevail in a best-of-seven championship series against the Tigers. Outfielder Aaron Judge is having another sensational season and is the mid-season favourite to win the MVP again. Free-agent pitcher pickup Max Fried is earning his hefty salary, going 10-2 with a 2.13 ERA at mid-season.

While the Dodgers posted the best half-season record, they're far from an automatic World Series participant. Chicago Cubs are having a season to remember, and Philadelphia Phillies and NY Mets appear to be the class of the NL East, and any one of those teams has the firepower to dislodge the Dodgers

Sports Column  
By Bruce Penton



in a short series.

Individually, there have been some breakout stories. Catcher Cal Raleigh of Seattle has become the new Sultan of Swing, bashing 35 home runs in his first 87 games, a pace that would give him 65 homers. Judge is on his heels, with 32 homers and a league-leading OPS (on base percentage plus slugging) of 1.202. And a youngster by the name of Jacob Misorowski of Milwaukee Brewers reminded baseball fans of Fernando Mania of 45 years ago by making a huge rookie splash. In his first two starts, totalling 11 innings, the 6-foot-7 23-year-old did not give up a single hit. In his third outing, he was touched for three hits in five innings and outdu-

eled Pittsburgh mound sensation Paul Skenes. Opponents are batting .061 against him.

Meanwhile, Blue Jays fans are enjoying watching their team flirt with first place in the A.L. The season's second half should be exciting.

- Vancouver comedy guy Torben Rolfsen: "France is replacing Russia in Olympic hockey next year, so berets over weird fur hats will be in fashion."
- Rolfsen again: "U.S. law enforcement has cracked down on gang violence. When are they going to get to the WNBA?"
- Globe and Mail columnist Cathal Kelly, on Masai Ujiri trading "anchor" Andrea Bargnani to the Knicks in exchange for valuable draft picks: "If sports had a criminal code, that trade would have been a Class A felony."
- Another one from Kelly, with advice to fans in a column about blistering heat at Wimbledon: "If you feel faint, then for God's sake don't pass out while a point is being played. It will distract the players."
- Manitoba premier Wab Kanew, on the Jets signing Jonathan Toews to a contract: "It'll be really great for the documentary

they make about the Winnipeg Jets winning the Stanley Cup."

- Torben Rolfsen again: "Joey Chestnut on cover of Hot Dog 26 video game."
- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Joey Chestnut once again won the 4th of July hot dog eating contest, eating just over 70 hot dogs in six hours. The real loser in this? Joey Chestnut's plumber."
- American political commentator George Will, (snipped from Jack Finarelli's sportscrumdgen.com site): "Football combines two of the worst things in American life. It is violence punctuated by committee meetings."
- Headline at fark.com: "I don't want to say that gambling has ruined ESPN but here's an article on the odds of the July 4 hot-dog-eating contest."
- One more from Cathal Kelly, on waiting 18 minutes in line for strawberries and cream at Wimbledon: That is "something I would not normally do. One of my rules for life is that the only things I (grudgingly) line up for are airport security and the checkout at Costco."

Care to comment? Email [brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca](mailto:brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca)

# Southeast Men's Fastball League Finals set to go

By Chris Ashfield  
Grasslands News

The table is set for the first round of play-offs in the Southeast Men's Fastball League (SEMFL) with four of the six teams having a chance at clenching the league championships while the other two teams will be playing for a consolation title.

The first round, all best of three se-

ries, will see the first place and defending champions the Grenfell Gems take on the fourth place Ochapowace Young Bucks while the second place Neudorf Posse will take to the field against the Whitewood Falcons. The winners of each series will then advance to the final round to play off for the SEMFL championship.

There will also be a league consolation series played which will see the fifth place Cowessess Royals take on the sixth place Round Lake Bears. The winner

will be crowned the league's consolation champions.

The first round series began Wednesday night with Ochapowace in Grenfell but results from the game were not available at press time. Game two of that series will be July 14 in Ochapowace and game three, if necessary, will be back in Grenfell on July 16. All games begin at 8 p.m.

The first game of the Whitewood/Neudorf series is starting July 10 at 7 p.m. in

Neudorf with game two in Whitewood on July 14 at 6:30 p.m. If necessary, game three will be played in Neudorf on July 15 at 7 p.m.

The consolation series begins July 10 with Round Lake at Cowessess for game one. Game two of the series will be July 15 (played at Ochapowace) with game three, if necessary, played July 17 back at Cowessess. All games in this series begin at 8 p.m.



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## Borderland League champions

The Kipling U11 Girls had a great season of softball and ended with a big win and clenching the U11 Borderland League. Front row, left to right, are, Kessel Schiller, Arizona Kish, Emma Dew, Kelly Lariviere, Emma Gartner, Austyn Heikkila, and Holly Heikkila (coach). Back row, left to right, are, Kim Gall (coach), Harper Gall, Leighton Adams, Scarlett Stamm, Drew Sproat, Kate-Lynn Potgieter, Kendal Jones, Mersadie Hazell, and Melissa Hazell (coach).

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14	Wed July 23	Pirates	Rangers	Optimist 8:30
15	Sun July 27	Indians	Pirates	Windthorst 2:00
16	Wed July 30	Pirates	Ghosts	Optimist 8:30

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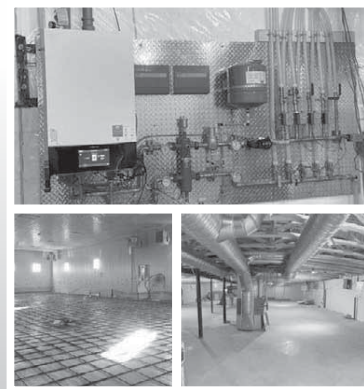
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# White Butte baseball teams perform well

Canada's Largest Minor Baseball Tournament in Melville

By Jacob Miller  
Grasslands News

The White Butte Broncos performed well during the Melville Minor Ball Association Baseball Tournament.

The tournament took place from July 4-6 at the Melville Regional Park.

While none of the Broncos teams brought home the championship, the teams performed well in the tournament, with some playing in the championship games or consolation games.

lution games.

The 11U AA Broncos Blue faced some tough teams, losing against the Carnduff Astros, Watrous Lakers, Regina Wolfpack, and Munster Red Sox.

The 11U AAA White Butte Broncos found more success, winning 16-9 against the Yorkton Cardinals, and 15-5 against the Sask Central River Pirates. They lost 19-17 against the Estevan Brewers.

The 11U AAA Broncos ended up as the number 2 seed but fell in a close game against the Sask Central River Pirates, losing 11-10. They ended up playing against the Yorkton Cardinals in the consolation game.

The 13U AAA Broncos earned the number one rank in the B Pool during the three-day tournament. Over the three days the team won 13-10 against the Bonivital Black Sox, tied 5-5 with the Regina White Sox, won 10-4 against the Sask Central Pirates, and

won 14-4 against the Regina Athletics. The team made it to the championship game where they lost against the Winnipeg South Wolves.

The 15U AA White Butte Broncos faced tough luck throughout the weekend, losing 11-6 against the Lumsden Cubs, 9-7 against Parkland Twins Blue, 11-3 against the Medicine Hat Majestics, and 15-0 against the Lumsden Cubs.

The 18UAA White Butte Broncos placed fourth in the A pool. In the first day of the tournament the Broncos won their first game 10-7 against the Esterhazy Cyclones, and tied their second game 14-14 with the Macklin Lakers. On day two the Broncos fell 8-7 against the Regina Blue Jays and 4-3 against the Elmwood Giants. On day three the Broncos won 10-4 against the Regina Athletics and played in the consolation game against the Regina Blue Jays.



JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## 13U AAA Final game

13U AAA White Butte Broncos pitcher Garrett Stephen opened things up against the Winnipeg South Wolves in the 13U AAA Championship at Father Tom in Melville.

## CORRECTION

In last week's edition it was reported that the Fort Qu'Appelle "Canada Ball" golf was held by Echo Ridge Ladies. The event was actually hosted by the Katepwa Ladies with the invited guests the Echo Ridge Ladies. We apologize for the mix-up.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

RESORT VILLAGE OF FORT SAN  
Notice of Discretionary  
Use Application

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Resort Village of Fort San that pursuant to section 55 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* gives notice that a discretionary use application has been received and the details are as follows:

**Discretionary Use Permit: Boathouse with loft**  
- Lot A, Block 2, Plan GC1610

**INTENT:** The applicant is seeking approval to construct a boathouse that includes a loft on the upper level.

**PUBLIC INSPECTION:** Any person may inspect the proposed application at the Village Office during normal office hours, Tuesday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available to interested persons at a cost.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 7 p.m. The public hearing will be held at the Fort San Village Office at 120 Broadway Street W., Fort Qu'Appelle, SK. Any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed application is welcome to attend or to submit comments prior to the meeting. Council will consider all comments received.

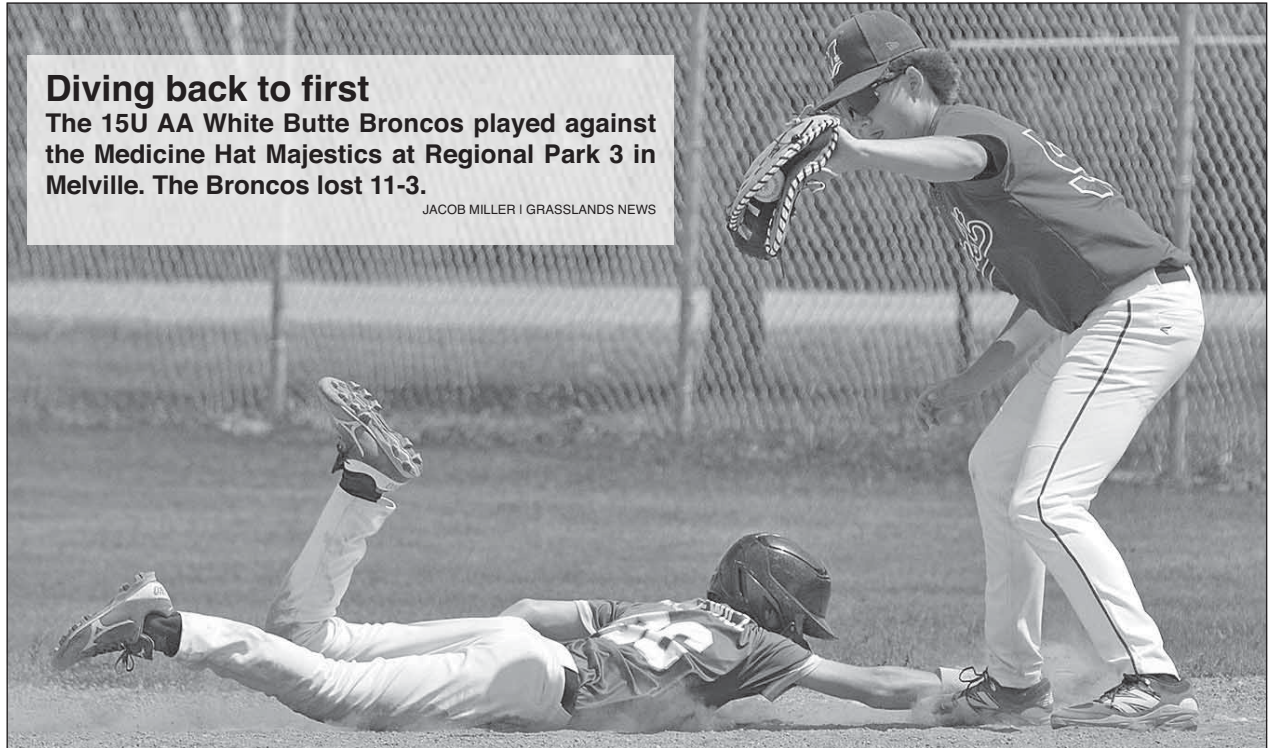
Issued at the Resort Village of Fort San June 24, 2025.

Amy Railton, CAO

## Diving back to first

The 15U AA White Butte Broncos played against the Medicine Hat Majestics at Regional Park 3 in Melville. The Broncos lost 11-3.

JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS



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JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Close play at third

The 11U AAA White Butte Broncos faced off against the Estevan Brewers at Regional Park 1 in Melville. The Broncos lost in a close game against the Brewers. losina 19-17.

# Campground donates to Hospital Foundation



MARG OLLETT | GRASSLANDS NEWS

**Proceeds net \$1,050**

**Submitted by Marg Ollett**  
Grasslands News

The Indian Head Campground held a burger and wiener roast for their seasonal campers on June 29 and donated the proceeds to The Indian Head and District Hospital Foundation Inc.

The seasonal campers added to this with a donation bucket and the combined donation came to a

whopping \$1,050.

This was presented by campground employee John Heisler and Trista Cherkewich (right) to Marg Ollett (far left) and Lisa Craigie (second from left) of the Foundation.

They are most appreciative of this generous donation and grateful to campground owners Marion and Kelsey Calder.

The Indian Head Campground plans on making this an annual event.

**CLOSED for HOLIDAYS!**  
Grasslands News will not publish *Friday, July 25 and Friday, Aug. 1*

**LANDFILL FORT QU'APPELLE**  
**WINTER HOURS**  
• Dec. 1 to March 31 •  
Monday to Friday 9:00 to 4:30  
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**SUMMER HOURS**  
• April 1 to Nov. 30 •  
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116 Main Street

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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, July 13:  
11:00 a.m. Worship at St. Paul's led by Margaret A. Yost

\*9 a.m. Worship at Christ, Neud Saturday, July 12:  
\*7 p.m. Worship at Trinity, Lemb

**ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.  
Church Office 306-728-5764; 306-720-0589

\*No Services for July and August

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH**  
5th Ave. E. & King St.  
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611  
website: firstunitedmelville.org

Sunday, July 13:  
No Worship Service

**THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
(A Church with a Caring Heart)  
800 Prince Edward St.  
(Melville Comm. Works)  
Ph. 306-728-2347  
Pastor Tim Oehler

Sundays:  
9:55 a.m. Pre-service Prayer  
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Welcome  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
www.melvillerverchurch.org  
Facebook @melvillerverchurch  
Recorded messages posted online

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
258 - 10th Ave. W.  
Ph. 306-728-3971  
Pastor Ronald Shumba  
facebook.com/gslcmelville  
July 2 - July 15: Office Closed  
July 13: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

**ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.  
Fr. Basil Malowany  
basilmalowany@gmail.com  
306-540-5102  
Saturday, July 12:  
7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy  
Sunday, July 20:  
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

**MELVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
473 - 8th Ave. W.  
Office Ph. 306-728-5022  
Pastor Jon Pettinger  
Associate Pastor: Jesse Darby  
Sunday during Summer Months:  
Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.  
Online services can be found at:  
www.melvillebaptist.com

**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.

### Melville Churches Welcome You

**BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH**  
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.  
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001

\*No Services for month of July

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
(Lutheran Church - Canada)  
502 - 4th Ave. W. - Church Office  
Ph. 306-728-5689  
Email: zlcpcastor@myaccess.ca  
www.zionlutheranmelville.com

Sunday, July 13:  
11:00 a.m. Divine Service

Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

St. Mary's RC Church, Grayson  
St. Elizabeth's RC Church, Killaly  
St. Michael's RC Church, Lemberg

### CHURCH SERVICES

July 12-13:  
Grayson 11 a.m.  
Killaly 7 p.m.  
Lemberg 9 a.m.

### 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 Mandapatil  
Sunday, July 13:  
9:00 a.m. Mass Service

**ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Sunday, July 13:  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service with The Rev. Cheryl Johnson

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA**  
Summer Services as follows:  
Sunday, July 13:  
10 a.m. Lay Service  
Sunday, Aug. 10:  
10 a.m. Lay Service

**WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH**  
\*No Services until September



### Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

**VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH** Fort Qu'Appelle  
Sunday service 10:30 a.m.  
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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.

### Kipling Interdenominational Summer Services

All Services are at 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday, July 13: Service at Bekevar Church in the Country

### 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

# 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

### Maureen Julia Fafard (née Beaton)

Oct. 8, 1936 - July 2, 2025



With deep sadness and profound love, we announce the passing of Maureen Julia Fafard (née Beaton) of Broadview, Sask., who passed away peacefully in the Broadview Centennial Lodge on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at the age of 88.

Maureen is lovingly remembered by her husband, Laurie Fafard and their three sons: Jim, Allan (Sandra) and Danny (Judy). She was a proud grandmother to Kurtis (Teri), Marc, Chelsey (Daniel), Dean (Laura) and Jasmine; and a cherished great-grandmother to Wyatt, Levi, Bronwyn, Calvin and Henry. She was predeceased by her parents, Mel and Mae Beaton, and brother, Jim Beaton (Wanda).

Born in Whitewood, Sask. on Oct. 8, 1936, Maureen was raised in Broadview, where she completed her schooling and excelled in track and field. In Grade 9, she met Laurie, who had come into town from the farm to attend Broadview School. He sat behind her in class and eventually wore her down – and they've been by each other's side ever since. They were married on July 19, 1957 in Regina, and would have celebrated 68 years of marriage this year.

Maureen completed two years of teaching at Logwood School and Cowessess Day School before leaving the profession to help on the farm and raise her three young boys. She and Laurie farmed from 1957 until 1999, when Maureen finally got to move back into town – a milestone she'd long been looking forward to. After they sold their cattle, Maureen and Laurie were able to travel more freely, visiting places like Cuba, Mexico and Italy with friends. They shared a life rich in companionship, laughter and long friendships.

She was a woman of many talents with endless interests. Maureen grew tremendous gardens and planted hundreds of flowers every year, eventually building her own greenhouse. She was active in Communities in Bloom and took great pride in her competitive entries of flowers and vegetables. She was also a gifted crafter and creator – gardening, scrapbooking, card-making, crocheting, reading, sewing – there was nothing she couldn't do with care and precision. Every family member has a Care Bear lovingly sewn by her, a drawer full of her famous crocheted dishcloths and handmade cards "Hand Stamped by Maureen." She was an avid collector – of coins, souvenir spoons, turtles and crystal figurines. Her desserts were legendary within the family, and whatever the task, she tackled it with unmatched efficiency. Maureen had a sharp mind and a remarkable memory – if you tried to argue, you'd quickly find she had the facts on her side.

Some of the most cherished family memories were made at the cabin on Sunset Beach at Crooked Lake, where Maureen and Laurie created a summer haven. Wiener roasts, fishing, tubing, paddleboating, mini golfing, bocce ball games, flea market outings, the game of Life – these were the golden days for her children and grandchildren.

In keeping with Maureen's wishes, no formal funeral service will be held. She will be laid to rest in the columbarium at the Broadview Cemetery at a later date.

Though she may be gone from our sight, those who loved her will carry pieces of her with them always. Her memory is stitched into every corner of family life – from the gardens she grew to the keepsakes she made – and she will be missed beyond words.

Online condolences may be made at [www.tubmanfh.com](http://www.tubmanfh.com)



## Memoriam



WASSILL – Helen. In memory of our mother who passed away 15 years ago, July 15, 2010.

*Always in our thoughts,  
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Forever remembered,  
Forever missed.*

–Leonard, Dennis and Michelle.

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## Coming Events

FLETWODE Annual Church Service, Sunday, July 27 at 2:30 p.m. Potluck lunch to follow. Please bring your lawn chair. Everyone welcome. Located in the Kennedy district and RM of Hazelwood.

THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY Art Guild is having its annual Show and Sale at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Lebreton on **Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$2 admission, door prize is a \$300 painting, refreshments available. There are 30 members at the show so there is a nice variety of mediums, sizes and subjects.

## FARM STRESS LINE

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(based on 25 words or less)

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1 week: \$15.00 • 2 weeks: \$20.00 • 3 weeks: \$25.00 • 4 weeks: \$30.00  
Additional weeks: \$7.50 • Deadline: Tuesdays at 12 noon

**1-844-GNG-NEWS**

# Playground and Splash Park open in Balcarres

By Judy Hershmilller  
Grasslands News

The Lions Playground and Splash Park is open again for the summer with Addison Ward and Jalysa Hyndman hired to organize games and activities in the patio area. Lots of fun is planned for children who visit for the summer. Concession snacks are available as well as the games and activities.

The Splash Park is open Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – perfect for kids and families to beat the heat and have some fun in the sun. Come to the park on July 16 for the Family Picnic Day, enjoy a free barbecue, games, family activities and more.

## Coming Events

**July 12 and July 13:** Qu'Appelle Valley Art Guild is hosting its 53rd Annual Art Show and Sale at Sacred Heart Catholic Church from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days with a \$2 admission.

A featured painting by Shelley Cochrane will be raffled, and an all artist progressive painting will be one of the highlights of the two-day show. Come and see what the painters have been doing this year!

## Van stolen in Kelliher

Submitted  
Grasslands News

On Friday July 4, at 1513 hrs. the RCMP received a report of a stolen van from 2nd Avenue in Kelliher, SK.

A white sprinter van used for delivery service was taken. The vehicle is a white late model Ford cube van, Sk licence plate 008 MYC.

Please advise police via 310-RCMP, 310-7267 if you observe this vehicle in the area.

If you have information related to this advisory please call 310-RCMP for immediate response, or you can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

**July 18:** Quilt Show at the BICC, 1 p.m. hosted by the Friendship Club. Jellybean Guessing Contest takes place all month long at the Public Library and town office. Be sure to come in and give staff your best ideas! \$1 per guess. Library hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays 12 noon to 6 p.m.

## Balcarres Care Centre Update

The summer has started with a nice mix of showers and sunshine. The flowers that the residents helped plant are looking happy. Appreciation to the Friendship Club for their contributions to the Mother's Day and Father's Day events in May and June. They helped to elevate our celebrations for the residents.

A big thank you to the volunteers who helped at the Perennial Plant and Garage Sale on June 20. Appreciation to the community for their support of the plant/garage sale and hotdog sale.

June was filled with a variety of summer events. To kick off June the residents visited the Lemberg

Library Book Sale and barbecue. Residents enjoyed the monthly birthday party and happy hour. Residents also enjoyed many snack socials out in the courtyard.

The BICC welcomed students from the Grade 1-3 classes from the Balcarres Community School. Students played a variety of lawn games alongside the residents and enjoyed a cool treat. Residents enjoyed various entertainment and ended June with a successful visit to the Motherwell.

Outings for July are planned to have coffee at the Golden Age Center, walk to Turtle's for some treats, explore the Abernethy Fair and to take in the beauty of the lakes. Many more courtyard activities, entertainment, physical activities, spiritual activities and cognitive activities are planned. Lastly we are hosting a Quilt Show on July 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. hosted by the Friendship Club and sponsored by Balcarres Nutrien Ag.

As always, thank you to everyone for your continued support of the

BICC and your various contributions to helping increase the quality of life for the residents and helping them feel connected to the community. Have a great summer.

## Golden Age Events

Visitors and members are welcome to come and enjoy coffee every Tuesday morning at 9:30, and Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. Free to attend and open to the public.

The sewing club meets every second Tuesday after coffee time, and work on their projects through the day. They have completed pillow cases which

have been taken to the Allan Blair Cancer Clinic to be donated to cancer patients, and also worked lately on neonatal blankets for little ones.

Birthdays of members are celebrated on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:30.

Cabbage rolls and lazy cabbage rolls are available at the Centre – two pkgs (10-12) rolls are \$14 and/or lazy cabbage rolls \$10 ea. Stop by the Centre Tuesdays at 9:30 or contact Sandy Lang at 306-331-7285 to make other arrangements.

## Around Balcarres

Balcarres citizens celebrated Canada Day in various ways in the community, with family gatherings, sports activities and by visiting our neighbouring town of Fort Qu'Appelle to take in the annual parade and fireworks, or down to Katepwa to enjoy the planned activities in the Provincial Park and amazing fireworks that followed.

Sincere sympathy to the families and friends of Jim Hartman and Garth Profit of Esterhazy who passed away suddenly.



**MELVILLE**  
SASKATCHEWAN

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Website: www.melville.ca

## Public Notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given that the Council of the City of Melville will consider adopting a bylaw under *The Municipalities Act* to provide for the closing of a Municipal Road or Street.

**INTENT:** The proposed bylaw, subject to the consent of the Minister of Highways will close and transfer the municipal road or street portion described as: All that portion of Street/Lane 14, Plan T3111 described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner Block 70, Plan T3111, thence Easterly to the Southwest corner Block 71, Plan T3111, thence Northerly to the Northwest corner Lot 34, Block 71, thence Westerly to a point at the intersection of the Westerly production of the North boundary of Lot 34, Block 71 with the East limit of Block 70, Plan T3111, thence Southerly to the point of commencement shown on the Road Closure Sketch Plan dated March 17, 2025 to the adjacent land owners.

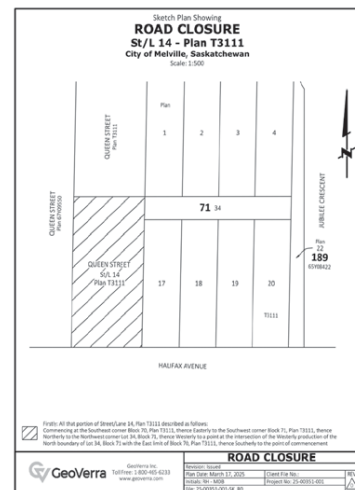
**REASON:** The reason is to allow the City to close and transfer portions of an undeveloped road plan to the adjacent land owners to consolidate with the existing parcels.

**PUBLIC INSPECTION:** Any person may inspect the bylaw online at melville.ca, or by contacting the City Office located at 430 Main St., Melville, SK S0A 2P0 between the hours of 9 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday excluding statutory holidays. The office can also be reached by phone at (306)-728-6840. Copies of the proposed bylaws are available at the City office at cost.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Council will hold a public hearing on July 14, 2025 from 6:05 p.m. at the City Council Chambers for verbal submissions. Written submissions to Council pertaining to this bylaw are also permitted. Written submissions must be received by July 7, 2025 by 4 p.m. either by email or delivered to the City Office.

Issued at the The City of Melville this July 4, 2025.

Dawn Oehler | Planning Manager | City of Melville



## Royal Canadian Legion

Indian Head Branch No. 114

**General Meeting 2nd Thursday at 2 p.m.**

at the Indian Head Memorial Hall

President - Matt Smith

Contact Don Ford 306-530-3222 and Myrna Scott 306-727-3733

## NOTICE Tax Enforcement Act

RM of Cana No. 214

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Rural Municipality of Cana No. 214 intends to be registered as owner under the above Act of the land described at the foot of this document.

The municipality claims title to the land by virtue of an interest based on the tax lien registered against the existing title to the land in the Land Titles Registry as Interest Number **200574840, 200574716, 200574750** and you are required to **TAKE NOTICE** that unless you contest the claim of the municipality or redeem the land pursuant to the provisions of the above Act within six months from the service of this notice on you and, subject to the further provisions of The Tax Enforcement Act, a certificate of title will be issued to the applicant and you will thereafter be forever estopped and debarred from setting up any claim to, or in respect of, the land.

The amount required to redeem the land may be ascertained on application to the Administrator of the municipality.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2025.

Kali Apps, Treasurer

Brenda Mae Mountney  
(Name of Assessed Owner)  
Lot 27, Block 2, Plan W2614. Title #156116785  
Lot 28, Block 2, Plan W2614. Title #156116796  
Lot 29, Block 2, Plan W2614. Title #156116808  
(Legal Description of Lands, including title number(s))

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# Help prevent the spread of invasive species

By Shaynee Modien

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Fishing and boating are popular family pastimes in Saskatchewan. Whether you're enjoying Lac Pelletier, Saskatchewan Landing or Cypress Hills Park, it's essential to remember a few key things to keep our waters clean and free from invasive species.

The most important thing to keep in mind is ensuring your boat is dry and clean after being in the water. This avoids cross-contamination as you move from one body of water to another.

After coming out of

the water - whether it's a river, lake, or pond - make sure to inspect and clean your watercraft after each use.

This includes not only powercraft like motorboats and jet skis but also non-motorized craft like kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards. Additionally, clean and inspect equipment you've used, such as life jackets and fishing gear. Don't forget to clean your trailer and keep it clear of debris.

Inspecting for visible aquatic invasive species, plants, mud, seeds, and standing water in all areas of the watercraft is crucial.

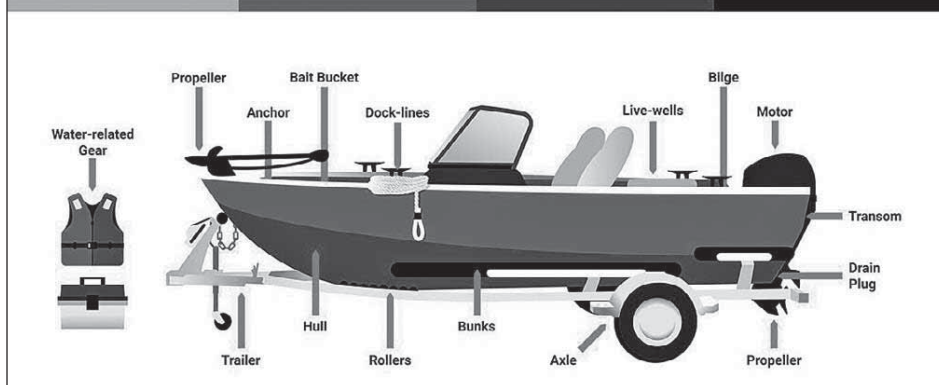
Standing water poses

a significant risk due to the ability of microscopic aquatic invasive species to survive in water or moist conditions for extended periods and spread from one waterbody to another.

When cleaning your water gear, remember that products that can stay moist - including ropes, anchors, life jackets, and tubes - can easily transport microscopic invasive species unless fully cleaned and dried.

The Government of Saskatchewan plays a secondary role in preventing cross-contamination through inspectors. According to the Saskatchewan Government

## CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.



website's Water Inspection Program, "Every summer, Saskatchewan watercraft inspectors

work at points throughout the province to inspect watercraft and equipment for aquatic invasive species. Watercraft inspectors are designated officers under The Fisheries Act and have the authority to visually and physically inspect watercraft, including interior compartments, and water-related equipment such as angling gear, ropes, anchors, and life jackets."

Inspectors are hired to ensure cross-contamination doesn't occur by inspecting your watercraft and equipment. Watercraft owners who have cleaned, drained, and dried their watercraft and equipment typically pass through inspection stations quickly, as they have removed most of the threat of spreading

aquatic invasive species by following these best practices.

As inspecting officers work for the government, remember that if you've been directed to an inspection station or told to wait for direction from Ministry of Environment staff, you're legally required to ensure your watercraft and equipment don't contact Saskatchewan waters until an officer performs an inspection/decontamination or provides direction to proceed.

Failure to comply may result in fines, and your watercraft may be subject to quarantine.

So, clean and dry your watercraft and equipment after use to ensure you're ready for your next family fun-filled watercraft activity.

## Whitewood is one of 40 Challenge finalists

Winners to be announced July 21 or July 22

By Elaine Ashfield

Grasslands News

The fun events are all over, and the result, so far - Whitewood is now a finalist in the national ParticipACTION Community Challenge that the community participated in throughout the month of June.

The challenge is an annual physical activity and sport initiative sponsored by ParticipACTION, Novo Nordisk and funded in part by the Government of Canada. It encourages everyone in Canada to get active in search of Canada's Most Active community.

The 40 finalist com-

munities across Canada have now been asked to complete and to submit an application to be named Canada's Most Active Community and win \$100,000.

Two finalist communities from each province and territory (26 in total) and 14 more communities with the highest scores on the national scoreboard are in the 40 finalists.

In the finalists along with Whitewood (Broadview), SK, are Ituna, SK, and 6 communities from AB, 5 from BC, 2 from MB, 4 from NB, 2 from NL, 2 from NS, 2 from NT, 1 from NU, 7 from ON, 2 from PE, 3 from QC and one from YT.

ParticipACTION an-

nounces Canada's Most Active Community and the most active community in each province and territory on Monday, July 21 or Tuesday July 22, 2025.

The national prize is \$100,000 and there are 12 (one per provincial/territorial prizes, excluding the province or territory who wins the National Prize) of \$7,500 or \$15,000 (dependent on funding commitment from each respective province or territory). Saskatchewan's Provincial/Territorial Prize is \$15,000.

Individuals were invited to sign up during the Challenge on the ParticipACTION website to count towards their com-

munity's score and organizations participated by registering on the website where they recorded their activities towards their assigned community's score by tracking their organizations activities and tracking the number of participants that took part.

Good luck to Whitewood on becoming a provincial or the national finalist and if you are not successful - there were a lot of great activities that were great fun for all ages and successful efforts succeeding to keep our community active. Thank you to all who participated!

Watch for the results later this month.

SEND YOUR SPORTS NEWS TO  
news@gngnews.ca

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FAX: (306) 745-6119

E-mail: bocklaw@sasktel.net

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### Fisher Law Office

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\* Garnet Fisher B.A., (Hons.) LL.B  
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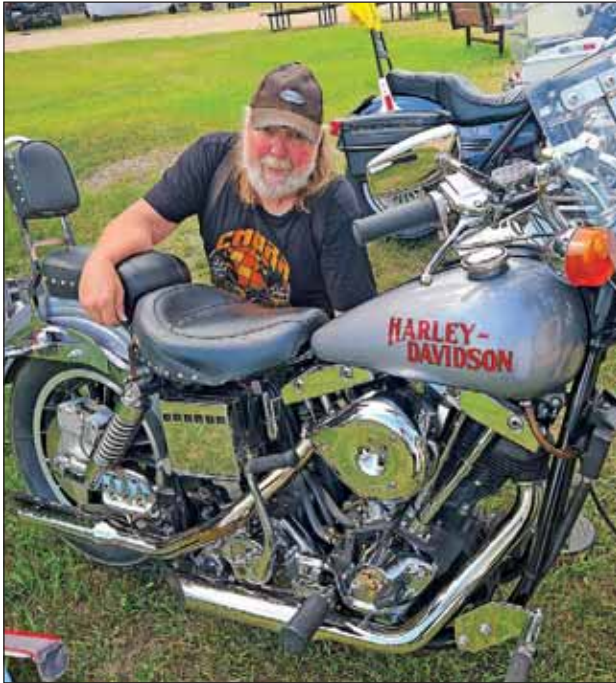
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# Old Iron Show 'n Shine held in Fort Qu'Appelle



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Vintage bikes admired

Allen Madland explains the difference between a shovelhead, a panhead and a knucklehead Harley-Davidson at the recent bike show in Fort Qu'Appelle.

By Alan Hustak  
Grasslands News

Sporting leather jackets, flowing beards, patches, head bandanas and tattoos, bikers from across the province roared into the Old Fort by the campground on the weekend for the Old Iron Show and Shine show. The exhibition of hundreds of vintage bikes was organized by the Bohemians Motorcycle Club.

"We're like a hockey team with Harley's, there's a camaraderie among our members," said Club president Colin Daniels who has been riding since he was a teenager.

"It is all about the open road to freedom. You travel in a different way and experience the country in a different way. It is deep therapy."

It is the third year the Old Iron show has been

held in Fort Qu'Appelle.

"This year we've opened it up to include newer models, all classes. No matter what you ride you're in," said Allen Madland, who came with his 1977 lowride Harley Davidson, which was the first year the company produced the machine.

The first choppers were produced in 1903 by William Harley and Arthur Davidson and established a huge following during the Second World War. It manufactured new models every year including knuckleheads, pan heads and shovelheads.

Marlon Brando is credited with turning the brand into one of the world's most iconic brands in the 1950s with his portrayal of a biker in the movie "The Wild Ones."

The weekend in the Fort was billed as a celebration of "bikes, music and community." It included tattoo artists, face painting and a program of hard driving rock with a live band.

Collector Mike Sali from Fort San took the award for "best in show"

with his 1947 Knucklehead and Colin Daniels described the exhibition as "a great event," for the town.

Mayor Brian Strong, himself a motorcycle enthusiast and rider described the exhibition as "a great event," for the town.

enthusiast and rider described the exhibition as "a great event," for the town.

"We absolutely want a show like this."

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\*Finance offers available C.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on new in-stock 2024 ELANTRA Essential/2024 VENUE Essential/2024 TUCSON Preferred AWD models with an annual finance rate of 4.49%/4.49%/4.49%. Cost of borrowing is \$1,072/\$2,389/\$3,340. Selling price is \$25,871/\$25,363/\$39,414. Weekly payments are \$110/\$110/\$175 for 48/48/48 months. \$2,995/\$2,395/\$2,995 down payment required. Trade-in value may be applied to down payment amount. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination charge of \$3,770/\$3,950/\$3,950, taxes and all applicable charges (including HST, GST/PST). Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to \$599. (Price of model shown: 2024 ELANTRA N-Line Ultimate/2024 VENUE Ultimate/2024 TUCSON Ultimate Hybrid AWD is \$33,856/\$39,316/\$69,931. Price includes Delivery and Destination charges of \$3,770/\$3,950/\$3,950, taxes and all applicable charges (including HST/GST/PST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to \$599. Fees may vary by dealer. Prices are not established for pre-production models.

\*Bonus price adjustments of \$500 available on select in-stock 2024 KONA N-Line trims only, on lease, finance and cash purchase from July 3, 2024 to July 30, 2024. Price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. Model inventory for which the price adjustments are applicable may vary from dealer to dealer and from region to region. See your local Hyundai dealer for further details and applicable model inventory. Offer is available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Vehicle colour is subject to availability. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, PDI, and a full tank of gas. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. Visit www.hyundai.ca for more details. The Hyundai name, logo, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned or licensed by Hyundai Motor Group. All other trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners.

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