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Friday, July 18, 2025
Vol. 11 • Issue 4

Publications Mail Agreement No. 4006725

"Freedom of the press ... is not the publisher's right to print. It is the citizen's right to know." - Arthur Hays Sulzberger

Vibank

Survey results for new hall released

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

The results are in and the community sentiment is decisive, but what happens from here remains to be determined.

The Vibank village office released July 10 the results of a survey regarding the future of a new community hall.

In all, 59 of 72 respondents (82 per cent) to the survey's first question were in favour of building a new facility.

Sixty-eight of the survey's participants then shared their feedback on what type of replacement facility should be built, with 50 of them (74 per cent) indicating their preference for a shared-use facility (part school gym, part community hall) to be built and operated in partnership with Prairie Valley School Division.

The survey was developed in follow up to a community meeting held in June, where attendees were presented by council and administration with four options for discussion.

There, chief administrative officer Heath Duncan shared that a joint use building with PVSD would likely offer the most economical option to village ratepayers should they desire a new build. In concept, though no decisions have been made or agreements reached, the village would share both operating and construction costs with the division.

A facility built at least in part to serve multiple com-



Public meeting

Residents heard from village council and administration during a public meeting to discuss the future of a community hall facility in Vibank.

BRAD BROWN | GRASSLANDS NEWS



ASHLEY SCARFE | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Semi crash by Balgonie slows traffic

A semi accident on Highway #1, west of Balgonie, slowed morning commuters heading east-bound on July 10. The accident happened around five a.m. when a semi carrying lumber tipped, spilling its load into the ditch. Clean-up efforts delayed motorists throughout most of the morning as the semi was towed and the lumber recovered.

munities, as Vibank Regional School does, would likely open the most favourable options in applying for grant money Duncan said.

The school could then theoretically use the building as a second (or replacement) gymnasium for students, while the broader community would have access on evenings and weekends.

"Once more details surrounding the potential collaboration become available and a fuller picture of the proposal has been developed, the community will be informed and consulted again before any decisions are made," the village emphasized in a statement that accompanied the release of the survey results.

The now-shuttered Vibank Centennial Hall was built in 1967 and was condemned in November 2023 following an engineer's report that found multiple structural deficiencies in both the arch-rib roof structure and the building's foundation.

That report, submitted by Regina firm W. Gagnon Engineering, found "significant and widespread damage" to multiple glu-laminated wooden support beams which had caused significant and unrepairable "deflections" (sagging or flexing of the wood) throughout the north side of the hall's roof.

While Gagnon recommended full replacement of the building and its foundation, Duncan said council held out hope the structure could still be salvaged, contacting 12 companies to request quotes on repairs to the existing site.

One of the 12 companies replied and, in doing so, declined to provide a quote.

The village then discussed options with Edmonton-based PCL Construction who further confirmed that they too were unable to find an engineer willing to sign off on a quote for repairs.

"We've exhausted all avenues there. There's nobody able to do anything that's going to restore what's there. So, what's there is going to be torn down. That's not really up for debate anymore," Duncan told Grasslands News in a March interview, adding that council intended to work the hall tear-down into this fiscal year's budget and proceed from there.

In presenting the three replacement options identified by council to the community last week, Duncan added that preliminary estimates suggest the village could be on the hook for anywhere from \$400,000 to \$1.2 million depending on the community's preferred option and available grant money.

Residents also heard that the existing hall, from 2010-23, averaged around two bookings per month and a mean annual operating loss of about \$520 – not including capital expenses for repairs and improvements as needed.

Demolition and removal of the existing facility is expected to cost between \$75,000-\$125,000 and will be going ahead sooner than later, with the village asking residents last week to remove any belongings from the hall as soon as possible.



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Local fire departments have a busy weekend

Melville and Whitewood respond to numerous accidents and a wildfire

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

of town. The collision caused enough damage to the vehicle that it had to be towed from the scene. The driver and occupants were not injured.

On July 13 at approximately 3 p.m., WFD was dispatched to a single vehicle rollover on the Ochapowace First Nation. A report came in of a vehicle on its side in a ditch on the main road into the community. Firefighters responded to the scene but after an extensive search, they were unable to locate the vehicle. A peacekeeper then stopped firefighters and informed them that the people involved had flipped the ve-

hicle back onto its wheels and drove it away and the RCMP were locating the driver.

Later that evening, WFD responded to another collision involving wildlife, this time south of Whitewood on Highway 9 in the Pipestone Valley where a southbound SUV struck a deer. The vehicle received extensive damage, resulting in all the airbags being deployed. The driver and lone occupant was taken to Kipling hospital for examination.

Melville Fire & Rescue also had back-to-back calls on July 13.

The first call came at 12:12 p.m. for a grass fire 13 miles north of Melville on Highway 47. Firefighters responded and were able to quickly get the fire until control and keep it from spreading any further.

Later that afternoon, just before 6 p.m., Melville Fire was dispatched to a single vehicle rollover on Airport Road. Firefighters assisted EMS with the patient and were back in service in just over an hour.



Accident and wildfire

Members of the Whitewood Fire Department responded to a collision involving wildlife on July 13. It was one of two accidents the department was called out to that day, and the third in two days. Melville Fire also responded to a single vehicle rollover.

CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS



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Have a great vacation!

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.



Bringing communities together
grasslands NEWS

Fort Qu'Appelle Times | Indian Head-Wolseley News | Kipling Clipper
Melville Advance | Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun | Quad Town Forum

Grant funding supports crosswalk installations

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Pedestrian crosswalks and lighted stop signs will soon be installed in strategic locations in local communities.

Grants for 62 projects across the province have been approved through the most recent intake for the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund administered through SGI. This includes initiatives in Indian Head, Grenfell, Kipling, Melville and White City.

"The Government of Saskatchewan and SGI are committed to delivering safer roads for everyone in Saskatchewan," said Jeremy Harrison, Minister Responsible for SGI.

"This \$1.5 million in provincial grants will enable 61 municipalities and First Nations throughout our province to deliver enhancements to traffic safety in their communities."

Over the past few years, business developments near the intersection of Highways 1 and 56 in Indian Head have not only created economic benefits but also raised safety concerns due to increased traffic in the area. With popular businesses on both sides of Highway 56, coun-

cil and town administration discussed concerns for pedestrians accessing businesses from the town, as well as those crossing the highway from one business to another.

The town consulted the Ministry of Highways to determine potential solutions. CAO Cam Thauberger informed council at a meeting in March that the Ministry of Highways would permit the town to install the crosswalk between Dairy Mart and Esso. Council was advised to apply for a grant to cover the expense and the town was approved for a grant of \$11,857 to install flashing crosswalk signs.

Other communities in the Grasslands News area have also received grants from the Provincial Safety Fund.

The Town of Grenfell will install crosswalks near school and recreation sites with a grant of \$23,269.

The Town of Kipling has acquired \$5,622 to install LED lighted stop signs that will improve intersection safety.

The City of Melville will install flashing pedestrian crossing signs in school zones with a grant of \$38,443.

The Town of White City will use \$20,556 to make improvements to crosswalks on White City Drive.

Indian Head RCMP seize opium and 4.9 million illicit cigarettes

Submitted
Grasslands News

On July 7 at approximately 9 p.m., Indian Head RCMP conducted a traffic stop on a tractor trailer unit on Highway #1, near Indian Head.

The adult male driver and adult male passenger were travelling from Ontario to British Columbia. As a result of investigation, officers conducted a search of the semi and trailer. Officers located and seized approximately 247 grams of opium and 490 boxes containing approximately 4.9 million unstamped cigarettes. The driver and passenger were

arrested at the scene.

Manjinder Singh, 27, and Harmanjeet Singh, 23, both from Brampton, ON, are each charged with:

- one count, possession for the purpose of trafficking, Section 5(2), Controlled Drugs and Substances Act;
- one count, sell, offer for sale, transport, deliver, distribute, or have in his possession for the purpose of sale a tobacco product, or a raw leaf tobacco that is unstamped, Section 121.1(1), Criminal Code;
- one count, sell, offer for sale of have in his possession a tobacco product unstamped, Section 32(1), Excise Act;

- one count, unlawfully import tobacco into Saskatchewan, Section 27(2) and Section 27(5), Tobacco Tax Act; and
- one count, possess, store, transport or sell tobacco that is not marked in a prescribed manner, Section 11(8), Tobacco Tax Act.

Manjinder Singh and Harmanjeet Singh are scheduled to appear in Indian Head Provincial Court on Oct. 21, 2025 (Information #90529616 and #90529617).

Saskatchewan RCMP's Moose Jaw Crime Reduction Team and Fort Qu'Appelle RCMP assisted with this investigation.

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Effective October 1, 2025

Minimum wage rising to \$15.35

By Provincial
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan's minimum wage will see a modest increase this fall, rising to \$15.35 per hour effective October 1, 2025, the provincial government announced Monday.

The change comes as part of the province's indexed approach to setting minimum wage, which ties annual adjustments to both inflation and average hourly earnings in Saskatchewan.

"By raising the minimum wage, we are continuing to support workers and deliver on our commitment to affordability," said Deputy Premier and Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety Jim Reiter. "Saskatchewan's low personal tax rates con-

tinue to make our province a great place to live, work and raise a family."

The upcoming increase follows the government's 2022 commitment to raise the minimum wage in stages from \$11.81 to \$15.00 per hour by 2024—a 27 per cent increase over two years. Now that target has been met, the province is returning to its formula-based system for future adjustments.

The announcement comes on the heels of the 2025-26 provincial budget, which included 13 affordability measures. Among them were income tax reductions for residents, families, and small businesses.

Reiter said the government is mindful of the impact higher wages can have on employers and the broader economy.

"We know the benefits that increasing the minimum wage will have for employees, but we also want to create a balance for employers," he said. "Over the next few months, we will be working together with the Chambers of Commerce and other key stakeholders to understand the implications of increasing minimum wage for the business community and the impact on Saskatchewan's economy."

The \$15.35 minimum wage places Saskatchewan in the mid-range nationally, with several provinces now exceeding \$16 per hour. Saskatchewan remains one of the few jurisdictions in Canada with a formal wage indexation system, providing a predictable path for future increases.

Online booking for lab appointments now available in Melville & Esterhazy

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is expanding its online Patient Booking System (PBS) to include lab appointments in Melville, starting July 15, and in Esterhazy, beginning July 16. This tool enables patients to schedule appointments for blood and urine collections, electrocardiograms (ECGs), and glucose tolerance testing online.

The SHA Patient Booking System Opens in new window is the fastest way to book a lab appointment and is avail-

able 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To book your appointment using the online system, you need:

- a valid health card; and
- A phone number or email address to receive notifications.

If you do not see your desired appointment type or location, or if you require further assistance, please call the PBS Call Centre Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (closed statutory holidays) at 1-833-727-5829. Walk-in appointments will continue to be available on a first-come, first-served basis at all testing locations.

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Council Meetings: The second Monday of each month. Town Council Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. All Council Meetings are open to the public.

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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."

A guarantee of ambulance service must mean more than just showing up

In southern Saskatchewan, we are promised that if we call 911, an ambulance will come. It is a promise made quietly, but it is one of the deepest assurances we have in rural life: that if something goes wrong on a gravel road near Indian Head, or in a farmhouse near Whitewood, help is on its way.

We are told we are "guaranteed" ambulance service, and on paper, that is true. But we must ask: What is a guarantee worth if it arrives too late, or if the system that supports it is quietly crumbling under staffing shortages, burnout, and long distances?

Let's take a rural reality check. Paramedics in our region are among the most dedicated people you will ever meet. They leave family suppers to drive into storms, crawl down icy ditches to help the injured, and sit quietly beside seniors on the ride to Regina, offering comfort on what might be the worst day of someone's life.

They are fulfilling the promise.

But the system they work within often leaves them stretched thin. When one ambulance is tied up on a transfer, the backup might be 40 minutes away, or farther if neighbouring communities are also handling emergencies. Meanwhile, many rural paramedics work on-call hours that interrupt sleep and family life, all while pay disparities and recruitment issues add weight to an already demanding job.

Yes, we are "guaranteed" an ambulance. But what good is a promise if the people keeping it are exhausted, and if the wait for help feels endless when a loved one is gasping for breath in a farmhouse kitchen?

Rural Saskatchewan deserves more than a checkmark in a policy binder. It deserves a living system that respects the promise being made. That means investing in recruitment and retention for rural paramedics, ensuring we have more than skeleton crews covering massive regions, and developing community paramedicine programs that can handle non-emergency care, freeing ambulances for critical calls.

It also means honest reporting of wait times and service gaps. The expectation of what will take place should be known. Rural residents are strong, independent people, but they are also aging. They deserve to know if help might take 40 minutes instead of 10, so they can prepare, plan, and advocate for better.

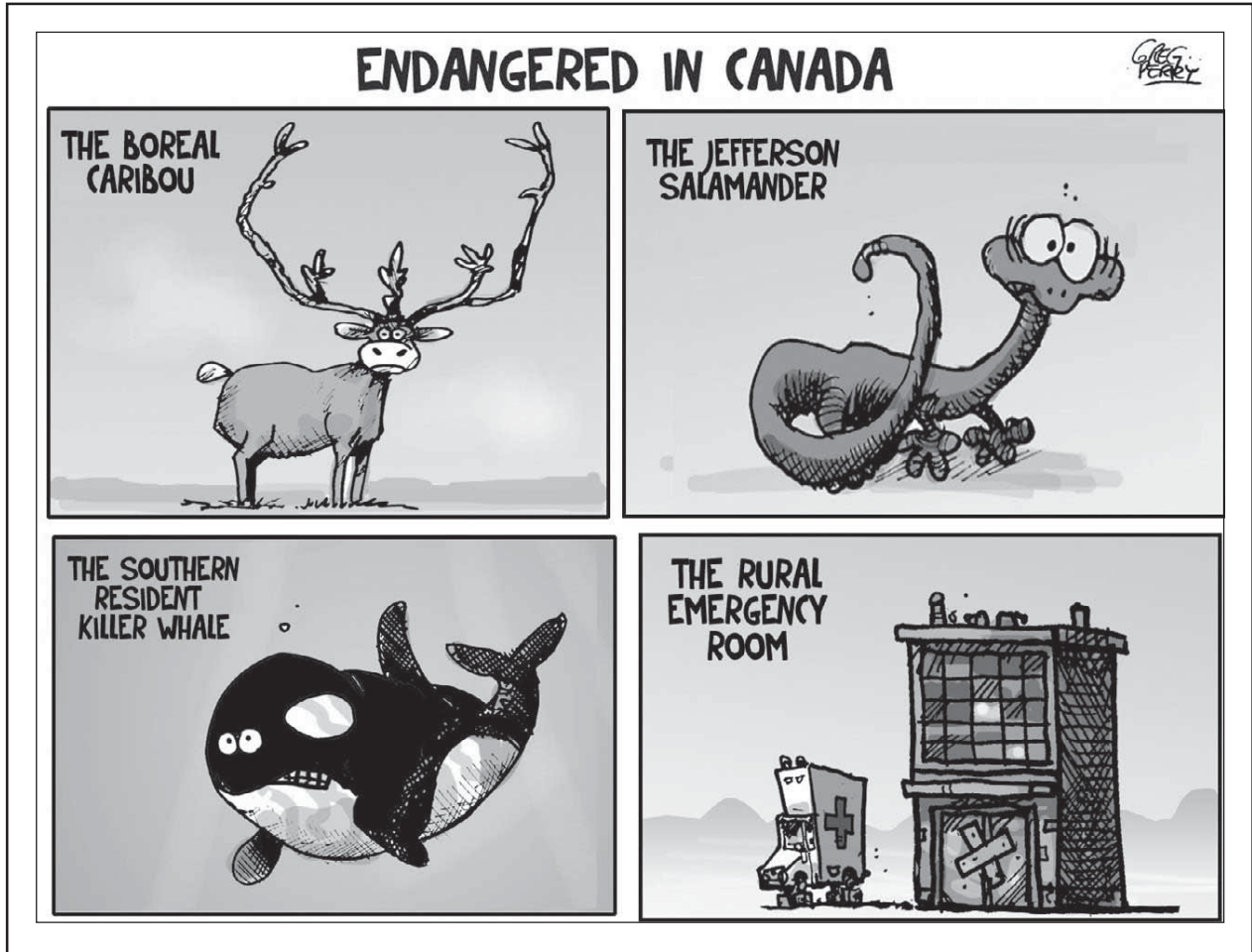
The guarantee of ambulance service is one of the quiet foundations of rural life and is a promise worth fighting for. It allows us to live where we choose, to raise families on farms, and to care for our aging parents at home, trusting that when the worst happens, help will come. Technology helps with dispatch, navigation, and in-transit care but it cannot drive the ambulance faster on icy roads, replace a paramedic's calm hands, or shorten a 60-kilometre or more drive.

A promise on paper is not enough.

We must urge provincial leaders and SHA officials to see beyond the technicality of the guarantee. Let's ensure it is a real, functioning, respectful promise backed by the staffing, funding, and coordination it takes to make it meaningful.

Because in rural Saskatchewan, that guarantee is not a luxury. It is life itself.

- Elaine Ashfield, Grasslands News



Letter to Editor: MLA surprised by opposition to new LTC home in Grenfell

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Grenfell, Sask, I cannot comprehend why the Council of Grenfell along with the Grenfell District and Health Foundation are so determined to withhold information from the residents of Grenfell. I am not only referring to the manner in which Council is conducting public business, I am also referring to the secrecy surrounding the Care Home which also involves the Foundation.

The fact that Council cancelled the July 10, 2025 Public Meeting due to 'conflicting summer schedules' after scheduling the date a month prior to the meeting, should be of concern to the residents of Grenfell. I, along with many others within the community, was looking forward to finally be able to question council and the Foundation regarding the current status of the Care Home, especially since I was being denied public information.

It was only through word-of-mouth on the streets of Grenfell that I learned of the July 10th public meeting, as council and the CAO went to great efforts to ensure only a few residents would learn of it through Facebook and a posting at the office. There was not even a posting on the Town's Website. The fact that a couple hundred residents still subscribe to our local newspaper, which is a great source of public information, this council and the CAO

have stopped the practise of previous councils and CAO of posting information in our local newspaper.

After hearing of the cancellation, through word-of-mouth, I was on the phone to government officials, once again. This resulted in a 25 minute telephone conversation with our MLA Kevin Weedmark. From the discussion, it was obvious that Mr. Weedmark had been led to believe residents had no concerns whatsoever regarding the Level IV Care Home. What was most interesting was when Mr. Weedmark told me that back in the fall, when it looked like there was going to be an additional cost for this new facility, the Foundation and Council were given the option as to whether they wanted the new facility to remain the same size of 33 beds or did they want it downsized to where it was more affordable for the community. Both the Foundation and Council came back with the decision to proceed with the 33 bed facility. I advised Mr. Weedmark that Council and the Foundation never made this information public.

I told Mr. Weedmark that the only public information residents received was at the May 8, 2024 Information Meeting where the Foundation, Sask. Health Authority and the Mayor were present. Residents were told their 20 per cent share was based on a total cost of \$18 million (word on the streets is that it

is now over \$30 million), that the Foundation was awaiting approval for bridge financing at zero per cent before they would officially approve the facility. Mayor of Grenfell suggested to residents that funding may have to come from taxation rather than fundraising. Upon viewing minutes on the Town Website I discovered that council had, six weeks prior to this meeting (March 20, 2024), already passed a resolution to support the Health Foundation with \$180,000 of ratepayers monies annually for 10 years. That equates to only \$1.8 million. Twenty per cent of \$30 million is \$6 million. Then add \$2 to \$4 million for furniture and fixtures and residents are going to be on the hook for \$8 to \$10 million for a facility owned and operated by the Sask. government.

The secrecy and lack of public information surrounding this facility has residents wondering why council and the Foundation have chosen to keep them in the dark and place their community in such debt that it will never recover. Mr. Weedmark advised me he will contact the Mayor of Grenfell and the Ministry to determine whether a Public Meeting could be arranged in order to give residents the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers. Residents of Grenfell keep your eyes and ears open!

- Lorette Raiwet Grenfell, Sask

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Issued Fridays by Grasslands News Group from the office
at 218 - 3rd Ave. West, P.O. Box 1420 Melville, SK., S0A 2P0
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Saskatchewan positioned to boost Canada's global energy/mining role

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan is leading Canada's push to become a global energy and resource superpower, with more than \$7 billion in mining investment projected for 2025—topping all provinces.

Energy and Resources Minister Colleen Young highlighted the province's strength in critical minerals, potash, and uranium, calling for faster federal approvals, expanded export infrastructure, and streamlined regulations. "It's time to unleash Saskatchewan's world-class resource sector," she said.

The province is expected to account for 15% of all Canadian mineral exploration spending this year—well ahead of its 2030 targets. Saskatchewan has been consistently ranked as a top global jurisdiction for mining investment by the Fraser Institute.

The province is the world's second-largest uranium producer, hitting record highs last year with \$2.6 billion in sales and 16,700 tonnes produced. With more projects re-summing, output is set to grow.

Saskatchewan also leads in potash production, delivering 15.1 million metric tonnes in 2024—an 8% increase from the previous year.

Emerging sectors are rising

quickly. Saskatchewan is Canada's top helium producer, with over \$500 million invested. Commercial lithium production is expected later this year, with copper and zinc pro-

duction starting in 2026.

The province continues to call for national investment in energy corridors to secure Canada's place in global supply chains.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

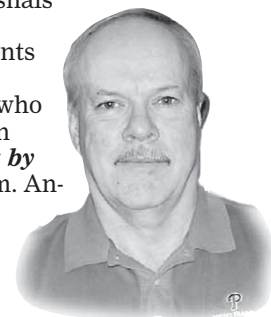
RCMP tipi

Last week, Kahkewistahaw Fire Department members were honoured to assist the Broadview RCMP Detachment in raising the RCMP tipi. This act symbolizes continued collaboration and mutual respect between the communities.

Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

As reported by US Marshals Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Tucson, Ariz., spotted a man at a federal building who "fit the general description of a subject being sought by ICE," so they detained him. Anthony Cohen legitimately asked, "Why is the information coming from the Marshals Service, if the agents responsible were from ICE?" He answered his own question. "Because the man detained was from the Marshals Service." Fortunately for the man, other law enforcement officers confirmed his Deputy US Marshal's identity.



Meanwhile, in Panama City, Fla., a woman approached a front desk worker at a hotel and declared she was there to "pick her up." Unzipping her jacket to reveal a shirt with "ICE" printed on the front, she presented a business card from the sheriff's office. Her target submitted to custody and was taken away, but not before becoming suspicious and asking a bystander to call 911. The Sheriff's Office eventually declared it a kidnap case. The suspect was Latrance Battle, 52, who believed the victim was at the hotel with her boyfriend, Battle's ex-husband, who has a restraining order against her. Battle was charged with kidnap, robbery, impersonating a law enforcement officer, and felony violation of probation.

On April 28, the Kentucky Lottery approved a claim for a \$167.3 million jackpot by James Farthing and his mother, Linda Grizzle. It's the largest jackpot in Kentucky history. Two days later, a sheriff's deputy at a resort in St. Pete Beach, Fla., tried to break up a fight between two guests. It turns out it was Farthing, 50, who kicked a cop in the face and resisted arrest. He was also charged with parole violation from Kentucky for tampering with evidence, engaging in organized crime, drug charges, receiving stolen property, and theft. "The surprising thing about being filthy rich that Farthing now needs to learn," stated Randy Cassingham. "Their budget for lawyers is larger than the average man's annual income."

Kyle McGinn, 37, has retired from politics, having served as a Member of the Western Australia state Parliament for eight years. To celebrate he gave a speech in Parliament, which he ended with a "shoey", which apparently is taking off his shoe, cracking open a beer, pouring it into his shoe, and drinking it. He says he did it to show that there are "normal people" in Parliament. Okay, then...

Rev. Eric Readon, now 49, the senior pastor of the New Beginning Missionary Baptist Church in Miami Gardens, Fla., was arrested in 2022 for allegedly embezzling an elderly man's \$267,000 home. Prior to that incident, he had already settled two other such cases, including one involving a property worth \$1.7 million. Readon settled on a jury to settle his fate instead of accepting a plea bargain offer of 1 year in prison and 10 years of probation. He was charged with exploitation of an elderly or disabled person, organized scheme to defraud, conspiracy to commit organized scheme to defraud, theft from a person 65 years or older, and grand theft. His latest transgressions will simply be added to previous convictions for strong-armed robbery and grand theft. Of course, those charges came before he turned his life around (really??) and pursued preaching. Facing 65 years in state prison, he instead accepted a plea when he got to court. He will ultimately serve 364 days in jail, 15 years' probation, and pay \$180,000 restitution to Edward Fuller.

Ten inmates aged 19-42 escaped from the Orleans Parish Jail in New Orleans. The jail, which the local newspaper described as "long-troubled," is only nine years old. After pulling a toilet away from a wall, the inmates found the wall wasn't fully secured with crossbars, allowing them to wriggle into a space that led to freedom. It has now emerged that Sterling Williams, a maintenance worker, shut off water to a toilet that blocked a hole in a wall. District Attorney Jason Williams (presumably no relation!) said 10 inmates had made their way "into a pod made for two" before escaping "through concrete, rebar and barbed wire." He concluded, "Even Stevie Wonder can see that this was an inside job." Why would a jail employee risk their career to help inmates escape? The DA suggested "greed, avarice, friendship."

The Palazzo Maffei museum in the Italian city of Verona has called on people to "respect art" after a visitor was filmed breaking a chair covered in shimmering Swarovski crystals. The man first took a picture of a woman pretending to sit on the artwork by Italian artist Nicola Bolla, which is known as the "Van Gogh" chair. But then the man actually sits on it. The chair folds under his weight, causing him to stagger backward against a wall. The couple then dash out of the room.

Keep reading between the lines...

Rail City
Industries Inc.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, July 24 at 5:00 p.m.

at Rail City Industries Inc.,

Main Building at

150 - 2nd Ave. West, Melville

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

FREE Admission to the Grounds

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: 9-11 a.m. at Heritage Grounds

PARADE: 1 p.m. - Heritage Theme

Parade entries to be registered before 12 p.m. day of the event.

PLUS: School Displays of antiques and collectibles, Local History, Childrens Games and Activities after the Parade.

DEMONSTRATION AND EVENTS
Rope Making, Stooking,
Stook Loading, Threshing, Slow Race.

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FREE ADMISSION TO THE GROUNDS



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RCMP investigate many reports of theft, accidents

Broadview and Moosomin Detachment S/Sgt. Dallyn Holmstrom

Reporting period:
July 1 to July 7

Traffic

There were 118 calls for service in the Broadview/ Moosomin Detachment area over the past nine days, and 18 traffic fines issued. Most of the fines being for speeding. The highest speeder of the week was issued to a male driving a Hyundai Tucson travelling 149 km/hr on Highway #1 near Wapella. The male received a \$562 fine. Second place went to a male driving a Kia K4 EX travelling 146 km/hr on Highway #1 near Broadview. The male received a \$538 fine. An honorable mention goes to one of our Detachment Services Assistant's who was introduced to the new Corporal in Broadview Traffic Services with a speeding ticket.

Mischief, Theft & More

On July 1st, the RCMP received a complaint from Ochapowace First Nations where a group of boys were stealing jerry cans from people's yards. RCMP attended and located the boys and the jerry cans. The owners did not want the boys charged but the jerry cans were returned.

On July 1st, RCMP were dispatched to an impaired driver on #1 Highway near Grenfell. The female driver was arrested behind the wheel of a Chevrolet Sonic. The female provided samples over double the legal limit and her vehicle was impounded. The female declined a free room at the RCMP Bed and Breakfast and was picked up by family members.

On July 1st, RCMP attended to a residence on Kahkewistahaw First Nations where a female threatened to damage another female's vehicle and beat her up. RCMP attended and prevented these threats from escalating. RCMP are still investigating these threats.

On July 1st, RCMP received a call of an assault on Ochapowace First Nations. The assault took place when one male punched another male several times. The suspect in this case was intoxicated by both drugs and alcohol at the time. RCMP attended but the male had already left the scene. The male will be located and arrested by the RCMP.

On July 2nd, RCMP were called to a residence on Cowessess First Nations where all the windows were smashed out of a van. This mischief is still under investigation and RCMP are requesting anyone with information about this to contact the Broadview RCMP by calling 306-696-5200. Information can be submitted anonymously through CrimeStoppers by calling

1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

On July 2nd, RCMP received a report of a stolen truck on Ochapowace First Nations. The female complainant advised that her GPS tracker put the truck parked at a residence on Ochapowace First Nations. RCMP attended the residence and recovered the truck from a very confused husband. Turns out this was just a lack of communication between husband and wife.

On July 2nd, RCMP attended a collision on Cowessess First Nations involving an ATV that rolled. The two male riders were injured and transported to hospital by EMS. These ATV riders were very lucky their injuries were not more serious.

On July 3rd, RCMP attended a dirt bike collision on Kahkewistahaw First Nations. An adult male crashed his motorbike and was taken to hospital by EMS. The male had some chest pain and may have dislocated his shoulder. Luckily, the male was wearing his helmet, or this collision could have been worse.

On July 3rd, RCMP attended a report of an intoxicated male freaking out and threatening another male. RCMP attended and the intoxicated male was arrested and charged for uttering threats. The male was then taken to the RCMP Bed and Breakfast and released once he was sober.

On July 3rd, RCMP were called to a male that was passed out on the side of a road in Moosomin. RCMP attended and placed the male under arrest for being intoxicated in public. The male then spent some time in the RCMP Bed and breakfast.

On July 4th, RCMP preformed a traffic stop in Grenfell and found the adult female passenger had warrants for her arrest. The female was also not supposed to have contact with the driver of the vehicle and was charged for this failure to comply with her conditions. The female was arrested and held for court.

On July 4th, RCMP attended an assault at a residence on Cowessess First Nations. An intoxicated adult male punched another male in the face. The male was also on several conditions including curfew and to abstain from alcohol. RCMP attended and placed the male under arrest and obtained statements and photos from the assault. The intoxicated male was then transported to the RCMP Bed and Breakfast until he could appear in court.

On July 4th, RCMP responded to an impaired driving complaint on Kahkewistahaw First

Nations. The intoxicated female was driving a 2012 Hyundai Tuscon. The female blew double the legal limit and was arrested for impaired driving. The vehicle was towed and impounded and the female spent the night at the RCMP Bed and Breakfast.

On July 5th, RCMP received a complaint of a stolen red 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier from a farm in the RM of Willowdale. The keys for the vehicle were left under the floor mat. There are currently no suspects for this theft. This theft is still under investigation and RCMP are requesting anyone with information about this to contact the Broadview RCMP by calling 306-696-5200. Information can be submitted anonymously through CrimeStoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

On July 6th, RCMP re-

ceived a report of a break and enter in a garage in Whitewood. The suspect was driving a white Acura car with damage to the front end. The suspect stole the homeowners golf clubs from his garage. The owner chased after the male suspect, but they managed to get away.

The male suspect was described as Caucasian, tall and bald. This mischief is still under investigation and RCMP is requesting anyone with information about this to contact the Broadview RCMP by calling 306-696-5200. Information can be submitted anonymously through CrimeStoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

On July 6th, RCMP received a report of several vehicles being broken into in the town of Whitewood. Items such as wallets, clothing, various

items and a firearm were taken from several different vehicles. These vehicles break and enters are still under investigation and RCMP is requesting anyone with information about this to contact the Broadview RCMP by calling 306-696-5200. Information can be submitted anonymously through CrimeStoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

On July 8th, Broadview RCMP along with members of the Kahkewistahaw First Nations have set up a traditional First Nations Tipi in front of the Broadview RCMP Detachment. This Tipi has been set up to demonstrate the RCMP commitment to reconciliation and to help foster the understanding of Indigenous cultures.

Scam of the week

On July 1, RCMP re-

ceived another "sextortion" complaint. This occurred when a young male from the community thought he was "snapping" with a female who lived in Saskatchewan.

The person turned out to be recording and making copies of the sexual photos and conversation. The scammer threatened to share the explicit content online and to his friends and family if the male refused to pay money. In this instance the young male victim did the right thing, and told his mom. No money was ever sent to the fraudster.

Police Joke

Operator: 911, what's your emergency?

Caller: I just witnessed someone rob the donut shop.

Operator: Did you get the suspects badge number?



Town of Whitewood

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

306-735-2210
731 - Lalonde St.
P.O. Box 129
Whitewood, Sask.
S0G 5C0

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town of Whitewood Council meets at the town office. Upcoming Council Meeting Date: August 19 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held via Zoom. Please contact the office to get access information 306-735-2210.

2025 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE

Taxes are due December 31, 2025. Take advantage of early payment discounts:
4% discount if paid in full on or before July 31, 2025
3% discount if paid in full on or before August 31, 2025

Payment Options:

- Online banking (please allow up to 4 business days for processing)
 - E-transfer to: cao@townofwhitewood.ca
 - Debit and Cash payments accepted at the Town Office
- Thank you for your prompt payment.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Whitewood is accepting applications for the position of Recreation Technician.

Applicants must possess a minimum Grade 12/GED and a valid Class 5 Driver's license. Experience in the operation & repair of equipment is an asset. Applicants will be involved in the daily upkeep and operation of recreation facilities. Experience working in a multi-purpose recreation facility is an asset. Duties will include, but are not limited to, ice maintenance, facility cleaning, and customer service. Applicants must be able to work independently and in a team environment with the ability to effectively prioritize tasks. A benefit package will be offered. Applications will be accepted until July 31, 2025. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. Please submit a detailed resume, including salary expectations, to:

Town of Whitewood
P.O. Box 129
Whitewood, Sask. S0G 5C0
Ph: 306-735-2210
Fax: 306-735-2262
Email: cao@townofwhitewood.ca

ELM TREE PRUNING

Reminder that it is prohibited to cut or prune Elm trees between April 1 to August 31.

GARBAGE / RECYCLING

Residents are reminded that Garbage or Recycling Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on collection days. Upcoming **Recycling** Date: Wednesday, July 23 and Aug. 6. Upcoming **Garbage** Date: Wednesday, July 30 and Aug. 13.

TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

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

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Swimming Lessons: One-week session July 21-25; and one-week session August 4-8
July 26th - 9-9-9 Golf Tournament
Aug. 9th - Whitewood Wiggles and Giggle Daycare Golf Tour.
Aug. 15th - Seniors 50+ Golf Tournament
Sept. 6th - Par 3 Golf Tournament
Sept. 13th - Whitewood Legion Golf Tournament

SWIMMING POOL & SPLASH PARK

Exciting News! The pool and splash park are open for the season.

2025 Whitewood Swimming Pool Rates

Family (up to 6 members) - \$185
Individual - \$80

Daily Passes

Little Ones (under age four) - FREE
Adults - \$7
Family (up to 6 members) - \$20
Seniors and Children - \$6

To book a Pool Party email:
recreation@townofwhitewood.ca

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 9th - Whitewood Annual Events Day
Throughout the day activities will include:
• Bouncers • Outdoor Curling • Food Trucks • Free Swimming • U11 & U13 - 3 on 3 Hockey Tournament • Whitewood Wiggles & Giggles Golf Tourney
Evening will include:
• Entertainment from local entertainer Shaya Istage
• Street Dance featuring The Resisters
• Food Trucks

PETS

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

WATER METER READS

The Town of Whitewood is asking that residents please send their water meter reads in monthly. This can be done by sending a picture of your water meter to 1-306-853-7122. You may still call the town office with meter reads, as well as entering them through the town website.

The town staff will still continue reading meters every three (3) months. This is the best way to be sure that readings are accurate each month. Town staff will be reading meters near the end of July.

PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

If you need to make payments to us, we accept:
• Etransfer to cao@townofwhitewood.ca,
• Mail a cheque to P.O. Box 129, Whitewood, SK S0G 5C0
• Drop in our dropbox, or,
• Stop by office with cheque, cash, debit or credit, call in with credit card.

VOYENT ALERT

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

Unexplained lights over Sask. help spark first national UFO report

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Canada's top scientist earlier this week called for a national effort to investigate Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP), as the federal government releases its first comprehensive report on UFOs in decades. The initiative, known as the Sky Canada Project, aims to bring scientific rigor and transparency to a subject often dismissed or shrouded in mystery.

Dr. Mona Nemer, Canada's Chief Science Advisor, emphasized the importance of studying UAPs systematically to better understand their nature and any potential risks they may pose. The report recommends establishing a dedicated federal agency to collect, analyze, and share data on sightings reported by Canadians across the country.

According to Dr. Nemer, "We need a clear and rigorous scientific approach to UAPs to better understand what these phenomena are, whether they pose any risks, and what they can teach us about our world." The report also encourages public participation through citizen science initiatives, reflecting a growing global trend to demystify aerial anomalies.

This growing national focus coincides with a recent and remarkable sighting in the small farming community of Willowbend, Saskatchewan—an event that has rekindled local and provincial interest in the Prairies' long, rich history of unexplained aerial phenomena.

The Willowbunch Sighting

Residents of Willowbend are still searching for answers after a mysterious aerial sighting lit up the skies above their fields a few years ago. Described as a "disc-shaped object emitting pulsating blue and green light," the incident has drawn comparisons to decades of UFO reports across Saskatchewan.

The event occurred around 10:15 p.m. on August 14, 2022, when local farmer Abram Hawthorne noticed an unusual glow over his east field while closing his barn. "It wasn't an airplane. It just hovered – perfectly still," said Hawthorne. "I've lived here 63 years and never seen anything like it."

Within minutes, other residents spotted the same object. Postmistress Eleanor Greer described the light as "otherworldly – almost like a lens flare, but real, and right there above the wheat." Several gathered at the edge of the field, observing the silent object for over five minutes before it abruptly ascended straight into the sky and vanished.

Karen Alvarez, a photographer and recent arrival to Willowbend, managed to capture several high-resolution images of the object. "It didn't make a sound," she told reporters. "There was a pattern on its surface – like liquid metal. It felt... intelligent, like it was observing us."

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police

confirmed that an officer was dispatched following multiple 911 calls. "No known aircraft were operating in the vicinity at the time," said RCMP spokesperson Cpl. Dan Reimer. "The sighting remains under review, and no evidence of a threat to public safety has been found."

Saskatchewan's Rich UFO Legacy

The Willowbend sighting is the latest in a long string of unexplained aerial phenomena across Saskatchewan – a province known for its vast open skies and sparse population, making it an ideal location for observing rare aerial or atmospheric events.

Historically, Saskatchewan has been a hotspot for UFO activity. In 1974, farmer Edwin Fuhr of Langenburg made national headlines after reporting five metallic saucers hovering over his field. Fuhr claimed that the grass beneath the objects had been flattened into circular patterns, verified by local authorities. His account remained consistent until his death and the event was commemorated by the Royal Canadian Mint on the 5th anniversary with a special collector coin being released depicting the incident. The coin shows Fuhr in his field overlooking five hovering UFOs near a slough. Only 6,500 one-ounce silver coins, which also glow in the dark, were minted.

In 1967, a retired teacher in North Battleford described a large, barn-sized craft silently hovering above her home for nearly an hour, accompanied by a "low humming" and unexplained electromagnetic disturbances. The case was documented by Canada's then-active UFO monitoring program, Project Magnet.

In 2001, residents in Meadow Lake reported orange orbs moving erratically across the night sky. More recently, in 2023, multiple truck drivers near Regina described a V-shaped object blocking out stars overhead before disappearing.

Paul Kingsley, a researcher with the Canadian UFO Survey, explains, "People assume this stuff only happens in the U.S. Southwest, but Saskatchewan has had major flaps going back to the 1950s. It's just that people out here tend to stay quiet about it."

Saskatchewan consistently ranks among Canada's top provinces for UAP reports, according to data compiled by the Ufology Research group in Winnipeg.

A Call For Scientific Understanding

The recent government report underscores the importance of collecting high-quality data and promoting transparency. The Sky Canada Project, led by Dr. Nemer's office, advocates for a coordinated approach involving federal agencies such as the Canadian Space Agency, Defense, and Transport Canada.

Officials aim to dispel stigma surrounding UAP reporting and encourage witnesses to come forward. "We are asking Canadians to report their observations so that scientists can better analyze and understand these phenomena," said

Dr. Nemer.

Experts also emphasize that the majority of sightings likely have conventional explanations – from weather balloons and drones to atmospheric effects – but a small percentage remain truly unidentified and worthy of study.

Witnesses Reflect On Their Experience

Karen Alvarez has shared select images from the recent sighting with independent researchers but has declined to release all of them. "I don't want it turned into a joke," she said. "This was real. It affected people."

Meanwhile, Abram Hawthorne has returned to his usual routine but says he can't stop looking up at night. "I don't know what it was," he says. "But I know

it was watching us."

Eleanor Greer agrees. "It's not just a story you tell around the kitchen table," she said. "It felt like something beyond our understanding was right there."

What You Can Do

In light of the new federal emphasis on understanding UAPs, witnesses across the country are encouraged to report sightings to local authorities or national monitoring organizations to aid scientific study.

The skies over Saskatchewan have always held mysteries—and as official interest grows, residents may soon find answers to questions that have lingered for decades.

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FORT QU'APPELLE, SK

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ADULTS - \$5/ UNDER 12 FREE

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- Adult Art Activities
- Food Vendors

www.msaf.ca
[@midsummersartsfestival](https://twitter.com/midsummersartsfestival)

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SCAN HERE FOR MORE INVENTORY

Balgonie Curling Club

Golf tourney planned in Kessel's memory

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

Those closest to him say Trevor Kessel lived in large part for curling, community and kin.

All three will be at the forefront Saturday during a golf tournament in his memory at Green Acres Golf Course west of Balgonie.

Proceeds from the nine-hole Texas Scramble will benefit the Balgonie Curling Club, a place Trevor's widow Kelly said was near and dear to her late husband.

Trevor died in March at the age of 46, leaving behind Kelly and their three daughters – Elizabeth, Emily and Elissa.

"Trevor's heart and soul was in the curling rink," Kelly told Grasslands News in a recent interview. "That was his baby. That was his pride and joy. He loved making the ice and just

loved being a part of it and making sure it was always successful. That was his place."

Part of that passion involved supporting Elizabeth as she progressed through the curling ranks, where she medaled at the 2023 Saskatchewan Winter Games and has also represented Saskatchewan at under-18 and under-21 national championships.

Elizabeth remains a member of the curling club board but Kelly added she, Elissa and Emily also volunteer there regularly as they are able.

"I don't think anybody ever had anything bad to say about my dad in the community," Elizabeth said.

"He was always asking how he could help whether it was as dance dad to me and my sisters, building props, picking us up and dropping us off at events, making supper

before dance or bringing us snacks, or bringing us stuff that we forgot to bring."

"He was always known to come in and watch us dance and tell us to point our toes more, and he'd always be one of the guys who would be there to set up and take down at recitals ... he was always volunteering his time and he never expected anything back from anyone."

Except maybe a little recognition for some epic hotel pool splashdowns.

"One of the stories that came up at his funeral ... three dance dads came up to me and my sisters after and said 'How could you forget to mention Trevor going down the waterslide at the pool in Weyburn?'" Elizabeth recalled with a laugh.

Kelly added that Trevor's commitment extended further to his girls' soccer teams as well as the town's annual dinner theatre, which they volunteered at as kitchen workers for the past five years.

That generosity, Kelly said, was repaid for several weeks after Trevor's passing as community members organized a 'meal train' to ensure the Kessels were provided with two meals per week and also offered assis-



ASHLEY SCARFE | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Sedley Car Show

The 2nd Annual Sedley Car Show and Summer Bash was held July 12 and attracted vehicles from across the province. Other entertainment included bouncy castles, face painting, beer gardens, live entertainment and a tradeshow. Proceeds from the event will go to the Prairie Playhouse Early Learning Centre.

tance with home and yard work as needed.

Those offers also seemed fitting given Trevor's involvement in helping with community cleanup after a particularly serious storm caused significant damage in Balgonie and the surrounding area.

"I think we'll always remember him as a guy with a big laugh who was always ready to help if you needed him," said Kelly. "His sister always said he'd give you the shirt off his back even if it came out of a beer box. If you needed him, there were no questions asked and no matter what he was in the middle of it."

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(306)581-8133
matt@kuzmiczfarms.ca

Brad Crassweller

MLA for White City - Qu'Appelle

(306) 520-5018 | mla@wc-q.ca

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White City mulls strat plan feedback from residents

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

White City mayor Mitch Simpson says town council is looking forward to developing its new strategic plan in response to feedback the town received during a public consultation period in June.

“It’s just general feedback and it’s just important to know, with almost half of council being new, that we heard voices from residents, and ultimately that’s who we are serving,” said Simpson, who was elected to his first term on council in November, succeeding Brian Fergusson as mayor.

“Ultimately politics is only as good as when we all participate, so I think it’s important to hear from ratepayers and take some

of those lessons learned under consideration.”

The strategic plan once completed, Simpson said, will follow a familiar template of establishing a guide for council to consider as it makes decisions on services, investment and growth from 2026-29.

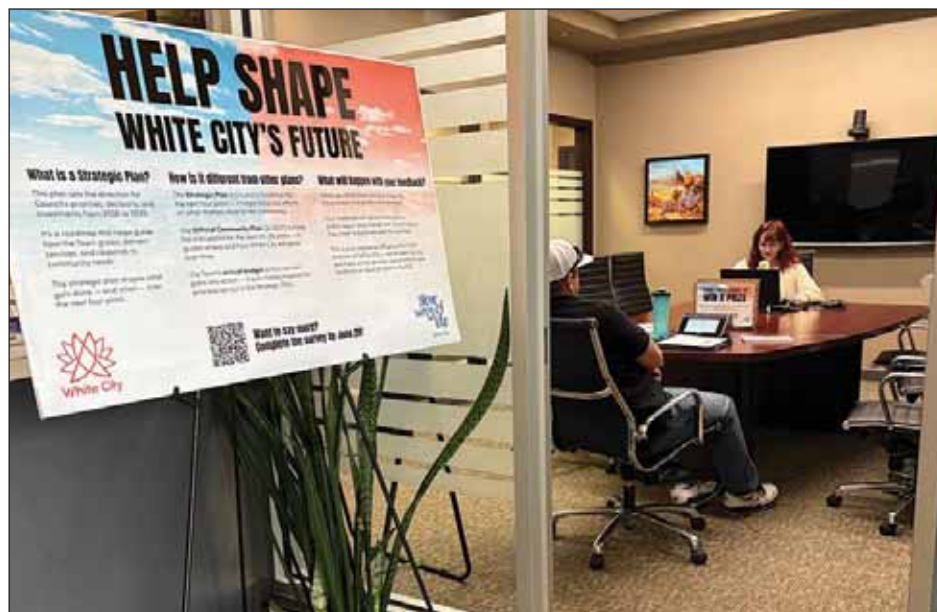
Simpson was unsure on the total number of responses the town received during its consultation when he spoke with Grasslands News on June 30 but added that he is eager to hear from residents on any kudos, questions, concerns or suggestions they might have.

“Whether it be a large or small community, like Regina or White City or Yorkton or Fort Qu’Appelle, I know it’s tough sometimes to keep up with council minutes or if they record their meetings to watch those videos to

know what’s going on, so that’s part of why I think it’s important to hear from residents and also for council to communicate why you’re making the decisions you’re making.”

Simpson acknowledged there are a few elements of the town’s existing strategic plan he’d like to see altered or removed in favour of some new directives, but that he ultimately hopes council will support the will of the ratepayers – whatever that looks like.

“That’s probably a fair assessment but once again I’m just one voice on council, just like everyone else is, so I don’t think we’ve had enough in-depth discussion to truly sit here today on a phone call and say I’m really leaning specifically on this item or that item,” he said.



BRAD BROWN | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Consult

White City town council hosted a series of public consultations in June, both in person and online, offering residents the chance to share their feedback as the town develops its new four-year strategic plan.

Schulich scholly switches Sulewski to Saskatoon

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

Lucas Sulewski’s track and field career with the University of Regina Cougars has come to an end before it even began – albeit for the best of reasons.

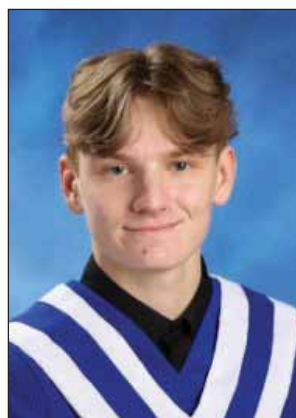
The 2025 graduate of Balgonie’s Greenall School shared in a recent phone interview that he’d been accepted to the U of R and had planned on beginning classes there this fall – in addition to joining the school’s athletics squad.

Then came the news in May that he’d received a \$100,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship to pursue applied mathematics at the University of Saskatchewan.

Goodbye Cougars, hello Huskies.

“I know I was very happy about it but also conflicted because I was like ‘oh shoot, now I have to rearrange some things,’” Sulewski told Grasslands News. “Eventually I got some things figured out to go to the U of S.”

The Schulich Foundation’s website says it receives about 1,500 applications each year for



LUCAS SULEWSKI

100 scholarships ranging from \$100,000-120,000. Those scholarships are then awarded to graduating students entering the fields of science, engineering, technology or mathematics.

Any high school in Canada can nominate one student per year, with scholarships supporting students at 20 partner universities across the country.

Sulewski said that process started for him in January when Greenall career counsellor Bill Birns informed Sulewski he was nominating him for the scholarship.

“After that I had to craft up an application which my dad (Travis) helped me out with as far

as brainstorming ideas for what I could put on there, then I applied and sent that in, and I kind of ended up forgetting about it for a little bit,” Sulewski said.

In the meantime Sulewski went about putting the finishing touches on a decorated high school career – both athletically and in the classroom.

The two-time Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association long jump champion finished fourth in high jump and sixth in long jump at this year’s track and field provincial championships, then ended the school year with a 98.4 per cent academic average.

“There were times when I’d have to skip a practice or two, or skip a couple classes to go to a track meet and take less time studying and stuff but it was never the biggest issue for me,” he said, explaining the balancing act. “I was able to usually plan around when my tests were because we were usually told (a week or two) in advance.”

“Then sometimes injuries would hamper my training schedule a bit or if it was a heavy test week I wouldn’t be able to train as much.”

As for the coming school year, Sulewski says he plans to take online classes through the U of S in addition to a handful of in-person classes at the U of R before moving to Saskatoon as a full-time student for the 2026-27 year. That’s also when he hopes to also join the Huskies track team on a full-time basis after one more season with his Regina-based club team Excel Athletika.

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SPORTS

Pipestone Valley Vixens take silver medal

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The U11B softball team of Whitewood and area girls, the Pipestone Valley Vixens, were hoping for a great weekend of ball in provincial playoffs and possibly a repeat of history.

It was over 40 years ago since Whitewood has brought home a medal when a not-so-well known team of girls took to the ball fields and captured the silver medals as winners in the girls' provincial ball finals that were played. This was the first provincial win in girls' ball for the Whitewood team playing in the mostly male dominated sport of ball at that time.

That team began in 1981 as a team of 11-and-12-year-old girls, coached by Gerry Norick, first winning a provincial silver medal and, by 1984, victories over Moosomin and host team Yorkton at zone playoffs that year sent the Bat Busters to the Provincial Bantam B finals in Paynton, where they were to win their first provincial championship. This was the Whitewood Bat Busters.

The team went on to win the provincial title the next year as well in Hoddeville, SK.

This year (2025), the U11B girls' team, the Pipestone Valley Vixens, did the

same thing.

They ended the provincial playoffs in Moosomin on July 4-6th with provincial silver medals. The only difference was this year's team was playing softball and forty years ago, the team was a fastball team.

"It was a pretty nice win, even though we believe an umpiring error cost us the gold," Michelle Raiwet, one of the coaches told Grasslands News. "It made us feel better when someone commented, 'Did you know it was 40-years ago since a provincial medal in girls' ball was won by Whitewood girls? That was the Bat Busters.'"

The tournament saw 17 teams entered and the final score in the gold match-up was 3 for Moosomin - 2 for the Vixens.

Playing for the Pipestone Valley Vixens were Jovi Giroux (Whitewood), Aubree Nagy (Stockholm), Violet Thompson (Whitewood), Renelle Woytas (Esterhazy), Halle Schmidt, (Whitewood), Makayla Drake (Whitewood), Eliza Leech (Esterhazy), Harli Raiwet (Whitewood), Scarlett Chewka (Stockholm), Jordan Clarke (Langenburg), and Dylan Krienke (Langenburg). Coaches are Nikki Thompson, Michelle Raiwet and Robin Giroux.

Other southern Saskatchewan teams in the tournament were the Indian Head

Angels, Storm Heat & Hurricanes, teams from Regina Royals (multiple squads), Moose Jaw Ice, Yorkton Crush, Lumsden Cubs, Redvers Red Sox, Carnduff Cosmos, and Diefenbaker Diamonds (Lucky Lake).

Out of interest for locals who may remember back to the 1980 era, playing for the Bat Busters when they won their first provincial gold were Paula Kay, Brenda Topinka, Karen Flick, Pam Istace, Brenda Flick, Rhonda Klatik, Lisa Green, Shehnaz Joomun, Angela Sauer, Suzanne Gessner, Heather Leepart, An-

drea Green and Sheri Yoner.

Team members when their 2nd provincial gold was won were Paula Kay, Brenda Topinka, Karen Flick, Pam Istace, Rhonda Klatik, Brenda Flick, Lisa Green, Shehnaz Joomun, Suzanne Gessner, Heather Leepart, and Andrea Green. Malcolm Green and Marv Kay were coaches for the gold winning teams.

1986 and 1987 the girls were defeated but won Parkland Ladies Fastball League title in 1987 prior to most of the team leaving following graduation.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Silver medal

Whitewood put in a u11B provincial team called the Pipestone Valley Vixens and competed in provincial softball Moosomin July 4 to 6th. They won the silver medal coming up short to Moosomin 3-2. 17 teams were entered in the tournament. Front row, are, Jordan Clarke, and Dylan Krienke. Middle row, are, Jovi Giroux, Aubree Nagy, Violet Thompson, Renelle Woytas, Halle Schmidt, Makayla Drake, Eliza Leech, Harli Raiwet and Scarlett Chewka. Back row, are Coaches Nikki Thompson, Michelle Raiwet and Robin Giroux.

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*Only the FIRST 100 entries prior to July 28 will be given the Free Gift Pack, when they show up to golf on Monday, August 4.



Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

As the boys of summer headed into Major League Baseball's all-star break, one thing has been made abundantly clear – you cannot sleep on the Toronto Blue Jays.

The Jays, who looked like a team prepared to go through the motions this summer, have climbed their way to the top of the American League East, and they've done it with a combination of timely hitting, terrific defence and solid pitching.

It would have been a pretty sure bet that few, if any, baseball pundits thought the Blue Jays would be in the position they are currently but just look at them go.

As mentioned earlier, the Jays have been extremely stingy defensively.

They have an outfield, that when healthy, can go and get it as well or better than any other in the Majors.

George Springer and Daulton Varsho have proven to be two of the top outfielders in the Majors and Gold Glover Myles Straw is good enough to fill in in any of the outfield positions if needed.

On the infield, the Jays have one of the best young third basemen in the game in Addison Barger, who has made tough plays look routine and has been tearing it up at the plate.

Add in Vladimir Guerrero at first base, Bo Bichette at shortstop and the currently injured Andres Gimenez at second, and you've got a group that's near the top of the league.

Bichette was never really known for his play in the field, but apparently, he's been working hard, and it's beginning to pay off.

The best thing about having a great defence is that you don't need to score so many runs, and with the Blue Jays big off-season addition, Anthony Santander, shelved with an injury, that's been a welcome development for the Toronto ball club.

Back to Barger, who has been on a tear recently, getting a number of key hits and making some spectacular plays in the infield and the outfield.

Right now, it doesn't appear that he has any holes in his swing, and he has the ability to hit any pitch out at any time.

He's definitely proven to be a difficult guy to get out and he seems to enjoy being in those tough situations with all the chips on the line, and for a while there, he was probably the guy that fans wanted to see get another at bat in a close game, because he's so good on the big stage.

Vladdy has been okay at the dish, but he doesn't seem to be hitting with his usual power.

Springer and catcher Alejandro Kirk have enjoyed welcome comebacks this season, with both players looking a lot better than they did last season.

What these guys have all done this season is keep rallies going.

Right now, there's no team that reacts to smelling blood in the water like the Toronto Blue Jays.

When they sense that a pitcher is getting weaker, they string together hit after hit and are capable of putting big numbers up.

The pitching hasn't been quite as good as usual across the board, but Chris Bassitt is having a solid season, with a 9-4 record heading into the break.

The thing about Bassitt is he looks like a veteran pitcher is supposed to, when he's out there.

The guy has about 10 different pitches when you consider the way he throws, and he knows how to frustrate hitters and he's good at it.

Kevin Gausmann has struggled, and Jose Berrios has been steady but not great and a number of fans don't seem to like Jeff Hoffman in the closer role, yet they continue to get it done.

In this scribe's opinion, the Jays front office should be looking at some additions when players become available for the stretch run.

If the Jays can add a capable bat and maybe another arm to the mix, when Santander and Yimi Garcia return in good health, this club could be set up well for a shot at post season play, something that was difficult to predict earlier in the campaign.

If they don't make any moves, they can't keep pace with the teams that pick up some last-minute talent.

If they start making moves, it could be a longer viewing season for Jays' fans.

McKenna departure a big blow for WHL

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

Sports Column
By Bruce Penton



The most electrifying player in Western Canada hockey circles is chasing big bucks south of the border and won't be displaying his 'how-did-he-do-that?' talent this winter in the Western Hockey League.

Gavin McKenna, 17, and the presumed No. 1 pick in the National Hockey League draft 11 months from now, announced July 8 he would be enrolling at Penn State and playing for the school's hockey team.

Instead of making \$100 a week or so playing for the Medicine Hat Tigers and facing a gruelling 68-game schedule that would have taken him on cold bus rides to 22 other cities in the west, McKenna and his new Penn State mates will travel in luxury — short regional bus trips and the occasional air flight.

What was the attraction? Why Penn State over Medicine Hat, which could have made another legitimate run at the Memorial Cup? There were, in fact, 700,000 attractions. As in \$700,000, the reported value of the deal he signed with Penn State under the National Collegiate Athletic Association's NIL (name, image, likeness) policy.

The NIL policy resulted from a series of legal challenges aimed at compensating athletes for the commercial use of their identities. It wasn't too

long ago that an aspiring NHLer who had designs on playing college hockey in the U.S. could not appear in a WHL game, lest his NCAA eligibility be ruined for competing as a 'professional.' The WHL is hardly a professional league, but players do get some minor compensation so they can fill up their gas tank, or buy an occasional Big Mac.

But all that changed when the NIL policy came into effect in 2022. Thirteen years earlier, a UCLA basketball player, Ed O'Bannon, filed a class action suit against the NCAA, arguing anti-trust laws were being violated by the schools profiting from athletes' names and images, with no compensation going to the players.

He eventually won the suit, and the door flew wide open for every college sport in the U.S. to pay its players for helping to fill 70,000 seat football stadiums, 18,000-seat basketball field houses and 15,000-seat arenas. Player agents swooped in to represent the best athletes and negotiate deals based on ability and potential media exposure.

McKenna's reported \$700,000 deal with Penn

State will be one of the most lucrative of all hockey players. He'll suit up for the Nittany Lions for one year before getting drafted and turning pro in 2026. Last year, Penn State played 40 games, allowing players plenty of time for schoolwork (as if!) and practice. For players in the WHL, it's almost a full-time job from September to April.

While McKenna is a big winner, the list of losers is longer: Thousands of WHL fans won't get to see the next generational player; WHL owners will lose big at the gate, because McKenna would be a huge draw; and the Tigers, who had hopes of contending for the WHL title again this year, appear en route to a mediocre season.

Unfortunately, this U.S. college NIL policy could be a Canadian junior hockey killer.

Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Chicago native Pope Leo wore a White Sox hat. Or as Cubs fans call it: the seventh sign of the apocalypse."

Headline at the onion.com: "WNBA To Expand Into Three More Cities As Caitlin Clark Cloning Experiment Nears Completion"

Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Quote of the week comes from Urban Meyer on an unnamed college program offering him a job as a general manager, where his main task would have been dealing with the agents of 17- and 18-year-old high school and col-

lege football players. 'I'd rather step on a rusty nail and pull it out myself.'"

Bianchi again: "By the way, can you imagine a negotiating session between Urban Meyer and a sports agent? You'd need a referee, a priest, a federal investigator and a tetanus shot."

Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com, an avid San Francisco Giants fan: "Los Angeles Dodgers have lost seven consecutive games for the first time since 2017. Thoughts and prayers."

Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "The Colorado Rockies are now the third worst team in MLB history. To which the Chicago White Sox said, 'Hey guys, we're working this side of the street.'"

RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Soccer Gold Cup favourite Canada was eliminated in the quarter-final by Guatemala. This might be harder for Canadians to bear than Justin Bieber."

Headline at theonion.com: "White Sox Fans Asked To Remove Polish Sausage From Mouths During National Anthem"

Blue Jays' manager John Schneider, about his team's recent 10-game winning streak: "In about 10 days, I went from very mediocre to a really good manager."

Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "An old joke of my father's: 'I have two sons. One at Penn State. The other at State Pen.'"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Mils get Saturday-heavy home slate in 2025-26

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League has released its 2025-26 schedule with 56 games slated for each of its 12 teams.

The Melville Millionaires are one of eight teams that will play on both the opening and closing nights of the regular season, starting with a home date Sept. 19 against the Estevan Bruins and ending March 14, 2026, in Yorkton against the Terriers.

Melville will once again play alongside Yorkton, the Weyburn Red Wings and Estevan Bruins in the Viterra Division, where the Millionaires finished third last season with 31 wins in 56 games, but also the fewest goals allowed in the division and third fewest across the league.

The trade deadline has been set once again for Jan. 10 and there will be a 10-day pause in the schedule around Christmas from Dec. 21-30.

Melville's schedule for this coming season includes four three-game home stands, and over a month without a home

game from Dec. 14-Jan. 15 due to five consecutive road games and the aforementioned Christmas break.



Additionally, 21 of the team's games will be played less than 24 hours after completing their previous game – including three road games in three nights from Oct. 24-26.

The Millionaires' first chance at payback against the Terriers, who eliminated Melville from last season's playoffs, will take place during a home-and-home set Oct. 10-11.

In all, Melville is to play 15 home games on Saturdays, seven on Fridays, five on Tuesdays and one on a Wednesday throughout the campaign.

See below for the team's complete 2025-26 home schedule. All games to start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

DATE OPPONENT

Sept. 19	Estevan
Sept. 26	Humboldt
Sept. 30	Nipawin
Oct. 4	Weyburn 6 p.m.
Oct. 8	Flin Flon
Oct. 11	Yorkton
Oct. 17	Kindersley
Oct. 18	Kindersley

Nov. 1	Battlefords
Nov. 8	Weyburn
Nov. 11	Estevan
Nov. 18	Nipawin
Nov. 22	Yorkton
Dec. 6	Melfort
Dec. 13	Estevan
Jan. 16	Weyburn
Jan. 17	Humboldt
Jan. 24	Melfort
Jan. 30	Battlefords
Jan. 31	Flin Flon
Feb. 7	Yorkton
Feb. 13	Weyburn
Feb. 14	Warman
Feb. 24	La Ronge
Feb. 27	La Ronge
March 3	Warman
March 7	Estevan 3 p.m.
March 13	Yorkton

Windthorst Pirates Baseball Club



FULL SCHEDULE – 2025

Game	Date	Away	Home	Location/Time
13	Fri July 18	Bucs	Pirates	Windthorst 6:45
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

Melville Curling Club ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, August 11, 2025 - 7:30 p.m.

at the Melville Curling Club

All Members Welcome!



Horseshoe players tossing ringers in Whitewood



Submitted
Grasslands News

Eleven players turned up to toss horseshoes and enjoy some light competition and socializing at the horseshoe tournament held in Whitewood on Saturday, July 5.

When the ringers were counted and the day ended, single players taking top spots were:

A Side - No. 1 - Colin Finnie, No. 2 - Veleta Klassen, No. 3 - Tammy Christensen and No. 4 - Dean Galandie.

B Side - No. 1 - Lacey Venne and No. 2 - Jim Schaan.

C Side - No. 1 - Carol Anderson, No. 2 - Dianne Galandie, No. 3 - Kahner Luhtala, No. 4 - Joan Law and No. 5 - Tim Eveleigh.

Doubles - No. 1 - Colin Finnie & Joan Law, No. 2 - Veleta Klassen & Tim Eveleigh, No. 3 - Lacey Venne & Dianne Galandie, No. 4 - Dean Galandie & Kahner Luhtala and No. 5 - Jim Schaan & Carol Anderson.

The Whitewood Horseshoe Club thank all the players and look forward to the Tuesday evening play held at the horseshoe pits in Larson Park as well as the tournament play held each year.

Horseshoe tournament

The Whitewood Horseshoe Club hosted a tournament on July 5 which saw 11 players throwing some shoes and enjoying fellowship. At the end of the tournament, Colin Finnie won the A-side as well as the doubles along with Joan Law.

SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Perkins transfers, Philpott named NCAA Div. III All-American

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

Balgonie's Matthew Perkins has wrapped up his second National Hockey League development camp with the Vancouver Canucks, while also preparing for his third season of NCAA Division 1 hockey.

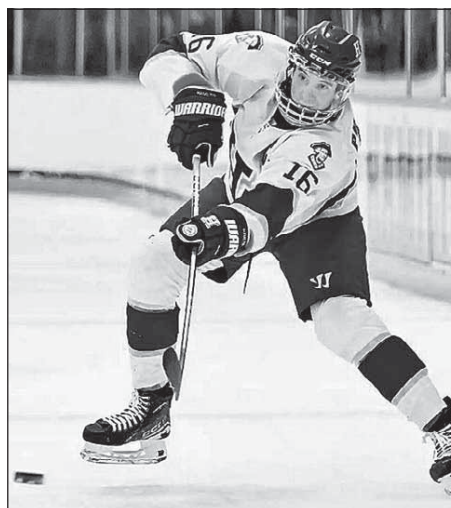
Perkins was invited to the Canucks' summer camp, which wrapped up July 3, for a second straight year after being drafted by the club in the fourth round (119th overall) of the 2023 NHL Entry Draft.

The 21-year-old forward played most of his minor hockey career in his hometown Prairie Storm association before joining the Moose Jaw Warriors under-18 AAA club for parts of two seasons.

He recorded 59 points in 57 regular season games as a 17-year-old rookie for the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League's Humboldt Broncos in 2021-22, then moved to the United States Hockey League where he helped the Youngstown Phantoms to America's top junior hockey championship the next season.

Perkins played the last two seasons with the University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs and transferred in May to the Northeastern Huskies for the 2025-26 season.

He was also among several local hockey alumni to play last season in the NCAA - another being former Melville Millionaires defenceman James Philpott, who captained the Hamilton College Continentals (Clinton, N.Y.) in his final year of college eligibility.



Former Melville Millionaires defenceman James Philpott is seen here during the 2024-25 season with the NCAA's Hamilton College Continentals.

Philpott played 40 games with the Melville Millionaires over parts of two seasons in 2018 and 2019, and recently wrapped his collegiate career by being named an NCAA Division III First Team East All American. Statistically he totaled 70 points in 99 regular-season games with Hamilton.

Perkins had 20 points in 64 games with the Bulldogs through his first two university seasons and remains unsigned by the Canucks, though the pro club retains his rights until Aug. 15, 2027.

Goodwin Traded

Another former Millionaires defenceman was in the news earlier this month as Logan Goodwin was traded from the Battlefords North Stars to the Estevan Bruins as part of a four-player SJHL trade.

Goodwin played 26 regular-season games and one playoff contest for Melville over the tail end of the 2023-24 season and beginning of the 2024-25 season, recording one goal and two assists before the Mils traded him to the North Stars.

Last week, Battlefords packaged Goodwin with defenceman Alex Scheck and forward Rylan Williams to acquire centre Kent Moors from Estevan.

Arntsen a Champ

And another ex-Mils blueliner yet has hit a career milestone as the Abbotsford Canucks recently captured the Calder Cup as American Hockey League champions for 2024-25.

Joe Arntsen played six games with Melville in 2020-21, in the midst of a 268-game Western Hockey League career with the Lethbridge Hurricanes, whom he captained for his final two seasons of major junior puck.

This past season he signed on with the ECHL's Kalamazoo Wings before joining the AHL's Abbotsford Canucks, where he scored one goal in 10 regular-season games and suited up for two playoff contests as well.

Abbotsford won the championship series four games to two, clinching the Cup with a 3-2-win June 23 at the Bojangles Coliseum (yes, that's its actual name) in Charlotte, N.C.

Men's fastball final duo set

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

The final match-up for the Southeast Men's Fastball League (SEMFL) championship final has been set and will begin next week.

The defending champions, the Grenfell Gems punched their way to the finals with a 12-2 win over the Ochapowace Thunder in game two of the best-of-three series. This will be the ninth consecutive season Grenfell will be in the finals.

The Gems will be taking to the field against the Neudorf Posse, who earned

their spot after winning their semi-final's match against the Whitewood Falcons two games to one.

The SEMFL final series will begin on July 22 at 8 p.m. in Grenfell. Game two and three were not yet scheduled at press time.

"We feel confident. It'll be a great series. Neudorf is pretty strong, and we have had great games with them the last couple years. Drew Hoehn is a really good pitcher, so him and Jeremy should have great battles. But we are confident in our team, so hopefully we can scratch out a couple wins. It'll definitely be a fun series," said Gem's player Tyler Thomlinson.



CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Men's fastball

The Whitewood Falcons were eliminated from the Southeast Men's Fastball League finals by the Neudorf Posse, who will now go on to take on the defending champions the Grenfell Gems for the league title.

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Bekevar Church summer service and barbecue

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

Many who make attendance at the annual summer service and barbecue at Bekevar Church south of Kipling, as well as those who were visiting the old church for the first time, were among approximately 100 people who came out to the

annual event Sunday, July 13.

After a message from Chris Toth, who spoke of the common faith that united believers from various denominations who were in attendance at the service hold, all gathered and enjoyed a barbecued lunch.

Money raised by the event will go towards maintenance of the historic church.



CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Faithful gathering

The annual summer service and gathering took place July 13 at the Bekevar Church with approximately 100 in attendance.

Abernethy Country Fair July 25

One of the province's oldest country fairs

By **Alan Hustak**
Grasslands News

Head out to Abernethy on Friday, July 25 for a full, farm fresh program of activities at the one of the province's oldest country fairs and horse show.

There will be hundreds of horticultural exhibits, a trade show, and cooking and baking competitions. Quilting, embroidery, and knitting are also featured. There are also slices of every kind of pie you can imagine available.

There's a petting zoo and bouncy castles for the kids and a program of down-home country music.

The fair has been around since 1906, but its origins are even older. As early as 1887 an agricultural society was started in Pheasant Forks, and it held exhibitions to attract settlers into the area.

The horse show has been part of the fair since The Depression and the equestrian events have become an important, crowd-pleasing draw.

The fair begins with a pancake breakfast and ends with a pork supper

and fireworks display.

While you are in the area check out the Motherwell Homestead Historic Site.

Admission to the national park is free this year.

Melville Churches Welcome You

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Office Ph. 306-728-2551
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Clergy: Deacon Kevin Prouten
www.stpaulsmelville.ca
Sunday, July 20:
2:00 p.m. Worship at St. Paul's

*9 a.m. Worship at Trinity, Lemb
*11 a.m. Worship at Christ, Neud
Holy Communion at all Services
Sunday, July 27:
9:00 a.m. Worship at St. Paul's

*9 a.m. Lay Service at Christ, Neud
*11 a.m. Worship at Trinity, Lemb

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
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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 20:
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
with Rev. Brian Mee
Sunday, July 27: No Service
Sunday, Aug. 3: 10:00 a.m.
Worship with Rev. Brian Mee

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.melvillriverchurch.org
Facebook @melvillriverchurch
Recorded messages
posted online

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
July 20: Service at the Lake
July 27: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Aug. 3: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basimalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Sunday, July 20:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, July 27:
5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Aug. 3:
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

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

*No Services for month of July

Growing in Faith Together

Melville Churches Welcome You

ST. HENRY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
729 Main St. - Office
Ph. 306-728-5702
Res. Ph. 306-728-2305
111 - 8th Ave. W.
Father Melchor Samonte

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. - Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, July 20:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday, July 27:
11:00 a.m. Divine Service
Sunday, Aug. 3: No 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 19-20: Grayson 9 a.m.
Sat. July 19: 5 p.m. at Mariahilf with Potluck
Lemberg 11 a.m.
July 26-27: Grayson 9 a.m.
Killaly 11 a.m. - Lemberg 7 p.m.
Aug. 2-3: 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 Mandapathil
Sunday, July 20 & July 27
9:00 a.m. Mass Service
Sunday, Aug. 3
11:00 a.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, July 20:
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
Sunday, July 27:
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
with The Rev. Cheryl Johnson
Sunday, Aug. 3: No Service

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Summer Services as follows:
Sunday's, July 20, July 27 & Aug. 3:
No Service
Sunday, Aug. 10:
10 a.m. Lay Service

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
*No Services until September

Kipling Churches Welcome You

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

KIPLING UNITED CHURCH
102 Nelson Ave. - 306-736-2237
email: kwpc@sasktel.net
Next Regular Service is Sept. 7

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

ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
418 First St., Kipling
Priest: Father Joseph Villamartin
306-538-2163
Saturday, July 19: Mass 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 27: Mass 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, Aug. 2: Mass 6:30 p.m.

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

BEKEVAR

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

PARKLAND BIBLE CHURCH
309 3rd. St. South, Kipling
306-736-2421
parklandagc@sasktel.net

Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship Service
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Coffee with Pastor
Wednesday: 10 a.m. Mom's Group

Kipling Interdenominational Summer Services

All Services are at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, July 20: Service at The People's Church at Kennedy Rodeo Grounds
Sunday, July 27: Service at Parkland Bible Church
Sunday, Aug. 3: Service at Kipling United Church

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

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

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

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

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

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF INDIAN HEAD NO. 156 PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under The Tax Enforcement Act that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before the 20th day of December, 2025, a tax lien will be registered against the land

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

Part of Section	Sec.	Twp.	Rge.	Meridian	Description	Title number	Total Arrears	Advertising Costs	Total Arrears & Advertising
NE	12	17	12	2	Blk/Par B-Plan 101904858 Ext 0	155370078	\$3,975.89	\$52.99	\$4,028.88
Pt. SE	14	18	12	2	Blk/Par A-Plan 101898603 Ext 0	157720653	\$3,701.93	\$52.99	\$3,754.92
Pt. NW	22	19	12	2	Blk/Par B-Plan 102070202 Ext 0	155291575	\$7,550.12	\$52.99	\$7,603.11
Pt. NW	36	18	13	2	Blk/Par A-Plan 101666606 Ext 0	142211191	\$1,709.95	\$52.99	\$1,762.94

The amount does not include penalty. Please inquire at the municipal office about the exact amount owing.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2025.

Tracy Luscombe, Administrator

CLASSIFIEDS



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

Obituary

Emily Kemp

Jan. 4, 1931 – July 1, 2025



Emily was born near Hilbre, Manitoba on Jan. 4, 1931 to Hnat and Paraska Kachor, the youngest of 10 children. After graduation in 1948, she started work at the Manitoba Co-operative Wholesale office, where she met the love of her life Ian "Roy". They were married on Nov. 25, 1950 in Winnipeg.

In 1952, they moved to Yorkton where she worked in the Hudson Bay store office until she became a stay-at-home Mom in 1953. In 1960, they moved to Moosomin, then Melville in 1966 when Roy joined the firm of Parker, Quine & Co. Emily joined the church choir, the "Harmony Unit" of UCW, taught Sunday School and was secretary-treasurer for Melville's Donors Choice for many years. For recreation, she bowled, golfed and played bridge.

In 1987, Roy and Emily moved to Humboldt. She enjoyed 22 years of golfing with friends and got two holes-in-one. Winter months included bowling, bridge clubs and being a member of the UCW, Hospital Auxiliary, church choir and other volunteering.

She had many enjoyable trips to Cancun, Dominican Republic, Cuba, St. John's Nfld, Las Vegas and Caribbean and Alaskan cruises.

She liked reading and doing crossword puzzles. Her cross-stitching created a framed picture for every member of the family.

She enjoyed spending time with family on holidays and special occasions. She was proud of her children's and grandchildren's accomplishments, whether scholastic, sports or professional.

In 2022, Emily made a final move back to Melville to be closer to family. She moved into Cumberland Villa and enjoyed two years there, then moved into St. Paul Lutheran Home in 2024. She developed strong bonds with many of her caregivers, as they truly do care for the residents in their charge.

On Tuesday, July 1, family was called and while they were with her, she breathed her last. No more pain, at peace, and going Home to the Lord and her long-awaited reunion with husband Roy.

She is survived and lovingly remembered by her son DOUGLAS, of Red Deer, Alta.; daughters BEVERLEY (Larry) Kreklewich, Melville, family Leland (Tiffany Poage), Saskatoon, Brittany (Curtis) Doehl, Pilot Butte; PATRICIA (Victor) Simoneau, Olds, family Walker (fiancé Briann MacKenzie), Calgary, Kimberley, Claresholm; PAMELA Pifko (Howard Matthews), Regina, family Garret (Stephanie Fuchs), Halifax, Justin (fiancé Erica Seebach), Brandon; sisters-in-law Lenore Kachor-Abell and Joan (Harry) Stellmach, Calgary. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews and her dear best friend, Shirley Armstrong.

Emily is predeceased by her husband Roy in 1999; her parents Hnat and Paraska Kachor; her siblings Mary, Bill (Flora), John, Anne (Norm), Jean (Albert), Joseph (Marie), Catherine, Ruth (Ed) and Peter; her mother- and father-in-law Winifred and Reginald Kemp; as well as several nephews and nieces.

Donations in memory of Emily can be made to St. Paul Lutheran Home Foundation or the Saskatchewan Kidney Foundation.

Arrangements were by Bailey's Funeral Home, Melville.



www.baileysfuneralhome.com

Next issue of Grasslands
News publications is
Friday, Aug. 8

Obituary

Allan Nohlgren

May 1, 1927 – June 13, 2025



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a wonderful husband, dad, grandpa, and great-grandpa; Allan Nohlgren passed away on Friday, June 13, 2025. Dad was born on May 1, 1927, to Axel and Helen Nohlgren.

He was predeceased by his wife of 72 years, Frances Nohlgren; siblings Annie (Howard) Westman, Marge (Art) Butterfield and Gordon Nohlgren. He leaves to cherish his memory, children Sharon (Darcy) Jauck, Wayne (Chris) Nohlgren, Heather (Brian) Kohlenberg and Dennis (Cory) Nohlgren; 11 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Lorna Nohlgren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

There will be a private service held at the end of July. Donations in memory of Allan may be made to Diabetes Canada. Family and friends are invited to leave tributes at matthewsfuneralhome.ca

Arrangements are entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.



Obituary

Randy Allan Ludwig

Nov. 18, 1959 – July 11, 2025



Randy Allan Ludwig passed away on Friday, July 11, 2025, at the age of 65 in Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask. Born on Nov. 18, 1959, Randy lived a life marked by diligence and versatility, widely recognized for his skills as a jack of all trades.

Randy spent his career at Enbridge Pipelines, farming and running his own yard care business, where he applied his broad skill set and strong work ethic. He was a passionate craftsman who found joy in building things, whether it was a new piece of furniture for his home or a handy gadget for yard work. His hobbies also included crafting his own beer, barbecuing and smoking all kinds of delicacies. Randy treasured the outdoors and was often found camping or meticulously tending to his yard. His shop was a sanctuary where he spent countless hours tinkering and creating.

He is survived by his loving wife, Wanda; sons Derek and Sheldon; his father Leonard; brothers Lorne (Alexandra) and Alden (Kate); and sisters Lenora (Vern), Della (Randy), Corrine, Debbie (Perry) and Lisa (Bill). He also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. He will also be missed by his brother-in-law Kevin and Kevin's partner Kristal.

Randy was preceded in death by his mother Marie and nieces Desiree and Faithie.

Randy will be forever missed and loved. In keeping with his wishes, no memorial services will be held.

Contributions in memory of Randy can be made to the Cancer Foundation of Saskatchewan, 200 - 4545 Parliament Avenue, Regina, SK S4W 0G3.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



Obituary

Clifford Gordon Zimmerman

Dec. 20, 1940 – July 10, 2025



Clifford Gordon Zimmerman, lovingly known as Gord, Gordie, Zeke and Bampa, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 10, 2025 in the Centennial Nursing Home in Broadview, Sask.

Born on Dec. 20, 1940 in Lethbridge, AB, Gord led a fulfilling life, leaving everyone he met with a smile. He received his education in Vulcan, AB, before beginning a long career driving truck for Canadian Freightways, Atco and finally Trimac where he worked for over 20 years, retiring in 2007. Upon his retirement, Gord and his wife, Tena, moved from Nanton, AB to Grenfell, SK, where he quickly went back to work driving a grain truck for a good friend and then bussed crews to and from the potash mines. Even after officially retiring (again), you could always find him cruising up and down the streets of Grenfell, never happier than when he was behind the wheel.

Gord was a beloved husband to wife, Tena, and a cherished father to son, Corey, and daughter, Kelly Ann (Trevor). He leaves behind his only granddaughter, Morgan, with whom he shared a connection like no other, as well as his sister Elaine and several surviving relatives and friends who will deeply miss him and the light he brought to every room. He was predeceased by his parents Clifford and Orine and his younger brother Gene.

Known for telling stories in the longest way possible, turning 39 again at every birthday, and never missing morning coffee with his buddies, Gord always had a smirk and a joke for every person he came across. He had said on multiple occasions "People aren't like whiskey; they don't get better with age". But if you ask his family, he couldn't have been more wrong – while his body aged over the years, his heart, his humor, and his love for his family and friends only grew each day. He will live on in their hearts and memories until they meet again on the other side.

The celebration of life was held in the Grenfell Cemetery on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. with Shirley Schlamp officiating.

Donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, 1910 McIntyre Street, Regina, SK S4P 2R3 or to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan, 1738 Quebec Avenue, Unit 26, Saskatoon, SK S7K 1V9.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



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Obituary Deadline Tuesdays 12 Noon

Card of Thanks

The family of Emily Kemp would like to extend thanks to the following people:

To Don, Crystal, Len and all staff of Bailey's Funeral Home for all of the help, professionalism and guidance provided through this journey.

To Len and Anna Gadica for sharing your musical talents.

To Rev. Brian Mee for his kind words of inspiration.

To all who called, sent gifts of food or flowers, and were with us at Mom's services.

Finally, a special thank you to the amazing staff of St. Paul Lutheran Home for the loving care provided to our Mom.

For Rent

FOR RENT at CUMBERLAND HOUSE (Melville). 55+ active living, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 525 sq. ft. All appliances included, with laundry and central air. You pay the power. Available Aug. 2. Call Rodney for details, 306-730-7607. M9-4p

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom apartment in Melville. Equipped with fridge, stove, AC, off-suite storage, plug-in parking and free laundry. 306-260-7447 for inquiries. M8-4p

FOR RENT - 1- and 2-bedroom apartments in Squire's Court, Melville. Appliances included. Phone Steve at 306-730-7242. M2-8p

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Coming Event

Fletwode Annual Church Service

Sunday, July 27
2:30 p.m.
Potluck Lunch to Follow
Please bring your lawn chair
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Located in the Kennedy district
and RM of Hazelwood

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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 barred 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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Mark and Gaylene Matthews and staff

matthewsfuneralhome.ca

Sask Agriculture and the Global Market

Continued from Page 5

With that perspective of the entrepreneurs at the forefront, an easier path to success will result.

"We're making their lives easier, it should accelerate our ability to support them," Mock said. "For them to have a product that they're developing or an innovation through to commercialization, the more we can create cohesion with those supports it should help companies to get to the finish line or to build a company where they're profitable faster. It should minimize the overall resources that we're having to put into these companies, and hopefully, too,

it just makes the founder journey a lot easier. It's a difficult journey, but if we can support them and help to guide them so that it's less stressful, I think that is a massive win."

Tulbek agreed that maintaining those networks is a crucial ingredient for business to thrive.

"It's all about all ecosystem development and cohesive connections and communication within all the organizations, especially Cultivator support to all these founders," he told the World-Spectator. "They have so many programs, so many activities, but we are like a technical organization with several

technical supports complementing their business supports; the networking. It's basically supporting and empowering each other so that these founders can move further in their business pathways. That's really the critical piece, because when you think about the provincial support, federal support, there are so many organizations. But again, working together and opening the channels and keeping the channels open, and then continue helping the company - that's really key with this relationship."

A prime example of the concept of stronger

networking could be seen in who attended the MOU signing last week including provincial and federal representation between Innovation staff and Prairie Economic Development Canada, Ag-West Bio, GIFS (the Global Institute for Food Security) and Opus, which is a pre-accelerator program out of the University of Saskatchewan.

"Part of the Saskatchewan advantage is the connectivity, cooperation, and collaboration in our ecosystem," Mock said. "If you go to other provinces or other regions - probably other countries - organizations are acting very independently with a focus on their individualized program. In Saskatchewan, there's so much connectivity between the farms, the distributors and then the ecosystem of support coming together where instead of focusing on our own objectives, we are really committed to bigger objectives that will drive the economy, agriculture, and the outcomes that we're looking for."

Saskatchewan Ag and the Global Market

An area that especially sets Saskatchewan apart from a global perspective is the variety of products on offer.

"Overall, Saskatchewan is really the specialty capital of North America," said Tulbek. "When you think about the overall cereals, pulses, and oil seeds we grow, what we have is diversity compared to what's happening in the production space in

the United States, because that's mainly turning into big corn and soybean production."

In addition to traditional cereals and pulse crops, Tulbek also pointed to the fruit and vegetable varieties, and not to mention the whole realm of livestock markets found here.

"The sustainability, the low carbon footprint, and some of the studies Global Institute of Food Security has been presenting and publishing; it really shows that overall not only the specialty, but also the sustainability strength of the province here in Saskatchewan," he said.

This week is also when the popular Ag in Motion farming expo happens in Langham, with the AgTech Accelerator holding their demo day on July 16.

"We're really seeing an amplified cross section of the agriculture industry; innovation," Mock said. "We have investors coming from across North

America. We have different government representations, both provincial, federal, and global as well. We have lots of different countries that will be represented there, so a great opportunity to highlight the future agriculture innovation to such a curious and hungry audience."

There are 15 companies in Cohort 4 of the AgTech Accelerator, 10 Canadian-based and five from the United Kingdom. Ag in Motion marks finale week for Cohort 4 in the Accelerator program; the culmination of a three-month deep dive for companies accessing capital, programming, connections, and mentorship to help them grow. Through the previous three cohorts, the AgTech Accelerator program has supported 47 companies in raising \$119.2 million in private capital, \$72.1 million generated in revenue, \$44.4 million in public funding, and 193 new jobs created.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDSNEWS

All tied up!

Goat tying was one of the events that young cowboys and cowgirls took part in during the annual Simmer Sizzler Rodeo held at the Rodeo Grounds in Kennedy last Sunday.

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Backyard flower bouquets

It's all in the imagination

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Flower power

Georgette Kluk (left) from Yorkton won the floral arrangement created during the presentation by Sharon Reiss-Howe.

“It is up to the imagination, the brighter the flowers the better,” Sharon Reiss Howe told a presentation on floral arrangements offered at the Farmer’s Market in Fort Qu’Appelle on Saturday.

It is the first in a series of planned “Did You Know and How To” workshops being offered for free at the market.

Using Delphiniums, Asiatic lilies, false sunflowers, baby’s breath, cattails and asparagus greens, Reiss-Howe, who sells vegetables and cut flowers at the market put together a bouquet that was raffled off after the presentation.

“There is nothing set in stone about what you can’t use,” she said as she placed the blossoms in a pitcher.

She’s been making arrangements for “weddings, funerals and get togethers” for more than two decades.

The market will not be at Echo Lake Provincial

Park for a day in August again this year.

“We had one on the beach for the last two years, but we are staying put in Fort Qu’Appelle

this year,” said market manager Colleen Miller.

“There were just too many hassles with Sask-Parks to make it worthwhile for our vendors.”



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Sweet donation

On July 9 Norah, Eliana and Chloe Aspinall hosted a lemonade stand to raise money for the Melville Heritage Museum. The young volunteers ended up raising \$180 for the museum.

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Kronau

Museum dedicated to restoring the past and ensuring the future

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

Kronau Marvellous Museum and Creative Corner saw some upgrades on Saturday as repairs to the steeple on the former Bethlehem Lutheran Church were completed. Construction on the old building began in the winter of 1912, and it remained in use until 1990, when it provided its final service. Now, it serves as both a museum building and a repository for the collection.

This weekend, volunteer firefighter Brenden Lowndes donated his time to restoring the steeple, which had experienced some leaking over the last year. Using a lift donated by Sunbelt Rentals, Lowndes inspected the wooden structure and addressed any problem areas that needed to be fixed.

Rhonda Lamb, board chair for the museum, says the work was necessary to continue the stability of the structure and ensure the safety of the collection located within the building.

“The steeple itself – he actually got it done in one day, which is really kind of amazing,” Lamb says. “He basically gave it a complete once-over to make sure the steeple was still stable. He replaced all the flashing around the bottom edge and then went up and looked at all the sheeting that goes all around. He checked all the nails and replaced anything that needed to be replaced to ensure the sheeting around the wood structure is secured and gave it a really good inspection to make sure it’s going to be good for years to come.”

Lamb says that during the inspection, the wood beneath the sheeting was given the all-clear, and no further work will be necessary at this time. The news comes as a relief to Lamb and the rest of the board.

“A year ago, we had some other people go up with a crane and take photos on the wood around the base, and we weren’t sure if the wood was rotting or just looking weathered,” Lamb says. “So, we were afraid the wood was rotten. We are so relieved we didn’t have to replace the steeple, because that was actually one of the

things we thought might happen. Then we are writing big capital grants, which would take a full year to find out if we got the funding or not. Meanwhile, our collection is in the basement. So it’s not just the building – it’s all the artifacts below that we have to control the humidity levels for.”

While this work is now done, fundraising for the museum continues. Further repairs are needed to the Saar School building next door. Built in 1926, extensive repairs and upgrades have already been made to the structure over the years, but Lamb says more work is still needed.

“There are areas of the soffit that do need repair on the school, and it all needs painting,” Lamb says. “The steps were straightened this spring, but we still need to do more work. Because of the age of the building, it requires constant maintenance. A long-term plan is still to ensure wheelchair accessibility into the school building. In the back, we want to do more landscaping behind the school itself. Right now, there is an egress door there, and it’s basically some perennials and a dirt pit. We also want to improve the side entrance to make it more accessible. We also have to insulate the attic.”

Lack of inclusive mobility arrangements has been an issue that the board has been addressing over the years. Lamb says the school’s modifications remain a top priority, with plans for a chairlift to help those with mobility issues move around the building.

“The building was designed so the doorframes are much wider, and it makes it easier,” Lamb says. “It’s all based on funding through fundraising.”

The museum continues its fundraising efforts to ensure accessibility will be possible for future visitors. A year-long 50/50 raffle is currently running, as well as a myriad of upcoming events.

“We will be running our Halloween parade and Christmas event. We are looking at doing another family arts event in the fall, but we have to find an instructor first. So, I don’t know what it is. Our fundraising is pri-

marily for general maintenance on the buildings and towards any larger projects.”

Lamb says Brenden Lowndes’ donation of time, expertise, and labour to the museum is priceless and something they desperately need in the maintenance of the old buildings on site.

“First restoring them, so they had their heritage status, and then the ongoing maintenance is a labour of love,” Lamb says. “Brenden brought expertise that no one on the board had. To actually have to hire a company to do the work that he did as a volunteer would be unaffordable for us.”

Anyone interested in grabbing a 50/50 ticket or donating to the museum can contact the board through email at kronau-



RON EUTENEIER

Steeple work

Volunteer Brenden Lowndes checked the wooden steeple, replaced all the flashing, and ensured there were no more leaks. The work was part of the ongoing project to restore and maintain the building.

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