

THIS IS THE WEEK THAT WAS:
Looking Back 40 Years Ago...

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High Level Town Council
Announces By-election...

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ECHO

PIONEER

Serving the Great People of Alberta's Northwest

River Daze 2022
held in Fort Vermilion

Jordan Maskell

The annual two-day event utilizing the mighty Peace River returned to the community of Fort Vermilion. River Daze 2022 was held from Saturday, July 30 to Sunday, July 31 and was hosted by the Fort Vermilion Recreation Board. “It went really well,” said FVRB President Steven Simpson. “We had a pretty good turnout. The first day was a bit colder and more

drizzly, so there were not as many spectators hanging out and enjoying the festivities. We still had a decent amount of registrations in terms of people participating, which was really appreciated and good to see.” Simpson said FVRD members organized the event, which took a couple months of preparation. “We kept the format the same as it always is for River Daze,” he said. “We met up

and had an organizational meeting in which we planned all the races and different tasks that needed to be completed, along with who was going to complete them. When you have an event like this which has been in the community for so long, it is pretty standard to know what to expect, how to go forward, take on those tasks and make it happen.”

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Members of the High Level Stingrays Swim Club (Back row, left to right) Ronyn Kulscar, Kash Harder, Mackenzie Fordham, Isabella Peters, Harper Herrin and Coach Char Chretien. (Middle row, left to right) Dominic Harder, Lucas Peters, Mayson Petkus, Kemper Herrin and Makenna Martin. (Front row, left to right) Norah Petkus, Knox Herrin, Cody Mercer, Danelle St. Arnault and Adelyn Peters. (Very front) Mikayla Petkus. Photo courtesy of the High Level Stingrays.

Stingrays swimming
to a successful season

Jordan Maskell

High Level Stingrays Swim Club enjoyed a successful 2022 season, after having the previous three years of competition disrupted by wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. High Level Stingrays Communications

Coordinator Brandi Peters said the club’s regular season has concluded, with qualified swimmers now taking part in regional and provincial competitions. She said many new swimmers joined the Stingrays in 2022.

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County experiences multiple cases of anthrax in cattle

Jordan Maskell

Mackenzie County is warning cattle producers to be on the lookout for potential cases of anthrax, after multiple cases have impacted cattle in the region. The first case of anthrax in Mackenzie County was reported approximately mid-July 2022.

Anthrax is spore producing bacterium, which can be ingested by cattle from soil or contaminated water. The Government of Alberta recommends if producers suspect anthrax in their herd, to contact a veterinarian within 24 hours, in addition to removing

surviving animals from their pasture and monitoring them for potential illness. It is also recommended that the deceased, infected animals are not moved and that the bodies are covered to prevent scavenging. “Anthrax can lay dormant for more than 50 years,” said Mackenzie County Reeve

Josh Knelsen. “If you then have the perfect combination of moisture and heat, like if it is a very wet spring followed up by a lot of heat, then it happens. We had a breakout that wasn’t as bad in 2015, but then you kind of forgot about it because it has been seven years now. We’ve had fires, floods and everything else in between and all of a sudden this pops up.” “However, the encouraging part of it is, it is easy to deal with,” Knelsen continued. “There is a vaccine that has been available for a very long time and is very effective. From the herds I know about right now, all of them that have administered the vaccine and have not lost any further cattle. As of Wednesday, August 3, the ones that had implemented the vaccine were good to go.”

Knelsen said between 35 and 40 cattle have succumb to anthrax in the region, with another estimated 1,700 cattle exposed. “Those who have been exposed have been treated,” he explained. “When anthrax

comes, it comes fast and doesn’t mess around. There was one particular farmer that lost close to 20 animals, so most of the deaths were on one farm. But that farmer, as soon as he inoculated the rest of his herd, he didn’t lose any further animals. The vaccine is cheap, I believe it is under \$3, and what they recommend is giving the first dose, followed by a second dose two weeks later. To my understanding after a conversation with the provincial vet, six weeks after that, the cattle are safe and totally ok to be slaughtered for human consumption.” He said it is important farmers report mysterious deaths of their animals, as well as utilize the vaccine.

“If someone sees a healthy cow and all of a sudden it is laying dead, it is in the farmer’s best interest to have a veterinarian come out, do an assessment and determine the cause of death,” Knelsen said. “It is uncommon for a cow to suddenly die, although it does happen, even if it is a cow that seemed totally healthy. It is in the best interest of farmers to get them the treatment they need before they get it and it spreads throughout the herd, since it has the potential to wipeout an entire herd. It is in the farmers best interest to get a veterinarian out any time they suspect or have an unusual death on the farm.”

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Publisher’s Notes...

SCAM ALERT

Tom Mihaly

Recently a High Level resident called The Echo-Pioneer office to report that they received a telephone call from someone selling subscriptions to The Echo-Pioneer. This is a scam. Mackenzie Report Inc., the company that owns The Echo-Pioneer and Mile Zero-Banner Post newspapers, is NOT currently offering print or online subscription sales at any price. Nor will anyone in the High Level, Mackenzie Region, County of Northern Lights, MD of Peace, Grimshaw, Berwyn or Manning ever get a cold call from anyone except our High Level head office offering such. When we do have subscription sales, we advertise those

sales in our own newspapers. Such ads will contain a local telephone number for people to call us. We currently don’t sell online subscriptions either. The subscription pay wall on the mrnews.ca website was removed in April 2020 at the start of the pandemic. Since that time anyone can access the online version of The Echo-Pioneer and Mile Zero-Banner Post newspapers for free. If a person in our readership area receives a cold call from anyone but Mackenzie Report Inc. offering a subscription to this newspaper for a fee, please hang-up. Those who have already been scammed should call their credit card provider and report the fraud.

