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The Watrous Manitou

Est. 1933

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

VOL. 91 NO. 1

WATROUS, SASKATCHEWAN

\$1.25



Inseparable

►Taking centre stage, members of the Saltwater Players treated those in attendance Nov. 25 and 26 to a performance of The Inseparables. The comedic act featured a number of local talented actors who provided laughs and an enjoyable evening out. The production was part of the Watrous and Area Arts Council's dinner theatre. This year's group included (below) back row (left to right): Terry Potts, Avery Andreas, Fran Potts, Nancy Holma, Krystal Klenk-Potts, Carol McIntosh, Stephan Worobec, and director Rosemary Pilkington. Front row (left to right): Jo-Ann Borsa, Allison de Huber, and prompter Shannon Craig. Not pictured: set crew members Ron Frey, John Gunderson and Susan Diehl. Costumes Peggy Wilson and Amanda Dezotell.  photos by Daniel Bushman

Dinner theatre a hit

■ Daniel Bushman

With a lot of laughs, an opportunity to enjoy an evening out and a chance to take in this year's comedic play by the Saltwater Players, people gathered at the Watrous Civic Centre as part of the Watrous and Area Arts Council's dinner theatre Nov. 25 and 26.

Featuring a local group putting on the production called, The Inseparables, Amanda Dezotell with Saltwater Players said it was an exciting opportunity. "We just really appreciated everyone who came out to watch the show and see our group take the stage. We also

were grateful to the Arts Council for hiring us to perform at their dinner theatre."

Lety Schalm with the Watrous and Area Arts Council was thrilled to have the Saltwater Players in attendance and added there were countless volunteer hours and people who helped to bring the event to fruition. "The support we received from many aided in the dinner theatre being a success. We are grateful to everyone who gave of their time, to the Saltwater Players for their work and to the people who came and enjoyed the performance."

(continued on back page: THEATRE)



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GIFT & TOY GUIDE

HURRY IN - THE GIFT & TOY GUIDE ENDS DEC. 20th!

Armstrong excited to compete with UND

■ Daniel Bushman

With an already successful career on both the mound and at the plate, Watrous athlete Tehya Armstrong has been recruited to compete in NCAA Division I ball south of the border. Signing for the 2024-'25 season, Armstrong is one of two Canadians and one of nine new Fighting Hawks who will be part of the University of North Dakota's softball team.

Based out of Grand Forks, N.D., Fighting Hawks coach Jordan Stevens is excited about the young group coming in. "I believe we accomplished our recruiting goals, and then some, with the type of talent that will be joining us next fall."

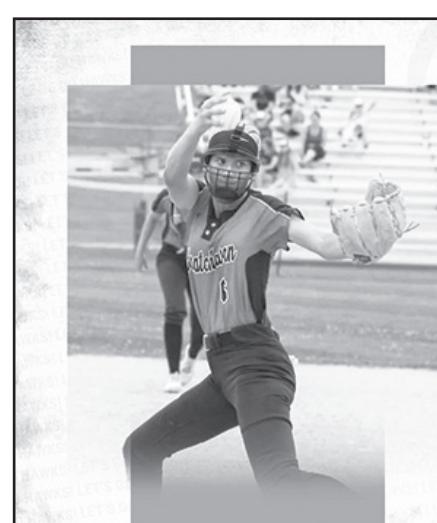
With athletes coming from two provinces and six different states, Stevens said, "We have a diverse group of players who have all played top-notch schedules around North America. The amount of experience this group has is pretty impressive."

Competing in the Canada Cup with an ERA of 1.90 as a pitcher while batting .355, Armstrong is no stranger to the big stage. The daughter of Steve and Alana also played in the Canada Games, a National Championship

self throughout the day. Once we liked what we saw in the athlete, we got to know her a little better and liked the person and family even more. She is a great fit for us."

Loving the team atmosphere with the coaches and players, when Armstrong arrived at UND for her official visit, she felt very welcome. Taking a tour of the campus and seeing what life would be like, Armstrong had no trouble viewing the school as one she would like to attend. "Academically the university offers the education that I am interested in and is nationally ranked for quality as a school. After researching the softball program, I liked the fact that during the season I would be travelling across the US, usually by plane to play. At other softball programs further south you would usually only travel by bus one to two hours away from that university. This gives me a fabulous opportunity to see the country while playing softball. Grand Forks, N.D. is only a nine hour drive from home which is a big plus for me as well."

In an effort to earn an opportunity to compete at UND, it took years of hard work and dedication for Armstrong. As part of that, Tehya attended a number of elite events where she continued to refine her skills. With the 222's fastpitch program, this past winter, Armstrong played in tournaments in California, Nevada and Georgia. Then during the summer, she was part of the Prairie Renegades, helping them



WELCOME TO NORTH DAKOTA
TEHYA ARMSTRONG

SOFTBALL
P | WATROUS, SASKATCHEWAN
WATROUS WINSTON HS



Image courtesy University of North Dakota

to win a provincial title. She also competed at the Canada Cup and then attended nationals in B.C. as part of the Saskatoon Selects. Finishing fifth in the country with the Selects, looking back on a busy year, Armstrong shared a bit about her memorable 2023.

"Canada Cup was definitely the softball highlight of my year. It was right after provincials. We drove 22 hours to B.C. right after winning provincials. Counting provincials, we played 15 games in eight days. Our whole season was 29 games in total so we played more than half our season in the span of eight days. We played Team Ukraine and donated money to them at the end of the game. My Prairie Renegades team had done a bottle drive to raise money. Seeing how much that meant to Team Ukraine was amazing. It reminded me that softball is so much more than a game. It provides people with opportunities and brings people together. When we weren't playing

we had the opportunity to watch the women's national team play."

As for the opportunity to compete during games, Armstrong likes having control from the mound and the challenge of going up against the opposition's top hitters. "I work well under pressure and use the pressure to drive me to do my best for the team."

When it comes to swapping the glove for the bat, Tehya shared she enjoys hitting because it provides a chance to do better while using plate appearances to make adjustments for future ones. "It is great to get the opportunity to help your team offensively. I love softball in general because it is a team game and in order to have success you need to be able to have multiple people working together."

Looking forward to building off her recent success, Armstrong is eager to put on the uniform of the Fighting Hawks. Her new coach, Jordan Stevens, is also looking forward to the upcoming year citing Tehya's competitiveness and poise along with being a hard-working athlete as her strengths. "I think we got a really good one in Tehya. She probably went under-recruited being from where she is from but she earned this opportunity and we are very thankful she chose UND."

Believing Tehya is the first recruit from Saskatchewan to be part of the Division I softball team at the University of North Dakota, Ste-

vens hopes she will be a valuable addition as both a pitcher and hitter. Planning to travel down in mid-August following her Gr. 12 year at Winston High School in Watrous, Armstrong feels honoured to be the first recruit representing Saskatchewan at UND. "Building off that, the best part for me would be being able to show young softball players that it doesn't matter where you come from, you can achieve whatever goals you set for yourself."

Along with blazing a new trail to UND, Armstrong was also very appreciative of those who helped her get to where she is today. "I am extremely lucky to have unbelievably supportive parents who have always pushed me to be the best version of myself not only as an athlete but also as a student and person. My mom has coached me throughout the majority of my softball career. My first pitching lessons were from former National team pitching coach Don Bates when I was around eight years old. He got me started with proper technique and taught me many different ways to throw various pitches. I've been travelling down to the United States with the 222's fastpitch team every winter since 2018 with the exception of covid. This program I believe has the best coaches in the country. Keith Mackintosh is one of the current women's national team coaches and Dean Holien, my current pitching coach, is on the men's national team coaching staff. They bring in lots of other world-class coaches to help them out as well. This program introduced me to competitive women's softball and made me the player I am today. It exposed me to older players in the program that were going through the recruitment process and I learned so much from them. I'm so grateful to the opportunities this program has given me."

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The assistant superintendent works closely with the superintendent. They are actively involved in mowing practices, daily set up and irrigation and drainage. The assistant superintendent will also assist with the maintenance of equipment.

A combination of experience and education in turfgrass management would be considered an asset for both positions. On the job training will be provided if necessary.

Position to start on April 1st, 2024
Please forward resumes by mail, fax or email by December 31st, 2023

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“RCMP Report”

RCMP investigating post office break-in in Allan

On Dec. 2, 2023, Saskatoon RCMP received a report of a break-and-enter at the post office in Allan.

Investigation determined an unknown individual or individuals forced their way into the building sometime between Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. and Dec. 2 at 7 a.m. The suspect or suspects stole parcels and other items.

Saskatoon RCMP continue to investigate and ask anyone in Allan that captured video surveillance in or around the area of the post office from Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. to Dec. 2 at 7 a.m. to contact them.

If you have video, or information about this incident, contact Saskatoon RCMP at 306-975-5173. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Charges laid

At approximately 9 p.m. Nov. 26, Pierceland RCMP responded to a drug trafficking call on Big Island Lake Cree Territory.

Officers located and seized a backpack containing approximately 73 grams of methamphetamine, 31 grams of crack cocaine, and a wallet containing identification cards. Officers identified the male the wallet belonged to, and as a result of investigation, arrested him without incident.

Thirty-year-old Pierre George from Big Island Lake Cree Territory is charged with two counts, possession for the purpose of trafficking, Section 5(2), Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

He was also charged in relation to an assault previously reported to Pierceland RCMP.

Ingram named NHL's First Star of the Week

■ media release

Providing stellar goaltending for the Arizona Coyotes this season, Imperial's Connor Ingram was named the National Hockey League's First Star of the Week.

Ingram along with New York Islanders centre Mathew Barzal and New Jersey Devils centre Jack Hughes were named the NHL's "Three Stars" for the week ending Dec. 3.

Earning the top spot, Ingram stopped 89 of the 94 shots he faced, going 3-0-0 with a 1.63 goals-against average and .947 save percentage to help the Coyotes (12-9-2, 26 points) move into the first wild card position in the Western Conference while extending their winning streak to four games dating back to Nov. 25.

Ingram made 30 saves, and picked up his second assist of the season, in a 3-1 victory over the Tampa

Bay Lightning Nov. 28. He then denied 28 shots as Arizona rallied from a pair of one-goal deficits for a 4-3 overtime win against the Colorado Avalanche Nov. 30.

Ingram finished the week with 31 stops, his sixth 30-save performance of 2023-24, in a 4-1 triumph versus the St. Louis Blues Dec. 2.

The 26-year-old Ingram, who has started every contest during the Coy-

otes' four-game winning streak (4-0-0, 1.23 GAA, .961 save percentage, one shutout), owns a 10-3-0 record through 14 total appearances this season (2.40 GAA, .926 save percentage, one shutout) and ranks among the league leaders in wins (tied for sixth), goals-against average (eighth; minimum: seven games played) and save percentage (sixth; minimum: seven games played).

The Coyotes said Ingram is the first goaltender with the organization to be named NHL First Star of the Week since Mike Smith back in April 2012.

VISSCOUNT

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

Today (Dec. 6) as I wrote the news, it was such a beautiful morning for a walk. In Viscount it was -2 and felt like -5, just a gorgeous morning. I thought it might be a little on the icy side but it was not.

Monday, Dec. 4, five of us lovely ladies met at the Viscount library for Blankets for Canada. We did have a couple of weeks off, but we managed to jump right back into our work and visiting. We managed to sew squares together, put labels on and have a cup of tea and a snack. We are always looking for donations of yarn or squares, so if you have any we would be so grateful.

Viscount Central

School really appreciated some very generous donations to their breakfast program that they received this month. VCS Christmas concert will be held Wednesday, Dec. 20. Some of the pen pal great-grandparents will be meeting their reading/pen pal for the first time.

Morning coffee is being enjoyed at the Viscount Seniors each morning of the week, except Sundays.

We toured out to see the 2023 Canadian Pacific Holiday Train Dec. 5. It was so awesome to see. The train is so well lit up, beautiful!

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

MIZ BOJANGLES
will begin cutting hair in December
at her new location at 216 Albert St.
and Lakeview Ave. at Manitou Beach.
Thank you for being patient over the
past few months as she has been
healing up her hoof.

COLONSAY

Irene Gray • 306-255-2775

Sympathy to the Barry Rae family from Saskatoon, formerly of Elstow, on his passing Nov. 26. Barry was 87. His funeral will be held at Windsor Chapel Dec. 14.

Thursday, Nov. 30, Marilyn Kirk and Jim and Irene Gray attended the Queen Esther Rebekah Lodge #5 Christmas brunch. Twenty members and spouses enjoyed visiting and listening to some Christmas stories.

Joan Campbell and her cousin Norma Sparrow enjoyed a turkey and ham supper at McClure Church Thursday, Nov. 30.

Jim and Irene Gray travelled to Watrous to join Murray Westby and family and other friends for a 90th birthday party celebration.

Correction to the Colonsay Golf Course Revitalization Committee hosting the tree lighting at Harris Park. The hot dogs will be available at the park at 6 p.m. with free hot dogs. I reported they were for sale at the rink. Everything will be Dec. 15 with the tree lighting at 7 p.m.

The RM of Colonsay and Town of Colonsay held their annual supper Saturday, Dec. 2. It was held at the Colonsay Com-

munity Hall for all businesses. A large turn out was there and enjoyed a great turkey supper catered by the Pepper Tree at Watrous. Following supper a comedian entertained for an hour.

Rev. Jim Pulfer presided at Colonsay United Church Sunday, Dec. 3. The candle of Hope was lit for the second Sunday of Advent - Peace.

Sunday, Dec. 3, Jim and Irene travelled to Saskatoon to attend a belated birthday brunch for Jim's 85th birthday. It was held at Tyler and Venessa Hinz with Kory Liang and Ben and MuLing Liang and grandma. It was a great gathering catching up with everyone's news.

Get well wishes to Jim Gray who had day surgery Dec. 5. Also to everyone who is not feeling well. I have heard several have had the flu, pneumonia and covid.

The Colonsay Grad Class of 2024 is holding a bottle drive fundraiser Saturday, Jan. 13.

There is a day of sunny rest for every dark and troubled night. And grief may hide an evening guest, but joy shall come with early light.

YOUNG

Pat Bryson • 306-259-4860

Wrapping, wrapping, wrapping! Colourful paper and pretty ribbon; do not run out of scotch tape!

There is an early Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Sunday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at the Young United Christ Lutheran Church. Come and let your heart be blessed as you join in celebrating our Saviour's birth.

We are enjoying the festive Christmas lights that the village has installed. Once the sun sets, our streets become magical with the pretty designs of colour and light.

Isn't it something to not be sweeping a dusting of snow from your step each morning or shovelling the white stuff from your sidewalk? Highway workers and town maintenance people are equally as glad.

Tickets are going fast for the "Spirits of Christmas" library fundraiser. Get yours soon as the draw is coming up.

What is your opinion of the fruity Christmas cake, a favourite treat of many. Do you reach for it first from a plate of goodies? Kudos to all the bakers who still make this traditional cake from scratch.

Welcome to our new community librarian at the Young Wheatland Regional Library, Peyton Weiss. Peyton is a local gal who is looking forward to greeting both old and new patrons. Pop in to the library and say hello; you might even leave with a new book in hand.

Enjoy your week!



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Watrous & District Food Bank Christmas Hampers

Thank You

We are so grateful to all who gave food. We would still welcome cash/food donations for Christmas hampers this year.

- Financial donations can be e-transferred to watrousfoodbank@gmail.com (Please include a mailing address in the message box)

OR you can mail them to

Box 794, Watrous, SK S0K 4T0

OR contact the Watrous and District Food Bank at 306-946-3785 for more information.

- Gently used clothing and food donations can be dropped off at Wheatland Dental Clinic in Watrous
- Toys can still be purchased at The Bargain Shop or dropped off at Integra Tire.

Thanks to all of the individuals who make the work of the local food bank possible. Merry Christmas!!

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“Opinion”

The Shepherds and the Lamb



Pass The Salt
A spiritual column
by Pastor
Greg Dermody

the passage hints towards the flock of sheep kept by the priests of the Temple, those raised to provide the sacrificial lambs as well as the usual needs.

I imagine the shepherds on the night watch around a small fire, one on duty, the rest dozing as he watches for predators or any issues. A light appears and an angel. Does the one on watch nudge the others... "Uh, guys?" At any rate they are quickly all awake, wide-eyed and even terrified at what is before them. I think because it is so unusual and they are steeped in the scriptures they know it is of God. The angel makes the birth announcement "Today a saviour has been born to you, you will find him...". The announcement is also an invitation to seek out the new born messiah.

Christmas is part of God's great invitation to us to seek out Jesus, to discover His redemption and thus enter into the relationship with Him for which we have been created. For the shepherds it is an invitation to go to Bethlehem and see the baby. They encounter Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus lying in a manger as stated. Filled with the joy the angel announced, they spread the word of a Messiah born that night.

This Advent you too are invited to spend time to check out the saviour born to you. Jesus who came as one of us, born tiny and frail in humble circumstances. Jesus who grew up to become the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Fitting the shepherds would be in the announcement. Fitting that God's love for you includes you in the announcement. As you seek out the messiah this advent season, may you know the joy of His presence in your life.

One of my favourites of the great Christmas scenes is that of the shepherds out watching the flocks in the fields and the angels appear to announce the birth. It is one of our traditional Advent themes, the third Sunday, the candle of joy - the shepherd's candle.

The shepherds are out on the night watch. For many people of that day shepherds were considered as a lower rung of society and career, yet to others an honourable occupation as it was the main meat source of the region. We don't know who these shepherds were, but

the passage hints towards the flock of sheep kept by the priests of the Temple, those raised to provide the sacrificial lambs as well as the usual needs.

I imagine the shepherds on the night watch around a small fire, one on duty, the rest dozing as he watches for predators or any issues. A light appears and an angel. Does the one on watch nudge the others... "Uh, guys?" At any rate they are quickly all awake, wide-eyed and even terrified at what is before them. I think because it is so unusual and they are steeped in the scriptures they know it is of God. The angel makes the birth announcement "Today a saviour has been born to you, you will find him...". The announcement is also an invitation to seek out the new born messiah.

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Moments In Time - April 10, 1989

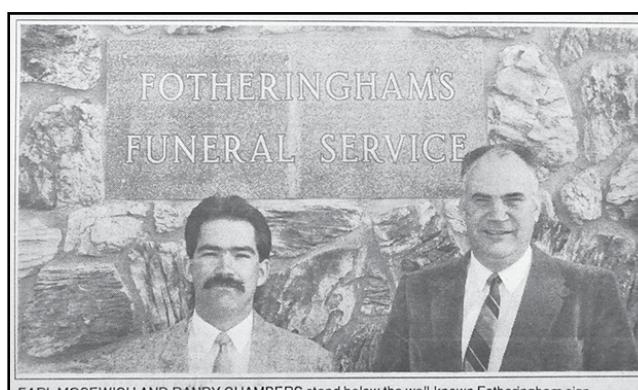


SITTING PRETTY, the Winterhawks pose for their official photograph. Front row (l. to r.) are Robin Lay, Robert Beattie, Graham Newton, Coach Gord Davidson, Trent Osmak, President Elwyn Beeler, Ken Harding, Arley Olson, Kevin Gegner; second row (l. to r.) Earle Amendt, Bill Manson, Donn Lay, Todd Isherwood, Ward Snell, Dale Regier, Mike Leire, Dan Guinan, Blaine Osmak, Randy Lamb, Trainer Larry Regier, Manager Gord Janzen; third row (l. to r.) Treasurer Phil Benson, James Baum, Sheldon Yanoshewski, Trevor Hardy, Mark McMann, Kerry Martin, Scot Speiser, Neil Weins, Chris Irvine, Glen Lyons, and Dale Miller.

Watrous Hockey Teams Attend Tournament in Regina



Watrous Novice Hockey team receive trophies at Regina Centennial Hockey Tournament



EARL MOSEWICH AND RANDY CHAMBERS stand below the well-known Fotheringham sign.
Fotheringham's 80th Year—



Look What's Cooking by Laura Novecosky

Sour Cream Cranberry Squares

Ingredients:

1 cup butter, softened
1 cup packed brown sugar
2 cups oatmeal
1 1/2 cups flour
2 cups dried cranberries
1 cup sour cream (do not use nonfat sour cream)
3/4 cup sugar
1 egg, beaten slightly
1 tbsp. grated lemon peel
1 tsp. vanilla

Directions:

Cream butter and brown sugar. Combine oats and 1 1/2 cups flour and blend well with the butter/sugar mix. Set aside 1 1/2 cups for topping. Press remaining mixture into an ungreased 9x13 pan. Bake at 350°F for about 12 minutes (until lightly browned). In large bowl combine cranberries, sour cream, sugar, egg, lemon peel, vanilla and 2 tbsp. flour. Spread evenly over baked bottom crust. Sprinkle with reserved topping mixture. Bake at 350°F for 22 to 25 minutes until lightly browned. Cool this on a rack and refrigerate the leftovers.

The TWM Annual Christmas Edition will be published Dec. 18. Please contact us by Dec. 11 to include your Christmas greeting!

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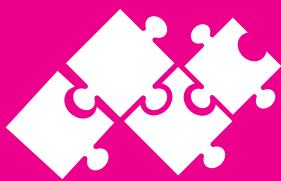
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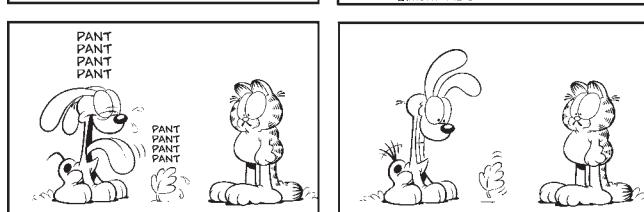
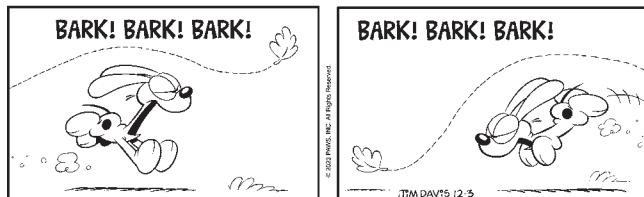
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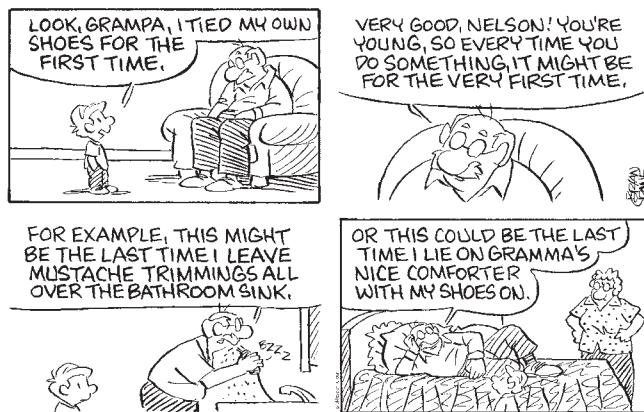
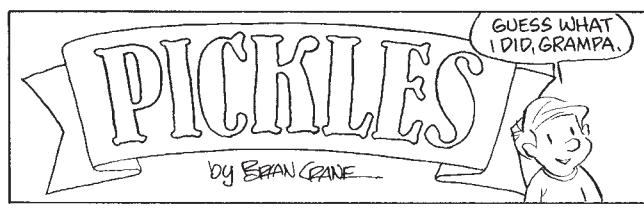
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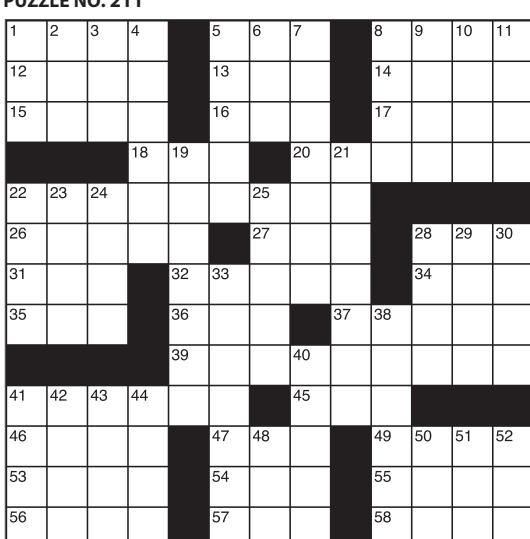
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- Jam
- Faucet problem
- Floral wreath
- surgeon
- Tinter
- Lawn tree
- Biblical travelers
- Fleecy mama
- Threw
- Play host
- Cultivate
- Relay portion
- Dwindle
- Get free (of)
- Saw logs
- Bubbly beverage

DOWN

- Different
- Move with leverage
- Knot
- Shady
- Crossed letter
- Variety show
- Auditors
- Breakfast fare
- State further
- Opera star
- Breakfast meat
- Not difficult
- Raw minerals
- Watch carefully
- Range
- Charter
- Crimson or scarlet
- Smell
- Binges
- Icy rain
- Snakelike swimmer
- More timid
- Female parents
- Important times
- Kitchen herb
- Lost one's footing
- Struggle
- Provoked
- Makes a boo-boo
- Capture
- In order
- Hand-cream ingredients
- Overhang
- Hazy image

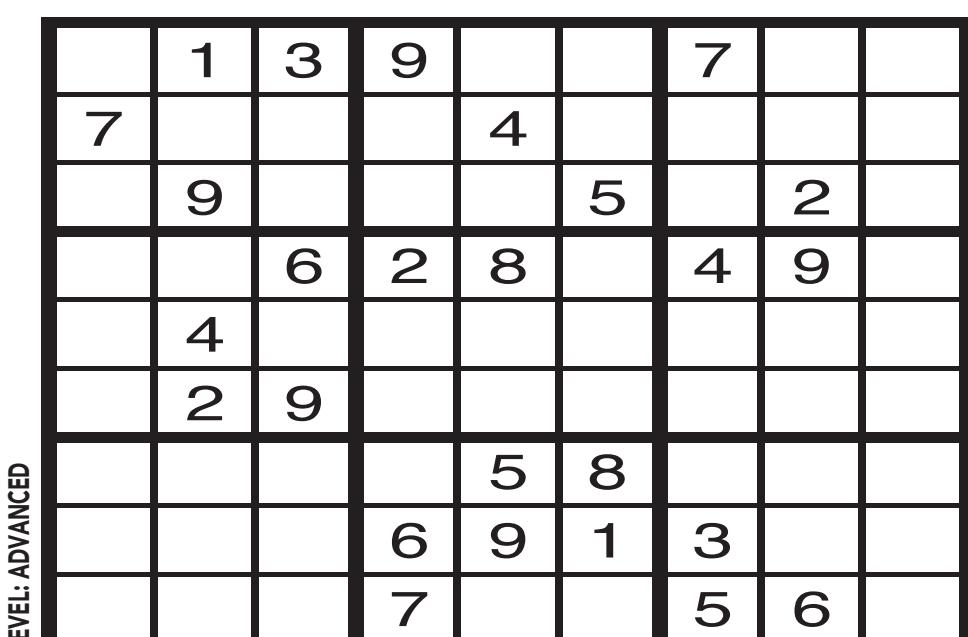
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- Equal in quantity
- Persist
- Popeye's yes
- Be
- Espy
- Tibetan wild ox

FOR ANSWERS
TO SUDOKU AND
CROSSWORD,
SEE PAGE 11



SUDOKU





Watrous Seniors Recreation Club

► On Tuesday, Nov. 28 members of the Watrous Seniors Recreation Club boarded a Diversified Charter Bus and travelled to Saskatoon for the viewing of the Festival of Trees at the Western Development Museum. The Christmas tree displays were unique, and after walking through the display, the Club members were able to view other artifacts of the history of Saskatchewan. The group then travelled to Smiley's Buffet on Circle Drive and were treated to a scrumptious

meal with a huge variety of offerings, including some tantalizing desserts. The group then bussed to see the Enchanted Forest at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm. The displays were plentiful and colourful, depicting various themes of Christmas and Saskatchewan. The Seniors Club greatly appreciates Saskatchewan Lotteries and Saskatoon Co-op (Watrous) for their support of senior activities.

© photos and info courtesy Earle Amendt Sr.

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the Watrous
Food Bank

Dropping the puck

► Following a 5-2 win over LeRoy Nov. 28, the Watrous Winterhawks hosted the Wadena Wildcats Dec. 5. With the game tied at one through one, the visitors took a 3-2 advantage after two. In the third, Wadena scored midway through the frame and added an empty-netter to remain undefeated, winning 5-2. Sam Klassen and George King had the goals for Watrous as the team sits at 3-2 on the year. Watrous was scheduled to be in Lanigan Dec. 9 and returns home Dec. 16 to face Drake.

© photos by Daniel Bushman

COFFEE SPOONS
A writing group
at the beach

Starts Jan. 6, 2024
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

An in-person writing group of 6 to 8 people. Meets monthly at **MANITOU WATERS** in Manitou Beach. Come to share your own writing (no matter what stage you're at), find authentic feedback, refine and shape your own and others' writing, tap into a handy 'beta reader pool' and find your muse.

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The **COFFEE SPOONS GROUP** will be able to access the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild's many programs and benefits (<https://skwriter.com>). Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, sci-fi, screen writing, mysteries, memoirs, novels and novellas, song lyrics, storytelling, manuscript review ... the whole enchilada.

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“Notices AND Classifieds”

In memory



ENGELE - In loving memory of Duane, Dec. 13, 2018:

Time passes, memories stay
Loved and remembered every day.
- Forever in our hearts, Katie, Keith and Shelley, Kirby and Kathleen, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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HELP WANTED

INTERLAKE HUMAN RESOURCES CORPORATION requires a part-time Direct Support Worker/Day Program Staff for the Watrous agency. This position will be two days a week minimum with the potential for more. We are looking for a reliable individual to work with adults with intellectual disabilities. The ideal candidate would work well in a team environment, have creative programming ideas and be well organized. A great attitude is a must! A criminal record/vulnerable sector check and a valid driver's licence are required. Ability to drive in both rural and urban settings is necessary. Some heavy lifting and physical work may be required. Experience providing support to adults with disabilities would be an asset. Please forward resumes to: asilzerihrc@hotmail.com or drop off at 116 Main Street, Watrous. Please call Angela at 306-946-2577 if you have any questions regarding this position. Window for applications closes Dec. 15, 2023./1-1c

WANTED

WANTED: Rock rakes, rotary rock pickers, tub grinders, MF #36 discers, square balers, dead tractors. Any condition. Ph. 306-946-7923./39-14c

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Are you involved in your community and have news to share?

The Watrous Manitou is seeking correspondents for the communities of Allan, Drake, Imperial, Liberty, Manitou Beach, Plunkett, and Simpson.

Call 306-946-3343.

Province extends rural and remote recruitment incentive

■ media release

The provincial government is providing additional funding of \$3 million to continue offering the Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive into 2024. Available to new employees in nine high-priority health occupations, this incentive of up to \$50,000 has seen great success with 226 hard-to-recruit-to positions successfully filled as a direct result of this program to date.

Health Authority is offering a voluntary mentorship program to all employees. The mentorship program aims to support a meaningful employee experience through relationship building and interactive workshops, develop participant leadership capabilities, and provide program participants with necessary guidance and support to excel in their roles.

Recently, a group of health care professionals were welcomed at the Saskatchewan Legislature in recognition of the ongoing work and successes of the province's Health Human Resources Action Plan.

"I was very pleased to meet with this group of dedicated health care professionals who are working to be part of the solution in strengthening health care teams," Health Minister Everett Hindley said.

"While we know there are challenges and more work needs to be done to strengthen our health care system, it is important to recognize the successes we are having to attract and retain highly qualified health care workers like these."

Progress continues on multiple initiatives of Saskatchewan's HHR Action Plan to recruit, train, incentivize and retain more health care workers.

HHR Progress Update Highlights:

- The Saskatchewan Health Authority has hired 877 new nursing graduates from Saskatchewan and

out-of-province since December 2022.

- Currently, 185 Registered Nurses from the Philippines are enrolled in the Transition to Nursing in Canada Education Program. Of these, 89 have arrived in Saskatchewan for the clinical portion of the program, and will begin working once they get licensed.

- 206 positions have been filled of the 250 new and enhanced permanent full-time positions targeted in nine high-priority occupations to stabilize staffing in rural and remote areas of the province.

- The Final Clinical Placement Bursary continues to see interest with 171 applications received since Apr. 1, 2023. Applications are open for the fall call out through Mar. 1, 2024. Those interested can visit the Final Clinical Placement Bursary webpage for information on eligibility criteria and application process.

- Eligibility for the Saskatchewan Loan Forgiveness for Nurses and Nurse Practitioners was expanded to include Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Yorkton and The Battlefords.

- Twelve Physician Assistant positions will be posted across the province. To date, eight positions have been posted. Current opportunities are available at HealthCareersInSask.ca.

- To date, more than 200 potentially eligible applications have been received

for the enhanced Rural Physician Incentive Program of up to \$200,000 over five years offered to family

physicians practicing or returning to practice in rural Saskatchewan. Nearly 80 have been approved.

Applications continue to come in and are being evaluated as they are received.

The Watrous Manitou
Est. 1933

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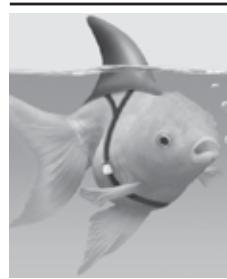
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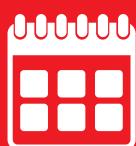
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“Coming Events”



CRAFT AND TRADE SHOW

Pop up craft and trade show Sat., Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Viscount Community Centre. Hot lunch available.

MINOR HOCKEY WEEKEND

Watrous Minor Hockey Weekend Dec. 15 to 17. Watrous Centennial Arena. Come support local teams in action. 50/50, raffle table and concession all weekend long.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Christmas Tree Lighting, Harris Park, Colonsay, Dec. 15, 7 p.m. Free hot dogs at the park at 6 p.m. Ice skating and hot cocoa at the rink after the tree lighting.

CHOIR CONCERT

Harmony Suite Choir Concert at Imperial Community Hall in Imperial, Sun., Dec. 17, 2:30 p.m. Silver collection at the door. Everyone welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Sun., Dec. 17, 7 p.m. Young United Christ Lutheran Church.

LEARN TO CURL

Join the Watrous Curling Club to learn rules, technical skills and strategy of the game. Dec. 18, Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 18, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$15/person drop-in (no registration required). Ages 10 and up.

SPIRITS OF CHRISTMAS

Spirits of Christmas, Young Wheatland Regional Library fundraiser. Four different items to be won. Tickets available at the Co-op Service Centre, village office and the library. Draw date Dec. 19.

BONSPIELS

Watrous Curling Club bonspiels: Boxing Day Family Spiel Dec. 26; Men's Spiel Jan. 26 - 27; Doubles Spiel Feb. 10; Seniors Spiel Feb. 16 - 17; Stick Spiel Feb. 21 (or TBD); Ladies Spiel Mar. 8 - 9.

BINGO

Nokomis Legion bingos at Nokomis Legion Hall: January 3 and 17, February 7 and 21 and March 6 and 20. Doors open at 6:30 and bingo is at 7 p.m.

YOUTH GROUP

At Philadelphia MB Church: Junior Youth (Gr. 6 to 8) meet most Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Senior Youth (Gr. 9 to 12) meet Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Contact 306-946-3785 for more details.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Al-Anon Meeting Thursdays 8 p.m. Ph. 306-946-2466, 306-946-2217.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings: Watrous, Thurs., 8 p.m. Anglican Church Hall on Main Street in Watrous. (306-946-2466).

Watrous Rotary Club meets alternating Tuesday evenings at the lower level of Watrous United Church. Call 306-946-3535 for more information.

ADVERTISE HERE FOR FREE

Advertise your meeting, event, registration, fundraiser, garage sale or bridal/baby shower for FREE. Call 306-946-3343 or email twmadvisorsales@gmail.com. 25 word limit, first come first served each week, availability dependant on space. Ad deadline is Wednesday at 5 p.m. each week for the following Monday's paper.

Watrous and Area Arts Council

Gallery on 3rd

presents

Winter Art Show & Sale by local artists

Fri., Dec. 15 - 2 to 5 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 16 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lots of art for sale.

Great Christmas gift ideas!!

<p

The Simpson Community Centre Board

would like to thank all sponsors who donated to our 2023 Farming Project, it was a tremendous success.

We would like to send a special *Thank You* out to everyone who sponsored the project.

The overall profit was **\$82,000** which will be going directly to the upgrades and maintenance of the Simpson Community Centre.

Special thanks to the following sponsors

Blair & Lori Crawford & Family for the *Parcel of Land*
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WHS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



In partnership with Winston High School, this week's WHS Student Spotlight features Laikyn Thomas. "Laikyn is one of our cherished student leaders at Winston. She is always a willing organizer, helper, and encourager. She keeps watch over her peers and is quick to check in when someone is having a tough day. She recently led her yellow pride team to victory in our "Lip Sync" competition. We are so thankful to have Laikyn in our hallways each day!"

(from front page:
THEATRE)

However, the cast were not nearly as prepared as they should be. With puppets and pool noodles, the theatre group prepared for their glorious comeback...that may not happen.

With the comedic production that induced a number of laughs, Dezotell said it provided the perfect way to spend a November evening. "Being able to get together again and put on this performance was a lot of fun. We look forward to many more seasons performing on the stage in Watrous."

The members of this year's Saltwater Players who were part of the production included: director Rosemary Pilkington; prompter Shannon Craig; actors Jo-Ann Borsa, Alison de Huber, Terry Potts, Avery Andreas, Fran Potts, Nancy Holma, Krystal Klenk-Potts, Carol McIntosh, and Stephan Worobec; set crew Ron Frey, John Gunderson and Susan Diehl; and costume crew Peggy Wilson and Amanda Dezotell.

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

at

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December 23rd
The uglier
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SATURDAY
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MATINEE SHOW 2:30 PM
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EVENING SHOW 7:30 PM

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SAT., DEC. 30 - EVENING SHOW WITH BUFFET \$55 \$65
SUN., DEC. 31 - NYE SHOW \$75 \$95
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COCKTAILS &
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EVENING SHOW 8:30 PM



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