

# Massive pumpkins make their mark

■ Daniel Bushman

With a lot of water, strategic pruning, and nice weather aided by a stroke of luck, a pair of pumpkins at Vic Bergen’s farm near Drake have grown to gigantic proportions. Massive enough to make numerous pumpkin pies or create larger than life Jack-o’-lanterns, the Atlantic giant pumpkins have also caught the attention of onlookers.

Planting a pair of seeds in spring and only allowing one pumpkin to grow on each plant, by the time fall arrived, Bergen had himself two enormous pumpkins sitting in his garden. “They definitely take up a lot of space,” he shared.

Giants compared to what you might typically find within the local area, Bergen put in a substantial amount of work each day. Hauling 12 to 15 five gallon pails of water to the pumpkin patch daily, the plants had plenty to drink. Following the steady stream of watering, pruning and nice weather throughout the summer months, as fall arrived, the plump pumpkins were bursting at the seams.

Surprised at just how large they had grown and curious to know how much each weighed, Bergen along with his wife Chris entered the largest specimen at the 17th annual Pilger Pumpkin Festival. “We lifted it up with straps out of the patch from our garden then onto a pallet on the truck. Once we got it on the back of the truck, driving on the highway, people seemed to notice it!”

Making the approximate 90 km journey north from Drake to Pilger, once the Bergens arrived for the Sept. 30 event, a crowd began to form as people spotted the behemoth pumpkin. “No one had ever seen one that big! When I got to the festival, they asked if I needed help lifting it off the truck. I asked if they had a forklift!”

Placing it on a weighing scale using a skid steer, Vic and Chris along with curious spectators waited to see the official



Requiring a lot of water and aided by some nice weather, a pair of pumpkins grown on Vic Bergen's farm near Drake have gotten quite the attention. Weighing in at a whopping 901.5 and 738 pounds respectively, Bergen took the largest one to the annual Pilger Pumpkin Festival where it was officially weighed. It also broke the annual festival's record for the largest pumpkin.  
- photos submitted

result. Registering a whopping 901.5 pounds, the pumpkin not only tipped the scales but shattered the previous record at the annual festival. “The weight even surprised me!”

Pleased at the size of his prize winner, following a fun day at the festival, the pumpkin was loaded back onto the truck and the Bergens returned home. Intrigued by what number his smaller pumpkin might fetch on the scale, Vic said, “We ended up weighing that one and it came in at 738 pounds. In the world of serious pumpkin growers, these two were just

average. The big ones can get over 2,000 pounds.”

When asked what Bergen plans on doing with them now that he knows how much they weigh, he said, “I don’t have any current plans. Perhaps they could be used as a charity fundraiser but as of right now they are sitting at the end of our driveway. I don’t think there is a secret or trick as to how I got them to grow so big. It was just lots of work each day watering, pruning and getting some good luck with the weather.”

# Throne Speech 2023 delivered in Saskatchewan

■ media release

Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty delivered the 2023 Throne Speech Oct. 25 outlining the Saskatchewan government’s agenda for the upcoming legislative session.

Premier Scott Moe said the Throne Speech outlines the government’s plan to build and protect Saskatchewan.

“Together with Saskatchewan people, we will continue to build a strong province, a strong economy, strong communities and strong families,” Moe said. “And we will protect what we have built together from the risks of global uncertainty and from a federal government that seems intent on shutting down important parts of our economy.”

- During the upcoming legislative session, the government will:
- Introduce a new Saskatchewan Employment Incentive program to bolster the income of low-income working families with dependent children;
  - In order to promote new home construction and help with rising costs, new homeowners will qualify for a Provincial Sales Tax (PST) Rebate for New Home Construction, effective retroactive to April 1 of this year.
  - Introduce a Secondary Suite Program to increase rental availability;
  - Introduce a new Investment Attraction Strategy;
  - Introduce a new Saskatchewan Jobs Plan;

- Continue to increase Indigenous employment and participation in the economy through the Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation;
  - Lead a significant Saskatchewan presence at the COP28 Conference in the United Arab Emirates, where Saskatchewan companies and government officials will promote our province’s sustainable products to the world;
  - Protect Saskatchewan’s economic autonomy by using The Saskatchewan First Act to refer the federal Clean Electricity Regulations, the Clean Fuel Standard and the oil and gas emissions cap to the Economic Impact Assessment Tribunal;
  - Implement the new Action Plan for Mental Health and
- (see page two: **SPEECH**)





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(from front page: **SPEECH**)

Addictions, which includes the creation of 500 new addictions treatment spaces across the province;

- Implement the new Provincial Approach to Homelessness;
- Create 30 new Complex Needs Emergency Shelter spaces in Regina and Saskatoon;
- Continue to build a number of important hospital and health facility projects in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Weyburn, La Ronge, Grenfell and other communities;
- Continue to implement the Health Human Resources Action Plan to recruit, train, incentivize and retain health care workers across the province;
- Expand the Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program to include Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Swift Current,

Yorkton and The Battlefords;

- Continue to reduce the pandemic-related surgical backlog;
- Continue to build new schools in Regina, Saskatoon, Lanigan, Moose Jaw and La Loche;
- Continue to expand online learning opportunities for students through the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre;
- Continue to add more childcare spaces;
- Expand mental health services for children and youth in Estevan, Weyburn, Carlyle, Oxbow, Regina, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Humboldt, Prince Albert, Kindersley, Yorkton, Swift Current and Moose Jaw; and
- Expand support for second stage housing to protect individuals fleeing interpersonal violence.

The Throne Speech out-

lined a number of bills the government will introduce including:

- The Workers’ Compensation (Extending Firefighter Coverage) Amendment Act to expand presumptive cancer coverage for firefighters to include six additional types of cancer;
- The Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Amendment Act to raise the legal age for smoking and vaping from 18 to 19, consistent with the age for alcohol and cannabis consumption;
- The Protection from Human Trafficking (Coerced Debts) Amendment Act to relieve human trafficking victims of negative credit factors incurred through coercion; and
- The Saskatchewan Remembrance Day Observance Act to protect individuals’ right to wear a poppy in all Saskatchewan workplaces.

The Throne Speech concludes by saying Saskatchewan has built a strong foundation of a strong economy, strong communities and strong families.

“A strong and growing province means more homes, more businesses, more families, more opportunities, more careers and more futures have been built, right here in Saskatchewan,” Moe said. “It means more hospitals, more schools and more highways have been built right here in Saskatchewan. And it means there is so much more to be built in the years ahead.

“My government, together with the people of our great province, will keep building Saskatchewan and we will protect all we have built.”

Following the Throne Speech, Official Opposition Leader Carla Beck said, “This is a Sask. Party government that can’t be trusted. Scott Moe ran on lower power bills, then increased them three times. I think governments should be measured on the results they deliver, not the promises they make. If Scott Moe was more focused on fixing issues than scoring cheap headlines, maybe we’d be somewhere.

“There’s an emergency in our emergency rooms and Moe still hasn’t come forward with any game-changing solutions for health care,” said Beck. “Moe says he’s concerned about housing, yet his government sat on its hands as dozens of seniors were thrown out of their homes this last week.

The rising cost of living and health care crisis are clearly not priorities for this government.”

The NDP stated wait times for a bed at a long-term care centre in Regina average about 53 days, or two-and-a-half times the provincial average, and according to the NDP, often keep seniors waiting in hospitals for extended periods of time for long-term care options.

The Official Opposition also stated CIHI reports that Saskatchewan has the longest wait times for key surgeries. “The median wait time for knee replacements in Saskatchewan last year was 466 days. The national average was 198 days, and the next-worst province, Manitoba, was 336. The median wait time for hip replacements was 309 days, longer than every other province and nearly double the national average of 164 days.”

The NDP concluded by stating the “Throne Speech also failed to show any plan to fix overcapacity pressures in urban emergency rooms and to stop rural emergency room closures, as has been seen in communities across rural Saskatchewan, most recently in Radville.”

*Remembrance Day Service at the Lanigan Town Hall*

**Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023**  
**March and welcome: 10:45 a.m. Service: 11 a.m.**

Following the 2023 service, Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 143 will reflect on some of its highlights from this past year.

Please wear a poppy and support our local poppy campaign.

- Jim Hatcher, President Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 143





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# RCMP Report

## RCMP in Watrous seeking public's assistance

Watrous RCMP are requesting assistance to identify a female for fraudulently using another person's identity to obtain funding to purchase a camper trailer.

If you can identify the female, call 1-800-222-8477 to leave an anonymous tip. If your tip leads to an arrest or charge, you may be eligible for a reward of up to \$2,000.

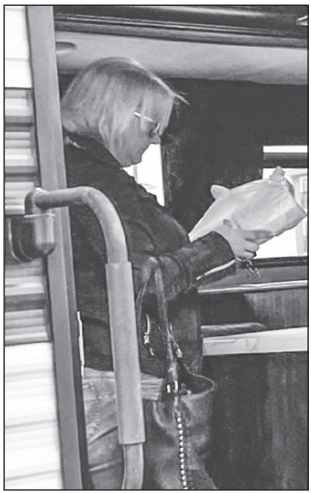
## Assault on police officers up 29 percent over five years

On Oct. 23, 2023 just before 7 p.m., an officer from Onion Lake RCMP observed several suspicious persons operating a side-by-side outside a business in Onion Lake.

The officer pulled up to them and activated their emergency lights. The side-by-side suddenly accelerated and rammed the officer's police vehicle. The officer was not physically injured. The side-by-side fled and was later found damaged and abandoned less than a kilometre away.

Shortly after, officers located and arrested an adult male nearby.

Thirty-three-year-old Josh McLaren from Lloydminster is charged with: one count, assault on police officer with weapon, Section 270.01(2), Criminal Code; one count, flight from peace officer, Section 320.17, Criminal Code; one count, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, Section 320.13(1), Criminal



Code; one count, wear disguise with intent, Section 351(2), Criminal Code; one count, failure to stop after accident, Section 320.16(1), Criminal Code; and one count, operation while impaired, Section 320.14(1)(a), Criminal Code.

Onion Lake RCMP continues to investigate.

RCMP stated this incident is one of multiple recent assaults against Saskatchewan RCMP officers. They include:

On Oct. 6, 2023, Pierceland RCMP observed a stolen vehicle on Big Island Lake Cree Territory. They attempted a traffic stop. The vehicle fled and rammed a police vehicle while doing so. The officers were not injured. A 24-year-old male has been charged with assaulting a police officer with a weapon and other charges in relation to this incident.

On Sept. 30, 2023, La Ronge RCMP received a report of an unwanted individual at a residence in La Ronge. Officers located the individual, who resisted arrest, assaulted a police officer and attempted to unholster their conducted energy device. The officer reported non-life-threatening injuries. An adult male has been charged with two counts of assaulting a police officer with a weapon and other charges in relation to this incident.

On Sept. 18, 2023, officers from Saskatchewan RCMP's Crime Reduction Team observed a stolen vehicle on Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. They attempted a traffic stop. The vehicle fled and rammed a police vehicle while doing so. A male has been charged and is on warrant in relation to this incident.

"Assaults on police officers have increased 29 percent in five years in Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction," said A/Commr. Rhonda Blackmore, commanding officer of Saskatchewan RCMP. "I'm committed to transparency, and to painting an accurate picture of policing in Saskatchewan. The statistics show that our officers are at increasing risk of being assaulted while doing their job – keeping our communities safe. I'm proud of the dedication they have to community safety, even as risk to their personal safety increases."

According to RCMP, yearly assaults against police officer

statistics are as follows: 2018 – 362 incidents; 2019 – 390 incidents; 2020 – 435 incidents; 2021 – 414 incidents; 2022 – 471 incidents.

Of the 471 incidents that occurred last year, 289 occurred in Saskatchewan RCMP's North District, 118 in Central District and 64 in South District.

Of the 471 incidents that occurred last year, 377 were assaults on police officers, 83 were assaults on police officer causing bodily harm/assaults on police officer with a weapon, eight were disarming a police officer and three were aggravated assault on police officer.

From Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 2023 (the most recent statistics available), there were 375 assaults against police officer incidents in Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction.

*\*Please note that these statistics are representative of reports received within Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction.*

# Viscount

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

I am writing this news Oct. 25. Wow on the snow we received the early morning hours of Oct. 24. We did go into the city on the 24th, left around 9ish and found the highways in pretty good shape. Thankfully the commute was a lot easier than we thought it would be.

Viscount Archery Range held an open house Sunday, Oct. 22.

Five ladies met at the Viscount library Monday, Oct. 23 to work on blankets. Blankets for Canada has been running for 25 years! The Viscount group has been meeting for nearly as long. We so enjoy our weekly Monday visits at the Viscount library. While we busily sew our 8" x 8" squares together, we catch up on each other's news. We are always happy for visitors, so please feel free to come by and see for yourself just how we make our blankets. We will make you a cup of tea!

Mrs. Jantz and her volunteers did an amazing job with the Viscount Central School book fair. It turned out to be an outstanding success!

Oct. 23, Viscount had its first waste cart collection.

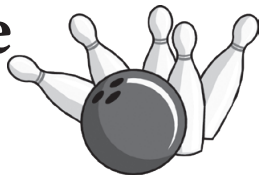
Oct. 23, we had another enjoyable evening playing pickleball at the Viscount Central School. It is so much fun!

Legion poppy boxes will be out this week. Make sure you get your poppy.

Viscount Childcare Centre is looking fantastic. The childcare centre will be able to provide high-quality learning experiences and care to the children of Viscount and surrounding communities. The childcare centre will be opening Nov. 6. Stay tuned for an open house event.

Best wishes to anyone who is under the weather. I hope you feel better soon. Have a great week!

# Prairie Rose Bowling



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**Wednesday Ladies**  
**Oct. 18**  
LHS: Kaylyn Bartel, 196  
LHT: Shanon Bay, 465

**Monday Mens**  
**Oct. 23**  
MHS: Rodney Liebrecht, 215  
MHT: Rodney Liebrecht, 591

**Thursday Mixed**  
**Oct. 19**  
LHS: Karen Doidge, 173  
LHT: Karen Doidge, 420  
MHS: Greg Blyth, 163  
MHT: Greg Blyth, 468

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# Jansen

Louise Shannon

Happy Halloween! Everyone is getting ready for Halloween. The church and the library are giving out treats.

The steak fry was very good. Many people attended. We got some snow and I am glad the garden is out. Some of the Jansen Jets hockey team will be playing soon. Several people in Jansen are not very well. Get better fast. Happy anniversary to Eva and Albert Shumaker. Happy Halloween birthday to Eva Elke Shumaker. Happy belated birthday to Pastor Kristin.

# FOR SALE BY TENDER

The RM of Prairie Rose No. 309 will be accepting sealed tenders on the following property:

**Lots 14, 15, 16, 17; Block 4; G26 in the Hamlet of Esk**

The intended use of property must be disclosed at time of tender and must comply with the RM of Prairie Rose No. 309's Zoning Bylaw.

*Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.*

Tenders close at **4:00 P.M., November 14, 2023** and must be submitted to:  
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The delight of fresh forgiveness



Pass The Salt  
A spiritual column  
by Pastor  
Greg Dermody

Most of us are familiar with what we call the Lord’s Prayer. It was the response of Jesus to His disciples when they asked, “teach us to pray”. More than just a prayer to rattle off, it is a pattern or guide to praying.

These few lines can open up a way to engage with God in every aspect of our lives. The second part of the prayer deals with our lives here on earth in practical ways. The daily bread reflecting our needed and willing dependence on God for life itself. From daily bread to asking forgiveness, the prayer leads us from our physical

needs to our relational needs. We find this prayer in the gospels of Luke and Matthew.

Matthew’s version is the one most of us are familiar with and recite together. Yet, depending on how you learned the prayer, you might know it as “forgive us our debts” or “forgive us our trespasses.” Luke uses the general description, “forgive us our sins.” The word translated as trespasses or debt refers to something that has gone wrong in our lives and we are not where we should be (a trespassing offence) and we are therefore in deficit in our relationship with God (debt).

The brutal reality is that due to our sinful nature, we are always in a deficit relationship with God. His standard is complete holiness and we cannot attain that standing by our efforts. Ultimately, it is more about our character marred by sin than our actions - although we are certainly accountable for them! Herein lies the “good news” that is the gospel. Just as we perish bodily if we have not our daily bread, we perish relationally if we have no forgiveness. God provides nurture for our bodies and for our souls.

In his later years John the apostle wrote to the church: “if we confess our sins, he is just and faithful to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9). With the cleansing and purification of forgiveness comes restoration of relationship with God. The Apostle Paul describes it in this way: “behold if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

In daily forgiveness, God renews our character and builds into our lives the practical holiness that we need. It is as spiritually essential as our need to eat. Come to the table of forgiveness, God is waiting.

uncomplIcATed - “Home is people. Not a place. If you go back there after the people are gone, then all you can see is what is not there anymore.”  
— Robin Hobb



by Arlene Martin

In the quiet hours of the night, when the world slumbers and the echoes of day fade away, my mind often wanders back to the place Randy and I once lived and loved - a pretty little town called Lanigan. Those familiar streets lined with houses that stood witness to our younger years, where every corner held a memory, and every tree held a secret. It’s a dream that tugs at my heart-strings, an invitation to re-

visit a time long past - one that remains etched in the very fabric of both our souls. In reflection, it seems like an old movie or a story about two strangers from a long time ago. The passage of time for everyone weaves a narrative of growth, change, and evolution. Randy and I, once gob-smacked by life, opportunities and full of dreams, made our mark on those streets. Our laughter and voices capered through the air, mingling with neighbours and friends among the distant hum of lively town life. We forged our path in that bustling urban landscape. The world was our oyster, and our house, newly built, our sanctuary.

But time, relentless in its march, wove its threads through the web of our lives and change was looming. Randy and I underestimated the gift of life with a growing family was beautiful. But brief.

So, this mother’s heart is remembering about living in that growing, bustling little town. We had quick and easy access to cheerful restaurants, an evening watching a movie at the theatre, a doctor’s visit was doable within hours of a phone call and friendly stores and shops managed not by strangers, but friends. Every Sunday the bells from the church tower across from our home beckoned believers not just to that particular building, but pick a faith – churches within that cheerful town were occupied by smiling faces and happy handshakes.

As the years unfolded, the landscape of our lives also began its own transformation. A return to that home now seems akin to stepping into a time capsule. The streets we once knew so intimately have taken on a different hue, familiar landmarks and friends and neighbours mingling with

change and new arrivals.

In our second gasp of living and livelihood, seemingly in a blink, we became the children of aging parents with declining health. Hence, the move from town to country over two decades ago. We came to be farmers by necessity navigating a landscape that was both exhilarating and, at times, disorienting. Amidst it all, the core of who we are remains. Our farm, surrounded by sprawling fields and timeless beauty, stands as a reminder of shifting seasons and time, like a river, flows ever forward.

The world itself has evolved in ways we could scarcely have imagined two decades past. Technology, once a distant marvel, now intertwines seamlessly with our daily lives. We are shaped by the experiences we embrace, the challenges we overcome, and the love we hold close. We are not the same people who built that house and made our home in that thriving prairie town. Our faces tell stories of joys, sorrows, victories, and defeats. We’ve become the protagonists of a novel that’s seen more chapters than we could have ever fathomed.

Our sons, the living embodiments of our love and aspirations, have embarked on their own journeys. They’ve spread their wings and embraced the world, carving out their destinies with the vigor and courage we once knew so well. As parents, we stand on the sidelines, cheering them on, knowing that their stories are now being written on the blank pages of their own lives.

And in the quiet of our little century old house on the Canadian prairie, memories persist. A bittersweet longing, knowing that to return would be to step into a realm that no longer exists, frozen in the amber of memory.

We’ve grown, we’ve stumbled, and we’ve risen again. Our hearts have weathered storms, and our souls have been tempered by the fires of life. So, as I sit here, penning these words on the cusp of another wintry day, I’m reminded that while we may never return to that place we once called home, it lives on within us. It’s the foundation upon which we’ve built the life we now lead. It’s the canvas on which our journey continues to unfold.

Even as the years pass, the essence of who we are remains steadfast. As fatigue falls on me and every blink is heavy with sleep, this one thing I know. When my work here is done and my stories are told, I leave a legacy of love and then I am going HOME. But meanwhile, I have left the light on in my heart for those times, like now when I want to return.

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Look What’s Cooking by  
Laura Novecosky

Chocolate Glaze for Cakes

Ingredients:

1/2 cup whipping cream

1/2 cup corn or cane syrup

9 oz. chopped bittersweet chocolate

Directions:

Simmer cream and syrup in saucepan, remove from heat. Add finely chopped chocolate and whisk until smooth. Spread a very thin layer over the top and sides of your cake, place in fridge until it sets. Pour remaining glaze over the cake top and let flow down the sides. Chill at least one hour before serving.

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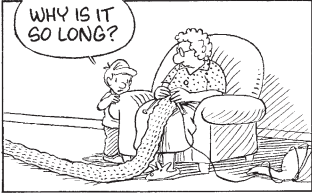
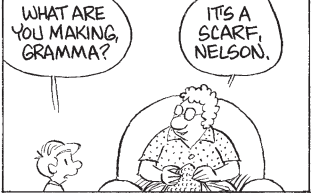
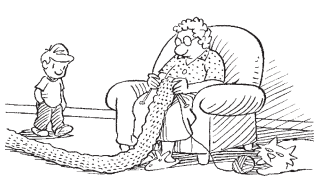
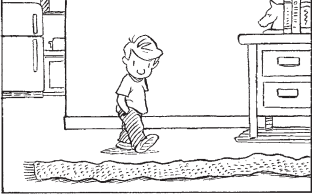
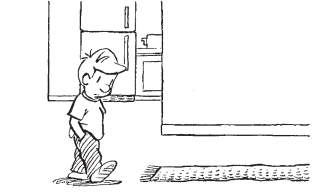
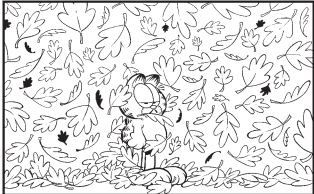
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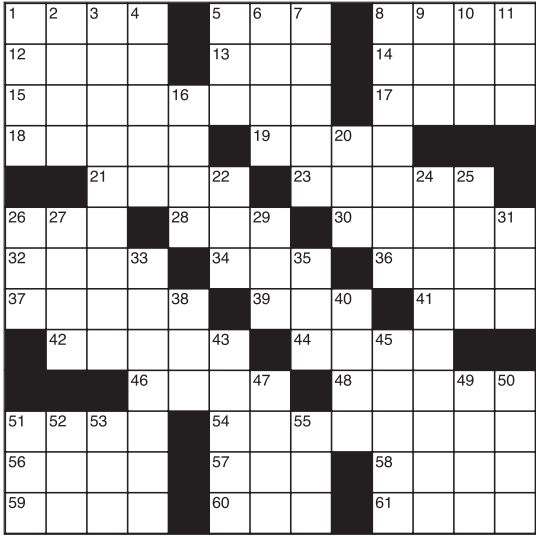


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  - Clumsy one
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  - Conical abode
  - Drink with an olive
  - Utilize
  - Greens charge
  - Current craze
  - Vacation spots
  - TV airings
  - Watery juice
  - Peace officer
  - Ballet costume
  - Branch

FOR ANSWERS  
TO SUDOKU AND  
CROSSWORD,  
SEE THIS PAGE



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N	O	T	E		F	O	E		A	S	E	A
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THIS WEEK'S  
ANSWERS  
TO SUDOKU AND  
CROSSWORD

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

## SUDOKU

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

LEVEL: ADVANCED



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# NOTICES AND CLASSIFIEDS

## NOTICES

ANYONE INTERESTED IN  
floorshuffling this winter at  
the Heritage Centre please call  
one of the following: Dorothy  
Smale 306-360-8155, Marilyn  
Bodner 306-365-2583, Dianne  
Bartel 306-365-8379 or Ruth  
Greve 306-365-7834. We also  
have table shuffleboard if you  
prefer./43-2c

## WANTED

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puter helper for Microsoft  
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site as directed and required.  
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mance. Likely aged 50+. Al-  
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healthy company. Text Jen-  
nifer at 639-318-3638. Let's  
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ing available for low income  
families. Rent is \$523/mo.  
plus utilities. Contact Holly  
Jensen at 306-287-7355./31tfc

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4' gate \$295, 15' alley \$1,675.  
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of Manitou Studio Trail group  
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7, 2024 held at various loca-  
tions in the Watrous, Manitou  
Beach, Meacham, Guernsey,  
Plunkett and Viscount areas.  
For those interested, bring  
samples of your work for  
adjudication to our Nov. 15  
meeting at the Heritage Room  
in the Civic Centre, Watrous,  
at 3 p.m. Membership is \$75.  
More information about the  
Studio Trail is available on-  
line at www.spiritofmanitou.  
ca /43-2c

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THE LANIGAN ADVISOR • MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023 • 7

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LANIGAN ADVISOR

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LANIGAN ADVISOR

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## Lots to discover

With a number of vendors in attendance and a variety of items for sale, this year's Lanigan Fall Fantasy Craft and Trade Show was a success (pictured above). Held Oct. 21 at the Lanigan Town Hall, event coordinator Michelle Hassman said it

was a great day. "The weather was beautiful and so many people came out to support the exhibitors and the lunch counter. There were so many great comments about the day! Looking forward to seeing everyone in April at the spring show."

- photos courtesy Jaymie Peters

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Miss  
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**2**  
*Shows*

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BRUNCH 11:30 AM - SHOW 2 PM

**TICKETS:** Adults \$35 • Kids \$17.50

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