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LANIGAN ADVISOR

Vol. 42 No. 16

Monday, April 12, 2021

Lanigan, Saskatchewan

www.laniganadvisor.com

\$1.00

Budget touted as protecting, building, growing province; deficit projected

■ Daniel Bushman

Aiming to protect, build and grow Saskatchewan while operating with a projected \$2.6 billion deficit, Deputy Premier, Finance Minister, and Humboldt-Watrous MLA Donna Harpauer tabled the 2021-'22 provincial budget Apr. 6.

"This budget will protect Saskatchewan people through the pandemic, as more vaccines are received and life begins to return to normal," Harpauer said, noting the COVID-19 pandemic is the biggest shock to Saskatchewan, Canadian and world economies since WWII.

"This is a significant challenge that requires a significant response," she added. "As a result, this year's deficit will be larger and it will take longer to return to balance than we had anticipated. But we are going to make the investments needed now to protect Saskatchewan people through the end of the pandemic and to drive a strong economic recovery as we emerge from the pandemic."

With a projected deficit of \$2.6 billion, the provincial government hopes the fiscal path will steadily improve over the next three years with smaller deficits of \$1.7 billion, \$1.2 billion, and \$770 million in 2024-'25. A return to balance is expected in 2026-'27.

"As much as we have a huge deficit I am very optimistic that we are going to recover relatively quickly and then turn our eyes to what we need to do to stimulate growth which is critical," said Harpauer who noted she has complete faith in the people of Saskatchewan. "And the fact that we have what the world needs which is food, fuel and fertilizer."

Harpauer stated while every province is in a similar situation when it comes to a deficit and borrowing, Saskatchewan fared better than most and will now have the lowest debt to GDP ratio in the country; with real GDP forecast to grow 3.4 percent in 2021 following a projected 4.2 percent contraction in 2020.

When asked how creating the budget went, Harpauer said the disheartening thing about building this year's budget was that in previous years a goal was always set whether it was attaining a surplus or building towards one. "In this one, the goal was to ensure that we were covering the additional costs of COVID to keep our citizens safe which meant for \$19 million of additional money that we put into health care, specific to COVID. It also lends on what we are going to need to do to recover and stimulate growth going forward as well. Basically we didn't set an end goal and just hoped that the ditch wasn't too deep. That is not where I'd like to be but we are all there. Now we have set forward a path to recover and build and I am confident in our path and I am optimistic it won't take us as long as we are projecting in this budget."

Indicated within the budget, revenue is forecast at \$14.5 billion with expenses of \$17.1 billion projected, an increase of \$1 billion compared to last year. The total public debt, including Crown corporation debt, is projected to be \$27.8 billion at Mar. 31, 2022 - up \$4.2 billion compared to last year.

At a glance, the budget includes \$1.5 billion to help protect Saskatchewan lives and livelihoods in the fight against COVID-19, following a \$2 billion investment last year. A further \$1.3 billion of support is in place for the next two years, for a multi-year commitment of \$4.8 billion.

The budget provides \$3.1 billion of planned capital spending to stimulate the economy and create jobs. It also invests \$162 million in health care capital including a planning stage investment of \$550,000 for new Watson and Estevan long-term care facilities.

There is \$830 million going into operating, maintaining, building and improving Saskatchewan's roads and highways including multiple passing-lane projects on Highways 2, 3, 12, 14 and 16.

The budget provides nearly \$190 million



Local MLA, Saskatchewan Finance Minister and Deputy Premier Donna Harpauer (above) tabled

the 2021-'22 provincial budget Apr. 6. - screen image from Premier of Saskatchewan's Facebook page

for education capital including nearly \$102 million to support 21 ongoing capital projects which will build 16 new schools and renovate five more.

Also within the budget, more than \$324 million will be invested in government services infrastructure, \$70.1 million for maintenance and upgrades to dams and canals, and nearly \$245 million for municipal infrastructure. Saskatchewan's Crown corporations will spend \$1.6 billion on major capital projects this year, including nearly \$938 million by SaskPower to improve the province's electricity system to meet demand and maintain reliability.

The 2021-'22 Budget includes record funding for workforce development of more than \$39 million to strengthen Saskatchewan's recovery from the pandemic. Nearly \$18 million is being provided for Employment Assistance for Persons with Disabilities.

The 2021-'22 Budget also includes nearly \$175 million to provide all SaskPower customers with a 10 percent rebate on their power bills this year. Meanwhile, in May, every Sas-

katchewan driver will receive a rebate on their vehicle registrations from the Auto Fund.

This year's budget reinstated the Community Rink Affordability Grant, providing communities with \$2,500 per ice surface.

Total funding through the Saskatchewan Veteran Service Club Support Program will grow from \$100,000 to \$1.5 million this year. And the budget also restarts the Active Families Benefit, providing \$150 per child enrolled in sport, recreation and cultural activities.

"In the election campaign last fall, we made 14 specific campaign commitments to make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people," Harpauer said. "This budget fulfills all 14 of these commitments. We did what we said we would do."

In addition, the budget contains a number of changes to taxes including the taxation of vapour products and heat-not-burn tobacco products, as well as a road use fee for electric vehicles at the time of registration to ensure that all road users contribute to road maintenance and replacement.

(see page two: **BUDGET**)

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(from front page: **BUDGET**)

Diving in a little deeper, here are a few more specifics within a handful of areas:

Health

This year's record health budget of \$6.54 billion - up \$359 million or 5.8 percent from last year - includes a \$90 million increase to support Saskatchewan's comprehensive COVID response. This includes: the mass vaccination rollout; purchase of more personal protective equipment; supporting contact tracing measures; expansion of testing and assessment sites; additional provincial laboratory capacity; supports for long-term care; and coverage of added physician costs.

The budget provides Saskatchewan Health Authority with a \$3.96 billion grant this year, up more than \$221 million, or nearly six percent, compared to last year. The

budget invests a record \$458 million for mental health and addictions programs and services, up \$23.4 million or 5.4 percent from last year. This includes \$7.2 million for targeted mental health and addictions services including specific youth-focused initiatives, investments in suicide prevention, and expansion of harm reduction and addictions treatment.

A total of \$6 million will be used to hire approximately 100 continuing care aides who will help long-term care clients with personal care, meals and medication.

"It's the first year of our three-year, \$18.4 million campaign commitment to hire 300 continuing care aides to work in long-term care and in existing and expanded home-care services in rural and remote areas," Harpauer said. "This budget also keeps our election commitment to

support children with Autism and their families, with \$6 million to expand the Autism Spectrum Disorder program to provide individualized funding for children ages six to 11. We are fulfilling another platform commitment through a \$5 million increase to expand eligibility under the Saskatchewan Insulin Pump Program - which means the cost of an insulin pump will now be covered for everyone in Saskatchewan who needs one."

The funding will also cover continuous glucose monitoring for children and youth under age 18.

A \$6.7 million increase will reduce ambulance fees for seniors to \$135 per trip, down from \$275 and \$1.4 million is being invested to add a new STARS helicopter to deliver emergency care faster to rural and remote areas and save lives.

Education

Education spending across government is \$3.75 billion, up more than \$391 million, or 11.6 percent compared to last year. This includes spending on pre-K to Gr. 12 education, post-secondary education, and career training programs and commissions.

Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will receive \$1.96 billion in operating funding

for the 2021-'22 school year, a \$19.2 million increase. This includes fully funding the two percent salary increase in the teachers' collective bargaining agreement.

Specifically for the local area, Harpauer noted Horizon School Division will receive \$77.079 million, a 2.5 percent increase. Project wise, work continues on seeing a new school in Lanigan built while \$2.3 million has been allocated for structural repairs for the school in Allan.

Harpauer also noted Horizon School Division will receive \$1.8 million for additional repairs over and above the maintenance budget that they have been allocated. That stimulus funding is able to be utilized for additional repairs and work.

Federal-provincial Safe Schools funding of \$155 million has been provided over the last year to help school divisions and independent schools during the pandemic. More than \$20 million of this funding will carry over into the 2021-'22 school year.

An increase of \$2 million in this budget brings child care funding up to \$75.5 million and will create 176 additional licensed home-based spaces and 51 new licensed centre spaces.

This year's budget will in-

vest a total of \$735 million in the post-secondary sector. Beyond the typical base budget, government will invest an additional \$60 million over two years to be utilized for COVID recovery, revenue generation, and achieving priorities set out in the Growth Plan.

The budget includes \$678.5 million for post-secondary institutions, up 4.4 percent compared to the previous year, as well as \$39.8 million for student supports, a 10 percent increase. This includes an increase in the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship from \$500 to \$750 annually per eligible student to help with tuition costs.

Social Services

The budget provides social services and assistance with \$1.56 billion, up more than \$66 million, or 4.5 percent, compared to last year.

"This budget meets our election commitment to increase benefits to seniors with \$3.5 million in additional funding for the Seniors Income Plan," Harpauer said.

"The investment will help low-income seniors enjoy a better quality of life with maximum payments increasing by \$30 a month, effective July 1."

Protection of Persons and Property

The budget provides more than \$845 million for the protection of Saskatchewan persons and property, up \$38.6 million, or 4.8 percent, compared to last year.

Agriculture

The budget includes a \$23.1 million increase to the Ministry of Agriculture budget which totals \$386.9 million, a six percent increase from the 2020-'21 budget.

Agriculture Minister David Marit said, "The 2021-'22 Agriculture budget will once again fully fund business risk management programs, provide a record level of per-acre coverage under the Crop Insurance Program, continue last year's record investment in agriculture research, and make important investments in irrigation expansion."

The Agriculture budget includes a \$20.6 million increase to business risk management funding and the \$150.1 million 2021 Crop Insurance Program includes coverage of \$273 an acre.

This year's budget also contains an additional \$2 million for the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, which compensates Saskatchewan producers for crop damage and predation caused by wildlife, to address stronger commodity prices.

(see page eight: **BUDGET**)



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RCMP Report

Stolen Catalytic Converters

On Mar. 26, Watrous RCMP received call of a catalytic converter stolen from a van parked at the Co-op in Young. The next day, more were noted stolen from the town shop. It is believed that these were all stolen on the night of the 25th and morning of the 26th. Please report any info to the Watrous RCMP.

Stolen vehicle strikes police vehicle

On Apr. 6 at approximately 9 a.m., a Battlefords RCMP member was on patrol when they came across a vehicle they suspected may be stolen. The member activated their emergency equipment and attempted to pull the vehicle over. The vehicle turned down a dead end gravel road, picked up speed and came back towards the police vehicle. The police vehicle pulled to the side but was still struck. The vehicle then took off in an unknown direction and the member did not pursue the vehicle. There was significant damage to the police vehicle but it was still operable. The member was not injured. The vehicle is described as a 2013 BMW X3, grey in colour with Saskatchewan licence plate 058-MBM. The public is encouraged to call the Battlefords RCMP should they encounter this vehicle.

Fatal vehicle collision

Around 6 p.m. on Apr. 6, Kindersley RCMP responded to a call of a single vehicle collision on Hwy. 21, approximately two kilometres south of Kindersley.

There was one occupant in the vehicle, a 36-year-old woman from Eatonia, who passed away at the scene.

An RCMP Collision Reconstruction Analyst from Rosetown attended and is investigating the fatal vehicle collision.

Nipawin RCMP investigate theft in Meath Park area

In the early hours of Mar. 31, Nipawin RCMP were dispatched to a theft in the Meath Park area. Investigation has revealed theft of fuel at multiple properties may have occurred. RCMP encourage anyone with similar instances within the Meath Park area to report them to the Nipawin RCMP.

RCMP continue to investigate the incidents and are seeking the public's assistance in locating the vehicle and person(s) involved.

Investigators would like to identify the vehicle described as a two-tone, extended cab, Dodge truck with a tool box in the back. Anyone with information are asked to call the Nipawin RCMP at 306-862-6270 or Saskatchewan Crime Stopper's at 1-800-222-8477 or online.



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Jansen

Louise Shannon

Condolences to the Schroeder families on the passing of Lynda. She will be missed by her husband Eldon, sons Karl and Derek, mother Frances, sisters Leila Poisson and family Lorelei Orchard and family and brother Allen and family. She was a wonderful woman and will be missed by many including cousins like me.

Condolences to the family

of Rudolf Stuiken who passed away at the age of 93. He was raised in Jansen and married Lois Koshinsky who predeceased him some time ago. They lived in Alberta.

Happy anniversary to Barry and Donna Krause.

Happy birthday to Kash Elke, Nicole Kinzel, Marlon Orchard and Curtis Wacker.

Keep well everyone.

Plunkett

Deloris Wilson (Sutherland) • 306-944-4852

I hope everyone had a Happy Easter.

The deer that visited all the folks in town have left for the countryside.

Plunkett and Glynfield folks send their deepest sympathy to the family of Arnold Welter on the passing of Betty Welter.

Recently visiting here were Margaret Lees of Humboldt and her daughters Bonnie Ritz of Alberta and Colleen Stadnk of Humboldt. They also visited other relatives.

Get well wishes go out to anyone ill or in the hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery.

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

Sask. makes progress on organ donation

■ media release

Efforts to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation are making an extraordinary difference to Saskatchewan patients and families.

Saskatchewan's organ donation rate has almost doubled since 2016-17, going from 14 deceased organ donations per year to 25 deceased organ donations in 2020-21. The province's organ donation rate has risen for three consecutive years and is now comparable to the Canadian average.

Health Minister Paul Merriman said a positive

trend is underway in Saskatchewan with the steady increase in organ donation rates during the past year. This is especially significant as rates in most jurisdictions in Canada have decreased as a result of the pandemic.

People are encouraged to register on Saskatchewan's organ and tissue donor registry at www.givelifesask.ca. Anyone 16 years of age and over can register to be an organ donor. With a clear understanding of a loved one's wishes, it is easier for families facing tragedy to make the decision to donate if approached by a Donor Coordinator. One organ

donor can save up to eight lives and one tissue donor can help 75 people.

April is National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Month.

People across Canada marked Apr. 7 as Green Shirt Day to honour the legacy of Logan Boulet. The Humboldt Broncos player inspired almost 150,000 Canadians to become registered organ donors after a fatal bus crash in 2018.

Landmarks and buildings across Canada will also feature green

lighting during April. In Saskatchewan, buildings including the T.C. Douglas building planned to Light It Green on Apr. 7, in tandem with Green Shirt Day. It is a reminder of those who have died awaiting a transplant, and a way to express gratitude to organ and tissue donors and their families for giving the greatest gift of all.

For more information on organ and tissue donation in Saskatchewan, or to register as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.givelifesask.ca.

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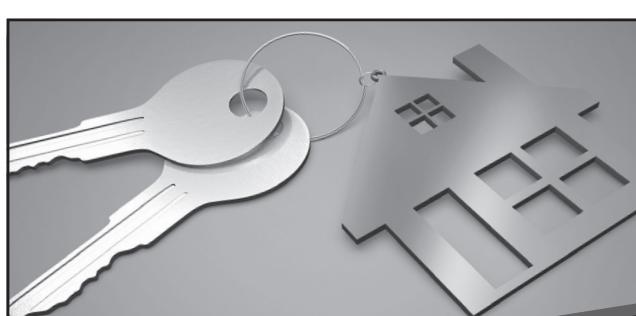
June: 306-365-7449

Karen: 306-365-7709

We can make arrangements to have flowers delivered to the hospital and lodge, as well as continuing funeral work with Fotheringham-McDougall.

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WEALTH MANAGEMENT



OPINIONS

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Solutions and Substitutions



— tips from Reena Nerbas

I recently purchased a stainless steel thermos with foil wrapped around the exterior. Although the instructions say dishwasher safe, the foil peeled after four washes. Now, the foil is half gone and looks unappealing (pardon the pun). Should I toss the thermos or is there a remedy to fix it? Len

Dear Len,

Since the foil on the thermos peeled due to the heat of the dishwasher water. You have two options: either contact the manufacturer and inquire about a refund or continue similar steps to peel the remaining foil. Put the thermos into a stainless steel pot and fill it with enough water to cover the thermos. Bring the water to a boil for at least five minutes. Use tongs to remove the thermos and gently scrub the remaining foil off with a non-scratch abrasive pad. Your thermos will be stainless steel in colour and ready to use.

Dear Reena,

We bought a newer house and found that upon washing the kitchen floor the linoleum has a yellow stain/tinge to it mainly around the sink area. The colour is supposed to be white. I tried a couple of cleaners, but have not had success in brightening the colour. Is there something I can use to help this issue? Thank you, Janette

Dear Janette,

It sounds as though the previous owner kept a mat at the sink area. The sulfur used in manufacturing the mat has left you with a yellow stain which is often permanent. With so many vinyl and linoleum products on the market, what works on one does not necessarily work on another. If your floor were over 50 years old it would most likely be linoleum. Since your home is newer, the floor is probably vinyl. Many people have found pouring three percent hydrogen peroxide onto the floor every day for three days is helpful. Other people have great success by combining one-quarter cup OxiClean with one gallon hot water and pouring the solution onto the area. Another solution is bleach, but most people suggest that this application removes the floor's finish and shine. Lastly, mineral spirits are another treatment that people have told me worked for them. It is a shame that so many floors tend to yellow and discolour most often from a rubber backed rug or some other weight being left on one specific area.

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

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Funded by the
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Published Monday • 48 issues per year

Publications Mail Agreement Number 40019861

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SOMETIMES LIFE IS KIND OF
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IT'S A BEAUTIFUL FRUIT...
PLUMP AND YELLOWISH-
ORANGE WITH DIMPLES.

HERE'S A
THOUGHT...

BUT LOOK OUT, BECAUSE ON
THE INSIDE IT'S SOUR AND
FULL OF SEEDS.

HEY, THAT'S PRETTY GOOD!
I SHOULD BE SITTING ON A
MOUNTAINTOP DISPENSING
MY WISDOM!

ALL IN FAVOR
SAY AYE.

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3/28

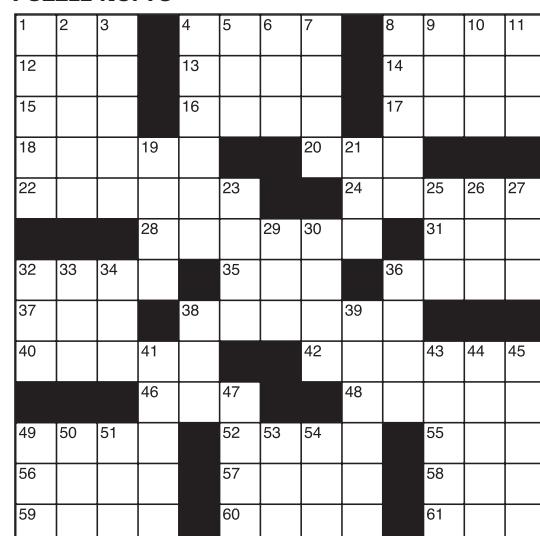
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		5								

LEVEL: BEGINNER

CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 73



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ACROSS

- 1. Passing mark
- 31. Period in history
- 59. Ring
- 4. Baby's father
- 32. Sis's sibs
- 60. Is mistaken
- 8. Source of fiber
- 35. Storage box
- 61. 19th letter
- 12. Young chap
- 37. Fool
- 1. Unclouded
- 13. Long poem
- 38. Accompany
- 2. American bird
- 14. Daft
- 40. Horrible
- 3. Approached
- 15. Humpty Dumpty, e.g.
- 42. Restaurant employee
- 4. Of the teeth
- 16. ____-do-well
- 46. Go downhill
- 5. Copy
- 17. Deeply impressed
- 48. Hang loosely
- 6. Playing cube
- 18. Quick-witted
- 49. Ballerina's short skirt
- 7. Estate unit
- 20. Sound organ
- 52. Computer food
- 8. Blast
- 22. Start a card game again
- 55. Quilting or spelling
- 9. Line
- 24. Transfer sticker
- 56. On the briny
- 10. King topper
- 28. Bottles
- 57. Impostor
- 11. Auction signal
- 58. Governed
- 19. Ump's kin
- 21. Some are personal

DOWN

- 1. Unclouded
- 2. American bird
- 3. Approached
- 4. Of the teeth
- 5. Copy
- 6. Playing cube
- 7. Estate unit
- 8. Blast
- 9. Line
- 10. King topper
- 11. Auction signal
- 12. Stain
- 13. Accompany
- 14. Horrible
- 15. Restaurant employee
- 16. Go downhill
- 17. Hang loosely
- 18. Ballerina's short skirt
- 19. Estate unit
- 20. Computer food
- 21. Quilting or spelling
- 22. On the briny
- 23. Ballerina's short skirt
- 24. Impostor
- 25. Governed

FOR ANSWERS
TO SUDOKU AND
CROSSWORD,
SEE PAGE 9



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JUST kidding

Q: Where do rocks like to sleep?

A: On bedrock!



JUST kidding

Q: On what day of the week are most twins born?

A: Tues-day!



JUST kidding

Q: What did the flower say after it told a joke?

A: I was just pollen your leg.



Look What's Cooking by Laura Novecosky

Best Low Carb Buns

Ingredients:

- 1 1/4 cups almond flour
- 5 tbsp. ground psyllium husks
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. xanthan gum
- 1 tsp. sea salt
- 1 tbsp. ground flax seed
- 2 tsp. apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup boiling water
- 3 egg whites

Directions:

Mix the flour, psyllium, baking powder, xanthan gum, sea salt and flax seed in a bowl. Add the boiling water, egg whites and apple cider vinegar, mixing well on low speed of a mixer. Don't over mix the dough, about 25 to 30 seconds is enough. It should look like play doh. Moisten hands and form the dough into buns on a parchment lined cookie sheet. Smooth the tops with wet hands. I like to sprinkle some sesame seeds on top prior to baking. Bake at 350°F for about 55 minutes. These can be made in a bread shape, shaped into buns or hot dog buns. Cool on wire racks. Store in fridge or freezer. These are my favourite low carb buns (about three to four net carbs, depending on the size). I usually make six buns from this recipe.

Proposed Humboldt Broncos Tribute Centre and Roadside Memorial announced

■ media release

On Apr. 6, 2018, the world stopped for 29 families and the city of Humboldt, Sask. The world grieved and the loss has been profound, yet there is common sentiment among the Broncos families that something positive must come from this tragedy. On Apr. 5, 2021, the Humboldt Broncos Memorial Committee, comprised of members of the 2017-'18 Broncos families, Humboldt Broncos Board members, Humboldt Public Art committee members, together with the City of Humboldt, unveiled an extraordinary vision for a Humboldt Broncos Tribute Centre and Roadside Memorial.

Christina Haugan, wife of former Broncos Coach Darcy Haugan said, "If we don't find a way to inspire others and create something positive for the community, the families and the nation, then that would be a tragedy."

Inspiration

In late 2018, the Broncos Memorial Committee set out on a mission to honour the lives lost and forever changed, and make a generational impact on junior hockey and community sports in Humboldt, towns across Canada and beyond. Through this process themes of perseverance, resiliency, inspiration, community spirit and national unity emerged. The ambition for the proposed Broncos Tribute Centre is to symbolize these qualities, celebrate the lives lost and changed, and highlight the role that hockey and other team sports play in developing character and integrity, while creating a sense of belonging and community values.

Roadside Memorial

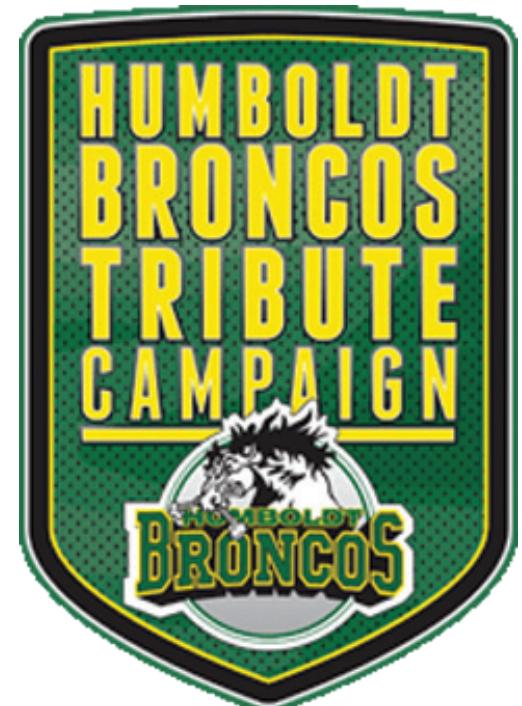
North of Humboldt, a permanent Roadside Memorial will be constructed at the site of the tragedy, providing a quiet place to reflect on the lives of the 16 angels that have been lost, the 13 players whose lives have been forever changed, and the heroic efforts of so many who answered the call to help in the chaotic days that followed.

Tribute Centre Gallery

Located adjacent to the Elgar Peterson Arena, the proposed facility will be a forward-looking tribute with a dedicated exhibit gallery that hopes to inspire the many visitors who make the trip to Humboldt to watch a Broncos game or visit the arena to feel the emotion and unique sense of community. Visitors will gain a greater appreciation for the team, their special bond, unique team culture and commitment to selfless community service and selfless play on the ice – the guiding principles spelled out in former coach Darcy Haugan's Core Covenant. Images, video and a selection of the many thousands of thoughtful items that were received from around the world will remind visitors of the unprecedented international outpouring of support. Themes of teamwork, community spirit, character, integrity, grit and resiliency will be embedded throughout the facility. Leading artists, exhibit and design firms will be engaged as part of the design process.

Arena and Fitness Facilities

Beyond the exhibit gallery, the proposed Tribute Centre will include a new ice arena to support local hockey, the Humboldt Broncos, and other local skating sports. A proposed fitness facility will be used by the whole community and options for a therapy centre are being



- image from www.broncostributecampaign.com

evaluated to support those in surrounding communities who are recovering from injuries and are now driving hours for treatment. All of these facilities are needed in this physically active community that has limited options for fitness and rehab facilities.

Michael Biehl, Mayor of Humboldt said, "Today we begin to turn the page. The Memorial Committee's vision is to do something extraordinary and make a positive impact, local and nationally. We have a vision, however there is a long way to go, a lot of details to iron out and significant funds to raise, but we're confident we can pull people together to make this a reality. We welcome others to be a part of this effort and support this vision."

National Impact

As a symbol of Canadian Junior Hockey, the Broncos Tribute Centre will seek to recognize other junior programs from across the country and highlight acts of local community service, perseverance and resiliency. Plans for a revolving display of messaging tied to team leadership, team culture and sportsmanship from Canadian and International leaders will complement proposed workshops and clinics on these topics.

The Centre will aspire to make an impression and inspire visitors, sports teams, coaches, athletes and parents from across the country by promoting the values spelled out in former coach Darcy Haugan's Core Covenant, which continues to influence sports leaders across North America.

Carol Brons, mother to Dayna Brons said, "Our hope is that the values that guided the 2017-'18 Broncos will continue to inspire our kids to become better teammates and future leaders, regardless of their sport, academic or professional pursuit."

Funding: Capital Campaign announced

A Humboldt Broncos Tribute Centre Capital Campaign will engage philanthropic, corporate, government and construction partners who are inspired to contribute and bring this extraordinary project from concept to reality. A local and national campaign leadership team is being developed. Campaign details and information on how you can participate can be found at www.broncostributecampaign.com

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Local area comes together to support family after house fire

■ **Daniel Bushman**

Residents of Zelma and the surrounding area have banded together to support a family after their house and all of their possessions were destroyed during a fire.

Asleep at their home in Zelma, during the early morning hours of Apr. 2, Blair Elderkin awoke to find his house fully engulfed in flames. Able to alert his partner Chris Lougheed and her son Neil, they were all able to escape with Blair and Chris suffering burns and smoke inhalation while Neil received minor injuries.

Niece of Blair Elderkin and organizer of a GoFundMe page, Mindy Elderkin said, "All three were taken to RUH, with Chris needing to be airlifted out. The house was completely consumed within minutes. We currently do not have information about how the fire started but the Young Fire Department, Watrous Ambulance, STARS, and the Watrous RCMP all attended and provided much needed assistance. All were well

choreographed and offered unyielding support to Blair, Chris and Neil and their property. A heartfelt thank you is directed to them all."

Since the fire on Apr. 2, Mindy, who is also the family's next door neighbour said Neil was released from hospital during the afternoon after the blaze with minimal physical trauma. Blair was able to leave Royal University Hospital three days later and is healing with family in Watrous. Chris remained in hospital this past week after sustaining significant burns. "All are hoped to make a full recovery."

With the family's home and all of their possessions destroyed, Mindy set up a GoFundMe page in an effort to raise money and help the family get back on their feet. "No one is ever fully prepared to lose everything in a situation like that. We wanted to make sure they did not have any more to worry about than they already do, and to show that there are people who care."

As of last week, the support had been

tremendous from people within the local area and beyond. With a fundraising goal of \$5,000, that mark was surpassed as over \$14,000 had been raised for the Elderkin Lougheed family.

"The outpouring of support is truly touching," said a grateful Mindy. "It is times like these where you feel the full impact of what a community can really accomplish by coming together. So many have given clothing, toiletries, etc., which will assist in the near future while plans are being made. Thank you to everyone for all of the generous donations and well wishes. The family thanks you from the bottom of their hearts and will forever be grateful."

For those wishing to support the Elderkin and Lougheed family, people can go to www.gofundme.com and under the search tab can type: Zelma Fire Recovery for Elderkin Lougheed Family. From there, people can make a donation. Mindy said people can also drop off their donations at the Young Co-op Service Station.



After a fire destroyed Blair Elderkin and Chris and Neil Lougheed's home in Zelma, a GoFundMe page was set up to help the family get back on their feet.

- photos courtesy Mindy Elderkin



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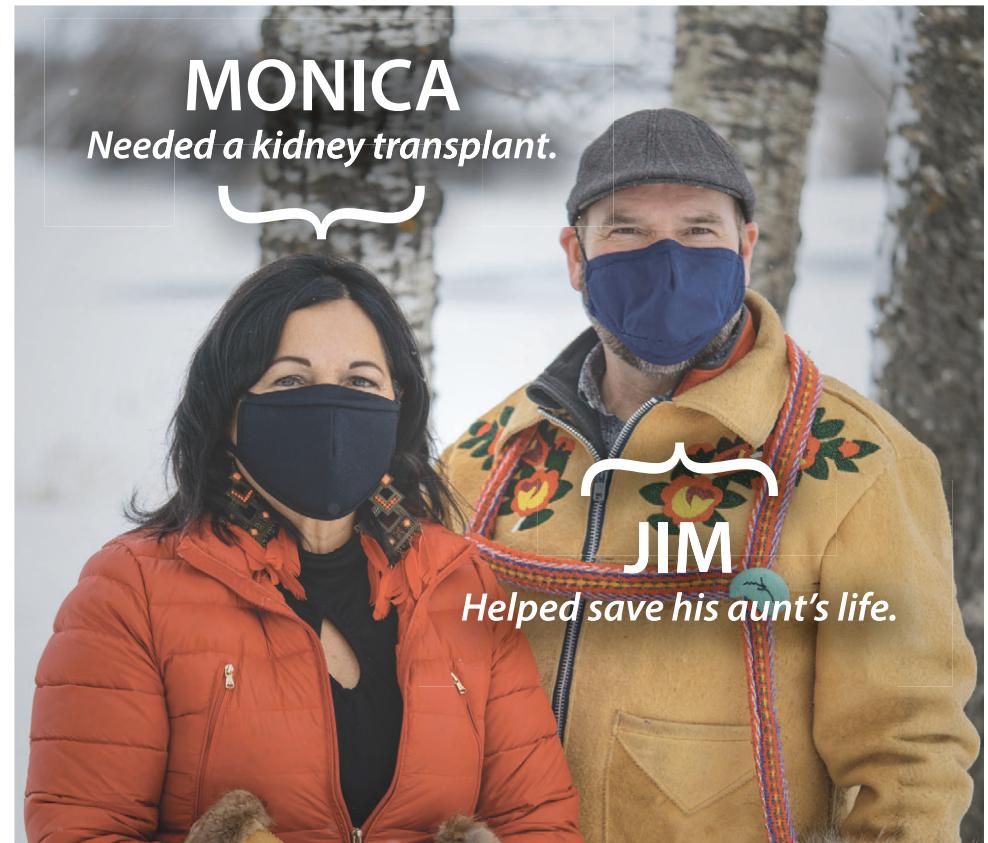
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(from page two:
BUDGET)

The budget will also once again include \$32.9 million in funding for agriculture research, which matches last year's record level of funding for research.

Additional investments will also be made to expand irrigation in Saskatchewan, with an increased \$2.5 million for irrigation development projects. Once again, the

Agriculture budget includes \$71.2 million for strategic programs under the CAP agreement.

Budget reaction

With the budget tabled, Harpauer said, "Throughout this pandemic, we have witnessed Saskatchewan's resolve, as our people made the sacrifices required to protect not only themselves, but also their families, friends, neighbours and co-workers. When this pandemic is over we will witness Sas-

katchewan's resilience, as our economy recovers and grows, as businesses reopen and more people return to work, and as Saskatchewan recovers to be even stronger than before."

As the provincial government tabled the budget Apr. 6, Saskatchewan New Democratic Party Leader Ryan Meili said it was out of touch and broke key campaign commitments.

"Scott Moe has failed Saskatchewan. This budget shows that the premier is in over his head and he hasn't been honest with the people of this province about the realities we're all facing," said Meili. "People were having a tough time before COVID-19 hit and the Sask. Party's failure to show leadership in containing the pandemic means those families are even further behind. This budget takes the same approach as the government's pandemic response: weak half measures that don't get the job done for Saskatchewan people."

"The government said during the election they would balance the budget by 2024, knowing full well that they would not. That lie was confirmed today. They said there would be

no tax increases for families. Instead, property taxes for families are going up. And now we see the government lied to families in the last election about their plans to increase staffing in our hard-hit long-term care facilities," said Meili.

Along with reaction from the NDP, others also weighed in on the budget.

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation was encouraged stating the budget signals public education is a priority. "There are always resource challenges in schools and we always hope for funding increases beyond inflation and enrolment increases. However, these are difficult times for citizens and for government. A budget always requires tough choices to be made and the pandemic has increased financial pressure on the provincial government," said STF President Patrick Maze. "This budget essentially holds the line for education. Given the circumstances, this is a realistic approach."

However, Maze cautioned there will still be resource challenges in schools. "The challenges we had pre-pandemic

haven't gone away and now there are new ones. Students have all had very different experiences over the last year that will need to be addressed. School divisions will still have to make difficult decisions."

According to the Saskatchewan Chamber, the budget contains several important new items for Saskatchewan businesses.

"While the pandemic has impacted every household and business differently, we will collectively recover by focusing on health and safety protocols, and by vaccinating our residents as soon as possible. Once the pandemic is less of a concern, we expect the province to renew and increase its focus on the transition to economic recovery and building resilience into all we do in Saskatchewan," said Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO, Steve McLellan.

McLellan noted the budget also contains important elements crucial to Saskatchewan businesses including continued financial supports for members of the business community negatively impacted by COVID-19, \$3.1 billion of Capital Investments, and

an investment of \$3.2 million to improve the cyber security of Saskatchewan's public service systems.

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) felt the budget missed a crucial opportunity to invest in working people at a time when workers are struggling due to unemployment, illness, and uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Today was an opportunity for the government to put workers first, and make meaningful investments that would create jobs and get people back to work, make workplaces safer, and ensure that workers have the supports they need to be able to get through the rest of the pandemic," said SFL President Lori Jobh. "Unfortunately, this budget offers very little for the working people who have been on the front lines of this crisis since day one."

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation called on the government to strengthen its plan to tackle the deficit. "It's true the pandemic is creating costs for government, but every family and business has found ways to save money and the province needs to do that as well," said Todd MacKay, the CTF's Prairie Director. "Spending is going up in 10 out of the 11 major budget categories. It's good to see the Saskatchewan government set a target to balance the budget, but it needs to work harder to hit that target earlier."

The Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) was pleased the government is investing in agricultural programming and in improving rural telecommunications stating the government's priorities for Agri-stability, irrigation development and research funding maintenance are positive impacts for the agriculture industry.

"COVID really has been a shock to the economy, and agriculture is well poised to lead the recovery, and we will," APAS President Todd Lewis said. The budget will also once again include \$32.9 million in funding for agriculture research, which matches last year's record level of funding for research.

Additional investments will also be made to expand irrigation in Saskatchewan, with an increased \$2.5 million for irrigation development projects. Once again, the Agriculture budget includes \$71.2 million for strategic programs under the CAP agreement.

MP Report

Tom Lukiwski, MP
Moose Jaw
Lake Centre
Lanigan



Moose Jaw-Lake Centre-Lanigan constituency is home to, two armed forces bases, as well as a large number of veterans and a great many civilians who have a higher-than-average respect for our country's armed forces, so military issues are often top-of-mind in our area. While there is so much that Canada's military does to make us proud, one area where our armed forces needs improvement is its treatment of female troops. These sorts of situations discourage women from military service, create general demoralization of the rank-and-file service members, and create loss of respect for our military on the world stage.

It was, therefore, a very serious situation when former defence chief Gen. Vance, one of the country's top soldiers, was accused of sexual misconduct against former employees. The problem is that these allegations were also embarrassing for the Liberal government, who like to portray themselves as advocates of feminism but behind the scenes act otherwise (remember Jody Wilson-Raybould and sexual misconduct allegations against Trudeau himself).

The allegations against Vance were first brought forward by former military ombudsman Gary Walbourne, to whom the alleged victims had brought their complaints in confidence. In 2018, Walbourne took the allegations to Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan to ask him what the next steps should be for an investigation. Sajjan refused to listen and dismissed Walbourne from the room without explanation.

In testimony before the House of Commons Defence Committee, Sajjan first tried to assert that he had only heard about the allegations a few weeks ago. He also tried to avoid admitting that he had met with Walbourne on the topic. This whopper went all the way up the food chain, as Justin Trudeau himself in Question Period tried to assert that he had only heard about the allegations recently through "news reports" but that his office had also heard about them in 2018.

When the Liberals were finally caught in this web, Sajjan then claimed he shut down the discussion because he thought it would have been "inappropriate" for him to interfere in an investigation. But interfere is exactly what he did. Rather than establishing an independent investigation, he turned Walbourne's allegations over to the Privy Council Office (PCO), the branch of the civil service responsible for providing political and policy support for the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Because it is tied directly to the government, the PCO is not qualified to conduct an independent, confidential investigation. Lacking confidence in the PCO's independence, Walbourne felt it would be a breach of privacy to reveal the alleged victims to them.

The web surrounding the Vance investigation becomes more and more tangled. In February, Canada's new top military commander, Admiral Art McDonald suddenly stepped down after only two months on the job – a further sign of chaos in the armed forces under the Liberals' watch. Minister Sajjan continues to try to muddy the waters with convoluted, hypocritical responses. Where there's smoke there's fire: it's clear there's something about this case that has the Liberal government very worried.

In the meantime, three years after having had the courage to come forward, the alleged victims continue to wait for justice. The current military ombudsman, Gregory Lick summed the situation up best in his testimony to the Defence Committee: "I say enough. Enough of the self-protectionism and deflecting. Enough political foot-dragging."

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NOTICES AND CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY



EWERT,

William Franklyn (Bill)

June 19, 1943 - Apr. 1, 2021

Dad passed away on April 1st, 2021 at the age of 77 on the family farm near Drake, Sask. He crossed the river peacefully surrounded by his family.

Dad was born on the farm near Lockwood, Sask. on June 19, 1943 to Menno and Lottie (Bartel) Ewert. They moved

to the farm west of Drake in 1945, where he grew up with his seven siblings. He attended elementary school at Bloomfield School just north of the farm, grade 9 and 10 at Drake School, then went onto Rosthern Junior College for grades 11 and 12. He was baptized on June 10, 1962 at North Star Mennonite Church. After high school he attended the Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg for two winters, where he met the love of his life, Leona (Tiny, as he lovingly called her) Braun. They were married on May 29, 1965. Dad farmed with his older brother Jim and was known for his straight seeding rows long before GPS and autosteer were a thing. He loved looking after the land; always striving to be a good steward of the earth. In retirement, Dad helped a few neighbours with seeding and harvest. When his nephew Chuck started farming Dad helped him until 2018. He also spent more time with Jim working on his passion, restoring antique cars. He knew every small detail and part which differentiated the years of a Ford Model T. Three of the most important things to Dad were family, church, and community. Family was foremost in Dad's thoughts and actions. The love that Dad and Mom had was evident to all who knew them, he recently mentioned that he "loves her as much now as he did the day they were married". Dad had a special relationship with each of his children and grandchildren. He spent countless hours taking his grandchildren for rides in the cars he restored, even making a special car for them to drive. He also maintained great relationships with all his siblings, in-laws, nieces and nephews, as well as many friends. Dad believed in supporting his community and spent seven years on the Lanigan Board of Education. He was instrumental in getting the Drake Community Centre built in conjunction with the School Board. Dad also spent six years on the Drake Credit Union Board. He volunteered on the Drake Co-op Board, was a founding board member of the Scattered Spokes Car Club and a member of the Saskatoon Antique Auto Club. One of the last boards he gave his time to was the Community Fundraising Board. Dad had a strong faith and supported the church in many ways. Over the years, he held positions of trustee, usher, youth leader, Sunday school teacher and superintendent, auditor, sat on the boards of education and missions, and sang in the choir.

He is survived by his loving wife Leona (Braun) Ewert, three children and nine grandchildren: Angela (Keith) Brenneman, Tristan (Nicole Harrison), Morgan (Jordan Nardai), and Bronte; Patrick (Erica) Ewert, Tanner, Evan, and Reid; Sherida Ewert, Cassidy (Hudson Schaan), Madison (Owen Peters), and Kaden. He is also survived by six siblings: Jim (Eileen), Ed (Myrna), Tim (Linda), Dorothy (Rosanne Zaba), Greg (Alma), Elwood, and brother-in-law Rob Weatherhead, as well as many in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Dad was predeceased by his parents, his youngest sister Eleanor Weatherhead and his sister-in-law Anne Ewert.

A sincere thank you to our family, friends and especially to the North Star Church family and the community for the prayers and support during this difficult time.

Dad's last years were a struggle with Parkinson's. In memory of Dad, donations can be made to the Parkinson's Society of Saskatchewan.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at North Star Mennonite Church, Drake, Sask.

Interment will be held at a later date at North Star Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, tributes or to make a donation, please visit www.fotheringham-mcdougall.com

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OBITUARY

**HORDOS,
Rose Marie**

May 4, 1936 -

Apr. 4, 2021

The peaceful death of Rose Marie Hordos (nee Molnar), 84 years, of Cupar and District Nursing Home and formerly of Lanigan and Raymore, occurred on Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Rose Marie was born in Ontario on May 4, 1936. When she was two years old, she and her two brothers were adopted by Julius and Mary Molnar. She grew up in the St. Mary's District and attended Torendall country school. On October 27, 1953 Rose Marie married Joseph Hordos. They farmed together on the Hordos family farm, across from St. Mary's Church until 1984. Rose Marie loved birds, tending chickens on the farm and always having a pet bird at home. She enjoyed gardening and her yard was always meticulously groomed with beautiful flowers. Throughout her life, she loved music, singing with the Senior Songsters in Raymore and the church choir wherever they attended. In 1984, Rose

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Pet of the Week



Cole Big Rig

Cole Big Rig is just over a month old and lives on a farm near Watrous. He belongs to Adam Jansen and is the biggest of the lambs that live on the Jansen farm. Cole Big Rig also likes to be in charge of the mini herd.

- photo courtesy Tanya Jansen



Would you like your pet featured as our Pet of the Week in the Lanigan Advisor and our sister paper, The Watrous Manitou? Email us a photo of your pet along with a brief description to twmadvisornews@gmail.com and we will do our best to include it in the papers and on our websites.

MANITOU MAINLINE CHRYSLER KING OF TRUCKS IS LOOKING FOR A: **Wash Bay/3M Applicator**

- Duties to include detailing vehicles inside and out as well as installing 3M film.
- Willing to train the right candidate.
- Competitive wages.
- A benefits package (offered after three month probationary period).
- Short and long-term disability is mandatory.
- A pension plan (offered after six months but not mandatory).
- Vacation days are based on Provincial Labour standards.
- Enjoy working in a state-of-the-art facility with a positive atmosphere and opportunities to grow.



If this job sounds like the perfect opportunity for you, apply: via email to **Ryan Campbell** at rcampbell@watrouschrysler.ca or give Ryan a call at **306-946-4646** or stop by the dealership in person at **9 Campbell Road** in **Watrous**.

MANITOU MAINLINE CHRYSLER KING OF TRUCKS IS LOOKING FOR A: **Lube Bay Technician**

- Competitive wages.
- A benefits package (offered after three month probationary period).
- Short and long-term disability is mandatory.
- A pension plan (offered after six months but not mandatory).
- Vacation days are based on Provincial Labour standards.
- Enjoy working in a state-of-the-art facility with a positive atmosphere and opportunities to grow.



If this job sounds like the perfect opportunity for you, apply: via email to **Ryan Campbell** at rcampbell@watrouschrysler.ca or give Ryan a call at **306-946-4646** or stop by the dealership in person at **9 Campbell Road** in **Watrous**.

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