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Official with local roots has memorable experience

■ Daniel Bushman

After going through the disappointment of seeing one event postponed twice to taking part in one of the biggest highlights of her career, official Alex Clarke has had quite the year and a half.

Growing up in Drake and being selected to officiate a number of competitions, the daughter of Trevor and Jean Blair recently attended the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association's (PWHPA) 2021 Secret Dream Gap Tour in Calgary.

Clarke said it was a huge opportunity to be chosen as one of the officials in Calgary after the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Women's World Championship in Halifax and Truro that she was to be a part of was postponed in late April due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It took me a few days to process the cancellation of Worlds in Halifax," said Clarke who added she was notified the event was cancelled 15 minutes before she was to leave for the airport. "It was incredibly last minute and I didn't expect it at all. It took a few days to get out of my pity party and back into training for the "next event" which was completely unknown at that time."

Her next event would be the PWHPA 2021 Secret Dream Gap Tour in Calgary where she was the only official representing Saskatchewan. "This event was one of the most monumental experiences/events that I have been a part of to date. It is such an important event for women's hockey and female sport in general in pushing towards a financially sustainable league for professional level women to play the game at."

Working five games between May 24 to 30, Clarke said before she got the call, the tour did not even register on her radar as it was put together fairly last minute. "When Worlds was cancelled, the PWHPA wanted to get these women an opportunity to play the game they have been training so hard for. The US counterparts of the PWHPA held their side of the event earlier this winter, so it was great they were able to get the Canadian Tour in as well!"

Having to go through the COVID-19 protocols, the former graduate of Lanigan Central High School who now calls Weyburn home with her husband and daughter, packed her bags and headed west. Arriving in Calgary, after her isolation period, Clarke grabbed her whistle and hopped on the NHL-sized ice.

Having previously officiated in Rogers Arena in Vancouver and Rogers Place in Edmonton, the bright lights



After growing up in Drake and graduating from Lanigan Central High School, Alex Clarke has not only been able to officiate in a number of prominent events but recently attended the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association's (PWHPA) 2021 Secret Dream Gap

Tour in Calgary. Joining officials from around Canada, Clarke (pictured above) was able to take part in five games during the May 24 to 30 event.

- photo taken by Dave Holland and courtesy PWHPA

of the Scotiabank Saddledome in Calgary were nothing new for the veteran official. However, each time Clarke has had the opportunity to skate on the bigger surface, it has been incredible. "The pure size and power of the arena on its own is enough to send blood pumping through your body. But then to sit back and see the production side of things, and realize the athletes that have shared the ice in these arenas, puts emphasis on the true level of hockey that is going on that I get to be a part of. It is obviously better and more intense when there are fans; however, the production crews did an incredible job of making the atmosphere feel as normal as possible in the arena!"

With games being televised on Sportsnet which

included teams out of Calgary, Toronto and Montreal, in the end, it was Marie-Philip Poulin who led Team Bauer (representing Montreal) to a 4-2 win over Team Sonnet (representing Toronto).

Being able to be there for the championship and for the event itself, Clarke shared what stuck out for her during her time in Calgary. "I think that the PWHPA did an incredible job of including the officials as part of this event. Oftentimes, the officials get forgotten about or overlooked with a lot of the planning and scheduling; however, the PWHPA did a great job including us and helping us to feel a part of the event as a whole, and a

(see back page: **OFFICIAL**)

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RCMP Report

Break and enter in RM of Bayne

In the afternoon hours of Wednesday, May 19 Humboldt RCMP were dispatched to a break and enter at a rural residence in the RM of Bayne. The victim's residence is near the north junction of Hwy. 2 and Hwy. 5. This home is visible from Hwy. 5.

Unknown suspect(s) forced entry into the house and an outbuilding on the property. A small amount of property was stolen during this offence and the home suffered damage.

RCMP have determined the break and enter occurred at approximately 3:18 p.m. No one was injured during these events and the RCMP continue to investigate with the assistance of the Saskatoon Forensic Identification Section.

Anyone who may have witnessed this incident or has information about this crime are asked to contact Humboldt RCMP Detachment at 306-682-2535 or Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers.

Suspicious death investigation in Yorkton

The RCMP Major Crime Unit South is investigating a suspicious death reported to Yorkton RCMP on June 1 that occurred at the Yorkton & District Nursing Home.

Preliminary investigation determined an altercation occurred between two male residents in a resident's room at the Yorkton and District Nursing Home May 27, 2021. A staff member heard noise resulting from the altercation. When the

staff member entered the room they found one of the men injured, a 91-year-old male, who was transported to hospital. On May 30, the 91-year-old male died in hospital and his family was notified of his death.

On June 1, the Saskatchewan Coroners Service contacted the Yorkton RCMP to report the death. As a result of this report, Yorkton RCMP began investigating the death. The man's death was determined to be suspicious in nature and the RCMP Major Crime Unit South took carriage of the investigation. On June 3 an autopsy was completed in Saskatoon.

The investigation is ongoing, no arrests have been made and investigators do not believe there is a risk to public safety.

Fire at Meadow Lake and District Arena

In the early morning hours on June 6, 2021, Meadow Lake RCMP responded to a structure fire at the local Meadow Lake and District Arena.

Initial investigation revealed the fire appeared to have been set in a storage shed adjacent to the arena with an older model grey truck being observed leaving the area just prior to police responding to the scene. Also on June 6, 2021, the concession stand that shares parking lot with the arena was broken into.

Anyone with information related to either of these events or any other criminal matter is encouraged to contact the Meadow Lake RCMP at 306-236-2570. If you want to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or you can submit a tip online using the P3 App - <https://www.p3tips.com/206> or at www.saskcrimestoppers.com where you can also view other unsolved crimes.

RCMP welcomes two psychiatric nurses to OCC

The Saskatchewan RCMP is proud to announce the addition of two registered psychiatric nurses to its Operational Communication Centre (OCC) to assist RCMP officers in real time during mental health interventions with the public.

This collaboration between the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and the Saskatchewan RCMP aims to provide people in crisis with the right response at the right time.

"We hope the addition of these two psychiatric nurses to our Operational Communication Centre gives us the opportunity to demonstrate an increase in de-escalated crises, referrals to community resources, healthcare follow-ups, and cases diverted from emergency rooms and police cells," said C/Supt. Bangloy, Officer in Charge of Saskatchewan RCMP Criminal Operations Department.

How can they assist? The nurses, both trained in psychiatric care, will provide mental health crisis intervention, assessment, support, recommendations, information and referrals to people in Saskatchewan who are experiencing a mental health and/or addiction crisis.

The two nurses offer a wide range of expertise in areas such as adult and adolescent psychiatry, youth detox, inpatient and outpatient mental health care, community mental health, crisis intervention and stabilization, and addictions services, among others.

How will it work? If a police officer responds to a call

where it is believed the subject is experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis, the officer can enlist the assistance of the nurses. The nurses will speak with the officer directly prior to speaking to the individual in crisis. Together - the individual, the nurse and police - will determine the appropriate care pathway. It is important to note that this is a generalization and the course each situation takes will vary depending on a wide variety of factors.

"The strength of the program is the consultation and partnership with the RCMP and the link with a mental health professional," said Reggie Jackson, Manager of Inpatient Unit and Intensive Services in Mental Health and Addictions for the SHA. "RCMP officers are often the initial points of interaction with people struggling with mental health and/or addictions issues and the goal of the pilot project is to provide these people with timely access to mental health expertise, through that first point of contact. Then, our nurses will help them to navigate and connect to other community resources based on the individual's need."

The nurses are located in the OCC at Saskatchewan RCMP Headquarters in Regina and are available to officers in all RCMP jurisdictions in Saskatchewan, except where and when Police and Crisis Teams (PACT) are in operation (currently in North Battleford, Yorkton, Moose Jaw, Regina, Saskatoon and soon to be in Estevan).

"This program is modelled after the province's Police and Crisis Teams (PACTs), an initiative that aims to create a better outcome for individuals and families living with mental health issues," Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote, Health Everett Hindley said. "This innovative approach will help RCMP officers respond to calls for police services where mental health or substance use or misuse is a factor." PACTs are a collaborative effort between the SHA and police services in the province. Officers are paired with a mental health professional to respond to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. The goal is to provide the right kind of care to people within the community, thereby avoiding emergency department visits and entry into the criminal justice system.

"Saskatchewan police services strive to support and protect citizens. This includes assisting individuals who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. The addition of two new psychiatric nurses will enable the RCMP to help vulnerable citizens with compassion and care," said Christine Tell, Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

How will personal information be protected? The Saskatchewan Health Authority and Saskatchewan RCMP will not share their respective information systems. Together, a procedure was developed to keep police, medical and personal information private. Information will only be shared verbally and interventions will be conducted in accordance with the Saskatchewan Health Information Protection Act (HIPA) and the Canadian Privacy Act. The ultimate goal is to share the least amount of information possible but share enough to better support the health of people in crisis and get them the assistance they require.

Having the nurses in the Saskatchewan RCMP's OCC is a 12-month pilot. Their first shifts were Monday, May 31, 2021.

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Nutrien increasing potash production

■ media release

Nutrien Ltd. announced June 7 that it expects to increase potash production by approximately half a million tonnes in the second half of 2021 compared to earlier expectations, in response to tightening global potash market conditions.

Nutrien has a flexible network of six world-class potash mines with competitively positioned, available capacity that it can utilize to help supply global demand.

"We are responding to strong market fundamentals to ensure our customers have the crop inputs they need to feed a growing population.

Our network of flexible production and extensive logistics is designed to provide reliable supply and we have a unique ability to be agile and respond to changing market conditions. Our potash asset portfolio is optimally positioned to meet customer needs and drive shareholder value," commented Ken Seitz,

Nutrien's Executive Vice President and CEO of Potash.

Domestic and offshore potash sales volumes are currently fully committed through September, based on our original production profile for 2021. Nutrien will be actively hiring additional employees and adapting its resources to help increase

production across most of its potash mines, ramping up its Vanscoy facility in particular, and will ensure the highest safety standards are maintained in the process.

Nutrien expects these actions to result in upward revisions to potash-related guidance for the second half of 2021 from both a volume

and EBITDA perspective, which will be addressed in second-quarter 2021 results. Nutrien continues to actively monitor the market and evaluate other potential options to further increase production if demand warrants it and may provide additional information in this regard at a later date.

BHP introduces seven-day payments to boost local and indigenous businesses

■ media release

BHP will move to seven-day payment terms for all small, local and indigenous business across its global operations, benefitting more than 4,000 supply partners worldwide. The move to seven-day terms will have an immediate and direct impact for BHP's local and indigenous suppliers in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Coming into effect on July 1, 2021, the change will improve cashflow for small businesses around the world, with whom BHP spends approximately US\$2.5 billion each year. In the last 12 months, BHP's Potash business spent approximately \$40 million CAD with 52 small, local and indigenous suppliers

in Canada.

This follows positive feedback on the reduced terms implemented by BHP for several months last year as a temporary COVID-19 support measure, and puts the company at the forefront of small business support.

"Small, local and indigenous business are the lifeblood of local communities and regional economies, and are integral to BHP's business as we progress the Jansen project," said Giles Hellyer, Vice President Operations. Response from suppliers about the payment terms has been very uplifting for BHP.

"BHP has proven once again their commitment to supporting the communities they work in," said Mike Silvernagle, President of SECON Group of Companies,

which provides site services at the Jansen Potash Project in partnership with Kawacatoose First Nation, Day Star First Nation and Muskowekwan First Nation. "Recognizing the importance of cash flow for us further solidifies our trusted partnership. Thank you."

"Fast payment terms create a number of benefits for us, including liquidity that allows us to work with our own local vendors and reduce carrying costs that ensure more financial benefit and prompt payment for our Indigenous partners," said Jeff Litchfield, Vice President, Operations for Horizon North, part of Dexterra Group, which operates the Discovery Lodge camp at the Jansen Potash Project site with Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation and Fishing Lake First Nation.

Local RMs named as part of RIRG program

■ Daniel Bushman

A handful of local Rural Municipalities will be eligible for funding to use for road improvements after the provincial government announced \$25.7 million in support through the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth (RIRG) program.

With phase three taking place during the 2021-'22 budget year, 69 RMs including the RM of Usborne #310, the RM of Morris #312, the RM of Lost River #313, the RM of LeRoy #339, and the RM of Colonsay #342 were approved as part of the growth program.

The aim of the RIRG is to help RMs with the cost of constructing and upgrading their infrastructure, which

in turn helps support local industries like agriculture, energy and forestry. The RIRG program grants cover up to 50 percent of each project's total cost, to a maximum of \$500,000.

In the case of the local RMs, the RM of Usborne #310 will be eligible to receive \$500,000, the RM of Morris #312 will receive \$445,619, the RM of Lost River #313 will receive \$500,000, the RM of LeRoy #339 will receive \$272,525, and the RM of Colonsay #342 will receive \$386,398.

Administrator for the RM of Lost River #313, Christine Dyck said the RM is pleased to have been approved for its project, Miles 2 and 3 of the Wyandottee East Road Project as part of phase

three. "This will enable the RM of Lost River, in the near future, to construct the CTP Corridor road on our south boundary, S 1, 2,3-31-1 W3. The road is east of the Allan Grid. We had been approved on Mile 1 of the Wyandottee East Road project in Phase 2 of the RIRG program. That project has been tendered and we expect to commence construction in July of 2021."

Administrator for the RM of LeRoy #339, Wendy Gowda said the RM is grateful for its funding. "The project is to replace two bridges on a TMS access to the community of LeRoy. The location is Township Road 352, the local access from the community of LeRoy to Hwy. 6. The bridges are in poor condition, and

weights have been restricted, which has resulted in detours to local producers, additional time and of course costs. The funding will ensure the projects go ahead in a timely manner. Once the agreements are obtained, the design will begin, realistically, this will not be timely for a summer construction. At this point, we are anticipating the bridge replacement to be a 2022 works."

Administrator for the RM of Colonsay #342 Randi Wood said they will be clay capping the Heavy Haul road. Council will be meeting to discuss plans for when that will be taking in the future.

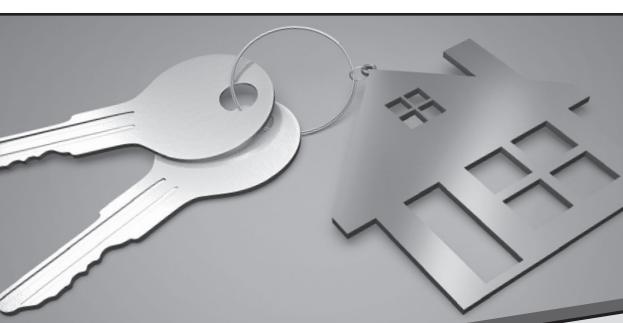
"The ministry has seen an engaged and enthusiastic

response to the RIRG program," Highways Minister Fred Bradshaw said. "This targeted effort improves the safety and quality of our rural infrastructure, strengthens partnerships with Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, our rural municipalities and creates another outlet to aid the province's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic."

Over the three phases of the RIRG program, there have been 219 road projects approved, valued at \$233.6 million with \$55.5 million in RIRG support. Of that total, it includes 63 projects from

the first two phases that are currently active and valued at \$72.3 million with \$19.6 million in RIRG support.

"The announcement of expanded financial support for rural road infrastructure is greatly appreciated," Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities President Ray Orb said. "Economic recovery and funding to stimulate the provincial economy remains critical and this increased funding ensures our rural municipalities can contribute by investing in rural infrastructure that is supporting Saskatchewan's rural-based industries."



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OPINIONS

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Solutions and Substitutions



— tips from Reena Nerbas

Dear Reena,
My light-coloured laminate flooring has a lot of surface scratches in a high traffic area. Is there any way to touch up these scratches so that they are not so noticeable rather than replacing the flooring? You can really see these scratches when the sun shines directly on the area and the floors have just been washed. Marsha

Dear Marsha,
Laminate flooring looks like wood because it is a photographic image of wood; it is then covered by a clear protective finish. Repair scratches with a wax crayon designed to cover small imperfections in laminate flooring or purchase a laminate flooring repair kit. Depending on the colour of the flooring you may also be able to hide scratches with a colour matched permanent marker. If this is not the case, consider replacing the floor plank in order for the floor to look nice again. Fortunately, this is achievable if you can colour match your floor.

Dear Reena,

What is the easiest way to remove dust and pet hair off lampshades? Marilyn

Dear Marilyn,

The easiest way to clean lampshades is to press the dust attachment onto the vacuum nozzle and clean the shade. Another option is to wrap packing tape around your hand and press each area of the lampshade with tape. A lint roller is also very effective. Baby wipes are handy for removing marks from lampshades. Some lampshades may be cleaned in the bathtub, spray the shade with the showerhead and a bit of shampoo.

Dear Reena,

I baked a cheesecake and it looked and smelled great. However, when I removed it from the oven and ate a piece it was lumpy. How can I prevent this in the future? Hilda

Dear Hilda,

Begin by making sure that the cream cheese is at room temperature. Beat the cream cheese by itself until smooth. After mixing the ingredients together strain the mixture through a sieve to ensure there are no lumps. If you still notice lumps put the mixture into the food processor until smooth.

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

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

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uncompliCATED - "I'd give all wealth that years have piled . . . to be once more a little child for one bright summer day." - Lewis Carroll



■ by Arlene Martin

When school doors closed for two glorious months, the possibilities of what I could do were endless. Giving it careful thought, these are some of the things that came to mind remembering those long, hot wonderful days so very long ago. I didn't ever mention the "B" word should mother catch wind of me saying, "I'm bored." I would be sent, pail in hand, out to her huge garden to pick peas or raspberries or Heaven forbid - to the bush to pick pincherries or saskatoon berries.

So the following are some of the things that got me enjoyably through a prairie summer in the late '50s, early '60s:

- trying to get enough speed on my old bicycle handlebars to make the coloured streamers flow straight out and to hear fwap-fwap from the baseball cards stuck in the wheel spokes. (Wasn't easy on dirt and non-pavement roads!)
- Singing "Ain't nothing but a hound dog" standing high on the walk-way ledge of daddy's big round fuel tanks.
- Planning my escape when the "communists" invaded Saskatchewan.
- Persuading mother to buy a couple packages of bubble gum cigars next time she went to town.
- Making shapes with my Silly Putty and hiding it from my baby brother, Kurtis, because he liked to eat it.
- Falling asleep listening to mother sing softly while knitting as daddy played his violin.
- Watching I Love Lucy.
- Savouring mother's delicious Popsicles she made with orange and pineapple Jell-O and drinking lime Kool Aid in her special pretty, tall glasses.
- Dressing up like the character, "Kitty" on the television series, Gunsmoke and pretending to live happily ever after in Dodge City with handsome Marshall Matt Dillon. I knew Brian, off in the bush with his pellet gun, was also pretending to be Davy Crockett.
- Playing with the cats and kittens in the barn and dressing them in my doll clothes, hand sewn by mother.
- Wishing my parents were rich so I could have a pair of Saddle Shoes and our car would have longer fins and more chrome.

• Playing with my Pez that Aunt Mona from Kentucky would bring when she visited every July.

• Riding and bouncing on the hay wagon and enjoying the ride with my siblings.

• Waiting for the Watkins man to come and silently wishing and praying mother would buy several delicious drink flavours.

• Laying on the grass at night with my cousin Donna and hoping for at least one flying saucer sighting.

• Watching my dad and his brother, my Uncle Donny play baseball during family gatherings, laughing as they would whack the ball clear out of sight and run fast around the bases in our big old sprawling farm yard.

• Swimming in the dugout, trying to catch salamanders in the shallow water.

• Playing Scrabble with my grandmother who found joy in letting me have the highest score.

• Wearing Pedal Pushers (so called because they were made for riding bikes. Back in the day, bikes didn't have chain guards and it was always an abrupt stop and nasty tumble when the hem of your pants got caught in them.) Today these VERY same short pants are called capris.

• Tossing a new thing, called a Frisbee at our collie, Lassie and telling her what a good girl she was when she'd bring it back to me.

• Seeing how long I could keep my Hula Hoop spinning around my then, skinny hips.

• Working on my Paint-By-Number when it rained.

• Family birthday parties and mother's famous chocolate cakes.

• Playing dress-up with old curtains and mother's Cinch belts.

• Hoping to go to the movies in town to see Ben Hur and The Ten Commandments again.

• Sleeping at grandmother's house and waking up to her delicious oatmeal porridge. Also the joy of collecting nickels simply by giving my grandpa happy kisses and giggling through his whisker rubs.

It is easy to get lost today in the warp speed of time and who we once were diminishes. Telling our stories is validation that once we were little and loved and we were and still are treasured - by someone, somewhere.

If the years have taught me anything it's this: goodbyes will always hurt, pictures can never replace being there, memories forget the hard times, words can never replace feelings, and heroes often go unsung. Please friend, tell your stories before time buries them and they go unsaid.

Love, Arlene.

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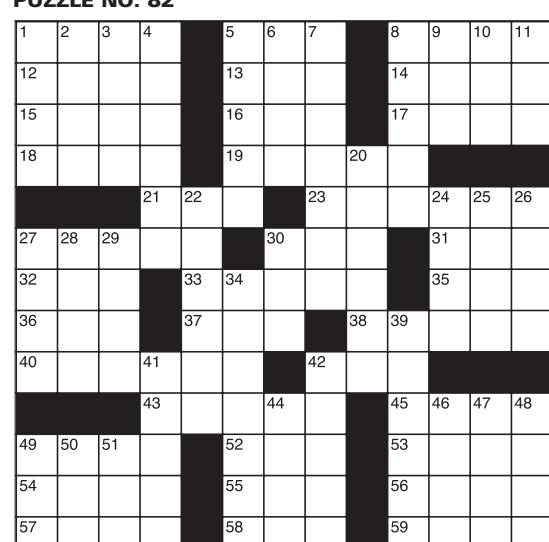
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LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

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ACROSS

- 1. Rebuff
- 5. Branch
- 8. Out of harm's way
- 12. Drain
- 13. Hawaiian wreath
- 14. Binds
- 15. Taverns
- 16. Beach hue
- 17. Takes on
- 18. Part of R and R
- 19. Proclamation
- 21. Rower's need
- 23. Brawn
- 27. Circus entertainer
- 30. Protrude
- 31. Broadcast
- 32. Bunny's motion
- 33. Sooty dirt
- 35. ___ se
- 36. Function
- 37. Delay
- 38. Sleighs
- 40. Healed
- 42. Deli loaf
- 43. Compose
- 45. ___ as a pin
- 49. Loafer, e.g.
- 52. Raven's call
- 53. Female knight
- 54. Wolf cry
- 55. Go ___ over
- 56. Divisible by two
- 57. Cheer
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Soccer season kicks off in Lanigan

■ Tim Peters on behalf of the Lanigan and District Soccer Association Board

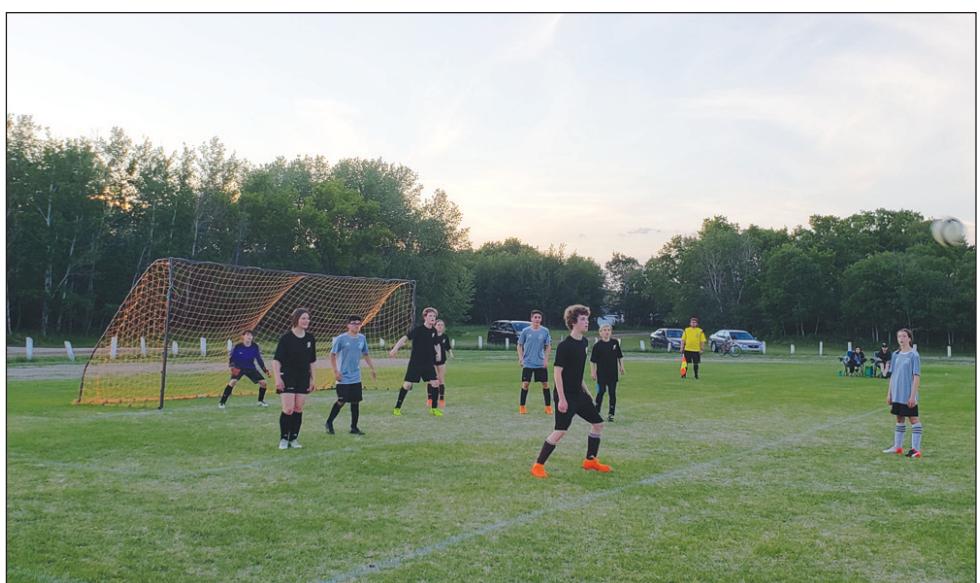
It has been a unique soccer season, but we are all thankful for the opportunity to play in Lanigan. After not having soccer in 2020, as well as having multiple other programs cancelled, we are delighted to be able to play again. There is something simply healing about trying to kick a ball into a net.

At the start of the 2021 season, the Lanigan and District Soccer Association (LDSA) worked hard in arranging schedules, fields, coaches, managers, equipment, registration and many other things to start the season. Although we were not able to have games at the start of the season, the children and coaches have done an incredible job planning practices in a safe manner. With a limit of eight players per team there was a need for

more coaches and managers and the people of Lanigan responded. Proving that the game of soccer is so much more than winning games, parents and children showed up to practices simply for the love of the sport.

To make the season special for our young people, the LDSA made the decision to purchase some extra equipment for practices: ladders and hurdles to improve footwork, and rebound nets for ball control and shot accuracy. These items have been well used by the children. The LDSA would like to thank Nutrien and Sask. Lotteries for their generous support towards this soccer equipment.

As the restrictions for COVID-19 have become more relaxed, the government has stated that it is currently safe to begin scrimmage play as well as games. It is truly a joy to see the game of soccer being played once again.



- photos courtesy Lorraine Mau



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Seeking some moisture after a dry spring, with a nice rain at Last Mountain Lake Regional Park followed by a beautiful rainbow, colours have started to change from a dusty brown to a lush green. More rain was in the forecast for the latter part of this past week heading into the weekend which should really help make things grow.

- photos by Daniel Bushman

Jansen

Louise Shannon

A bridal shower will be held June 18 at the RM office. Kelly Koshinsky and Dan Bosch will be married in July.

This coming weekend is Father's Day. I wish everyone's father, son or grandson a good day.

Get well wishes to Dawn Myrfield (Pastor), Estelle Jansen, Dean Schroeder and anyone else who is not feeling well.

It is wonderful that we will have a July 1st celebration this year, especially the fireworks.

Happy birthday to Dustin Lynch, Dawn Myrfield, Garth Burns, Larry Schindel and Dalton Wolfe.

Viscount

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 at Viscount Central School. Graduation will be held June 25. The theme of the graduation is Time of Our Lives. This sounds like a lot of fun. On graduation day people are welcome to drive by the school and remain in their vehicles and wave to the graduation class that will be outside the entrance. Drive by is from 5:30 until 6 p.m. The salutato-

nians will be Allyson Tetzlaff and Renelle Morelli for their graduation. There are eight graduates from Viscount Central School.

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

Thank you to everyone who helped make this week's Viscount news possible.



The grad mural in front of Viscount Central School main entrance.

- photo submitted by Sandra Reid

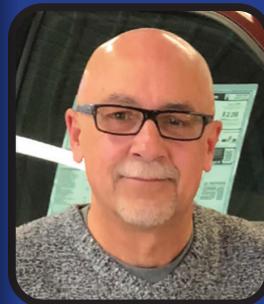
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Assante
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Seeding nearing completion

■ media release

Seeding is virtually complete throughout the province, with 99 percent of the crop seeded, with a few fields being seeded for green feed and silage. That is according to the Ministry of Agriculture's weekly Crop Report for the period of June 1 to 7 which noted the 99 percent is ahead of the five-year average of 97 percent for this time of year.

Some areas of the northern regions of the province received good amounts of rain due to a thunderstorm; unfortunately, it brought some hail as well. The Cando area reported 40 mm of rain, the Kinistino area 37 mm, the Rosthern area 32 mm, the Sonningdale area 27 mm, the Duck Lake and Spruce Home areas 23 mm. Parts of

the southern half of the province saw small localized showers with amounts ranging from two mm to 12 mm.

Even with the rainfall, the topsoil moisture conditions in Saskatchewan have deteriorated. Higher amounts of rain in the northern regions have slightly improved moisture conditions in the area, but there are more fields rated as having short or very short moisture in the remaining regions of the province.

Cropland topsoil moisture is rated as zero percent surplus, 56 percent adequate, 40 percent short and four percent very short. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture is rated as zero percent surplus, 35 percent adequate, 53 percent short and 12 percent very short. Dry conditions continue to delay pasture and hay land growth and have delayed emergence of smaller seeded crops, such as

canola and flax.

Eighteen percent of the fall cereal crops are reported being in the shot blade stage and 18 percent are heading, while 51 percent of the spring cereals are emerging and 38 percent are tillering. Forty-two percent of canola is emerging and 40 percent is in the seedling stage, along with 30 percent of flax being in the seedling stage. Forty-eight percent of pulse crops are emerging and 45 percent are in the vegetative stage.

The majority of crop damage was due to strong winds, dry soil conditions and insects (including flea beetles and cutworms). Some producers are reseeding due to flea beetle and cutworm damage.

Producers have been busy spraying for weed and insect control, hauling grain and moving cattle to pasture.

Focus on passing lanes saving lives in Saskatchewan

■ media release

Work is progressing on a number of new passing lane projects as part of the Government of Saskatchewan's plan to construct 30 sets of passing lanes over the next two years. This builds on the 27 sets constructed in the last four years.

Construction is currently underway on two sets of passing lanes on Hwy. 2 north of Prince Albert and the last of 13 sets of passing lanes on Hwy. 39 between Milestone and the U.S. border. All are expected to be complete by late fall of 2021.

"Safety is the primary concern of the Ministry of Highways," Highways Minister Fred Bradshaw said. "Passing lanes have

proven a reliable way to improve safety on a number of highways, with plenty more to come."

The 2020 Fall Tender Plan and the 2021 Spring Tender Plan include passing lane projects on:

- Hwy. 3 west of Prince Albert;
- Hwy. 5 east of Saskatoon;
- Hwy. 7 west of Kindersley;
- Hwy. 12 north of Martensville;
- Hwy. 14 west of Saskatoon to Asquith;
- Hwy. 16 west of Yorkton to Springside; and
- Hwy. 16 east of Clavet to Hwy. 6 junction.

Passing lanes are typically a minimum two kilometres in length and are strategically

designed to allow vehicles to safely pass slow moving vehicles and heavy trucks such as semi-trailer units. Studies have shown passing lanes can reduce collisions by as much as 25 percent. Hwy. 10, the province's first major passing lanes pilot project, has seen 75 percent fewer fatal accidents from before the project to five years after its completion.

"The passing lanes have ensured there are far fewer vehicle accidents, fatal crashes and injuries, allowing for safer travel and reduced emotional impacts on first responders who arrive at crash scenes," Balgonie Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dave Campbell said. "Combined with the reduced travel time, the passing lanes have been a significant benefit

to local residents and visitors alike."

The Government of Saskatchewan will be improving more than 1,350 km of provincial highways this year, the second of its 10-year Growth Plan goal to build and upgrade 10,000 km of highways. With this year's projects, the province is ahead of the pace needed to meet this target.

There will be \$300 million in additional highways stimulus funds that will be invested over several years in thin-membrane surface upgrades, passing lanes and improvements to municipal roads and airports.

The Government of Saskatchewan has invested more than \$10.6 billion in highways infrastructure since 2008, improving more than 17,100 km of Saskatchewan highways.

Uptick in Canada's Lyme disease cases

■ media release/Kylie Cousins, USask

While health workers are caring for people infected with the novel coronavirus, veterinary researchers are helping to protect the public from illnesses spread by another health threat: ticks.

Specifically, the threat to both human and animal health is what some ticks are carrying with them – Lyme disease, which is transmitted by ticks in the genus *Ixodes*.

"COVID-19 is a more immediate threat than ticks right now, but Lyme disease was present before the pandemic and it will still be here after," said Dr. Maarten Voordouw, an assistant professor and researcher at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

Lyme disease is an emerging microbial threat that is the most common tick-borne illness in the northern hemisphere.

"As we have seen with COVID-19, the number of reported cases of Lyme disease is likely an underestimate of the true number of people infected with the disease," said Voordouw. "The actual number of cases is usually much higher than those reported."

In 2018, Canada reported about 1,500 cases of Lyme disease while the United States had 30,000 cases. But according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the true number of cases is about 10 times higher.

In Canada, Lyme disease is transmitted by two species of *Ixodes* ticks, the blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) and the Western blacklegged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*), which are found east and west of the Rocky Mountains respectively. While the disease is transmitted to people and animals through bites of infected ticks, Lyme disease itself is caused by several different species of spirochete bacteria. In North America it is mainly caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

"The natural reservoir host for Lyme disease are small mammals and birds; humans and pets are accidental hosts, but they are the ones who get sick," said Voordouw.

An infected tick must be attached for 12 to 24 hours before

transmission of the bacterium can occur.

In 2020, researchers in the WCVM's Department of Veterinary Microbiology stepped up to help the Saskatchewan Health Authority with its tick surveillance workload.

"The main reason we are assisting the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory (RRPL) is because we thought they would be very busy (with COVID-19) and not have enough time to deal with their (passive surveillance) tick submissions," said Voordouw.

This year, the passive surveillance work will be solely through eTick, an online program that provides Saskatchewan residents with timely information about their tick bites. eTick allows submitters to receive a prompt message with information about the tick species (or genus), associated health risks and guidance on what to do after a tick bite. The platform also allows researchers to monitor ticks in Saskatchewan and assess the risk of Lyme disease to residents.

"Lyme disease, if left undiagnosed, is a chronic disease that makes your life extremely miserable," said Voordouw.

Most people affected by Lyme disease experience mild, flu-like symptoms soon after being bitten. They may also develop a bull's eye rash and muscle and joint pain. If left untreated, Lyme disease can become a chronic condition characterized by facial paralysis, arthritis and joint pain as well as neurological and cardiac disorders. In dogs affected by Lyme disease, typical symptoms include limb and joint disorders as well as renal, neurological and cardiac abnormalities.

In 2020, Saskatchewan recorded 11 blacklegged ticks out of 2,000 tick submissions to eTick.

"Compared to the rest of Canada, the risk of Lyme disease to Saskatchewan residents is low because the abundance of the blacklegged tick in Saskatchewan is low," said Voordouw.

In 2020, more than 95 percent of the ticks found in Saskatchewan were the American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*) that cannot transmit Lyme disease. Although this tick species is known to transmit other tick-borne disease in the U.S. — such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia — the pathogens that cause these diseases



Dr. Maarten Voordouw, an assistant professor and researcher at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

- photo credit: Christina Weese

(*Rickettsia rickettsii* and *Francisella tularensis*) have not yet been detected in Saskatchewan populations of the American dog tick.

While there are no known established, reproducing populations of the blacklegged tick in Saskatchewan, it is important to continue monitoring their status.

"While these ticks are currently not common in Saskatchewan, this situation can change in the next 10 to 15 years," said Voordouw, adding that birds migrating from the U.S. bring *Ixodes* ticks into Canada. "When these birds return to Canada in the spring, they can bring as many as 175 million blacklegged ticks with them."

Voordouw said the number of cases throughout the country has increased a lot and will continue to increase: "(In the early 2000s) we saw less than 100 cases of Lyme disease in all of Canada, and now we are above 1,000 cases per year."

Compared to other provinces in Canada, the risk of Lyme disease in Saskatchewan is still low, but it is important to recognize that the risk is not zero."

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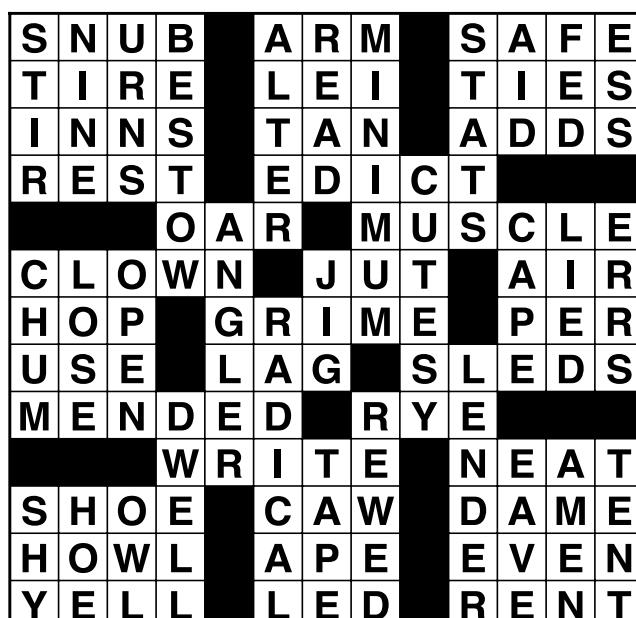
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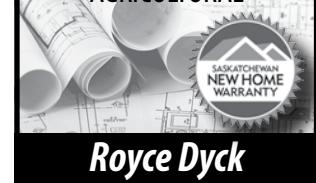
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(from front page: **OFFICIAL**)

part of the movement of the female game forwards as well. Beyond that, the entire event was a highlight. Being able to get on the ice again, and be on the ice with 60 of the best female Canadian hockey players is an amazing experience on its own."

When asked where officiating at the PWHPA Secret Dream Gap Tour ranked on her personal list, Clarke was quick to note it was one of the top experiences of her career. "To be a part of an event that you know is changing history for female hockey players ranks incredibly high in the monumental experiences sector. Also, given the bleak past 15 months it has been, it was just such a glimmer back to "normal" again to be on the ice, surrounded by athletes and women pursuing their passion not only for themselves, but for future generations."

With such an impact being made for generations of young and aspiring female hockey players watching from their homes, Clarke was honoured and proud to be a part of it. "It isn't the Olympics or a women's world championship but it is history in the making for young girls to be able to watch women play professional level hockey on television and be able to grow up dreaming that there is opportunity for them."

After soaking up her experience in Calgary, Clarke returned home only to find out a few days later that the IIHF Women's World Championship that were to have been held in Halifax and Truro in May would now resume in August, but in Calgary.

Following the cancellation of the 2021 IIHF Women's World Championship,

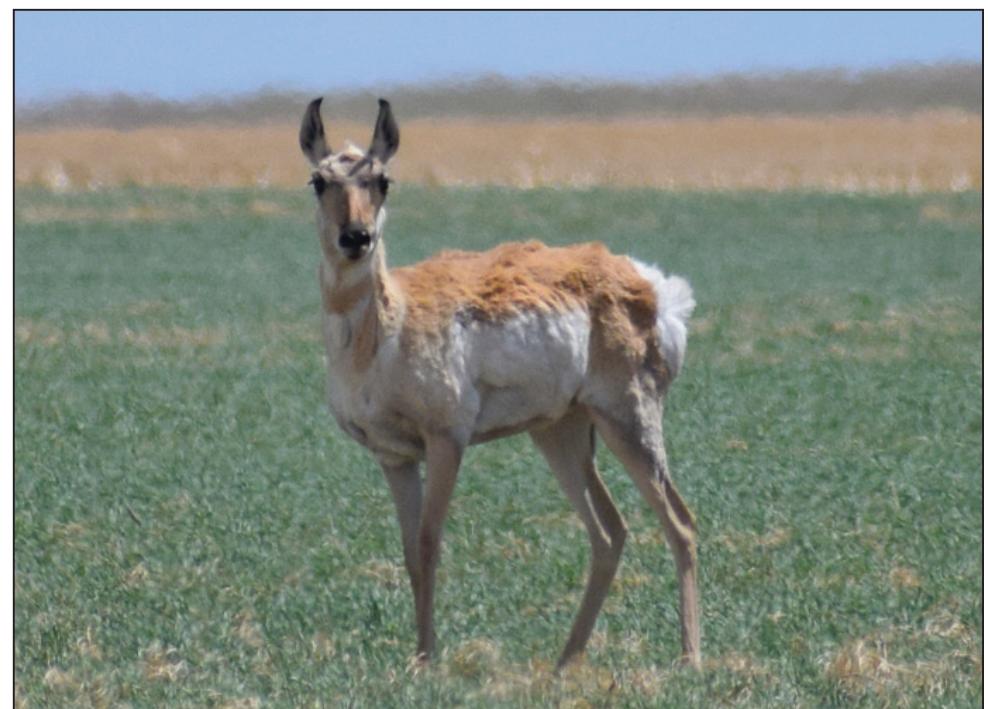
Hockey Canada announced June 2 that Alberta will play host for the first time. The 31-game schedule will be played at WinSport Arena at Canada Olympic Park from Aug. 20 to 31, with 10 teams from around the world competing for gold. The 2021 edition of the tournament marks the eighth time Canada has hosted the event.

While Clarke said she was still waiting to hear which officials will be attending the rescheduled IIHF Women's World Championship in Calgary, she has high hopes one of them will be her.

"I am trying not to get too excited, as it has been cancelled twice on me in the last 15 months; however, I am extremely excited to finally get the opportunity to attend a Women's Worlds event and showcase the work that I have been putting in throughout the extended offseason."

Teams are expected to arrive in Calgary on Aug. 10 and will immediately enter quarantine before resuming practices and possible pre-tournament games before the puck drops on Aug. 20. In order to prepare, Clarke has continued her training and plans to keep doing what she has been over the past 18 months, when she first began preparing for her initial assignment before the event was cancelled.

"I train every day of the week, some as active recovery days and some as lifestyle workouts. I honestly don't struggle with the physical training as much as I do with the mental ups and downs of training hard, then having something be cancelled, only to have to train again with no idea what or when for. Having an event in sight makes it so much easier to get down to the grind and put in the work each day. The warmer weather outside certainly helps as well!"



With the clouds getting darker and the area in need of rain, these antelope were not the only ones eagerly anticipating rain from the storm clouds above.

- photos by Daniel Bushman



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