

LANIGAN ADVISOR

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Local hospitals face staffing challenges as communities wait for results

■ Daniel Bushman

As temporary disruptions continue at Lanigan and Watrous hospitals, residents of both communities are hoping for some type of full resumption soon. However, according to Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), there is no definite timeline as to when that might be; indicating (as of Jan. 30) that emergency department operations in both Lanigan and Watrous remain unchanged from late last fall.

That means, according to SHA’s media releases, emergency services are only available in Watrous from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days per week. Inpatient services however are not available during this disruption while primary health care, lab, X-ray, and long-term care services in Watrous have not been affected. In Lanigan, emergency services are available between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday while lab and X-ray services are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Unfortunately Lanigan and Watrous are not alone in this situation as other locations provincially and nationally are also facing challenges when it comes to staffing levels. On Jan. 26, SHA released a statement that effective Feb. 1, emergency rooms in nearby Wadena and Wynyard began rotating temporary closures due to challenges with the recruitment and retention of Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technologists (CLXTs) resulting in an inability to provide regular after-hours and weekend lab and X-ray services.

With temporary closures in Lanigan and Watrous and now in Wadena and Wynyard, SEIU-West President Barbara Cape shared the union is frustrated that there is little evidence of work being done to bring in more staff. “We have identified issues with labs, nursing, support services to government officials and to the SHA - but we are seeing no real improvement in the current situation for front line health care workers and their patients, clients, and residents.”

Cape said the union which represents LPNs, continuing care aides, support services in nutrition, environmental services, building and maintenance, administrative and lab staff, is collecting evidence and information from its members and sharing those examples with SHA. “It’s important to note that these issues being raised by our members are not simply complaints, but they come with solutions as well. Our members are focused and ready to work on fixing the issues.”

Knowing there are challenges, SHA indicated the Government of Saskatchewan’s Health Human Resources Action Plan is assisting with addressing staffing issues and according to Health Minister Paul Merriman, sustained work is helping. “As we start a new year, I look forward to more actions to build on the successes we have had so far. It’s important we continue to spread the word that Saskatchewan is an outstanding place to build and grow your health care career.”

The provincial government noted Registered Nurses (RNs) from the Philippines who received conditional offers have begun working their way through the RN Pathway which includes language, bridging education and licensing. A full staff complement of health recruitment and retention navigators are now in place and have sent a survey to over 1,000 participants who attended in-person sessions in Manila to learn more about their experience. The navigators will assist all potential



With temporary closures to emergency services in communities like Lanigan (above) and Watrous, those areas are not the only ones experiencing disruptions. Trying to rectify the situation, the provincial government has launched a Health Human Resources Action

international recruits with the steps and processes needed to gain employment in Saskatchewan’s health care system.

The provincial government added progress continues in creating more permanent full-time positions and attracting health professionals to high priority positions in rural and remote areas across Saskatchewan. “SHA has hired more than half of the new full-time and enhanced part-time to full-time permanent positions posted, with over 90 of those positions now filled.”

While that is encouraging, Cape said every health care facility across the province continues to face challenges with not enough staff to provide short term relief “and in the midst of flu season and an on-going pandemic, that pressure relief option of casual staff is key.”

Specifically addressing the situation in Watrous, Cape shared, “The problem in Watrous is the domino effect of not enough RNs to open the emergency room, which impacts the lab services, which impacts long-term care, which impacts the remaining members of the nursing team. The cascading effect we are seeing truly challenges the ability to provide skilled quality health care to the people of Watrous and the surrounding area.”

With the shortages experienced in Lanigan and Watrous, SHA noted it is committed to fully restoring emergency services, acute care beds and admissions as soon as staffing levels are addressed in those communities. Through the action plan which was introduced last fall, the provincial government is hoping incentives within it will bring more help.

So far, the government said progress has been made in approving a total of 31 Saskatchewan Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive packages to a variety of professionals including Registered Nurses, Medical Lab Technologists, and Combined Lab and X-Ray Technologists in North Battleford, Wilkie, Indian Head, Moose Jaw, Redvers, Outlook, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, Meadow Lake, La Ronge, Leader, Kamsack, Estevan, Swift Current and Weyburn. While Lanigan and Watrous were not noted, the one-time incentive packages are also available in those communities along with 50 others for

Plan while the official opposition has embarked on a province-wide tour to learn more about the challenges being faced by communities and the overall health care system.

- Advisor file photo

up to \$50,000 for a three-year return-of-service agreement for nine eligible health professions.

“It’s encouraging to see our competitive Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive financial packages are generating interest and we are making progress in attracting health care candidates in rural and northern communities throughout Saskatchewan,” Rural and Remote Health Minister Everett Hindley said.

Building on its action plan, on Jan. 31 the provincial government announced it is increasing educational opportunities for Saskatchewan students and young adults interested in health careers through an immediate initial investment of more than \$5.5 million to create over 550 new post-secondary training seats across 18 health care training programs.

Advanced Education Minister Gordon Wyant said, “The scale of this unprecedented expansion of Saskatchewan’s health training capacity demonstrates our government’s commitment to strengthening our health care workforce. We are grateful for the support of our partners across the post-secondary education and health sectors.”

The training programs being expanded in fall 2023 include Medical Laboratory Assistant, Continuing Care Assistant, Primary Care Paramedic, Licensed Practical Nurse, Pharmacy Technician, Clinical Psychologist, Physical Therapist and Mental Health and Addictions Counsellor.

The government said it will also purchase more seats for Saskatchewan students at institutions outside the province for specialized programs not available in Saskatchewan. More seats will be available in programs including Respiratory Therapy, Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Occupational Therapy, Electro-Neurophysiology, and Cardiovascular Perfusion. For the first time, seats will also be reserved for Saskatchewan students in Speech Language Pathology and Environmental Public Health.

As the provincial government unveiled the plan, during the same week, Official Opposition Health Critics began travelling across Saskatchewan to consult with health care professionals, (see back page: **HOSPITAL**)

Looking back at 2022 and ahead to 2023 for Drake

■ Daniel Bushman

With covid restrictions removed and looking forward to seeing the community grow and flourish, Drake pushed ahead in 2022 with some familiar events. Remaining optimistic about 2023, the Lanigan Advisor reached out to Drake Mayor Peter Nicholson to get his thoughts on 2022 and what 2023 could bring.

Nicholson graciously took some time out of his busy schedule to share about this past year and what could be in store for the remainder of 2023.

How did 2022 go as a whole for Drake as things began to improve through the pandemic and restrictions lifted?

We had a pretty good year in Drake. Having a lot of the covid restrictions removed allowed things to normalize

somewhat.

Were there a few highlights within the community during 2022?

No major projects were completed but the park revitalizing project made some headway as engineers were hired and reports were completed regarding drainage and land use issues. The park renovation is funded through fundraising projects and provincial and federal grants so the group in

charge were busy with grant applications and fundraising ideas.

The fowl supper returned this year after a two year hiatus and was a big success with lots of people attending from outside our community. The Sportsplex was busy with a full slate of hockey teams, figure skating and CanSkate programs.

The second annual Winter Fest was held in mid-December over three days

and was very well attended despite the cold temperatures. The community centre was busy again with rentals, weekly pickle ball and Forever in Motion and sports activities that the school kids were able to participate in again.

Were there any infrastructure projects in 2022 and what could be coming for 2023?

There weren't any major infrastructure projects in 2022 but we did replace a

number of sidewalks, curb stops and waterlines.

Nothing major is planned for 2023 but we are hoping to be able to replenish reserves that were used in previous years for major water and sewer projects.

Will you be looking at the budget soon?

We will be looking at budget soon and we anticipate there will be some necessary equipment replacement costs in 2023.

RCMP Report

Cryptocurrency frauds

Saskatchewan RCMP have noticed an increase in the number of cryptocurrency files from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2022:

Swift Current RCMP received 105 reports of people being victimized by fraudulent calls, many involving cryptocurrency. In total, victims have reported more than \$361,000 in cryptocurrency fraud losses.

Maidstone RCMP received 37 reports of people being victimized by fraudulent calls, many involving cryptocurrency. In total, victims have reported more than \$570,000 in cryptocurrency fraud losses.

The scams have been reported to have taken place through the following tactics:

Authoritative fraud: a scammer pretends to be from a government agency, like the CRA or police, and demands payments for outstanding taxes or warrants for arrests. The scammer instructs victims to go to a cryptocurrency ATM in the city to purchase and send cryptocurrency.

A "learn to trade in crypto program" involves a scammer demanding a victim to send money to be able to learn how to trade cryptocurrency and make money. The scammer tells the victim to either send more money since the first amount never arrived, or to pay to send learning materials through the mail for

the learning program.

False advertising: Other reports include scammers luring victims using investment opportunities for cryptocurrencies to make a profit by creating links on various social media advertisements to steal investments. Scammers entice victims to invest from their personal savings and restrict all access to their accounts. Scammers create a fraudulent company online, or compromise a victim's digital wallet– resulting in a complete loss of funds.

Constable Tyson Maxwell is one of two Crypto Coordinators for the Saskatchewan RCMP, under the Federal Serious and Organized Crime unit. He reviews crypto currency files for the entire Division and provides officers with recommendations on how to investigate these files.

"There are thousands of different cryptocurrencies and cryptocurrency companies in the market today. Some are legitimate companies, while others may have weak online security or are completely fraudulent," said Cst. Maxwell. "Investigating cryptocurrency fraud is complex as perpetrators are often at various international locations, or hiding through hard to trace IP addresses."

The RCMP have resources available to track and trace some transactions, but they need to act fast. Multiple departments and agencies may be needed to investigate these cases.

"Once a crypto transaction has been completed, it cannot be reversed. If the investment looks too good to be true, it probably is. If you choose to invest, use a major reputable trading platform or online exchange and do your research to protect yourself," Cst. Maxwell said, adding that he also recommends individuals to monitor the price of cryptocurrency themselves on a reputable trading program. "We have lots of investment scams, where the scammer says the victim made 20% on their Ethereum investment for example – when they were actually going down 10%. A good way to know if you're being scammed is to verify through other sources what your investment company tells you."

The Saskatchewan RCMP works closely with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre to investigate cryptocurrency files.

Male faces numerous charges

At approximately 2:35 p.m. Jan. 25, Kamsack RCMP received a report of an armed male at a residence on The Key First Nation. Officers immediately responded. The male had already left the residence when they arrived and further investigation determined he was in another residence in the community. With the assistance

of Saskatchewan RCMP's Critical Incident Response Team, officers contained the residence and negotiated with the male, who surrendered to police without incident at approximately 8:40 p.m. Officers executed a search warrant at the residence and located and seized a firearm. As a result of investigation, 60-year-old Lyman Papequash from The Key First Nation is charged with: one count, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, Section 88, Criminal Code; one count, enter a dwelling with intent to commit an indictable offence, Section 349(1), Criminal Code; one count, resist/obstruct peace officer, Section 129(a), Criminal Code; one count, unlicensed possession of a firearm, Section 92(1), Criminal Code; one count, possession of a firearm while prohibited, Section 117.01(1), Criminal Code; and one count, fail to comply with release order condition, Section 145(5), Criminal Code.

Drug trafficking investigation

As part of an ongoing investigation into drug trafficking in the Stanley Mission area, La Ronge RCMP's General Investigation Section planned to execute a search warrant at a residence on Settee Street in Stanley Mission. As they approached the residence Jan. 26, two individuals attempted to leave the property in a vehicle. The vehicle sideswiped a police vehicle, then got stuck in the snow. The occupants were then arrested. A third individual was located in a shed on the property and arrested. During subsequent investigation, officers located and seized approximately six grams of cocaine, a small amount of psilocybin, a sum of cash, drug trafficking paraphernalia, two firearms, three replica firearms, and a number of machetes and knives.

As a result of the investigation, 44-year-old Tom Cook from La Ronge is charged with: one count, possession for the purpose of trafficking, Section 5(2), Controlled Drugs and Substances Act; one count, possession of property obtained by crime less than \$5,000, Section 354(1)(a), Criminal Code; one count, unauthorized possession of a firearm, Section 91(1), Criminal Code; and two counts, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, Section 88(2), Criminal Code.

Forty-eight-year-old Joseph Cook from Stanley Mission and 38-year-old Gail Bradfield from La Ronge are each charged with: one count, possession for the purpose of trafficking, Section 5(2), Controlled Drugs and Substances Act; one count, unauthorized possession of a firearm, Section 91(1), Criminal Code; two counts, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, Section 88(2), Criminal Code; and one count, unsafe storage of a firearm, Section 86(2), Criminal Code.

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Canucks meet Wildcats in LLHL playoffs

■ Daniel Bushman


Facing a tough Cyclone contingent, the Drake Canucks headed to Davidson to wrap up Long Lake Hockey League regular season play.

In the opening frame, Davidson tallied less than a minute into the contest before adding three more in the first stanza. Drake countered with markers of its own from John Lawrence, Nayte Zip and Cam Blair and after 20 minutes, the Cyclones led 4-3.

Entering the second, the Canucks tied the contest with 14:24 to play as Cam Blair notched his second of the game. Davidson then responded near the midway mark and then notched one more with less than eight minutes remaining and collected a 6-4 lead through 40 minutes.

Hoping to charge back, Drake headed into the third and Andrew Johnson made it a one goal game with 10:57 left on the clock. However, Davidson responded shortly after to restore its two goal lead before Johnson scored his second, this time with 7:15 to go to make it 7-6. Less than 20 seconds later the Cyclones pushed the score to 8-6 and despite a marker with four seconds left by David Stumborg, Drake was unable to make the comeback, falling 8-7.


The Canucks wrapped up the regular season with a record of 8-8-1 which placed them fifth in the league standings. Entering the post-season, Drake faces Wadena (fourth) in a best of three while Wynyard (first) meets Watrous (eighth), Davidson (second) takes on Lanigan (seventh), and LeRoy (third) sees Foam Lake (sixth).



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Game 1: Sat. Feb. 18th at 7 p.m.
Game 3 (if needed): Sat. Feb. 25th at 7 p.m.







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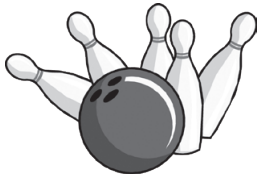
Jansen

Louise Shannon

Jansen is growing more every month. Houses are being rented. A Ukrainian family just moved here. They received some quilts from our quilters as a welcome gift. I read that the best part of winter is when it is over! Happy anniversary to Dale and Cecilia Schroeder.

I think they went to the Philippines. Those celebrating birthdays the first week in February are: John Kral, Nathan Klinger, Marla Moss, Lorraine Blancher, Angel Liebrecht, Brittany Krause and Erwin Krieger. Keep well everyone.

Prairie Rose Bowling



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Thursday Seniors

Jan. 19
LHS: Lorna Jantz, 196
LHT: Lorna Jantz, 521
MHS: Tom Halter, 198
MHT: Tom Halter, 570

Thursday Mixed

Jan. 19
LHS: Karen Doidge, 130
LHT: Karen Doidge, 365
MHS: Greg Blyth, 296
MHT: Greg Blyth, 643

Monday Mens

Jan. 23
MHS: Gabe Zerbin, 252
MHT: Gabe Zerbin, 627

Wednesday Ladies

Jan. 25
LHS: Kathy Jones, 224
LHT: Kathy Jones, 524

Thursday Mixed

Jan. 26
LHS: Karen Doidge, 173
LHT: Karen Doidge, 418
MHS: Gabe Zerbin, 211
MHT: Gabe Zerbin, 485

Monday Mens

Jan. 30
MHS: Devin L'Heureux, 213
MHT: Devin L'Heureux, 579

Wednesday Ladies

Feb. 1
LHS: Shanon Bay, 223
LHT: Shanon Bay, 549

Viscount

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

Welcome to the month of February. Hopefully it is a warm and comfortable month. It is so nice on days where the sun is so bright in our beautiful blue skies. I just came across the first annual town wide garage sales paper. It was held in May of 1993. We had 27 homes that held sales and quite a few of them had doubled up with friends or relatives. Hard to believe that this May long 2023 will be 30 years of garage sales and my husband and I have had one every year. This year we will as well! We enjoy seeing the shoppers come through even if it is just for a quick browse or a little visit. It is always nice to chat with each and everyone. So hopefully we will see you stop by. Four Blankets for Canada ladies braved the cold Jan. 30 to meet at the Viscount library. We were busy working on three beautiful blankets, one of each size. Our three hours together is so pleasurable. The time goes quickly while we sit and sew, chat and sip tea. In 2022, the Viscount Chapter delivered 91 blankets to four different shelters in Saskatoon and one in Regina. We are always happy for drop-ins or anyone who would like to be a regular (it is a come-as-you-want meet). We happily accept synthetic yarn of all colours as well as donations of 8"x 8" squares (also made of synthetic yarn). Need more info? Call or text Evelina at 306-281-8196. With exams over, Viscount Central School will be starting with the last semester for the year. There is now a before and after school program right in the school. This is such an awesome program. The seniors are still enjoying coffee Monday until Thursdays in the mornings. Mondays are afternoon games and coffee. Best wishes to anyone who is under the weather. I hope you feel better soon. Have a great week! submitted by Heather Polischuk (H.P. Bayne) There is a shelf in my bedroom on the farm where I grew up near Meacham where I keep a collection of spiral notebooks and binders. These things have been in here for years, and although the writing contained within them is not great, I have held onto them anyway. These are the notebooks and binders I used as a teenager, back when I first started writing mystery novels. Back then, I wrote about a trio of university students solving crimes as amateur sleuths. The stories are pretty bad, but



Pictured above: taken on our way home from Saskatoon Jan. 29 around noon. Pictured left: my husband Evan took this picture one early morning in January. - photos submitted by Sandra Reid



Look What's Cooking by Laura Novecosky

Homemade Dry Onion Soup Mix

Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup dried minced onion
- 3 tsp. dried parsley flakes
- 2 tsp. onion powder
- 2 tsp. turmeric powder
- 1 tsp. celery salt
- 1 tsp. sea salt
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. ground pepper

Directions:

Mix all ingredients in a jar. Use four tbsp. of this mix in place of one package of purchased onion soup mix. Keep this stored in a jar with a tight fitting lid.

what I love about these old notebooks is what they represent. Back when I was scribbling page after page inside these things, I used to dream I might one day be able to do it as a real full-time job. At the time, it was nothing more than a pipe dream, no way I could see to make it happen. Instead, I used my writing ability by beginning my career in journalism — a path which, it turned out, was absolutely meant to be for me and one I loved so much about. But I never stopped thinking about my books. I wrote novels in my spare time, graduating to better stories and a laptop with time and experience. But whenever I was back on the farm, these notebooks formed a reminder for me of a dream which, as time passed, I more and more wanted to make real. Now when I look at these notebooks, it is not with some wistful desire for a life I wish I had. It is with amazement at having achieved it and with gratitude for the support of the people I love — and to all the readers who have allowed me to do what, for me, is the best job in the world. I have now got close to 20 books published in two series — the Sullivan Gray Series and the Braddock & Gray Case Files. And who knows? Maybe one day I will pull all these old notebooks off the shelves and rewrite those stories as well.

LANIGAN ADVISOR

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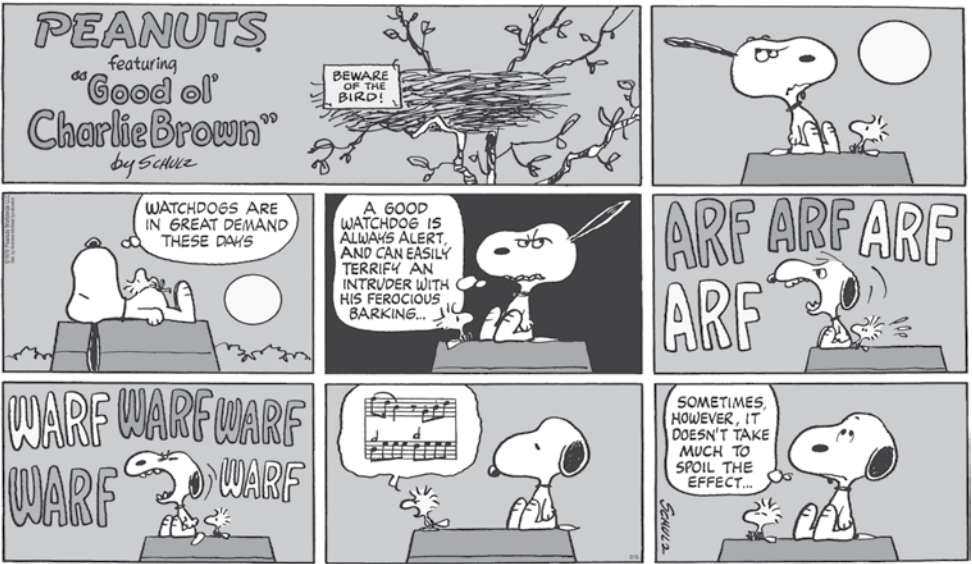
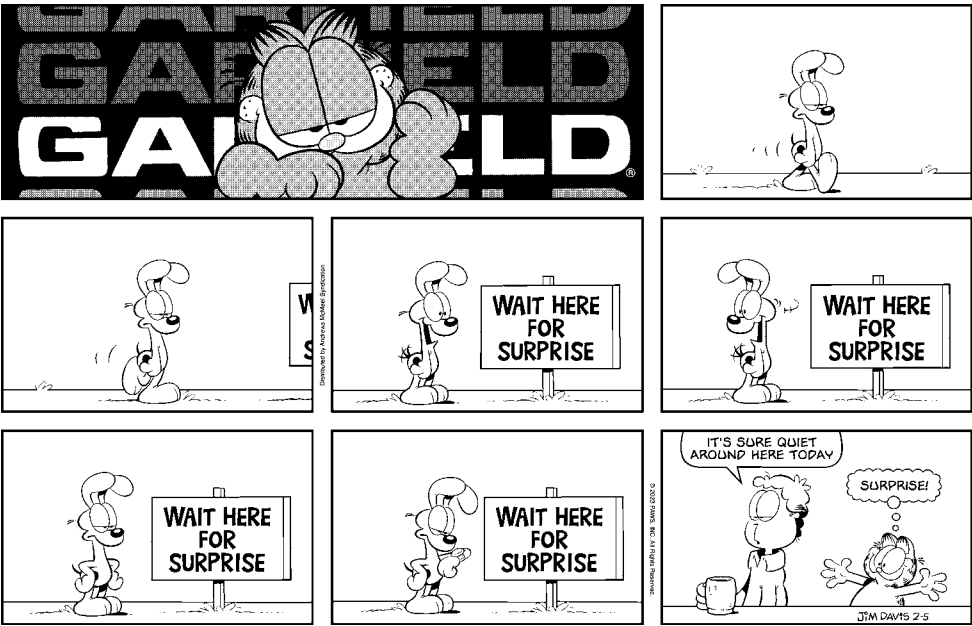
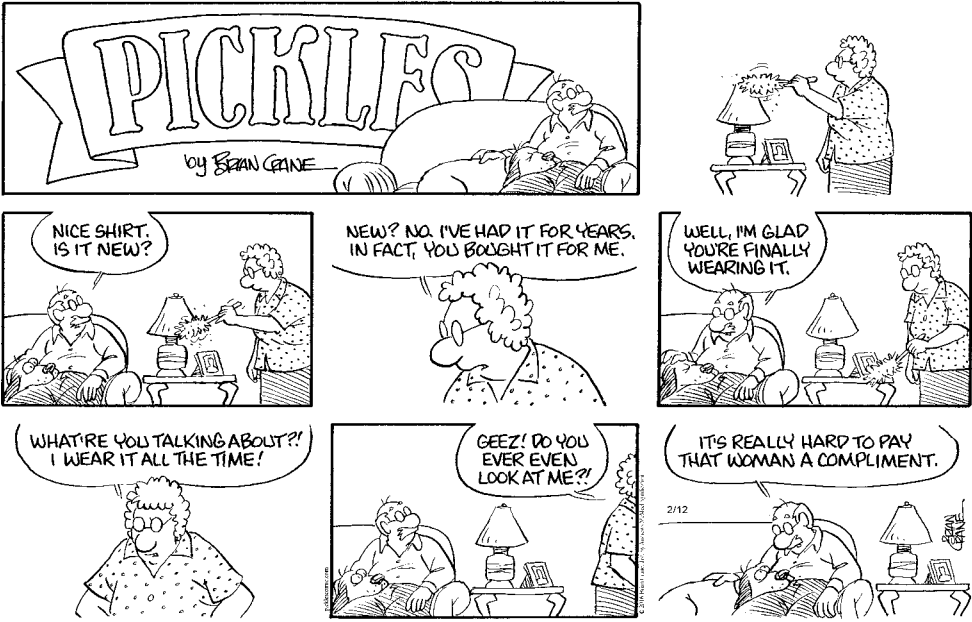
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Just for Fun




UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	4			3	1	6	7	
6				9				
		5				2		
				1			8	9
7								3
5	3			6				
		2			5			
				2				7
	5	9	6	8			2	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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SNOWMOBILE DERBY**

February 11

*Silent Hands are available from
any Kinsmen member.*

**CANVASSING FOR
TELEMIRACLE**

February 19
Lanigan

February 20
Drake & Jansen

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Universal Crossword

ACROSS

1 Ecstasy

6 Old-timey exclamation of contempt

11 Spooky attractions

14 Regimen that might alternate cardio and strength training

15 Yoga surface

16 ___ al-Fitr (Muslim holiday)

17 Motor oil brand

18 Approving online initialism

19 Idris of “Thor: Love and Thunder”

21 Tell a fib

23 “Yes, madame!”

25 Crossbones’ partner

27 Walking surreptitiously, maybe

32 Hang tight

34 Common fish-and-chips fish

35 Mope

36 Thus far

37 Decorative blankets

39 Long, fancy ride

40 ___ and Jerry

42 Merit

43 College concentration

44 Question before offering a bite

46 Word after “raw” or “big”

47 Tapenade ingredients

48 Aid in taking a cab somewhere?

51 Green-lights

52 Electric vehicles, e.g.

55 Be in the red

56 Speech therapy focus

58 Too prideful to get involved

60 Long-standing dispute

61 “All roads lead to ___”

62 Rowing implements

63 ___ shanty (sailors’ song)

64 Plant-to-be

65 Agree nonverbally

DOWN

1 Establish-ment with a liquor license

2 “___, I am your father” (“Star Wars” misquote)

3 How canned fish is often packed

4 Artist’s workspace

5 Tennis match subdivision

6 Face cards?

7 Improve, as an engine

8 Pizza ___ (fast-food chain)

9 “You wish!”

10 Took one’s turn

11 Politically charged topic

12 ENTs and OB-GYNs

13 Do some darning

14 Devices for “over”-hearing?

15 Like some bedrooms and breakups

20 Mont Blanc, for one

22 “Play another song!”

24 “Wow, look at the time!”

26 Back muscle, for short

28 Paint the ___ red

29 Spooky means of communication

30 Muppet whose birthday is February 3

31 Toffee bar brand

33 Ceremony with Art Deco statuettes

38 Male sheep

41 Channel whose M originally stood for “Music”

43 Big digs?

44 Author Virginia

45 “Nothing to ___ here”

46 Terribly urgent

48 Greeted someone nonverbally

49 Hole-punching tools

50 Hairstyling goo

53 Clarinet relative

54 “Follow me”

57 Cuddling on a park bench, e.g.

59 Mathematician Terence

**FOR ANSWERS
TO SUDOKU AND
CROSSWORD,
SEE PAGE SIX**

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Themeless Sunday 26 by Rafael Musa

			1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
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	14													
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1/15

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On the road

Heading to Watrous to play in its final Long Lake Hockey League game of the regular season (pictured), the Lanigan Pirates kept the contest close until a late third period marker by the Winterhawks which led

to an eventual 6-3 defeat. With goals from Brandon Scheidl (6:28 remaining) and Hayden Francis (one second remaining) in the first period, Lanigan went into the second down by one. With both teams unable

to score in the middle stanza, Cody Wourms tied things up with 13:39 to go in period three. While the Pirates tried to nab the next marker, Gage Helm scored with 2:14 left to give Watrous a 4-3 advantage.



Helm then added two more before the frame expired and the Winterhawks secured the victory. Finishing with a record of 5-12, Lanigan meets second place Davidson (13-4) in the opening round of a best of

three playoff. In other matchups, Wynyard (first) takes on Watrous (eighth), LeRoy (third) meets Foam Lake (sixth) and Wadena (fourth) plays Drake (fifth). In game one, Lanigan had goals from Zach Garrett but

the pair of markers would not be enough as Davidson tallied three times in the first before adding three more to take game one 6-2. Game two in Lanigan goes Feb. 8.

- photos by Daniel Bushman

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(from front page: **HOSPITAL**)

patients and local leaders as part of their Healthcare Solutions Tour. With stops in Cupar, Southey and Saskatoon on Feb. 1, Official Opposition Health Critic Vicki Mowat said, "Saskatchewan's health system is in a short-staffing crisis and Moe's Health Minister is missing in action. That's why we're speaking to the people on the front line who know firsthand what's wrong in our health system and how best to fix it."

While SHA and the provincial government try and address the challenges within health care, Cape feels it is coming too late. "The current state of the health care system is precarious at best.

There are hundreds of unfilled vacancies; there are staff who feel like they've come through a war and are suffering from mental health issues and burnout because there simply aren't enough of us to do the work and we don't feel like we're working to our full potential; there are promises of more staff, but the current staff are not seeing any real support or recognition and that really contributes to the state of their mental health: of not feeling valued or part of a team."

In an effort to rectify the situation, Cape suggests the government work with health care unions to develop a retention incentive to keep people working in health care who are currently there. "We

need to invest real health care dollars towards improving the care of our seniors and most vulnerable. This means improved staffing levels - let's fill the vacancies that exist but also incentivize our current workforce to stay. And that is the real challenge because health care workers are being poached by other provinces or simply retiring."

Speaking bluntly, the president of the union feels the government is just not doing enough to address the issues. "A junket to the Philippines, where everyone across the globe is descending on, only to offer 150 jobs, that is not a recruitment strategy; especially in light of the fact that we need so many more. This work is not 'one and done' we need to be looking at our current staff to create a retention bonus, we need to build partnerships with the First Nations education institutions, and there is real value in developing a health human resource round table with the health care unions, the employers and education facilities to look at all strategies and opportunities."

Facing pressures from the union to aid the health care system, the provincial government implementing its action plan and pleas from residents for help to restore levels and operations in both Watrous and Lanigan, SHA stated it will continue to update the communities with further information when it becomes available.



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