

LANIGAN ADVISOR

Vol. 42 No. 20

Monday, May 10, 2021

Lanigan, Saskatchewan

www.laniganadvisor.com

\$1.00

Q and A with the Community Gift & Thrift's new manager

■ Daniel Bushman

Not only has the Community Gift & Thrift in Lanigan been doing its best to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic while accepting donations but the store has also experienced a few changes as well. After guiding the store through moves and changes, longtime manager Marianne Patzer retired earlier this year after more than 28 years. Taking over Patzer's role is former assistant manager Heidi Martens.

The Lanigan Advisor reached out to Martens and she graciously shared about how this past year has gone, what different types of donations have been coming in and some of the changes that have occurred.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in 2020, how have things been going at the Community Gift & Thrift in Lanigan?

Ever since we reopened in June 2020 our shop has been very busy! We started back with only a few days a week and limited hours, but the demand for more days was there and enough volunteers returned to make that possible. We have been kept on our toes by ever-changing regulations from the government, as well as recommendations from MCC office and our customer base.

Have you implemented any changes since the onset of the pandemic?

We have made many changes since the pandemic hit. Some have been great and will likely stay, but other restrictions have us eager for better times. Based on the Government of Saskatchewan guidelines, all our donations have to be quarantined for a minimum of 24 hours. In order to safely do this we ended up building a large shed at the back of our building to house donations. Watrous Home Hardware was generous to donate materials for this project. We currently accept donations into the shed on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.). We don't like to turn away donations that arrive on alternative days, but

until the government rules change, we don't have much choice.

Another change the pandemic brought about was the closure to our fitting rooms. The rules around cleaning and sterilizing after each customer is just not feasible with our limited volunteers. To make up for this we have done extra promotions, like buy one, get one free and other clothing sales. At the end of the day most customers are willing to take a risk on a piece of clothing, as most pieces are just \$3 to \$5 each.

During the pandemic and with people tending to stay home more and perhaps go through their closets, have you noticed an increase in donations?

Initially when we opened our doors we had a huge influx of donations! Donations stayed steady all through the summer and fall. The cold months of February and March always see a decrease in donations and this year wasn't much different.

Has there been specific items that you have been receiving more of than others during the pandemic?

One item that seems to pile up since the pandemic are suitcases! With less people travelling we have definitely noticed that they don't sell very quickly. Perhaps we will see them all disappear when travel restrictions are lifted in the future. Another trend in donations I have recently noticed is more clothing items with the new tags. I suspect more people have been online shopping and the chance of something not working out has increased. We are happy to receive such good quality donations!

If people want to shop, are they still able to come to the store or what types of guidelines have been put in place?

Our shop doors are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We limit our customers to 15 at a time, which allows for plenty of space for everyone to shop at a safe distance. We try to keep the shop clean and tidy and want everyone to have a positive



Navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Gift & Thrift in Lanigan has been able to maneuver through the changes. In addition to following the guidelines set out by the province, the store also had a few changes in the management department. After more than 28 years as manager, Marianne Patzer (pictured below left) recently retired and Heidi Martens (pictured left) took on Patzer's role. Taking over as assistant manager from Martens is Kristy Neufeld (pictured right). - photos used with permission

and safe experience at our shop.

How did 2020 go as a whole compared to other years and are you looking forward to the rest of 2021?

2020 felt like a roller coaster ride! After shutting down for several weeks in the spring we came back to record breaking sales days in June. The energy with customers and volunteers has remained positive throughout and it makes coming in to work a pleasure. We may have slightly less volunteers than we did in past years, but the ones who still come are incredibly dedicated and wonderful. We are thankful that despite all the challenges we were still able to support the work of MCC with our financial contributions.

I believe 2021 will be another great year at the Gift & Thrift. We have the best customers, who come from far and wide to shop here. We also are blessed to have so

many volunteers who dedicate their time to make our shop the great place that it is.

There have also been some changes to a few management positions including the retirement of Marianne Patzer. What did Marianne mean to the Community Gift & Thrift over the years?

Marianne Patzer was manager of the Community Gift & Thrift for more than 28 years, so her retirement is well-earned. She has taken the thrift shop through several building moves and countless changes over the years. I had the privilege of working with Marianne for the past five years and she has taught me how to lead with compassion, dedication and to make thoughtful decisions. The shop wouldn't be what it is today without her years spent here. I look forward to my new position of managing the shop, along with assistant manager Kristy Neufeld.

Co-ops are a different kind of business where profits all stay local right in the community. Humboldt Co-op sells seed and crop inputs directly to local farms. The farmer uses Co-op premium diesel to plant and harvest their crops. Then we sell the end product at our food stores. We are truly a farm to fork operation.

#WEARECOOP



HUMBOLDT



**WE ARE
WE ARE
WE ARE**

**MEMBERS
OWNERS
CO-OP**

Gardening growing in popularity as local area greenhouse marks 21st year

■ **Daniel Bushman**

As people begin planning to plant their gardens and beautify their yards, Green Acres Greenhouse has been busy gearing up for the spring season.

Marking the 21st year of operation and after hearing that items have been limited in some areas of the province, Mel Penrose, owner of Green Acres Greenhouse in Watrous said, "We have lots of inventory for people to browse and buy. There likely will be a big rush like last year because everyone is at home during the pandemic so I am not sure how long it will last but that being said, we do have lots right now and still should have lots through May."

While Penrose was able to bring in most things for the 2021 growing season, one item in high demand that was hard to get is trees. "There is a shortage of trees and we got fewer in than we were hoping to. The availability at nurseries for me to find a specific variety has also been very difficult this year. It may take a few years actually to get back to numbers

as far as nurseries and their supplies. That goes especially for fruit trees and for raspberries as well. We just couldn't get any raspberries and they were unexpected shortages."

It is that demand that shows more and more people are gravitating to the garden and outdoors. Citing how great it is to see a community garden at Manitou Beach, Penrose said, "There is a really strong trend of people wanting to garden. I think part of it has come from the satisfaction of growing your own food and knowing where it comes from. Even just the act of growing your own food, it just feels good and is a peaceful thing. It can balance you and has that almost therapeutic effect working with soil and having your hands in the dirt."

With people staying closer to home during the pandemic and having the time to garden, Penrose said there has been a few trends that have stuck out.

"I think the biggest trending item is the vegetables for sure and people using herbs. People are cooking with herbs, spending more time in the kitchen and experimenting with them. On our first day we opened when the weather was nice,

people were coming in and buying mojito mint. The gardening trend is huge and yards are smaller so people have less garden space but lots of interest to grow gardens."

Bringing in different colours and varieties to the greenhouse as part of its 21st season, Penrose said they are always trying to experiment with new plants. "One thing that is trending this year is silver foliage so we have a few extra varieties of those. Red and white petunias are also popular and there is actually a shortage of those now because of it."

In addition to sharing about what the latest trends are, Penrose said the staff are also happy to provide advice as well. "One thing we have been getting a lot of questions about are garden beds which have become quite popular. They are like a garden raised and because of that, you don't want to fill it with pro-mix because it is too fluffy and airy and wouldn't keep it watered. What you want to do is have some real dirt like topsoil, soil, sheep manure mixed with peat moss to lighten it a bit so it doesn't get too hard. A general guideline would (see back page: **PLANTING**)

RCMP Report

Truck collision with school bus

On Apr. 30 at 8 a.m., Maidstone RCMP, Lloydminster Rescue and WPD Ambulance were dispatched to a collision involving a school bus

and a truck on Hwy. 3, west of Paradise Hill. The eastbound bus was making a left hand turn when a truck collided with it. The truck rolled into the north ditch. The school bus received minor damage

and was still driveable.

There were 10 students on the bus, and the RCMP is not aware of any injuries reported to bus occupants at this time. The lone adult male driver of the truck was checked by EMS and released at scene with no injuries.

The investigation is ongoing.

Stolen auto and rural property crime

In the early morning hours of May 3 RCMP

were alerted to a break and enter in progress. This

was occurring in the RM of Corman Park, north of Asquith. RCMP along with Saskatoon Police Service Air One support, and Corman Park Police, were able to track down two separate vehicles that were involved and two people were taken into custody. A stolen motor home was also recovered in these efforts and returned to the owner. The investigation is ongoing and charges are expected to be laid.

The RCMP would like to thank Saskatoon Police service and Corman Park Police for their assistance in bringing this occurrence to a quick conclusion.

Officer stops vehicle travelling over 200 km/h

On Saturday, May 1, an Estevan RCMP officer was conducting regular patrols on Hwy. 18 when he located two red cars travelling eastbound near Bienfait, Sask.

The two vehicles were travelling side by side on the two lane divided highway at a high rate of speed. The police officer captured one car travelling at 214 km/h and the other car at 190 km/h in the 110

km/h speed zone.

A 34-year-old Estevan man and 30-year-old Bienfait man were both charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, section 320.13(1) of the Criminal Code. Both men are set to appear in Estevan Provincial Court on June 14, 2021.

Fatal rollover

Around 5:30 a.m. May 1, Weyburn RCMP responded to a call of a single vehicle rollover seven miles east of Pangman along Hwy. 13.

There was one occupant in the vehicle who passed away at the scene. He was a 29-year-old man of Ceylon, Sask.

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

Fatal rollover

Just after 1:30 p.m. on Apr. 30, Big River and Spiritwood RCMP responded to a call of a single vehicle rollover.

On Grid road 793, just west of Leoville, a vehicle was located near an abandoned railroad track, upside down and submerged in water.

There was one occupant in the vehicle and he passed

away at the scene. He was a 45-year-old man of Big River First Nation.

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

Southend RCMP seize large quantity of alcohol

On Thursday, Apr. 29, Black Lake RCMP officers were alerted to a vehicle carrying a large quantity of alcohol passing through La Ronge and heading toward Black Lake, Sask.

The vehicle was located and stopped by RCMP. Alcohol was seen by police in plain sight in the vehicle.

A search of the vehicle resulted in police locating and seizing 76 - 750 ml bottles of whiskey, two 1.75 litre bottles of whiskey, one 30 pack of beer and a 24 pack of twisted tea.

There were two occupants in the vehicle and both have been charged with Bootlegging under Sec. 138(1) of the Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act.

Any information relating to the illegal sale or transportation of alcohol should be reported immediately to your nearest RCMP Detachment.

MP Report

Tom Lukiwski, MP

Moose Jaw
Lake Centre
Lanigan



If I told you that there was a country where the government was trying to control what its citizens posted to YouTube and other social media channels and also tried to limit online video content from the outside world, you would probably think I was talking about China or Russia. While it is true that such things go on in those countries, the federal Liberal government is trying to do the same things right here in Canada. The Liberals are trying to ram through Bill C-10, which would extend the powers of the CRTC to control the content of video social media channels.

This is a blatant attack on freedom of expression in Canada. You don't need to take my word on it. Cara Zwibel, fundamental freedoms programs director at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, stated that the legislation "opens up a regulatory door" for Ottawa to implement future regulations on user content. University of Ottawa professor law Michael Geist said, "In a free, democratic society we don't subject basic speech to regulation in this way."

Perhaps the most damning statement came from a former director of the CRTC, Peter Menzies, who said, "Granting a government agency authority over legal user generated content — particularly when backed up by the government's musings about taking down websites — doesn't just infringe on free expression, it constitutes a full-blown assault upon it and, through it, the foundations of democracy."

When opposition parties joined forces on April 30th to try to amend the bill to insert civil liberties guarantees, the Liberal members voted to shut down debate. They are now talking about "tweaking" the bill to insert some civil liberties reassurances, but this bill is far beyond mere tweaks. The bill serves no useful purpose except to give the federal government more intrusive control over Canadians' lives. The only solution is for the bill to be withdrawn.

I would encourage everyone in the constituency to send Heritage Minister Steven Guilbeault an email, with the subject line "Keep the Internet Free" and let him know that you find Bill C-10 unacceptable. You can reach the minister at Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca.

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Lanigan & District Music Festival a success

■ submitted by Angel Liebrecht/Lanigan & District Music Festival

Our committee was so excited that we were able to host a Lanigan & District Music Festival while following COVID restrictions and guidelines. This year's festival was smaller than usual as we have less students in our area taking music lessons due to COVID. We had 167 entries and that filled three days.

Our adjudicator Gaye-Lynn Kern adjudicated the piano, vocal and guitar classes! A big congratulations to our district festival winners Jenevieve Melin and Kaitlynn Mau who have been recommended to compete in the SMFA provincial finals June 3 to 6. This year, provincials will be held in a virtual format. The festival was celebrated by adjudicator-selected performances in the final concert which took place in a new format on FlipGrid. We were not allowed to have an audience for the festival so we live streamed performance on the Lanigan & District Music Festival Facebook page and they are still available to be viewed.

The award recipients for piano were:

- Lanigan & District Music Festival Association (Best Musicianship) \$100 – Caleb Melin;
- Lanigan & District Lions Club (Piano) \$100 – Geri Lon Valdesimo;
- Accent Credit Union \$100 – Katherine Ostrovsky;
- East Central Registered Music Teachers Association \$100

– Jenevieve Melin;

- Behiel, Will & Biemans (Open) \$60 – Chloe Melin;
- Leona Paulton \$50 – Laurenne Ewert;
- Farefield Farm Ltd. \$50 – Xander Kiefer;
- Guernsey & District Rec Board \$50 – Tamia Kiefer;
- Sinnott Pork Farm Ltd. (Open) \$50 – Cora Bushman;
- Jansen & District Kinette Club (Open) \$50 – Gabriel Inserra-Dominic;

- Conexus Credit Union (Senior) \$50 – Carson Kulchyski;
- LeRoy Credit Union (Open) \$50 – Everlee Huculak;
- Knights of Columbus (Open) \$50 – Rowan Brown;
- Jansen & District Kinsmen Club (Open) \$50 – Alandria Tweidt;

• Katelin Trucking-Linus & Kathy Jones \$50 – Briar Thompson;

- Village of Englefeld \$50 – Arella Ewert;
- Ben and Lorraine Jansen \$50 – Taysia Ostig;
- Lanigan & District Lioness (Open) \$50 – Molly Parker;
- Green Teal Insurance Brokers Ltd. \$50 – Avery Heise;
- Strueby Agencies \$50 – Payton Heise;
- Mrs. Sandra Athmer \$50 – Olivia Brown;
- Jansen & District Kinsmen Club (Open) \$35 – Elliotte Renwick;

- TSL Mechanical \$50 – Hunter Fitzsimmons;
- Mr. & Mrs. Liebrecht \$25 – Samantha Bartel;
- Nata's Tea House (Primary Piano) \$25 – Roman Mehrer;
- Jansen & District Kinsmen Club (Open) \$25 – Jayden Bartel;

- Amy Ewert Piano Studio \$25 – Annabelle Bushman;
- Lanigan & District Lions Club (Piano) \$20 – Ella Foster;
- Lanigan & District Lions Club (Piano) \$20 – Braxton Lone;
- Horizon School Division (piano) keeper trophy – Bethany Friesen;

- Mr. & Mrs. B Comeault keeper trophy – Ruby Monchuk;
- Lanigan Esso (Open) large trophy – Geri Lon Valdesimo;
- K's Appliance Repair (Open) large trophy – Chloe Melin;
- Accent Credit Union Limited (Piano Solo) large trophy – Katherine Ostrovsky; and

• Conexus Credit Union (Best Musicianship - Piano) large trophy – Caleb Melin.

The award recipients for voice were:

- Lanigan Pharmacy (Best Musicianship) \$100 – Kaitlynn Mau;

• Accent Credit Union (Deserving Vocal Duet) \$100 – Chloe & Jenevieve Melin;

- Lanigan & District Lions Club (Vocal) \$100 – Geri Lon Valdesimo & Keira Sunderland;
- Breanna Jansen Award (Musical Theatre) \$60 – Laurenne Ewert;

- Knights of Columbus (Open) \$25 – Chloe Melin;
- Lanigan Pharmacy (Outstanding Musical Theatre) \$50 – Jenevieve Melin;

- Dulcie Kirzinger Music Studios \$50 – Caleb Melin;
- Kirzinger Construction Ltd. \$50 – Jenevieve Melin;
- Mrs. Wanda Schmidt (Vocal) \$25 – Ryan Kulchyski;
- Jansen & District Kinsmen Club (Open) \$20 – Mallory Tweidt;

- Lanigan and District Legion (Best Individual Verse) keeper trophy – Jenevieve Melin;
- Horizon School Division (Vocal) keeper trophy – Tamia Kiefer;

- Mrs. Wanda Schmidt (Vocal Solo) large trophy – Laurenne Ewert;
- Hatcher's Custom Golf (Musical Theatre) large trophy – Kaitlynn Mau; and

- Conexus Credit Union (Best Musicianship - Vocal) large trophy – Jenevieve Melin.

The award recipients for guitar were:

- Conexus Credit Union (Open) \$50 – Chloe Mehrer;
- Knights of Columbus (Open) \$25 – Alexander Callin; and
- Jansen & District Kinsmen Club (Open) \$20 – Colton Bushman.

SaskEnergy conducts controlled natural gas flare

■ Daniel Bushman

the area.

"While the gas line will be isolated from the remainder of the system, flaring is required to remove the remaining gas from the line before work can begin. Flaring is an industry standard procedure when natural gas needs to be released from a gas line and reduces the carbon footprint of the vented natural gas by 85 percent."

During the controlled burn, SaskEnergy said the area around the flare was supervised to ensure public safety. SaskEnergy also notified local authorities and natural gas service to the area was not affected during the process.

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OPINIONS

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Solutions and Substitutions



— tips from Reena Nerbas

remove the bag and wipe the excess debris. Step six: run the shower as normal.

Dear Reena,

My kitchen cabinets need a little TLC; they seem to have a layer of grease on each of the shelves. What is the best way to clean them? Albert

Dear Albert,

As strange as this may sound, you can fight back with grease! Combine one part vegetable oil with two parts baking soda. Use a sponge to work the concoction onto the shelves, scrub with a green scrubby pad. Use an old toothbrush to scrub inside tiny crevices. Wipe clean with a wet cloth and a small amount of dish soap. Rinse with water.

Dear Reena,

Between my counter and the fridge there is a gap in which crumbs tend to fall. I cannot get in there with a vacuum cleaner or a cloth. Is there a way to secure a blocking device to prevent crumbs from falling into the space? Billy

Dear Billy,

Fill the void with plastic tubing. It is available at Home Hardware stores in several widths, beginning at one-eighth inch. The tubing is not noticeable and prevents crumbs from falling into the crevice.

Dear Reena,

I have a collection of narrow necked glass bottles and vases. I cannot reach to the bottom of the containers. How can I successfully clean them without scouring them? Thank you, Amelia

Dear Amelia,

Purchase an inexpensive package of aquarium gravel. Fill each container one-third with water. Add two tablespoons of gravel and shake the jar. Dump the gravel out and repeat the process, if necessary. Reuse the gravel as needed.

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 - My collection of Bumper Stickers - from my JOY file!



■ by Arlene Martin

Let's Have Some Fun!
My collection of Bumper Stickers – from my JOY file!

• Seen on a mini-van: I used to be cool.

• I used up all my sick days so I called in dead.

• Instant human. Just add coffee.

• Expecting the best in people isn't really working for me.

• Always give 100% unless you're giving blood.

- I tried being nice to people. I didn't like it.
- Dyslexics of the world: UNTIE.
- Be informed not opinionated.
- Some folks are wise – some are just otherwise.
- I'd like to help you out. Which way did you come in?
- People who think they know it all really annoy those of us who do.

• Don't believe everything you think.

• I'm schizophrenic and so am I.

• I thought I was indecisive now I'm not so sure.

• Money is the root of all evil. For more information, send me \$10.

• Jesus loves you but I'm his favorite.

• Whenever I feel blue I start breathing again.

• I used to have a handle on life but it broke.

• Being over the hill is much better than being under it!

• Do they ever shut up on your planet?

• Allow me to introduce my selves.

• Sarcasm is just one more service I offer.

• Whatever kind of look you were going for – you missed.

• I'm trying to imagine you with a personality.

• Earth is full. Go home.

• My mother is a travel agent for guilt trips.

• I used to be schizophrenic but we're OK now.

• Old age comes at a bad time.

• Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.

• Where there's a will I want to be in it.

• Ever stop to think and forget to start again?

• Not today, Satan.

• WARNING. In case of The Rapture this car will be unmanned.

• I'm speeding because I have to get there before I forget where I'm going.

• BELIEVE. There is still good in this world.

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Funded by the
Government
of Canada



Published Monday • 48 issues per year

Publications Mail Agreement Number 40019861

Canada



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SO postal codes:

1 yr: \$35 2 yr: \$60
3 yr: \$85

Canada:

1 yr: \$42 2 yr: \$74 3 yr: \$106
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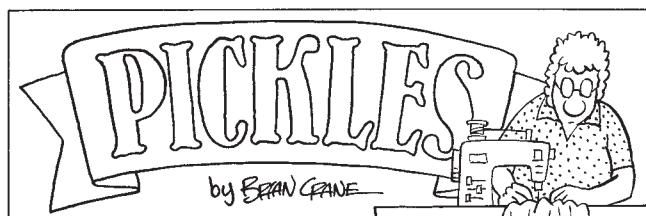
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Watrous Office Contact Information:

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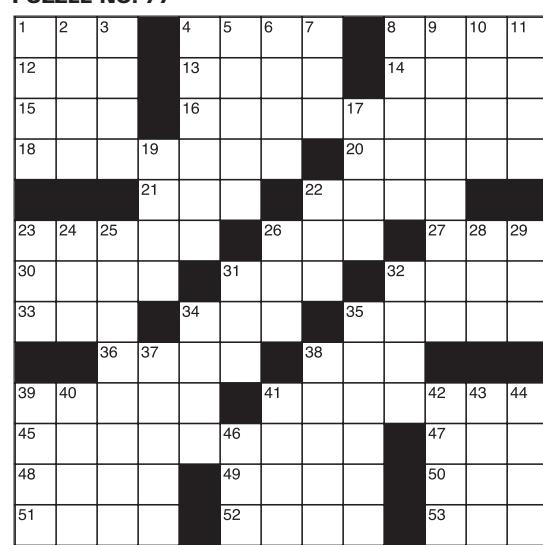
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LEVEL: ADVANCED

CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 77



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ACROSS

- Health spring
- Soda type
- Infant's bed
- Negligent
- Special nights
- Brave person
- "Lorenzo's"
- Comforted
- Fake
- Narrative writing
- been
- List of choices
- Resist authority
- Mom's companion

- "____ Gun"
- Historic age
- Wooden club
- Scallopine meat
- Green ____ Packers
- sum
- Troublesome
- Thicken
- Strong brew
- Rug site
- More clever
- Mechanical
- Mature
- Ship
- deserters
- Canary's home
- Pea container
- Outrages

- Foreshadow
- Drove too fast
- At the time
- Wrestling pad
- Umbrella part
- Distinctive period
- Refuses to buy
- Pond barrier
- Furniture wood
- Paper-towel layer
- Speck
- Swerve
- Frosh's home
- Located
- Not tight
- Pedro's pal
- Till
- Hawaiian party
- Night sight
- Masking ____
- Self-images
- Rose and ruby
- Play section

FOR ANSWERS
TO SUDOKU AND
CROSSWORD,
SEE PAGE 9



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Private eye

Which two are exactly alike?



ANSWER: 3 AND 7

Look What's Cooking by Laura Novecosky

BBQ Chicken Breast

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 tbsp. soya sauce
- 2 tbsp. worcestershire sauce
- 1 minced garlic clove
- 1 tbsp. dried parsley
- 1/2 tsp. rosemary (crush this)
- 1/2 tsp. dried sage (if using powdered then 1/4 tsp.)
- 1/4 tsp. oregano
- 1/4 tsp. thyme
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Directions:

Four boneless skinless chicken breast halves (4 oz. or so each). Combine the ingredients except the chicken in a large Ziplock bag. Add the chicken and place in fridge overnight. Spray grill racks with cooking spray, drain and discard marinade. Grill chicken with cover down on medium for five to seven minutes each side. Make sure juices run clear. I wrap the breasts in foil for about five minutes prior to serving.

Lanigan golf course takes aim at new season

■ **Daniel Bushman**

Despite some cooler weather to begin May, eager golfers dusted off their clubs and teed off for another season at the Lanigan Golf and Country Club.

With the clubhouse opening May 1, Lanigan Golf and Country Club President Lloyd Greve said it also signalled the official start of the year. "Golfers have been out on the course for awhile now. Now that the clubhouse is open, the driving range is available for use, memberships can be purchased and the

restaurant is open."

After navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic this past year which included implementing guidelines set out by Saskatchewan Health Authority and the provincial government, Greve noted a few of those regulations have changed for 2021. "COVID regulations have changed this year to allow tournaments. Shot gun starts are allowed however the awarding of prizes will be presented virtually. The golf course will implement any new changes that may occur due to COVID over

the season."

With the addition of tournaments this year, something courses throughout the province were unable to hold in 2020, Greve said they are planning on having a few along with men's and ladies' nights as well.

"I am looking forward to another year," said Greve adding with the replacement of the irrigation pump last year, the Lanigan Golf and Country Club Board was pleased to be able to keep membership and green fees the same as last year.

Along with the replacement of the irrigation pump, Greve said the course has also updated its sponsorship signage on the golf hole markers and appreciated everyone who sponsored the new markers.

Now that the course is officially open and warmer weather is on the way, Greve encourages everyone to come out, support the course and enjoy a game of golf.



With May arriving, golfers across the province have been eagerly awaiting to play on their home courses. That is no different in Lanigan (pictured above) where the Lanigan Golf and Country Club officially opened for the season May 1. - photos by Daniel Bushman



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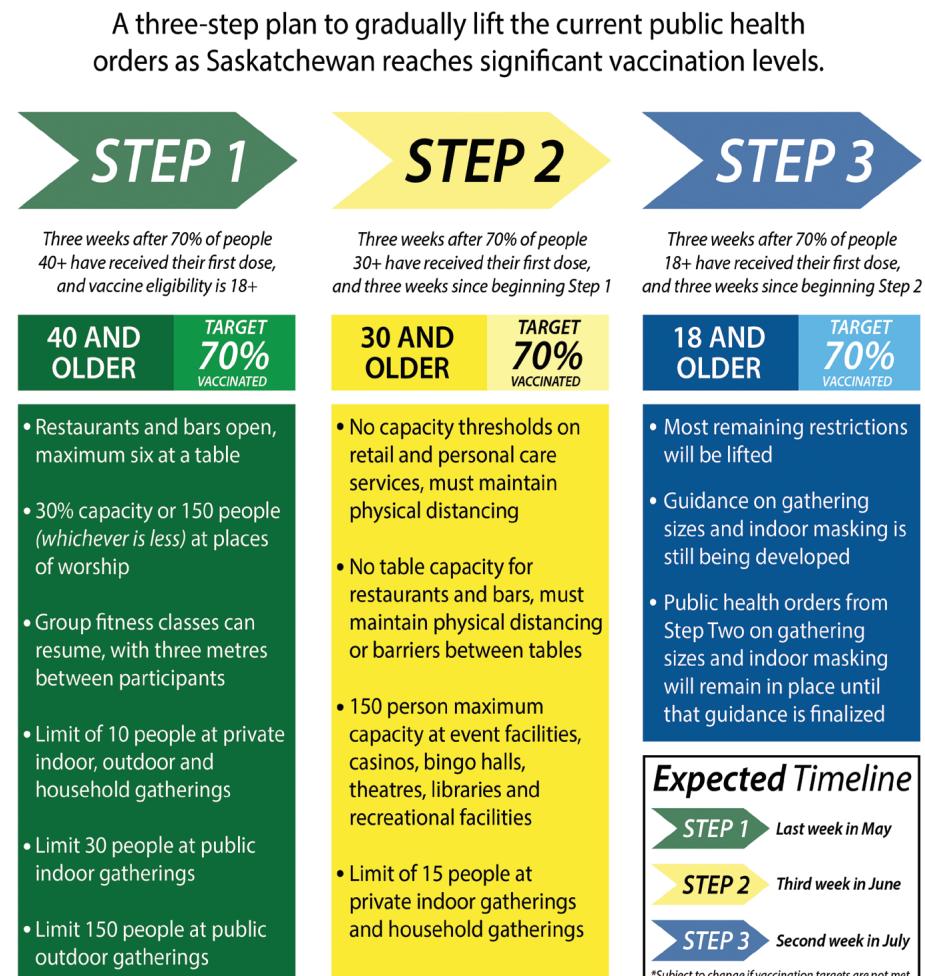
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New owners take over Manitou Springs Resort and Mineral Spa

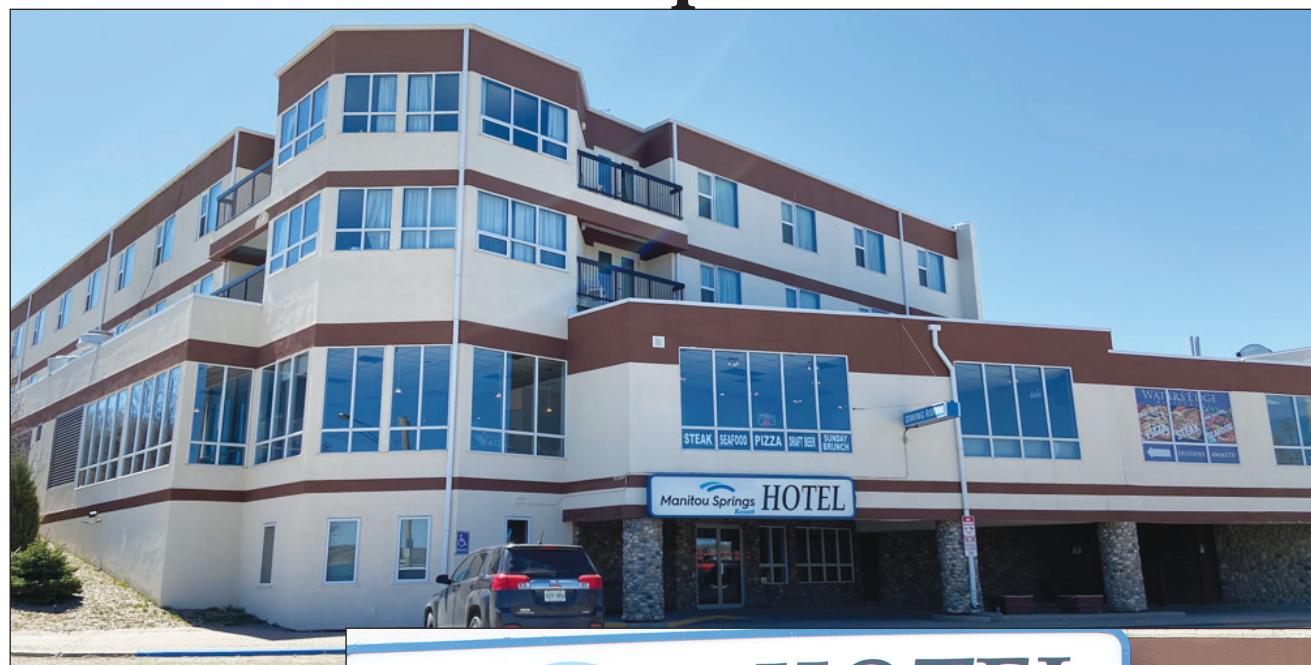
■ Daniel Bushman

What has grown to become a world-renowned resort that has attracted people to Manitou Beach from all over the globe has changed hands. Owned and operated by the Hayter family for a number of years, in late 2020 the family made the decision to list Manitou Springs Resort and Mineral Spa through Colliers for \$7.5 million. After being listed, an interested group out of Ontario negotiated and eventually purchased the 2.44 acre property, officially taking over at the end of April.

Previous general manager and CEO Dwight Hayter said his family's decision to put the resort up for sale was a difficult one. "After a lot of consideration my family and I thought the time was right. Fortunately we had quite a bit

of interest from a variety of potential buyers while it was listed, even though we were in the middle of a pandemic, so we felt pretty fortunate to be in that position. My family and I deeply appreciate the support from the community, our patrons, and our staff throughout the years of our ownership of the resort."

Hayter noted it was that support which ultimately allowed him the confidence to continue to invest in and upgrade the resort on a continuous basis. "By doing that, it in turn contributed significantly to our success in the Saskatchewan tourism industry. Although it is difficult for me to leave a place that I invested so much in, both financially and personally, I feel very confident in the new general manager and group of owners that the resort will be



left in very good hands."

Speaking on behalf of the group of owners which consists of five board of (see page eight: **RESORT**)

From the early days of first opening (left) to recently changing hands, Manitou Springs Resort and Mineral Spa has become well-known throughout the world. After being owned by the Hayter family for a number of years, general manager Dwight Hayter and his family made the decision to sell the resort. The business was purchased by a group of five bankers from Ontario and will be managed by Kapil Thaker. The new owners recently joined

Manitou Springs *Resort* **HOTEL**



Hayter, Thaker and the realtors involved with the sale at the resort to officially mark the change in ownership (above). Speaking on behalf of the owners, Thaker said it will be business as usual

at the resort and the group is looking forward to being a part of the Resort Village of Manitou Beach. - above photo submitted, top photo by Daniel Bushman, left photo from The Watrous Manitou archives



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Jansen

Louise Shannon

Condolences to Marlene Rempel Kernel on the passing of her husband Andrew Kernel. The Rempels lived in Jansen for awhile in the '50s then they moved to Manitoba. Marlene was my playmate along with my sister Bea and Joan Bennett. We played games like Mother May I and Red Rover until it was too dark. No TV then!

The farmers are busy planting. I have not started. I am waiting for rain.

I will remember my mother on Mother's Day. She passed away in 2007. I hope everyone else has a good Mother's Day.

Happy belated birthday to Maggie Hamilton Bendig of LeRoy and Walter Hladish (my brother-in-law) from Edmonton. Also happy birthday to Heidi Craig, Joni Mack, Shawn Mack, Meagan Daelick, Albert Cardinal, Sheila Renz and Aron Renwick.

Plunkett

Deloris Wilson (Sutherland) • 306-944-4852

Spring is slowly arriving and we can see our lawns greening up. Also our summer birds are arriving. The robins, crows and geese are here.

The days are slowly warming up but the wind is still cool. Folks have been buying garden seeds and farmers are in the field already.

Plunkett village council newsletter arrived and the council appreciates residents forwarding their concerns at the monthly council meet-

ings. Spring is here and time for cleaning up our properties and sprucing up the place. They are looking for volunteers to help on various properties in our village - hauling away the debris. You can contact Helen Miller at the village office.

It was nice hearing from Mrs. Rosenberger of Lanigan who made us a lot of knitted squares eight inch in diameter for our quilts that the Plunkett and Viscount ladies are busy making for Interval House in Saskatoon.

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(from page seven: RESORT)

directors who are also bankers, general manager at the resort Kapil Thaker said they are excited to take on the venture. "They were attracted to the vicinity of this place to the lake and the hotel has a bit of a heritage as well. They look forward to a long association not only with the resort but they also would like to connect with the community as well at the same time."

With a focus on building relationships and not wanting to disturb the environment and culture of the community, Thaker said the ownership group hopes to connect and plan with members of the Resort Village of Manitou Beach "so that there is always a harmony. They don't want to be considered outsiders but rather become one of the residents. They came here before they purchased this property and were so happy. They said it was awesome, peaceful, quiet and a beautiful place and didn't see any reason not to purchase it."

As part of the negotiations to buy the property, Hayter stipulated one of the key components was that all of the staff were rehired. "Thankfully the new owners agreed that we had an excellent staff and that they would like to keep all 90 of them employed. Both parties wanted to make sure the transition of ownership was as "stress-free" as possible for all of the staff, and I think we certainly achieved that goal with virtually no changes in the staff or day-to-day operations on the day they took over ownership."

Thaker and the board of directors agreed and stated, "What we have decided is that Dwight has managed this facility so well that we will be following in his footsteps. There won't be any major changes, not even structurally. Maybe if it demands, we may change it, but in terms of the work, ethics and culture, it will remain the same. One thing we may do is taking it forward, like right now we don't have an online presence with online travel agencies so we might do that, but apart from that we will be managing this place like it was before."

With the change of ownership occurring at the end of April, Hayter wanted to wish the new ownership group all the best and hopes the business continues to prosper and grow. "I will be working closely with the new general manager

Viscount

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

■ submitted by
Heather Polischuk

Saskatchewan author H.P. Bayne has just released the 12th in a series of books featuring brothers and private investigators Sullivan Gray and Dez Braddock.

The latest entitled, Dead Man's Lake, finds Sully and Dez embroiled in another dangerous mystery with a ghostly twist. Sully comes

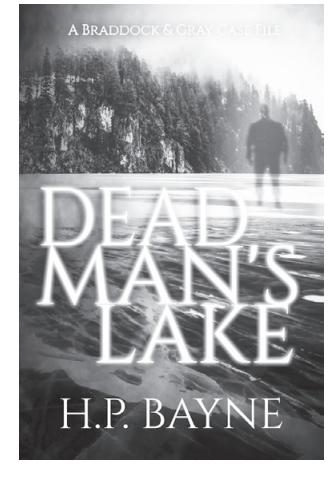
with a gift most PIs do not possess - he can see the ghosts of homicide victims.

In this novel, the brothers come up against a violent, ice-covered spirit. Seen only in winter while the lake lies frozen, the so-called Ice Man has terrified lake-goers for years. In order to lay the ghost to rest, they will need to figure out how he died - and help bring his killer to justice.

As are the other books in

both The Sullivan Gray series and the follow-up, the Braddock & Gray Case Files, Dead Man's Lake is available for purchase on Amazon stores worldwide in both e-book and paperback format and is available to read as part of the Kindle Unlimited program.

H.P. Bayne is the pen name of Heather Polischuk, a long-time newspaper crime reporter. In writing about Sully and Dez, she draws on her experi-



ence dealing with victims and their families, those charged with offences and investigators tasked with solving crime.

The Lion's Roar

■ submitted by Lion Oz Lutz

The longevity of the Lanigan and District Music Festival was featured in a lead news story in the Apr. 26th issue of the Lanigan Advisor. The festival, postponed last year due to COVID concerns, returned virtually this year for a 44th time. We could say the festival is an 'institution' in our community.

The Lanigan Lions Club has been a long-time supporter of this event. We first offered \$50 scholarships in the piano and vocal categories; in recent years, these scholarships were doubled to \$100 each.

I was recently in conversation with Angel Liebrecht, one of the main co-ordinators. She told me that our scholarship format changed somewhat this year. Here is a summary of the Lion's scholarships this year and the winners of those scholarships: i) piano: \$100 - Geri Ion Valdesimo, \$20 - Braxton Lone, \$20 - Ella Foster and ii) vocal: \$50 - Geri Ion Valdesimo and \$50 - Keira Sunderland.

The Lanigan and District Music Festival committee contacted our club recently and stated a need for further funding to help with operating expenses. We decided to continue with sponsorship of scholarships while at the same time helping with operating expenses. We sent a cheque for \$750. Congratulations to all contestants at this year's music festival.

Ultimate Odds Lottery news: The final ticket out of the drum (ticket #81) belonged to Dustin Hartman of LeRoy; he was the grand prize winner of \$4,000. Every 10th ticket drawn was worth \$100. The winners were: Rhett/Emmett, Amanda/Nic Dvernichuk, Bert Roberts, Oz/Lorna Lutz, Darren Funk, Terry Craven, Carter/Rebecca Lamont, Perry Bryksa and Mark/Vanessa Paproski. Congratulations to the winners and we appreciate your support of this fundraiser.

In closing: stay safe, everyone. Remember to mask, distance, sanitize, etc. As the ad says: let's get vaccinated and 'stick it' to COVID!

in the coming days to ensure he is brought up to speed on everything he needs to know. We would hope that the public continues to frequent the resort, and fully support the new ownership group as they have for my family all of these years. My family would especially like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of our resort staff, both past and present, for the hard work and dedication to the business which ultimately led to its success throughout the years."

Reflecting back on his tenure as the general manager, Hayter also recalled a few highlights. "I think some of the top highlights of my time here at the resort would be winning the Tourism Saskatchewan business of the year award, along with collecting and remitting almost \$500,000 to our local Watrous Manitou Marketing Group through the two percent Destination Marketing Program we collected on hotel room sales. That money was ultimately used for the economic development of our two communities as well as tourism development. Making the top four finalists for Canadian Tourism business of the year, as well as making many donations to local events and groups are also some things that I will always remember as well."

Taking on the general manager's role from Dwight and after being on the job for a week or so, Thaker said there has been a lot to do but he has been enjoying his time so far. "I have never lived near a lake like Manitou and with it being considered the Dead Sea of Canada, it is a real wonder. On top of that, I have seen the community is very relaxed, welcoming and friendly, and not as rushed as I found in the Greater Toronto Area where I worked previously."

With experience managing hotels as a revenue analyst, Thaker is planning to use his knowledge while learning from Hayter. "I appreciate Dwight helping me and I just look forward to meeting people around the resort and in the community."

As for what is next for Hayter, the now former general manager said, "I have started a new company out of my home called TRIUMPH Business Consulting, which will focus on helping other businesses increase their profitability while

solving other business problems and issues they may have. I love growing and developing businesses and am excited about my new opportunity to help others."

Originally spearheaded by a local group, Manitou Springs Mineral Spa first opened at Manitou Beach Dec. 15, 1987, a few years after the Chalet Pool was destroyed by a fire. The facility, built on the same property where the Chalet Pool was located, welcomed people from all over as they utilized 90,000 gallons of heated water channeled from Little Manitou Lake, filtered, cleaned, then pumped into the three pools.

With the spa becoming a success, adjacent to the pool, a new 60 room hotel and convention centre named Manitou Springs Hotel opened its doors for business Sept. 1, 1991. According to the Sept. 9, 1991 edition of The Watrous Manitou over 271 people were fed at the resort's restaurant that day and hotel registrations averaged 25 percent during the first four days of operation. A total of 26 permanent staff were hired with that number rising over the years.

At the grand opening of the hotel a few months later, in the Dec. 9, 1991 edition of The Watrous Manitou, chairman of Manitou Springs Mineral Spa board of directors Dale Hayter shared how the spa had benefitted from the hotel's construction by trading the land for the mini mall which connected the two facilities. At that time, the businesses located in the mini mall were comprised of the Spa's gift shop, Old Fashion Foods, Little Manitou Mineral Products, Boutique Joli, and Freckles Personal Care Studio.

Chair of the hotel board Earle Amendt also remarked during the grand opening that the hotel would not have come about without the commitment from local volunteers, legal firms, architects, two levels of government, and input by surrounding Rural Municipalities.

Since that time in 1991, the resort hotel has grown to include 102 rooms and suites, offers therapeutic and esthetic services, a fitness centre, has a Water's Edge Restaurant and Lounge, an outdoor Terrace patio area, Water Crest Cafe, and meeting and convention facilities for up to 180 people including three meeting rooms and banquet services.

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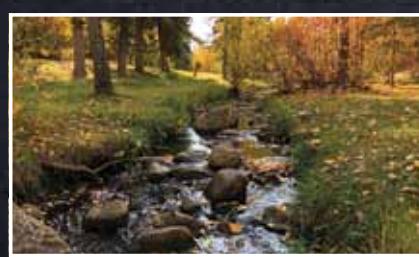
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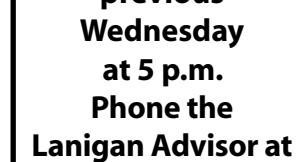
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(from page two: **PLANTING**)

be a ratio of two parts peat moss to one part soil if they are building a gardening bed."

Along with offering advice, Penrose said the staff also create custom pots and this year have added a dedicated space for them at the greenhouse. "In previous years it created a bit of confusion when people would come pick up their pots and we had to search for them but now it will be organized and will eliminate confusion. They can now have the space they deserve to grow. For the custom pots, for a fee people get the soil and slow release fertilizer. We either pick the plants or the customer does and then put them into a pot. Then we keep it for two weeks to get it nice and established in the greenhouse and it is partially hardened off because the walls roll up on the building allowing for some air movement. You don't have to have the mess at home or a partial bag of soil and it is slick and easy, especially if you want pots for a date or event."

As for what to expect when visiting Green Acres Greenhouse this year, Penrose said they will once again be following the COVID-19 guidelines set out by the province including wearing masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing. "We may on some days have to limit the amount of people in the store depending on how busy it gets. We have to keep an eye on distancing and if it gets too busy we will have to ask for people's patience."

Another change this year is the greenhouse won't be able to hold any workshops. "They are always fun and interactive and you can learn a lot but due to the pandemic we just can't do it right now. Hopefully next year when it returns to a more normal."

Hoping for that normal to return sooner rather than later, Penrose said despite the pandemic and with her greenhouse up for sale, the owner has no plans of closing. "People have asked if I will still be here. I will be here until a new owner comes along and decides to purchase it. We built in the fall of 2000 and in 2001 it was our first year. When I started out I thought I would

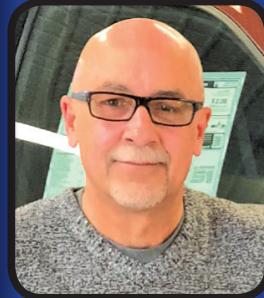
run it for 25 years but as we go through the years the work is physical and you are on your feet sometimes 15 hours a day and it can take its toll on a person. But I have enjoyed it and I am happy to be back for another year."



With a renewed interest in gardening for many people during the pandemic, Green Acres Greenhouse in Watrous has stocked up with a number of items for the 2021 season.
- photos by Daniel Bushman



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