

The **Clipper**

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Kipling FD responds to plane crash

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

Last week, the Kipling Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call involving a small aircraft.

In an interview with Grasslands News, Fire Chief Ken Nordal said, "A Mayday from a small aircraft located approximately three miles north of Kipling (on the Marsh Road) came in on Thursday at 4:42 pm. Several people who noticed the aircraft when it flew overhead indicated that it seemed to be 'running rough'.

"The plane successfully landed on the road and then veered off into the ditch. Apparently, none of the four occupants (who were from Manitoba) were seriously injured during the incident.

"But a passerby who had noticed the plane landing was on scene and transported those individuals to the hospital.

"Our members arrived on scene and dealt with some minor damage to the plane in order to prevent fuel leakage."

Nordal says that this is the second incident in-



KEN NORDAL | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Emergency landing

A small plane carrying four people made an emergency landing on a grid road north of Kipling where it eventually skidded into a ditch. None of the people on board the plane were seriously injured in the incident.

volving an aircraft that the Fire Department has responded to since he became a member.

"I can remember one other incident where a small plane was forced to make an emergency landing. The individuals in that case were injured, although none

of those injuries were life threatening.

"In this case, the pilot should be commended for choosing a road and being able to land - without any casualties. That is a person that I'd want to have piloting a plane!"

Bobby Vargo tournament enjoys another success

By **Connie Schwalm**
Grasslands News

For those involved with the 10th Annual Bobby Vargo Tournament, the weather during the July Long Weekend was as close to "perfect" as you are likely to have in Saskatchewan.

Austin Vargo (one of the tournament organizers and brother to the late Bobby) says that many people in Kipling and area took advantage of that near perfection to come out and enjoy the event.

"It was a great weekend - the weather cooperated with us! I really don't have a way to know exact numbers (as admission to the event is free). But I do know that the place was packed for the Home Run Derby and Calcutta on Friday night - which was great to see. And in general, the tournament was very well attended all three days."

However, for some like Makyla Stender and her family, the event is a very important, personal tradition...and a way to remember an old friend.

"My husband Marshall was Bobby's best friend. When Bobby passed away, it was very hard on him," said Stender. "So, when Bobby's parents and siblings decided to hold a slow-pitch tournament in honour of him, Marshall and Colby (Sproat), along with their families, have been involved with this from the beginning. It's something that we look forward to every year. Our twins are old enough now to understand who Bobby was and why this weekend is so important. So, Marshall has been talking to the twins a lot about 'Uncle Bobby' this year."

Stender notes that the tournament has also become very important for the community.

"When it first began, we had Lynn

(Bobby's mom) flipping burgers - a small bar - and a few teams. Now, we've raised well over \$140,000. Every cent of that goes back to the community. The tournament has helped a number of groups such as the Lions, Firefighters, the Kipling Royals Senior Men's Team and the Skating Club to do fundraising as well. So, it really has been a great gift for the community," said Stender.

In recognition of that gift, Stender says that it was decided that the ball diamonds in Kipling would be renamed, and a new sign for the ball diamonds would be erected.

"The ball diamonds were originally named the Lions Park. It was Colby's idea to rename the park in Bobby's honour. He approached the Lions Club and the Town. It was agreed that the ball diamonds would be renamed the Bobby Vargo Memorial Fields At Lions Park and that a new sign would be put up at

the entrance," Stender.

Austin Vargo points out that the cost of the new sign was covered - and it was put in place - before this year's tournament began.

"Our parents (Glen and Lynn Vargo) partnered with the Lions Club to cover the cost of the sign. So, none of the proceeds from the tournament went towards that. With the help of ReadyGo Solutions we were able to get the sign set up by 5 pm on Thursday - just in time for the start of the tournament," he said.

Vargo adds that the designation made a successful event even better.

"Although all of the numbers aren't in yet, I know that we had another great tournament this year. And it was really cool for our family and who knew Bobby to be able to welcome people to a ball park that is named in memory of him," said Vargo. See photos on page 12.



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