

LANIGAN ADVISOR

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Lanigan, Saskatchewan

www.laniganadvisor.com

\$1.00

Blizzard rushes out January as residents dig out to begin February

■ **Daniel Bushman**

After a month where it felt like riding a roller coaster of temperatures and weather conditions, perhaps it was unfortunately only fitting that the final day of January included a blizzard. Forcing numerous road closures, zero visibility and a lot of drifting snow to dig out of, an Alberta clipper roared through the province bringing with it cooler values to begin February.

Heading into the final few days of the first month of 2022, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a winter storm warning followed by a blowing snow advisory which turned into a blizzard warning. Courtesy of that Alberta clipper, snow and strong northwest winds arrived in central Saskatchewan Monday. As the morning progressed, conditions deteriorated aided by strong winds. Because the high for the day was to be slightly above zero, Environment and Climate Change Canada also noted there was the potential for freezing rain to develop in some areas. Visibility became virtually non-existent

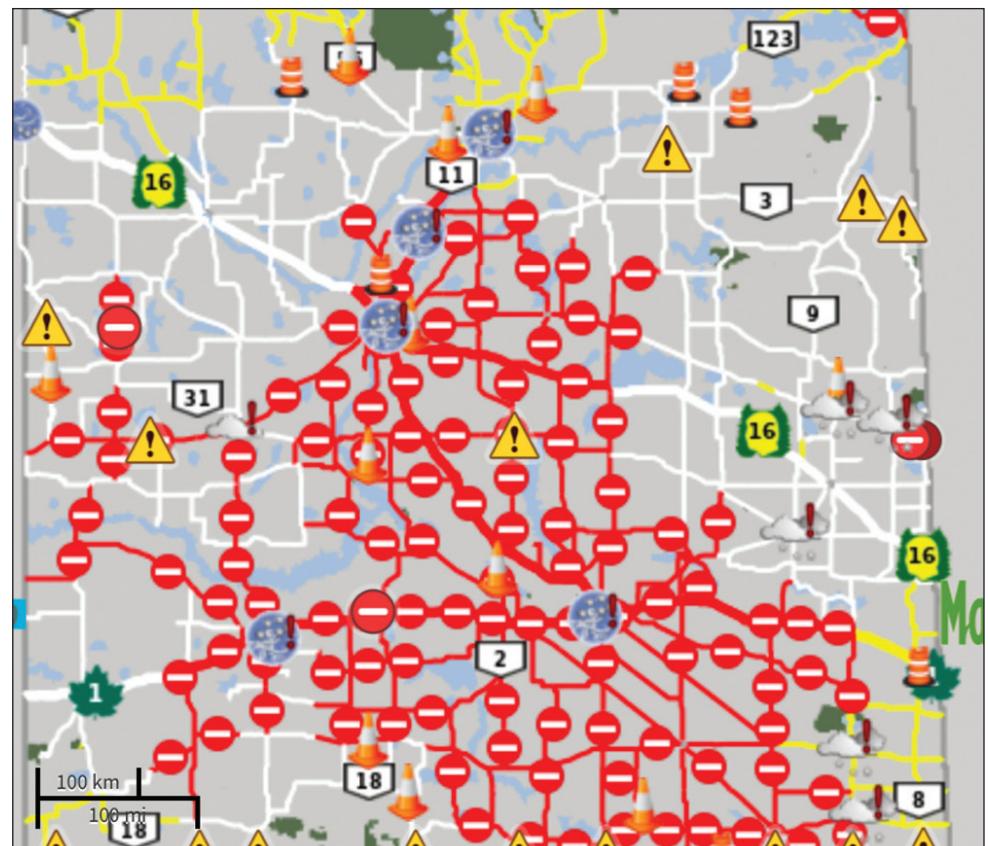
and essentially all roads within a large portion of Saskatchewan either closed or were not recommended for travel.

On the Clavet Volunteer Fire Department's Facebook page, around 5 p.m. Jan. 31 it stated, "Roads are absolute garbage! Stay off them. Do not try it. We are on scene for an accident since 3 p.m. and have multiple other collisions happening around us. Stay put and wait out the storm."

In Saskatoon, several multi-vehicle collisions were reported to police by mid-afternoon Jan. 31. Around 3 p.m., police were responding to a collision in the area of Claypool Drive and Airport Drive involving more than 12 vehicles. Traffic restrictions were put in place; however, motorists were advised to avoid the area. No injuries were reported. Members of the Saskatchewan RCMP also advised people to avoid travelling on other roads outside of Saskatoon.

Around 5:30 p.m., Blaine Lake RCMP

(see back page: **WEATHER**)



With a blizzard rolling through the province, January came to an abrupt end. As an Alberta clipper made its way east Jan. 31, visibility became virtually non-existent and a number of highways and roads were closed (above). In Lanigan (left), visibility was also terrible as was evidence from the photo by Aron Renwick. Taken from his living room, he said, "There is a house across the street." Many people who were travelling on roads also faced treacherous conditions (far left) and in some cases were stranded or able to find shelter as they waited for the storm to pass. As the sky cleared and the storm moved toward Manitoba, people were left to dig out Feb. 1. - above image from Sask Highway Hotline site/left courtesy Aron Renwick/far left from RCMP Facebook page



From vision to reality, Oasis Village at Manitou Beach continues to progress

■ **Daniel Bushman**

Billed as a state-of-the-art holistic wellness centre and retirement complex, Oasis Village at Manitou Beach continues to flow from what was once a vision to a reality. Developer Michael Byrne, who first came up with the idea in April 2019, is optimistic about what is ahead for the multi-million-dollar facility.

Taking time out of his busy schedule to provide an update, Byrne answered a few questions on where things stand with the large-scale project, how people can get involved, and what Oasis Village at 100 Lakeview Avenue at Manitou Beach will look like once completed. **How have things been going for Oasis Village at Manitou Beach over this past year or so?**

Behind the scenes there

has been continual progress and deploying of resources in every area of our property development. We are currently working with the Resort Village of Manitou Beach on development permits and moving toward solutions that will make this development fit within the community.

Why do you feel this project has been a success so far?

From the very beginning, my vision was to create a thriving experience at all levels for our residents, visitors, staff, our investors and the community. It is that philosophy that we have worked to maintain all the way through.

The feedback from everyone on our teams has been positive: architecture, construction, finance and advisory—they have all become really passionate about the project. As we

continue to move forward, we look forward to involving local trades where possible. Overall, this has been a very good experience for everyone involved.

With all of the work you have put into the project over the past nearly three years, what stage are you at now?

At this stage, we are just about to bring our development permit—working in collaboration with the Resort Village of Manitou Beach—over the finish line.

Right now, we are looking for interested buyers, and our social media ad campaign has already garnered interest from people around the globe. Through the website, oasisvillage.ca, we are gathering names from interested parties, and currently have in excess of 700 names and climbing. We will continue our outreach until we meet our unit sales goals. In all honesty, the interest we are receiving is beyond what we expected.

Why should someone purchase a suite and live at Manitou Beach?

Manitou Beach is a great place to live. If you look at what has transpired over the past few years at the resort village, it has grown from a summer resort to one that includes more people staying and looking to enjoy local amenities year-round.



- image used with permission

When we conducted a feasibility study, the results showed that there was a need for retirement opportunities in the area. Because not everyone that would like to live here wants to own a home, build or renovate one, there is increasing appetite for a lifestyle that you might find in urban centres through the suites we are offering.

With the results of the feasibility study and understanding the need to provide 55+ retirement living opportunities to the local market, we want to bring that urban experience to Manitou Beach where there is peace, tranquility and serenity.

Once constructed what will Oasis Village at Manitou Beach offer?

The overall concept, with its modern look and feel, centres on a 55+ retirement

complex which will include pools, a Nordic spa, wellness opportunities, 82 luxury style units and fabulous lake views. Since we started, our business model has never changed: once completed, Oasis Village will combine housing with facilities and amenities that support health, wellness and corporate retreats.

Our property goes from the top of the hill to the lake, encompassing about three acres. We will utilize that green space in the heart of the village, incorporating a building design that will blend in with the landscape of the surrounding area, with minimal disturbance to the hillside.

There have been a few tweaks since you started the project a few years ago, including relocating to a new location. Are you still pleased with how it has gone despite those tweaks?

The reality is that the project started out as a vision, and with some imagination it has really continued to

move forward and unfold. This is not something I have done blindly; there has been a tremendous amount of background work. Although the original vision has never changed, the various aspects of the facility have been adjusted based on the demands of the marketplace. Size was another reason, along with cost, so we wanted to incorporate more suites to go with the common areas and meeting space.

If people still want to get involved, either through investing or purchasing or renting a suite, what can they do?

If they would like to learn more about Oasis Village, they can get in touch with me by email (info@oasisvillage.ca) or through our marketing team. We would love to answer any questions the public might have.

If all goes according to plan, what is the hope for Oasis Village at Manitou Beach down the road?

(see page six: **OASIS**)

LANIGAN PIRATES HOME GAMES THIS WEEK: PROVINCIALS

Friday, Feb. 11th

Biggar @ Lanigan

Puck drops at 8 p.m.

SEE YOU AT THE RINK!

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Monday & Wednesday



Storybook Trail

Follow the Storybook Trail in the business windows of Carlton Trail Mall.

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Carlton Trail Mall, Lanigan • 306-365-2472

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Do you love working with children? This may be your dream job!

The Lanigan branch is seeking a committed individual with ideas and energy that will help support and promote our community library.

LIBRARIAN ASSISTANT

Under the direction of the Librarian and the Library Board, the Librarian Assistant will:

- » Plan and deliver a weekly story hour for children and summer reading program.
- » Fill in for librarian as required.
- » Help maintain the collection and organization of the facility.

Requirements:

- » Ability to interact and display excellent customer service with patrons of all ages.
- » Demonstrate excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- » Possess time management and computer skills.
- » Must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination and criminal record check.

This is a part-time permanent position

Deadline for applications: **February 14, 2022**

Please email your application to lgibney@sasktel.net or drop your resume off at the Lanigan Library.

For more information, call Linda Gibney at 306-365-4795

J & K Petals & Paints

NEW HOURS

Tuesday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To place your order for curbside pickup or delivery within Lanigan, call: Store: 306-365-3202 (during store hours) 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. Call for more information or to place your order.

5 Downing Drive, Lanigan, SK



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117 Francis Street, Drake SK, S0K 1H0





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Lanigan Post Office boxes vandalized

■ Daniel Bushman

During the latter part of January, upwards of 70 post office boxes were pried open or attempted to be pried open at the Lanigan Post Office.

Sometime between the post office closing at noon on Saturday, Jan. 29 to the incident being discovered Sunday morning, Jan. 30, suspect(s) went into the lobby at the Downing Drive facility in Lanigan and vandalized the mailboxes. Police who were called out to the scene dusted for fingerprints and are asking anyone who may have information on the incident to contact Humboldt/Lanigan RCMP.

According to Lanigan Postmaster Yvonne Mycock this is not the first time that a senseless act of vandalism has taken place in recent months. "This also happened Nov. 4 and while not as many boxes were pried open, we did have some that were broken into."

This time around with so many being vandalized and in some cases broken, the local post office staff made the decision to have the lobby closed from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily in an effort to prevent more boxes from being destroyed.

"We understand that closing during that time can be an inconvenience to some but we are hoping to have an automatic door system in the near future that will allow us to adjust those hours. We do appreciate people's patience as we are trying our best to keep the boxes from being vandalized."

Since Mycock was notified about the incident, she said it has been a difficult process of trying to locate replacement parts for the mailboxes. "Because the boxes are older, not every post office has the same units so repairing them has been a process."

Humboldt/Lanigan RCMP are currently looking for anyone who was around the post office along Downing Drive between noon Saturday, Jan. 29 and Sunday morning who may have observed something suspicious to give them a call at 306-682-2535. People can also contact Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

"This whole situation is definitely frustrating for us and for our customers and we are hoping that whoever is vandalizing the mailboxes would stop."



- photos submitted

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- *Excellent coordinating and communication skills to deal with a number of staff
- *Solid organizational skills to handle and wide range of research projects
- *Willingness to work overtime/weekends during busy season

INTERESTED & QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT RESUMES TO:
Email: kimberly.taylorindo@nutrien.com

SEASONAL EQUIPMENT OPERATOR RM OF VISCOUNT NO. 341

The RM of Viscount is accepting applications for the position of Seasonal Equipment Operator.

Work to commence early May. Preference will be given to applicants with prior experience in road construction who have the ability to operate heavy equipment such as graders, scrapers, tractors, etc.

A valid driver's licence is required.

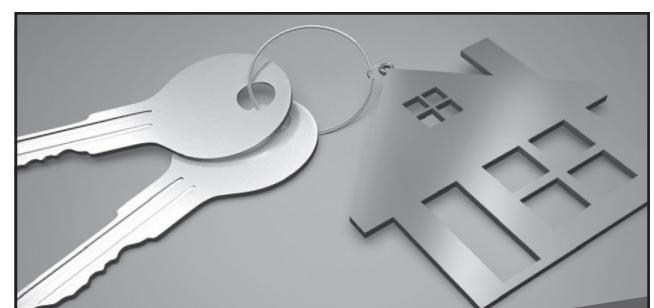
Interested individuals should submit their resume, including driver's abstract, qualifications, work experience, three work related references and wage expectation to:

RM of Viscount No. 341

Box 100, Viscount, SK S0K 4M0

Fax: 306-944-2016 • Email: rm341@sasktel.net

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



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OPINIONS & COMMUNITY NEWS

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Jansen

Louise Shannon

Condolences to the family of Rodney Schroeder, late of Central Parkland Lodge in Lanigan. He worked for Jansen Services for many years.

The bowling alley is now serving meals or snacks the days they are open.

I do not know what the groundhog said Feb. 2. Hope-

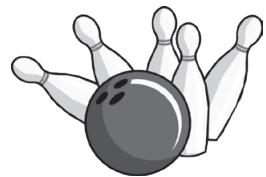
fully it is an early spring.

Get well wishes to everyone who is not feeling well.

Happy anniversary to Dale and Cecilia Schroeder and Marlin Kulchyski and Angel Liebrecht.

Happy birthday to Rahn Martin, Brittany Krause and Erwin Krieger.

Prairie Rose Bowling



Seniors

Thursday, Jan. 27

LHS: Lorna Jantz, 171

LHT: Lorna Jantz, 481

MHS: Tom Halter, 219

MHT: Tom Halter, 604

Ladies

Wednesday, Feb. 3

MHS: Kathy Jones, 194

MHT: Beth Giesbrecht, 439

Mixed

Thursday, Jan. 27

LHS: Karen Doidge, 172

LHT: Glenda Blyth, 422

MHS: Greg Blyth, 239

MHT: Greg Blyth, 584

Viscount

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

Wow, what a way for January to leave us! That blizzard was amazing with so many roads closed. It was also amazing the way people offered their homes and set up places like halls for stranded travellers. I am really hoping that we do not get anymore like that.

Second semester has started at Viscount Central School making the end of the school year seem even closer. Soon hockey will be over and ball will be starting. February will seem to go real fast with Family Day weekend and then school break.

Best wishes to anyone who is under the weather. I hope you feel better soon. Have a great week, stay warm, stay safe, and enjoy all that you can.

Plunkett

Deloris Wilson (Sutherland) • 306-944-4852

Two large moose were in town last week and were seen in our neighbours garden.

A few Plunkett ladies got together last week at the Plunkett hall putting squares together for blankets.

Folks are meeting at the hall two days a week to walk.

Forever In Motion classes are taking place at the Plunkett Community Centre twice a week. All Saskatchewan health regulations are being followed.

We sure are getting a lot of snow. No one is complaining because we need the moisture for the farmers.

Folks who know the Roaul Clavelle family will be sending deepest sympathy to Jeanine (Clavelle) Landry on the recent passing of her husband Ronald from Roblin, Man.

Curling fans enjoyed watching the Scotties Tournament of Hearts from Thunder Bay, Ont.

Some folks were away to Mexico for a couple weeks and are now returning home.

Get well greetings go out to anyone ill. We wish them well soon.

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

uncompliCATED - *Indisputably Prairie*



■ by Arlene Martin

"The wind roars reckless across the prairie with frenzy its flight gathers gust,

Only you who have chosen these flatlands truly know winters icy wonderlust.

Just an entity it resounds like a freight train, disdain in its folly squarely call;

You may flinch for fear of its fury or embrace it with grace and enthrall.

You curse it, you endure it, you endorse it - like a cyclone it spins you about

Beneath the twinkling of snow in the starlight you dub it as home without doubt.

Those prairie storms that transform into sunsets bursting to bright rainbows of light,

Skies smoldering with sacred inscription stunning wonders each new day and night."

Fondly and sent as a tribute to my resilient, remarkable friends known and unknown who call our beautiful rectangular province home! Believe in Spring!

Love, Arlene!

More than 15 million rapid tests distributed

■ media release

Saskatchewan has now distributed more than 15 million rapid antigen tests according to the provincial government. This includes more than seven million to public distribution centres around the province, two million to schools and 1.5 million to Indigenous Services Canada and the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority.

Currently, there are four million tests scheduled to arrive in the province in February.

Free rapid antigen tests are available at approximately 600 locations around the province at this time. Locally, according to the provincial government, you can find the tests in Allan, Colonsay, Imperial, Nokomis and Lanigan at the Co-op and library. In Drake, Holdfast, and Viscount they are located at the library. In Jansen you can find the tests at Accent Credit Union. In LeRoy, tests are located at the Co-op and LeRoy Town Office. In Watrous they are located at the Town of Watrous office, the Watrous Branch Library, and the Watrous Co-op. In Simpson and Liberty,

they are located at the Co-op. For other communities who may have rapid tests, they can be found on the provincial government's website.

According to the provincial government, all residents should be self-monitoring, self-testing and self-managing to help prevent transmission, given the transmissibility of the Omicron variant.

For the week of Jan. 24, the provincial COVID enforcement team issued a number of summary office tickets for failure to abide by the current public health orders: Prairie Pride Motel Bar and Grill, Maple Creek received a \$14,000 fine for failure to check for proof of vaccination or a negative test (restaurant).

Nine individual fines of \$2,800 for failure to mask were issued to individuals in Estevan (two), Grenfell, Fort Qu'Appelle, Maple Creek (two), Leader, Wynyard and Hudson Bay.

Note that under The Health Information and Privacy Act, the Ministry of Health cannot disclose the names of individuals who have received fines.

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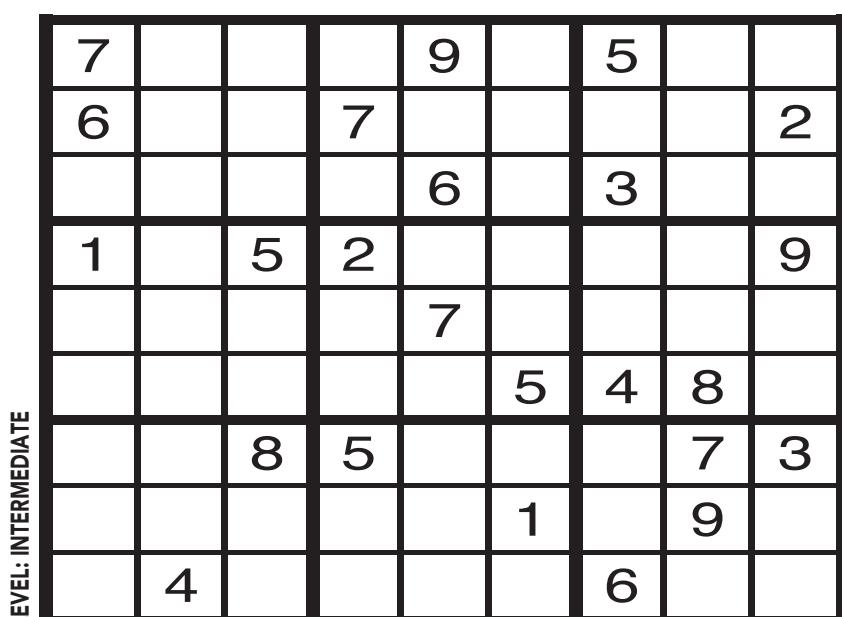
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Just for Fun

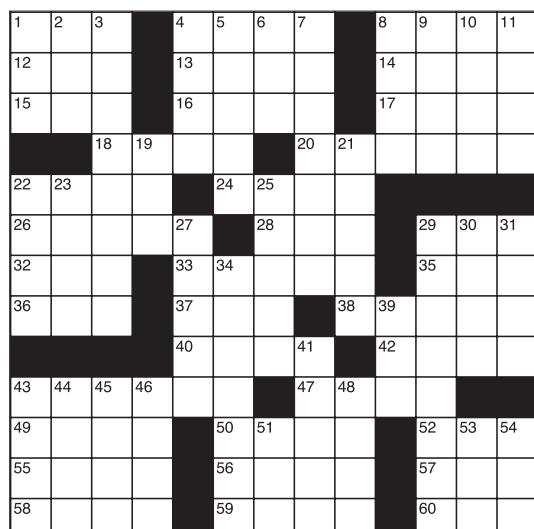


SUDOKU



CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 117



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ACROSS

1. Wooden nail
4. Palo ___, California
8. Is mistaken
12. The whole amount
13. Dog's bark
14. Bucket
15. Glide over snow
16. Housetop
17. Land amid water
18. Dolls and yo-yos, e.g.
20. Yearned
22. Be overly fond
24. Imprint firmly
26. Met musical
28. Female pronoun
29. Cooling device
32. Fuel guzzler
33. Beast of burden
35. Work by Shelley
36. Stallone's moniker
37. Smallest bill
38. City divisions
40. Great Barrier
42. Take a breather
43. Fiesta decor
47. Foot part
49. Stink
50. Galloped
52. Sailor's response
55. Bard
56. Tall, woody plant
57. Negative prefix
58. Room extensions
59. Contained
60. Flop
1. Mas' mates
2. Lodge member
3. Sparkling
4. Cockeyed
5. At liberty
6. Moreover

FOR ANSWERS
TO SUDOKU AND
CROSSWORD,
SEE PAGE 9



"Serving the community's greatest need"
Proud Sponsor of the Comics and Puzzle

A REALLY BIG THANK YOU

To everyone who supported our Online Auction by donating and bidding, our Virtual Poker Derby by purchasing silent hands, and our Virtual Canvassing (and Terri's Bald Head!)

Our fundraising was a huge success thanks to our surrounding communities!

Stay tuned for our totals!

Find us on Facebook! [Facebook.com/JansenAndDistrictKinetteClub](https://www.facebook.com/JansenAndDistrictKinetteClub)

“Look What's Cooking by Laura Novecosky”

Valentine Strawberry Dessert

Ingredients:

Pastry for a double crust pie
Icing sugar
Custard ingredients
2/3 cup sugar
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/3 cups milk
2 egg yolks
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 tbsp. butter
1 cup whipping cream
1/4 cup icing sugar
Topping ingredients
2-3 cups sliced fresh strawberries
2 tbsp. semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 tsp. shortening

Directions:

Roll each pie pastry between waxed or parchment paper into a 12 inch circle. Use an 11 inch wide heart shaped pattern (that you make yourself), cut out each piece of pastry into the shape. Place on greased and floured baking pans, prick well with a fork. Bake at 450°F for seven to nine minutes or until they are golden brown. Remove to cool on wire racks. Handle carefully. Sprinkle these with icing sugar (a light sprinkle of icing sugar to coat the pastry). While this cools, make the custard. In a saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch and salt, gradually stir in the milk until the mixture is smooth. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened and bubbling. Reduce heat to simmer and cook two minutes more. Remove from heat. Combine the egg yolks and lemon juice. Stir a small amount of hot custard into egg mixture, stir well and return to the pan, bringing the custard back to a gentle boil. Cook two minutes longer, remove from heat and stir in the butter. Cover with waxed paper and refrigerate until cool. In mixing bowl, beat cream and 1/4 cup icing sugar until stiff peaks form. Gently fold in lemon custard then fold in the whipped cream. Place one pastry on serving platter, spread with half of the custard. Arrange half of the strawberries over the custard, top with remaining pastry, then custard and strawberries. In microwave, melt chocolate chips and shortening for about 30 seconds on 50 percent power, stir, then microwave another 30 seconds. Drizzle over the strawberries. Store in the fridge.

(from page two: **OASIS**)

Once the permitting and other details are worked out, we would like to break ground in 2022. While there are several milestones ahead, the sooner we reach them, the sooner we get shovels in the ground.

How has the support for this project been thus far?

If you look at this project, it is arguably the largest being undertaken right now in this area. We are working with the Village council and administration to achieve our common goal of not only creating a thriving 55+ community but also providing another economic engine for Manitou Beach. To me, that is an indication of commitment to the project and vision, and I look forward to continuing to work with them.

My vision really started to take shape nearly three years ago - on Apr. 8, 2019 - and it has faced challenges along the way, but at no point did we ever lose our commitment to this project. Oasis Village at Manitou Beach is something I truly believe in and I know that everyone will love it.

Local area reaction on Oasis Village at Manitou Beach

Along with Byrne, Manitou Beach Mayor Poppy Petersen, Mid-Sask Municipal Alliance Director of Operations and Planning Celine Favreau, and Watrous Manitou Marketing Group Chair Lane Manson also took some time out of their busy schedules to share about the project and what it could mean for the local area.

Manitou Beach Mayor Poppy Petersen:

The Village and Oasis Holdings are currently in the process of creating a working agreement that benefits both parties. This is a necessary part of the building process governed by municipal law makers, to protect both the Village and the

Project Council and the Oasis Group are almost ready to finish this part of the process. I understand it won't be long after, that we may see some major activity. It is exciting to see such a massive project happening in our "Sleepy little Village." I have said before, Council is always willing to work with projects that enhance Manitou Beach, and Oasis Holdings is one of those groups. We are looking forward to a busy summer.

Mid-Sask Municipal Alliance Director of Operations and Planning Celine Favreau:

It is very exciting to see a project of this size under development at Manitou Beach, the fastest growing community in the (Mid-Sask Municipal Alliance) region. Supporting our member communities to be investment ready is a top priority of the MSMA. A project of this size is a perfect example of the importance of being future focused.

The economic impact of the Oasis Village project on the Watrous-Manitou area will be significant, new job opportunities, increased business activity and increased property values, not to mention attracting more investments in the future, all helping Manitou Beach turn into a world class destination.

The addition of a facility of this magnitude at Manitou will support the community in its efforts to secure long term sustainability amid steady growth. And as an international destination this progressive, vibrant, little community, with the support of its larger neighbour Watrous, is busy working to increase its influence in the tourism industry post COVID.

The MSMA will always show support for initiatives like this one, because we understand that as a region we need to stay competitive in order to maintain infrastructure and services in our communities to uphold and improve the quality of life



- image used with permission

for our area residents.

Watrous Manitou Marketing Group Chair Lane Manson:

It is great to see a project of this magnitude in our area. To see people like Michael appreciating what the region has to offer is awesome.

From a local marketing group perspective, we want to do whatever we can to help facilitate and encourage developers like Michael and the Oasis Village project to come and do business in our area.

Having a substantial project like Oasis Village at Manitou Beach could also unlock a lot of opportunities within our area and bring in more business, visitors and tourism to the local economy. We are excited about what the future holds.



Oasis Village
MANITOU BEACH



MAKE OASIS VILLAGE AT MANITOU BEACH YOUR NEXT HOME!

- 82 luxurious style units
- Pools • Nordic spa
- Wellness opportunities
- Fabulous lake views

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Pirates face Cyclones as regular season nears end

■ **Daniel Bushman**

Looking to wrap up the regular season with some momentum, the Lanigan Pirates hosted the Davidson Cyclones in Long Lake

Hockey League action.

With Mack Shields getting the nod in net and making some big saves early on, Lanigan looked to take an opening period lead but it would be Davidson

connecting with two markers in the first.

Leading 2-0, the visiting team tallied with 16:49 left in the middle frame to go up by three but Shields shut the door for the rest of the stanza.

In the third, the Pirates hit the score board as Austin Calladine tallied from Stuart Symenuk and Thomas Bollefer but that would be as close as the Pirates would get as Davidson added some

insurance to win 6-1. Shots through 60 minutes had 59 for Davidson and 22 for Lanigan.

The Pirates were scheduled to host Wnynyard Feb. 4 in its final regular season home game.

In provincial action, Lanigan hosts Biggar in game one of its best of three series Feb. 11. Game two goes in Biggar Feb. 13 and if necessary, a third contest will be held in Lanigan Feb. 19.

Drake defeats Watrous in LLHL action

■ **Daniel Bushman**

With the Long Lake Hockey League's regular season nearing an end, the Drake Canucks welcomed the Watrous Winterhawks to town on a chilly Tuesday evening. Kicking off the month of February, both clubs were taking aim at a big two points in the league standings.

In the opening period, both netminders closed the door for the first half of the frame before Drake was able to solve Carson George in the Watrous cage. With 11:35 remaining in period one, Andrew Johnson tallied for the Canucks to make it 1-0. Just over four minutes later, Drake added a second marker, this time off the stick of Cameron Blair and it was 2-0 for the home crew. Looking to increase its lead, the Canucks scored three more times before the opening 20 minutes came to an end with markers from Terrell Draude, Cameron Blair and David Stumborg.

Down 5-0, Watrous looked to hit the score board to begin the middle stanza but Drake carried over its momentum from the first period and less than a minute after the puck dropped, Carter Coben made it 6-0. The Canucks netted two more goals, one from Emmett Scheidt and the other from Maguire Scheidt, before the Winterhawks were able to beat netminder

Spencer Ewen.

With 9:55 to play in period two, Chad Murton notched the visiting team's first of the contest from Josh Roberts and Michael Korol. Watrous then added a second, this time with 6:28 left as Dawson Gusikoski made it 8-2. Looking to build off of that momentum, the Winterhawks tried to tally another but the Canucks netted a late second period goal as Andrew Johnson scored his second of the contest to take a 9-2 advantage into the third.

In period three, Drake continued to pepper the Watrous net and got goals from John Lawrence (two), Cody Wourms, Terrell Draude, and Maguire Blair while Watrous scored a late one by Austin Dyok. At the buzzer, the Canucks collected a 14-3 victory on home ice.

In provincial action, Drake hosted Balcarres in its first round of provincials Jan. 29. In that matchup, Drake defeated the Broncs by a 5-2 count to take a 1-0 best of three series lead into Balcarres Feb. 4. If necessary, a third game was scheduled for back in Drake Feb. 5.

As for Watrous, they were scheduled to play Outlook in their opening round of provincial play Feb. 4. Game one went in Outlook with game two in Watrous Feb. 5. If necessary, a third game would take place Feb. 11.



- file photos



Local MP hosts federal Conservative caucus retreat

■ **media release**

On Jan. 19 and 20, all of Saskatchewan's 14 MPs gathered in Moose Jaw for a series of meetings and team building events.

Newly elected MP Frazer Tolmie who represents Moose Jaw - Lake Centre - Lanigan was pleased to host his colleagues in Moose Jaw. "I'm very happy to have hosted this event. We had some great experiences and made good progress at our meetings in Canada's most notorious city."

While in Moose Jaw, the MPs met with stakeholders, local leaders, and visited some local businesses. They



- photo submitted

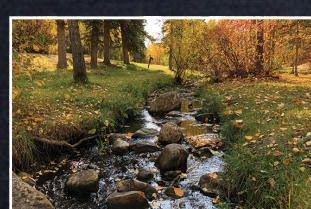
finished their time in Moose Jaw with a tour of the 15 wing RCAF base, home of Canada's Snowbirds.

Saskatchewan caucus chair MP Kevin Waugh remarked, "Moose Jaw was a

great experience for all of us. This is a great community and it has so much to offer. I know I speak for my colleagues when I say we are all looking forward to our next visit."

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For over the past four decades The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, have recognized the youth of Saskatchewan through the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

- Have a positive lifestyle
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- Are between the ages of 8 to 18

This year four deserving youth will receive a **\$3000 bursary**, provided by SaskPower, to use towards their post-secondary education. Someone you nominate could be one of them.

RCMP Report

North Battleford RCMP seeking footage of stolen car

North Battleford RCMP is asking the public to verify their video cameras to assist police in locating footage of a stolen car with two infants on board.

On Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022, just after noon, a white Chevrolet Optra car was stolen from the alley between the 1400 blocks of 103 Street and 104 Street in North Battleford. The car contained one-month-old twins in their car seats and two dogs.

North Battleford RCMP responded and located the car around 12:35 p.m. in the alley between the 800 blocks of 109 Street and 110 Street with one of the infants inside.

North Battleford RCMP and Saskatchewan RCMP Police Dog Services extensively patrolled the area and located the second infant in their car seat in the alley between the 1300 blocks of the 109 Street and 110 Street.

Both infants and both dogs were unharmed and reunited with their family.

North Battleford RCMP officers are urging anyone residing or travelling in downtown North Battleford on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022, between noon and 1 p.m., to verify their camera systems to see if they captured images of the white Chevrolet Optra or its occupant(s).

Anyone with footage or information about this crime is asked to call North Battleford RCMP at 306-446-1720 or their local police. Information can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Yorkton RCMP charges male with theft, possession of property obtained by crime

On Jan. 26, 2022, Yorkton RCMP received a report of a

theft.

Investigation determined that an employee of a delivery company had been taking packages that were to be delivered to customers. On Jan. 27, 2022, officers from the Saskatchewan RCMP's Melville Detachment and Yorkton Provincial and Municipal General Investigation Sections executed a search warrant at a residence in Melville as part of this investigation. Officers located and seized more than 40 items, including electronics and household appliances.

As a result, Ricky Novak of Melville has been charged with single counts of: theft from mail over \$5,000, Section 356(1)(a), Criminal Code; theft over \$5,000, Section 334(a), Criminal Code; theft under \$5,000, Section 334(b), Criminal Code; possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, Section 354(1)(a), Criminal Code; and possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000, Section 354(1)(b), Criminal Code.

Four charged in Meadow Lake

On Jan. 27, 2022 at approximately 6:45 p.m., Meadow Lake RCMP received a report of a disturbance at an apartment building on 6th Avenue West in Meadow Lake.

Investigation determined a suspect entered the building and deployed bear mace at an individual, then entered one of the apartment units. The individual suffered effects from the bear mace, but was not seriously injured.

Officers entered the unit and arrested four individuals. An illegally-modified firearm was observed in plain view and a small amount of methamphetamine was located on one of the individuals arrested.

As a result, Meadow Lake RCMP obtained and executed a search warrant at the apartment unit. Officers located and seized:

- the illegally-modified firearm;
- ammunition;
- 56 grams of methamphetamine;

• bear mace;

- a baton and edged weapons; and
- an undisclosed sum of Canadian currency and drug paraphernalia.

Kelsey Gladue of Meadow Lake, Owen Misponas of Beauval, Kenton Bouvier of Meadow Lake, and Gerald Sinclair of Green Lake have been charged with:

- one count, possession for the purpose of trafficking (methamphetamine), Section 5(2), Controlled Drugs and Substances Act;
- one count, possession of a firearm with readily accessible ammunition without a licence, Section 95(1), Criminal Code;
- one count, possession of a prohibited firearm without a licence, Section 91(1), Criminal Code;
- three counts, unsafe storage of a firearm/weapon, Section 86(1), Criminal Code;
- three counts, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, Section 88, Criminal Code; and
- two counts, possession of a prohibited weapon without a licence, Section 91(2), Criminal Code.

Kenton Bouvier is also charged with:

- one count, assault with a weapon, Section 267(a), Criminal Code;
- one count, carry concealed weapon, Section 90, Criminal Code; and
- two counts, possession of a firearm while prohibited, Section 117.01(1), Criminal Code.

Gerald Sinclair is also charged with:

- three counts, possession of a firearm while prohibited, Section 117.01(1), Criminal Code.

Sinclair was also arrested on warrants from the Green Lake RCMP and Owen Misponas was arrested on warrants from Saskatoon Police Service.

All four individuals charged were scheduled to appear in court in Meadow Lake on Jan. 31, 2022.

Transition to occur of Public Health management

■ media release

The provincial government stated the current Omicron wave requires a shift in public health management of the pandemic in Saskatchewan. In a media release, the government stated the following:

The outbreak and case management protocols that were effective in previous waves of the pandemic in identifying and limiting transmission are no longer as effective with the speed of Omicron's transmissibility. Public health strategy and resources must be realigned to focus on those at highest risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes.

Two elements have significantly altered the role of public health at this point in the pandemic event. In Saskatchewan there is widespread access to vaccinations and booster doses, as well as free, at-home rapid testing. Vaccinations, including the third/booster dose have dramatically decreased the risk of severe outcomes for most residents. At-home rapid testing has enabled individuals to self-manage, given the prevalence of asymptomatic or mild illness for the majority of those who contract Omicron. Residents now have reasonable self-management tools to safely navigate day-to-day activities.

Based on the significant amount of information all jurisdictions now have on the risk, transmission and severity of COVID-19, public health can realign provincial resources to prioritize its strategies to manage the current variant while continuing to deliver other essential public health programs and services and support the on-going response of the health care system.

This transition is necessary as Saskatchewan prepares to manage COVID-19 in the long-term. Necessary COVID-19 surveillance and public health planning will continue, particularly as potential new variants may emerge.

Testing At-Risk Residents - Call HealthLine 811

With most Omicron COVID-19 cases resulting in mild illness, these cases can be self-managed with self-testing and self-isolation. Effective immediately, Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) PCR testing will be reserved for priority populations at elevated risk for severe outcomes, which include:

- Hospitalized patients, those admitted or transferred between acute, long-term care or personal care homes;
- High risk populations as ordered by the medical health officer: residents in long-term care, personal care homes and congregate living facilities; and international or travellers from areas of concern;
- Priority symptomatic persons: health care workers or essential workers who have a negative rapid antigen test but remain symptomatic; those with chronic illness (diabetes, history of cancer, cardiac failure, etc.);

• Symptomatic people living or working in First Nation and Métis communities;

• Surgical patients with symptoms or a positive rapid antigen test if scheduled or expecting to receive surgery within the next 90 days;

• Pregnant patients who are symptomatic and more than 30 weeks gestation;

• Symptomatic immunocompromised individuals including all transplant donors and recipients prior to and post-transplant; all oncology patients prior to, receiving or post chemotherapy; and

• Newborns born to COVID-19-positive parents, prior to discharge.

Additionally, health care workers and essential workers as defined under the current public health order with negative rapid antigen results who remain symptomatic will continue to be eligible for PCR tests to protect Saskatchewan's essential services.

Medical health officers may order PCR testing as part of outbreak investigations, particularly in at-risk settings like long-term care and personal care homes, and other congregate living facilities.

Residents who require PCR test results for travel, insurance claims including potential Workers' Compensation Board claims, or in lieu of proof of vaccination, will be required to purchase a test from a private lab service provider for that documentation.

Free rapid antigen tests are available at approximately 600 locations around the province, with Indigenous Services Canada and the Northern Inter Tribal Health Authority receiving a supply for First Nations communities. The province of Saskatchewan has requested more than four million rapid antigen tests from the federal government for each of February and March to ensure a secure supply.

With PCR testing eligibility focused on at-risk populations, the SHA is adjusting PCR testing locations to ensure access while returning frontline health care workers to home positions to support post-pandemic service delivery.

Effective Monday, Feb. 7, all COVID-19 PCR testing will be by appointments made through HealthLine 811.

While the online appointment booking system will be discontinued Feb. 7, walk-in and drive thru testing sites will be discontinued over the coming week. Services provided through SHA testing and assessment centres will be redistributed to primary care sites through the month of February.

Outbreak Management

The Omicron variant of COVID-19 is more transmissible with a very short incubation period and many cases remain asymptomatic. This makes contact tracing and

case management protocols less effective in preventing transmission. Public health will continue to investigate severe cases and shift resources to focus on outbreak management in settings where the risk of severe health outcomes is highest.

Public health will continue to investigate outbreaks in acute care settings, long-term care and integrated facilities, personal care homes, correctional facilities and congregate living settings including shelters and group homes. Outbreaks in long-term care and personal care homes will continue to be publicly reported at Saskatchewan.ca/covid-19.

While outbreaks related to public mass gatherings/events, places of worship, workplaces, daycares, and educational settings will no longer be investigated, these venues and organizations will continue to be supported by local public health with transmission mitigation planning and standard surveillance protocols.

Ongoing Surveillance to Support Public Policy

COVID-19 surveillance will now align with reporting for other communicable diseases. Indicators continue to be monitored and contribute to routine surveillance for COVID-19, influenza and other respiratory illnesses.

Starting the week of Feb. 7, public health will begin reporting COVID-19 epidemiological information weekly on Thursdays. This weekly integrated epi report will provide the new laboratory-confirmed cases, deaths, tests, and vaccination information overall and by zone. The provincial COVID-19 dashboard will be discontinued and its information archived.

Public Health Orders

The current public health orders will remain in place at this time but are subject to review. This includes mandatory masking in all indoor public spaces including schools; mandatory self-isolation for all confirmed cases; and proof of vaccination or negative test requirements for public access to a list of establishments, businesses and event venues.

Stay Safe - Protect Yourself and Your Community

Living with COVID-19 requires all residents to continue the measures we know to work. While safe and effective vaccine and rapid at-home testing are widely available and are important public health interventions, all other personal preventive measures remain important to preventing transmission.

Immediately self-isolate and self-test with even the mildest cold- or flu-like symptoms. Wear your best mask whenever you are outside your home or when meeting friends and family you know to be at high risk for severe COVID-19 outcomes. Get vaccinated, including your third/booster dose as soon as you are eligible. Living with COVID-19 means all residents should be self-monitoring, self-testing and self-managing to help prevent transmission.

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(from front page: **WEATHER**)

said falling snow and high winds created treacherous driving conditions with zero visibility on Hwy. 12 and Hwy. 40. "Hwy. 12 is completely blocked south and north of Blaine Lake. The Petrofka Bridge, south of Blaine Lake on Hwy. 12, is obstructed with a jackknifed semi north of the bridge and several other semis south of the bridge. North and south of Blaine Lake, on Hwy. 12, approximately 40 to 60 cars are stuck in the snow on the road. All traffic is blocked."

As evening arrived and with the blizzard whipped into a frenzy, those who were stranded were left little choice but to

stay put on highways or roads to wait out the storm. In Colonsay, those on Hwy. 16, which was closed due to the storm, were able to seek shelter as the Town Hall was opened for anyone to spend the night. In Watrous, owner of Jake's Place, Kelvin Fellner also put out a message on the company's Facebook page that people could stay there if needed. Other stories were shared on social media about people throughout Saskatchewan helping those stranded or opening up their homes for the night.

Both Horizon School Division and Prairie Spirit School Division made the decision to offer Learning From Home Feb.

1 due to the extreme weather.

In a letter sent out to Horizon families, CEO Kevin Garinger said, "Ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance to Horizon School Division and its Board of Education. Operating out of an abundance of care and safety during these blizzard conditions, ALL Horizon School Division schools will move to Learning From Home for tomorrow, February 1, 2022. Teachers will be available to students throughout the school day, to the best of their ability. This is not an ideal situation, but ensuring that our families and staff are safe during this extreme weather is our main concern."

With the blizzard already creating terrible conditions within Prairie Spirit School Division, on Monday afternoon, the division stated: "Due to blizzard conditions this afternoon and evening and treacherous road conditions, all Prairie Spirit schools will move to learning from home for Tuesday, February 1. The safety of our students and staff is always our priority. The decision to move to learning from home was made as a result of the extreme weather and dangerous road conditions. We made this decision now in order to give families as much notice as possible. Our concern is for the ability of students and staff to get to school safely tomorrow, based on current conditions and the forecast. Teachers will be available to students throughout the school day, to the best of their ability."

With winds blowing snow and people left to wait out the storm, eventually overnight the snow tapered off and winds diminished. However, according to Environment and Climate Change Canada, the extreme wind gusts interrupted power to some communities.

Due to the extreme winds, reliable snowfall measurements were nearly impossible to accumulate so for that reason, Environment and Climate Change Canada did not have official snowfall amounts; however, provided peak wind gusts that were observed getting as high as 117 km/h in some places. Locally, the Last Mountain Lake area registered gusts as high as 81 km/h while Watrous hit 80 km/h. In larger centres, Moose Jaw had gusts peaking at 96 km/h, Swift Current registered 89 km/h, Regina 87 km/h, and Saskatoon hit 85 km/h.

Following the storm which started when the temperature was around 0°C, a rapid 20 degree temperature drop was observed in much of the south leading to very cold wind chills overnight. Waking up to a bone-chilling start to February, with the sun shining, people were able to start

digging out of the drifts accumulated by the system. Crews were also able to head out and clear roads and highways throughout the province.

With Groundhog Day Feb. 2, a day in which local area temperatures sat in the -30°C range with an added wind chill making it feel even colder, David Phillips with Environment and Climate Change Canada said the conditions that people endured throughout the first month of the year were about par for the course.

Ranging from blizzards to large amounts of snow, wind gusts, freezing rain, above-normal temperatures, below-normal temperatures and everything in between, Phillips said the cold really came in mid-December and carried into January. However, despite the cold, overall Phillips noted January, while similar to December, was about one degree cooler than normal. "There were some very cold moments in January like -40°C but the month came out about a degree cooler than normal."

Noting how there has been more moisture than in recent years, Phillips said during those previous two or three years where Saskatchewan received scarce amounts of snow, 2022 has reached more closer to normal levels.

While the days are getting longer with about three minutes and 11 seconds more daylight per day, Phillips said, "No question about it, the weather has been more of a winter than I first thought. I think La Nina has truly played a role... it has returned to its classic kind of cold."

Admitting that the recent weather to begin 2022 has almost been that kind of a yo-yo back and forth, Phillips said people can expect it to be similar in February. "What we see going ahead is more of that same pattern with temperatures going above-normal before dipping below average values. Those periods of cold, cold are not two weeks long, they may be four or five days long. Then you go back into that more westerly flow with single digit highs and temperatures that don't seem too brutal."

With February being the coldest month of 2021, in 2022 it certainly started quite chilly and on Feb. 2, Canada's famous groundhogs were split on whether there will be an early spring or more weeks of winter. Despite how the recent weather appears to be undecided with the up and down values, when talking with Phillips, he indicated models are showing the shortest month to come out with normal to cooler than normal values while precipitation models indicate a little wetter than normal for the local area.



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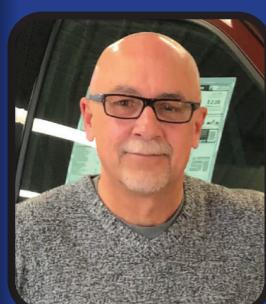
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