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Friday, October 10, 2025
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"Freedom of the press ... is not the publisher's right to print. It is the citizen's right to know." - Arthur Hays Sulzberger

Hollywood north comes to Vibank

Local café serves as film set for Sask-based film

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

Vibank residents got a rare glimpse into the world of Hollywood North on Monday as a film crew set up shop at Luna De Plata Mexican Bakery and Cafe for day one on Saskatchewan-based feature film *A Life Less Empty*.

Fanning Feathers Productions is producing the feature, which is described as a love story and coming-of-age drama set during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's about young people who have been caught off guard by life – including the pandemic – and them finding their way to move forward by connecting with each other," says Sera-Lys McArthur, Producer for the 15-day project, which kicked off its first day of principal photography in the village. "It's not about the pandemic; it's set amidst the pandemic. It's more about the emotional journey of the characters."

The film is written and directed by Reuben Martell, who says the story has lived in his mind for years, even before 2021, when the pandemic was at its peak.

"I was working on a show called *Moccasin Flats* in Regina, and that is where I met a majority of the crew," Martell recalls before jokingly adding, "Everybody else is born during that time or whatever, so it's been a long journey. It feels so surreal getting this day out. It's nuts. It's a dream long time coming."

The independent film began its first day of shooting in Vibank, followed by a day in Regina, before moving on to Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation to finish the rest of its two-and-a-half-week schedule. While Martell's roots reside in Waterhen Lake First Nation, McArthur says this film is an opportunity to explore her roots – especially when it comes to Vibank.

"It's kind of awesome for me because my grandparents on my mom's side are from here, way back in the day," McArthur says. "I'm talking about the turn of the century. So this is where my German background side of the family moved to and inhabited before they moved to St. Joseph's Colony. So I always knew Vibank was where my grandparents grew up."

McArthur reveals that the production designer suggested Luna De Plata Cafe, and the decision was made to move production to the village.

"Actually, for me, I didn't intend it this way, but the fact that we are shooting in Vibank, Regina, and Pheas-



PHOTO BY KIRIAKO LATRIDIS PHOTOGRAPHY

A Life Less Empty films in Vibank

On Monday, a film crew rolled into Vibank for day one of the feature film *A Life Less Empty*. Pictured: Gaffer/Grip Leo Fafard, Cinematographer Jeremy Ratzlaff, Actor Tyrell Rowan, Actresses Tatyana Baptiste & Natalie Lazarou

ant Rump is extremely close to home," McArthur says. "It's where my people are from on both sides of my family forever, and I didn't plan it, but it feels very special to me. I live in Toronto now, so it's nice to come home and reconnect in that way."

Reconnection is forefront in Martell's mind as well. After the dissolution of the Film Employment Tax Credit in 2012, movie making in the province essentially dried up. In recent years, a production grant administered by Creative Saskatchewan was put in place to support production in the province, drawing filmmakers. The grant covers 30 percent of eligible production expenditures, with a maximum of \$5 million.

"It's a wonderful thing where we want to stay consistently working in Saskatchewan," Martell says. "They are trying to bring it back. I miss the tax credit. I miss the idea of being able to employ all the film people because there's not enough to sustain us. You just want to make money and stay home. You go to Winnipeg, and they are shooting 300 to 400 movies, and we are shooting what – five to six? You want to work towards people being able to go home at night and feel like they are contributing to Saskatchewan, and that's what the tax credit did. I feel like it's the one thing we need to get back to."

Funding for *A Life Less Empty* was gathered through the Indigenous Screen Office, the Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm Canada, and Creative Saskatchewan.

"I know there has been a push from Creative Saskatchewan to inspire more filmmaking in the province again,

and I think that the word is slowly getting out that that is a viable option for people." McArthur says. "In our case, *A Life Less Empty* was always meant to be shot in Saskatchewan. It is a Saskatchewan story, written by a Saskatchewan First Nations individual, but there is always talk about do we film it in North Bay? Do we film it in Alberta? Or even Manitoba? Because Reuban is still a resident here, and he's one of our co-producers, we were able to get the support from Creative Saskatchewan to make this happen and we are really happy about it because we didn't have to pretend that it was Saskatchewan. It really actually is."

As for Vibank, the production says they are grateful for the support they received from the community.

"I'm grateful that the town welcomed us and we got to spend some meaningful time out here," McArthur says. "It's a very important part of the movie that we are starting out here with. Some very heavy back story that we are filling out for one of the lead characters here. We have nothing but gratitude for being welcomed here."

Martell agrees and hopes their presence in Vibank inspires someone to realize their potential.

"I feel like it's the whole thing of being from a small town and being able to realize this is possible for anyone with an imagination or story, and I feel like with Saskatchewan there are so many stories," Martell says. "I wanted to stay in Saskatchewan. I want to make all my films here. I don't feel like any of my stories are outside of the purview of stories that belong in Saskatchewan."

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Kahkewistahaw FN encourages Treaty 4 Nations to join lawsuit

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Kahkewistahaw First Nation is calling on Treaty 4 communities to take immediate steps to join a federal class action lawsuit aimed at holding the Crown accountable for failing to fairly adjust treaty annuity payments.

The legal action, led by Chief Derek Nepinak of Mingoziibe Anishinabe and Chief Bonny Lynn Acoose of Zagime Anishinabek, challenges the long-standing \$5 annual annuity payment provided to Treaty 4 members. That amount has remained unchanged since 1874, despite the original intent that the annuity

should maintain its purchasing power over time.

“Our annuity was meant to reflect the value it held in 1874. It has not been adjusted in 150 years,” said Chief Nepinak in a notice circulated to Treaty 4 First Nations. “This case is about restoring that purchasing power so that our people receive what was promised in the treaty relationship.”

The action argues that Canada breached its obligations by failing to increase annuities or provide augmentation, leaving Treaty 4 beneficiaries with payments that have lost almost all real value. Among other remedies, the case seeks compensation for

unpaid or underpaid annuities and a declaration that Canada must adjust future payments to account for inflation.

Kahkewistahaw leadership emphasized that communities do not need to wait for separate, costly, and lengthy litigation of their own. Instead, they can join the representative action by passing a Band Council Resolution, a draft of which has been provided with the court documents.

“If Treaty 4 First Nations and their members do not take steps now, they will not be part of this action and will not receive the benefit if the case is successful,” the notice warns.

The lawsuit is proceeding in Federal Court, with law firms McCarthy Tétrault LLP, Norman Boudreau Law Corporation, Jason Zushman Law Corporation, and Myers LLP representing the plaintiffs.

Kahkewistahaw First Nation is urging all Treaty 4 communities to take this matter to their leadership immediately, stating that First Nations can strengthen the push for justice and ensure that Canada is held accountable for fulfilling treaty commitments.

The deadline to join the class-action suit is Oct. 31.

One dead, one injured in rollover

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

A single vehicle rollover on Wednesday, Oct. 1 claimed the life of a Kelliher woman and sent one man to hospital.

Around 7:40 p.m., Melville RCMP received a report that a vehicle had rolled near Kelliher along Highway 15.

“Officers responded, along with local fire and EMS,” said RCMP in a media release. “One of the vehicle’s occupants was declared deceased by EMS at the scene. She has been identified as a 34-year-old female from Kelliher. Her family has been notified.”

The male occupant was taken to hospital by STARS air ambulance with serious injuries.

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

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Report from the Legislature

Welcome to October! It has been a beautiful start to fall in Saskatchewan. Our Minister of Rural and Remote Health, Lori Carr, is nearing the conclusion of her summer tour which saw her visit 50 rural health facilities around Saskatchewan. Joined by many local MLAs, she has expressed how wonderful it has been to meet and learn from health care staff in our province while seeing first-

hand the needs in each community. Our government will continue to prioritize health care not only for patients, but for front-line staff providing the care as well.

Crown Investments Corporation Minister Jeremy Harrison and Energy and Resources Minister Colleen Young also recently travelled to Ontario for the Provincial/Territorial Energy Summit in Toronto. Saskatchewan will play an important role in strengthening our country’s supply chains in key areas like critical minerals. With renewed focus and cooperation across our nation to become an energy superpower, we

are securing every opportunity to showcase that Saskatchewan has what the world needs.

Truth and Reconciliation Day was September 30th. Please join our government in reflection while continuing to learn about the truths which will pave the way for meaningful reconciliation. Premier Scott Moe visited Île-à-la-Crosse School recently and shared his thoughts on how Saskatchewan is at its best when our province is a place that everyone is proud to call home, where we all have equal opportunity to prosper and live in safe, healthy communities. It is our sincere hope his apology on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan for the school which was operated from 1860 to the 1970’s will provide closure

to the former students. Minister of Highways David Marit recently announced the naming of Highway 201 as Chief Kahkewistahaw Way. We are grateful to Chief Evan Taypotat for recommending this highway designation, which will remind us of one of the people who shaped the history of this region.

Our government is always working to keep Saskatchewan’s economy strong, our communities safe and our future secure. Please contact our offices with any questions or concerns.



Hon. Warren Kaeding

MLA for Melville-Saltcoats

(306) 728-3881 • warrenkaedingmla@sasktel.net

Hon. Travis Keisig

MLA for Last Mountain-Touchwood

(306) 334-3444 • mla@traviskeisig.ca

Brad Crassweller

MLA for White City-Qu’Appelle

(306) 520-5018 • mla@wc-q.ca

Municipalities cleared to burn derelict buildings

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Municipalities across Saskatchewan now have a new tool for managing unsafe and abandoned buildings — controlled burns. Starting Nov. 1, the province's Ministry of Environment is launching a Derelict Buildings Pilot Project, which will allow communities to work with their fire departments to demolish derelict structures through live burns under strict environmental and safety guidelines.

The voluntary pilot is designed to assess whether controlled burns can safely and effectively help municipalities deal with old, decaying buildings that pose safety hazards, while also providing valuable hands-on training opportunities for volunteer firefighters. "This initiative recognizes that many rural and small-town fire departments need real-world training scenarios, and many communities are struggling with the cost and liability of removing unsafe buildings," the program document states. "The pilot brings both challenges together in a controlled, carefully monitored way."

Municipalities can apply to participate in the pilot if they own a building that has been declared derelict under The Building Code Regulations. A local council resolution is required, along with confirmation that the struc-

ture is unoccupied and not home to any protected wildlife species. The local fire department — operating at least at a defensive service level — must agree to take the lead in planning, assessing safety, and conducting the burn. Fire chiefs are required to complete detailed site inspections before approval, documenting potential hazards such as propane tanks, fuel drums, or signs of squatters. The process also includes obtaining a Live Fire Training permit from the Ministry of Environment under The Environmental Management and Protection (General) Regulations, as well as potential exemptions under The Saskatchewan Employment Act to allow volunteer firefighters to participate.

Under the pilot, all burns will double as live fire training exercises, offering firefighters rare experience with real building fires in controlled conditions. However, strict rules apply: firefighters are not allowed to enter the structure, and the training is limited to exterior tactics such as hose handling, ladder work, water supply, and property conservation. The program emphasizes adherence to NFPA 1403 standards for live fire training and encourages departments to follow the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's Acquired Structure Live Fire Training Guide, which outlines everything from

structural inspections and fuel management to environmental cleanup. "Firefighters should only engage in observational and defensive operations," the guidelines note, adding that departments must document every stage of the burn to ensure compliance with environmental and occupational health standards.

While the burns are designed as training and demolition events, they are also recognized as high-risk operations. Derelict buildings often contain asbestos, lead paint, or other hazardous materials, all of which can pose serious health and environmental threats if not properly managed. Municipalities are required to treat every structure as though it contains asbestos and to take responsibility for preventing the release of hazardous materials. After the burn, they must choose between two cleanup options: removing ash and debris to an authorized landfill, ensuring full decontamination and regulatory compliance; or burying materials on-site, which permanently classifies the land as environmentally impacted and may restrict future development. Any mishandling could result in fines, legal liability, or even federal intervention under wildlife and environmental protection acts.

The program underscores that participation does not exempt muni-

palities from compliance with federal, provincial, or municipal regulations. Councils must sign an Acknowledgment of Liability and Indemnity, confirming they understand the risks — including environmental contamination, worker safety, and

potential health impacts on nearby residents. Communities are also required to notify neighbours in advance of a burn and communicate with local utilities, the RCMP, and health authorities to minimize risks and public concerns. Following each

burn, municipalities will submit a post-pilot report summarizing outcomes, safety observations, and community feedback. This information will help the province decide whether to make the program permanent.

- SEE BURNING, 8

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Local area blacksmith history preserved by simple display

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Blacksmithing is now considered an outdated trade but at one time these men played a crucial role in rural communities. A special display and signage in Broadview commemorate this by marking the former site of a blacksmith shop owned by J. J. Hickie.

According to the history book, Oakshela, Broadview, Percival 1882-1982 Centennial Tribute, William Moulding served as the community's first blacksmith from 1884 to 1885. Over the next hundred years, several others carried on the trade

in town, repairing farm equipment or creating other necessary items for settlers and ensuring that horses were properly shod.

Among the early blacksmiths was Albert W. Edwards who opened a business in Broadview in 1891. A few years later, he expanded from smithing to selling Massey-Harris products. Edwards' business remained in the family for two more generations. When A. W. Edwards and Sons closed after 107 years in operation, it was the oldest continuously operated Massey-Harris dealership in the world.

Dennis (Dennie) Ed-

wards, a long-time Broadview resident and the grandson of Albert W. Edwards, recalled that when he was young, J. J. Hickie also worked as a blacksmith in the community. Hickie purchased a shop on the corner of Edmonton St. and Seventh Ave. from another blacksmith and continued to operate it for a few decades.

Edwards told Grasslands News that Hickie was also the caretaker for the community skating rink located across the street from his shop. He remembered taking his skates to Hickie for sharpening, initially at the blacksmith shop and then later at the rink. Eventually, Hickie retired and the next owner transitioned the shop to a welding business. After that proprietor moved to



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Blacksmith tribute

A sign and silhouettes on the corner of Seventh Ave. and Edmonton St. pay tribute to Broadview blacksmith J. J. Hickie.

Regina, the building fell into disrepair and was demolished.

Several years ago, members of Broadview's Communities in Bloom Committee endeavored to safeguard history by creating a display at the

blacksmith shop's former location. Two silhouettes of blacksmiths were erected in the shade of a tree where the shop once stood. Large flowerpots were situated on what remains of the blacksmith shop's cement floor and,

earlier this fall, Laurie Fafard provided a new sign for the display. It indicates the place was the "Original Site of J. J. Hickie's Black Smith Shop," preserving a piece of community history for future generations.

Possible carbon monoxide leak investigated at nursing home in Whitewood

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

On October 2 at 10:30 a.m., Whitewood Fire Department was dispatched to the local nursing home following reports of a possible carbon monoxide leak in the boiler and furnace room.

Firefighters, along with SaskEnergy personnel, conducted a thorough inspection of the basement and boiler area using gas meters. After careful testing, no leak was detected. One maintenance staff member, however, was showing symptoms consistent with possible CO exposure and was examined by EMS before being transported to hospital as a precaution. No residents were affected or placed at risk during the incident, and the facility continued normal operations. Fire crews cleared the scene at 12:20 p.m.

While the incident turned out not to involve a leak, officials note the call is an important reminder of the dangers posed by carbon monoxide and the need for vigilance. Known as the "silent killer," CO is a colourless, odourless gas that can quickly cause serious illness or death if undetected. Symptoms of exposure often include headache, dizziness, nausea, and fatigue—similar signs that were displayed by the staff member during the incident.

The fire department is stressing the importance of installing and maintaining carbon monoxide detectors in all homes and public facilities. "This incident reinforces why every building should have a functioning CO detector," WFD noted. "It's the only reliable way to alert people to the presence of carbon monoxide before it becomes life-threatening."

What to Do if Your CO Alarm Sounds

- Leave the building immediately. Do not ignore the alarm or try to locate the source of the leak.
- Call 911 from outside or from a neighbour's home. Emergency responders can test the air and determine the cause.
- Do not re-enter the building until fire officials or utility workers say it is safe.
- Seek medical help if you or others experience symptoms such as headache, dizziness, nausea, or confusion.

Fuel Good Day sets new record

Submitted
Grasslands News

Federated Co-op announce earlier this week that more than \$795,000 was raised as part of Fuel Good Day 2025. This marks a new record for the annual event, surpassing the previous record of \$704,000 raised last year. All funds raised will go directly back to communities across Western Canada.

Fuel Good Day is a celebrated event that is held each year in September. For every litre of fuel sold, participating Co-ops donate a minimum of five cents to a local charity or non-profit organization. Since 2017, more than \$5.6 million has been raised, supporting over 1,000 local organizations.



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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town of Whitewood Council meets at the town office. Upcoming Council Meeting Date: Oct. 21 and Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held via Zoom. Please contact the office to get access information 306-735-2210.

2025 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE

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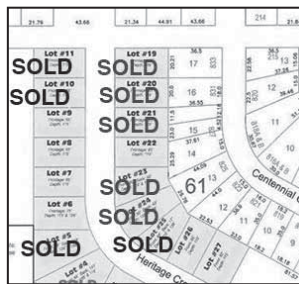
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The Town of Whitewood has completed development of Heritage Crescent located within town limits.

This 27 lot development includes power, water and sewer to all lots. Cost of a lot is \$2,500. Contact the town office at 306-735-2210 to get full details.



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GARBAGE / RECYCLING

Residents are reminded that Garbage or Recycling Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on collection days.

Upcoming **Recycling** Date: Wednesday, Oct. 15 and Oct. 29.
Upcoming **Garbage** Date: Wednesday, Oct. 22 and Nov. 5.

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
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Every Second Friday – 5 to 9 p.m., – Legion Chase the Ace
Oct. 14 to 17 - Rubbish Pick-Up. Leave in back alley, if no back alley can be left in front.

Thursday, Oct. 16 – 2 to 4 p.m. – Author Betty McGillivray at the Whitewood Library

Sunday, Oct. 19. – Take-Out Ham Supper at Whitewood United Church. Call Lee at 306-735-2527 or Kathy at 306-738-2721 to pre-order

Friday, Oct. 17 - at 6 p.m. – Banger Bingo – Tickets at Whitewood Health Centre & Mon Sherry

Saturday, Oct. 18 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Just Craft'n Around Craft/Trade Show – Whitewood Community Centre

FALL REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY!

Whitewood Minor Hockey, Whitewood Figure Skating Club & Diva Dance Registration is now open! Reach out to each organization directly for sign-up details or more information. Curling Registration Coming Soon. Whether you're in it for the laughs or the competition—join our fun league or test your skills in the Skins League.

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.

We all love our furry friends, but please be considerate of your neighbors and help keep our community peaceful by minimizing excessive barking – especially during early morning and late evenings.

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 September then again in December.

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VOYENT ALERT

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\$34M in expenses questioned

FSIN 4th Vice-Chief calls for transparency after audit

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Craig McCallum is not going to sit quietly after a recent forensic audit of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations turned up millions of dollars in questionable spending. Recently, KPMG LLP looked at the FSIN's books between April 1, 2019, and March 31, 2024. What they found was \$34 million in 'questionable expenses' – something that doesn't sit right with the Fourth Vice-Chief.

"These findings cannot be dismissed or minimized," McCallum said in an open letter to rights holders dated Oct. 2. "If we expect Canada to respect our Nations and uphold its fiduciary obligations, then we must also hold ourselves to the highest standards of accountability. The teaching of honesty reminds us that we must face the truth, even when it is difficult. Truth requires us to acknowledge what has gone wrong, so that we can find solutions and walk in a better way. For that reason, I cannot, in good conscience, stand behind the statement released by the other executive of the FSIN."

Elected Fourth Vice-Chief of the FSIN on Oct. 5, 2023, McCallum was only days shy of six months in office during the audit review period.

"I cannot speak to the decisions made before my

term, but I can speak to the need for change going forward," he said. "Denial and deflection will not restore trust. Only transparency, humility, and the wisdom to listen to our people will heal the wounds caused by secrecy. Industry is watching, Canada is watching, and most importantly, our people are watching."

Indigenous Services Canada requested the audit and broke down the allegations into nine categories – COVID-19 expenditures, travel expenses, FSIN executive raises, fleet vehicles, payments to former employee, procurement, use of administration fees, new FSIN office building, and internal charges and cost allocations. FSIN leadership was briefed on the findings – including a list of eight recommendations for their consideration – on Sept. 11.

"On my part, I am committed to ensuring all financial decisions are documented and reported in writing, so that there is a clear and honest record for the Chiefs, who are the rights holders," McCallum said. "I will advocate for independent oversight and stronger accountability mechanisms so that we, as executive, cannot act outside of our established policies and procedures. I will also work to create a healthier environment within FSIN, one rooted in respect where open dialogue is welcomed

and lateral violence and silencing is not tolerated."

According to McCallum, this point in time is crucial for the FSIN as he asks for the audit findings to be taken seriously.

"My responsibility is to your Nations and your people," he said. "I will continue to uphold integrity, transparency, and accountability, even if it means standing apart, because our people deserve leadership that reflects our values and teachings. This time should be used as a turning point. If we take the audit seriously, it can be the beginning of stronger stewardship and spiritual integrity. If we deny and deflect, we will only lose more trust and credibility with the people we represent and with Canada. My commitment is to the true rights holders, and to reinforcing the original purpose the federation was founded for: protecting Treaty and Inherent rights and serving our Nations equally."

The FSIN maintains they cooperated with KPMG through every step of the audit, releasing a detailed response to the allegations.

"FSIN staff and management worked diligently until the final hour of the deadline compiling responses from documents going back five years and ensuring every single question was addressed," read a response to the report dated Oct. 1. "ISC then responded that the meeting for the final report is delayed as a result of the additional level of effort required by KPMG upon receipt of the documentation provided after the fact-validation exercise. They required an additional 10 weeks to review the information that they provided FSIN 10 days to gather."

The response also noted that during the ISC



CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Sure, we'll pose!

These two young mule deer took a minute out of their busy afternoon schedule to show off their good side, before bounding off to take care of other important 'mule deer business'.

presentation to the FSIN on Sept. 11, the meeting ended at an important juncture.

"Unfortunately, the presentation did not include all the details for response," said the FSIN. "ISC cut the meeting short due to having to check out of a hotel room in the middle of when FSIN was providing a response."

They also noted having 10 days to not only digest the documents but address the 717 specific questions and data items contained therein.

It was disappointing to see that the findings appear not to have changed despite FSIN sending responses and documentation including receipts and/or invoices for every

single item," the FSIN said. "While it appears KPMG chose not to include the documentation in their review, FSIN remains optimistic and confident that ISC will find that all expenditures are, in fact, eligible based on the thorough and substantial documentation provided."

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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."

More docs needed in Saskatchewan, but how?

I'm beginning to wonder if mamas in our fair province have been ignoring Willie Nelson's advice and are letting their babies grow up to be cowboys. True, we may have a good number of lawyers, but the doctor population is way too low.

In a recent press conference at the Legislative Building in Regina, NDP Rural and Remote Health Critic Jared Clarke continued to sound the alarm, prompted by the news of the Gardens Medical Clinic forced to close its doors by the end of November. The action comes as the two doctors that share 5,000 patients at that clinic have chosen to retire.

"There were 291 vacant postings on Sask Docs as of yesterday, and many of those were for multiple positions," Clarke said Oct. 1 of the online job search tool for healthcare professionals; adding that the pair of physician postings for Gardens Medical Clinic have been up for 10 months.

Pointing the finger at the government, Clarke urged the Sask Party to "step up and do the right thing and do everything in their power to keep this clinic open in two months' time."

But what exactly is that magic formula to attract and retain healthcare professionals? If the ruling Sask Party had that potion in their hands, would they have not already used it? The doctor shortage is not a new problem by any stretch, and there have been some band-aid solutions already attempted, such as the virtual physician program.

As for healthcare professionals currently working in centres across the province, the threat of burn out is very real. We often hear of having a healthy work/life balance as key to recruiting and keeping these folks, but what does a rural doctor need to do in order to achieve this balance? This may be stating the obvious, but from all the temporary emergency room closures I've noticed on social media, it seems like that is the last-ditch tactic employed to catch a break.

Even the fact that alerting the public to an ER closure must be done on Facebook rather than the SHA website, or via an app like the Highway Hotline, shows me there is room for improvement. Could you imagine if ER updates were part of the HH app? After all, it is a province-wide, often checked resource. One could zoom in over a particular stretch of highway and not only find out that traffic will be slow going on Highway 9 due to a semi on its side, and oh yeah – Kipling's ER is closed again for the next few hours.

I get the feeling that being so transparent about these outages is embarrassing for the government to admit, but they could be the heroes here and include that information so people travelling can make more informed decisions in an emergency. How much more embarrassing is it to apologize for mistakes like we saw last month where folks in Outlook were advised to head over to Davidson for ER services, only to discover that Davidson was redirecting people to Saskatoon? Or conversely, saying that the Herbert ER was open while temporarily closed?

Speaking up about health issues in this province is also a tricky business. I asked Clarke if he thinks healthcare workers are apprehensive to 'really tell it like it is.'

"Absolutely. Health care workers in this province – doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals – are afraid to speak truth to what is the state of our health care system," he said. "We have had many press con-



ferences set up with health care validators who want to speak publicly come stand here with us to describe what it is like on the front line, and at the last minute, they decide that it's too risky; that there may be repercussions to them professionally."

Dr. Isabelle Richard came to Saskatchewan in 2024, fresh out of university and ready to start her family medicine career. A young, eager physician full of vim and vigour making the trek from the eastern side of Canada to the west – exactly what we're hoping to attract!

She lasted three months.

Not only that, but Dr. Richard told us exactly what she thought of the healthcare system in this province, noted what needs to change from a doctor's perspective, and she did it all in a clear and constructive manner. Her main points stated doctors need better pay, the system needs repair, and professionals are tired – not things we didn't already know, but all the more justified coming from a member of the target demographic we're trying

to recruit. What was the response? An overwhelming raspberry for her efforts.

We see ministers touring our region, stopping in at healthcare centres and grinning for photo ops in front of construction sites. We hear the same promises of equipment coming soon, after the next feasibility study happens – and this time, we mean it! We even hear how systems will be changed to bring in more professionals. But where is the action? Where's the incentive to even make suggestions if they're just going to be ignored at best, or ripped to shreds at worst?

Listening with ears full of cotton balls hasn't worked, nor has bickering over who screwed up the healthcare system worse over the years. Maybe the answer is for a health care professional to come up with a bold idea, but make it look like a politician's notion so it might have a chance of being enacted. That way, everyone wins – healthcare issues are resolved, and there's still room for the grip and grin photo.

Ryan Kiedrowski, Grasslands News

Letter to Editor: It's time to end 'Catch and Release' and pass 'Jail not Bail'

Dear Editor,

Across Southeast Saskatchewan, people are telling me the same thing – they don't feel safe anymore. Crime is up in our towns and cities, and rural crime is on the rise too. Farmers are dealing with stolen tools, fuel theft, and property damage. People are locking their doors in communities where they never had to before.

This isn't the Canada we grew up in. Before 2015, Canada was one of the safest countries in the world. But the Liberals changed that with Bill C-75, their so-called "bail reform." It instructs judges to release accused criminals under the "least onerous

conditions" possible – meaning the easiest terms they can justify. Even repeat and violent offenders are being put right back on our streets.

Police officers call it what it is – "catch and release." And it's destroying confidence in our justice system.

That's why Conservatives brought forward Bill C-242, the Jail, Not Bail Act. This bill will finally stop the revolving door of repeat criminals and career offenders stay behind bars where they belong – protecting our families, our businesses, and our farms.

Law enforcement agrees. Estevan

Police Chief Jaimie Blunden, the Weyburn Police Chief Brent VanDeSype, and members of the RCMF have all voiced strong support for this bill. They're the ones on the front lines, and they know what needs to change.

Canadians deserve real consequences for crime – not excuses. It is time to scrap Liberal bail. We had a safe, secure country before 2015, and after the Liberals are gone, we'll bring that safety back to every community, every main street, and every farmyard in this country.

- Hon Steven Bonk, MP ECS
Member of Parliament
Souris-Moose Mountain

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Sask commits to fund one-third of new infrastructure program

Local communities await federal partner

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan's municipalities could soon see a long-awaited boost in infrastructure funding — if Ottawa joins the table. The provincial government has announced it will commit to covering one-third of costs under a new municipal infrastructure program, contingent on a federal partnership to complete the cost-sharing model.

Government Relations Minister Eric Schmalz and Advanced Education Minister Ken Cheveldayoff were part of a provincial delegation that travelled to Ottawa last week, alongside representatives from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), and mayors from seven cities. The group met with federal ministers and senior officials to push for a renewed national infrastructure investment program.

Schmalz said the message was clear — Saskatchewan communities need cost-shared programs like the former Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to move forward on roads, water systems, recreation facilities, and other essential projects. “We

went to Ottawa to make sure federal ministers understand that municipal infrastructure isn't a luxury — it's the backbone of safe, strong communities,” Schmalz said. “The province is ready to invest, and we need Ottawa to do its part so these projects can get shovels in the ground.”

For municipalities across the Grasslands News coverage area — from Melville, Whitewood and Grenfell to Fort Qu'Appelle, Vibank, Kipling, Indian Head, Broadview, and smaller RMs — the announcement represents cautious optimism. Many local councils have major projects waiting on federal approval or new funding streams, including water plant upgrades, lagoon expansions, fire hall developments, and recreation park improvements.

Many communities have applied for federal and provincial assistance for upgrades such as water infrastructure projects in recent years but were unable to proceed under the fully subscribed ICIP program. That fund, signed in 2019, has already allocated over \$2 billion across 460 Saskatchewan projects, leaving no room for new applications despite the agreement's 2034 expiry date.

Local leaders say re-

newed federal participation would mean they could revisit projects shelved due to lack of funding. “Small communities can't carry the cost of million-dollar infrastructure on their own tax base, whether it be for water or sewer upgrades, or major projects such as new fire halls,” said Whitewood mayor Chris Ashfield. “If the federal government comes back to the table, it opens the door for projects that have been sitting on the shelf for years.”

Yorkton Mayor Aaron Kienle, who joined the Saskatchewan delegation, emphasized that smaller centres stand to benefit just as much as the cities. “When the federal government invests in municipalities, it's investing in the future of the country,” Kienle said. “We want to ensure that towns and cities like Yorkton — and communities across Saskatchewan — have the resources to meet today's challenges and prepare for tomorrow's opportunities.”

Moose Jaw Mayor James Murdock echoed that sentiment, noting the trip to Ottawa demonstrated unity among all levels of government. “It was meaningful to stand alongside other municipal leaders as a united voice advocating for the critical infrastructure funding



Lights, camera, action!

On Monday, a film crew rolled into Vibank for day one of filming the feature film *A Life Less Empty*, which saw some scenes being filmed at the Luna de Plata Bakery and Cafe.

KIRIAKO LATRIDIS PHOTOGRAPHY | GRASSLANDS NEWS

our Saskatchewan communities need,” he said.

The province's pledge to fund one-third of future municipal infrastructure costs is seen as a significant step toward restoring the three-way partnership model that built much of Saskatchewan's civic infrastructure in past decades. However, without a federal partner, that funding remains in limbo. For now, municipal leaders across the southeast say they'll continue planning — and hoping — that Ottawa signs on. With roads, bridges, recreation facilities, and water systems all aging across rural Saskatchewan, the need for long-term, stable funding is more pressing than ever.

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Ed James 'Seven Years a Soldier' show performed

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

There are times when we look at an object and find ourselves wondering what stories it could tell us – if only it could speak. Ed James, a retired teacher and avid military historian, has found a way to make that happen. Through various one-man shows that he has created, James uses the artifacts he has collected and stories that veterans have shared with him, to ensure that the voices of Canadians who lived through World Wars One and Two are heard.

James says he was prompted to begin doing his shows due to the misconceptions and general lack of knowledge about Canada's wartime experience that he had encountered.

"Over the years, I've found that there is such a great amount of misinformation about Canada's war experience. One of the examples of this that stands

out in my mind was the individual who came and told me that their great-great grandfather had gotten the Victoria Cross at the Battle of Little Bighorn. My response was – really? Then I had to carefully tell that individual that there were no Canadian soldiers at the Battle of Little Bighorn and that it wasn't part of Canada's war experience.

"I decided that I wanted to do something about this. So, I started putting together these historical shows and performing them in my retirement. During my performances, I dress in period costume and use various artifacts and music to help my audience visualize the experiences I'm describing. But basically, my shows are all stories told in everyday language about what people did during the war."

James explains that the stories he tells through his shows have been drawn both from research he has done on the artifacts he owns and interviews with veterans he has conducted.

"It started with the artifacts I'd collected. I'd find something and wonder what the story was on it. Researching that led down some rabbit holes into history. I had especially good luck finding information on medals, since the government kept pretty good records on who received medals and why. And when you find something and realize that it belonged to someone who was happily



Letting their stories be heard CONNIE SCHWALM | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Ed James, a retired teacher, avid military historian and storyteller, brought his one-man show *Seven Years a Soldier to Wawota* recently, as part of his ongoing effort to dispel misconceptions about Canada's war experience and encourage empathy for Canada's veterans, no matter when and through what circumstances they served.

married, a well-respected farmer or a sports hero who was expected to do great things but was lost in the war – suddenly the facts you've researched become a story.

"The Legion also hired me many years ago to do interviews with veterans for a national archive that they were doing. So, I kept the material from those in-

terviews and I'm so glad I did. Those interviews were done using hand-written notes and those notes give me the information that I draw on to learn those stories and make them a part of this too."

Earlier this month, James was invited by the Wawota Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion to perform his one-man show entitled *Seven Years a Soldier* for students from Wawota Parkland School. Rather than giving a 'lesson in history' James says that through shows like *Seven Years a Soldier* he seeks to convey a sense of one individual's lived experience to his audience.

"What I want to do is try and make history come alive for my audience. In my written synopsis of *Seven Years A Soldier* for example, I say that I want to give the audience a ground level view of the war that Staff Sergeant Frank Thompson

(a dispatch rider and photographer for the Royal Canadian Corp of Signals in Europe during WWII) saw over the handlebars of his motorcycle and through the lens of his camera while writing for the *Maple Leaf Newspaper*."

In order to do that, James says that he looks for ways to provide his audience an opportunity to empathize with the individuals whose stories he is sharing.

"I just did a play recently in Brandon that I call 'Mail from Home'. That is the story about the importance of mail for the soldiers in WWII – what was in it – how it got to them – and why it was important. The big piece that pulls that story all together is a number of packages that I open up when I'm on stage, to show the kinds of things that were sent to soldiers from home. You couldn't go out and buy something like a razor or toothbrush in the middle of a battlefield. So, these everyday items along with handmade things such as mittens, toques and especially socks, meant the world to soldiers. I want my audience to think about the fact that during the war, people back home were sending these soldiers the everyday things that we take for granted.

"I also have an original army blanket among the things on stage when I do a show. It is a reasonably warm blanket, but how well would it work in the conditions soldiers were facing? Soldiers lived, fought and slept in the same clothes, sometimes for two or three weeks. During World War One they were living in a ditch. How warm would a blanket keep you in a situation like that? My hope is that I can encourage my audience to think about things like that so they can identify with these soldiers a bit and gain some empathy."

While he acknowledges that someone who has not experienced war cannot fully understand, James says that the common bonds

we share as human beings can make empathy possible.

"Veterans rarely talk about or want to remember their experiences. And we can't really know what it's like to go through what they went through. But we can try to learn more and put ourselves in their place. My being at Dieppe or Normandy for example just gives me a taste of what being there is like, not real understanding of what they went through. But I know that those soldiers were people who feel just like I do. Empathy starts with that."

And even though there is no way to teach empathy, James observes that by providing young people with accurate and real opportunities for it, one might dispel the common misconceptions about war that students might hear and help them better understand its true cost.

"The first casualty of war has always been truth. Lies get told to make your side look bigger, stronger and right. And the media (whether it's the newspapers, radio and TV broadcasts people listened to in the past or the social media young people especially rely on today) is often used to spread those lies and mislead people.

"The truth is that no soldier ever dies saying 'Yay for my flag'. The most common last word that soldiers say is 'Mother'. And the true horror of war isn't always about advanced weapons. I have a bayonet from WWI and when I do my show, I tell the audience that it is probably the most terrible weapon used in that war. When you killed someone with a bayonet, you could watch that person die, hear them die, smell them die. And when that person cries out 'Mother', whether it's in German or English, you realize that you've just killed someone's child. You have to live with that, and that is the first, basic, horrible truth about war."

Burning of buildings approved

- continued from page 3

For many Saskatchewan communities — particularly small towns with shrinking tax bases and aging infrastructure — the pilot offers a cost-effective, educational, and community-benefiting alternative to traditional demolition. Derelict buildings have long posed challenges across the province, from safety hazards and environmental blight to hindering redevelopment. This program aims to give municipalities the means to safely eliminate those risks while building the capabilities of their volunteer fire departments.

As one section of the guide summarizes: "The Derelict Buildings Pilot Project provides a tool for addressing unsafe buildings, but it comes with

important responsibilities. Municipalities are expected to fully understand their obligations, incorporate them into their planning processes, and manage them with care."

If successful, Saskatchewan's approach could

become a model for other provinces seeking practical ways to train firefighters and revitalize communities while tackling the growing problem of abandoned rural buildings.

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Freedom Convoy leaders avoid jail with conditional sentences

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

“Freedom Convoy” leaders Tamara Lich and Chris Barber have received conditional sentences after being convicted of mischief for their roles in the protest movement that blockaded downtown Ottawa with thousands of people and hundreds of trucks for several weeks in late January 2022 to protest vaccine mandates and other pandemic measures.

The protest led to the federal government using the Emergencies Act for the first time on Feb. 14, and a multi-day police operation was launched days later to clear Ottawa's core.

In an Ottawa courtroom on Oct. 7, Justice Heather Perkins-McVey sentenced Barber to 12 months of house arrest and another six months abiding by a strict curfew.

Lich will serve 12 months of house arrest and 3.5 months under a curfew after getting credit for days spent in custody before she was convicted.

The Crown was seeking a prison sentence of seven years for Lich and eight years for Barber.

Lich and Barber were found guilty of mischief in April, while Barber was also found guilty of an additional offence of counselling others to disobey a court order. Both Lich and Barber were found not guilty on charges of intimidation, counselling to commit intimidation, obstructing police and counselling others to obstruct police.

Crown prosecutor Siobhain Wetscher was seeking stiff sentences for Tamara Lich and Chris Barber because of the broad community harm caused by the three-week 2022 protest in Ottawa's downtown core. Wetscher said she was seeking these sentences because of what Lich and Barber did, not because of their political beliefs.

Wetscher said that while Lich and Barber may have come to Ottawa with noble intentions, they continued to encourage people to take part in the protests even when it became impossible for them to ignore the effect it was having on downtown residents and businesses. The prosecutor said that while there are mitigating sentencing factors for both Barber and Lich, the overall effect of the protest outweighs them.

Tamara Lich's lawyer urged

the judge to consider the “positive things” that came from the convoy occupation of downtown Ottawa in early 2022 at the sentencing hearings. While Justice Heather Perkins-McVey acknowledged the protest “galvanized” many, she noted others had a very different experience during the protest. Lich has spent 19 days in jail plus another 30 for a breach of her bail conditions. The lawyer called for an absolute discharge. That would mean no additional jail time for Lich, and no criminal record.

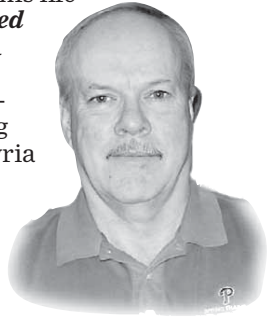
Barber's lawyer told the court she wants an absolute discharge for her client because he's been out on bail without incident for the last 3.5 years. That decision would mean Barber would not receive a criminal record. The lawyer said “his intention was not to harm the people of Ottawa. It was an unfortunate consequence of what occurred in the protest.”

The lawyer said that if Ontario Court Justice Heather Perkins-McVey decides a criminal record is necessary, she wanted to see Barber receive a suspended or conditional sentence to be served in his home community.

Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

An 85-year-old man lost his life after a herd of **cows charged him and his wife** during a hike in the Austrian Alps. The retired couple from Vienna was walking their dog near a mountain hut in Styria province when nine cows, including three calves, suddenly stampeded. The man and his 82-year-old wife were airlifted to a hospital in Salzburg but the man died before surgery



could be performed. Witnesses say the cows were apparently disturbed by the couple's dog, a mixed breed that was slightly injured. Fatal encounters with cows are rare in Austria, where cattle typically graze unfenced in popular hiking regions, but a woman was fatally trampled by cows last year while hiking with her two small dogs in Salzburg. In response to a fatal cow attack a decade ago, Austria introduced safety guidelines for mountain walkers, such as maintaining a safe distance from cattle and to keep dogs on a short leash.

Delta Air Lines has **agreed to pay \$79 million** to settle a class-action lawsuit filed in 2020 after one of its airplanes that was experiencing engine trouble dumped its fuel over schoolyards and densely populated Los Angeles neighborhoods. A flight to Shanghai was aborted shortly after take-off, and the pilot felt forced to dump 15,000 gallons of fuel to reach a safe landing weight. Dozens of children as well as adults were treated for minor skin and lung irritations, although none required hospitalization. One of the plane's two engines lost thrust shortly after takeoff and that the plane, which was carrying enough fuel for the 13-hour flight, exceeded its maximum landing weight by around 160,000 pounds. An overweight plane risks damage, but also the airline is forced to have the plane inspected which puts it out of commission.

There is now some evidence that **Buford Pusser**, the former Tennessee sheriff who inspired a Hollywood movie about a law enforcement officer who took on organized crime, **actually killed his wife in 1967** and led people to believe she was murdered by his enemies. 1973's Walking Tall immortalized Pusser as a tough but fair sheriff with zero tolerance for crime. If Pusser, the McNairy County sheriff, had not died in a car crash seven years after his wife's death, he would very likely be indicted for the killing of Pauline Mullins Pusser, who also showed evidence of previous domestic abuse. “This case is not about tearing down a legend. It is about giving dignity and closure to Pauline and her family and ensuring that the truth is not buried with time,” said DA Mark Davidson. “The truth matters. Justice matters. Even 58 years later. Pauline deserves both.” It didn't show this development in the movies!

At least two schools in Michigan City, Ind., had to close briefly after **thieves sawed the catalytic converters off more than 20 school buses**. Students were forced into “e-learning” (attending online). While the official conclusion was “vandalism,” thieves are attracted to catalytic converters because of their precious metals, including platinum, palladium, and rhodium. I read that the latter costs far more than gold. I think a lot of thieves are after the copper that can easily be sold as scrap.

The inventor of the “**Trump Burger**” has been detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement — making him the second MAGA-loving restaurateur to face deportation. Iyad Muhammad Abuelhawa, 55, who owned the original Trump Burger restaurant in Bellville, Texas, was arrested by ICE agents on June 2. His former business partner, Roland Beainy, was taken into custody by ICE a month earlier. Abuelhawa had previously served time in federal prison for health care fraud and drug misbranding. He is accused of staying in the U.S. illegally for the past 16 years despite receiving a deportation order in 2009. The man is suffering from diabetes and heart issues, and has been denied insulin and blood sugar monitoring.

A Texas woman decided that just because her fiancé broke up with her **didn't necessarily mean the wedding was off**. The 42-year-old man returned to his home in a suburb of Beverly Hills to find a Bath & Body Works gift package containing a photo of his ex “holding what appears to be a marriage license showing them married and officiated by a local reverend.” An accompanying note urged the man to phone his “wife”. Kristin Marie Spearman, 36, has now been charged with third-degree felony stalking. The couple had obtained a marriage certificate but then (as far as Martin is concerned), they broke up. Spearman somehow persuaded Rev. Lavontis Williams to certify the marriage without the groom present. While he can't change the situation, Williams is trying to do his part to make it right, namely by paying the \$350 for an annulment.

Keep reading between the lines.

Sask. wildfire season was worst on record

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan endured one of its most destructive wildfire seasons in recent history this year, according to the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's latest Fire Digest. Between January and September 2025, the province recorded 481 wildfires—well above the five-year average of 418—fuelled by drought, strong winds, and an almost complete lack of spring rainfall.

“This year we faced one of our most challenging and devastating wildfire seasons ever,” said Marlo Pritchard, Saskatchewan's Fire Commissioner and President of the SPSA. “Persistent drought conditions and strong winds turned our forests and grasslands into tinderboxes, and many of these fires became unstoppable monsters.”

Among the hardest-hit areas was Denare Beach, where the Wolf Fire destroyed numerous homes and displaced families. Early forecasts had suggested an average start to the fire season, but by mid-May, flames were spreading at unprecedented speed. At Besnard

Lake, one fire ran six kilometres in just 22 minutes, pushed by winds exceeding 80 km/h.

By early June, the SPSA reported that over 30 communities had been forced to evacuate as seven major wildfires raged across the province. Thousands of homes, cabins, vehicles, and other assets were lost, and critical infrastructure was damaged. Firefighters worked in grueling conditions, often with little sleep or food, to keep the fires from consuming populated areas.

To bolster its response, Saskatchewan brought in additional firefighters and aircraft from across North America, and later from Mexico and Australia, forming mixed teams that Pritchard described as “tight-knit crews who watched each other's backs like family.” While some called for military assistance, Pritchard noted that soldiers are typically assigned to post-fire cleanup and are not trained to manage the extreme fire behaviour that Saskatchewan faced this season.

The commissioner praised the united effort among agencies, local governments, and international partners, saying it reflected the “spirit of cooperation that defines Saskatchewan.”

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HATS OFF TO OUR LOCAL HEROES



Plan your escape route during Fire Prevention Week

By
Grasslands News

October 6-12 marks Fire Prevention Week across Canada, and local fire departments from Whitewood to Indian Head are reminding residents that being prepared before a fire starts can mean the difference between a close call and a catastrophe.

This year's national theme, "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape," emphasizes the importance of developing and practicing a home fire escape plan. According to the National Fire Protection

Association (NFPA), people may have less than two minutes to safely escape a burning home once smoke alarms sound.

"Most people overestimate how much time they have," said Whitewood Fire Chief Bernard Brule. "Fires today burn much faster than they used to because of synthetic materials in furniture and flooring. Once the smoke alarm goes off, you need to act immediately."

Residents are encouraged to draw a simple floor plan of their home, marking two exits from every room and identifying a meeting place outside — like a tree or mailbox — where everyone can

gather. Families should practice their escape plan twice a year, once in daylight and once at night.

Smoke alarms are equally critical. Fire officials recommend installing alarms on every level of a home, inside each bedroom, and outside sleeping areas. They should be tested monthly, with batteries changed yearly and units replaced every 10 years.

Firefighters across the region will be visiting schools this week to teach children about home fire safety and to demonstrate how quickly smoke can spread.

"Kids are great at reminding their parents to check alarms," said Kipling Fire Chief Mark Russell. "If they're learning it in school, it's a good time for families to practice at home."

Local departments are also using social media to share safety tips and videos on home escape planning. Many, like Whitewood and Grenfell, will be hosting public tours of their fire halls.

"Having an escape plan isn't something we just say for a slogan — it saves lives," added Brule. "Fire won't wait, but being ready gives you the best chance."

Honoring Our First Responders



Fire Chiefs urge residents to check smoke and CO alarms

By
Grasslands News

It's one of the simplest safety measures in the home — and one that's often overlooked. Fire departments across Saskatchewan are once again urging residents to check their smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms as part of Fire Prevention Week.

According to the Council of Canadian Fire Marshals, one in five homes in Canada either lacks a working smoke alarm or has one that's expired or disabled. Saskatchewan's volunteer fire departments know firsthand how dangerous that can be.

Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of a home, including basements, and inside or near all sleeping

areas. Carbon monoxide alarms are equally vital anywhere there's a fuel-burning appliance such as a furnace, fireplace, or gas stove.

Firefighters refer to CO as the silent killer for a reason — you can't see it, smell it, or taste it. Having an alarm is the only way to detect it before it's too late.

Firefighters recommend testing alarms monthly by pressing the test button, changing batteries at least once a year, and replacing the entire alarm after 10 years. Combination smoke/CO units are also available and can provide added peace of mind.

Residents are reminded never to remove batteries because of nuisance alarms. Instead, relocate the detector or install a photoelectric model that's less prone to false triggers from cooking.

Cooking fires remain Saskatchewan's leading cause of home blazes

By
Grasslands News

Whether it's a roast in the oven or a quick fry on the stove, cooking remains the number-one cause of home fires across Canada — and Saskatchewan is no exception.

Firefighters in communities throughout the Grasslands News area say most kitchen fires they attend begin when food is left unattended. People step out of the room for 'just a minute,' and that's all it takes. Hot oil can ignite in seconds. Once the flames hit a cupboard, the whole kitchen can go up.

National data shows that nearly 40 percent of home structure fires start in the kitchen, resulting in millions of dollars in property damage annually. Many also occur late at night, when people fall

asleep while cooking.

Firefighters recommend staying in the kitchen when frying, broiling, or grilling. If you need to leave, even briefly, turn off the burner. Keep flammable materials like oven mitts, dish towels, and paper products away from heat sources.

If a grease fire ignites, never use water. Instead, slide a metal lid over the pan, turn off the burner, and leave the cover in place until cool.

Several local departments see at least a handful of preventable kitchen fires each year. They say that it's usually something small that gets out of hand fast and is totally preventable.

For added safety, install a smoke alarm near the kitchen, but not directly above the stove to avoid nuisance alarms. Keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher within easy reach and ensure everyone in the household knows how to use it.

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HATS OFF TO OUR LOCAL HEROES

Fire Prevention Week Focuses on Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) have proclaimed October 5 to 11, 2025, as Fire Prevention Week in the province.

The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."

"This week focuses on how important it is to buy, charge and recycle lithium-ion batteries safely," SPSA Fire Marshal Wayne Rodger said. "We are all at risk, and Fire Prevention Week is a great opportunity to provide safety education and community outreach on the proper use of lithium-ion batteries."

Lithium-ion batteries store a large amount of energy in a small space, and improper use such as overcharging, using off-brand chargers without safety certification, or exposing batteries to damage can result in a fire or explosion. The proper disposal and recycling of lithium-ion batteries help prevent environmental hazards and reduce fire risks in the home and community.

"To reduce fire risks, look around your home - it is important to know which devices are powered by lithium-ion batteries," Rodger said. "Buy only listed products, charge devices safely and recycle batteries responsibly."

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and the poster contest visit: www.saskpublicsafety.ca/public-education.



CHARGE into Fire Safety™

Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home

Most of the electronics we use in our homes every day are powered by lithium-ion batteries. In fact, most everything that's rechargeable uses this kind of battery.

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LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES store a lot of energy in a small place. These batteries can overheat, start a fire, or explode if overcharged or damaged. By learning how to **BUY, CHARGE,** and **RECYCLE** these batteries safely, you can help prevent a fire in your home.

- BUY** only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.
- CHARGE** devices safely. Always use the cables that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.
- CHARGE** your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.
- STOP** using your device right away if the battery smells weird, gets too hot, makes popping noises, changes in shape or color. If it is safe, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.
- RECYCLE** batteries responsibly. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire.
- RECYCLE** your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.

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Open House

The White City Fire Department held an open house event on Oct. 7, inviting everyone to tour the hall, check out the equipment, and enjoy a barbecue.

RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS



Sparky

High five! Sparky the Fire Dog is always a popular figure. He was giving hugs and high fives to his young fans during the White City Fire Department's annual open house event on Oct. 7.

RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Heating season sparks safety reminders across prairies

By
Grasslands News

As autumn temperatures drop and furnaces roar back to life, Saskatchewan fire departments are warning homeowners to think safety first before heating season begins in earnest.

Heating equipment is a leading cause of residential fires across Canada. Dust buildup, chimney obstructions, or worn-out cords are frequent culprits.

Before firing up the furnace or lighting a fireplace, experts recommend a full inspection. Have a certified technician check your system annually. And if you burn wood, get your chimney cleaned every year to remove creosote buildup — that stuff is like rocket fuel.

Portable space heaters also demand caution. They should be placed on solid, nonflammable surfaces and kept at least one metre (three feet) from bedding, curtains, or furniture. Always plug them directly into a wall outlet, not an extension cord, and turn them off when leaving a room or going to sleep.

Residents using fireplaces should dispose of ashes in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid, stored outdoors and away from combustibles. Ashes can stay hot for days and easily ignite garbage or wood piles.

Heating-related fires tend to happen late at night, when people are asleep, making them especially dangerous. That is why a working smoke alarm, and a little prevention are the best protection.

Town of Francis

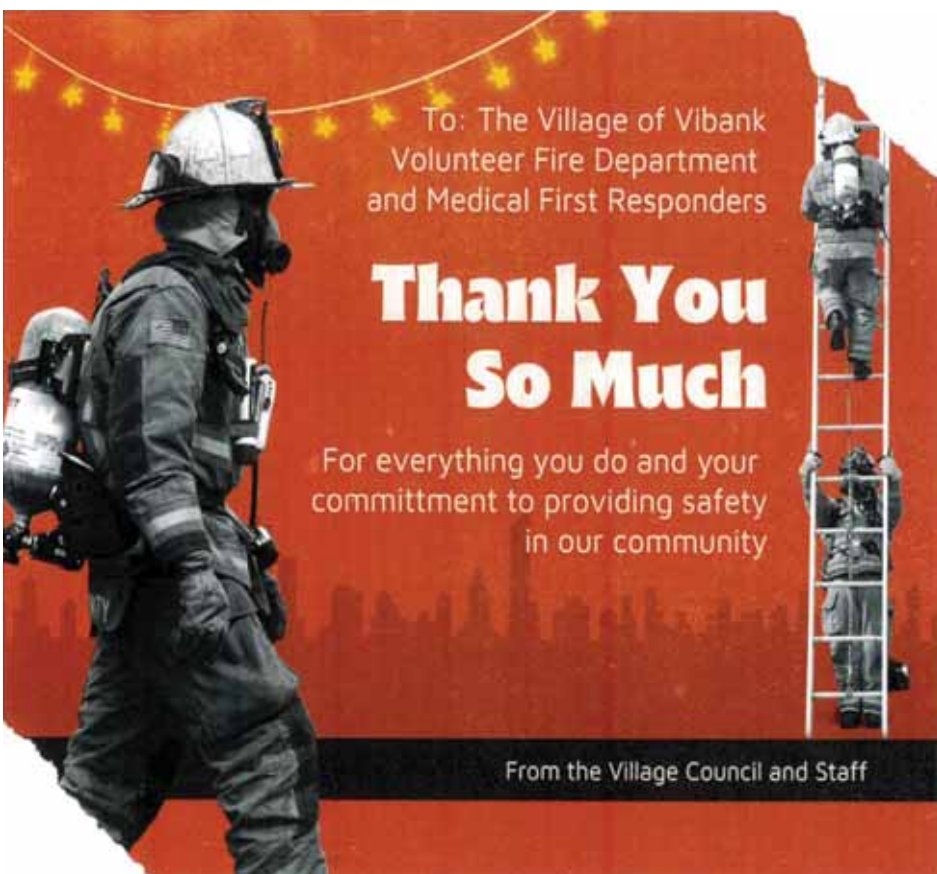
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would like to thank the community for your support of our local volunteer fire department.



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RM of Montmartre Council & Staff

To Members of the Montmartre Fire Department and Montmartre First Responders
Thank you for your dedication in providing emergency services to Montmartre and surrounding area. Your commitment is greatly appreciated.
Village of Montmartre Council & Staff



We wish to express our appreciation to all firefighters and first responders who serve our community so bravely and selflessly around the clock. Thank you all!

Town of
Balgonie

Gong and Sound Bath Therapy coming to Balgonie

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

An alternative healing solution will be coming to Balgonie for a limited time. Four Gong and Sound Bath Therapy evenings will be available at the Seniors 50 Plus Club. The sessions are hosted in partnership with the Balgonie Public Library and led by Yoga and Sound Bath Practitioner Jodi Kreutzer.kj The first event striking a chord with participants was on Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Gong sound therapy is by no means a new practice – it traces its roots back to ancient times. In China, Qi Gong incorporated sounds for healing around 590 to 618 AD, while in many other Asian countries, gongs and singing bowls have been used for centuries for healing, meditation, and spiritual practices.

Despite its ancient origins, sound bath therapy – like yoga – has gained popularity in modern times. Gong baths use the deep vibrations and low sounds of the instrument to trigger deep relaxation, reduce stress, and promote emotional release.

It's these benefits Kreutzer wishes to bring to her classes over the coming months.

"Basically, my gong is called a Lunar Flare Gong," Kreutzer says. "The lunar flare is around the moon when it's full, and gives off a sound, or resonance. Through technology and the amazing-

ness of how far we have come, mankind managed to take that sound and put it into this gong. The Moon has the power to move water on the Earth. That's how powerful our moon is. But this sound has the same effect on the body, so it has the power to move water through the body."

Because of these effects, Kreutzer encourages participants to drink lots of water before a session to decrease the chances of developing dehydration.

"You only need 20 minutes for the gong," Kreutzer says. "Twenty minutes to change on a cellular level. That's why we call it a gong bath – because it literally washes through your entire body."

Each session with Kreutzer consists of multiple levels of sound. The gong is one part of the bathing process, as she also incorporates brass

and crystal singing bowls, a tuning fork, and a rain stick to end the night on a note of relaxation.

"The gong lasts up to three days," Kreutzer explains. "It has a transitional period of three days, so I always tell people to watch for healing and things that come up – and never judge. The gong can wash up thoughts you tucked away in the back of your head and didn't think you deserved to be thinking about. The gong will bring those thoughts out, so you have to confront whatever you are hiding or not wanting to deal with. So, some people work out a lot of stuff."

During a bath, participants are encouraged to get comfortable – often with blankets, pillows, and casual clothing. Comfort and relaxation are paramount to a successful session. While one session has its benefits, Kreutzer

recommends multiple sessions for deeper cleansing and healing.

"For people who can meditate, this can take them further," Kreutzer says. "If you can get to a place where it's just you and you, that's a sweet place."

While therapies such as the one Kreutzer leads have been around for centuries, practices like sound therapy and even yoga are becoming more mainstream, leading to more public awareness of their benefits, as well as acceptance of the

- SEE GONG AND SOUND, 24



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RM OF EDENWOLD No. 158



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Discretionary Use Application

Pursuant to Section 55 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the Council of the RM of Edenwold No.158 gives notice that a discretionary use application has been received and the details are as follows:

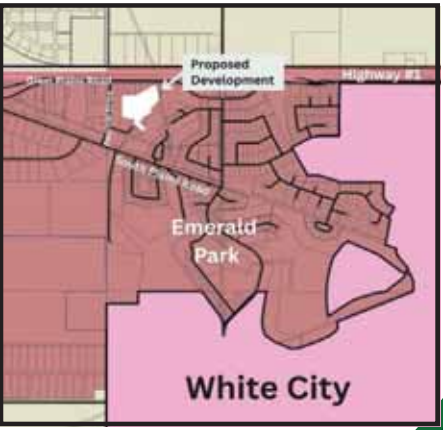
Discretionary Use Application: Apartment Buildings - Blk/Par BB, Plan 102138342 (SE 22-17-18 W2M), Emerald Park.

Intended Discretionary Use: To allow for the development of three apartment buildings. More information about the proposal, including the full Comprehensive Development Proposal, can be found on the RM's website (www.rmedenwold.ca) under "Upcoming Public Hearings & Open Houses"

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing to receive submissions, written or verbal, on the proposed discretionary use application at 6:30 p.m. (local time) on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, in the Emerald Park Fire Hall, 102 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan. Written, signed submissions will be presented to Council and can be sent by mail, email, or dropped off at the RM Office.

For further information please contact the RM of Edenwold at 306-771-2522 or planning@edenwold-sk.ca.
Dated this 29th day of September at Emerald Park, in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Shauna Bzdel, Chief Administrative Officer




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SPORTS

Millionaires struggle to finish in the win column

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

As a veteran coach, Doug Johnson has probably seen his share of rocky starts to a season and this year's SJHL season is no exception.

The Melville Millionaires have looked like world beaters at times and they've also struggled at others, but Johnson isn't hitting the panic button just yet.

"We really like our team, but we're not happy with the record," Johnson said of the Millionaires who have recorded two wins, three losses, an overtime loss and a shootout loss. "There are a few more detours so far this year than we had hoped for, but again, we really like this group. Every season is different, and we know we will get to where we want to be sooner rather than later."

As for solutions to the early season woes, the team has to keep their nose to the grindstone and strive for consistency.

"Right now the biggest thing we need to do is stay focused for 60 full minutes, and be mentally strong," stated Johnson. "All of our losses – minus one – we've had the lead but have blown it."

Fans of the Millionaires will notice a difference in player size to previous seasons, something that's looking more like a happy accident than an actual plan.

"Getting bigger came about generically, it wasn't a conscious effort, but things started going that way," Johnson told Grasslands News. "We still just want to get the best players available, it just seems this year they're bigger."

The Millionaires currently have 17 players who stand six-feet tall or taller, and while the team doesn't have as many nimble and quick players as they have had in past seasons, they should turn out to be an effective group.

"How this will all play out is anyone's guess, but we want to be a heavy team that creates chaos for the opposition," Johnson added "We've seen it in spurts and it is really good. We just need more consistency with it."

The Millionaires have added a few new players through trades, one for one of last season's top players, who decided to take a different route this time around.

The Millionaires traded 20-year-old Jadon Iyogun's rights to the Bonnyville Pontiacs for 18-year-old Brayden Gourley



DARCY GROSS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Behind the net

Melville Millionaires' captain, and leading point-getter, defenceman Boston Harkness lugs the puck out of his own end in weekend SJHL action versus the Weyburn Red Wings. Harkness has three goals and six assists in seven games, so far this season.

and future considerations, after Iyogun was cut by the BCHL's Spruce Grove Saints.

"Gourley was a pleasant surprise addition, since we didn't think we would recoup anything when Iyogun left," Johnson explained in a published report. "After reviewing our roster, we decided to move Jadon, I can say that internally, we made the decision that anyone who leaves the team won't be returning. In return, we're bringing in a talented 2007-born forward with junior experience and championship pedigree."

"He's a left-shot centre, which is an

area we felt needed strengthening. We're very excited about what Brayden brings and confident he'll make our team stronger this season."

The Millionaires also picked up Kale Margolis in a trade with the Battlefords North Stars, with the Stars receiving Raiden Zacharias, while the Millionaires also receive two second round draft picks plus a player development fee.

"Margolis is a big forward with a very nice skill set, that plays the game the right way," added Johnson. "I think our fans already see what kind of presence he brings."

Margolis has also caught the eye of

league pundits, as he was chosen as the Player of the Week, as he had a goal and five assists in his first three contests with the Millionaires.

Weyburn Red Wings 4 at

Melville Millionaires 3 (Oct. 4)

Late game penalty trouble cost the Millionaires in this one, as the Red Wings rallied from a 3-2 deficit with two powerplay goals in the third period to send 942 fans home with a tough loss.

Captain Boston Harkness, Sam Laplante and Jackson Lee each dented the twine for the Millionaires who trailed 2-1 after two periods with neither team scoring in the middle frame.

Grady Carmichael had a pair of helpers while Margolis, Leo Jewitt and Preston Baerwald collected single assists.

The Wings outshot the Millionaires 28-25 with Noah Sinagowitz saddled with the loss in net.

The Mils took eight of the game's 13 minor penalties.

Melville Millionaires 8 at

Weyburn Red Wings 4 (Oct. 3)

The Millionaires roared out of the starting gate in this one, scoring five unanswered goals in the first period and cruising to victory.

Margolis led the way for the Mils, notching a goal and two assists with Harkness earning three set-up points.

Brendan Olson and Brodie Hicks each chipped in with a goal and an assist while Rylan Oatman had a pair of helpers.

Devon Winder, Ty Janz, Grady Carmichael, Jackson Lee and Wesley Olson each lit the lamp with a single.

Riley Craigen, Matthew Edwards, Preston Baerwald and Jaden Kokosha each registered an assist.

Kael Svenson picked up the win between the posts for Melville as the Millionaires outshot the Red Wings 43-37.

The Red Wings were whistled for five of the contest's nine minor penalties.

The Millionaires will look to climb up the Bunge Division standings this weekend as they'll face off twice with their arch rivals, the Yorkton Terriers.

On Oct. 10 the two squads get together in Yorkton for the first game of the set, with the teams doing it all over again on Oct. 11 at the CN Community Centre.

Game time for both contests is 7 p.m.



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PJHL Notebook

Reeder suspended as Storm win first of new season

Knox drop first L after 2-0 start

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Putting pucks into the opposing team's net has not been a problem for the Pilot Butte Storm in the early going of the 2025-26 Prairie Junior Hockey League season.

Keeping them out of their own has been another story, and that task became a little tougher yet on Sunday when defenceman Zach Reeder was suspended two games after receiving a major penalty and game misconduct for kneeling in the third period of Saturday's 7-2 win over the Regina Silver Foxes.

Prior to the ejection, Reeder had registered three points to join newly acquired Jett Lamb at the top of the team's scoring race among blue liners.

Reeder's suspension includes one game for the kneeling major and one for having received it in the final 10 minutes of the game.

As a result, he missed Thursday's game against the Fort Knox and will also sit out Sunday's home date against the Assiniboia Southern Rebels.

Now in his third season with Pilot Butte, Reeder amassed 65 penalty minutes in his first 75 regular season games for the Storm but has picked up 27 in three games to start this season on six minors, a major and a game misconduct.

Saturday's game not only marked Pilot Butte's first win of the new schedule but also its home opener, with fans treated to additional three-point nights from Dryden Jeannot, Jaxon Skiftun and Kaiyl Knias, along with 18 saves from

goaltender Keegan Dansereau in his official Storm debut.

All Capitals

Home ice advantage was not to be for the Fort Knox and Regina Capitals in their home-and-home weekend set.

Playing Oct. 3 at Regina's Al Ritchie Arena, the Knox beat the Capitals 5-4 in a shootout.

In Saturday's rematch at Fort Qu'Appelle's Prairie Co-op Rexentre, it was the Capitals taking the win by a score of 7-6.

Leland Cody, Tanner Wiens, Mason Babiuk and Spencer Copeland had the Knox' goals in regulation time Oct. 3 before River Banks, Madden Wallis and Shaden Duliak all scored in the shootout to earn the two points.

Saturday the Knox got a pair of goals from Josh Heistad and Cooper Buhay, and one apiece from Babiuk and Kobe Wotta.

Starting goalie Drew Pereyma was pulled nine minutes into the second period of the Oct. 3 win but was still credited with the victory, stopping 16 of 18 shots he faced along the way. Kale Gorski stopped 22 of 24 shots in relief that night, then gave up seven goals on 35 shots Saturday in the loss.

Next up for the Knox is a Saturday road trip to Moosomin to face the expansion Steelhawks, who started their inaugural campaign 0-2 after 8-0 and 4-1 road losses to Assiniboia.

Results from Thursday's game against the Storm were not available at press time.



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Point-blank shot

Fort Knox's Tye Shukin fires a shot on Regina Capitals' netminder Luca Stadeny at the Al Ritchie Arena on Friday, Oct. 3. The Capitals won the game 5-4 in shoot-out.

Ochapowace golfers shine at 2025 FSIN Championships

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Ochapowace Nation golfers made their community proud at the 2025 FSIN Golf Championships, held September 25-30 at Moon Lake Golf and Country Club in Saskatchewan. Competing against dozens of teams from across Saskatchewan, Ochapowace players showcased skill, teamwork, and community spirit throughout the tournament.

The Ladies Division teed off first on September 25 and 26, drawing 26 teams from surrounding Nations. Ochapowace's women's team — Cassandra Taypotat, Crystal Bear, Joyce Isaac, and Tabettha Bear — played two full days of 18 holes. The group's determination and unity stood out as they supported one another on the course and represented Ochapowace with pride.

The Men's Division followed on Sept. 27 and 28, featuring 32 teams. Ochapowace's men's squad of Valdez Bear, Dustin Bear,

Sterling Bear, and Everette Bear emerged victorious, capturing first place in the 1st Flight. Their championship win marked a major highlight for the Nation at this year's event.

The competition wrapped up Sept. 29 and 30 with the Senior Men's 50+ Division. Ochapowace was once again well represented by Lloyd Bear, Romeo Bear, Rob Peltier, and Joey Bear, who not only competed strongly but also celebrated a special win when Joey Bear earned "Closest to the Pin" honours.

In a statement, Ochapowace Sports and Recreation expressed pride in all participants, noting that each team exemplified excellence, teamwork, and dedication. "Thank you for representing Ochapowace Nation with excellence, teamwork, and community spirit," the department shared.

The tournament once again highlighted the strength of sport in bringing Nations together, while giving Ochapowace golfers another reason to stand tall on the provincial stage.

Thank You



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Held on
Sept. 21, 2025
at the Melville Golf & Country Club

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34. Carson Dennis, Golf Course Superintendent & Staff
35. All the Volunteers who made the day happen
36. Anyone or any individual we may have missed. It certainly was not intentional. Thank you!

The Melville Millionaires thank you for your support



VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION NIGHT

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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

What is the key to the Toronto Blue Jays' season success?

Was it the managing skills of John Schneider? The way he handled his pitchers and mapped out his game plans?

Was it the guys who wielded the big bats, getting timely hits and driving in runs?

To be honest, both of those things were definitely factors, but the biggest factor was the addition of new hitting coach, David Popkins.

Popkins came over to the Jays prior to this season and his influence has been the main factor in the Jays resurgence.

What was once a team of guess hitters who swung for the fences with reckless abandon, has now become a team that wears out the opposition and lives by making contact.

They went from being a fragile team that looked different every night out to a ball club that just keeps coming, every pitch, every at-bat and every inning.

They went from a team that was completely hopeless if they fell behind, to a team that was relentless in coming back, stringing together hard hit balls, and just trying to barrel them up, not knock them out of the park.

Prior to the start of the season, this scribe's name could be added to the list of supposed pundits who didn't think the Jays had the personnel to get to the playoffs, let alone beat out the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees for the American League East crown.

I'm pretty sure that I said there were a bunch of Toronto players who were washed and included in that group were the aging George Springer and catcher Alejandro Kirk.

Well, under Popkins' tutelage, Springer looked more like a spring chicken, having what may end up being his best season ever, batting over .300 for much of the season and looking like he'd had about 10 un-birthdays.

Kirk has also looked great this summer, hitting for power and average and being a threat to drive in a run or hit one out every single at-bat.

Look at some of the other guys on the team who have had great seasons. It wasn't by accident that Addison Barger, Ernie Clement and Vladdy Guerrero have had tremendously impactful seasons.

Popkins hitting philosophy is based on a couple of things: creativity and damage.

Popkins has instilled in the Blue Jays' hitters, that there are many ways to score runs, and they need to use every one of them to score and in turn, win games.

That's how the damage begins, but as we've seen in the first two games of the American League Championship Series, this team just keeps grinding out quality at-bats and moving guys over, and they seem to believe that as long as they do the right things, the home runs will come.

After two shellackings by the Blue Jays over the Yankees, everyone in baseball now knows what Canadians have known for a couple of months now – the Jays are a really good team!

Whether they'll be able to close the Yankees out, we're not sure – since this was written on Monday, but if they win, Popkins will have had a gigantic role in it.

It's difficult to say he was the sole reason for the turnaround the Jays have experienced, but certainly he's had a huge role in building this club into the offensive juggernaut it's become.

Along the way, Schneider has become a more patient manager, knowing how to handle a pitching staff and knowing when to stand up for his players.

The pitching staff has improved, with the emergence of ALCS game 2 starter Trey Yesavage and the deal that brought Shane Bieber to Toronto, along with some terrific innings from Louis Varland.

The only question that remains is if the Toronto Blue Jays, with the hearts of an entire nation behind them, can get back to the World Series and maybe even win it.

If they can get past the favoured Yankees, it could happen.

If they can't close the Yankees out after throttling them in the first couple of games, it will probably be due to mistakes or from taking their foot off the gas pedal.

Now isn't the time for shrinking violets, now is the time to let it all hang out.

Go Jays!

Williams trade paying off for Bruins

Bombers remain unbeaten

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Pop quiz: How do you spell "fleece"? If you said it starts with "Battlefords" and ends with "North Stars" you're absolutely right.

The centrepiece of the return in an offseason trade that sent 20-year-old centre Kent Moors to Battlefords from the Estevan Bruins, fellow over-age forward Rylan Williams is helping rewrite the book on lopsided trades.

Williams had an assist Saturday in Estevan's 4-3 overtime loss to the hometown La Ronge Ice Wolves and then scored the OT winner Sunday as Estevan won the rematch 3-2.

The weekend performance helped Williams extend his lead atop the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League scoring race with five goals and eight assists for 13 points in the Bruins' first eight games.

Estevan acquired Williams in July along with 2006-born defenceman Alex Scheck, 2005-born blue liner Logan Goodwin and 2006-born goalie Dylan Adams.

Goodwin - a former Melville Millionaire - has five points in four games for Estevan to date, while Scheck has two points in five games and Goodwin has an .898 save percentage in six appearances for the Bruins.

Moors, meanwhile, returned to the Sherwood Park Crusaders of the BCHL where he has four points in five games to start the 2025-26 season.

Bombers Keep Soaring

The Flin Flon Bombers remain the SJHL's only unde-

feated team after a pair of home wins over the Warman Wolverines.

Flin Flon beat Warman 4-2 on Oct. 3 and 4-3 in a shootout Saturday to earn the Bombers' sixth win in as many games to start the season.

Those results helped the Bombers maintain the fourth spot in the Canadian Junior Hockey League's national Top 20 rankings which were announced Monday morning.

The Nipawin Hawks were the only other SJHL team to crack the list, making their debut at No. 16, while the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Selkirk Steelers topped the list for the second straight week.

Sitting Out

Among the six suspensions handed out by the SJHL between Sept. 28-Oct. 4 was a one-gamer handed to Humboldt Broncos' forward Sheldon Alexander.

The 2006-born forward was disciplined for a kneeling major he was assessed during a Sept. 27 game against the Millionaires.

Centennial Site

Hockey Canada and the CJHL announced Oct. 3 that Summerside, P.E.I. will host the Centennial Cup national junior A championship for the fourth time in 2026.

This year's tournament is scheduled for May 7-17 and will mark the sixth time the national title has been decided on Prince Edward Island.

P.E.I. previously hosted at Charlottetown in 1971 and 2003, along with Summerside in 1989, 1997 and 2013.

Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M. Oct. 6		TUESDAY YBC Sept. 30		SATURDAY YBC Oct. 4	
Ladies' High Single snf Triple, Linda Bender, 193, 515. Ladies' High Average, Angela Dobson, 167.	Men's High Single, Triple and Average, Joe Wu, 224, 565, 183.	Team High Single, Pinheads, 1306. Team High Triple, Professional Amateurs, 3768.	Professional Amateurs 15 Pin Heads 14 Blame it on Garry 12 Gutter Girls 12 New 7	Girls High Single, Triple and Average, Amzlee Patterson, 127, 361, Boys High Single and Triple, Jakob Unterschute, 184, 484. Team High Single and Triple, Squishmellows, 867, 2473.	Girls High Single and Triple, Ashyah Davies, 111, 301. Boys High Single, Reid Morgan, 198. Boys High Triple, Remi Schneider, 526. Team High Single and Triple, Bowling Superstars, 885, 2545.
Team Pts. Ostlund 14 Dobson 10.5 Bender 10 Stephens 5.5	Team Pts. Ostlund 14 Dobson 10.5 Bender 10 Stephens 5.5	Team Pts. Professional Amateurs 15 Pin Heads 14 Blame it on Garry 12 Gutter Girls 12 New 7	Team Pts. Professional Amateurs 15 Pin Heads 14 Blame it on Garry 12 Gutter Girls 12 New 7	Team Pts. Squishmellows 7 Bowl Kings 7	Team Pts. The Enders 9 Everythings 8 Bravehearts 8 Bowling Superstars 7

Fort Knox Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
OCTOBER:
11- Fort Knox at Moosomin SH 8 pm
14- Moosomin SH at Fort Knox 7:30
17- Fort Knox at S'toon Westleys 8 pm
19- S'toon Quakers at Fort Knox 3 pm
24- Fort Knox at Regina SF 7:45
26- PA Timberjacks at Fort Knox 3 pm

Pilot Butte Storm Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
OCTOBER:
12- Rebels at PB Storm 4 pm
15- Capitals at PB Storm 8 pm
18- Royals at PB Storm 7:45
19- Thunder at PB Storm 4 pm
24- PB Storm at Westleys 8 pm
29- Fort Knox at PB Storm 7:45

Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
All Games 7 p.m. unless otherwise stated
OCTOBER:
10- Melville at Yorkton
11- Yorkton at Melville
17- Kindersley at Melville
18- Kindersley at Melville
24- Melville at Warman
25- Melville at La Ronge 7:30
26- Melville at La Ronge 3:00
31- Melville at Nipawin

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FREE QUOTES!

North Valley footballers clinch top seed

Cobras remain unbeaten; Griffins extend streak to four

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The North Valley Eagles will finish first in the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association's 1A football six-side Conference 2 after beating the Carrot River Wildcats 72-24 in Carrot River on Oct. 3.

The win improved the Lemberg

school's record to 5-0 and handed the Wildcats (4-1) their first loss of the season as both teams headed into their final week of regular season action.

Carrot River played Viscount on Tuesday while North Valley, which clinched the standings tiebreaker over the Wildcats, travelled to St. Brieux on Thursday.

Playoff opponents and dates for the conference will be established in the

coming days.

Cobras Top Yorkton

The Melville Cobras also remained unbeaten in 2025 with a 59-14 win Oct. 2 over the Yorkton Sacred Heart Raider Gridders.

Melville sat atop the 4A nine-side Conference 3 standings at 4-0 with the win, ahead of this week's (Thursday) game against Foam Lake (4-1) in a contest whose result held the possibility of determining the conference's top seed come playoff time.

Results from that game were not available at press time.

The Cobras will finish their regular season Oct. 17 with a visit to Broadview.

First Win for Broncs

In 4A nine-side Conference 2 play,

the Indian Head Broncs won their first game of the season Oct. 3 with a 28-10 victory over the hometown Vanier Vikings in Moose Jaw, while the Fort Qu'Appelle Bisons lost their third in a row, falling 66-14 on home turf to undefeated Lumsden.

The Broncs and Bisons are scheduled to conclude their regular seasons this afternoon with a game at Indian Head.

And Balgonie's Greenall Griffins improved to 4-1 with a 45-6 home win Oct. 2 over the Estevan Elecs at Regina's Leibel Field.

With the win, the second-place Griffins extended their 5A 12-side winning streak to four games, trailing only Moose Jaw's undefeated Central Cyclones (5-0).

Greenall will close its regular season Saturday when it hosts Swift Current at 6 p.m.

Cross Country Championship held in Melville

Submitted By Daniel Alspach

Grasslands News

Melville Comprehensive School hosted the East Central District Athletic Association's Cross Country Championship at the Melville Golf and Country Club on Thursday, Oct. 2. The event saw over 450 runners from around the area compete in categories that ranged from Under 9 to Over 16. The event was a qualifier for the Saskatchewan High School Athletic Association's Provincial Championships being held at Deer Park Golf Course in Yorkton on Saturday, Oct. 11.

MCS had a small contingent of senior runners take part in distance runs that ranged from 2 km for U9-U13, 3 km for U14 & U15 to the longest run, 4 km, that the U16 and O16 athletes take part in. The Cobras posted very good results as Nash Wandy and Gradey Halyk won Gold in the U14 and U16 Boy's categories. Brynn Alspach finished with a bronze medal in the U16 Girls division. Jesse Mucha finished sixth and Kyron Ball finished seventh in their divisions. Nash, Gradey, Brynn and Jesse will compete in the High School Championship this coming Saturday with their top ten finishes.

"It was a rewarding day to see all the athletes enjoy the beautiful weather and compete on our course. The terrain of the golf course and reservoir area created some unique and challenging running conditions. We were fortunate to have cooperation with the golf course

and the city for our event. A shout out to Hank and the golf course staff who looked after food services. I would like to thank Stuart Wilson and Don Coleman for their assistance in setting up the course. We also had great support of our East Central coaches and many other volunteers who stepped up where needed on the day of the event."



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Running

Over 450 runners converged in Melville for the East Central District Athletic Association's Cross Country Championship at the Melville Golf and Country Club on Thursday, Oct. 2.

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Will new budget framework require GST increase?

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The Government of Canada Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne is scheduled to deliver Budget 2025-26 on Nov. 4. Prior to the election of the present Liberal government under Mark Carney, budgets were usually released in the spring followed by a fall economic statement.

This change in the timing of the budget is part of the government's new Capital Budgeting Framework, which will also separate day-to-day operational spending from capital investment.

Champagne says the new accounting framework will "provide more focus" for Parliamentarians so they can make decisions involving "spending less so we can invest more."

"People will have more transparency and clarity about how much we're spending in day-to-day operations of government salaries and other things, as well as see the shift that we need to do towards capital investments."

Spending considered day-to-day operational will include health and social transfers and the cost of running government operations like employee salaries and benefits.

The finance minister has stated that the government is committed to balancing the operational budget over the next three years with the only detail (as to how this will be done) being the government plans to reduce spending by up to 15 per cent by 2028.

Champagne did state the new accounting framework will "provide more focus" for Parliamentarians so they can make decisions involving "spending less so we can invest more."

Capital investments include funds the federal government will direct towards major projects such as ports and pipelines, along with investments to

grow the housing stock.

Senior government sources with the Department of Finance said this new framework will "enhance – not replace – existing financial reporting, while providing a clearer picture of the investments that strengthen Canada's economy."

The federal government said this new framework will help guide decisions as it prioritizes capital investments that generate long-term benefits for Canadians – such as major projects, housing, clean energy and infrastructure – help grow the economy and attract private investment.

Former parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page, who is now the President of the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy at the University of Ottawa, says the shift allows provinces, territories and municipalities "to better plan their budgets" by providing more information on

what the government is going to do with federal transfers and if there will be changes to the tax base.

In the event officials need to find a way to offset expected increases in spending, the Business Council of Canada, a group of Canadian financial and business leaders, is urging Ottawa to consider raising the Goods and Service Tax as a means of paying down the deficit and funding more spending.

"While divided on the 'if,' the experts were remarkably aligned on the 'how.' If the government must raise revenue, there is an overwhelming consensus that it should use the GST, because it is the least distortionary option," the report said.

Conservative members repeatedly questioned when the full budget would be balanced, not just the operational expenses and stated the finance minister was

"cooking the books," and stating, "Debt is still debt at the end of the day – doesn't matter how many columns you try to present to Canadians and try to trick them."

The federal government has not released a budget since April 2024 under former prime minister Justin Trudeau.

The parliamentary budget officer has estimated a sharp increase in the deficit to \$68.5 billion when the budget is released.

VILLAGE OF KILLALY
FORM H
[Section 66 of the Act]

Notice of Call for Nominations
(Municipal Elections)

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office of:

Councillor: Village of Killaly
Number to be Elected: 1 (One)

will be received by the undersigned on the 29th day of October, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Village of Killaly Office located at 56 Railway Avenue in Killaly, Saskatchewan, and during regular business hours on October 15th to October 22nd, 2025, at the Village of Killaly Office located at 56 Railway Avenue in Killaly, Saskatchewan.
Nomination packages may be obtained during regular office hours at:
Village of Killaly - 56 Railway Avenue
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Dated this 9th day of October, 2025.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
RM of Abernethy No. 186

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Abernethy No. 186 has received the following discretionary use application and subdivision application in accordance with Bylaws 2003-01 known as the Basic Planning Statement, 2003-02 known as the Zoning Bylaw and 2005-3, 2017-04, 2023-04, bylaws to amend Bylaw 2003-02.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION:
1. Residential Subdivision of 11.92 ha at SW 12-21-12-2



PUBLIC HEARING
Council will discuss the above noted subdivision application at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 in the Council Chambers of the RM of Abernethy No. 186, 201 Main St., Abernethy, Saskatchewan. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing, or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.
Issued at the RM of Abernethy this 26th day of September, 2025.

Karissa Lingelbach, Administrator
RM of Abernethy 186
P.O. Box 249, Abernethy, SK S0A 0A0

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST
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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 December 10, 2025, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.
Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

Description of Property	Title Number	Total Arrears*	Cost	Total Arrears and Costs
LOT 5-BLK/PAR 1-PLAN W5691 EXT 0	152338293	\$1,217.29	\$537.00	\$1,754.29
LOT 6-BLK/PAR 1-PLAN W5691 EXT 0	152338305			

* On January 1, 2026 the 2025 taxes will become arrears and be added to the amount required to remove the property from tax enforcement proceedings. Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.
Dated this 3rd day of October, 2025.

Brittany Knoll, Administrator

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October events are plentiful for Library Month

Let's Be Social and visit the library

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Canadian Library Month has begun and Whitewood Southeast Regional Library is celebrating the month with their invitation "Let's Be Social" @whitewoodlibrary #notthe libraryyouremember and Broadview school students will celebrate with visits to the library.

Librarian Erica Duncan has outdone herself with an abundance of social events for all ages.

Whitewood

Chill Vibes Hangout began on Thursday, Oct. 2 but don't worry if you missed this as there is another one coming on Thursday, Oct. 30 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Kid Zone is Tuesday's

drop-in from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and will be Oct. 14 and Oct. 28. Help build the Lego haunted house for Halloween! All programs are free to attend but children under six years old must be accompanied by an adult within the library.

The Community Needlecraft Group also meets on Thursday at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. where you can join to share ideas and showcase your sewing, crochet, knitting and embroidery projects. This will take place on Oct. 9 and Oct. 23. You must register for these gatherings due to limited seats and tables.

During Sask Library Week that takes place from Oct. 12 to 18, Betty McGillvary will be talking about her book 'Fun is

what you make of it' at the Author Event in Whitewood library on Oct. 16 from 2 - 4 p.m. McGillvary's book is a collection of funny short stories from her years of teaching and other lessons she learned in life. Light refreshments will be available.

Library on Location will also take place this week at Just Craftin' Around, the trade show on Oct. 18. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Whitewood Community Centre. Stop and visit the library booth amongst many others.

Chair Yoga will take place on Oct. 21 from 1 to 2 p.m. This yoga is suitable for everyone. Try this easy activity with lots of health benefits. No experience or special gear is necessary, but registration is required due to limited

seats. Yoga will be led by Corinne Sippola.

The Storytime Social is Oct. 27 at 10:30 a.m. Join the librarian for stories and playtime.

Further information about the Whitewood library can be found by calling 306-735-4233, emailing whitewood@southeastlibrary.ca or look on their Facebook or website at www.southeastlibrary.ca for databases and e-resources.

Broadview

The Southeast Regional Library in Broadview is hosting Chill Vibes Hangout every Friday at 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Snacks are available and activities such as Lego,

coloring, board and card games, DIY sewing and embroidery or DIY friendship bracelets are available to pick from. If you play all three board games - Smash Up, Flick 'Em Up and Splendor during Wednesdays or Fridays in October, November and December, you win a special prize. The games are suitable for teens and adults.

Every Wednesday morning in October, there will be class visits from Broadview school students (Bandits) to celebrate Library Month and Saskatchewan Library Week.

Friday, Oct. 17 is Storytime where children 5 and

under can visit with their caregiver to enjoy stories or play opportunities with the children. This is held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Book Club for October 2025 is featuring *The Paragon Hotel* by Lyndsay Faye. The meeting date and location will be confirmed soon. Remember - new members are always welcome.

Further information regarding Broadview library and events can be obtained by calling 306-696-2414, emailing broadview@southeastlibrary.ca or look on their Facebook or website at www.southeastlibrary.ca where e-resources are available even when the library is closed.

Mad Hatters attend tea party

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

A delegation of the Valley Gems, the Fort Qu'Appelle chapter of the Crown Jewels, a national social club for women, attended an Alice in Wonderland themed party in Regina last week.

The women who usually wear red hats to their get togethers dressed as characters from the book by Lewis Carroll.

"Five of us drove into Regina wearing our costumes. It was a fun day," said Jenny Melancon, queen of the local chapter, who went dressed as the Queen of Hearts.

"It was meant to be our Christmas party. Our members are seniors and they come from all over, places like Montmartre and Grenfell. They don't like driving in winter, so we held it now. We had about 100 who showed

up," Melancon said. When members get together their only obligation according to the club's rules is to cheer each other up.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Fun for all!
Jenny Melancon dressed as the Queen of Hearts at the Alice in Wonderland themed party.



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

Sunday, Oct. 12:
2:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Worship at St. Paul's w/Holy Communion
No Sunday School
Thursday, Oct. 16:
MACC Com Outreach Supper at Good Shepherd

-- at Neudorf/Lemberg --
Sunday, Oct. 12:
*9 a.m. Worship at Trinity, Lemb
*11 a.m. Worship at Christ, Neud

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
306-720-0589
*Services Every Second Sunday
Oct. 12: 10:30 a.m. Worship

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Sunday, Oct. 12:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service with Ray Yost
Tuesday, Oct. 14:
3:30 p.m. Council Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 16: Free Com. Supper at Good Shepherd

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER
(A Church with a Caring Heart)
800 Prince Edward St.
(Melville Comm. Works)
Ph. 306-728-2347
Pastor Tim Oehler
Sundays:
9:55 a.m. Pre-service Prayer
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Welcome
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
www.melvillerverchurch.org
Facebook @melvillerverchurch
Recorded messages posted online

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
Oct. 16: 5 p.m. MACC Supper at Good Shepherd
Oct. 11: 10 a.m. Men's Coffee Chat
Oct. 12: 9:15 a.m. Choir
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Oct. 14: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Saturday, Oct. 11:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Oct. 19:
11:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapathil
Sunday, Oct. 12
9:00 a.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Oct. 12:
10:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Worship with The Rev. Cheryl Johnson

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPPELLA
Sunday, Oct. 12:
No Worship Service

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, Oct. 12:
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Melville Churches Welcome You

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001
Sunday, Oct. 12:
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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: zlcpcastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, Oct. 12:
Divine Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Worship Service ~ 10:30 a.m.
Thursday - Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday Kids Club - 3:30 p.m.

EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY
Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Youth Group - 7 p.m.
Rev. Dr. James R. Graham

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapathil
Sunday, Oct. 12
9:00 a.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Oct. 12:
10:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Worship with The Rev. Cheryl Johnson

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPPELLA
Sunday, Oct. 12:
No Worship Service

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, Oct. 12:
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Indian Head Church Welcomes You

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

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.

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Kipling Churches Welcome You

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Sunday Services 10 a.m.
email: pipestoneparish@sasktel.net

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

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

ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
418 First St., Kipling
Priest: Father Joseph Villamartin
306-538-2163
Saturday, Oct. 11:
Mass 5:00 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 Pattimore
Lay Person/Service Leader
306-736-2479
bkbernat@gmail.com

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

Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday: 10 a.m. Mom's Group

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH Fort Qu'Appelle
Sunday service 10:30 a.m.
Service is also available on YouTube and will be livestreamed
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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 - 306-563-7451

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.

CLASSIFIEDS



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

Obituary Robert Gordon Johnson

May 29, 1964 - Sept. 14, 2025

Robert Gordon Johnson was born May 29, 1964, in Whitewood, SK, to Gordon and Irene (Stevenson) Johnson.

Rob grew up in Whitewood and was very active in sports, especially hockey. He loved their horses, learning to ride at the tender age of 3.5 years. He graduated from Whitewood School in 1982 and moved to Regina, where he tried his hand at a few jobs - a Sears delivery driver, masonry and in the oil patch. He then became involved in the world of communications through the sale and distribution of satellite dishes for the residential market.

In 1987, Rob met a young gal from New Zealand and decided to fly over for a visit. This took him on a totally new path in life! He loved the country and decided to return there and make it his home for the next 38 years. Rob had a very successful career. Building on the experience gained in satellite communications, Rob began work as a consultant with Tait Communications. Within 18 months, he was appointed Regional Sales Manager and eventually became the National Sales Manager for the Teamwork Group of Companies.

Although Rob never had any children, he showered his love on three very special dogs; his love for his pets was huge. In later years, his love of horses emerged again, and he invested in a race horse. He loved that horse and experienced great joy watching him race!

Rob became ill in 2018 and, sadly, that slowed him down at work. Even though he was very sick, he tried to enjoy his life as much as he could, spending happy times with friends and family. This past year, his health continued to deteriorate. Walking and using his hands became more difficult. He struggled with the idea of moving home to Canada, as he was blessed to have wonderful family and friends whom he thought of as brothers, both in Canada and New Zealand.

Rob passed away Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, in the Regina General Hospital. He leaves to cherish his memory, his sister, Laurie; an aunt, Olga (Wes) Stevenson; as well as numerous cousins and friends.

Rob's heart was as big as the ocean - he will be missed. A life well lived is a precious gift of hope, strength and grace from someone who has made our world a brighter, better place. It's filled with moments, sweet and sad, with smiles and sometimes tears, with friendships formed, good times and shared laughter through the years. A life well lived, a legacy of joy and pride, a living, lasting memory, grateful hearts will treasure.

Rob's life was celebrated Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025 at the Whitewood Legion Community Hall with interment taking place in the Whitewood Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Whitewood and Melville.



Card of Thanks

Thanks to everyone for cards, gifts of food and flowers, visits to Wayne and to me, and offers of assistance. For hugs and yes - kisses, given to both of us. Thanks to Dr. Zimmermann and to the staff at the Golden Prairie Home thanks for the loving care Wayne received there.

Thanks to Don Jewitt for all his assistance and for officiating at the interment and the funeral, to Jenn Litzenberger and Terry Carleton for the wonderful music, to Irv Escott for the touching and humorous eulogy, to the Masons for the Masonic memorial rites at the interment and forming the honour guard as the mourners left the church.

Thanks to the UCW for the lovely lunch and to the staff of Tubman Funeral Home, who were in charge of the arrangements, for their understanding and kindness at this difficult time.

-Karen, Darren and Kent Horsman

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Coming Event Oct. 15 to 18

St. Andrew's United Church in Esterhazy will be holding their annual Rummage Sale October 15 to 17 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and October 18, 9 a.m. till 12 noon Pie and coffee will be available Wednesday to Friday

Coming Event

Kennedy Community Hall Board
Holiday Fundraiser
Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025
Kennedy Hall
232 Robinson Street,
Kennedy, SK

Roast Beef Supper with entertainment by The Dueling Pianos of Saskatchewan

Tickets only \$40 and must be purchased in advance. Deadline for tickets is Nov. 5 Children allowed if accompanied by a guardian. For tickets or more information contact 306-435-2588

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Additional weeks: \$7.50 • Deadline: Tuesdays at 12 noon

1-844-GNG-NEWS

Melville RCMP stop stolen vehicle; arrest two

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Melville RCMP officers located and stopped a stolen vehicle that led to the arrest of two people on Oct. 5 after fleeing from police.

On Oct. 2, Lumsden RCMP received a report of a stolen SUV. RCMP say the investigation determined an unknown individual or individuals stole the vehicle from the driveway of a residence in Regina Beach.

The RCMP report that officers continued looking for the vehicle and following up on information received about its whereabouts.

Social media listed several reports of the stolen vehicle being spotted over the weekend in the Esterhazy, Moosomin, and Whitewood areas.

On Sunday, Melville RCMP received a report that the teal 1984 Ford Bronco was located near Melville. RCMP reported the officers located the vehicle on Highway #10, activated emergency lights and attempted a traffic stop. The vehicle continued driving, evading numerous efforts to stop it.

In the Foam Lake area, officers set up a tire deflation device which the SUV ran over. RCMP reported the vehicle struck several police vehicles, before

eventually coming to stop in a field near Elfros. No police officers reported injuries, but the police vehicles were damaged. The two occupants of the SUV were arrested.

Charges Laid

As a result of continued investigation, RCMP charged 34-year-old Levi Bast-Kozar from Regina Beach with one count of possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 (Section 354(1)(a), Criminal Code), one count of flight from police officer (Section 320.17, Criminal Code), one count of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle (Section 320.13(1), Criminal Code) and three counts,

assault on police officer with weapon (n, Section 270.01(2), Criminal Code).

A 33-year-old female, Kaylee Lanctot, also from Regina Beach is charged with one count, possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, (Section 354(1)(a), Criminal Code).

RCMP reported that both were also arrested on charges related to a vehicle theft reported to White Butte RCMP on Sept. 28. Bast-Kozar was also ar-

rested on charges related to a vehicle theft reported to White Butte RCMP on Sept. 28.

They were scheduled to appear in Yorkton Provincial Court on Oct. 6.

Dale's Painting
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Royal Canadian Legion
Indian Head Branch No. 114
General Meeting 2nd Thursday at 2 p.m.
at the Indian Head Memorial Hall
President - Lorne Scott
Contact Ken Turpin 250-661-8812 and Myrna Scott 306-727-3733

TOWN OF BALCARRES - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Temporary Assistant Administrator Position

The Town of Balcarres is seeking a temporary Assistant Administrator. The position will be an 12-month term contract to cover a Leave.

The Town Office is located on Main Street in Balcarres and is open Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The official start date will be negotiated with the successful candidate.

The position reports directly to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and provides support for the CAO, Foreman and Council.

Qualifications:

- Strong written and verbal communication, interpersonal and organizational skills;
- Friendly and courteous demeanor;
- Keen attention to detail and ability to multitask and prioritize work;
- Proficiency with computers including Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook);
- Problem solver able to work under deadlines;
- Knowledge of municipal operations, experience in leadership roll and knowledge of MuniSoft are an asset;
- Experience with budgeting, financial operations, assessment, taxation and general office management are an asset;
- Preference will be given to someone who possesses or is willing to obtain a Certificate in Local Government Administration or equivalent.

This position offers a competitive salary (dependant on experience) and SUMA Benefits. Successful candidate will be required to provide confirmation that he/she is bondable (Criminal Record Report).

Applicants are invited to submit a cover letter and detailed resume including qualifications, past and present work experience, three work related references, available start date and salary expectations, applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is hired.

Town of Balcarres
P.O. Box 130, Balcarres, SK S0G 0C0
Phone 306-334-2566
Fax: 306-334-2907
Email: balcarrestown@sasktel.net

The Town of Balcarres wishes to thank all applicants for their interest, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. For further information contact the Town Office at 306-334-2566.

New antlerless elk hunt opened in southern Saskatchewan

Opinions differ on approach chosen

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

An antlerless elk hunt with unlimited licences, announced by the Saskatchewan government, for the southern half of the province is bringing some negative reactions from even the hunters. Licences will be available Nov. 3 for \$30.

The government introduced the hunt to reduce agricultural damage caused by the growing elk populations. Elk in Saskatchewan sometimes pose significant issues for producers.

Lots of landowners and farmers have issues with elk wrecking their crop, being in yards in the win-

ter, eating feed that is for livestock.

With no quota on elk, some hunters and landowners feel this could put pressure on some of the most fragile herds in the province. Some zones have reportedly not had active elk hunting seasons in years and have been working hard to bring back the elk population.

"We used to be able to hunt them 15 years ago and between that and a few hard winters, they had to close the season because there weren't enough animals to be hunted," one hunter commented.

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation also voiced concerns about the rollout of the antlerless

elk hunt. In a statement on Oct. 3, the group said it was not consulted before the policy was announced.

"We believe that a more targeted and controlled approach would have been more effective in mitigating the challenges faced by farmers and ranchers," said the statement.

The unlimited licence hunt for elk overlaps with deer rifle season that one hunter described as going to be an absolute war zone out there between rifle deer and rifle elk.

These are pretty much being hunted nonstop from September, a couple weeks off in October for certain zones, and then November they can be hunted again.

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Melville Listings

<p>573 - 4th Ave. W. 1-BDM, 1-BATH, 672 SQ.FT. MLS®SK020168</p>  <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>\$70,000</p>	<p>745 Scotia St. 2-BDM, 2-BATH, 866 SQ.FT. MLS®SK018979</p>  <p>\$98,000</p>	<p>368 - 3rd Ave. E. 2-BDM, 1-BATH, 931 SQ.FT. MLS®SK010551</p>  <p>\$120,000</p>	<p>375 Scotia St. 3-BDM, 2-BATH, 1,262 SQ.FT. MLS®SK014348</p>  <p>↓ \$115,000 ↓</p>	
<p>702 - 4th Ave. W. 3-BDM, 1-BATH, 1,196 SQ.FT. MLS®SK019214</p>  <p>\$123,900</p>	<p>620 Main St. 5-BDM, 2-BATH, 1,696 SQ.FT. MLS®SK012725</p>  <p>SOLD</p>	<p>345/349 - 3rd Ave. W. 3 Suites, 8-BDM, 4-BATH, 1,950 SQ.FT. MLS®SK012652</p>  <p>SOLD</p>	<p>450 - 6th Ave. W. 3-BDM, 2-BATH, 988 SQ.FT. MLS®SK015484</p>  <p>\$169,000</p>	
<p>5 Quebec Dr. 3-BDM, 3-BATH, 1,221 SQ.FT. MLS®SK018248</p>  <p>\$257,000</p>	<p>684 - 8th Ave. W. 3-BDM, 2-BATH, 1,312 SQ.FT. MLS®SK018277</p>  <p>SOLD</p>	<p>51 Park Blvd. 3-BDM, 3-BATH, 1,649 SQ.FT. MLS®SK017384</p>  <p>\$459,000</p>	<p>109 - 3rd Ave. W. C1, 2,000 SQ.FT. MLS®SK018954</p>  <p>\$69,900</p>	<p>140 - 3rd Ave. W. C1, 3,100 SQ.FT. MLS®SK019063</p>  <p>\$215,000</p>



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Pumpkin painting and decorative workshop at IH



Pretty-up pumpkins
Suzie Hilton (left) and Myrna Obleman conducted the pumpkin painting class.

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

October is pumpkin season.

Nothing can give a Thanksgiving dinner table an autumn vibe better than a decorative pumpkin centerpiece.

A pumpkin painting and decorative workshop organized by two antique dealers turned the Gallery Coffee House in Indian Head into a creative pumpkin patch over the weekend.

Suzie Hilton and Myrna Obleman collaborated to instruct two dozen participants how to personalize and 'pretty up' their pumpkins.

Each person who registered for the workshop was given three pumpkins - one big and two small - to turn into contemporary ornaments.

There was no limit to the creative process. One of those taking part, Shauna Tran, painted her pumpkin pink before she added decorative touches because as she explained,

"pink is my colour."

Participants experimented with colour, design glitter and sparkles and stickable transfers

to craft something more unique than a familiar carved Hallowe'en jack-o-lantern.

"This isn't a class in

pumpkin carving. These pumpkins celebrate the harvest. They're harvest pumpkins," explained Hilton.

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RM OF EDENWOLD No. 158

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Discretionary Use Application

Pursuant to Section 55 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the Council of the RM of Edenwold No.158 gives notice that a discretionary use application has been received and the details are as follows:

Discretionary Use Application: Residential Day Care - 14 Park Bay, Emerald Park, Lot 3-Blk/Par 11-Plan 92R35429 Ext 0.

Intended Discretionary Use: To allow for the development of a provincially licensed residential day care with a space limit of eight (8) children.

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing to receive submissions, written or verbal, on the proposed discretionary use application at its regular Council meeting, during a Public Hearing on October 28, 2025, at 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the RM Office building, located at 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan. Written, signed submissions will be presented to Council and can be sent by mail, email, or dropped off at the RM Office.

For further information please contact the RM of Edenwold at 306-771-2522 or planning@edenwold-sk.ca.

Dated this 6th day of October at Emerald Park, in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Shauna Bzdel, Chief Administrative Officer

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Memory Lane walk remembers Greenall student

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

The second annual A Walk Down Memory Lane memorial event was held on Oct. 5 at the White Butte Trails Recreation Site. Participants gathered to enjoy a 5 km stroll through the trails, remember loved ones, and raise money for the Greenall Outdoor School Program.

The event was organized in memory of Lane Antosh, a Greenall School student who was killed in a car accident in 2013. It also honours the memories of other people who have passed before and since, with posters and names lining the entrance to the trails. This year, 83 photos and names were submitted for the walk.

Organizer and mother of Antosh, Wanda Campbell, says this event not only keeps her son's memory alive but also recognizes his commitment to the Outdoor School Program he loved so much.

"The walk started as a 5 km run that Prairie Summit did with the Greenall Outdoor School kids," Campbell says. "As time went on, Prairie Summit had stopped doing their run, and Jeff Moore, the teacher, wanted to have something to do with the kids that could be community-based. So last year, he called me up and asked me what I thought we should do. I thought, why don't we do an outdoor walk down memory lane? A walk in Lane's memory. Have it include other people who have lost loved ones, say their name, and remember them. So, it came up as a casual stroll at White Butte Trails. People submitted pictures of their loved ones, and we decided we would line the entrance of the walk so that people would ac-

knowledge, recognize, and say their names."

Sunflower-shaped cookies were sold at the event to raise money for the Outdoor School Program, which provides Greenall students in Grades 10 and 11 the chance to obtain five academic classes in an outdoor setting. These classes still maintain their regular curriculum but focus heavily on environmental studies, leadership, and physical fitness.

Greenall Outdoor School teacher Jeff Moore emphasizes the importance of the Memory Lane fundraiser, as well as Campbell's ongoing commitment to the program since her son's passing.

"We call it adventure-based education," Moore explains. "So, we travel across the province, learning and finding adventure along the way. It's a real treat to be a part of it. Heather Mauer and I lead the Outdoor School Program, which is in its 18th year. We do travel a lot; there is a cost to that. We are fortunate enough to have a partner like Wanda to be able to help us out. She puts a lot of work into this event. She makes cookies as a fundraiser, and last year, she raised \$5,500 for the Outdoor School Program, and that was all the fundraising we required throughout the year. We sure appreciate her help, and it's a wonderful way to remember Lane."

Lane Antosh was part of Moore's program in 2012, when he was in Grade 11. Moore remembers him as an avid student and natural leader.

"Lane Antosh was a very important part of our program," Moore says. "Lane was one of the students who, by the time the program was over at the

end of the year, I considered him a friend. So this is one of the ways we try and remember our friend Lane, and everyone walking today is here to remember a lost loved one."

Through the program, Campbell says her son had accomplished more than he had believed possible. From finishing a 40 km hike to portaging a canoe, she recalls how his confidence and sense of belonging grew throughout his time in the program.

"It allowed him to succeed," Campbell says. "So the program is amazing for these students. Absolutely amazing. It teaches them belonging. It teaches them how to get along and outdoor skills. When Lane passed away in 2013, my daughter and I decided that we would do as much as we could not only to keep Lane's memory alive but also to support something that meant so much to him. This program meant so much to him. The funds go to pay for things the school can't, and it takes the financial hardship off the parents, so the kids don't have to fundraise. They just enjoy it and have a good school year with Outdoor School."

Lane's memory continues to live on both outside, through community events like the 5 km walk, and inside the school, where a paddle with his picture resides in the Greenall classroom – a reminder that even though he is gone, he is still an important part of the program. A student award is also presented each year in his name, recognizing an Outdoor School participant who embodies the same positive and caring qualities Lane was known for.

"Lane was such a positive person," Moore says. "Such a helpful and caring person, and when we remember him with students, we like to tell them about that and tell them that those characteristics are what made Lane great, but also what make an Outdoor School student great. If we had more



ASHLEY SCARFE | GRASSLANDS NEWS

A Walk Down Memory Lane

The second annual A Walk Down Memory Lane memorial event was held on October 5 at the White Butte Trails Recreation Site. Participants took a 5 km stroll through the trails to honour loved ones who have passed, including Lane Antosh who was killed in a car accident in 2013. Proceeds raised during the event will go to the Greenall's Outdoor School Program which Antosh attended in 2012.

people like Lane in the world, the world would be a better place. We try and remember Lane in a positive light and encourage students to be like him in all the ways that Lane was Lane."

While the Greenall Outdoor School students are

grateful for Campbell and her drive to fundraise in her son's memory, Campbell says she is equally grateful for the support of Moore and the students in keeping Lane's legacy alive.

"The kids learn about Lane from the min-

ute they start Outdoor School," Campbell says. "Mr. Moore has taken that idea of Lane and made it their way of doing things for Outdoor School. The kids all wear Lane's button still when they are here. It's huge for me and this little mama's heart."



ASHLEY SCARFE | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Remembering

Signs in memory of loved ones were placed along the path at the annual A Walk Down Memorial Lane memorial fundraiser.

Gong and Sound

- continued from page 13

practices. Kreutzer says that has not always been the case, but she is grateful for the maturation of people's openness to alternative healing styles.

"When I started 33 years ago, people thought I was worshipping the devil when I would meditate," Kreutzer says. "I had a friend stop being my friend because I shopped at Aware House Books and got spiritual music from there. Things have changed."

Participants wanting to join the sessions need to pre-register at the Balgonie Public Library, as space is limited.

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