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Lanigan ADVISOR

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Lanigan, Saskatchewan

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Illuminating the sky

Storms, frigid weather, heat waves, fires, smoke and dry conditions all made up the elements in Saskatchewan during 2021. As 2022 began, the mixed bag continued as January featured a few nice days along with some very cold ones like the one pictured. As the temperature stayed below -21 °C along with an added wind chill Jan. 8, what appeared to be a sun halo, similar to a sun dog, was present above the Nutrien mine by Guernsey. According to skyandtelescope.org, "a sun halo, a circle of light that creates a circle 22° wide around the sun, is a related phenomenon. As with sundogs, hexagonal ice crystals suspended in cirrostratus clouds refract sunlight to create the halo, sometimes also called an icebow, nimbus, or gloriole. Unlike sundogs, which generally can only be seen when the sun is near the horizon, the halo is visible even when the sun is high. Sundogs appear along the 22° halo and disappear as the sun rises.

- photo by Daniel Bushman

Happy 100th Birthday!



Edna Davidson JANUARY 3

Looking back on 2021 and ahead for Drake

■ Daniel Bushman

With hopes of returning to a more normal in 2022, Drake has continued to push ahead, observing an influx of people moving to the community along with seeing a major water system project being completed. Optimistic about the future, the Lanigan Advisor reached out to Drake Mayor Peter Nicholson to get his thoughts on 2021 and what 2022 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 this year.

As a whole, how did 2021 go for Drake despite navigating through the pandemic?

For us 2021 went very well. We completed a \$700,000 major water system project where we put in a new well. That project included 163,000 to 170,000 litre water capacity so in the future if we decide to go the reverse osmosis route we are set to do that. We have also met all the requirements for SaskWater for storage and things of that nature with the project completed in October. With it now finished, we have backup water systems and lots of storage which is really good.

In 2021, we also had a complete changeover in staff with a new village administrator and foreman. Both are working out extremely well.

From the pandemic side of things, I think COVID was handled quite well in our community and people

responded well to wearing masks and sanitizing.

As Drake has grown recently, there is a committee that is looking to beautify the community. Could you share what exciting things they are up to?

There is a new park revitalization committee that is being headed by a couple of councillors and they had a very successful Winterfest weekend earlier this year. They raised a substantial amount of money that will go towards the revitalization of a new park for Drake.

That park would go on the east side of town, a little bit south of the school and the arena where that large green space area is located. They have hired engineers and have big plans. We won't be using tax dollars for the project so it is whatever they can raise. They have some exciting ideas for that space and it will be a very nice area once it is done.

Were there some other highlights of note from 2021 that you would like to share?

There were a number of houses sold this past year in the community and we are pretty much full. Our uptake is positive and I think if you took a census from 2021 compared to the last census in 2016, our numbers would be up considerably.

The school is also thriving with a fairly good number of kids and aside from only having a few businesses in Drake, things are going really well. It seems to be an attractive place to move to. We have people moving here from B.C., Alta., and Ontario and they are buying homes (see back page: **DRAKE**)

Top 10 Weather events in 2021

■ *compiled by Environment and Climate Change Canada's David Phillips*

Not in 26 years of releasing the Top 10 Weather Events has there been anything comparable to this year, where Canadians endured such a stream of weather extremes. The year began with windstorms causing multi-million dollar damage across the West in early January, and ended with rain, windstorms and floods causing multi-billion dollars of damage in British Columbia.

Although we cannot attribute a single weather event to human-caused climate change, the evidence is conclusive - we are experiencing more intense and more frequent extreme weather. Climate change is leading to more frequent and more intense disasters around the world. This was the year southern Canadians began seeing this firsthand. There was no new types of weather this year - our grandparents coped with the same rain, heat, floods, fires and drought. But the extremes were of a different nature than in the past. They were more widespread, intense, frequent and impactful.

Canada continued to warm in 2021 for the 26th consecutive year, and was one of the warmest in 75 years. Canada's excessive heat in early summer helped to make July the planet's warmest month in more than a century and a half. No place in the world has warmed more than Canada's North. Three decades of gradual but relentless warming have dramatically changed the geography in the North: fragile ice shelves are crumbling into the ocean, sea ice is thinning and shrinking, sea levels are rising slowly and ocean waters are becoming less salty, more acidic and warmer throughout.

In 2021, Canadians witnessed the real threat and impact of climate change all around them and were shocked by the variety and frequency of weather extremes. British Columbia became ground zero for weather catastrophes. The province

was dried out, scorched, flooded and inundated with mud, rock and debris flows. Owing to the extraordinary early summer heat and drought, British Columbia suffered a tragic week of weather and from unbelievable fall-season rains and floods, likely the most destructive and expensive year to date.

The Prairies continued to be hot and dry as they have been for the past two or three years, with economic costs in the billions of dollars. The wildfire season started early, burned later, and became bigger and hotter, igniting a near-record area of forests across Canada. The smoke affected millions of Canadians for days and months. For instance, this year Calgary saw 512 hours of smoke and haze, far exceeding the average of 12 hours per year.

The unseasonably warm Atlantic Ocean waters led to another very active tropical storm season. Canada was touched by six tropical storms, including Hurricane Larry in Newfoundland and Labrador, the longest-lasting Category 5 hurricane in Atlantic basin history.

The year showed that heat can be a disaster and even more catastrophic than ever before thought possible. Temperature extremes in Canada covered a range of 100 degrees, varying from a record hot of 49.6°C, causing nearly 800 fatalities in British Columbia and Alberta, to the coldest temperature in four years at -51.9 °C. Much of Western and Central Canada faced some of the coldest temperatures in years in mid-February when the dreaded Arctic blast impacted the entire country. In 2021, Calgary reinforced its reputation as the hailstorm capital when a half-billion-dollar hailer struck the city for a few minutes on July 2.

Volatile weather also occurred when a rare tornado, the first one in 45 years, touched down in Vancouver. In addition, the usual hot spot for tornadoes in Canada, the central Prairies, had a two month period in mid-summer without a single tornado. Yet Canada, overall, has never seen so many major EF2 tornadoes with winds exceeding 175 km/h, as in this year.

At times in 2021, Canada even broke records for the number of records broken. Property damage from weather cost Canadians millions of dollars and the economy billions. Based on preliminary estimates compiled by Catastrophe

Indices and Quantification Inc. (CatIQ), there were 13 major catastrophic weather events with billions of dollars in insured losses. It will be months before final figures are tallied. In the end, insured damages will only be a fraction of the total economic costs and together with business losses and infrastructure costs for repairing and rebuilding, 2021 will undoubtedly be the most expensive in history.

From a list of at least 100 significant weather happenings across Canada in 2021, events were ranked from one to 10 based on factors that included the degree to which Canada and Canadians were impacted, the extent of the area affected, economic and environmental effects and the event's longevity as a top news story. Incredibly, British Columbia's terrible weather led the way in the first five of the Top 10 Weather Events in 2021.

Overall, the Top 10 Weather Events of 2021 are: Record heat under the dome; British Columbia's flood of floods; Canada dry coast to coast; Wildfire season - early, active and unrelenting; Canada rides out four heat waves; Year of the EF2 tornado; Dreaded Arctic blast freezes Canada in February; Another hailer-flooder in Calgary; Hurricane Larry belonged to Newfoundland; and number 10 is January prairie clipper.

While Saskatchewan was noted in other events within the Top 10 of 2021 including the forest fires up north, very cold temperatures and a January clipper, two other significant events also impacted the province and are below:

3. Canada dry coast to coast

Veteran farmers and ranchers do not hesitate to call this year's drought across Western Canada one of the worst in history. Farmers compare it to 1988 and 1961; historians compare it to the 1930s. What made the drought extraordinary was that the dryness was so widespread, severe and long lasting. Even before summer was half over, dozens of rural communities had declared states of agricultural disaster. With a week to go before harvest, the Canadian Drought Monitor classified 99 percent of the Prairie agricultural landscape as a drought scene.

The lack of summer rains in the West contributed to the searing heat and spreading wildfires. Persistent blocking ridges redirected the jet stream farther north keeping water-bearing clouds from forming. As a result, southern regions between British Columbia's Lower Mainland and Interior, to (see page eight: **WEATHER**)

VILLAGE OF PLUNKETT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER

The Village of Plunkett invites applications for the position of Public Works Manager. Reporting to the Administrator, this person is responsible for the planning and operation of the Public Works department including water and sewer, streets and roads, solid waste disposal and other village services. This is a part-time permanent position encompassing a 20-hour work week. Periodic on-call work may be required. Training and professional development is offered to the right candidate.

This position requires certification in:

- Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Operator (Class 1 water treatment, water distribution, and wastewater collection and treatment)
- Landscape Applicator
- Workplace Hazardous Material Information System (WHMIS)
- Confined Space Pre-Entry

The successful candidate must be self-motivated, willing to work as part of a team, be able to work with minimal supervision, and be community-oriented.

For the complete employment opportunity posting, please contact the Village Office at plunkett@sasktel.net.

Interested individuals are invited to submit a resume including a cover letter and three (3) references, indicating expected salary and date of availability, to Michele Cruise-Pratchler, Interim Administrator, by:

Email: plunkett@sasktel.net

Mail: P.O. Box 149, Plunkett, SK S0K 3J0

Applications will be received until the position is filled.

All applicants are thanked for their interest in the position; however, only those who are selected for further consideration will be contacted.



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If you are a self-motivated team player with a passion for great customer service we want to hear from you! A background in agriculture would definitely give you a step up but is not required for this position.

To be considered for our high performing team, please submit your resume, complete with a cover letter, to **Penny Masear, Director - Human Resources** via email: careers@blairs.ag or drop off in person at our Nokomis location.

Don't hesitate to check us out at www.blairs.ag

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The Town of Lanigan is seeking an individual to become part of our Public Works team. This employment opportunity is a permanent full-time position.

Duties will include major equipment operation, street maintenance, garbage collection, manual labour and other duties as assigned. Experience and/or education in general operation of Water Treatment Plants and Sewer Lift Stations would be an asset.

Must be able to operate equipment with safety of public first, have the ability to repair and service equipment, possess a valid Class 5 Driver's Licence and have completed Grade 12 or equivalent. The ability to work without supervision is required. The successful candidate must provide Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination and a Criminal Record Check.

Please submit resume with references to:
town.lanigan@sasktel.net

or in person to 110 Main Street, Lanigan.

Employment to commence as soon as reasonably possible. The position will remain open until a suitable candidate has been selected. Only those considered for employment will be contacted.

For more information, contact
Kelli Timmerman at 306-365-2809

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Members of local Air Cadet Squadron recognized

■ Daniel Bushman

With years of hard work, dedication and the ability to navigate through the current pandemic, the local 797 K of C Lanigan Air Cadets Squadron along with one of its longtime members was recognized during an Oct. 22 virtual awards night and annual general meeting. During the evening, the Air Cadet League Saskatchewan Provincial Committee presented an award to Captain John Douglas Potter and the local squadron. Former Lanigan resident Larry Sinnett was also highlighted for his involvement with the provincial cadet program.

In appreciation for his outstanding support and dedication to the Air Cadet League of Canada and the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, Captain John Douglas Potter of the 797 Squadron was presented with a Certificate of Recognition.

According to the nomination letter regarding Potter's service, beginning as a Civilian Instructor (CI) for the local squadron in 1984, after being recruited, Potter brought along his expertise as a competitive rifle shooter to help grow the shooting program within the squadron.

Holding the position of Range Safety Officer (RSO) and coach for the next year and a half, Potter then signed up to become an officer. After receiving the proper training and earning his stripes as a Training Officer, he would later take the position of Supply Officer and then Commanding Officer. During that time, Potter also held the job of RSO and rifle coach and was able to go back to that after receiving a promotion to Second Lieutenant.

In August of 1996, Potter made the decision to make room for new officers and applied to be placed on the COATES reserve list. On reserve until 2006, Potter was asked to return to resume command of the squadron until he was able to recruit a replacement five years later.

Also a member of the Saskatchewan Provincial Rifle Association and Royal Canadian Legion, Potter is currently a Supply Officer and RSO for his local squadron but will be retiring from his duties this coming spring.

With decades of helping the squadron and being an influence to the youth of the program, Potter was presented with the Certification of Recognition Award virtually. Former Lanigan resident and current Director of the Air Cadet League of Canada and Saskatchewan Provincial Committee Larry Sinnett said Potter's dedication, knowledge and being an excellent role model for the youth enrolled in the cadet program have been a great asset to 797 Squadron and made him the perfect recipient of the award.

"During the years that he was on the reserve list, he continued to assist in finding funds for the squadron as well as youth to join. Captain Potter continues to show



- top photos courtesy Larry Sinnett
below is a file photo of Captain John Douglas Potter



enthusiasm for the Cadet program and has just found an organization to donate a computer so the squadron could start using a 'flight simulator'. His years of knowledge have assisted the many officers that have been involved in 797 operations."

In addition to Potter's recognition, the 797 Knights of Columbus Lanigan Air Cadets Squadron was also honoured with a Squadron Recognition Award. Presented by the Air Cadet League of Canada and the Saskatchewan Provincial Committee, Sinnett stated: "The efforts of the Squadron Officers and SSC volunteers has allowed 797 Knights of Columbus to substantially grow their cadet strength and maintain them through the cadet year. For their continued strong recruiting and retention of cadets in a rural setting, 797 Knights of Columbus is deserving of the Saskatchewan Air Cadet League Squadron Recognition Award."

Sinnett noted the cadet training program has been



holding its events virtually for the past 20 months and with the assistance of the senior cadets, the squadron followed their training from home. Some of those things included: outdoor fire making, outdoor cooking, making outdoor emergency shelters as well as hearing pertinent information from many provincial celebrities.

With the cadet program headquartered in the former Guernsey School and led by Captain Krystal Klenk-Potts, during the program the squadron parades Thursday evenings. Heading into the latter part of 2021, Sinnett said the squadron follows the provincial COVID-19 health regulations and is planning day activities such as marksmanship as well as in-person training on Thursdays.

"All youth ages 12 to 18 are welcome to join the free cadet program as all uniforms, training material and camp courses are free. Dedicated youth wanting a pilot's licence can work their way to that goal for basically the time and dedication it takes."

After Potter and the local squadron were recognized for their efforts and dedication, Sinnett was also recognized and awarded Director of the Year for his dedication to the cadet program. Larry has now received this award three times over the past 44 years working with cadets.

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Jansen

Louise Shannon

I am glad that cold snap is over for now. Everything that could go wrong - did in my life.

The children got to go back to school. With the pandemic it must have been hard to keep children busy. They are lucky to have computers and TV. We

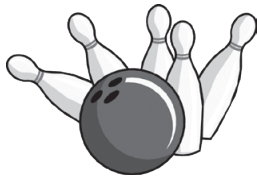
used to play board games or play in a snowbank.

Thanks to the people looking after the old people.

Get well greetings to Linda Paetsch and anyone else not feeling well.

Happy birthday to Ken Manyk and Linda Kinzel.

Prairie Rose Bowling



Ladies

Wednesday, Jan. 5

LHS: Kathy Jones, 163

LHT: Kathy Jones, 473

Ladies

Wednesday, Jan. 12

LHS: Lyndsay L'Heureux, 189

LHT: Shannon Bay, 482

Mens

Monday, Jan. 10

MHS: Dwayne Koshinsky, 272

MHT: Dwayne Koshinsky, 603

Plunkett

Deloris Wilson (Sutherland) • 306-944-4852

Recently visiting Roger and Isabelle Langston of Watrous, formerly of Plunkett, were their son Earl Langston of Leduc, Alta. as well as Don and Darlene Langston and their daughter and friend.

Visiting Gizella Toth of Watrous, formerly of Plunkett, were her daughter Marge and husband Duane of Regina.

Maisie Sutherland's family was recently visiting her in Watrous.

Dennis and Leona Credgeur were away to Meadow Lake to see their daughter Tanis Crawford and husband Rodney and family for a few days before Christmas. They went to Hanley to be with Grandma Rewerts and family over Christmas.

Visiting us on Christmas was my daughter Linda and her husband Trevor McDonald of Saskatoon and also with them was David McDonald and more of our family. They brought out a turkey dinner. It was very nice to be with our family.

We saw a deer sleeping in our back yard under the crab apple tree.

Get well greetings to anyone ill and we wish them well.

Viscount

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

Well, I am sitting here trying to find something to write about, but I am coming up with a blank page.

If anyone has some news to share please let me know.

Presently the weather has gone from cold to extremely comfortable to be outside and getting some

fresh air. It is so nice to have the community centre open for any public skating or watching hockey games.

Best wishes to anyone who is under the weather. I hope you feel better soon.

Have a great week, stay safe and enjoy the weather.

Hopefully it stays a nice temperature for awhile.

uncomplIcATed - Broken Crayons Still Colour



■ by Arlene Martin

I am trying to be as still as I can while writing. A migraine flared again in the wee small hours of the morning and the nausea intensities with each movement. Years ago I quit questioning Heaven about STUFF and am content knowing that each individual arrives on this pretty blue planet with a personalized tool box of coping skills. In the silence of another prairie morning tranquility arrives on the darting rays of a beautiful wintry morning. I don't know what lurks in this day but my prayer is already beginning to be one of thankfulness, raging migraine and all.

A memory has suddenly found me remembering a long ago conversation I struck up with a cheerful elderly gentleman. I watched him enter the waiting area of a local medical clinic. He leaned heavy on his cane then with some difficulty eased into a nearby chair. This was before my knee surger-

ies and my hands rested on the handle of my pretty pink staff. "Aren't canes just so incredible to help us get where we're going," I remarked. He gave me a huge grin and responded with a happy, "They sure are!" Inquiring about his health and home, I learned he recently lost his wife and he was facing back surgery. Of course with my zigzag arthritic backbone, this caught my attention. As I wished him success he explained that he has cancer in his spine. There was no self-pity or negativity in his voice, just pure optimism. I am thinking of this today wondering about him hoping he had a happy ending also reminding myself how much a hopeful and sunny disposition can influence others. Self-pity in the spirit is far more damaging and destructive than arthritis in one's joints.

Brandy, my little aging calico has jumped into and settled like a warm furry heating pad in my lap. She has many health problems also and I love her and her fortitude. Her gentle purring silently suggests that life is not meant to be complIcATed and time spills out in the measure of moments. No mortal escapes a painless or free ride.

Here's where I share what the years have taught me - this too shall pass! I would never lie to you.

Love, Arlene!

Investment made in crop research

■ media release

Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced a total of \$9.1 million in funding Jan. 11 for new crop-related research projects in 2022.

This year's funding will support 55 crop-related projects in Saskatchewan through the province's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF).

"Canada's crop sector has navigated a challenging year marked by extreme climate events with resilience and determination," said Bibeau. "Together with the Government of Saskatchewan, our federal Government is committed to investing in science and innovation through critical initiatives like the Agriculture Development Fund. Investing in science is essential to give our farmers the tools they need to realize our vision of a sustainable agriculture sector in Canada."

"Saskatchewan's agriculture sector is uniquely well-equipped to accommodate the kind of growth we're anticipating in the decade ahead - not simply by increasing capacity, but also through innovation driven by academic research with strong support from industry partners," Marit said. "Investments are only the first step; the real work is being done by researchers on a range of topics that

will deliver long-term benefits for producers."

Examples of research projects include: study of the effect of intercropping on disease levels in various pulse crops; researching innovative ways to mitigate root rot in peas; and strategies for removing undesirable characteristics of protein ingredients from canola, hemp and flaxseed.

Support for these and other ADF projects is awarded each year on a competitive basis to researchers focusing on areas of importance to Saskatchewan agriculture producers and industry partners, which creates future growth opportunities and enhances the competitiveness of the provincial agriculture sector.

In addition to commitments from the federal and provincial governments, approximately \$4.1 million was contributed by the following industry partners in support of these projects:

- Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF)
- Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission
- Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission
- Prairie Oat Growers Association
- Saskatchewan Pulse Growers
- Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission
- Alberta Wheat Commission
- Manitoba Crop Alliance
- Mustard 21
- Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR)

"It is evident from the substantial investment by WGRF, and all industry partners, that producers are committed to investing in agricultural research," WGRF Chair Dr. Keith Degenhardt said. "We know the knowledge and tools research provides are vital for our continued success. The ADF continues to provide a great forum for producer groups to collaborate and co-fund agricultural research that improves production and sustainability for western Canadian producers."

The ADF is supported through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products sectors. This includes a \$2-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 percent federally and 40 percent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories. This includes a \$388-million investment in strategic initiatives for Saskatchewan agriculture.

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Daniel and Kim Bushman, publishers and editors
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Alexandra Goodrich-Dengler, creative/advertising

Watrous Office Contact Information:

**Box 100, 309 Main Street, Watrous, Saskatchewan
S0K 4T0 Phone: 306-946-3343 Fax: 306-946-2026**

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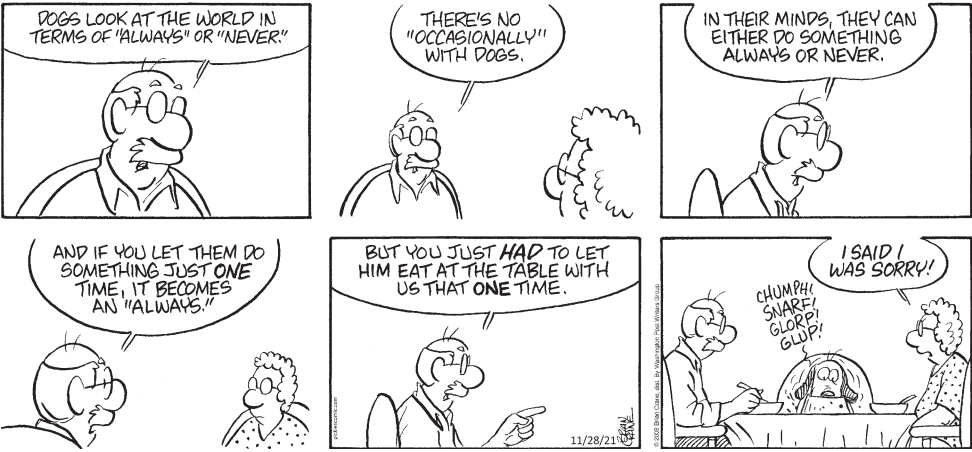
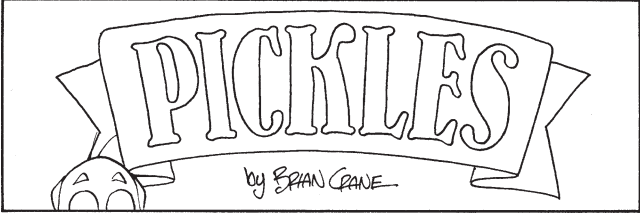
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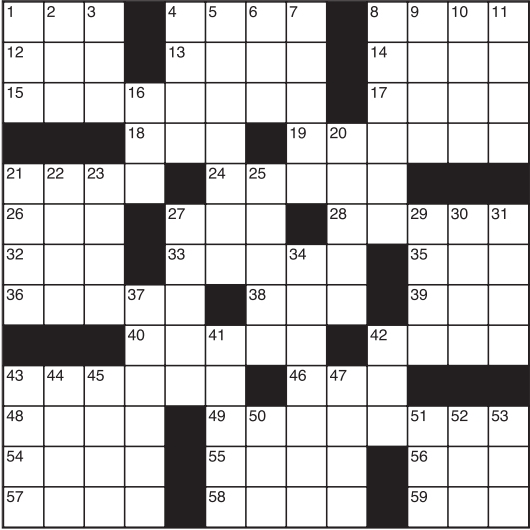
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4. Swindle
8. Senseless
12. Wool provider
13. Bagel feature
14. Eyeball
15. Inhibited
17. Verb's counterpart
18. That girl
19. Pictures
21. "____ Madonna"
24. Neck scarf
26. Mine and yours
27. Winter illness
28. Cut apart
32. Feasted
33. Snaky letters
35. Eden inhabitant
36. Fastening peg
38. Fodder
39. Feel distress
40. Robert _____ Stevenson
42. Friend
43. Kitchen garments
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49. Self
54. Land amid water
55. Smeller
56. Through
57. Whitetail
- DOWN**
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4. Nursery-rhyme home
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43. Sour
44. Stance
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FOR ANSWERS TO SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD, SEE PAGE 9

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Look What's Cooking by Laura Novecosky

Chocolate Chip Cookies

Ingredients:
1/3 cup butter
1 egg
1/2 cup white sugar
1/4 cup brown sugar
Beat these together well, then add:
1 cup flour
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt

Directions:
Blend well, then fold in one cup chocolate chips. Scoop into one tablespoon size balls. I flatten mine slightly on the greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375°F for eight minutes. They will still be soft but they crisp up as they cool. Makes a smaller batch, but is easily doubled. If you are going to double the recipe, make sure to measure carefully so the cookies come out the same as the single recipe.

Pirates split games as team seeks wins

■ Daniel Bushman

Looking to collect a few victories to open 2022, the Lanigan Pirates took aim at Davidson Jan. 8 before heading to Watrous a few nights later.

Despite giving up the first goal shorthanded in the opening period at home, the Pirates responded with 11:47 remaining as Austin Calladine assisted on a

Dexter Bricker marker. Then just over a minute later, Lanigan made it 2-1 as Jordan Elke connected with Stuart Symenuk. Looking to make it 3-1, the home crew pressed but with under four minutes to play in period one, the Cyclones evened the score at two.

With the game tied, teams headed into the middle stanza and the Pirates were able to nab

the lead. Then with 13:25 left on the clock, assistant captain Trey Daelick scored from Calladine and Bricker and the home crew had the advantage. However, on the power play and with 7:24 left, the visitors tied the contest as Eli Lichtenwald made it 3-3 in period two. As was the case in the opening frame, the second stanza also had teams locked in a tie heading into the next period.

In the third, Davidson connected less than a minute after the puck dropped before adding another shorthanded with just over 14 minutes remaining. Down 5-3, Lanigan responded on the power play as Braden Lozinski and Calladine collected helpers on a goal by Bricker. Hoping to tie things up, the Pirates pressed in the latter stages of the game but the Cyclones were able to maintain the lead with a power play tally coming with 4:36 remaining. That was followed by another goal with 1:12 to go. With the goals, Davidson skated away with a 7-4 win. Shots on goal in the game had the Cyclones register 35 and Lanigan 31. Mack Shields got the nod in net for the Pirates.

After its home contest



- photos by Daniel Bushman



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Chantalle Grieman, Humboldt
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Jake Webber, Davidson
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Continuing Care Assistant – Wynyard (2021 – 2022)

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(from page two: **WEATHER**)

the eastern Prairies and Northwestern Ontario faced one of their driest summers in 75 years, with many places recording less than half their normal rainfall during the growing season.

However, the seeds of this drought were sown months, if not seasons, before 2021. Across much of the West, fields through winter 2020-’21 were brown for more days than they were white with snow. Winter had not been this dry in 50 years in parts of Alberta. Edmonton had its second driest winter in 136 years. In Calgary, the spring rain was less than half of normal. Southern Manitoba was Canada’s epicenter for drought, especially in the Red River Valley and the Interlake region. Some places like Winnipeg had their two driest back-to-back years in over a century.

Crops were scorched and stunted as they withered under the blanketing dry-heat. Add strong moisture-sucking winds, and the meagre crops were beyond salvaging. By mid-July, as

the hot became hotter and the dry became drier, no one thought it could get much worse. But it did. Hordes of heat-loving grasshoppers and teams of gophers started invading the West, moving fast and feasting on anything green. At harvest time, grains, instead of being “armpit high” were mere “boot-high”. Further, with hay crops only 10 to 25 percent of normal, cattle ranchers faced the prospect of auctioning off animals they could no longer feed. All Canadians felt the impacts of the drought through higher food prices. August rains came too late to help the cereals and canola although they did help later, producing crops such as corn, soybeans, potatoes and sunflowers.

At the end of summer, there were a few days of heavy rain, opposing the growing season drought. In the Red River Valley, the end-of-August rainfall over three summer months totalled as much as 20 percent above normal. But, in agriculture, timing is

everything. For example, in Winnipeg, three-quarters of the warm-season rainfall fell over a period of just three days. Moreover, in a 60-day period from early June to mid-August – the most critical time when grain crops grow feverishly under the long Prairie sun – a paltry six percent of normal rainfall occurred. Further, that two month period featured 25 days with temperatures above 30°C. A similar picture occurred in southern Saskatchewan and central Alberta. It was just too dry and too hot for too long, and the crops just could not survive to mid-August. Drought causes drought. With extended periods of hot and dry conditions, no local moisture was being added to the atmosphere, suppressing thunderstorm activity. Incredibly, between June 16 and Aug. 23, no severe thunderstorm-spawned tornadoes occurred on the Prairies.

The impact of the drought on food producers across the Prairies was devastating. Compared to other agricultural drought years, the economic loss from this year’s dryness was easily in the billions of dollars.

Some cities began worrying about running out of drinking water. The Red River flow at Emerson fell to 50 percent below normal. Multi-season stretches of dry weather and heat across the West drained reservoirs, slashing

hydropower production to the lowest in decades, severely cutting revenue. In parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the gumbo clay soil was so dry that home foundations began cracking and settling. When the later rains came, so did the leaking.

The dire situation spanned not just the Prairies but portions of Northwestern Ontario and west to British Columbia. Across southern British Columbia, spring was also extraordinarily dry. Victoria Airport recorded just 53 mm of rain in spring – a new dry mark since records began 80 years ago. Kamloops recorded its second driest spring in more than a century. The drought continued into the summer. From June 16 to Aug. 6, Vancouver had 53 consecutive days without a measurable rainfall (0.2 mm or more) – not a record but the longest in 35 years. Vintners worried that grapes would drop before they were ready for picking. Orchardists saw berries turn mushy in the heat.

In the East, going into the planting season, Ontario and Quebec had a significant moisture deficit with spring precipitation between 25 to 75 percent of normal totals. Deficits ranged from 110 to 130 mm in places such as Chatham-Kent in southwestern Ontario and in the Montreal area. Spring precipitation in Montreal was very close to the historical record dating from 1915. May was among



- photo by Daniel Bushman

the driest on record from London to Ottawa covering 75 years. Welcome rains finally came in June a little late for the strawberries, but great for the crops that followed.

5. Canada rides out four heat waves

Across Canada, summer 2021 ranked as the fifth warmest season in the past 74 years. Only Nunavut had temperatures closer to normal. In the far west, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan experienced their warmest summers in at least 60 years, where heat warnings prevailed across entire provinces. Although the British Columbia heatwave was certainly the most impactful heat event of the year, the frequency of extreme heat all over the country was a significant part of all Canadians’ weather experience in 2021. As a mark of how scorching and consistently hot it was, days with temperatures of 30°C or greater occurred for five months. In Edmonton, hot days numbered more than all such days for the previous eight years combined. In Winnipeg, no year has ever had more days above 30°C (35 in 2021, compared to a normal of 13). In Saskatoon, July 2 topped 40°C. While summer went missing in the East in July, heat came roaring back during the second and third weeks of August. Montreal recorded its warmest August on

record with records dating back to 1871. Several cities also experienced very warm nights – part of a long-term trend seen across North America and Europe over the past several decades. For instance, Toronto had 14 nights with temperatures above 20°C compared to an average of four such nights. Worst in the East was the oppressive and sultry humidity. At times the air in the East was not only hot and humid, but also loaded with ash and smoke from wildfires in Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba.

Whereas Canada was consistently warm from May to August, the heat came in waves, with at least four bouts of 40-30-20 days: humidex values near 40 or above, hot afternoons exceeding 30°C, and tropical nights above 20°C.

In addition to the Top 10 Weather events provided by Phillips, he also shared regional weather highlights and runner-up events in 2021. For the Prairie provinces, those included: Alberta wind squall; Late March Prairie blows; Pleas for rain finally answered on May long weekend; Winds damage Manitoba property in early June; Return to winter in June following May heat wave; Altona tornado; Bring the rain, forget the wind; Rare multi-tornado day; First tornado in weeks; Rescue rains – too little too late; August ends with a weather bang; Time to let the cows out of the barn; Sensational September across the Eastern Prairies; Summer comes back in October; and Remembrance Day storm to remember.

For the full article by Phillips on the Top 10 Weather events of 2021, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/top-ten-weather-stories/2021.html>

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Number to be Elected: Two (2)

will be received by the undersigned on the 19th day of January, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Lanigan Town Office, #110 Main Street, Lanigan, SK. and during regular business hours Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., January 4th to January 18th, 2022 at the Lanigan Town Office, #110 Main Street, Lanigan, SK.

Nomination forms may be obtained at: Lanigan Town Office, #110 Main Street, Lanigan, SK.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2022.

Kelli Timmerman, Returning Officer

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

Lanigan Advisor (Watrous office) will be on holidays Monday, Feb. 21 to Friday, Feb. 25.
There will be a paper Feb. 21 and Mar. 7. NO paper Feb. 28.

Canucks face Cyclones

■ Daniel Bushman

After a 16-5 win in Watrous, the Drake Canucks looked to keep its winning ways going as they met the Davidson Cyclones Jan. 7.

In the opening period, the Canucks tallied first as

Andrew Johnson scored from Cameron Blair with 16:24 to go. While Davidson notched a goal later in the first period, Drake added another courtesy of Terrell Draude and through 20 minutes the visitors led 2-1.

In the second, the Cyclones were unable to

beat Drake netminder Spencer Ewen and that was also the case for the Canucks as they could not solve Dean McNabb in the other net. With the score remaining 2-1 in favour of Drake through 40 minutes, teams headed to period three.

Looking to add to its lead, it was not until less than six minutes left that the Canucks were able to make it 3-1. With 5:30 on the scoreboard, Nolan Blair tallied from Emmett Scheidt and Maguire Blair and that increased the visitor's advantage to two.

However, that two goal lead would not last long as Davidson countered with 3:24 to play with an Erik Gardiner marker as the home team got back to within one. Then with 1:03 to play, Maguire Blair increased Drake's advantage as the Canucks maintained

its lead to win 4-2. The shots after 60 minutes were 47-27 in favour of Drake.

With the victory on the road, the Canucks were scheduled to host Wynyard Jan. 11 but that game was postponed until a later date. Drake is currently slated to host Lanigan Jan. 21.

Basketball season gets rolling

■ Daniel Bushman

Looking forward to competing on the hard court, teams from Horizon School Division's basketball leagues tipped off in December. With some games already in the books as 2022 arrived, according to Horizon's website, here are some results and standings as of Jan. 11:

Senior Boys North West League - Wakaw (2-0), Watrous (2-0), Viscount (0-2), and Humboldt B (0-2). Watrous met Viscount Dec. 9 and won 66-36 and beat Humboldt Dec. 14 by a score of 76-41.

Watrous was scheduled to host Wakaw Jan. 11 while Viscount travelled to Humboldt. Watrous is scheduled to be in Viscount Jan. 18.

Senior Boys South East League - Wynyard (2-0), Foam Lake (1-1), Strasbourg (1-1) and Lanigan (0-2). Lanigan faced Strasbourg Dec. 7 with Strasbourg winning 59-26. Lanigan

then met Foam Lake Dec. 14 and lost 66-31.

Lanigan was scheduled to host Wynyard Jan. 13 and is in Strasbourg Jan. 18.

Senior Girls North West League - Annaheim (0-1), Humboldt B (0-0), Lanigan (0-0), St. Brieux (1-0), Wakaw (1-0), and Watrous (0-1) are all in the league. As of Dec. 16, Watrous lost to Wakaw Dec. 15 by a score of 44-32 while Lanigan beat St. Brieux 90-52 Dec. 15 in exhibition play. Action was slated for Jan. 12 with Lanigan in Watrous. Lanigan is in Humboldt Jan. 18 and Watrous heads to Humboldt Feb. 2.

Junior Boys North West League - Humboldt Public (0-1), Humboldt St. Aug. Eights (0-1), St. Brieux (2-0), Wakaw (0-1) and Winston High School in Watrous (1-0) are all part of the league. In exhibition play Watrous defeated Lanigan Dec. 6 by a score of 54-18. Watrous then won over Wakaw 44-28 Dec. 13.

In 2022, Watrous went to Humboldt Jan. 10 and hosts St. Brieux Jan. 18.

Junior Boys North Central League - LeRoy (0-1) is in a league with Annaheim (1-0), a pair of teams from Humboldt (both 1-0), Lake Lenore co-ed (0-1) and Middle Lake co-ed (0-1). LeRoy lost to Annaheim 49-25 in exhibition and to St. Augustine 42-11 Dec. 16. LeRoy was scheduled to host St. Dominic Jan. 10 and head to Middle Lake Jan. 17.

Junior Girls South League - Lanigan Elementary School (1-1) and Winston High School in Watrous (1-0) are in a league with Foam Lake (1-1) and Wynyard (0-2). On Dec. 9, Lanigan Elementary defeated Wynyard Elementary 61-5. Watrous then beat Lanigan 61-14 Dec. 13 before the end of 2021. In 2022, Watrous was scheduled to face Wynyard Jan. 13 while Lanigan Elementary was scheduled to head to Foam Lake. Watrous is also slated to host Foam Lake Jan. 17 and Lanigan welcomes Wynyard Jan. 27.

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The arena in Lanigan was a hub of activity Jan. 8 as part of Lanigan Minor Hockey weekend. As was the case in other communities throughout Saskatchewan, teams from the local area took part in the action going from the youngest groups (pictured) up to the senior level as the Lanigan Pirates hosted the Davidson Cyclones in an evening contest.
- photos by Daniel Bushman



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(from front page: **DRAKE**)

here and settling in. That is certainly positive as well.

The Drake Library also opened in its new location after the Village of Drake purchased the former Conexus Credit Union building which was essentially donated back to the community when the credit union closed the local branch. Half of the building is the village office and the other half is the library. Both sides look really nice and are quite functional.

The previous village office has been reverted back to the fire department and they have another truck in there that used to be parked in a shed off-site. They will be refurbishing that building in the summer.

With a new year underway, what does 2022 look like for Drake?

For 2022, it looks like we will have to redo our lift station which could cost a few hundred thousand dollars. It is all about keeping up with replacing things that have lasted 60 or so years and are requiring either repairs or replacements. We are not the only community in that boat as other communities are also facing those challenges. But we are managing through grants and taxation to keep ahead of the game for the most part.

We will start looking at the budget in a few months and we are hoping to get a bunch of road work done that has not been able to be done because of some larger projects. So we are hoping to get some of that stuff looked after and get some things fixed in the spring and summer. Other than the lift station, that is the only other thing planned of major size.

As a whole, I think everyone seems to be working towards making Drake a good place to live and things are progressing in our community. I am pleased to see that.

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