

LANIGAN ADVISOR

Vol. 43 No. 16

Monday, April 11, 2022

Lanigan, Saskatchewan

www.laniganadvisor.com

\$1.00

Communities looking for answers as local hospitals experiencing disruptions

■ Daniel Bushman

For a number of communities in Saskatchewan, including Lanigan and Watrous, over the past two years, the pandemic has taken its toll on the health care sector. With disruptions to emergency services, staff shortages, health care providers getting burnt out and overwhelmed, and longer wait times for appointments, many have become frustrated.

With a strain put on the health care system, as the 2022-23 Saskatchewan budget was unveiled in March, local MLA and Finance Minister Donna Harpauer indicated that there was a definite focus placed on health care. As more funding and programs were allocated in that portion of the budget, residents and health care providers at Lanigan and Watrous are hoping that means added help and the full resumption of emergency services.

In the case of Lanigan many are frustrated as emergency services have been shut down indefinitely. In April 2020, as part of a covid response plan, Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) announced emergency services would be suspended at the Lanigan Hospital after the facility was designated a temporary conversion to alternate level of care patients (ALC). Converting to an ALC site, emergency services were temporarily shut down May 8, 2020 and despite the province moving forward with a learning to live with covid approach earlier this year, emergency services in Lanigan remain closed. That has left Lanigan Mayor Tony Mycock extremely disappointed.

"There is a lot frustration because we don't know what is going on," said Mycock of the situation in Lanigan. "We are getting told that the hospital is going to open and not close down permanently but we don't have a timeline. We have heard previously that it will open at the end of the month but then with covid, it gets delayed again and again. We just want some clarity as to what is happening."

Wanting to offer some sort of services to the community, Mycock said the Town of Lanigan attempted to work with SHA representatives to allow for procedures to take place at the medical clinic in the community but were unable to move forward. "We have an aging population that want to stay here but they need health care and some people are having trouble getting to the city. This is impacting our whole region. We had nurses redeployed in Watrous and Humboldt but everyone is feeling the brunt of it and we know Watrous has been closed periodically. I think the biggest frustration is there is no answers."

Down the road in Watrous, during the pandemic there have been temporary disruptions to emergency services at the Watrous District Health Complex. That has meant people requiring emergency care have had to go elsewhere during those disruptions.

Like Mycock, Watrous Mayor John Gunderson has heard concerns from residents regarding the disruptions and noted he and council have been in regular communication with a representative from SHA in an effort to rectify the situation. Sharing the same concerns as those of residents, Gunderson said it is not just Watrous affected in the province, adding the



Wanting answers

Pictured above: Lanigan Mayor Tony Mycock joined members of the Official Opposition at the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan Apr. 6 to share about the current emergency service disruption in Lanigan.

The community has been without emergency services since May 2020 and Mycock is seeking answers as to when those services will be restored.

- photo used with permission

temporary disruptions in his community are largely due from staff shortages.

"Unfortunately in Watrous, they have very little casual staff, especially in the Registered Nurse position. What happens then is if someone who is scheduled to work, especially a night shift, calls in sick then there is no back up. When they don't have a back up they are not allowed to open the ER. We have stressed our concern over needing more staff to SHA. I've been on council 11 or 12 years and can't remember experiencing this problem until recently but I also understand it is not just us, it is province-wide."

The mayor, along with members of council first expressed their concerns to SHA months ago and indicated there are approximately 200,000 visitors who come to the area every year, mostly during the summer. Along with having an increase in the number of people to the area and the potential for disruptions to emergency services during that time, Gunderson said it is very worrisome. "We relayed that to SHA so that they are aware of it and how important it is for them to do whatever steps they can to ensure that we have little or no disruptions going forward."

In addition, Gunderson shared work is being done to see shorter wait times for appointments at the medical clinic in Watrous. "I think the pandemic has created some extra

stresses and changes in procedures at the clinic and that has led to people having to wait longer to see a doctor or nurse practitioner. Having said that, we recently had a meeting with SHA representatives and medical clinic providers and they are taking some steps to see more people on a daily and weekly basis. Hopefully that will reduce those wait times. We appreciate the work that they do and they are trying to do some things to eliminate longer wait times."

Understanding the added stresses and safety of those at the medical clinic during the pandemic, Gunderson wanted to encourage residents who do schedule regular appointments or need medication on a continual basis to try and be more proactive by calling earlier. "I understand if people wake up and feel awful and can't wait to get an appointment but for people taking regular medications and needing a prescription, perhaps calling earlier to ensure they get an appointment would help and then they will not be disappointed at the last minute."

To try and get a clear picture of the current situations in Lanigan and Watrous, the Lanigan Advisor reached out to SHA for an interview request, even providing them with a few weeks to respond. No one was available to be interviewed; however, SHA did provide the following statement regarding (see page three: **DISRUPTIONS**)

2021 Jansen Volunteer of the Year named

■ submitted by
the Village of Jansen

The following is the nomination letter received by the Village of Jansen from a pair of Jansen residents for the 2021 Jansen Volunteer of the Year recipients, Elmer and Linda Kinzel.

Last year, 2021, was the 10th year our community has recognized a community member, or members, as the community's "Volunteer of the Year". Over the years, Jansen has recognized many dedicated community volunteers, people who have made our community a better place to live, people who, for no reward other than personal satisfaction, have shared their talents and time for the benefit of others.

This year's recipients certainly follow those of the past in volunteering to make Jansen a better community. These two have for many years been involved in most organizations and activities within our community. They have given, and continue to give, their time willingly.

What haven't Elmer and Linda been involved in? That is a difficult question.

Here are some examples of their volunteerism:

Linda was active in the Jansen Ladies Curling Club many years ago, and she was a dedicated, long-time

member of the Community Ladies Club, holding many of the executive positions including president for seven years! She was a member of the Jansen Kinette Club since 1984, again taking several executive positions during her years of service. Linda was a member of Jansen Playschool Organization when the boys were little and served on the local Library Board as well as the Local Housing Board during its existence.

She assisted in the development of the Jansen and District History Book - Prairie Rose Memories - Volume I & II in 1992 as well as Volume III in 2017.

Linda was the secretary of the previous edition of The Jansen Jets Senior Hockey Club, during Elmer's tenure with the team, and she continues to serve the current Jansen Jets Hockey Club, as secretary/treasurer, now with her boys involved. She has served on many of the committees who were involved in making the Jansen Dinner Theaters so enjoyable and successful and the Canada Day Committee, setting up, cleaning up, serving cake and when required, serving as Parade Marshall! She is secretary/treasurer of Jansen's Fire Department and is a driving force with the Community Bloomers group.

Linda also serves on the Lutheran Church Council. In fact, she is starting her second three-year term this year! Oh, and did I mention that Linda is one of two of our trained "First Responders" in Jansen since 1998! "No" is not part of Linda's vocabulary, just "let's get it done".

Ready, willing, and available, Linda has been an outstanding volunteer for many, many years.

Elmer, Linda's quieter half, has also had the community at heart for many years. He was an active member of the Rink Board during its years of existence and was involved in Minor Hockey in several capacities during the participation of Corey and Sandy. Elmer served on the Credit Union Board for several years. He still is a member of the Jansen and District Fire Department. Elmer was a charter member of the Kinsmen Club, and as far as anyone remembers has been the Bar Chairman, a task that he has expanded for many other community functions such as weddings, anniversaries, and any other community parties that have taken place in our community.

Elmer also sits on the Canada Day committee in charge of - you guessed it, the bar. Elmer has served the community as a Town Councillor, a po-



Congratulations to Linda and Elmer Kinzel, awarded the Jansen Volunteer of the Year for 2021.

- photo used with permission

sition he has held for the past 20 years. This service involves being a part of many sub-committees as well. Although Elmer is not a Bloomer, he is a great Bloomer supporter, volunteering his time and equipment for many of the Bloomer projects, including putting up and taking down the Christmas trees

and storing them. One thing about Elmer, he rarely leaves the community, so he is always available. Get him a message and whatever you need, it will be done, especially when a tractor or bigger equipment is needed.

We know there are some things we missed listing, our memories don't go

back so far, but I think we can agree that their list of credits is outstanding. We are lucky in Jansen to have an abundance of community minded people who still, in spite of our size, show a determination and spirit to make Jansen a great place to live.

Elmer and Linda's pride in Jansen and willingness to serve has not diminished over their long tenure here. They do not look for recognition or reward, they do it for love of Jansen and we thank them for that!

"CONGRATULATIONS" to this year's recipients, and so well deserved, Linda and Elmer Kinzel.

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We can make arrangements to have flowers delivered to the hospital and lodge, as well as continuing funeral work with Fotheringham-McDougall. Call for more information or to place your order.



5 Downing Drive, Lanigan, SK

(from front page: **DISRUPTION**)

the status of services: At this time, the Saskatchewan Health Authority is unable to resume normal emergency operations in Lanigan due to staffing vacancies. Staffing is vital to maintaining safe care in any health care setting.

Watrous is operating at this time, but there may still be occasional, unplanned service disruptions due to unexpected human resource gaps.

SHA went on to state that

on Mar. 23, the Government of Saskatchewan announced its 2022-'23 budget including the plan to establish a new and independent agency dedicated to the recruitment and retention of health human resources. Funding is targeting the recruitment of health care workers to fill critical and hard-to-fill positions as well as physician recruitment with a particular focus on rural areas.

Looking for concrete

answers to see their local health care staff helped and services fully restored, this past week both Mycock and Gunderson along with members of each respective council attended the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) convention in Regina. The pair expressed if the opportunity came up, they would be lobbying government during the convention to have services at their facilities fully restored.

Heading into the SUMA convention, Mycock sent

out a letter on behalf of the community to local MLA Donna Harpauer, the Minister of Health Paul Merriman and Official Opposition Health Critic Vicki Mowat. "Before we sent the letter out we shared it with our local RMs and with Nutrien and BHP because they are big stakeholders in what is happening in this area. I know the hospital is important to them as well and we are trying to do whatever we can to have our hospital fully staffed again."

After the letter was

emailed, Mycock said Mowat reached out to him Apr. 5 and after meeting during the SUMA convention, Mycock was invited to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan Wednesday afternoon to speak with members of the media. After sharing his concerns, during Question Period Apr. 6, the Leader of the Opposition, Ryan Meili brought up the situation, asking the premier if something will change.

Premier Scott Moe highlighted a four point plan

within the provincial budget targeted at rural health and the effort being made to try and restore services in rural centres.

Mowat then stood up seeking why the temporary closures have not been restored in Lanigan after being shut down for two years. She was followed by Saskatchewan Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health, Everett Hindley who noted a meeting (see page nine):

DISRUPTION

RCMP Report

Illicit drugs and weapons seized after search warrant executed

On Mar. 30, 2022, Greenwater RCMP and Saskatchewan RCMP's Crime Reduction Team (CRT) and Warrant Enforcement Suppression Team (WEST) executed a search warrant at a residence in Archerwill. The search warrant was obtained after investigation determined evidence of drug trafficking at the residence.

Officers located and seized the following items from the residence: 15 grams of methamphetamine; approximately 20 tabs of LSD; OxyContin and other assorted pills; syringes filled with suspected illicit drugs; an illegally-modified firearm; ammunition; a conducted energy weapon; a machete, butterfly knife and other weapons; and a sum of cash.

Holly Schweitzer of Archerwill was arrested and charged with single counts of: possession for the purpose of trafficking (methamphetamine), Section 5(2), Controlled Drugs and Substances Act; possession of cannabis for the purpose of selling, Section 10(2), Cannabis Act; possession of weapon for a dangerous purpose, Section 88(1), Criminal Code; unlicensed possession of a loaded prohibited weapon with readily accessible ammunition, Section 95(2), Criminal Code; fail to comply with undertaking, Section 145(4)(a), Criminal Code; and three counts, unlicensed possession of a prohibited weapon, Section 91(3), Criminal Code.

Rudi Bethel of Bjorkdale was arrested and charged with: one count, possession (methamphetamine), Section 4(1), Controlled Drugs and Substances Act; four counts, fail to comply with release order condition, Section 145(5), Criminal Code; and one count, possession of the proceeds of crime, Section 354(1)(a), Criminal Code.

Bethel was also arrested on an outstanding warrant from the Tisdale RCMP.

The investigation is ongoing at this time.

"Saskatchewan RCMP is committed to keeping illegal drugs and weapons out of our communities. This

investigation is an example of excellent collaboration between the local RCMP detachment and our specialized Saskatchewan RCMP teams," said Insp. Glenn Church, officer in charge of the Saskatchewan RCMP's new Saskatchewan Enforcement Response Team (SERT). "It demonstrates to those thinking they can introduce these dangerous goods into our communities that we won't tolerate it."

The Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety's Safer Neighbourhoods and Communities Investigation Unit assisted with this investigation.

Ahtahkakoop RCMP investigating theft of hockey memorabilia

On Apr. 3, 2022 Ahtahkakoop RCMP received a report of a theft. Items were reported stolen sometime between November 2021 and March 2022 from a rural yard where they were being temporarily stored and include a large collection of hockey memorabilia. At this time the investigation is ongoing and anyone with information about this theft is asked to please contact Ahtahkakoop RCMP at 306-468-2969 or call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477.

RCMP ask memorabilia collectors to please read the list of items reported stolen below. If you purchased Wayne Gretzky memorabilia via an online "buy and sell" site since as early as November 2021 and the transaction is believed to have been suspicious in nature, please report it to police.

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Some of the items reported stolen include: 19 Wayne Gretzky jerseys, autographed; large Wayne Gretzky pictures and large painting, all autographed; autographed sticks; autographed pucks all in display cases; close to 10,000 cards including 2,200 of Wayne Gretzky, some autographed and one framed Gretzky Rookie Card PSA 8; 1979 Mattel dolls still in boxes; figurines, some autographed; Team Canada autographed photos among other items.

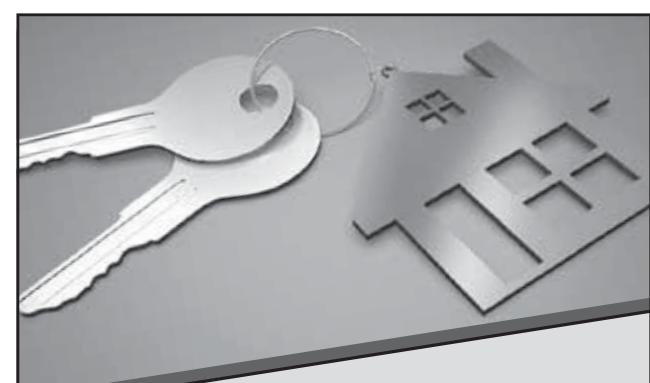
RCMP investigating fatal pedestrian vehicle collision

On Apr. 3, 2022 at approximately 9:50 p.m., Punnichy RCMP received a report of a collision on George Gordon First Nation.

Investigation determined that a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle, which did not remain at the scene. The victim, a 52-year-old female from George Gordon First Nation, was transported to hospital, where she passed away. Her family has been notified.

Punnichy RCMP have located the vehicle involved. No arrests have been made and Punnichy RCMP continue to investigate with the assistance of a Saskatchewan RCMP Collision Reconstructionist as well as the Regina and Yorkton Provincial General Investigation Sections and Yorkton Forensic Identification Services.

Anyone with information should call the Punnichy RCMP at 306-835-5200.



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Assante
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

OPINIONS AND COMMUNITY NEWS

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Jansen

Louise Shannon

April showers bring May flowers or at least clean things up. The library did Ukrainian Easter eggs for a couple of days. I appreciate Val Koshinsky and the home care nurses for helping get me and others back to health.

A bridal shower will be held for Stephanie Lynch at the Haliburton Hall south of Jansen.

Angel Liebrecht is taking her piano students to the music festival in Lanigan Apr. 25 to May 3.

Easter is coming up and I hope everyone has a good one.

Happy anniversary to Barry and Donna Krause.

Happy birthday to Nicole Kinzel, Marlon Orchard and Tyler Lynch.

Plunkett

Deloris Wilson (Sutherland) • 306-944-4852

The men's world curling was held in Las Vegas. The curling fans have been busy as the women's world curling was on just before that.

Dave and Lyla Muench accompanied their daughter and husband Gary to Cuba for a week this spring.

It was nice hearing from Gary and Frances Grisdale of Porcupine Plain who are enjoying hot weather. They will head home soon to find our weather a bit cooler.

We recently joined Marge Haynes and her family at No.

2 junction for lunch.

Inez Rosenberger of Lanigan crocheted a number of lovely squares for our blankets and are being put together by the ladies and sent to Saskatoon for those in need.

Visiting us recently were Rosanne Mattson of Kelowna and her sister Linda of Saskatoon.

Also here visiting us was Elaine Anderson. We enjoyed a cup of tea.

Anyone having any news please phone me at 306-944-4852. Thank you.

Solutions and Substitutions



— tips from Reena Nerbas

per. Add more salt to taste. Store in fridge for up to two weeks.

Dear Reena,

I am tired of purchasing cheap toe nail clippers that do not work properly. Please advise me on how to properly choose a good pair of clippers. Glenda

Dear Glenda,

When it comes to nail clippers price is a factor for quality. Choose clippers \$10 to \$20; it sounds like a lot, but chances are you will never again need to purchase them. Whenever possible hold clippers before buying. The clippers should be easy to grip preferably with dual finger design, open and close with little effort and display the word rustproof on the packaging. A variety of nail clippers are specifically designed for those suffering with arthritis and another design for infants. Some clippers have an adjustable handle suitable for infants and adults.

Dear Reena,

Is it possible to safely put a small discoloured lamp shade in the dishwasher? I like the lamp and cannot find a

Dear Reena,

Can you please provide me with a delicious recipe for homemade caesar salad dressing? Ben

Dear Ben,

Into a bowl combine the following ingredients: two minced garlic cloves, one teaspoon anchovy paste (optional), two tablespoons lemon juice (fresh or bottled), one teaspoon Dijon mustard, one teaspoon Worcestershire sauce, one cup mayonnaise, one-half cup grated Parmesan cheese, one-quarter teaspoon salt, one-quarter teaspoon pepper.

Add more salt to taste. Store in fridge for up to two weeks.

new shade that fits. Thank you. Kate

Dear Kate,

Care of the lampshade depends on the textile. A glass lampshade, for example, may clean well on the top rack of the dishwasher. Use vinegar only instead of dishwasher detergent because the bleach in detergent may discolour the lampshade. Most fabric lampshades may be vacuumed or cleaned using a lint roller. Use your bathtub to care for washable lampshades, that way you can monitor any discolouration.

Feedback from clever contributor

Re: stuck jar lid

Karrie asked you about easy ways to open a stuck jar lid. A colleague of mine passed along this tip which has rarely failed me. Place a wide rubber band (the kind mail carriers use or the ones that hold veggies like asparagus in bundles) around the lid and then try to unscrew it. Works almost every time! Colette

Who knows what your nose knows?

• Whenever I have a cold, I rub the bottom of my nose with lip balm so that my nose does not become sore. I label that one lip balm with my name and the word 'sick' on it. Submitted by: Betsy

• My children used to waste an entire box of tissues in one day when they had a cold. Now I purchase the softest roll of toilet paper that I can find and they use one or two sheets at a time. Their nose does not become sore from rubbing and we are not wasting as much. Submitted by: Manfred

• I cut up an old, soft bedsheet and made it into hankies for my husband and I to use whenever we have a cold. Wash in hot water. Submitted by: Alex

Note: Every user assumes all risks of injury or damage resulting from the implementation of any suggestions in this column. Test all products on an inconspicuous area first.

Reena Nerbas is a popular motivational presenter for large and small groups; check out her website: reena.ca. Ask a question or share a tip at reena.ca

Ministerial Message

Neutrality is not an option!

■ by Dennis Kresier, Layperson Last Mountain Anglican Parish

"He who is not with Me, is against Me," were the words that our Lord Jesus Christ reiterated throughout His ministry here on earth. As Easter

is fast approaching once again, we are reminded of the tremendous influence this has, and should have on our lives. The bottom line is that God

was in Christ reconciling the world back to Himself. Easter was God's idea, not ours. God has always desired to have fellowship with His creation, and that includes all of us. Millions have responded but millions still have not. Easter is a very deciding and dividing event, which we cannot ignore. It is a matter of life and death in our meagre and rebellious lives. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of our sins. Jesus was our sacrificial lamb. We cannot remain NEUTRAL in our thoughts of, or our response to His great benevolence!! We have a serious choice to make! This is the essence of Easter. The hymn writer best summed it up when he wrote these words, "Jesus is standing

in Pilate's hall, friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all. Hearken what means the sudden call- 'what will you do with Jesus?' What will you do with Jesus? NEUTRAL you cannot be. Someday your soul will be asking- "What will HE do with me?" There is no excuse for delaying, neglecting, or denying a response to this timely question. "What will you do with Jesus?" No one else can make this decision for you- it is a personal one- LIFE or DEATH hang in the balance. Choose wisely without delay. We all must stand before the seat of judgment someday. Our choices today determine our FINAL DESTINY. We cannot remain NEUTRAL- that is not an option!

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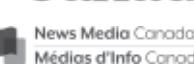
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Published Monday • 48 issues per year

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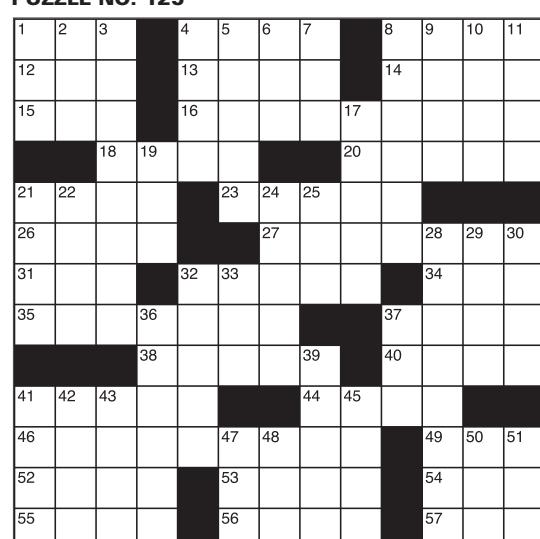
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- 4. Walking rhythm
- 8. Some vipers
- 12. Cured salmon
- 13. Female singer
- 14. Dog's pest
- 15. Prune
- 16. Tacky
- 18. Impolite look
- 20. Extinct birds
- 21. Scram!
- 23. Craze
- 26. Shredded
- 27. Like some popcorn
- 31. Sight in a Tarzan flick
- 32. Dazes
- 34. Dead ____ Scrolls
- 35. Marks down
- 37. Examine
- 38. Window components
- 40. Listen!
- 41. More strange
- 44. Ship bottom
- 46. Common pet:
- 49. Fire residue
- 52. Pore over
- 53. Aircraft part
- 54. Make a knot
- 55. Room extensions
- 56. Young woman
- 57. Make a mistake
- 58. "____ Not 2 wds."
- 59. Unusual"
- 60. Kindergartner
- 61. Cruising
- 62. Snow vehicle
- 63. Mexican coin
- 64. Back talk

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32. Dazes 34. Dead ____ Scrolls

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59. Unusual"

60. Kindergartner

61. Cruising

62. Snow vehicle

63. Mexican coin

64. Back talk

DOWN

32. Dazes

34. Dead ____ Scrolls

35. Marks down

37. Examine

38. Window components

40. Listen!

41. More strange

44. Ship bottom

46. Common pet:

49. Fire residue

52. Pore over

53. Aircraft part

54. Make a knot

55. Room extensions

56. Young woman

57. Make a mistake

58. "____ Not 2 wds."

59. Unusual"

60. Kindergartner

61. Cruising

62. Snow vehicle

63. Mexican coin

64. Back talk

FOR ANSWERS
TO SUDOKU AND
CROSSWORD,
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THIS WEEK'S
ANSWERS
TO SUDOKU AND
CROSSWORD

Look What's Cooking by Laura Novecosky

Omelette in a Bowl

Ingredients:

Spray inside of heat proof small bowl. Add the following to the bowl using as many of the add ins as you like.

2 beaten eggs

red pepper

spinach

finely chopped green onion

1 tbsp. milk or cream

salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Microwave one minute on high, stir, and cook another 30 seconds or so. I now add some finely shredded cheese, maybe a couple of tablespoons. Let rest in microwave about a minute. Easy quick breakfast or brunch.

Viscount

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

On Wednesday, Mar. 30, the Blankets for Canada ladies met at the Viscount library. There were three of us joining squares together and in comes Lynette Clavelle to join us for the afternoon to put together squares and share stories. We had a busy and enjoyable afternoon. Anyone can join us Wednesday afternoons at the Viscount library.

Best wishes to anyone who might be under the weather. I hope you feel better soon. Thank you to all who helped make this week's Viscount news possible. Have a great week stay warm, stay safe and enjoy all that you can.

Legion Happenings Mar. 30, 2022 submitted by Loa Titman

Viscount Legion #271 is pleased to announce the advanced winners from the poster and literary contest held last November. We had seven students, from Viscount and Colonsay Schools, in seven different categories that moved up from the Branch level. All seven advanced to Zone, then one went onto District level. For the first time ever, we have had a student progress to the Provincial level!

Here are the winners from Viscount branch: Kathy Wang from Colonsay School took first place Primary Poster - colour at Zone, at District and at Provincial, Yiwen (Wendy) Wang of Colonsay School placed second Intermediate Poster - colour, Zone level, Amber Wardell placed second in Primary Poster - black and white, Zone level, Madden Raymond placed second

in Junior Poster - black and white, Zone level, Paetyn Leffler placed first in Junior Poem, Zone level and third place Junior Poster - colour, Zone level, Porter Lowe placed second in Intermediate Poem, Zone level, and Skye Harriman placed second Intermediate Poster - black and white, Zone level.

All of the students received a certificate for each of the categories in which they won. Congratulations to all the students. The students were super excited to have their first assemblies at both Viscount and Colonsay schools.

In other legion news, we will sponsor one student from either Colonsay or Viscount School with \$300 towards the upcoming provincial track and field summer camp held at Regina in July. For students wishing to apply, June 1 is our cut-off for applications. Ask for applications at your respective schools.



Viscount Legion - Colonsay School Zone, District and Provincial winners. Back row (left to right): Schwalm, and Ed Morelli. Front row (left to right): Wendy Wang, Zone winner and Kathy Wang, Zone, District and Provincial winner.



Viscount Legion - Viscount School Zone winners. Back row (left to right): Ken Schwalm, Sargent at Arms John Methven, Loa Titman, and Ed Morelli. Front row (left to right): Porter Lowe, Skye Harriman, Paetyn Leffler, Madden Raymond, and Amber Wardell.

- photos submitted by Loa Titman

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U18 East Central Fillies take provincial title

■ **Daniel Bushman**

It was the perfect ending to an unknown beginning as the U18 East Central Fillies galloped to a provincial championship on home ice. With a 14-4-2 record the team not only finished at the top of the North standings but swept a pair of clubs in the post-season before beating Milestone in game three of the Female U18 A provincial final.

Head coach of the U18 East Central Fillies Murray Ehlert said it was an incredible run to the championship, one that almost did not happen. "The season kicked off with us not knowing if there would be enough kids to make a team. We talked to the U15 East Central coaches and asked if we could borrow some of their players. They agreed so we figured we could make a team."

With representation from Lanigan, LeRoy, Nokomis, Watson, Wadena, St. Brieux, Humboldt, Lake Lenore, St. Gregor, Bruno, Archerwill, and Cudworth, the U18 contingent headed to Regina for its first game. "We managed to win it and from then on we only lost four games all year."

Competitive throughout

the regular season with the team's biggest win 18-1 and largest loss by just four goals, Ehlert felt the club had a pretty decent year while utilizing members of the U15 Fillies. Following the regular season, the U18 East Central Fillies received an opening round bye before facing a pair of teams from Saskatoon. In those matchups, Ehlert said his team kicked it into high gear allowing just three goals between the two series. "We allowed three goals in one game and then had three consecutive shutouts, winning both of the best of three series rounds. Our style was to skate hard and that helped us advance to the final against Milestone."

Facing a tough opponent out of Milestone, a team Ehlert noted was the only one to sweep the season series between the two clubs, the Fillies were able to ride a wave of momentum into game one Mar. 24. "The first game in LeRoy was 3-2 for us. It was a very close game and it could have gone either way."

Looking to wrap up the championship on the road Mar. 25, Ehlert said the team was in tough right from the drop of the puck. "We went down there for game two

and they got a quick lead. That rink is very hard to play in and they beat us 5-1."

With the series tied up at one, the teams returned to LeRoy for a deciding third game Mar. 27. In that contest, much like the first, the East Central Fillies were able to win a close one 3-2. Milestone took a 1-0 lead through 20 minutes before Hadley Braun and Nicole Hackl notched a pair in the second. With a second marker by Milestone in period two, teams headed into the third tied. In the final frame, East Central's Meikka Ehlert scored with 9:38 remaining and that would be the winner as netminder Allie Edwards kept the puck out of the net the rest of the way and the Fillies took the title.

"It was great to win it at home. Throughout the season we had scoring up and down our lineup and that really helped."

Having players and coaches representing all areas of east central Saskatchewan, Ehlert said it was pretty unique to be able to accomplish the feat. "We were essentially the entire east central area. The girls all played in the East Central Minor Hockey League growing up and would play



The Female U18 A Provincial champion, the U18 East Central Fillies. Pictured back row (left to right): Murray Braun, Danelle Millar, Ashley Baker, Kaci Davies, Maya Mortenson, Bryan Politeski, Paige Haskey, Abigail Martin, Murray Ehlert, McKenna Britz, Marrissa Holcomb, Quinn Olsen, Jayda Braun, Hadley Braun, and Allie Edwards.

Front row (left to right): Bryar Renwick, Kaistyn Ehlert, Kylan Hamel, Ava Politeski, Nicole Hackl, and Meikka Ehlert.

- photo used with permission

against each other. I told my daughters if they played long enough they would eventually play together with some of these girls. Now they have that chance and it is a neat mix of everybody."

Ehlert said this is the first title for the contingent and come next year, the U18 Fillies are only losing one player to graduation. "We will have a strong team again next year. They had fun

this season and are looking forward to another year."

On the team this year included: Jayda Braun (Nokomis), Abigail Martin (Humboldt), Ava Politeski (Lake Lenore), Meikka Ehlert (Watson), Marissa Holcomb (Humboldt), McKenna Britz (St. Gregor), Quinn Olson (Wadena), Ashley Baker (Wadena), Nicole Hackl (Cudworth), Paige Haskey (Wadena), Kylan Hamel (Archerwill), Allie Edwards (Bruno) and U15 Affiliated Players were Kaistyn Ehlert (Watson), Hadley Braun (Nokomis), Maya Mortenson (Humboldt), Bryar Renwick (Lanigan), and Kaycee Davies (St. Brieux). Joining head coach Murray Ehlert (Watson) was Brian Politeski (Lake Lenore), Murray Braun (Nokomis) and Danelle Millar (LeRoy).

Next Gen Ag mentorship program welcomes new group

■ **media release**

The Canadian Western Agribition's (CWA) Next Gen Agriculture Mentorship Program welcomes the newest group of agriculture leaders.

"Young Canadians are the ones who will shape the future of agriculture, and we all benefit from having them learn from seasoned mentors," said Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "With the Next Gen Program, our government is supporting knowledge transfer to get the next generation of farmers on the right track toward successful careers."

"The Next Gen Agriculture Mentorship Program plays an important role in the sustainability of the agriculture sector," said Agriculture Minister David Marit. "Through this mentorship, bright, young leaders can develop the essential skills and tools to advance their careers and, ultimately, advance the industry. Congratulations to the

mentees and thank you to the mentors for your guidance."

The successful mentees and mentors chosen to participate in this intake are:

- Kaitlyn Kitzan, paired with Dale Leftwich
- David MacTaggart, paired with William Greuel
- Erika Stewart, paired with Mike Sidoryk
- Kristin Thompson, paired with Tara Davidson
- Brooke Dudley, paired with Alison Weaver
- Chelsey Mitchell, paired with Megz Reynolds
- Morgan Heidecker, paired with Sheldon Kyle
- Rena Leier, paired with Clinton Monchuk

The program matches eight young leaders in the agriculture industry with experienced professionals for an 18-month mentorship where they gain skills and experiences to advance their careers. Mentees gain industry knowledge, board and governance training, business education and networking opportunities that align with their existing skills, interests and desired

outcomes.

Established in 2019, the program is entering its fourth cycle. The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan committed \$100,000 to support this intake of mentees.

"CWA remains a proud partner in building the future of agriculture with this program," CWA President Chris Lees said. "The quality of the applicants and the dedication of mentors show how truly important and how bright the future of our industry really is."

The Next Gen Agriculture Mentorship Program is funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion commitment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments that supports Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products sectors. This includes a \$2 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 percent federally and 40 percent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

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(from page three: **DISRUPTIONS**)

would be set up with Mycock to further discuss restoring resources to Lanigan.

In a heated exchange, Mowat suggested that actions speak louder than words and the community has grown tired of waiting. The premier replied, speaking directly to representatives from Lanigan and Jansen in attendance, sharing the past two years during the pandemic have been very challenging in the health care sector. He noted the government is committed to reopening the rural facilities as quickly as they are able.

After time spent at the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, Mycock felt his message was heard. "We stressed the whole time during this that it is not just Lanigan but the surrounding communities and RMs. I also referenced Watrous having temporary disruptions and our doctors are going to Watrous and Humboldt to help. It is not just Lanigan but the region so I think we definitely got some attention from the discussion and are hopeful for a meeting."

According to a release issued by the province's Official Opposition, Mycock and Gunderson were not the only two mayors in attendance at the SUMA convention hoping for some answers relating to health care. With the concerns being raised, Meili and Critic for Municipalities Carla Beck called on the government to address the provincial health system.

"Saskatchewan's hometowns have struggled with chronic disruptions to care for years," Meili said.

With communities across the province impacted by service disruptions, Beck said it has made those in need travel further for emergency care. "Today alone, leaders from Kamsack, Canora, Herbert, Broadview, Biggar, Porcupine Plain, Preeceville, Wilkie, Lanigan, Esterhazy are dealing with closures. The future vibrancy and growth of our communities hinges on health care, and your access to that health care shouldn't be determined by your postal code."

Reaching out to the Ministry of Health in hopes of getting an interview related to both facilities in Watrous and Lanigan, the Lanigan Advisor was able to speak with Saskatchewan Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health, Everett Hindley.

Understanding there is disappointment around the province in rural centres that have been experiencing disruptions, Hindley said, "For us as a government, this is a priority for us to get things back on track in these communities. We have had a couple of years where COVID-19 and the pandemic has been at the forefront and we have had some of these issues that pre-exist that and we have to address them."

As part of that plan to address the situation, Hindley pointed to the 2022-23 budget and new programs and funding stemming from that. With a four point plan focused on rural communities, as part of that he indicated the province is creating a new human health resources agency solely focused on recruitment and retention for health care professionals.

"It is more than just doctors that we are in need of right now," explained Hindley. "We might need RNs, LPNs, we might need lab tech workers or continuing care aides or any number of health care worker designations that are causing us some concern and causing some disruptions in a number

of communities around the province. That new health care human resources agency will be dedicated towards the recruitment and retention of resources."

The second part of the four point plan noted by Harpauer after unveiling the budget is a relocation incentive program aimed at recruiting a minimum of 300 health care professionals from the Philippines over two years with 150 this year to help with immediate pressure.

The third part of the plan focuses on accelerating and expanding some programs like the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (SIIPA) which Harpauer shared will aggressively recruit foreign doctors to rural communities.

The fourth portion of the plan included expanding nurse training seats at post-secondary institutions by 150 seats.

In addition, Hindley indicated resources have also been dedicated to 27 communities to help stabilize EMS, some of which is being allocated to the community of Imperial. With an announcement last week naming the 27 communities which included Imperial, \$7.3 million in funding will add 70.7 full-time equivalent positions and address critical priority areas across the province. Along with that, \$653,000 is being used to expand community paramedicine to rural and northern communities by adding three additional full-time positions and covering training costs to further enhance and stabilize available supports. One of those positions will be among Wynyard, Wadena and Wakaw, and potentially other locations in the area.

"It is really an all hands on deck approach here to try and restore services in a number of rural communities including Lanigan and Watrous to the levels that they should be at," said Hindley.

After tabling the budget in March and with funding being injected into health care, Harpauer said, "I am quite happy with what we are doing in health care because it is very serious in my mind of how both Lanigan and Watrous are struggling to get those health care professionals to come to our communities and work there. I think that this focus recruitment for rural Saskatchewan is going to be critical."

When asked if the facilities in Lanigan and Watrous will remain open despite all of the disruptions they have experienced during the pandemic, Harpauer said, "The premier has committed that we have no intentions to close those facilities. We are going to put in every effort we can to restaff those facilities."

As for when an increase in staffing levels might occur at both, Hindley said, "We are committed to doing everything we can as a government to help get these communities staffed back up and pushing our partners at SHA and through the ministry to do that as quickly as possible and work with our communities."

When pressed specifically about the situation in Lanigan, noting that the province is now moving to a learn to live with covid approach as opposed to keeping its readiness plan that had Lanigan's emergency services halted in the first place, Hindley said, "We know that this is a priority for that community and we want to be able to resume normal emergency operations in Lanigan and we have to have the appropriate number of staff there. We have to fill the vacancies that are existing there right now so that we can properly reopen Lanigan and restore normal emergency

operations there to where they need to be."

Over the last number of months and throughout the pandemic, Hindley acknowledged the province has had to redeploy health care workers from one community to another to help stabilize services. But as the province transitions to a phase of living with covid, he added staff who have been redeployed are now being sent back to their home communities. "We have a number of instances where that has already happened and service has been restored in those rural communities. That being said, in the case of Lanigan, we know we have some staffing vacancies that we have to address and that is a priority for me as the minister and for us as a government to make sure that we do anything and everything that we can to resume normal emergency operations in Lanigan."

As for Watrous, Hindley understands there has been temporary disruptions and services at the hospital due to staffing shortages. Explaining the funding and new programs that were included within the provincial budget, the minister said, "The new human health resources agency will be focused on trying to address and find both short-term but also long-term solutions to some of these challenges in the communities where we are faced with these issues in the province and that would include Lanigan and Watrous."

Asked again if Hindley would know when both facilities could see a full resumption of services and added staff, he said it is definitely a priority. "It is not easy when your local hospital or health care centre has had a temporary service disruption and that can lead to some uncertainty. I am grateful for their patience but I want the people of the Lanigan and Watrous areas to know this is a priority."

Understanding the stresses and additional demands that staff in Watrous have been under during the pandemic, Gunderson said, "We are very appreciative of our front line workers, in particular in health care. The job that they do, especially in the last couple of years during the pandemic, we acknowledge it is a very stressful time. We are very thankful that we do have the facility we have and that we have people doing their best to provide the services to us."

Like Gunderson, Mycock has been grateful for all the work done by those within health care in his community. "I can't say enough about our health care workers. We have had people redeployed and have to drive to different communities to keep doing what they can for the health care system. Our doctors and nurses have been great through all this but we know across the province there has been burnout and people leaving the profession and that has created holes. We also really appreciate our Lanigan and District Ambulance Association. They have been a big part of helping us, transporting people to where they need to go in emergency situations. If it was not for BHP's financial support in helping with costs, I am not sure where we would be right now because anyone who needs emergency care needs to be transported elsewhere."

With both mayors sharing that they are trying to do what they can to help their local facilities return to full staffing levels, Mycock said, "I want everybody to know we are all doing our part, our elected officials in the RMs, our town council, we are trying to do what we can and get answers. We want the same thing as everybody else and we want what's best for everybody."

NOTICES AND CLASSIFIEDS

THANK YOU

Jeffrey Dennis Lutz

(Apr. 29, 1962 - Nov. 11, 2020)

The funeral for Jeff took place at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Winnipeg, Man. on Sat., Apr. 9. Thank you to family, relatives and friends who continue to support and comfort us and share our grief.

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COMING EVENTS

Why: Relief for Ukraine Fundraiser. **What:** 'Canadian' Ukrainian perogie, cabbage roll and sausage supper. **Where:** Jansen Community Centre. **When:** Apr. 29, 2022, 5 to 7 p.m. **Who:** All who want to help. Adults \$20, 10 and under \$10. More info to follow./16-3c

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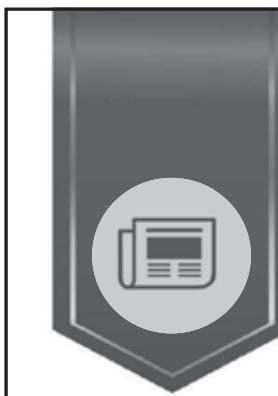
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Siblings find success on the ski hill

■ **Daniel Bushman**

Not only has skiing provided a rush of adrenaline and the unique opportunity to learn new skills, but for a pair of local athletes, the love for the slopes has developed into a passion that continues to grow.

Xander and Tamia Kiefer who live near Lanigan have been skiing for Qu'Appelle Valley Ski Club (QVSC) out of Mission Ridge. Training every Thursday evening and Saturday when there is snow, the siblings have been competing in provincial Slalom events over the past few years.

Hitting the slopes and taking part in Slalom, the lone competitive skiing category offered in Saskatchewan, despite only being able to participate in the singular discipline, it has not stopped Xander and Tamia from excelling at the sport.

Doing their best to navigate through the pandemic which halted events over the past year and a half, when the guidelines were lifted in Saskatchewan,

Xander, who skis in U14 and Tamia, who competes in U12 took full advantage.

Registering in high-performance events called Sask. Cup Races, Xander and Tamia's mom Dixie explained the kids entered three main races during the season with each consisting of two or three days of competition. This year as the season neared an end, during the weekend of Mar. 11, 12 and 13, the duo skied at Timber Ridge, north of Prince Albert in the Sask. Cup finals. Following the final race, results were tabulated from the 2021-22 season's races and overall results were provided.

"The top five kids in each gender and age category are acknowledged/awarded. My kids both earned fifth overall in their respective age categories."

In addition to the final Sask. Cup event, Kiefer said throughout the season Tamia took in five Saskatchewan races while Xander entered three. Xander also headed east to compete in two races at Asessippi in Manitoba. "In Asessippi you can ski both



Slalom and Giant Slalom. Xander took fifth place in the Manitoba Cup provincials in



the Slalom event."

Achieving top five finishes in Saskatchewan and then



Xander and Tamia Kiefer not only enjoyed this past winter but were able to take advantage of all the snow. Skiing for the Qu'Appelle Valley Ski Club out of Mission Ridge, the siblings trained every Thursday and Saturday evenings throughout the winter. Both athletes took part in Slalom competitions this season and found success while doing so.

- photos submitted

another top five for Xander in Manitoba, despite dealing with the pandemic, Dixie felt

this past season was a success for Xander and Tamia.

With the snow now melting and spring arriving Mar. 20 signalling the end of the ski season in Saskatchewan, both athletes are already looking forward to earn the opportunity to compete at the Saskatchewan Winter Games next February.

Xander is also trying to make Team Saskatchewan which will be attending the Canada Winter Games in March 2023 in Prince Edward Island. He has competed in the first phase of tryouts and will find out if he makes the team in January. In April he is going to compete in Panorama, B.C. for three days with three styles of race, the Slalom, Giant Slalom, and the Super-G (longer skis, longer runs, wider spaced gates and drastically faster speeds). Xander has never tried Super G but is super excited!"

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