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The Watrous Manitou

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020

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Preventing the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

■ Daniel Bushman

As the global pandemic COVID-19 (Coronavirus) spreads across the world and into Saskatchewan, things have been changing weekly, daily and even hourly. With a huge focus on social distancing to stop or slow down the spread of the highly contagious disease, numerous cancellations, postponements and initiatives have occurred. Implementing protocols, health and safety measures there are a large number of local businesses who remain open, including us, for as long as we are able.

But with all of the changes coming frequently, this article has been revised a number of times and most likely more information has since become available after press time. In an effort to try and provide you with factual and current information, the following article will key in on a number of areas including what local implementations have been taken, what Saskatchewan is doing as well as the financial aid package offered by the federal government.

As 16 cases of COVID-19 were reported by the Government of Saskatchewan in the province Mar. 18, it declared a provincial State of Emergency, giving the government broad powers to address the pandemic. This includes measures like the ability to limit travel to or from a community or region of the province and directing that property or equipment be deployed to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the news conference Mar. 18, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said, "If we are not able to flatten the curve, if we don't take these social distancing measures seriously, there is no health system in the world that will be able to manage what will occur. It is incumbent on us in this province to do our level best to ensure that we are able to flatten that curve and that our health system is able to handle what is going to happen over the course of the next number of weeks and the next number of months.

"It is only together if we take this situa-

tion seriously and that is what I am asking each and every resident of this province to do, is to take this situation very seriously. . . we will get through this and we will get through this together."

The government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Health Officer, also made a number of new orders Mar. 18 to reduce the risk to Saskatchewan people, prevent transmission and ensure that acute care services are preserved for residents most at risk for severe illness.

The following measures took effect immediately: public gatherings larger than 50 people are prohibited; all restaurants, bars and event venues must limit their seating to 50 percent of capacity or up to a maximum of 50 people, whichever is lesser. All must be able to ensure social distance of one to two metres between customers. Retail spaces including grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations are exempted from this policy but must have processes to maintain a one to two metre separation; all gyms, fitness centres, casinos and bingo halls are ordered to close until further notice; residents are advised to limit any non-essential travel outside of Saskatchewan, with the exception of people who live in border communities and are commuting for work; any licensed restaurants and taverns in Saskatchewan will be permitted to sell alcohol as an offsale according to SLGA regulations indefinitely; all crown utilities will implement bill-deferral programs allowing a zero-interest bill deferral for up to six months for Saskatchewan residents whose ability to make bill payments may be impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions; and all Government of Saskatchewan ministries, agencies and Crown corporations will implement a phased-in work from home policy effective Monday, Mar. 23, applicable to employees deemed non-essential. This means that any employees able to work from home should do so immediately, while providing managers a period to plan for work-force continuity.

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is discontinuing all non-urgent/



► In unprecedented times, events around the world have been postponed, some businesses closing, public gatherings larger than 50 people prohibited and schools shutting down as the global pandemic COVID-19 reached Saskatchewan. With more presumptive cases being confirmed, an immense focus has been placed on social distancing to help avoid situations where there is a potential to spread the virus. For students who attended school, with classes suspended, they have been busy finding activities to do at home.

photos by Daniel Bushman

elective surgeries, procedures and diagnostics as of Mar. 23. This action will allow the SHA the ability to redeploy nurses and other staff and ensure medical supplies and personal protective equipment are available when needed and reduce risk of further exposure to our care providers and patients.

The SHA will continue to provide services to patients who require emergent and urgent care. Cancer, urgent and emergent surgeries will continue as planned. Patients will be contacted regarding their scheduled service.

Parents with children in daycares should be preparing for further restrictions.

Local area changes

As people are social distancing, self-

quarantining themselves from trips around the globe, some businesses temporarily closing, events cancelled and governments trying to do what they feel is best, like you, I too am trying to navigate through uncharted waters. I would invite you to read this week's editorial for what The Watrous Manitou and the Lanigan Advisor are each trying to do.

The following are a few things that local area communities are doing as well. If your community is not mentioned below, I do apologize and I would invite you to reach out to them if you are wondering what services have been cancelled, closed or postponed. With information changing

(continued on page nine: COVID-19)

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Local communities get in motion

■ Daniel Bushman

With people in Saskatchewan reaching more than 3.2 million active minutes, 33 communities including Watrous and Lanigan took part in this year's Saskatchewan Blue Cross Go Out and Play Challenge.

Hoping to finish in the top two spots in an effort to receive funding for a project within their community, people across the province were encouraged to log their minutes Mar. 1 to 10 in an effort to support projects that get kids out to play.

This year, Assiniboia logged 435,700 minutes of

physical activity to win the grand prize of \$10,000 which will be put toward a climbing wall. For the second year in a row, Shields placed second with nearly 415,500 minutes logged. By finishing second, Shields received \$5,000 and will use that for a multi-sport court.

Locally, Watrous placed third out of 33 communities logging 338,133 minutes while another local community, Lanigan was 12th with 95,715 minutes. If Watrous had won it was planning to put the prize money toward building a new playground structure at Watrous Elementary School. Lanigan had hoped to win and put the money toward its future water park.

In addition to Assiniboia and Shields, eight communities including Watrous logged more than 100,000 minutes during the challenge: Biggar, Churchbridge, Delisle, Norquay, Rosewood Community Association (Saskatoon), Saltcoats, and Wynyard.

"The challenge has always brought out a lot of community spirit and pride and we saw that in spades this year," said Tanya Murphy, Community Relations Coordinator for Saskatchewan Blue Cross. "Saskatchewan Blue Cross is excited to have a part in generating this enthusiasm for something as important as outdoor play."

New business eyes opportunity in Watrous

■ Daniel Bushman

With a goal of offering something unique, after officially opening the doors to Manitou Laser and Skin Restoration in Watrous, owner Andrea Kessler has been thrilled with the community support thus far.

Holding an open house at 102-2nd Street East Feb. 7, Kessler was appreciative of those who turned out. "It was a busy event including free underarm hair removal and demonstrations of numerous treatments. I appreciated the attendees who volunteered to be models. Dem-

onstrations included body contouring, full face fractional, neck contouring and a carbon facial."

Kessler noted a Western Canadian Sharplight representative also attended to help facilitate the evening and answer any questions. "It was an informative event where everyone was able to have their questions about laser and IPL services answered, be able to view the treatment, the process and its results."

Now over a month since the open house was held, Kessler said it has been exciting to re-

turn to her hometown and launch her new business. "Open by appointment, we offer several IPL and laser treatments including hair reduction, skin tightening, skin rejuvenation, fraction skin resurfacing, acne treatments, carbon facials, treatment of pigment and veins and tattoo removal. Skin care services include a full line of Environ skin care products, in clinic custom facials and micro-needling. Although these facials are a treat, their real benefit is the improvement they make to your skin. Environ is a great product that has both immediate and cumulative benefits and will increase the health of your skin. Eyelash extensions are also offered at Manitou Laser and Skin Restoration and a couple new products have just showed up. Rapid Lash serum for growing thicker, longer lashes and TIZO Sunscreen, a pharmaceutical-grade product great for everyday use. TIZO sunscreens are reef friendly, gluten and paraben free and not tested on



►After returning to her roots, Andrea Kessler officially opened Manitou Laser and Skin Restoration in Watrous. Holding an open house in February, Kessler said it has been great to reconnect with familiar faces while meeting new people as well.

photo submitted

animals."

With a variety of services, numerous products and free consultations for those looking to give Manitou Laser and Skin Restoration a try, Kessler invites the community

to stop by her new space across from Watrous Mainline Motors.

"It is exciting to see the interest in the services I provide and I am pleased to offer something new to Watrous and area."

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LANIGAN ADVISOR

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Placing health and safety as high priorities, effective Mar. 20, 2020 through to Apr. 5, 2020 our office at 309 Main Street in Watrous will be closed to the public. As of now we WILL continue to publish a newspaper during that time. This decision was not taken lightly but evaluating the measures taken by Saskatchewan Health Authority we felt it was in the best interest of our staff, customers and our families to close the front of our office.

You can still submit articles and photos, place any advertisements, have us create any job work orders, pay invoices or contact us with any other requests you may have.

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Subscribe or renew either paper at: www.twmnews.com or www.laniganadvisor.com

For pick up or deliveries, please contact our office for arrangements.
Thank you for your understanding in these truly unprecedented times.

For more information on what The Watrous Manitou and Lanigan Advisor will be doing, read this week's editorial on page six.

Sask. Finance Minister tables Estimates for province

■ Daniel Bushman

Funding for health is a big part of the 2020-'21 Estimates tabled by Saskatchewan Finance Minister Donna Harpauer as the government's spending plans for the coming year were unveiled Mar. 18. Normally this would be the time where the province would release its budget but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, spending estimates without revenue forecasts were released.

As part of that announcement, the 2020-'21 Estimates represent \$14.15 billion of government expense through ministries and agencies, an increase of 3.1 percent from 2019-'20.

"This is an unprecedented and challenging time in our province, our country and the world," Harpauer said. "We are all feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and our government's first priority is the safety and health of Saskatchewan people. That is precisely why we need to proceed with these expenditures now, providing stability and much needed new spending at the start of the fiscal year. It is particularly important our health care funding flows and our infrastructure investment is in place to help our economy."

"We have a very strong cash position of \$1.3 billion, so we are well positioned to manage through this challenging time, and are able to provide additional resources to address the health and economic challenges of COVID-19 as required."

Harpauer also noted, "... we need to move forward with the Estimates now. Is it enough to fully address the impact of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan? Nothing is certain right now. More may have to be done to address both the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. At this point, the full impact of federal measures is uncertain. We may have to make adjustments to address the economic fallout caused by this pandemic. We fully recognize that this may mean a deficit. Our Government will act to protect Saskatchewan people. We will take the necessary actions, provide

the required resources, and provide regular financial updates throughout the year."

Capital investment of \$2.7 billion by Crown corporations and Executive Government will serve as an important economic stimulus during this challenging time.

According to the provincial government, the estimates include:

The Ministry of Health's expense is \$5.77 billion, a record investment and an increase of more than \$211 million, or 3.8 percent, from one year ago. The government will provide the Saskatchewan Health Authority with a \$3.74 billion grant this year, an increase of \$140.6 million, or 3.9 percent over last year. This funds the doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who today are on the front lines in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, while meeting the health needs of Saskatchewan residents.

Health funding also includes \$434.5 million for mental health and addictions supports and services, including a targeted increase of \$12 million compared to last year, with nearly \$5.8 million to support addictions initiatives and a further \$6.2 million to fund enhanced mental health services.

This spending will establish specialized crystal

meth inpatient treatment services in Estevan, increase access to mental health and addictions treatment beds and supports and provide for intensive supports for children and youth.

The 2020-'21 Estimates also provide an additional \$20 million to address surgical wait times and pay for about 3,700 additional surgeries.

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency receives a further \$18.4 million this year, up more than 10 percent compared to last year, bringing their annual grant to a record \$196.4 million.

The 2020-'21 Estimates include nearly \$8 million in new funding for 36 acute care beds at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon and \$2.3 million for 100 new community-based long-term care beds in Regina and Emerald Park.

The Ministry of Education's expense is \$2.57 billion, an increase of \$86 million, or 3.5 percent from 2019-'20. Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will receive \$1.94 billion in operating funding for the 2020-'21 school year—a \$42 million increase over last year to address enrolment growth, inflation and collective bargaining.

The Ministry of Social Services' expense is \$1.29 billion, up \$50.6 million or 4.1 percent. Increased funding of \$10.9 million to

third-party service providers includes a \$6.8 million increase for those who work with people with intellectual disabilities. Service providers supporting at-risk children, youth and families receive a \$2.5 million increase.

The 2020-'21 Estimates continues investments in programs and initiatives to ensure Saskatchewan is the best place in Canada to live for people with disabilities. This includes \$613 million, an increase of \$27.4 million, from ministries across government for enhanced programming and support for people with disabilities.

This year's Estimates also provide an increase of \$2.5 million for family supports and an increase of more than \$2.1 million for new group homes in Regina and Saskatoon for youth with complex needs.

Also part of this year's expenses, \$3.4 million is provided to launch the new Saskatchewan Housing Benefit. The benefit will help make housing more affordable for individuals or families who require rental support.

There is \$739 million, an increase of \$11.2 million in these Estimates, for the Ministry of Advanced Education for post-secondary institutions and to strengthen supports for students and graduates, including maintaining the Graduate Retention Pro-

gram—the most aggressive youth retention program in Canada.

The Estimates also include significant support for research and innova-

tion, including a \$400,000 increase in funding to the

(continued on page nine: ESTIMATES)

Watrous Branch Library **COMING UP**

DUE TO COVID-19, EFFECTIVE MARCH 18, 2020 THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

306.946.2244

HOURS

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All upcoming programming is suspended. No fines will be levied as of **March 16**. Please **DO NOT** return books through the slot.

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NOTICE

To protect our community, all regional learning locations (Humboldt, Watrous, Wynyard, Four Winds Learning Centre, Punnichy, Wakaw and Wadena) will be closed until further notice.

Individual programming and/or alternate learning scenarios will be communicated directly with students, as needed.

The health, safety and well-being of our community is incredibly important. Please continue to follow health precautions and refer to **www.saskatchewan.ca** for up-to-date, accurate information.

College updates will be posted via our website, **www.carltontrailcollege.com** and social media channels.

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Although this decision was difficult to make, it is the right thing to do for the safety of our staff, our patrons and our communities and province.

Our wonderful staff will be going on

Employment Insurance and will (of course) be notified and hired back as soon as we are ready to reopen.

We will be contacting all future hotel guests and cancelling their hotel room bookings up to the end of April as a minimum, and we will continue to follow the recommendations of the public health authorities and provincial

All departments of Manitou Springs Resort are closing their doors indefinitely as of Friday, March 20th and will not be opening that day due to the COVID-19 virus!

leaders after that to determine when the proper time would be to reopen our Resort.

Thank you for your patience and understanding, as well as all of your previous and future business.

- Management and Board of Directors, Manitou Springs Resort



RCMP Report

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Break in just east of Zelma

Between 9:30 p.m. Mar. 16 and 7:45 a.m. Mar. 17 suspect(s) broke into an unoccupied farmyard shop in the RM of Morris (just east of Zelma) but they did not take anything from inside. This is a reminder to please notify Watrous RCMP (or 310-RCMP) if you see any suspicious activity in your area. If a vehicle is involved please get a description and License plate number if possible.

If you have information about these or any other crimes, please call the Watrous

RCMP at 306-946-3316 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), through SaskTel Mobility at *8477, text TIP206 plus your message to CRIMES (274637) or submit a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com where you can also view information on other unsolved crimes. Crime Stoppers is anonymous and does not subscribe to call display and calls are not traced or recorded. If your information leads to an arrest or charge you may be eligible for a cash award.

Watrous RCMP temporarily suspend front counter services

In response to the

ongoing COVID-19 pandemic Watrous RCMP are suspending front counter services.

What does this mean? Criminal record checks will no longer be done until further notice, any issue that can be dealt with over the phone will be such as a motor vehicle collision report, statement forms, and collision reports can be emailed out and returned in a similar fashion. If you are unsure of your issue call the office at 306-946-3316 before attending. Watrous RCMP will continue to respond to emergency calls and will continue patrols of the towns, villages and

RMs it serves.

As always call 911 if it is an emergency situation.

Vehicle impounded and driver charged

A 73-year-old male from Edmonton had his driver's licence suspended and his vehicle impounded during a traffic stop Mar. 14 just west of North Battleford on Hwy. 16.

On Mar. 14, 2020, at approximately 12:40 p.m., North Battleford RCMP received multiple reports of a vehicle driving at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was travelling eastbound on Hwy. 16 near Delmas, just west of North Battleford. An officer of the Saskatchewan RCMP North Battleford Traffic Services located the vehicle and determined via radar that the vehicle was driving at a speed of 180 km/h.

The 73-year-old driver was charged under the Traffic Safety Act for Speeding in excess of 50 km/h over the posted speed limit. The driver was issued a Summary Offence Ticket in the amount of \$1,022. The driver also had his driver's licence suspended for three days in Saskatchewan and his vehicle was impounded for seven days.

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STATEMENT FROM THE TOWN OF WATROUS ON COVID-19 RESPONSE: TOWN FACILITY CLOSURES

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

the following Town of Watrous community, recreation and cultural facilities are closed to the public until further notice.

The Town has implemented these measures in response to concerns over the spread of COVID-19.

Affected facilities are:

Town Administration Office
Civic Centre & Heritage Room
Library
Fitness Centre
Arena & Curling Rink
Gallery on 3rd
Watrous-Manitou Beach Heritage Centre

Please use online options or regular mail for any payments normally made to the Town of Watrous. A drop box is also available inside the front office door. during regular office hours only, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, to leave payments or other documents.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Phone: 306-946-3369 Email: townofwatrous@sasktel.net

The following links provide important and up-to-date information from the Government of Saskatchewan:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/18/covid-19-state-of-emergency>

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Sports

Local ball players chosen as part of elite teams

■ Daniel Bushman

Three local ball players have not only been able to showcase their skills but were selected as part of elite clubs representing Saskatchewan.

Naomi Schmidt, Tehya Armstrong and Jamison Langlois who all compete with the Watrous Royals U16 team made elite winter training teams and travelled to the United States in the off-season.

Watrous Minor Ball's Alana Armstrong said Naomi was selected by the 222's organization to play in a tournament in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in January 2020. Tehya was also selected to join the 222's organization and this winter she played in six tournaments in Sarasota and Fort Lauderdale, Florida as well Temecula, Lake Elsinore and Sacramento, California.

"The 222's host a large tryout in the summer and select players mainly from Alberta and Saskatchewan. Coached by former Junior National Team Head Coach Keith MacIntosh, the girls gain a wealth of experience and knowledge," said Alana Armstrong. "Both players attended numerous indoor training sessions throughout the winter preparing for the different tournaments that the teams attend in the USA."

Jamison Langlois who calls Liberty home was selected by Softball Sask for the High Performance U16 winter training team. "This winter she trained indoors in Moose Jaw, Regina and Saskatoon and was recently selected to the Team Sask U16 travel team that will be playing in Oklahoma City at the beginning of April."

With Naomi an outfielder, Tehya a pitcher, playing outfield and third base and Jamison a pitcher and someone who plays first base, all three athletes graciously shared about their experiences with the elite teams. Unfortunately after the interview Jamison found out her trip to Oklahoma City was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, here are the questions and responses from each player:

Naomi Schmidt:

How was your experience playing in the United States?

It was pretty eye-opening to how far practicing and playing on an outdoor ball field all year can improve ball skills. It was really fun playing against so many strong teams.

What was one or two highlights from playing?

Getting to dive for fly balls in Florida and laying down a beautiful bunt.

What did it mean for you to be selected by the 222's organization after all of your hard work and dedication?

It feels really good to know that I am one of the few players in Saskatchewan and Alberta chosen to play on such an elite team. Getting to be coached over the winter by people that have gotten to play and coach in nationals and even in the Olympics is amazing. I really learned a lot from their experience and appreciate being chosen.

How did you do personally while competing in the United States?

I feel like I gained valuable playing experience. I got to field some great hits, bat against some really good pitchers, even hitting some singles, a double and a beautiful sacrifice bunt.

Tehya Armstrong:

How was your experience playing in the United States?

I loved every minute of it. I got to meet new people and experience playing in hot weather. It was interesting to talk to people who lived in Florida and compare lifestyles. As an outfielder the palm trees were right behind me and I don't think I stopped smiling while we were there. I would always go back and do it again. I'll never forget this experience.

What was one or two highlights from playing?

1. In California, I went in to pitch with bases loaded none out, last inning and I think we were up by one. I pitched a ground out to myself. A line drive out (thanks Abby) and then a strike out. The cherry on top was that the strike out was looking on a full count. I had scored the winning run on offence the previous inning

2. In general I love the talk our teams have with our coaches. Our coaches always have funny jokes but are also serious when they need to be. They make the game even more enjoyable.

What did it mean for you to be selected by the 222's organization after all of your hard work and dedication?

At first I was very surprised to be selected for so many tournaments if at all. I was so grateful and excited to be doing what I love out of season. Being selected to me means that the leaders of the organization want to coach me, which is a huge compliment. They not only think I'm good but they see potential in me and now that I've been to a couple tournaments I feel like part of the family.

How did you do personally while competing in the United States?

At first I was very nervous, I didn't pitch well in my first couple innings. But once I settled down it was so much fun. I was counting down the minutes to our next game and hoping I would get to pitch. I was especially nervous about batting as that is not my strength and I was frustrated when I didn't get on base for games at a time. I wanted to hit so bad. At the end of my last game in California I hit a solid line drive back to the pitcher and knocked her down but was happy I had finally hit the ball.

Jamison Langlois:

How exciting was it to be selected by Softball Sask for the U16 winter training team?

Really exciting. I played on this team last year also, and it was a lot of fun. I felt like the competition for getting selected as a pitcher this year was pretty stiff, so I felt very lucky to have been selected. It's nice to get confirmation that your hard work is paying off.

How awesome was it to be chosen to the Team Sask U16 travel team?



► Tehya Armstrong and Naomi Schmidt in Fort Lauderdale in January 2020 (above). Jamison Langlois from Liberty was selected by Softball Sask for the High Performance U16 winter training team (below).

photos submitted



It was really great. I didn't get chosen out of last year's training team to travel, so it felt really awesome when I was selected this year.

Are you looking forward to competing in Oklahoma City in April?

For sure. It's always fun to compete and even more fun when you get to travel somewhere you've never been while doing it. Going to a different country just makes it that much more exciting.

What has been a highlight or two of your time with U16 so far?

It's just been really great meeting new friends and playing on a team with like-minded players who all want to develop their skills to a higher level.

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The Town of Watrous requires a temporary, part-time custodian. Wage in accordance with current collective agreement.

For further information contact:
Town Office at: 306-946-3369
or: watrousrecreation@sasktel.net

Applications will be reviewed until a suitable applicant is found.

Town of Watrous
Box 730 Watrous, SK S0K 4T0
Phone: 306-946-3369
Fax: 306-946-2974

Opinion



Be safe

— an opinion column
by TWM's editor Daniel Bushman

To our valued subscribers, customers and advertisers:

I know these are uneasy times for all of us and with so much information out there, whether correct or incorrect regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus), this time can also become very overwhelming and scary for many as they try to navigate an unknown road ahead. The following is from myself regarding

our two weekly publications, The Watrous Manitou and the Lanigan Advisor and what we are trying to do:

As this global pandemic has arrived at our borders, first and foremost the health, safety and well-being of our staff and of you is of the utmost importance. We are following the lead of the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the provincial and federal governments to the best of our ability during this time. We have decided to close our office to the public at 309 Main Street in Watrous effective Mar. 20 through to Apr. 5 and will revisit the situation then.

That does not mean we will be stopping the presses. We feel it is our duty to keep you informed as to what is transpiring and so as of my typing this we WILL continue to publish a paper. Now over this past week I have learned that things can change in an instant but as of this writing, our doors will be closed to the public but we will be open for business otherwise.

So what exactly does that mean? Well if you are a business who is planning to remain open we want to be a place where you can place advertisements, messages or updates to let people know of what you are offering. This unprecedented time will have numerous affects and for small businesses like ours, we want to be safe but also want to survive. We also know that spring has arrived and farmers will soon be out in the fields. While this pandemic hits the world, for some, work continues.

Please also know that I am not taking this situation lightly. It has essentially been all that I can think of and I am trying to do my best to follow the lead of SHA while providing you with information on the global pandemic. For other businesses who are keeping their doors open or for people who would like to utilize our services such as subscribing/renewing the paper, placing an ad, creating business cards or other projects, to paying an invoice, here is what you can do:

- call our office at 306-946-3343;
- email twmadvisornews@gmail.com;
- e-transfer kimb.twm@gmail.com;
- mail payments to Box 100 Watrous, SK S0K 4T0;
- subscribe or renew online at www.twmnews.com or www.laniganadvisor.com

We are open for business, at least for the time being; however, like other businesses we want to ensure that both our staff and customers are able to remain safe and healthy during this uneasy time. We rely on our advertising to produce papers and moving forward that will also be a large part in determining how we move in the weeks ahead. Understanding this is a time of uncertainty for everyone, it is also a time to rally together. If you are practicing social distancing, remaining healthy and taking precautions, supporting local businesses is integral to their survival. I know things are maybe tight but if you have the means and are debating whether to shop outside of your community or within it, I invite you to do so in your own community. Many of those businesses who are open are the ones who also support many fundraisers throughout the year. We don't know what is to come but despite what is ahead, this is the time to come together.

It is also my job to report the news and provide accurate facts that you can rely on. As part of that, I will do my utmost to provide you with COVID-19 updates as they take place from the Saskatchewan Health Author-



Tips from Reena Nerbas

ated. Thank you, Mervin
Dear Mervin,

Your best bet for this conundrum is to purchase a glass scratch repair kit; results are good for minor scratches and restoration. For deep scratches that appear beyond the surface, enlist a professional with expertise in windshield repair.

Dear Reena,

Our fridge is spotty and the freezer drawer looks like it has streaks of water on it. What can be done to restore the stainless steel? The fridge is five years old. Thank you, Judy

Solutions and Substitutions

Dear Reena,

Do you have any experience or a solution to restore the finish of clear glass? I have some fine scuffing/scratches on my car windshield and would like to safely polish it. Any help bringing back its clarity would be much appreciated.

Dear Judy,

Wipe the fridge with vinegar and dish soap. Rinse with water and dry with a soft cloth. Polish with a small amount of mineral oil.

Dear Reena,

Can you give me advice for making tasty biscuits that do not fall apart? Thanks, Abigail

Dear Abigail,

Tip number one is to use cold butter. Tip number two, do not overwork your dough. You want the dough to be handled as little as possible so that the butter stays cold. Tip number three is to add a cold egg and cold milk. This method will keep the dough cold and prevent the butter from melting. After baking, brush the tops of each biscuit with butter.

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



Neighbourly advice according to Ed

A spiritual column
by contributor
Raymond Maher
www.accordingtoed.com

Sometimes it seems that there is little reason to smile. That is when I treasure friends like Ed, my old neighbour, because such friends can laugh at themselves and life. Life has times when one will need to cry in pain at sadness, death and disaster. Some times call for celebration, laughter and joy. Much of daily life is not a pressing time to cry or to laugh. Regularly, we do have the opportunity to laugh at ourselves and life.

Ed claims that some

A smile can be sunshine, and laughter a great medicine

people are too busy laughing and making fun of other people to laugh at themselves. Some laughter is mean-spirited. No one wants to be a laughingstock of others. The laughter of some is from their poisonous tongues and hateful hearts. An honest smile towards others can be like sunshine to them. We can share good-humoured laughter with others that is irresistible and contagious.

In Proverbs, it speaks of a cheerful heart as good medicine and that a broken spirit saps a person's strength. In the same book of the Bible, it says that for the happy heart life is a continual feast. Much has been written positively about laughter. It has been said that laughter, like salt added to food, can improve almost everything. Also, it has said that life is better when you are laughing.

The Church Season of Lent is a time for Chris-

tians to laugh at themselves and their ability to impress God. In Lent, we take the sacrificial suffering and death of Jesus for all sinners very seriously. We live in a world full of boasting, bragging and about being the best. Even churches and individual Christians may be infected with narcissism. We can take ourselves too seriously, which makes us blind to our own mistakes or sin. We may think in our conceit that we are pleasing or impressing God above others. Only God is sinless and entirely holy and has every and all answers.

Today as in every age, we think and act as if we do not need God because we are God in ourselves. The number one idol in our lives, maybe ourselves. We may not say that there is no God, but we may live as if God is not the God of me. We may take strength in ourselves, but it is not possible to always be con-

tent with ourselves. We try to love ourselves with all our heart, soul and mind, but God is above us and all things. To God goes the highest honour, not to anyone else.

The Parable of Jesus about the Pharisee and the Tax Collector reminds us to laugh at ourselves and our ability to impress God. A tax collector and a Pharisee went up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself. He thanked God that he was not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or like the tax collector also there to pray. He boasted about his fasting and giving before God. The tax collector stood at a distance and, with head lowered, prayed, “God, have mercy on me a sinner.” (Paraphrase Luke 18:9-14) How hard to humble ourselves in every season and invite God to exalt us in faith in Jesus Christ His Saviour for us. Of us all. (Isaiah 53)

ity and the provincial government. I have established a page on both of our websites where you can find updates along with quick links. I am also trying to provide you with updates on our Twitter feeds and local updates on cancellations and closures which can be found ‘shared’ on our Facebook pages at www.facebook.com/thewatrousmanitou and www.facebook.com/thelaniganadvisor. It is my desire as a newspaper, as a small business owner, and a publisher who has grown up in this area to help be a voice for our communities and be there for them during this unprecedented time. I don't know what tomorrow holds, or the next day, or even next week for that matter but what I do know is I want to ensure you that we will do our best to keep you informed while we are able.

As for our weekly newspapers, we are going to do our

utmost in providing you with a paper. As a small business owner, I understand this next while could prove very trying for many across the globe and right here in Saskatchewan so we will continue to do our best, allowing our advertisers to get their message across while we provide you with local news and features. Should our paper not be physically printed during this global pandemic but we have the resources/advertisements and content to continue to publish one online, you will be able to access it for FREE on each of our websites. That will also allow our advertisers to continue to get their messages out while reaching as many readers as possible. Should we have to close for any reason, we will credit subscribers for time

(see back page: EDITORIAL)

TWM

Est. 1933

Daniel and Kim Bushman, publishers and editors

Laurie Regier, typesetter/production • Vanessa Manz, customer service
Alexandra Goodrich, advertising

The Watrous Manitou • Box 100 • Watrous, Sask. • S0K 4T0

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3 yr: \$109

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3 yr: \$85

USA: \$140

(Prices include GST)

Editorial Policy: The opinions expressed on these pages may not be those of the Watrous Manitou. We reserve the right to edit commentaries or letters for libel as well as for grammar, spelling and length. All letters must include a name, address and phone number for verification purposes. No article, advertisement, or part thereof that belongs to the Watrous Manitou may be reprinted without permission.

At the Watrous Centre

Crib winners at the Senior Centre Thursday, Mar. 12 were: first - Joan Harding, 876; second - Sharon Carlson and Earle Amendt (tied), 865; fourth - Sylvia Falkowsky, 860. Travelling - Peter Sundquist and Doug Gregory. Homesteader was Olive Sundquist, seven times at one table. Kaiser winners at the Senior Cen-

tre Monday, Mar. 16 were: first - Lorelei Stewart, 216; second - Alan Wilson, 177; third - Robert Weleski, 141; fourth - Lorne Bradbeer, 98. Consolation - Peter. Anyone interested in submitting local Watrous news can do so by faxing 306-946-2026, emailing watrous.manitou@sasktel.net or stopping by the office.



Ready to rock

► An enthusiastic audience of about 114 people enjoyed the Celtic rock band Arcana Kings (formerly known as the Johnny McCuaig band) who were centre stage at Danceland. The performance

Mar. 13 at Manitou Beach was part of the Watrous and Area Arts Council and the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils' Stars for Saskatchewan Concert Series.  photos courtesy Crystal Baschak

Look What's Cooking by Laura Novecosky

Broccoli and Cheese Stuffed Chicken

Ingredients:

- 8 boneless chicken thighs (or 4 boneless chicken breasts)
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 1/4 cup full fat mayonnaise
- 1/2 tsp. dried garlic (or 1 large clove fresh)
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 cup finely chopped broccoli
- 1/2 cup shredded Mozza or Colby cheese
- 1 cup dry bread crumbs (you may need less than 1 cup . . . I start with a half cup)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375° F. Mix the cream cheese, mayo, garlic, pepper, broccoli and Mozza cheese. Spread this onto the chicken thighs . . . if using breasts slice breasts nearly in half horizontally making sure not to cut right to the end. You may have to use toothpicks to hold the meat closed. Lightly pat some oil onto the meat and roll in the bread crumbs. Place the chicken onto a parchment lined baking sheet. Spray it with a little cooking spray (not necessary but keeps the meat moist). I like to use a pan that is about an inch deep in case any of the cheese mixture oozes out during cooking. Bake about 30 minutes or until done. This recipe is easily halved for two to three people.



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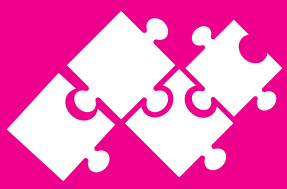
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CargillAg.ca/marketsense

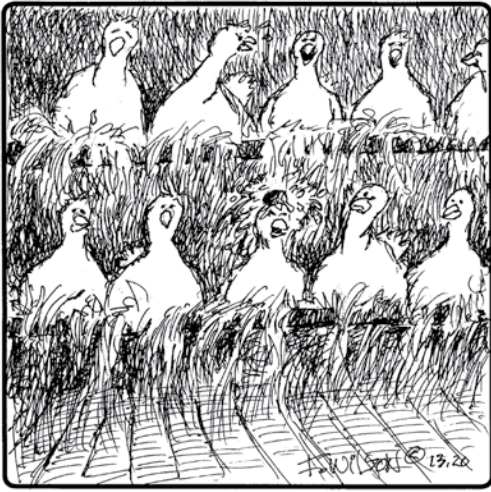
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Comics AND Puzzles

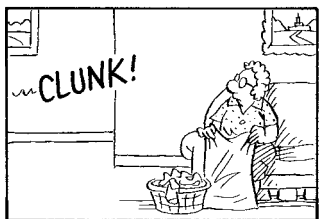
Cartoon by Frank Wilson



"For Pete's sake Henrietta! Cut out bombing the lower shelf or else they'll be moving us down there ..."



oops!



PLEASE PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING...

...WHILE SHOPPING IN OUR STORES.

This means doing your best to maintain at least 1 meter or 3 feet of distance from other people. If possible, please shop alone.

Also, please do not bring your reusable bags with you.

We do not charge for bags and will be happy to pack your groceries for you .

SASKATOON CO-OP at WATROUS

FOOD STORE: 107 - 2nd Ave.W. • GAS BAR: 104 - 1st Ave.W., Hwy. #2
FARM AND HARDWARE: 410 - 1st Ave.W., Hwy. #2

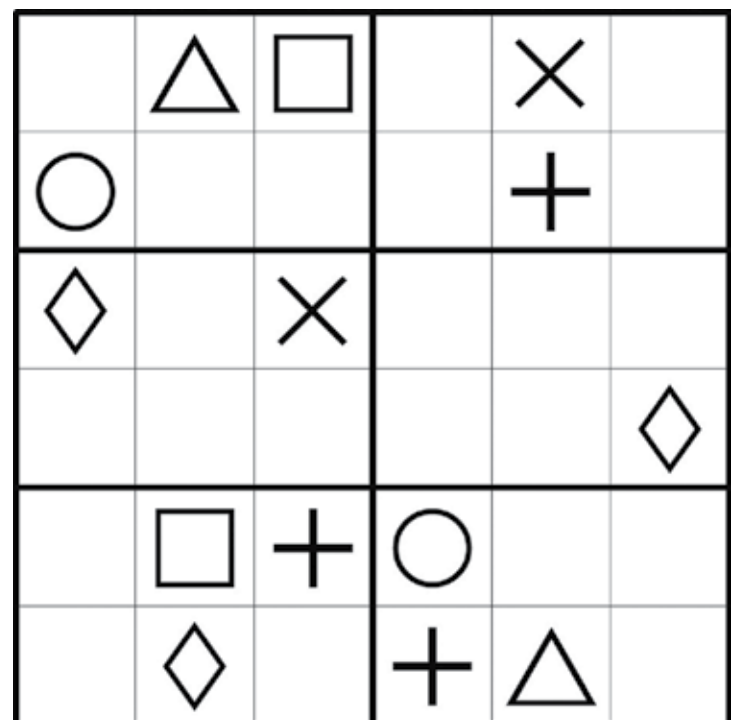
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KIDZone
A weekly hangout for the young and young at heart

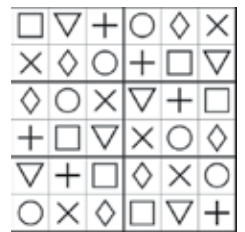


Sudoku 6 x 6



COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH THESE SIX SYMBOLS.

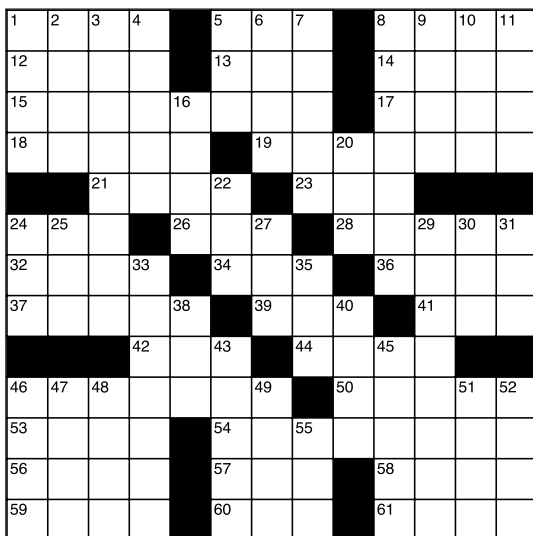
Symbols can only appear once in each line, once in each column and once in each box of six squares. Each box of six squares is marked by darker lines. Some symbols are already included in each box to help you get started. Don't forget: a symbol can't be repeated in the same line, column or box.



ANSWER

CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 21



22. Jerk
24. Period in history
25. "Sanford and ..."
27. Freight weight
29. North American mammal
30. Tissue layer
31. Following ess
33. Arbitrator
35. Rowing implement
38. Chip's companion
40. "Forever ___ Girl"
43. Stipulations
45. Insulting
46. Leg bone
47. Hubbub
48. Snakelike swimmers
49. Harvest
51. At all times
52. Salesmen
55. Strive

ACROSS

1. Quarrel
5. As of now
8. Blemish
12. Formal promise
13. Lobe's location
14. Seclude
15. Able to read
17. At the summit of
18. Movie-rental choice
19. Exporters
21. Bronze coin
23. Faulty item
24. Volcanic emission
26. Destroy the interior of

DOWN

28. Entice
32. Attendee
34. Thick stuff
36. Law
37. Put a stop to
39. Vote of no
41. Caustic material
42. Be suitable for
44. Ascended
46. More sharply inclined
50. Beneath
53. Weeder
54. Bring back
56. At leisure
57. Damage
58. Bottomless
59. Win by a ____
60. Observe secretly

DOWN

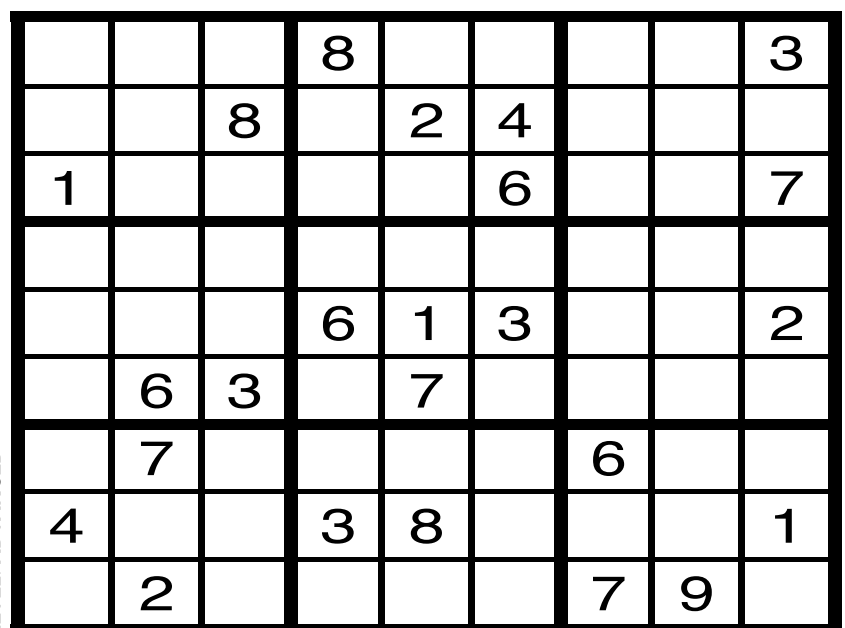
1. Auctioneer's cry
2. Duet
3. Connected
4. Topic
5. Positive response
6. Dines
7. Wooded
8. Tremble
9. Water duct
10. Perfume
11. Hamilton bills
16. Clanged
20. Bolt's partner

FOR ANSWERS
TO SUDOKU AND
CROSSWORD,
SEE PAGE 15

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS
USE AMERICAN SPELLING

SUDOKU

LEVEL: ADVANCED





“Your Community”



TWM's Faces in the Community

Guy Anderson

Guy Anderson is a rising Canadian songwriter/musician who spent his primary years growing up in the town of Watrous. Like many youngsters in Watrous at the time, Guy's early musical training was at Watrous Elementary School with well-known music teacher Tom Magnuson.

After finishing the eighth grade, Guy's family moved to North Battleford. Not long after that Guy found himself in Edmonton where he completed high school. It was in Gr. 12 that Guy bought his first guitar and in the decade that followed Guy learned to play. He went on to join a couple of popular rock/cover bands playing three night bar gigs in Edmonton and area.

In 1984 some of the band members decided to go out on the road full time. It was at this point that Guy chose a career in business rather than music. This decision subsequently led him to establishing an award winning company that handled leading edge precision measuring technology.

In 2015 while hiking in a remote area of Patagonia, Guy decided, rather spontaneously, to become a vocalist. As a result it was in late 2017 that Guy began recording his original songs, many of which were written at Manitou Beach. All the recording however takes place in Edmonton with a well-known Edmonton producer and some musician friends.

Guy has now recorded three albums. The first record is titled, "Cutting Dreams", an album with very cool original music with great instrumentation and lyrics. The album is receiving international attention as Guy was recently a guest of a record label in New York to discuss world wide distribution. The second record called "Survivor" is more rock oriented. The nine tracks on this record are currently down east with "the lady with golden ears" being mastered. The third record is a country album called "Country Company". Guy said, "It has got lap steel guitar on all nine tracks. It is old style western music with modern themes."

Enjoying his time back at Manitou Beach, in addition to writing and recording music, Guy's hobbies include live musical performance, fine art, photography, cooking, woodworking, guitars and writing.



(from front page: COVID-19)

so rapidly and with so many other intangibles, I was unable to contact each community directly. The following were obtained through social media posts or email and because things transpire so quickly, if I missed something or the below information has changed after press time, I do apologize:

Watrous: The Town of Watrous is taking precautionary measures and closing the Town Office, Civic Centre, Heritage Room, Fitness Centre, Gallery on 3rd, Watrous Centennial Arena, Watrous Curling Rink and Wheatland Regional Library Watrous Branch. The Town said people can use online payment options or regular mail for payments normally made to the Town. A drop box is also available inside the front office door. The Watrous Senior Centre is also closed until further notice.

In Watrous and Colonsay, the Saskatoon Co-op Food Store locations are providing an early shopping hour for the elderly and vulnerable (9 a.m. to 10 a.m.) each day and 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sundays.

The Watrous-Manitou Beach Heritage Centre will be closed until further notice.

Also in Watrous and Manitou Beach a few businesses have either temporarily closed or are offering other methods of doing business like take-out and delivery options.

Watrous RCMP: in response to the on going COVID-19 pandemic Watrous RCMP are suspending front counter services. What does this mean? Criminal record checks will no longer be done until further notice, any issue that can be dealt with over the phone will be such as a motor vehicle collision report, statement forms and collision reports can be emailed out and returned in a similar fashion. If you are unsure of your issue, call the office at 306-946-3316 before attending. Watrous RCMP will continue to respond to emergency calls and will continue patrols of the towns, villages and RMs it serves. As always call 911 if it is an emergency situation.

Manitou Beach: The Resort Village has closed its office until further notice. Essential services like water and roads will continue and emails and calls will be monitored. Council meetings will also be conducted as scheduled but as a health and safety precaution, the meetings are

closed to the general public.

In **Imperial**, the Town Office is closed until at least Mar. 30 when the decision will be reassessed. People can contact the Town at town.imperial@sasktel.net. After a council meeting, council also decided to refill all hand sanitizer dispensers in the community's businesses and more updates will follow in the future.

In **Colonsay**, a number of places have also closed temporarily.

In **Drake**, Last Mountain Bowbenders have closed the indoor archery range at the Drake Sportsplex until further notice.

In **Jansen**, the RM of Prairie Rose and Village of Jansen office is closed until further notice. All Village of Jansen recreation facilities are closed including the Community Hall and bowling alley.

All branches of Parkland Regional Library are closed until at least Apr. 1. That includes the library in Jansen.

In **Lanigan**, the Town Office and the Town Public Works shop is closed. The Town Public Works crew will continue to perform their daily duties to ensure the community continues to operate smoothly. While the Town Office is closed there are a number of other ways to contact them like calling, online banking or emailing. All Town of Lanigan public facilities like the arena and hall are closed until further notice while the arena is closed for the season.

The Wheatland Library Lanigan Branch is closed until at least Apr. 1 meaning there is no story time and after school programs.

The Lanigan Co-op Food Store is opening one hour earlier (8 a.m. to 9 a.m.) for those aged 65 and older or to other guests vulnerable during this time.

The Community Gift and Thrift store is closed for an indefinite period of time and asked that people do not drop off donations during that indefinite period.

In **Allan**, our correspondent Sarah Ross said the library has postponed all programming for the foreseeable future. The season at the communiplex has ended abruptly as well. Most events around town are currently postponed or wrapped up.

In **Viscount**, our correspondent Sandra Reid noted most things are cancelled for now.

(continued on page 10: COVID-19)

(from page three: ESTIMATES)

Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Organization (VIDO) to support construction of a new vaccine manufacturing facility. A VIDO research team is currently working with colleagues across Canada to develop and fast-track the testing of a Coronavirus vaccine.

The Estimates provide \$278 million in Municipal Revenue Sharing through the Ministry of Government Relations. Revenue sharing is up nearly \$27 million from last year, or 11 percent.

This year's Estimates include more than \$213 million in targeted investment to help meet the priorities of Indigenous communities, businesses and organizations—up \$6.1 million, or nearly three percent, from last year.

The Estimates include more than \$85 million for the Saskatchewan Pub-

lic Safety Agency, which supports the province's people, municipalities and service providers, and is positioned to address any emergency that may arise. There is a \$1.7 million increase in expense for the Gang Violence Reduction Strategy to help address gun and gang activity in the province. Also, an increase of \$14 million will help fund the operations of community-service organizations that provide vital contributions—strengthening families and assisting those who are most vulnerable.

The government will provide a PST rebate for new home construction of up to 42 percent of the PST paid on a new house contract up to \$350,000, excluding the land, for new homes purchased after Mar. 31, 2020, and before Apr. 1, 2023. Government will intro-

duce the Oil Infrastructure Investment Program, a SaskFirst new growth tax incentive administered by the Ministry of Energy and Resources to support new and expanded pipelines, as well as new pipeline terminals, to flow oil to markets.

The government is also committed to investing in capital. In 2020-'21 seven new school projects and three major renovation projects are part of \$130.4 million in education capital funding—up nearly \$35 million, or more than 36 percent, compared to last year.

This year's projects include a new joint-use elementary school in Harbour Landing in Regina, as well as a joint-use consolidation of St. Peter, St. Michael and Imperial elementary schools in Regina. Other new school projects

include St. Frances Elementary School in Saskatoon, the consolidation of Princess Alexandra, King George and Pleasant Hill elementary schools in Saskatoon, and a new consolidated elementary and high school in Carrot River.

In 2020-'21 nearly \$142 million in health care capital spending includes \$15 million this year to support the planning, design and procurement activities for the more than \$300 million project for a renewed and expanded Prince Albert Victoria Hospital. Also a \$15.7 million investment will continue construction of a new, 72-bed, long-term seniors care facility in Meadow Lake.

There is also \$4 million for diagnostic imaging equipment, including \$2 million to fulfil government's commitment for a new CT scanner in Melfort.

The Estimates include nearly \$648 million to improve safety and increase the capacity of Saskatchewan's highways. More than 1,000 kilometres of provincial highways will be upgraded in 2020-'21.

This year's Estimates include municipal infrastructure—providing nearly \$166 million for various municipal projects.

There are also plans by the Crown corporations in 2020-'21 to invest a total of \$1.7 billion over the next year, for upgrades to improve services provided by SaskPower, SaskTel and SaskEnergy.

In response to the Sask. Party's Estimates, NDP Leader Ryan Meili was disappointed, calling on Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe to take urgent action to support Saskatchewan people's health and economic well-being.

"People in Saskatchewan were already struggling to make ends meet before COVID-19 upended our lives and our economy," said Meili. "Today federal measures were announced that will reduce some of the pressure. Now we as a province need to step up immediately with matching measures to flatten the curve, support the delivery of health services, and get Saskatchewan people and businesses the support they need to weather this difficult moment."

Meili called for urgent action from the province to flatten the curve to help people in the province now. Beyond the immediate needs, Meili called for the development of an economic stimulus plan to protect people from a prolonged economic downturn during the recovery from COVID-19.

(from page nine: COVID-19)

Libraries: In addition to the Jansen, Watrous and Lanigan branches closing, Nokomis, Viscount and Young Wheatland Library Branches are also closed until further notice.

MP Tom Lukiwski: in response to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, Tom Lukiwski's Moose Jaw-Lake Centre-Lanigan constituency office is closed to the public. Lukiwski's constituency staff will continue to work on-site for the time being but will not receive in-person walk-in visits or appointments from the public.

Carlton Trail College: all regional learning locations including Watrous will be closed until further notice. Individual programming and/or alternate learning scenarios will be communicated directly with students, as needed. College updates will be posted via its website www.carlton-trailcollege.com.

Local groups willing to help

Amidst all of the closures taking place, a few groups have stepped up to lend a hand in their communities.

A Facebook group called Watrous Manitou Cares has been established for Watrous, Manitou Beach and the surrounding area. Created by Lori Ann Frey, the group is for people who may need assistance during this trying time and people who have the ability to help. On the page it stated: "Just a reminder to please follow the social distancing protocol as volunteers. When dropping off requested items please just ring doorbells/knock on the door and leave items at the door. We all want to be sure we are keeping everyone as safe as possible while still helping out, as well as limiting our contact with others outside our household. We each need to do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19."

Lori Ann said people who would like to utilize the service can call or text her at 306-946-7836. "We can get them connected with someone who can help out."

The Jansen and District Kin also recognize that these are very uncertain times, and there may be people in their community who need a little extra help right now.

"If you know of someone elderly, immunocompromised, self-isolating, or who may be too anxious to go out in public that needs assistance please let us know. We would like to make sure everyone has all the groceries/supplies they need and we are willing to coordinate payment from you and delivery of any required items to you to the best of our abilities. Call or text Lyndsay at 306-360-7222 or Angel at 306-365-7545 or message us through Facebook! We also suggest that anyone who has an abundance of supplies (toilet paper, wipes, baby necessities, etc.) or non-perishable food items to please donate what they can to the Lanigan Food Bank."

Saskatchewan schools, long-term care, hospitals, churches and travel

Long-term care/SHA facilities

On a more provincial level, the Chief Medical Health Officer of Saskatchewan made the following order pursuant to Section 45 of The Public Health Act effective Mar. 16: The Chief Medical Health Officer orders that visitors to long-term care homes, hospitals, personal care homes and group homes are restricted to essential visitors only. Essential visitors means immediate family visiting for compassionate reasons. SHA said under all circumstances do not visit if you have respiratory, gastric, or flu-like symptoms (common cold, diarrhea/vomiting) or if you have travelled outside of Saskatchewan in the past 14 days. All community, foundation and other public and spiritual gatherings within any SHA-operated facility are on hold effective immediately until further notice. Services provided by community volunteers who are 65 years of age or older, in non-essential service areas have been suspended.

Like other health care facilities, **Manitou Lodge** in Watrous has implemented strict visitor restrictions as required by Saskatchewan Health Authority. Because of those restrictions mandated by SHA, the lodge will be trying to allow family members of those in the lodge to FaceTime with their family member during activity hours. People can email mandmrec1@gmail.com or contact the house numbers: Harmony 306-946-1282, Sunrise 306-946-1281, and Prairie 306-946-1283. By having FaceTime, family members are welcome to keep in contact with loved ones during this time of isolation.

Central Parkland Lodge in Lanigan released the following statement Mar. 16: Due to the protection of our residents and health care staff, there has been a visitor restriction notice sent out from Saskatchewan Health Authority. If you are not feeling well, please stay home! If you are a volunteer over the age of 65, we ask that you please stay home as well!

In a post on its Facebook page, Central Parkland Lodge stated, "We are hoping for everyone to stay healthy and happy, and send our thanks for understanding the current situation. If you have any questions regarding volunteering or attending a program, please feel free to give me a call at any time 306-365-1425."

Faith-based organizations

Faith-based organizations are no longer exempt to public gathering restrictions ordering that no public gathering of over 250 people in any one room take place.

Schools

Last Monday, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that all classes in Saskatchewan pre K-12 schools will be suspended indefinitely, effective Mar. 20, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Parents who were able to keep children home were encouraged to do so last week with no absence or grade impacts. Every student will receive a final grade based on their current grade, and students will progress to their next grade level next year. Every student who is eligible to graduate from Gr. 12 this year will graduate. The Ministry of Education and School Divisions will work with Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Institutions to adapt entry requirements for programs commencing in the next academic year.

The provincial government said teachers and staff can work from home or in schools as scheduled during the class cancellations. For the rest of the scheduled school year, the Ministry of Education will work with school divisions and Saskatchewan teachers to implement a supplemental curriculum program through distance and alternative learning methods. While this supplemental curriculum will have no impact on final grades, it will ensure that students seeking to continue learning will have the resources necessary to do so.

The provincial government indicated the measures apply to daycares that are co-located with schools, but do not apply to licensed daycare facilities outside of schools. Further measures regarding licensed daycare facilities are being considered and will be implemented at a later date.

Travel guidelines:

The Federal Government and Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer recommended that any resi-

dents currently travelling internationally should return to Canada while commercial options were available. The Federal Government and Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer also recommend avoiding all non-essential international travel until further notice.

The pair stated all travellers returning from international destinations - including the United States - need to self-isolate and monitor their health for 14 days upon return. Travellers returning from within Canada are advised to self-monitor for 14 days upon return.

Addressing the nation last Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said as the situation evolved so would the government's response. As part of that, the border between Canada and the United States was closed for non-essential travel with goods and trade exempt.

Provincial aid

Finance Minister Donna Harpauer tabled the 2020-'21 Estimates Mar. 18, the government's spending plans for the coming year. The government is taking the unusual step of tabling the spending estimates without revenue forecasts for the coming year because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is an unprecedented and challenging time in our province, our country and the world," Harpauer said. "We are all feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and our government's first priority is the safety and health of Saskatchewan people. That is precisely why we need to proceed with these expenditures now, providing stability and much needed new spending at the start of the fiscal year. It is particularly important our health care funding flows and our infrastructure investment is in place to help our economy."

"We have a very strong cash position of \$1.3 billion, so we are well positioned to manage through this challenging time, and are able to provide additional resources to address the health and economic challenges of COVID-19 as required."

Capital investment of \$2.7 billion by Crown corporations and Executive Government will serve as an important economic stimulus during this challenging time.

The Ministry of Health's expense is \$5.77 billion, a record investment and an increase of more than \$211 million, or 3.8 percent, from one year ago.

The government will provide the Saskatchewan Health Authority with a \$3.74 billion grant this year, an increase of \$140.6 million, or 3.9 percent over last year. The government said this funds the doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who today are on the front lines in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, while meeting the health needs of Saskatchewan residents.

Federal financial aid

The Federal Government announced Mar. 18 that along with waiving the period for employment insurance that new measures of up to \$27 billion in direct support to Canadian workers and businesses plus \$55 billion to meet liquidity needs of Canadian businesses and households through tax deferrals would be used to stabilize the economy.

At a press conference, Trudeau said people who don't qualify for employment insurance and who don't have access to paid sick leave will be able to access the federal government's emergency care benefit providing up to \$900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 weeks. This flat-payment benefit would be administered through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and provide income support to: workers, including the self-employed, who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits; workers, including the self-employed, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent, but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits; and parents with children who require care or supervision due to school closures, and are unable to earn employment income, irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.

Application for the benefit will be available in April 2020, and require Canadians to attest that they meet the eligibility requirements. They will need to re-attest every two weeks to reconfirm their eligibility.

For over 3.5 million families with children, who may also require additional support, the Government is proposing to increase the maximum annual Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment amounts, only for the 2019-'20 benefit year, by \$300 per child. The overall increase for families receiving CCB will be approximately \$550 on average; these families will receive an extra \$300 per child as part of their May payment. In total, this measure will deliver almost \$2 billion in extra support.

Together, the proposed enhancements of the GSTC and CCB will give a single parent with two children and low to modest income nearly \$1,500 in additional short-term support.

The government said it is also taking steps to protect jobs, providing employers of small businesses with a temporary wage subsidy equal to 10 percent of salary paid to employees for a period of three months. This will encourage employers to keep staff on the payroll during these uncertain times.

The Canada Revenue Agency will defer the filing due date for the 2019 tax returns of individuals, including certain trusts. For individuals (other than trusts), the return

(continued on page 16: COVID-19)



COVID-19
Resources

Stay Informed. Stay Protected.

Visit saskatchewan.ca/COVID19 for resources and information to help protect yourself and others against Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Community Connection

VISCOUNT

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

Our news from town is very quiet right now. Most things are cancelled for now.

Saturday, Mar. 14 there were 15 people out for the Viscount seniors fundraising breakfast. Chris Rault and Louise Barlage did the cooking and the cleaning. John Dale won the lucky loonie pot.

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

COLONSAY

Florence Halvorson • 306-255-2358

Big two was played at the seniors centre Mar. 12 to help Emma Yausie and Judy Dieno celebrate their birthdays. A beautiful cake was cut and served by Joan Campbell.

The seniors have cancelled coffee row until further notice.

We got our share of snow Saturday night, Mar. 14. What a shock to wake up to and look outside.

I hope everyone will keep well and not get that terrible virus that is hitting Saskatchewan.

PLUNKETT

Deloris Wilson (Sutherland) • 306-944-4852

The supermoon was Monday, Mar. 9 and it was larger than usual.

The curling fans enjoyed watching the Tim Hortons Brier. Telemiracle week-end brought in over \$5,500,000. The entertainment was really good.

The weather has been good, but the cool wind some days make it really cold. Spring is now here.

Dennis and Leona Credgeur were away to Meadow Lake visiting family.

Get well wishes to anyone ill and in the hospital.

Anyone having any news, please phone me at 306-944-4852. Thank you.

ALLAN

Sarah Ross • sarah_lou@yahoo.com

The library has postponed all programming for the foreseeable future. We have closed, I am sad to say, but with this virus out there it is something that had to be done. No need for unnecessary risks right now.

The communiplex has ended abruptly for the season as well. Curling did manage to finish with a bang with the mine spiel. There were 22 rinks and it was a great weekend. Hockey had also come to a close and there were some bookings that ended up being shorted time. We appreciate our amazing caretakers, Eddie and Char Bjornson and Ted Chipman for all of the hard work they put in. It was a great season!

Most events around town are currently postponed or wrapped up. Sadly, all activities have been cut short. It is too bad that we are unable to do the barn quilting day or the winter fest activities. We look forward to being able to get out and do things again.

MANITOU BEACH

Sue Alcock

Beware the Ides of March – we have made it past that date and now we are very aware of the Coronavirus and self-isolating. We will be able to deal with this – people have coped with far worse. Take a deep breath!

Meandering through another project I came upon Stacey’s Dam, a place for local skaters and skiers to enjoy themselves during winter months. Apparently it was built early in the 1930s by Earl and Stan Stacey and the dammed up Wellington Creek froze and provided many slabs and blocks of ice that were cut and stored in the ice house. During the summer season the ice was sold at Manitou Beach and Watrous and was used in iceboxes to keep food cool. The driver’s first stop was Elsie Duncan’s pie shop at Manitou Beach and here a slice of home-baked pie was awaiting the delivery guy and his helper. The land where the dam was built and cut ice out was owned by the Staceys and they had bought the land from J.P. (John Peter) Grest. Do remnants of the dam still exist to this day somewhere in Wellington Creek before it reaches the park? Sorry I cannot tell you that.

Condolences to the family and friends of Herb Haberman who passed away Jan. 23, 2020. His farm was located on the outskirts of Manitou Beach near the disc golf and it is now farmed by the Janzen family. Herb’s father, the late William Haberman, did a lovely write-up about the family and farm adjacent to Manitou Beach in Prairie Reflections pages 572 and 573. William arrived in Renown from Poland in 1924 and two years later married Delia Dreger. He describes his early years of farming and work off the farm. He did buy pasture land from Harry (Harrison) Emigh, rented some Watrous town land and in 1950 bought the quarter where John the Gardener had his garden. During the 1940s he rented Munro farm land and in 1955 bought the Stacy quarter (maybe where the dam was) which was originally the J.P. (John Peter) Grest land. Of particular interest was his recollection of the Alberta oil rig drilling down 4,000 feet and only finding salty water! The well was just south of William’s buildings. Herb and his wife Kathleen lived on the farm too and continued with the mixed farm. They had five daughters: Ruth, Helen, Joyce, Ethel and Margie. Kathleen passed away some years ago.

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SK VOTES 2020

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For over the past four decades The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and with the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, have recognized the youth of Saskatchewan through the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

- Have a positive lifestyle
- Have had the ability to overcome life’s challenges
- Have a strong sense of caring and responsibility
- Are dedicated to community and school
- Inspire others
- Are between the ages of 8 to 18

This year four deserving youth will receive \$3000 bursaries to use towards their post-secondary education.

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms

Nominations close March 31, 2020



“Notices Classifieds”

AND

Obituary



BIRTLES, Alda Mildred
Aug. 18, 1922 - Mar. 12, 2020

Alda Birtles, aged 97 years, passed away at Central Parkland Lodge, Lanigan, Sask. on Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Alda was born on August 18, 1922 at Nurse Hackford's home in Lanigan, Sask. to Edwin and Jenny (McFarland) Ritz. She was the youngest of eight children. Their father died suddenly of blood poisoning when she was two months old. Her mother continued to live on the farm west of Lockwood. She raised her eight children ranging in age from two months to 11 years on her own. Alda attended school through grade 8 at Wilmot School. In 1940 she moved with her mother into Lockwood. She worked for her uncle Bill Ritz in the post office and at Roxie Urghart's general store. Alda married George Birtles on November 21, 1945. George had returned that spring from overseas where he had served with the RCAF for four years. They farmed 10 miles east of Lockwood with his brothers and nephew until 1966. There they raised their two daughters. They moved to Watrous in July 1967. In December of that year they began working as janitors at Winston High School. This was a job they enjoyed until George's untimely death on August 2, 1977. Alda continued to live in Watrous until July 1986 when she moved to Lanigan to be closer to her family. She was a member of the Knox United Church and also a life member of the Central Parkland Lodge auxiliary. She continued to live in her own home with the support of her daughter Jane, until October 2018 when she moved into Central Parkland Lodge.

Alda is survived by her daughters Jane Birtles, Fran and her husband Bill Bergen, grandson Blake (Lindsay) Bergen and their children Addison and Emmersyn, grandson Blair (Karlie) Bergen and their children Piper and Ryker, sister-in-law Margaret Ritz and numerous nieces and nephews and their families.

She was predeceased by her father Edwin in 1922; her mother Jenny in 1954; her husband George and son-in-law Douglas Lamont in 1977; siblings Merner (Ruby), Anita (Andrew) Forner, Ethel (Bud) Forner, Perry, Louis (Aline), Jean (Anton) Peterson, Edna (Lester) Meikle and all seven of George's siblings and their spouses.

A private family service will be held at Fotheringham's Funeral Chapel, Watrous, Sask. at a later date.

Interment in Watrous Cemetery.

Memorial donations directed to Central Parkland Lodge - Activity Department would be appreciated.

To leave online condolences, tributes or to make a donation, please visit www.fotheringham-mcdougall.com



Thank you

I want to pass on my thanks to everyone who helped in any way when I arrived home with my new knee. I am so appreciative of friends and family for visits, whole meals brought to the house, baked goodies, soup, delicious buns, beautiful floral arrangements, cards, phone calls, emails and texts. Special thanks to two of our daughters who kept us well fed and supplied lots of TLC for the first two weeks! Everyone's help and caring certainly helped with my healing process! Thanks again and stay healthy!

- Marilyn Crawford

Obituary



MILBERY, Helen
Apr. 27, 1935 - Mar. 4, 2020

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Helen Milbery (nee Welder) after a short, but courageous battle with cancer. She was 84 years old.

Helen was predeceased by her husband Russell, son Garry, parents Michael and Marion Welder, brothers Edward and Emmanuel.

She is survived by her siblings Mary, Maggie, Katie, Loretta, and Frank, cousins, nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Helen loved the farm, couldn't imagine living anywhere else. She was an avid gardener in the summer, and enjoyed watching curling all winter.

As per Helen's wishes there will be no funeral service; a memorial gathering will be announced at a later date.

The family would like to thank the staff at St. Paul's Hospital - Palliative Care Unit and Dr. Walker for the care given to Helen during her illness. A special thank you to the Cody family for all of the support they offered the family during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society (#2 - 630 - 45th St. W., Saskatoon, Sask. S7L 5W9).

Arrangements in care of Travis Minor - Mourning Glory Funeral Services 306-978-5200 www.mourning-glory.ca

In memory



KESSLER - In memory of Dr. Benjamin, Mar. 6, 1942 - Mar. 26, 2018:

Dad, we see and feel your spirit in almost all that we do. We think of you and smile when we smell a delicious apple crisp coming out of the oven. We see a pumpkin pie in the grocery store and think of your extensive pumpkin patch or the mini pie factory you had going in the kitchen. The clinic looks different now but, in our hearts, you are there, on the phone, doing a caesarean or spaying a cat. We still read your little notes and laugh at the funny signs at the farm. We remember all the time you spent with Kingston and Ireland and the numerous sleepless sleep overs with Papa. We see your athleticism in Ireland and Kingston and enjoy watching them in their sports. As a family, we continue to meet new milestones, as well as challenges, we hear your words of encouragement and always know that you give us strength. You are our timeless cheerleader.

- Miss you always, Linda, Andrea, Paula, Kane, Ireland and Kingston.

Books of memorial verses available for your selection at the Watrous Manitou.

Stop in at 309 Main Street.

AUCTIONS

12TH ANNUAL IMPACT ANGUS AND CHAROLAIS Bull Sale, Sat., Mar. 28, 1:30 p.m. at Saskatoon Livestock Sales. 50 Red and Black Angus yearling bulls and 40 Charolais yearling bulls. For a catalogue or more information contact Randy Tetzlaff at 306-944-2734, Jason George at 306-567-7939, Mike McAvoy 306-241-1975 or T Bar C Cattle Co. 306-220-5006. View the catalogue online at www.buyagro.com (PL#116061)/11-3c

NOTICES

SHARON CRITTENDEN, CFP will be available as a tax consultant at the following place and times: Town of Watrous - Tri-Central Insurance office, 102 - 2nd Ave. (east of Chen's Restaurant) commencing Saturday morning, Mar. 7 and every Saturday morning thereafter until Mar. 28. Please call 1-800-667-8911 for an appointment./7-7c

SERVICES

LONG LAKE TRUCKING, Imperial, Sask. Custom hauling of hay. Ph. cell 306-567-7100./48tfc

ROD BURKITT CUSTOM GRAIN HAULING. Ph. 306-946-7601 or 306-946-7431./7tfc

WINE GLASSES FOR RENT. Over 600 - 6 1/2 oz. glasses. Also 360+ 8 oz. stemmed glass water glasses. Call Danceland. 306-946-2743 or 1-800-267-5037./14tfc

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HOPE FLOATS SERVICES. Field diagnostics in disease and insects; spray drift and hail insurance analysis; feed test probes and ration balancing; business planning and rotations. Please call 306-946-8107 (cell)/7tfc

A HEAD OF STYLES, 310 8th Ave. E., Watrous. Hair cutting; styling; certified barber; ear piercing (incl. earrings); waxing and eyelash dying. Ph. Barbara McDonald 306-946-8464 for appt./7tfc

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FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Jack pine cut and split. Ph. 306-365-2599./7tfc

HELP WANTED

INTERLAKE HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP HOME OPERATORS. Interlake invites applications for a temporary full-time position and a permanent casual position at Cathy's Place, Nokomis. Cathy's Place is a group living facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The temporary full-time position is an 11 or 12 hour shift model, averaging 79 hours in a two week period. This temporary position would be for four months, starting in the middle of April. The casual position is based on an 11 or 12 hour shift model and is in a call in basis. Qualifications: experience providing support to adults with disabilities would be an asset. Training available to the right applicant. First aid and CPR would be an asset. Valid driver's licence. Must provide a criminal record check. Submit resumes by Apr. 10, 2020 to: Kara Gelinas, Cathy's Place, PO Box 509, Nokomis, Sask. S0G 3R0. Any questions please call 306-528-2003./13-3c

DANCELAND IS LOOKING FOR A BUFFET COOK on week-ends. 6 hour position, apply to Danceland by phone 306-946-2743 or email danceland@sasktel.net./5tfc

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WANTED: MF #36 discers, up to \$700 each; endgate drill fills; square balers John Deere, New Holland, MF; tub grinders; dead tractors; JD #655 and #665 air seeders. Ph. 306-946-7923./42-25p

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tend a heartfelt and
sincere thank you to
all of our sponsors,
vendors, entrants
and volunteers for
all their work in plan-
ning and participat-
ing in the planning of
this show. We look
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Business Community Directory

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B.A., LL.B.

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Watrous SK S0K 4T0

PHONE: 306-946-3512
FAX: 306-946-2277

benmah@sasktel.net

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**Business and
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Directory
continued on
Coming Events page**

Business and Community Directory

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306-946-3785
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pmbchurch.wordpress.com

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Watrous
306-231-6574
Worship Service
Mar. 29 10:30 a.m.
Apr. 5 & 12 9:30 a.m.
Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
Apr. 19 & 26 9:30 a.m.
All Saints' Anglican Church

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201 - 2nd Ave. W.
Phone 306-946-2996 - Watrous
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

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Coming Events

MARCH

- MANITOU LODGE AUXILIARY meeting, Wed., Mar. 25, 1:30 p.m., Manitou Lodge multi-purpose room. New members welcome./12-2c

- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Watrous-Manitou Beach Heritage Centre will be postponed. The Mar. 24 AGM at the heritage building, main floor (former court room)./13-1c

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- AL-ANON MEETING THURSDAYS 8 p.m., Wat. Elem. School, staff room (east door). Ph. 306-946-2466, 306-946-7802./22-48p

- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS meetings: Watrous, Thurs., 8 p.m. Anglican Church Hall on Main Street in Watrous. (306-946-2466)./7tfc

- WATROUS ROTARY CLUB meets alternating Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Watrous United Church. 306-946-2572./7tfc

WHILE OUR OFFICE IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC, TWM WILL DO ITS BEST TO PROVIDE YOU WITH LOCAL NEWS AND FEATURES. TO ADVERTISE, CALL 306-946-3343 OR EMAIL TWMADVISORSALES@GMAIL.COM

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Classifieds continued from page 12

FOR RENT

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RM 280, 1 QUARTER FOR SALE BY TENDER: SW 14-28-23 W2. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Tenders close Apr. 6, 2020. For more information call 306-807-7472 or submit tender to: farmlands.sask@gmail.com/13-3p

RM 250, 1 QUARTER OF PASTURE FOR SALE BY TENDER: PT SE 34-25-22 W2, approx. 140 acres. Located 0.5 mile north of Duval along Hwy. 20. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Tenders close Apr. 6, 2020. For more information call 306-807-7472 or submit tender to: farmlands.sask@gmail.com/13-3p

LAND FOR SALE IN RM OF SARNIA #221. NW 14-24-25 W2 145 acres cultivated. Highest or any offer not necessarily accepted. All bids are confidential. Bids must be submitted no later than Mar. 25, 2020 to bhdetwiller@sasktel.net or Bill Detwiller, Box 59, Imperial, Sask. SOG 2J0./12-2c

LAND FOR SALE IN RM OF SARNIA #221. N 1/2 35-24-25 W2 270 acres cultivated plus 20 acres seeded to alfalfa. Highest or any offers not necessarily accepted. All bids are confidential. Bids must be submitted no later than Mar. 25, 2020 to bhdetwiller@sasktel.net or Bill Detwiller, Box 59, Imperial, Sask. SOG 2J0./10-4c

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For updates on COVID-19 from SHA and the provincial government, visit www.twmnews.com or TWM's Facebook page.

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If you are uncertain, please call ahead before entering 306-946-3311

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MON - FRI: 9AM - 6PM & SAT: 9AM - 5:30PM

(from page six: EDITORIAL)

missed on their current subscriptions and contact advertisers who currently are in the paper as well.

As I write this, I do so knowing that things may change this evening, tomorrow, the next day or next week but I want to ensure you that we will do our best to keep you informed for as long as we are able.

Whatever may take place, I appreciate your support of our paper and have appreciated it over the years. I can't say that enough. Thank you for placing your trust in us as we continue to move forward. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me directly: twmadvisornews@gmail.com or give me a call at our office in Watrous 306-946-3343. Again, with our office temporarily closed to the public, those who would like to submit items, pick up any job work previously done or make deliveries, you can contact us at 306-946-3343 and we can make arrangements.

On a different note, with COVID-19 becoming a global pandemic, it has also become a massive part of the news cycle across the world and can be tremendously overwhelming for many. When there is so much information for people to absorb on social media sites, on television, the radio or in newspapers, it can get to be too much at times. For those who may be experiencing anxiety and stress during this time, there is a good website with information on how to help cope, whether it is personally, for parents of kids who may be going

through anxiety, for responders and for people who have been released from quarantine. You can 'Google' anxiety COVID-19 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) website link should pop up. Know you are not alone during this time of uncertainty.

I want to also personally thank the nurses, doctors, health care providers, EMS, RCMP, Fire personnel and other emergency responders for what you do. As COVID-19 spreads around the world and cases, both presumptive and confirmed, begin popping up in Saskatchewan I know we are in good hands right here at home and I appreciate the work you have done and continue to do for us in our area. On behalf of my wife Kim, I also want to thank our staff at The Watrous Manitou and Lanigan Advisor for all they do for us and the support they have shown us as these new challenges approach for everyone in the province. It is an unprecedented time in our history.

In closing, regardless of how you may view the precautions being taken around the world, in Canada, Saskatchewan and right here at home, it is times like these where people have an opportunity to help one another out, to show compassion and love for each other, to pray for one another, and to just be there for each other. For those who do, I am grateful.

Daniel Bushman
Publisher

(from page 10: COVID-19)

filing due date will be deferred until June 1, 2020. However, the Agency encourages individuals who expect to receive benefits under the GSTC or the Canada Child Benefit not to delay the filing of their return to ensure their entitlements for the 2020-'21 benefit year are properly determined.

For trusts having a taxation year ending Dec. 31, 2019, the return filing due date will be deferred until May 1, 2020.

The Canada Revenue Agency will allow all taxpayers to defer, until after Aug. 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020.

For lower income people, in May the government will supplement the GST credit to offset the consumer tax they pay. Every adult who qualifies will receive up to \$300 and up to \$150 per child.

For people paying off student loans, including young people and those starting a family, a six month interest free moratorium will be placed on their Canada Student Loans.

For those experiencing homelessness, the government is doubling the reaching home program which provides funding to com-

munities to address their local needs.

For those fleeing domestic or gender-based violence, funding is being boosted for shelters that provide sanctuary when self-isolating at home is not an option.

For First Nations, Inuit and Metis Nation communities, a distinction based Indigenous Community support fund is being set up.

For businesses, export development Canada will provide support. For farmers and primary producers the government will boost Farm Credit Canada. In the coming days, the government will look at ways to support them all like the Canada Account.

The Minister of Finance has also been in regular contact with the heads of Canada's large banks, and continues to encourage them to show flexibility in helping their customers whose personal or business finances are affected by COVID-19. The Superintendent of Financial Institutions has also made clear his expectation that banks will use the additional lending capacity provided by recent government actions to support Canadian businesses and households.

In response, banks in Canada have affirmed their commitment to working with customers to provide flexible solutions, on a case-

by-case basis, for managing through hardships caused by recent developments. This may include situations such as pay disruption, childcare disruption, or illness. Canada's large banks have confirmed that this support will include up to a six-month payment deferral for mortgages, and the opportunity for relief on other credit products. These targeted measures respond to immediate challenges being faced across the country and will help stabilize the Canadian economy.

The Government, through CMHC, is providing increased flexibility for homeowners facing financial difficulties to defer mortgage payments on homeowner CMHC-insured mortgage loans. CMHC will permit lenders to allow payment deferral beginning immediately.

For a more comprehensive list, people can visit www.twmnews.com and click on the COVID-19 Updates page or visit www.canada.ca.

As of Mar. 19 Saskatchewan had four new, presumptive positive cases for COVID-19. The provincial total for cases was 20: 12 presumptive positive and eight confirmed. Three of the four presumptive positive cases are related to travel and one is a close contact of a previously reported case.

WEEKLY FEATURE

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We are doing our best to navigate these trying times. Watch Facebook and Instagram for up to date information about services.

Thanks, Stay Safe.



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Amidst ongoing COVID-19 concerns, we want to share that a Home Hardware employee who recently travelled internationally returned home showing flu-like symptoms. This employee did not come to work, was in self-isolation and was tested for COVID-19. The results from that test came back negative and we are thankful to be part of a community that is concerned for one another's health.

We also understand seniors and those with existing health conditions are hesitant to go out in public and pick up supplies they need. We would like to offer those local residents in Watrous free delivery for the items they need. We live in a great community and encourage you all to continue helping each other through this uncertain time.



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