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Vol. 59 No. 50 • Friday, March 26, 2021

Appeals board named in Pine Lodge dispute

By Alan Hustak Grasslands News

The union that represents Pine Lodge employees wants the province to rebuild the old facility which burned in Indian Head in December or find a new location for the addiction treatment centre.

An attempt to re-locate the centre to Fort San failed last week when the village council voted against that idea on the grounds that a substance abuse centre does not fall within the definition of a residential care facility as set out in the zoning bylaws. Although the vote was not officially recorded, some media outlets reported that three councillors voted against Pine Lodge and that the Mayor Steve Helfrick abstained.

In fact, Councillor John Naumetz said he intended to vote in favour of the re-location, but "jumped the gun" and voted no. "My intent was to vote in favour. But I made a mistake," he told Grasslands News.

Naumetz also said The Friends of Fort San, which presented its petition against Pine Lodge, made a number of misleading statements in their submission to council. "They claimed there is no room for parking. There is plenty of room for parking on the PCTC grounds; it has space for as many as 60 cars. PCTC has handled up to 100 guests without any problems."

However, because Brad Williams resigned from council before the vote was taken, the end result would have been the same. Even if the mayor, Steve Helfrick, who is sympathetic to Pine Lodge, had voted Yes, a tie vote would have defeated the motion.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees says council's decision has contributed to a crisis which is creating longer and longer wait times, which could lead to even more drug related deaths than last year's record numbers.

"We have qualified addiction treatment counsellors with years of experience who are left sitting on their hands because patients can't get to treatment. People are dying in record numbers and the province is not even talking about this," said Judy Henley, president of the CUPE employees union.

James Archer, who now owns the old PCTC and had hoped to accommodate Pine Lodge in the renovated building, has said he plans to take his case to the Board of Revision and Development Appeal Board.

Clint Krismer was named chairman of the board which includes Gordon Krismer as vice chair, Cameron Duncan as second vice chair, and members, Kirby Bodnard, Jeff Hutton, Dave Lang, Pam Malach, Brenda Lauf and Christina Krismer.

Pine Lodge Executive director Foster Munson says he remains in a "bit of quandary" because he still doesn't know whether the building that burned in Indian Head can be rebuilt. "The Saskatchewan Health Authority is attempting to make some temporary provision for us, but it still doesn't have ministerial authority to do so," he said.



ALAN HUSTAK I GRASSLANDS NE

COVID shot

Velva Squire (I) gets a COVID-19 vaccine shot from Jackie Kelman (r) at the senior's centre in Fort Qu'Appelle. Approximately 100 people received the shot at the clinic that was held last weekend.

COVID-1

Fort residents receive first vaccines

By Alan Hustak Grasslands News

Velva Squite, one of the first people in Fort Qu'Appelle to receive the Moderna Coronavirus vaccine last weekend says she was impressed by the way the Saskatchewan Health Authority set up its vaccination clinic in the senior's centre. "It was a good system, in one door, out the other," she said. "I felt perfectly fine after the poke. I never felt a thing until later that day when I went to bed and rolled over and my arm was a bit sore." The clinic was fully booked on Saturday and Sunday, and Squire was among the 100 or so who signed up for the shot.

As of Mar. 24, there are 79 active

cases in the provinces south east zone which includes Fort Qu'Appelle, Wolseley and Indian Head.

Saskatchewan's daily pandemic update reports 151,507 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Saskatchewan. It ran out of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine which was being given without an appointment to seniors over 60 at the Regina drive-thru clinic.

"Saskatchewan residents are being vaccinated as fast as supply allows, and it is happening in phases so people most at risk get it first, including areas with increased risk of variants of concern," the SHA says in a media release. "More groups and areas will be eligible as Saskatchewan receives more doses. Until most Saskatchewan residents

are protected by the vaccine, masks must be worn, even after you have been vaccinated."

Public health officials reported that as of Wednesday there were 190 new COVID-19 cases with the overall infection total in Saskatchewan now at 32,181. The new seven-day average of daily cases is up from 146 on March 21 to 173. There are 147 patients with COVID 19; 125 are receiving inpatient care and 22 are in intensive care. To date, 640,259 tests have been carried out in the province. So far, 420 people in Saskatchewan have died from the infection.

As of Mar. 23, 954 variants of concern (VOC) have been identified by screening in the province, 45 of which are in the South East zone.



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By Rob Paul,

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As Canada continues its COVID-19 vaccine rollout and works towards vaccinating the general public, people have questions about the specifics of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines that are being administered by health professionals.

The Government of Saskatchewan wants all residents to feel comfortable receiving the vaccine when it's readily available to the general population and has plenty of resources accessible to give people a better understanding of the vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccine science from the Government of Saskatchewan:

Scientists all over the world have worked on developing and testing Covid-

The technology was recently applied to this situation, but the work has been going on for years.

Approved COVID-19 vaccines use "messenger RNA" to make the body produce antibodies to fight the virus. It is not DNA, and has no effect on a person's genes. It only triggers the body's immune response, to help it get ready to fight the virus.

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are 95 per cent effective in preventing people from getting COVID-19. Two doses are required for the highest effectiveness.

There have been no shortcuts taken in developing COVID-19 vaccines. They have gone through all the necessary steps. Clinical trials began March 1, 2020 and have involved many thousands of people. Scientific validation and thorough, independent reviews followed.

Development of COVID-19 vaccines was done more quickly because of unprecedented worldwide funding and collaboration due to the pandemic.

Canada has real-time access to manufacturer clinical data for promising COVID-19 vaccines being developed. Health Canada fast-tracks approvals by reviewing data as it comes instead of waiting until all the data is in to start to review it.

There is a lot of misinformation circulating about the vaccine—including that COVID-19 vaccines contain human or animal cells. They do not. Make sure to seek information from credible, science-based sources.

With the warm winds fan-

ning our community and the

and normalcy was on its way.

But, the weekend of March 12

brought home a stark realiza-

easing of COVID-19 restric-

tions it seemed that spring

To become immune to COVID-19, the

"Working Together... to Grow Melville

human body must learn how to stop by creating antibodies that can fight against it and that's where the vaccine comes into play.

According to the Government of Saskatchewan's health professionals, the mRNA vaccines teach human cells how to make a protein that will trigger an immune response without using the live virus that causes COVID-19. Once triggered, the human body then makes antibodies. The antibodies help fight the infection if the real virus does enter the body in the future. The vaccine is given as a needle in the upper arm. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will require two

As of now, the vaccine is being prioritized for health workers and high risk Canadians, but as it becomes more readily available to the general public most people are encouraged to get vaccinated with a few exceptions.

There has been some concern over different groups potentially struggling to tolerate the vaccine, but other than pregnant women, children, and those allergic to ingredients, there is no definite reason to worry—those worried due to other health risks are encouraged to speak with their doctor.

Based on the clinical trials and the approval by Health Canada, the Pfizer vaccine can be used for anyone 16 years of age and over and the Moderna vaccine can be used for anyone 18 years of age and over. The vaccines should not be given to people who are allergic to any of the vaccine ingredients, including polyethylene glycol. At this time, the vaccine has not been studied in pregnant and breastfeeding women and younger children — pregnant women and people with conditions that affect their immune system should consult their health care provider. Even if a person has already had a COVID-19 infection, they should still receive the vaccine once they've recovered. We expect to receive more detailed information from the vaccine manufacturers and Health Canada as soon as it's available.

After having the vaccine administered some people may feel side effects, but health professionals say that's not unexpected and unless the side effects are severe, there's no cause for alarm.

There might be some mild symptoms a day or two after receiving the vaccine. The most common side effects are localized pain or redness or swelling at the injection site. Other symptoms may include mild fever, chills, headache, joint or muscle pain, nausea and vomiting, enlarged lymph nodes under the arm, or feeling tired. As with all vaccines, there's a chance that there will be a serious side effect, but these are rare. A serious side effect might be something like an allergic reaction. All residents will be asked to report any adverse or unexpected reactions to your local public health nurse, a pharmacist, doctor, or nurse practitioner as soon as possible, the government states.

As to why two doses of the vaccine are needed, it's because one will not create enough antibodies to fight the virus.

According to the governments health professionals, there is no evidence that individuals have a sufficient antibody reaction to only one dose to provide protection from COVID-19.

Two doses are required. When receiving the first dose of the vaccine, people will be provided documentation of which vaccine they have received and when to return for the second dose.

Even after receiving both doses of the vaccine, people still must wear their masks and follow all provincial health and safety guidelines.

While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important to continue using all the public health protection tools available to help stop this pandemic, like wearing a mask, washing your hands frequently and maintaining physical distancing.



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SUSAN HARRIS

Local author who lives in the Melville area. Adult and

children's books including: "Touched by Eternity".

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The census population numbers

tion that we, too, were to be confronted with increasing cases of COVID-19 - namely the new fast spreading variant. With increased vaccinations and the continued adherence to COVID-19 protocols it is hoped that infection numbers can be limited.

This coming May Canada will be conducting its nation-wide census. The last census occurred in 2016 and provided our city with valuable information. For example - identifying the total number of residents in our city, age categories, male-female numbers, population change, number of private dwellings and levels of immigration. All very useful information for future planning.

also determine the amount of funds that we receive from the different levels of government. In 2021, Mel-



Mayor's Corner Melville

STREELASKY

ville will receive \$905,000 as part of our provincial Revenue Share program based on our 2016 population numbers of 4,562. That equates to \$198.37 for each member of our population count. During this spring's census count I urge everyone to participate in the census as it determines future grant allocations. If we can include 50 more people to

our current population number that would equate to \$9,918.50 toward our city operations.

Hats off to our Kinsmen - Kinettes for contributing to a most successful Telemiracle 45. Congratulations to SARCAN on the opening of their new facility on Feb. 26, 2021. On March 8, we honored and celebrated International Women's Day.

Did you know that Melville Heritage Museum once served as a training site for young men entering the ministry, then as a nursing home and finally a museum to keep our community heritage alive?

> Walter Streelasky, **Mayor of Melville**

What will become of our historic churches?

By Elaine Ashfield **Grasslands News**

Congregations and communities are witnessing the effects of a decrease in usage in their churches. As congregations get smaller and with the pandemic restrictions, staying viable and maintaining the structures are becoming concerns. Many of the buildings are historical structures in our communities as well. What will happen to these if the doors become closed permanently?

In 2019, it was estimated that 9,000 religious spaces, roughly one-third of all faith-owned buildings in Canada, would be lost in the next decade. At the time, CBC published the predictions by a regeneration project leader Robert Pajot, who did not know that a pandemic would converge on the country, adding even greater pressure to the viability of many churches and historic buildings.

'Neighbourhoods are going to have multiple churches closing," Pajot said at that time (2019). "Some people qualify this as a crisis, and I kind of agree. It is going to hit everybody.

It's not just beautiful, historic buildings that will be lost, but also the sense of community provided by worship spaces. Churches have not just been for Sunday, but for Girl Guides and political meetings, weddings and funerals, piano lessons and programs for the homeless.

"It's not just about the buildings. It really is beyond the impact of the loss of a heritage building in the community. The places of faith really have been, for generations, centres of so much of community life. They play a de facto community hub role, community service role," Pajot said.

His predictions at that time continue to evolve. In rural areas, congregations would shrink as members aged or moved away. In cities, the increasing secularization of society coupled with new spiritual practices has cut into traditional Christian church attendance. Even rising immigration hasn't been enough to offset the trend. With fewer people in the pews, and less money in the coffers, rising maintenance costs on old buildings have overwhelmed many congregations.

"These places are more than just places of worship, they are landmarks in their communities," Pajot said.

Many churches have already been transferred from sacred to secular use as art galleries, concert halls, libraries, community centres, homes and even mi-

The lack of services, due to health regulations on the number of people gathering during the coronavirus, has been a hard hit on many communities, many that have multiple churches or places for religious gatherings, but also have some beautiful historical sights. It would be devastating to eventually see



these become un-kept and deteriorating from the lack of funds for upkeep.

In our area, there are several churches with historical value. With too many to provide history on every church, we are sharing the history of just a few. Information on the historical buildings that are mentioned below should not be taken as there is any intention of closure or repurposing but are mainly historical buildings in our communities that are of interest.

Grenfell churches

St. Michael's and All Angels Anglican Church was the second church to be built in the community by 1885. It is the oldest church in Grenfell. Small in physical stature, but large in historical and spiritual value, this building carries the very essence of Grenfell's tradition of "going to church". Although quite plain on the outside, the interior stands up with the best of any church. The church holds many valuable artifacts contributed by the first families of Grenfell. The house next to the north is the church rectory, built in 1920. Next north building is the Ellis Hall, built in 1904, a gift from Captain Ellis, in memory of his son Percy.

The Methodists built a church in 1906 to replace one destroyed by fire and this church is now the Grenfell United Church following the unification of Canadian Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists in 1925.

The cornerstone for the building was laid on Sept. 5, 1906. In 1924 the mortgage was burned, and in 1925, the building became the Grenfell United Church and has served as such since. A Christian Education section was added to the rear of the church in 1964. Needless to say, the church has been a very important center of activity for the community.

Whitewood churches

Two churches of historical significance in Whitewood are the Knox Presbyterian Church and St. Mary's Anglican Church.

The Knox Presbyterian Church was constructed between 1895 and 1896 of brick made locally by Angus Campbell at the Sterling Brickyard, north of Whitewood, for a total cost of \$1265.00. It is valued for its architecture that displays a Gothic influence with brick quoins, pointed-arch windows and projecting brick detailing. It has a high vaulted ceiling, oak doors, stained glass windows and interior birch and oak paneling.

Of interest, the cornerstone was laid with two bottles containing copies of the Whitewood Herald, the Free Press, the Presbyterian Record and Review and documents containing the names of the pastor, church officers, building committee, the contractor and officers of the Sunday School as well as a sample of 1896 wheat.

St. Mary's Anglican Church was constructed of local fieldstone, beginning in 1900 and completed in 1902. This replaced an earlier wooden structure built in 1885 for a cost of \$80.00. It displays many donated stained glass windows with a beautiful arched wooden interior

In 1924, a lychgate (roofed gate and also called a "Kissing gate") was built as a replica of one in a churchyard at Heston, England that had been built in 1450. The gate is the entry to the walkway to the old stone church, one of Whitewood's most beautiful buildings.

Landmarks in some communities, such as the Whitewood Archives building, located on the corner of 3rd and Balfour Street, were churches that were repurposed.

This building was the first church built in Whitewood as a Methodist Church in 1892, the same year as Whitewood was incorporated. An article in Historical Places.ca states, "Due to a lack of financial support, and the construction of numerous other churches in the area in the following years, the Methodist Church was closed in 1910."

The Masonic Lodge purchased the building in 1920 and it served as a meeting place for Ashlar Masonic Lodge #8 until 1987, when low membership forced the group to amalgamate with the Masonic local in Moosomin.

The Masonic Hall then became a Municipal Heritage Property and continues to hold archives from the area. It displays rounded windows, stained glass and arched side-windows.

The future

Pajot, who was mentioned earlier in predicting the struggles of the churches in 2019, is always saddened when old buildings get torn down. Pajot savs it's important to recognize how emotionally attached people are to their faith spaces and that conversations about the future must be handled with sensitivity.

A conversation, he suggests, every town and city in Canada should be having at the moment.

"It ends up being very gut-wrenching for the community," Pajot said of the realization that a church must be closed and either reduced to rubble or revitalized as something other than a place of



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Notice of Preparation of 2021 Assessment Roll

As per subsection 187(1) of *The Cities Act*, notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the City of Melville for the year 2021, has been prepared and is open to inspection from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday, from March 26, 2021 to May 27, 2021, excluding holidays.

A bylaw pursuant to Section 184(1) of *The Cities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person having an interest in any property who wishes to appeal the assessment of that property to the Board of Revision is required to file a notice of appeal in writing to:

> Secretary to the Board of Revision – City of Melville P.O. Box 1240, 430 Main Street

Melville, Saskatchewan, SOA 2P0

on or before 4 p.m. on the 27th day of May, 2021.

Kim Weber, Assessor City of Melville

For further information please contact Kim Weber at 306-728-6846 or email kweber@melville.ca



in the spring/summer of 2022 and we are needing your help. If you are interested in assisting with the planning/organizing of this event, please contact the MCS main office for details on how to sign up for the April 29, 2021 planning meeting, 306-728-4181.

Sask. RCMP introduces a new way to report crime

Provincial News

Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan RCMP is pleased to announce the launch of Online Crime Reporting that was released March 19, 2021.

The Online Crime Reporting tool will allow residents with a valid email address and Internet connection to report select crimes online using a computer or cellphone.

Every crime reported to police matters!

When crime is reported to police, it provides a clearer picture of the types and number of crimes occurring in a specific area. This information can launch future police projects and initiatives. In addition, crime statistics are one of several components analyzed when determining officer deployment in RCMP detachments and units.

The following crimes can be reported through the Online Crime Reporting tool:

- Damage/mischief to property under \$5,000
- Theft of bicycle under \$5,000
- Theft under \$5,000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5,000
- · Lost or found property
- Damage/mischief to vehicle under \$5000

Incidents must also satisfy the following conditions to be reported online:

- No witnesses or suspects
- Item(s) lost or stolen must cost less than \$5,000
- Vandalized property that will cost less than \$5,000

· There are no items involving personal identity, firearms, license plates or decals

If an incident does not fall within the reportable incident types, your local RCMP detachment must be contacted. Crime reported online will be treated the same as crime reported in any other way.

"Since February 8, 2021 we have been piloting Online Crime Reporting in the communities of Swift Current, Yorkton, Kinderlsey, Melfort, Humboldt and Spiritwood. We are excited to launch this new tool Saskatchewan-wide in RCMP jurisdiction to provide the public with a new way of reporting crime to our detachments. We need the public's help to ensure all crime is reported," said Supt. Maureen Wilkie, Assistant Criminal Operations Officer for the Saskatchewan

The link to report a crime online is here: ocre-sielc. rcmp-grc.gc.ca/saskatchewan

330 impaired drivers charged in February

Provincial News

Grasslands News

Last month's cold weather didn't put a chill on law enforcement efforts to keep impaired drivers off the road. Saskatchewan police reported 330 impaired driving offences including 262 Criminal Code charges and 67 roadside administrative suspensions.

Reducing impaired driving continues to be a top priority for law enforcement and SGI. Saskatchewan drivers have changed the culture of impaired driving in Saskatchewan. However, in spite of significant progress, impaired driving is still the leading cause of death on Saskatchewan roads and is 100 per cent preventable.

SGI and law enforcement will focus on impaired driving three more times this year, in May, September and December. An impaired driving charge can turn

> 731 - Lalonde St. P.O. Box 129

> > **SOG 5CO**

your life upside down, with licence suspensions, vehicle impoundments, Ignition Interlock, Driving Without Impairment courses and costly Safe Driver Recognition penalties, in addition to any court-ordered fines, jail time and driving prohibitions.

Police also placed a secondary focus on licensing and registration in February, catching 409 suspended or disqualified drivers and issuing 459 tickets for driving an unregistered vehicle. Causing a collision while driving without proper insurance coverage could leave you personally responsible for thousands of dollars in damages. Even if you avoid a crash, getting caught driving an unregistered vehicle will lead to a minimum \$580 fine. Driving while suspended results in an automatic court summons, and - in many cases - will result in your vehicle being immediately impounded.

The Rest of the Big Four

In February, law enforcement also reported:

· 4,917 tickets for speeding or aggressive driving offences; • 402 tickets for seatbelts and child restraints being used incorrectly or not at all; and • 664 tickets for distracted driving (including 585 tickets for cellphone



CONSTRUCTION TENDER

Tenders will be accepted until 12 noon on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 for the construction of two - 14' long walls, 7' high at the Whitewood Museum.

The walls will need to accommodate one door and one window (or plexiglass) installed in each wall.

Project deadline: May 20, 2021 For further information please contact:

Liz Giroux 306-853-7615 or Kathy Gamble 306-735-7879

TENDERS SHOULD BE MARKED "MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION TENDER"

and mailed to:

Whitewood Museum P.O. Box 515, Whitewood, SK S0G 5C0 or emailed to:

whitewoodmuseum@hotmail.com Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

FACILITY OPERATIONS MANAGER

About Us

The Town of Whitewood is located 175 km east of Regina at the crossroads of the Trans-Canada Highway #1 and Saskatchewan Highway #9. With an in-town population of 900 with a K-12 School. Whitewood has excellent recreation facilities including a 55,000 square foot skating arena/curling rink, outdoor swimming pool, splash park, 20 site serviced campground, ball diamonds, horseshoe pits, tennis court, basketball court, many parks/green spaces and 9-hole golf course.

About the Position

This key position is responsible for the overall operational direction of recreation facilities and programming within the Town of Whitewood. This includes leading and overseeing all recreation staff members and working closely with other municipal employees. This position shall ensure the safe and efficient operations of all mechanical and nonmechanical equipment, manage contractors as necessary and work to ensure the general satisfaction of all town

Job Type: Full-time Permanent (Salary); 40 Hours/Week

Specific responsibilities:

- · In conjunction with local user groups of the Whitewood Community Centre, ensure that activities are scheduled, invoiced and paid for in a manner that is consistent with current policies and procedures.
- · Hire and supervise seasonal staff for the Whitewood Outdoor swimming pool
- · Plan, prepare, implement and review, in conjunction with local groups, programs, workshops, clinics, seminars and other events that will benefit the community.
- · Prepare and present monthly and annual reports for council including annual capital and operations budgets.
- · Research and apply to local, regional, provincial and federal grants for the Town of Whitewood recreation facilities and operations.
- · Provides diagnostic, technical, and hands-on support for complex building issues when required, mentoring Recreation department staff and pursuing externally

contracted support when needed.

- · Establishes work schedules, procedures, and coordinates activities for all Recreation department staff to ensure the smooth operation of all facilities.
- Ensures regular facility inspections are being conducted and all building maintenance, installation, and repairs and being completed when required.
- Develops and maintains partnerships with local user groups such as sporting groups, service clubs, schools, churches etc.
- Other tasks/duties that may change upon request
- Staying up to date with all Saskatchewan Health COVID-19 regulations and guidelines

Qualifications:

- · A minimum of five (5) years of experience is preferred but not mandatory in general facilities management and building maintenance, and hands-on experience with diagnosing and working with building mechanicals (HVAC, refrigeration, plumbing, electrical, etc.).
- A relevant post-secondary degree in recreation or similar and/or Arena Operator Level 1-2, Pool Operator Level 1-2, and/or experience working in an environment with pools, hockey/skating arenas, and curling facilities are considered an asset.
- · Experience in managing capital projects, such as renovations, installations, or equipment replacement.
- · Experience in hiring, training, scheduling, managing performance, and coaching staff members
- · Comfort with administrative tasks requiring the use of computers, various software, MS Office (Outlook, Excel, and Word) is required.
- · Able to provide a clear Criminal Record Check and hold a valid Class 5 Drivers license.

To Apply: Please email your resume and cover letter to: cao@townofwhitewood.ca

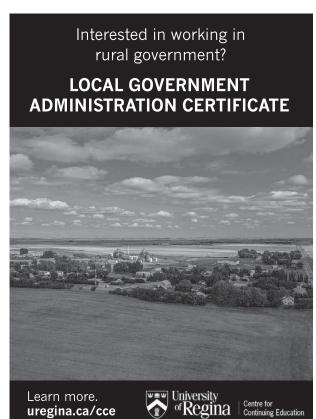
Please indicate your salary expectations in your application. Applications will be accepted until a successful candidate











Supreme Court rules on 'Carbon Tax' Thursday

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's solution to battle Greenhouse Gas Pollution

By Elaine Ashfield

Grasslands News

The ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada on the fate of the national carbon tax may already be news as it was expected to be released on Thursday of this week (March 25).

"This is a very big deal," said one lawyer, Josh Ginsberg with Ecojustice. The decision will decide if Canada has a national system for combating climate change or if it will be left up to each province.

In the summer of 2018, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government passed the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, dubbed the carbon tax, as part of a 2015 campaign pledge to put a price on pollution. The bill gave his government the authority to implement a carbon pricing system for provinces that do not have an adequate carbon pricing model of their own. The tax started at \$20 per ton in 2019 and will rise \$10 per ton each year until reaching \$50 per ton in 2022.

The goal, in part, is for Canada to meet its obligation to the Paris Agreement. That means cutting Canada's carbon pollution by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Canada's carbon tax has two parts: a carbon levy on fuel purchases and a big emitters program for industrial facil-

Provinces fight imposed tax

It was in 2019 that Ottawa imposed a price on pollution on provinces without their own climate change plan. All provinces besides Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario have an approved provincial carbon-pricing system that Ottawa deems equivalent or better than the federal version. Saskatchewan, Ontario and Alberta all went to court arguing that the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act imposed by the federal government was unconstitutional as this was provincial jurisdiction.

In 2019, appeals courts in Saskatchewan and Ontario determined the policy was constitutional and in February 2020 the Alberta Court of Appeal

said it was unconstitu-

tional. Appeals were filed and the cases went to the Supreme Court last September.

In December 2020, Trudeau announced a gradual hike in the federal carbon tax on fuels to \$170 a tonne by 2030. He also announced a \$15 billion investment over the next decade that will go towards building up Canada's electric vehicle charging infrastructure, buying incentives for zero-emission vehicles, and home retrofits.

Climate Action Incentive

The government of Canada calls the (carbon) tax "revenue neutral" because all direct proceeds of the program go directly back to residents in the provinces where the federal system was forcefully adopted. The Climate Action Incentive (CAI) rebate was developed for the residents of Ontario. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

One explanation of the rebate was described in an article on a Canada Drives online page where it was stated, "For the provinces which refused to adopt the carbon tax, Trudeau wasn't about to reward them with billions in new tax revenue. That's why the feds created the Climate Action Incentive (CAI) - to make sure taxpayers are on the receiving end of the carbon tax revenue – not uncooperative premiers. It also softens the blow for those cringing at increased power bills and pump prices."

Under the carbon tax levy, filling up your gas tank cost 6.6 cents more per litre until April 2021. As the tax increases each year, the levy will plateau at 11 cents per litre in 2022; something to consider if you're weighing up the costs of switching to an energy-efficient electric vehicle.

Those who heat large homes and drive frequently will be paying more under the plan. Residential natural gas customers can expect a charge of \$0.0587/cubic metre this year and \$0.0783 starting April 2021

The rebate payments will increase over time and vary between provinces and household size. The government estimates an average yearly cost of \$357 for a household in Ontario, for example. However, with an average rebate of \$439 you will end the year in the green. In Saskatchewan, where the temperatures are cold and the roads long, the yearly estimated cost would be higher at \$588 per familv. But rebates can be as high as \$883.

There will also be an allocation of the federal tax revenue directed to universities, schools, municipalities, nonprofits and Indigenous communities, as well as small and medium-sized businesses.

The CAI rebate (Line 45110) can be claimed on your income tax return and it will automatically be applied to your balance owing for the year or added to any refund you are entitled to.

Stage Two

Another stage towards climate change is the Clean Fuel Standard (CFS) that the Canadian Taxpayers Federation currently is petitioning

The Clean Fuel Standard (CFS) requires sup-

Published Fridays

grasslandsnews.ca 1-844-GNG-NEWS pliers of liquid fuels, such as gasoline, diesel and kerosene, to gradually cut the amount of carbon in their product. There will be carbon-intensity reduction targets set for each fuel, starting in 2022 and increasing annually until 2030.

Environment and Climate Change Canada states it will continue consultations with interested parties. Details can be found at canada. ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/ managing-pollution/ energy-production/fuel-regulations/clean-fuel-standard/about.html. The site states final regulations will be published in late 2021, with the coming into force of the regulatory requirement in December 2022.

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Various answers won't end the pandemic

Everyone is looking for answers – answers on the end to COVID-19 restrictions, answers on implementing more COVID-19 restrictions, answers on the recovery of the economy and the return to normal for people of the world.

Well, we are getting answers it appears but that doesn't mean we will necessarily or even eventually experience these responses. We have to remember that an answer is defined as when we say or write something to deal with or as a reaction to someone or something.

Answers are merely responses and these can change. Answers are predictions or summations of facts and as we are seeing during this pandemic, these things can change. Answers are not guarantees.

Federal politicians, provincial politicians, scientists, doctors and professors or authorities in each their own department of expertise can give all the answers they want but there is not one of them that can guarantee the outcome to any one thing. They can predict but they cannot guarantee.

People hollared for safety from the coronavirus so health regulations and shut-downs were implemented.

People hollared for a return to sanity from loneliness and economic grief from regulations so regulations were re-evaluated and opened somewhat.

People hollared for a cure so vaccines were pushed and are now being given. Are they the answer?

The responses to the 'hollaring' of people have been a mixture of everything it seems. The powers that be have answered us with a real mixture of actions that have affected our lives for over a year, all in an effort to provide positive answers or probably better defined as predictions.

Have the answers changed things in the past year? Unfortunately, it doesn't seem they have and especially in our area of the country.

So now, the same politicians that were blaming the parties in power for what actions that had previously implemented (and then were loosened to appease those hollaring) are now once more asking for the same actions to be forced on people again in Regina and area.

So what is the answer?

Reduce household bubbles in areas showing higher positive cases? Move bars and restaurants to delivery and take-out only? These suggestions don't seem to be hitting the areas of higher transmission that are being defined as areas where people continue to go to their places of employment while disregarding any indications that they may be carrying COVID-19. What about the big box stores that definitely also have groups of people and probably cannot keep up with the regulations to stop customer transmissions due to the volume of people who visit them daily? Can we really target any one area as needing restrictions?

At this point, I also am going to provide a response to the news release written by the New Democrats calling for a short-term circuit breaker in Regina. Any political party that shares the statement that your party

made requesting, "Moving as many workers as possible to "work from home" arrangements, particularly in the civil service and Crown sectors," would get the same unhappy response from me as I am giving now – I hate to disappoint you but the rest of our population, whether they are civil servants or Crown employees, are just as important and deserve the same targeted support and initiatives as your requested 'particularly civil servants and Crown employees.' That statement definitely qualifies as a bad answer to a rapidly increasing problem. Our positions of employment should not guarantee any special circumstances during a health crisis that is affecting every individual in some way or form during this pandemic.

There is no answer to what will bring an end to the pandemic. There is no answer to when we will see a return to normalcy. There is no answer to how our future economic recovery is going to be. But there are lots of predictions and lots of politics being played.

I cannot answer if I even believe in half of what we see written (answers). They are responses to what we are dealing with at that given time. But until some form of guarantee can be provided about being safe from COVID-19 and especially the new variants that are emerging, we just have to listen and do what the powers that be are suggesting as hopefully the best answers to staying healthy while they look for more answers to bring an end to the pandemic and a start to recovery.

- Elaine Ashfield

Moe aims to confine lockdown to Regina

By Murray Mandryk Political columnist

Regina is now under a COVID-19 lockdown, not unlike the one the entire province was experiencing exactly a year ago.

It is something Premier Scott Moe vowed he would never do a commitment he made just days before the October vote when daily cases in the province were in the single digits and there had only been a total of 25 deaths.

But rather that condemn the move —unpopular with those in running businesses or within his political base, regardless where in the province where they live Moe should be credited for making the tough decision.

Unfortunately, new variants hammering Regina made this a decision he had to make.

In fact, the day Moe announced the strict new lockdown-like measures for Regina, the capital city was accounting for 763 of the 891 new variants cases in the province.

counting for 91 of the 150 new cases in the province; 755 of 1,422of the province's active case.

"The concentration of the variants in Regina is quite high and that is why we are coming forward with a number of tools at our disposal," Moe said at a press confer-

"We have a higher concentration of variants than anywhere else in Canada.'

It was a grim and uncomfortable admission for Moe to make especially given the hope that mass vaccinations would allow Saskatchewan to get through the waning days of this pandemic.

Unfortunately, the reality for Regina is a growing fear of running out of ICU beds from the new variants' fast-pace spread.

Some of Moe's tough new measures are things the province hasn't seen in a year — the closing of indoor dining at restaurants and bars except for takeout orders, restrictions on households to their immediate residents only with no visitors and limiting outdoor gatherings to no more than 10 people.

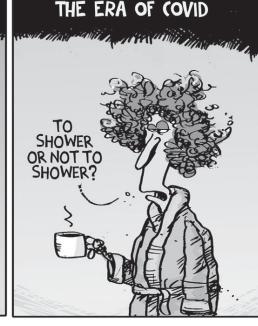
Theatres, bowling alleys, arcades, museums and libraries that had been re-opened in Regina were ordered closed.

And religious services in Regina were capped at 30 people until April 6, meaning that traditional Easter services would again be se-

Moe even went one step further in at least one area — recommending that Reginans only travel for essential reasons. The stay-athome recommendation was even extended to the neighouring communities including, Pense, Belle Plaine, Grande Coulee, Regina

GREAT MOMENTS OF CONTEMPLATION





Beach, Lumsden, Craven, Edenwold, White City, Balgonie, Kroneau, Davin, Gray, Riceton and Lajord.

Essentially, Regina is now experiencing the lockdown Moe vowed would never hap-

Given that Moe has shown he's not exactly inclined to give in to the wishes of the NDP Opposition or some public health critics who were clamouring for such a measure, this very likely was a last resort.

The Premier said he was following advice of the province's Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Saqib Shahab.

So the question for many worried people elsewhere in the province is a simple one: Who after Regina might be next to face a lockdown?

Well, the good news — at least hopeful is that it may be no one.

Let is be clear that Moe's unpopular measures may need to be applied elsewhere. At this point, we really don't know.

Those tracking variants now see numbers in south central and southeast Saskatchewan that were similar to Regina's numbers a week or two ago. This only heightens the fear that new variants could spread from Regina to not only these areas but virtually every area in the province.

But here is the good news: While both e spread within the city has been dramatic, we are still only talking about a Regina outbreak.

There are those who argue Moe could have and should have acted faster, but by acting now, it might be possible that the outbreak will be confined to Regina.

That surely is the hope.

Melville Advance, Whitewood Grenfell Herald Sun, Fort Ou'Appelle Times

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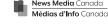
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Letter to the Editor- Rural health services

Saskatchewan is returning to being one of the "have" provinces in Canada. Grain prices are high enough to insure a farmer fair return on his investment. Market futures promise the cattle industry future prosperity. Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada to increase exports 2020 over 2019. Oil prices are steadily climbing. Potash demand is increasing world-wide. Helium, which is abundant in southern Saskatchewan, is eagerly sought after around the globe. It looks like there may be opportunities for our children and grandchildren to return to the province of their birth. It looks like our children and grandchildren will have the chance to be educated and remain in their home province.

And yet there is a fly in the ointment and that is the degradation of rural health care services.

Many people are angry and concerned about the suggestion by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) that Microbiology services at the Yorkton Laboratory be discontinued. This is a particularly bad idea. Health care facilities, particularly those with acute care patients, require access to timely microbiology results.

The microbiology laboratory at the Yorkton Regional Health Centre (YRHC) has always provided very good quality results with excellent performance on proficiency tests. In addition, staff from the department have sat on both Provincial and National Committees.

This latest threat to eliminate a service at YRHC is only the latest in an on-going pattern of program reductions. Over the last number of years, a number of specialty services have been discontinued including Urology, ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat), Orthopedics and Surgical and Autopsy Pathology.

The most recent troubling reduction has been the Ophthalmology service. As

a result of this, Yorkton and District residents with cataracts and other vision problems now have to make multiple trips to Regina for surgery instead of having it done at YRHC. Not only is this dangerous for those who may have difficulty in driving, but it can result in considerable expense for the patient as one or two overnight stays are required before and after cataract surgery. Apparently, an ophthalmologist had expressed a willingness to come to Yorkton on a rotating basis. His suggestion was dismissed by the powers that be.

Added to this is the periodic suspension of Emergency services in the smaller hospitals in the Region. Another problem is the recruitment and retention of physicians in smaller communities.

I'm sure Regina in the south, Saskatoon in central Saskatchewan and Prince Albert to the Northern Regions, service their health clients well, but they don't have the capacity to look after us as well. I know specialists in these cities need sophisticated equipment and a critical population mass to exist. Regina, Saskatoon, and perhaps PA, can offer them that opportunity. Good for them! Rural Saskatchewan is only too happy to support these specialists when needed.

Our local MLA's sympathize and empathize with the plight of the rural Saskatchewan Health client. But they need our encouragement to voice our concerns. If you want to stop the erosion of our basic health rights, please contact all of our East Central MLA's, not just your own MLA, as well as the relevant cabinet ministers. There is strength in numbers.

The SHA should be implored to stop cutting health services to rural Saskatchewan and should be encouraged to seek new and innovative ways to deliver health services to these areas.

- David and Sandra Baron **Yorkton**

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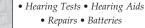
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Conservatives call on Liberals to present a plan for a return to normal

The federal Conservatives have called on the government to present a plan for when COVID-19 restrictions can be safely eased and life be returned to normal for Canadians.

Canadians need a plan for hope. They need to know that things are going to get better and that the 'new normal' is not okay," said Erin O'Toole, Leader of the Conservatives and the Official Opposition. "To say that the mental health of Canadians has been impacted due to the pandemic is an understatement. Over last year we have seen a dramatic rise of mental health issues, addictions, and overdoses that have become the pandemic of tears within the COVID-19 pandemic. Things must change.

O'Toole went on to say that by now, Canadians should know when things are going to turn the corner and what metrics are being used to determine a plan for re-opening. He said that's why the Conservative's have put forward a motion calling on Justin Trudeau to present a clear, data-driven plan to support gradually, safely, and permanently lifting COVID-19 restrictions.

'We can't keep asking Canadians to sacrifice more without being clear about when restrictions will be eased," said O'Toole. "Canadians deserve to know when their life can return to normal. We owe it to the countless Canadians who have sacrificed so much during this pandemic."



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"A rapid testing program

- Education Minister Dustin Duncan

in schools is another excellent

tool to help monitor the pres-

ence of COVID-19."

By Brian Zinchuk

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Saskatchewan K-12 schools across the province are currently being shipped

100,000 rapid tests. Rapid testing for COVID-19 in schools may begin as early as this week, the provincial government said in a March 22 press

It's a measure the opposition New Democratic Party has been calling for repeatedly, as recently as late last week.

"A rapid testing program in schools is another excellent tool to help monitor the presence of COVID-19," Education Minister Dustin Duncan said in a release. "The safety of students, teachers, and school staff is our government's priority, and school staff and students have done an excellent job in helping to prevent transmission of the virus.

Teachers and school staff are not expected to administer the tests.

Our goal is the health and safety of all Saskatchewan residents," Health Minister Paul Merriman said. "This additional measure gives us another tool to monitor school environments and take further steps to protect the health and safety of staff and students if necessary.'

The rapid antigen tests use a short nasal swab and can be administered by lay people who have completed a training program through the Saskatchewan Health Authority lab. Schools will work with their local medical health officers to determine when testing is appropriate and will work with parents and caregivers to ensure consent is in place.

A positive test requires confirmation by a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

> test provided by the Saskatchewan Health Authority. A negative test does not need to be confirmed as long as the individual has no symptoms of COVID-19.

> The School Testing Deployment Plan for COVID-19 is being implemented by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education and the Minis-

try of Health, in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

NDP response

Official Opposition Critic for Education MLA Carla Beck said in an emailed statement on March 22, "We called for this because we spoke to many concerned school boards, teachers and parents and it's good to see the government finally taking action, but the fact is it should never have taken this long. These tests have been sitting on government shelves going unused since December. If the government had acted immediately when they received these tests, we might have been able to contain the spread of variants in our schools much sooner. The reality is Premier Moe and his government have taken a reactive approach to protecting our teachers and students rather than a proactive one. The reason schools across the province are closing is because the premier failed to show leadership and act decisively in controlling the new wave of variants.'

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gardening

By Patricia Hanbidge

The Easter Lily

As we approach Easter, the characteristic symbol of the Easter Lily begins to grace our shops and homes. We have long associated this plant with spring and the Easter season. Lilium longiflorum, the Latin name for the Easter lily, is native to the Ryukyu Islands of southern Japan. The Easter lily is a mark of purity and grace throughout the ages symbolizing

joy, hope and life.

Prior to 1941, the majority of the Easter Lily bulbs were exported to the United States from Japan. World War II eliminated the dependence on Japanese-produced bulbs and commercial bulb production shifted to the U.S. Today over 95 per cent of all bulbs grown for the potted Easter Lily market are produced by just ten farms in a narrow coastal region straddling the California-Oregon border. The production of consistent, high quality lily bulbs requires specific climatic conditions, which just happen to exist in this region aptly termed the Easter Lily Capital of the World. The Easter lily bulbs must be cultivated in the fields for three, and sometimes four years, before they are ready to be shipped to commercial greenhouse growers. Throughout that time, the bulbs are never dormant and require constant care and attention to assure superior quality and cleanliness. Each bulb is handled up to 40 times before it is ready to be shipped. The Easter lily bulbs are harvested in the fall, packed and shipped to commercial greenhouses where they are planted in pots and forced under controlled conditions to bloom for the Easter holiday. The cultivar most widely grown today is 'Nellie White'.

When purchasing an Easter lily, look for high quality plants that are aesthetically pleasing from all angles. Select medium-to-compact plants that are well-balanced and proportional in size - not too tall and not too short. Choose plants with foliage that is dense and plentiful, all the way down to the soil line. As the flowers mature, remove the yellow anthers before the pollen starts to shed. This gives longer flower life and prevents the pollen from

staining the white flowers. When a mature flower starts to wither after its prime, cut it off to make the plant more attractive while you still enjoy the fresher blooms

In the home, Easter lilies prefer relatively cool temperatures of 18 to 21 C (65 to 70 F). Avoid placing plants near drafts. and avoid exposure to excess heat or dry air from appliances, fireplaces or heating ducts. The lily will thrive near a window in bright, indirect natural daylight. Easter lilies prefer moderately moist, well-drained soil. Water the plant thoroughly when the soil surface feels dry to a light touch, but avoid over-watering. If the pot is wrapped in decorative foil, be careful not to let the plant sit in trapped, standing water. For best results, remove the plant from decorative pots or covers, take it over the sink and water thoroughly until water seeps out of the pot's drain holes to completely saturate the soil. Allow the plant to air for a few minutes and discard the excess water before replacing it back into its decorative pot cover.

It is very difficult to force Easter lilies into bloom a second time. What you can do is plant them outside in the spring and they may bloom again in the fall. They require a location with bright light, welldrained soil that is rich in organic matter. They need some shelter from extreme heat or wind. They will not survive our prairie winter.

If you do desire a lily for your garden that is quite similar to the Easter lily but Prairie hardy then there are a couple of choices. Lilium longiflorum 'Snow Queen' blooms in mid to late summer, is very similar to the Easter lily but has slightly smaller blooms. It generally has three to five blooms per stem. 'Casa Rosa' is similar but has blooms that are a nice soft pink colour. They seem to survive our climate for a time as long as there is good snow cover.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort

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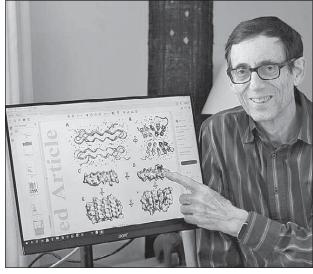
How do insects survive winter?

By Emily Jane Fulford **Grasslands News**

With all the warm weather and melting streets of March, it's hard to believe that the area was under a harsh winter cold advisory just a month ago. It can sometimes be hard to believe that anything could survive the temperatures that occur in Saskatchewan during the winter. However, as it turns out, there are some organisms that are able to survive in a frozen state, and finding out how they are able to do that is taking one giant leap from science fiction to nonfiction.

They're called antifreeze proteins (AFP) and although it may sound like a cute name, it is actually an accurate description of a protein string found in some insects, bacteria, and microorganisms. How it works is that the proteins prevent the organisms from freezing or help them survive while frozen.

It's difficult to determine exactly when mankind started daydreaming about the concept of being frozen and then waking up many centuries later in a fascinating new world. The idea has been used in a number of books, television shows, movies, and even legends such as the many who believe Walt Disney himself to be stored in a frozen state below a ride at the theme park. However, there has



Frozen in time Dr. Peter Davies, shown here demonstrating how snow fleas can survive being frozen, is part of a research project that may significantly change how weather impacts farming.

tried freezing a cucumber or a head of lettuce you will have seen the negative results of what happens when ice crystals form during the freezing process and how impossible it is to reverse them. The solution requires a non-toxic form of prevention and that's where the AFP's come in.

Dr. Peter Davies, a professor at Queen's University and Canada Research Chair in Protein Engineering, has been studying AFP's for almost 40 years. His most recent research project, done in conjunction with The University of Saskatchewan, made headlines in The FEBS Journal. This study continues to build knowledge about AFP structures, their function,

growing and causing damage inside organisms," said Davies. "In fish, large ice crystals can block blood vessels; in plants, expanding crystals can burst tissue or cause dehydration by drawing water out of nearby cells."

Davies and his colleagues did some digging into why and how the proteins would have evolved in various creatures. They found out that four of the AFPs were present in fish, and that the Earth's climate record showed the AFPs began during the ice ages.

"If there's no ice in the ocean, there would be no reason for fish to have AFP. But about 20 million years ago, the start of the

woods in winter and see any insect moving around in sub-zero temperatures, the chances are it has an

So while it may have seemed like an ice age this February, it may not have been cold enough to freeze the fleas off a dog's back after all, at least not snow fleas.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research have approved additional funding to work on understanding the mysteries of these antifreeze proteins which could lead to major advancements not only in medical science but also in farming.

"Potential applications could include giving field crops enough AFP to protect them from a few degrees of frost," explains Davies. "You could plant a bit earlier and keep crops in the field a little bit longer. It means you play chicken with the weather, but there's real potential to avoid some frost damage."

Needless to say, anybody who tried planting a garden in Melville last summer and didn't remember to cover it up on Labour Day could have saved a lot of their investment. With such a short farming season, the future of AFP research could be a game-changer for protecting crops.

LOOK

always been a bugaboo recent ice ages, fish began You just proved even that stands between this and evolution. to evolve these proteins,' small ads get noticed. intense human desire "No matter the host, said Davies, who found **1-844-GNG-NEWS** for self-preservation; ice AFPs bind to ice cryssimilar proteins in snow ads@grasslandsnews.ca fleas. "If you go out to the crystals. If you've ever tals to prevent them from PERFECT Store For everything OUTDOOR! See our store today! Start you next outdoor adventure with us! Pet, camping, fishing, hunting supplies and MORE. Also see us for all of your seasonal wear and work wear needs. OUTDOOR & PET SUPPLIES 702 Lalonde St., Whitewood, SK 306-735-2560

Gene Hauta

It's A Strange World

In Arizona, Brandon Soules, 19, apparently really didn't want to go to work. The Coolidge Police Department says officers received a call about an injured man going in and out of consciousness. Soules was on the ground with his hands bound behind his back and a belt and bandanna shoved in his mouth. He told the cops that two masked men grabbed him and knocked him unconscious, before driving him around and dumping him. The whole sordid tale fell apart, due to inconsistencies. None of it was true! He now faces a charge of false reporting to law enforcement, and he lost his job at the tire shop.

Is cancel culture out of hand again, regarding **Dr. Seuss books** that were **being banned**? Well, it turns out that six of his books will no longer be published at the urging of his estate. It was felt there was some content that could be perceived as racist. It is believed this is a way to show that we realize the heritage that many of

us came from, but now we have learned we can do better.

A Seattle woman, who needed a new hobby, bought a crochet kit at a thrift store and called 911 when she found a suspicious item encased in yellow rubber with '100 per cent' written on it. The mysterious package contained cocaine. It is not clear how the drugs ended

up in the kit. While some children are terrified when adults play the "I've got your nose" game, a man who reportedly wants to turn himself into a "black alien" wouldn't miss it one bit. A man from France has a goal to turn himself into 'a black alien". He went to Spain to have his **nose surgi**cally removed. Anthony Loffredo, 32, has had a slew of cosmetic procedures to transform himself into a black alien, which included having his upper lip removed and his entire body, including his eyeballs, tattooed. Google his name to see one strange-looking creature.

Kids skin their knees all the time, only to be fixed by a Band-Aid and a hug. Unfortunately, that doesn't always cure the problem. In California, Beauden Baumkirchner, three, skinned his knee and eventually underwent at least 18 surgeries. Beauden's parents used an antibacterial spray on the wound, then applied a Band-Aid, and Beauden got back on his bike. Doctors figure that at some point, maybe when the kid was playing in the dirt, a vicious 'garden-variety staph' bacteria entered the knee. He suffered multiple symptoms, and got progressively worse. "As terrible of a year as 2020 has been," said his mother Julianna, "humanity has been the best in our eyes." She was making reference to the medical team and the \$160,000 that was raised for the boy.

A British teen was having medical issues, experiencing stomach pains and passing out twice. At the hospital, it was discovered that she had two rare conditions. A CT scan showed the patient had a "grossly distended stomach," as well as a rip in the stomach wall as a result of a trichobezoar (i.e., a giant hairball) that was 19 inches long. An operation revealed the hair mass was so big that it "formed a cast of the entire stomach." It was determined she suffered jointly from trichotillomania, a hair-pulling disorder, which involves eating one's hair. If the hair gets tangled and trapped in the intestinal tract, it is an even rarer, sometimes fatal condition called Rapunzel syndrome. Doctors hope the girl will be fine.

It might be better if the poor soul near New Haven, Conn., who sold an old bowl for \$35 at a yard sale last year never finds out about this. It turns out the porcelain bowl dates back to China's Ming dynasty of the 15th century and is **expected** to fetch up to \$500,000 later this month at a Sotheby's auction. The sharp-eyed buyer hasn't been identified, but he apparently knew he'd stumbled onto something valuable. He immediately sent photos to auction specialists, who confirmed his hunch. Only six comparable bowls from the Yongle Emperor of 1403-24 are believed to be in exis-

In Akron, Ohio family, Eirelyn Zuercher, 14, suffered a brain injury in a sledding accident, and then her father died from a massive heart attack as he arrived at the hospital. The teen was taken off life support five days later. Eirelyn was an organ donor and her death "saved the world for five individuals."

Keep reading between the lines, looking for positive stories...

HOROSCOPE

WFFK OF **MARCH 28 TO APRIL 3, 2021**

THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK: CAPRICORN, AQUARIUS AND PISCES



You may have to jockey your way up the professional ladder to find success. There will be plenty of it, but first you'll need to deal with a considerable amount of



TAURUS

You'll need to make a few compromises to reach a suitable agreement with certain people. You'll get justice and set-tle a conflict before it escalates further.



GEMINI

There's a lot of work ahead. The competition will know how to win you over by offering a more interesting position. You risk being tormented by questions about how to maintain your integrity.



CANCER

You'll attract a lot of attention after you successfully diffuse a situation by making people laugh at vour antics. You can also expect some warm applause.



You'll have plenty to do at home or with your family. Fortunately, your loved ones will see your balancing act as heroic. You'll demonstrate your ability to be responsible by establishing your priorities.



VIRGO

You'll know just what to say to stand out from the crowd and make your point. You'll spend the week driving people around so you can show off your new car.



LIBRA

You may take steps toward buying a property or finding a more suitable place to live. At the very least, you'll shop around something for the family. It'll end up being quite the adventure.



SCORPIO

You're a dynamic person who's up for any challenge, be it at work or in other areas of your life. A quick vacation with your partner, friends or family would be appreciated. No matter how old they are, children can be a challenge.



SAGITTARIUS

If you let yourself become fatigued, you'll be more vulnerable to germs. Don't forget to make time for rest when you have several demanding projects on the go.



CAPRICORN

You'll be surrounded by confused people, and you'll occasionally need to take some alone time. You'll also be inspired to explore a new form of spirituality with others who are close to you.



AQUARIUS

Time is in short supply for many people and this week, you're no exception. You'll need to work extra hard at your job to get everything done on time.

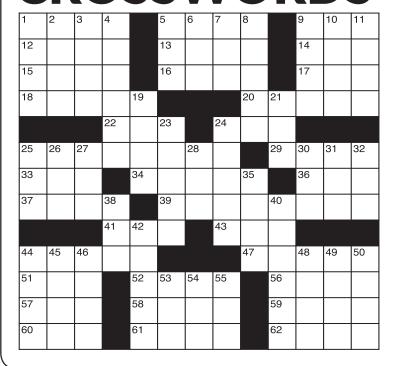


Either with your partner or your friends, you'll start to plan a trip abroad or somewhere local. You'll also make changes at home, even if it's just moving

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BREAK time

CROSSWORDS



PUZZLE NO. 067

ACROSS

- Swine food
- Soothing medicine
- Not young 12. Grandma
- 13. On the briny
- 14. Sorrow 15. Superior to
- _ Might Be Giants"
- 17. North-Pole helper 18. Aromatic herb
- 20. Strangely
- 22. Bro's sib
- 24. To's associate 25. Fine wool
- 29. Crack and roughen
- 33. Yuck! 34. Prize medal
- 36. Bother
- 37. Not shallow
- 39. More nutritious
- _ Zeppelin 43. Affirmative vote
- 44. Record-album material
- 47. Oklahoma city

51. Bad humor

61. Ogler

DOWN

60. Carpenter or army

62. Audition tape

11. Snooty person

Small bills

Club

2. Volcano's output

Church district

Powdery residue

Municipal official

9. Was in the red

10. Lounge around

11. Resist openly

19. Succotash bean

21. Snow White's pal

"Malcolm X" director

- 24. Shuttle boat 52. Prickly feeling
- 56. Window part 25. Cow chow
- 57. Boar's mate 26. Time period 58. Accurate
- Stoops to 27. 59. Send out
 - Conquer" 28. Dashed

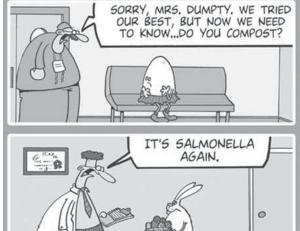
23. Basted

- 30. Exclamation
- 31. Beverage

Copyright @ 2018, Penny Press

- 32. Pea's envelope
- 35. Food plan
- 38. Fabric layer
- 40. Brought to pass
- 42. Upper crust
- 44. Travel document
- 45. Pumping _
- 46. Certain amphibian
- 48. Margarita ingredient
- 49. Skinny 50. Low female voice
- 53. Endeavor
- 54. Stage signal 55. That woman
- 48. Game of chance
- 49. Forwarded
- 52. Clump

PUNDRA



WHILE THE FIRST LITTLE PIG HAD A HOUSE MADE OF STRAW, HE ALSO HAD A TASER MADE OF METAL, PLASTIC AND 50,000 VOLTS Charle Carpento

Lat Lano



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Parkland College forms partnership with ATAP

Class 1 Water and Wastewater Operator courses in Man. and Sask.

By Emily Jane Fulford **Grasslands News**

It may be a convenient coincidence but The City of Melville and Parkland College may have a match made in heaven when it comes to water treatment. While the city has just received funding for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure improvement projects on local systems, the college announced this month that they will be launching a program aimed at training students on how to operate wastewater systems and provide maintenance to them.

Water and wastewater operators are important in the overall maintenance of a city's clean water supply and it's just as vitally important to ensure

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members of the community. In March, Parkland College teamed up with ATAP Infrastructure Management Ltd. and are all set to create a training program capable of ensuring that local communities would never have a shortage of qualified individuals available to maintain a safe and secure water supply system.

To make it official, Parkland and ATAP then signed a partnership agreement. They agreed that they would provide training in Class 1 Water and Wastewater Operator courses across the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. These courses will be delivered in such a way that students have a flexible schedule and are able to easily attend training, study remotely, or even take part in a combination of both. It's referred to as the "blended model of training" and unlike the more conservative in-classroom approach, this form of education allows people, not only to study safely during COVID-19, it also makes it easier to learn while maintaining full or parttime employment.

'This agreement is a great opportunity for the College and the communities we serve," said Dr. Mark Hoddenbagh, President and CEO of Parkland College. "Blended Learning will make it easier for com-

the health and safety of the munities and municipalities to access this important training and benefit from ATAP's expertise."

ATAP will be bringing to the table their background in engineering, an established curriculum, as well as top-notch instructors while Parkland will be combining with that their innovative learning management system, instructional design experience, as well as the IT support necessary to ensure it all runs smoothly.

"Over the past 20 years, ATAP has instructed certification courses and CEU

workshops to thousands of operators across the Prairies,' said ATAP Manager Andrew Stevenson. "Our experience, from performing the same hands-on services onsite daily that we teach about, allows our instructors to transfer that real-life knowledge back to the students. We are excited to be partnering with a premier organization in Parkland Col-

The new program is set to launch in the fall of 2021 and the majority of the courses will be focused on the topics of water treatment, water distribution, wastewater treatment, and wastewater collection. While Melville's improvements to water treatment infrastructure may play a major role in the local demand for these skills, there is also a growing need for this type of training in many towns as well as First Nation communities. Municipalities all across the prairies have shown to have a growing need in the area of water stewardship. Organizations interested in this training are also being invited to submit requests in advance to the

PVSD schools moving to online learning

By Chris Ashfield

Grasslands News

Prairie Valley School Division's senior administration and board have made the decision to transition ALL PVSD schools temporarily to online learning for March 29 through April 1.

In a statement issued by PVSD on Mar. 24, the Division stated that, "It is important to reinforce that school is not closed. We are continuing teaching and learning online for the four days prior to Easter.

Schools will remain in-person for March 24 and 25. PVSD said they fully expect returning to in-person learning after the break on April 12 in all their schools. The Division will monitor and communicate any changes or extensions to the health order.

Several schools, including those in Wolse-



ley, Indian Head and Lemberg, had already been moved to online learning until after Easter Break following the confirmation of positive tests of COVID-19 in the facilities. Meanwhile, the school in Vibank has also had a class move to online learning until the end of the month due to someone testing positive.

In all four communities, those considered close contacts have been notified and instructed to isolate for 14 days.

How to book your COVID-19 vaccine appointment when the timing is right

1. Check Your Eligibility

Saskatchewan's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan is built on the foundation of age as the main risk factor. Vaccine rollout is starting with the oldest first, working down by age.



Only those eligible will be able to receive an appointment; if you are not yet eligible to receive a vaccine, you will be asked to visit again once you become eligible.

Visit saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-vaccine to find out who is eligible to get vaccinated.

2. Get Ready to Book

When you go online or call the Vaccine Booking Office, you'll be asked for your:



- First and last name
- Date of birth
- Health card number
- Email address or a phone number that can receive text messages (online booking only)

3. Book Online

The online tool is simple, fast and easy to use. It takes just a few minutes to book your appointment.



Visit **saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-vaccine** to access the tool

4. Booking Over The Phone

Check if your age is eligible to receive the vaccine. If so, call 1-833-SASKVAX (1-833-727-5829)



The call centre is open 8am to 11pm, 7 days per week.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

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Popular eatery and gift store back with new name, new location

By Sarah Pacio **Grasslands News**

"Sherry's on Grand" has a new name, new location, and new owner-operator.

The popular eatery and gift shop in Indian Head struggled to bounce back after mandatory shut-downs caused by the coronavirus pandemic last year, so owner Sherry decided it was time for a change. She sold the building and prepared to move everything to Moose Jaw where she and her business partner Ellen Watkinson planned to re-open in September

"It was important to register

of our ancestors. I am a

Now is

Become a

Registered

Métis Citizen.

the Time

metisnationsk.com/citizenship

proud Métis citizen,"

and pay respect to the work

Daniel / Citizen & Entrepreneur

Preparations progressed at the new location. 436 Langdon Crescent, but city regulations caused repeated delays for the entrepreneurs so Sherry decided to pursue a different job opportunity that arose. Finally a Grand Opening was held at the end of November under the new name "Wildflowers Bistro & Boutique."

"Our Christmas season was absolutely fabulous and we've had a nice steady flow ever since," Watkinson told Grasslands News.

Like the original shop in Indian Head, it is a multi-faceted business. The charming old house provides a lovely backdrop for the bistro. Patrons can sit in the main area, or on a porch surrounded by potted plants to enjoy delicious fare. The menu includes specialty coffees, artisan-style soups and Australian toasties, as well as popular charcuterie boxes. Potted plants and floral arrangements are available for purchase, along with giftware. Watkinson said the COVID pandemic has caused delays for some shipments but things are beginning to improve. In keeping with Sherry's previous emphasis on supporting other local women, the boutique carries lines

like Koa & Kkai jewelry, created right in Moose Jaw.

The venue is also available for small weddings and special events. Watkinson said that it's a one-stop shop for weddings since "Wildflowers" can provide the venue. food, flowers, and décor. She draws from past experience in the industry to cater these special occasions.

Although her friend and colleague Sherry had to move on, Watkinson said she is grateful to be running the bistro with her own two daughters. "I'm really happy that my daughters have come into the business," Watkinson said. "They have a lot of good vibrant ideas and it's fun to work with them. I've got a great young staff, too."

Watkinson said that she is looking forward to summer plans at the bistro. Additional seating will be available by opening the back deck when the weather gets warmer. She also plans to offer

Wildflowers Bistro

Ellen Watkinson (back row, second from right) and her staff offer a variety of delicatessen treats at the Wildflower Bistro & Boutique in Moose Jaw (formerly Sherry's on Grand, in Indian Head).

picnic boxes for patrons to enjoy at Crescent Park across the street. "You don't always have to be on the main street in a city to be an interesting place to visit," she noted.

Wildflowers Bistro & Boutique is open Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. More information is available at wildflowersbistroboutique.com

SFL calling for paid sick leave

The provincial government's announcement in Mar. 18 of paid time off for workers to get their vaccines highlights the importance of workers being healthy and safe in their workplaces and proves the need for paid sick leave for all work-

to be able to get vaccinated is a small victory for workers, and is something that the SFL and our affiliate unions have been pushing for," said SFL President Lori Johb. "Workers shouldn't have to make the choice to either take unpaid time off work or receive a life-saving vaccination."

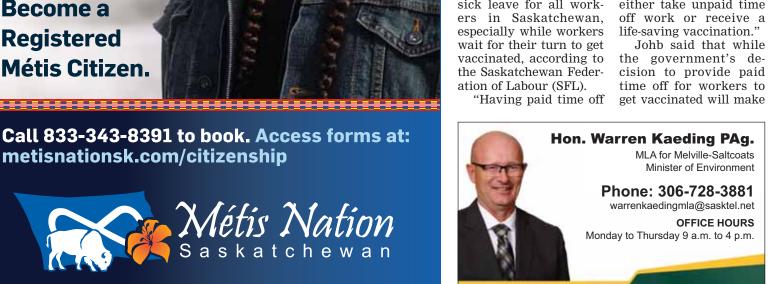
Johb said that while the government's decision to provide paid time off for workers to

workplaces safer in the long run, more needs to be done immediately to prevent workplace outbreaks. Recent numbers from the Saskatchewan Health Authority show that 40 per cent of all COVID-19 outbreaks in the province have occurred in workplaces.

"The reality is that many workers will still have to wait a few months to get their vaccine, and in the meantime they are continuing to put themselves at risk of contracting COVID-19 when they go to work,' Johb said.

"Too many workers continue to go to work sick because they can't afford to miss their shift. The government needs to take action immediately to ensure permanent, paid sick leave for all workers in Saskatchewan now. We can't afford to wait any longer."







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Blue-green algae found in Pasqua Lake water

By Alan Hustak **Grasslands News**

An analysis of samples of blue pigment taken from Asham's Point on Pasqua Lake indicates the presence of a water soluble pigment found in blue

It is a biological phenomena caused when cyanobacteria get caught in the ice and freeze. "This released the blue pigment into the water," said Dr. Peter Leavitt, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Change and Society. "Fortunately, although blue-green algae can produce toxins, testing revealed no microcystin in the water. Instead, the blue colour is what scientists describe as an "organic dye" that is actually used as a food colourant in candy and a vitamin antioxidant. It is not harmful, but is an indication that as a result of climate change, growing algae blooms survive longer than they used to. It means there is extra heat in the air and the water, plus more phosphorous and nitrogen from runoff that allow algae to live longer, choking off the water systems they live in," says Leavitt, the University of Regina scientist who has been studying the water quality of the Calling Lakes

The Water Security Agency says while the water is not toxic and is safe to swim in, WSA communications director Patrick Boyle says it is not a good idea to swallow the water.

"Children might be more at risk for getting sick because they often spend more time in the water and may swallow contaminated water by accident. Consuming water with blue-green algae can cause headache, diarrhea, weakness, liver damage, fever (temperature over 38.5°C or 101.3°F), nausea and vomiting, muscle and joint pain, and cramps in the abdomen.'

Boyle says cattle and pets should not drink the water unless it is boiled, properly filtered and disinfected because it might contain bacteria, parasites and viruses.

The findings are of concern to Pasqua First Nation Chief Todd Peigan, who says he was not told that the WSA was conducting the tests until he was contacted by the media.

"If there is going to be an impact, I need to know. All the people who live around the lake and all the towns that depend on the Hatfield Agufier for their water, which is near the lake, should be



Ice fisher Tracey Kleim first noticed this blue-purple discoloured water in and on the ice at Pasqua Lake, SK on March 10, 2021.

Indoor dining and gathering banned in Regina and area

Provincial Grasslands News

Due to increased COVID-19 transmission risk in Regina and area, the following amendments are being made to the public health order. This local public health order will remain in effect until April 5, 2021, and reviewed at that time.

As of March 23, indoor public gatherings are prohibited in Regina and area including:

- · All private indoor gatherings in the Regina area are prohibited immediately. Regina and area residents may not expand their household "bubble". All indoor gatherings are restricted to immediate household members only.
- · Persons who live alone and single parents of minor children are permitted to meet with one, consistent household of less than five individuals. Co-parenting arrangements are permitted to
- Caregivers, support personnel and tradespersons who are not a member of the household are not included in the maxi-

mum number of people allowed in that household.

Restaurants and event venues to close

Effective 12:01 Sunday, March 28:

- All restaurants and licensed establishments must close for in-person dining. Take-out and delivery is permitted.
- · Event venues including banquet and community halls, conference facilities, arts venues, museums, libraries, live theatre, cinemas, arcades, bowling and science centres, or any non-essential indoor locations that had limits of 30 individuals are not permitted to operate at this time.

Places of worship in the Regina area will remain at the current capacity level, which is a maximum of 30 individ-

Regina and Area Travel Advisory

Regina and Area Work From Home Recommendation

- · It is strongly recommended that all individuals in the Regina area able to work from home do so.
- For the past several weeks, the majority of public service and crown employees in the Regina area that are able to have been working from home. The Deputy Minister to the Premier and President of Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan have both reinforced this direction to all ministry and crown permanent heads that employees in the Regina area that are able to work from home should work from home. In order to maintain important public services, some employees will remain working in their office setting.

Areas Affected

The Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment will be

extended to those businesses impacted by this announcement. Application details will be announced in the coming days.

Enforcing Public Health Measures

Enforcement of public health orders is permitted under The Public Health Act, 1994. Public health inspectors and other enforcement officers will be supported in their efforts to ticket violators to ensure that businesses and events are brought into compliance as quickly as possible, in addition to the enforcement efforts that have been undertaken by police agencies

throughout the province.

For more information on the current public health measures or to see the Public Health Order. visit www.saskatchewan. ca/covid19-measures.

Reduce Your Risk

All residents of Regina are asked to abide by all best personal protective measures at this time. Minimize the risk in the city and throughout the region.

- Wear your mask in all public places including all workplaces
- · Wash non-medical masks daily
- Maintain physical distancing

- · Wash your hands frequently
- · Reduce activities outside of your home.

If you have any symptoms, stay home and arrange for a COVID-19 test. If anyone in your home has symptoms, the entire household should remain home until the test results are known. Testing information is available at www. saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/ treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/ emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/testing-information.





New Melville swimming pool still on schedule

To be completed by July

By Emily Jane Fulford Grasslands News

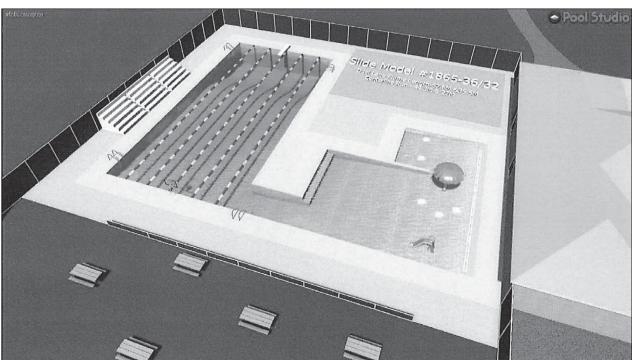
During the summer of 2020 it was never a better time for a swimming pool to be under construction as it was the year that nobody would have been able to use it anyways. Heading into 2021, the city budget has the first year of the pool replacement project on the agenda. This will be the first major reconstruction of the outdoor pool which was originally built in 1967. The project is not just a redo of the pool itself, it also includes replacement of the mechanical systems, deck, and fencing

"The pool is currently running on schedule and budget which is great news. As soon as this snow is out of the way you will start to see action in the park," said Chris Bruce, Director of Community Services for the City of Melville. "Contractors have been busy procuring the needed materials for both the pool and the poolhouse. Currently, the market is extremely volatile which does present risk when scheduling the project."

More good news, the project is on schedule and set to be complete by July of 2021; of course, part of that depends on the ability to secure the supplies needed by contractors. In anticipation of this, the city has ordered in many of the vitals needed such as the water slide, pool liners, and the mechanical systems required for operation. Those items are on-route and expected to arrive in time to do the work. However, a raw plastic shortage may put a kink in the plans as it has caused a short supply of intakes and filtration baskets. While these are small components, they are still a potential risk to fall behind since they need to be installed at the time concrete is poured.

In the meantime, the Saskatchewan Health Authority has been sent the design details for the project and a preliminary review has already been completed. The city hopes to receive the sign-off soon. Since the original design, minor changes were made such as relocation of the supply pipe and containment access points which reduced costs for the overall budget. As a result, the expenditures remain within the budget.

The project has seen the use of local contractors already. N and R concrete, and Tim Chaban have already removed the old concrete basin and decking. N & R will be excavating the new pool this spring,' explains Bruce. "The pool house renovations were awarded to Hipperson Construction but many of their sub-trades are local businesses including Bert Bartake (plumbing and heating) and RH Electric (all electrical wiring and lighting). It's great to work with companies such as Hipperson on these major projects as they put a lot of effort into including the local trades which greatly benefits our local economy.



New pool

An artist rendering of the new Melville swimming pool which is slated to be open by July 2021. The project is still on schedule according to Director of Community Services Chris Bruce.

COVID-19 doesn't stop rec department

By Elaine Ashfield Grasslands News

As the seasons transition from winter recreation interests to spring and summer interests, the continuing threat of COVID-19 and the new variants is not slowing the employees of the Whitewood recreation department.

Ryan Dale, facility operations manager and rec director, reassured council at their last meeting on March 16 that projects are continuing in the facilities and the employees continue to prepare and plan for what may take place in the new season.

Painting and organizing has been taking place at the Community Centre including stock taking of materials.

"The facility is ready for the Vaccine Clinic that Saskatchewan Health has contracted the facility for," Dale stated.

The dates are still tentative but could start as early as April 13th. They have rented the lobby of the rink, installed their own WIFI network for their equipment and the SHA will be responsible for all take down of tables and disinfecting of the lobby after each time it is used. tiatives. "One was applied for tech-season can begin.

The exit will be out the curling rink doors. There will be restricted access inside during these days but it is unknown how many exact days at this time.

The normal summer trails around the ball diamonds as well as the dog park remain operational and this week (March 25, 26, 27) the Easter egg hunt is available for kids to find eggs on their own leisure time that the recreation employees will be hiding twice a day in various locations around town, all for the fun of the children while working to prevent gatherings during the event. Richardson Pioneer and Matthewson and Co. are helping sponsor the egg hunt.

The rec director is also continuing to fill in application grants that help with the expenses of events such as this.

We received the (STSSP) grant last year in a value of \$7,500 and I am working again to apply for this to assist to cover losses from events not held due to the pandemic," Dale explained. If granted, the funding goes towards events as well as equipment such as balls, nets, etc.

Two applications have also been submitted for government grants under the Healthy Community Ininology inside the lounge for the ability to broadcast meetings, programs etc. That amount was in the amount of just over \$6,000, while the second one was for a new play structure in our playground worth over \$60,000.'

There is another round of applications being accepted as well by the government for this grant beginning in May where up to \$250,000 can be applied for. Town Council hopes to prepare an application that would be the most beneficial for the community under the grant stipulations.

The rec director has also applied for funding under the FCC grant for LED lighting in the lounge at the Community Centre. The theme was energy savings and this is a project the centre has wanted to captivate savings on for some time now.

The campground will be opening for bookings on April 15th using the Let's Camp booking site and as Dale said "Before we know it, we will be opening the pool for the 2021 season."

Dale has found time to work with the lifesaving society to review all of the safety plans and procedures and hopefully, the swimmers will enjoy the newly lined pool once the

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS 🛶

Support the local businesses that keep your community and its newspapers thriving.





Sports Column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

SJHL finished for the season

The day that all SJHL fans was anticipated came on March 23, as the league announced it would suspend play for the rest of the 2020-2021 campaign.

It's not much of a surprise to anyone with the ability to operate a television remote control, after seeing over a year of policy from every level of government, meant to protect the people of Saskatchewan from a global pandemic.

I'm sure this result pleases all those folks who are afraid to go out in public as well as those who feel people shouldn't be able to make decisions for themselves when it comes to their own health.

It's another example of the rules from the top coming down the pike and affecting everyone in some way, shape or form.

The SJHL, like every Junior A hockey league in the country, has been taking its cues from Hockey Canada in regards to every decision that's made regarding personnel, scheduling and the rules and although they've made the league out to be some sort of feeder league for the Western Hockey League, Canadian college and pro leagues and eventually the NHL itself, fans have watched the teams get diluted by talent from outside the province, the likes of who Sasky will always get last pick of.

Personally, I'd like to see the SJHL go full rogue. I understand that they'd never get the support from Hockey Canada that they currently receive, but would that necessarily be a bad thing?

Remember years ago when hockey played in March in Saskatchewan was a big ticket item?

Can you recall the days of seven or eight local 20-year-olds suiting up for the Millionaires and representing the community that gave them their start in the sport?

Not only did teams have far more local representation in the past, they also had rules in place to give hockey fans the best hockey they could get.

I'm not sure about the rest of the hockey world and its fans, but I'd certainly enjoy a return to the days before league changes or a ridiculous playoff formats tried to start new league rivalries.

I'd certainly welcome a return to the Melville Millionaires facing off in the playoffs against the Weyburn Red Wings, Estevan Bruins or even the Yorkton Terriers instead of losing the lottery and going to Flin Flon to take on the Bombers in the first or second round because someone thought the old way wasn't quite good enough.

What would be wrong with allowing teams an unlimited amount of 20-year-olds? If this pandemic has proven anything, it's that the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League is more than a farm system, it's a business and as such, should be given the opportunity to flourish, the same as any business that exists.

Sure, it might change the way players are developed for higher leagues, but by the same token, it's not like the best players are ever overlooked in the grand scheme of things.

If a player is good enough and wants to climb the ranks, he has never required the rules to change to do it for him.

And I realize that this isn't the time to promote fighting in hockey, but it would certainly give players pause for thought if they thought they'd have to answer the bell more than once a game, or if they had to answer for some of the dirty moves they inflicted on other players, knowing that they'd be protected from retribution.

The only thing that gets fans standing and cheering more than a game winning goal is a good scrap. Next time one breaks out, take a look around.

Of course, this would mean that the league winner wouldn't be able to compete for a national championship, but if that road is going to provide financial hardships to the teams competing, why

Any and all of these changes would put butts in the seats and to my way of thinking, that's more valuable than having a mandate to improve every league that's a rung higher instead of the rung we support as fans, that aims to improve teams that

Perhaps I'm just missing good old junior hockey, but I'd wager there are a few more who think the same way I do.

See you at the rink in September, if we're not in the fifth wave by then!

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Does the CFL need XFL to survive?

Sports Column

By Bruce Penton

It's rare that the Canadian Football League makes headlines — in two countries, no less — in March, but when there's money and merger on the line, not to mention potential for salvation and/or demise, headlines come easy.

The CFL, which abandoned its 2020 season due to the coronavirus pandemic, was in infant stages of organizing the 2021 season when Commissioner Randy Ambrosie confirmed that collaboration talks with the XFL, a hangin'-by-a-thread grid league in the United States,

would take place. The XFL is fronted by the wildly popular Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson and his ex-wife, Dany Garcia.

'We look forward to seeing what possibilities our discussions might uncover, and to sharing those with our fans as the process unfolds," Ambrosie said to ESPN.com's Kevin Seifert.

Immediately, panic set in among a number of CFL followers, who love the Canadian game and its unique rules (three downs, 12 players on the field, longer and wider field, the rouge, Canadian/ import player ratios) and are worried that the CFL's demise might be immi-

nent if it casts its lot with an unproven entity such as the XFL.

Veteran CFL broadcaster Bob Irving of Winnipeg, who has covered the league since the early 1970s, has concerns about the CFL's future. "I think the CFL has been seduced by the Rock's charisma and worldwide popularity," said Irving. "There is no harm in the CFL listening to what The Rock and his group have to offer, but if these talks lead to a merger, my worst fears will be founded. The things that make the Canadian game so unique ... would all be in peril and if the failed CFL expansion to the U.S. in the 1990s proved anything, it's that the CFL is far better off to find a solution to its problems on the north side of the border. Hopefully, a successful return to play in 2021 will allow the CFL to end this dalliance with the XFL.'

One thing the XFL does have, that the CFL covets, is money. Not playing games, or playing games without fans, is a killer for the CFL, which collects the bulk of its revenue from gate receipts. Billion-dollar TV deals exist in the U.S., but definitely not north of the border.

The XFL doesn't plan to play in 2021, but is looking toward a restart in 2022. Whether that includes some sort of arrangement involving the CFL remains to be seen, There are two distinct views: 1. A lot of flag-waving Canadians pray for the status quo, without any American involvement; 2. A lot of flag-waving Canadians pray for the XFL's involvement to prevent the CFL's demise.

· Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have agreed to a one-year contract extension. The contract includes a \$5 million incentive bonus for another drunken boat toss of the Lombardi Trophy.'

· Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha: "Apparently after watching too many sporting events, the Nebraska governor is about to announce that businesses can reopen 'at 110 per cent capacity.' "

• Bruce Arthur of the Toronto Star, on Twitter: "Curl-

ing observation: Kevin Koe, whether winning or losing, often looks like he's wondering if he left the stove on.'

· Patti Dawn Swansson, aka the River City Renegade, expressing skepticism about a future CFL-XFL arrangement: "Maybe they'll make a go of it this time around. And maybe Johnny Manziel will collect as many Super Bowl rings as Tom Brady."

· Quebec skip Mike Fournier, writing in SI/com, on one Brier game which began with five consecutive blank ends: "I think even the cardboard cut-outs were napping."

 Alex Kaseberg again: "People are either excited about filling out their NCAA brackets for the tournament or they're not. When I told my co-worker I had Gonzaga in the semis, she suggested I should get a shot of penicillin.'

• Headline at TheOnion.com: "Report: Most NFL teams just 1 or 2 overpriced free agents away from Super Bowl victory.'

· Bob Ryan of The Boston Globe, via Twitter, on the death of middleweight icon Marvelous Marvin Hagler: "At his championship peak, he was Boston's fifth major sports franchise all by himself.'

· Jack Finarelli, at sportscurmudgeon.com, on March Madness referees prepping for the pro ranks: "They certainly ignored enough travelling violations last night to demonstrate to the NBA mavens that they have that part of their officiating duties down pat.'

· Finarelli, who loves going through rosters of NCAA teams and then playing name games, offered up this one: "Dajuan Harris, Jr. is a guard on the Kansas team. Too bad he is not a twin; if he were, his brother could have been named 'Da-udda-juan'.'

• Steve Simmons of Sun Media, recalling one of his favourite lines from former NHL coach Harry Neale: "Last season we couldn't win at home. This season we can't win on the road. My failure as a coach is I can't think of any place else to play."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

SJHL won't be returning to the ice

By Chris Ashfield

Grasslands News

The Melville Millionaires season has officially been ended after the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL) announced on Mar. 23 that they have officially canceled the 2020-2021 season for all 12-teams.

The decision to end the season came after the Saskatchewan Government and Ministry of Health refused a return to play plan that the SJHL had submitted. The league was hoping to play in a bubble similar to the Western Hockey League's (WHL) setup where all of the Saskatchewan- and Manitoba-based teams are playing their games in the capital. The teams were quarantined separately before the season started and live at the University of Regina.

The league began their season in early November, but after just a few weeks and a handful of games were forced to shut down.

"It's too bad we had to have the season that it was but at the same time I think that if we would have gone into play as a hub it would have been

difficult," said Millionaires' coach Mike Rooney.

SJHL president Bill Chow stated that the league will now turn its focus on returning to

play in September of 2021 and having a complete season ending with the crowning of the SJHL

Rooney said the team

will continue working with players, recruiting and planing and redesigning and reshaping within the organization with a plan to return in the fall.

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LGBTQ curlers proud of achievements at Brier

By Travis Longman **Grasslands News**

The sport of curling has always prided itself as being an accepting, diverse sport. This year at the Tim Hortons Brier not only was the field the largest in the event's history it was also arguably the most LGBTQ+ friendly. Two openly gay skips competed at the event. John Epping of team Ontario as well as Greg Smith of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Greg Smith was at the 2018 Brier and he recently returned to the Brier scene. Although he hasn't had many wins on the ice at the Brier yet, the 24 year old from Newfoundland and Labrador is honoured to be a voice for the LGBTQ+ community. He feels the representation is huge and can be inspiring to other people struggling with their self identity or being who they really are." I didn't

RCMP and reported three

suspicious trucks in Kil-

laly. One started doing

burn outs in middle of the

road. One truck was red

with white front fender.

The other two were sil-

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investigate.

really face direct homophobia in curling to my face, but I know I've been underestimated by some in competition or just their opinion," Smith says. "I think it makes you work harder to prove yourself and really show people what you got."

One of the people Smith looks up to is fellow competitor John Epping. "John came out in, I believe in 2012." Smith says "I would route for him a lot (unless he was playing Gushue of course haha) because John was one of my own. Now I'm quite grateful to call him a friend of mine so it's very cool. I hope us and others really get to inspire the next generation of LGBTQ+ curlers and for me LGBTQ+ athletes in Newfoundland & Labrador too." Smith should continue to inspire young people for many, many Briers to come. He has a bright future not just in the game but in life as well.

John Epping of Ontario made his third appearance at the Brier this year and the 37 year old finished with a record of seven wins and five losses. His best finish was third in Regina back in 2018. Epping has never felt discriminated against on the ice because of his sexual orientation however off the ice is a different story.

"In the curling community I haven't experienced any discrimination from my fellow competitors since coming " Epping says. "However I have received direct messages and comments

from people who watch the sport that disapprove of me using my platform to bring awareness."

Epping enjoys being a role model and someone people can look up to. "I love to help out and show that no matter whether you're gay or straight you can come out, be accepted and compete. Epping adds "I think curling is doing that so far and creating a safe space at all levels.

Epping knows how hard it is to come out. "It's your decision when the time feels right; there is a lot of pressure put on to come out and that's what society has created for us. It's a lot of pressure for athletes to be the first in their sport to come out. How you want to do it, when you want to do it is up to you. There is no right or wrong in this. You're going to know when the time is right. I was very lucky to have a great support group around me and that's very important."

In addition to the two skips, Dustin Kidby of team Saskatchewan also can be an inspiration for the LGBTQ+ community. "I think you need to do you." Kidby says "Be yourself and it doesn't matter what anyone else thinks. That is when you can find true happiness. Even though it may seem impossible and you have all these negative feelings that people aren't going to accept you - that's not the case and if there are people who

- SEE LGBTQ CURLING, 22

\$7,000 lost to online fraudsters

Sgt. Travis Adams Melville-Ituna Detachments

Reporting period: March 14 to March 23

Melville and Ituna detachment dealt with 102 occurrences over the past week.

Traffic

During this time, Melville and Ituna detachment responded to 60 reported traffic occurrences or traffic stops that resulted in 29 Charges and 26 Warnings.

RCMP responded to one single vehicle collision. No injuries resulting from this accident.

RCMP stopped a vehicle traveling at 139 kph on Highway #10. The driver received a ticket for \$562 and vehicle impounded.

Mischief/Theft/Fraud

RCMP were contacted to assist the Melville Fire Department attending a vehicle fire near Otthon.

No injuries. RCMP continue to investigate.

RCMP are investigating a report that a person has been a victim of an on-line fraud. On specified dates they accepted e-cheques, deposited them into an account, and then immediately e-transferred the money by text. The cheques did not clear and the person is \$7,000 out-ofpocket.

RCMP were contacted to report Grayson Fire Department is attending a grain dryer fire. No injuries as a result of the fire.

A lady phoned RCMP to report that she may have caused some younger kids on pedal bikes to be in an accident. It was reported that she drove around kids that were riding on the street and may have cut them off at the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Prince Edward in Melville. RCMP continue to investigate.

A person contacted the

Melville Community Works

- Thrift Shop open Tuesday and Thursday 12 4 p.m.
- Gift Shop open Tuesday and Thursday 1 3 p.m.
- · Kidsville opening to be determined
- · Canadian Mental Health Association Melville Branch
 - Meeting 1st Wednesday of every month 7 p.m.
- · Magic Moments Playschool is currently full and accepting names for the 2020 - 2021 school year wait list. Please contact Chantel Fahlman for more info at 306-730-6272 or via Facebook messenger.



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Expanded eligibility for vaccine bookings in Sask.

Provincial News Grasslands News

COVID-19 vaccine booking eligibility is being expanded once again in Saskatchewan. Starting March 25 at 8 a.m., eligible groups will be expanded to include all individuals 62 years of age and older, individuals 50 years of age and older living in the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District, all remaining phase one health care workers, and people with underlying health conditions who are clinically extremely vulnerable through an eligibility letter.

Individuals 62 years of age and older

People meeting this criteria can book their appointment online 24/7 using their health card at www.saskatchewan. ca/covid19-vaccine; or call 1-833-SASK-VAX (1-833-727-5829) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Individuals 50 to 61 years of age living in the Northern Sask. Administration District

Booking online is not available for this age group at this time.

Individuals meeting this criteria are invited to now book their vaccination by calling 1-833-SASKVAX (1-833-727-5829) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 p.m.

A map of this area and the communities within it can be found at: https:// www.saskatchewan.ca/business/first-nations-metis-and-northern-community-businesses/economic-development/ northern-administration-district

Individuals 62 years of age and over living in the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District can utilize online booking according to the instructions

All Remaining Phase One Health Care Workers

All remaining phase one health care workers are invited to book their vaccination by calling 1-833-SASKVAX (1-833-727-5829) between the hours of 8 a.m. and

Booking online is not available for this category. These individuals require proof of their eligibility in order to book this will be provided directly to them by their employer.

A list of positions that qualify within this category are listed on the saskatchewan.ca website.

People with underlying health conditions who are clinically extremely vulnerable

Conditions in this category are listed on the saskatchewan.ca website. The majority of these individuals have already been identified by their health care team, and will receive a letter of eligibility in the mail in the next two weeks. This letter is required in order to book an appointment.

Booking online is not available for this category unless you are 62 years of age and older and have not yet booked an appointment. Otherwise, please call 1-833-SASKVAX (1-833-727-5829) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Targeted vaccinations to select congregate living (group homes, those with intellectual disabilities)

SHA is also in the process of connecting with group homes for persons with intellectual disabilities, shelters, and other congregate living facilities to discuss options for immunization.

VACCINE INFORMATION

Online Booking update: as of 10 a.m. on March 24, more than 100,000 vaccine appointments have been booked through the SHA's Patient Booking System. Just over 70 per cent of bookings have been made online, with the remaining 30 per cent made using 1-833-SASK-VAX.

What you need to know about appointment availability

Some areas offer additional options for vaccine, such as drive-thru, drop-in and mobile clinics. Access through participating pharmacies will be available in the future. Watch for advertising to see which options are available in your

You can have a friend or family member go online or call to schedule your appointment for you. Identification will be required at the time of the actual appointment.

You will receive confirmation soon after your appointment has been made. There is no need to call the phone line to confirm appointment details.

Clinic availability is dependent on vaccine availability. Additional clinics will be added as Saskatchewan receives more doses.

At this time, existing demand for vaccine far outweighs our available sup-

The booking office does not have access to extra appointments than what is available online.

Second dose appointments are not available at this time. Public communication will take place once these appointments become available.

Watching The April Nite Skies

By James Edgar for Grasslands News

The Moon is in a waning gibbous phase as the month begins, "gibbous" meaning humped, like a camel. Saturn is 4 degrees north of the Moon on April 6. The Moon is new

on April 12. By April 17th, Mars is 0.1 degrees away, which is an occultation in the Eastern Hemisphere. And, the Moon is less than 1 degree north of M35, the cluster in Gemini. The Moon is full on April 26, with perigee occurring the following day (closest in its orbit to Earth), high tides can be expected in coastal areas.

Mercury can be seen early in the eastern morning dawn early in the month, then after superior conjunction mid-month, becomes an western evening object very late in the month.

Venus is too close to the Sun to be seen until very late in April.

Mars is moving eastward, in proper motion, among the stars of Taurus, The Bull. An occultation occurs when Mars

is covered by the Moon on April 17th. Unfortunately, it is only visible from the Eastern Hemisphere, but we westerners can see the Red Planet less than 0.1 degree from the waxing gibbous Moon. On the April 27, Mars is less than a degree above the cluster

Jupiter is a morning object in the southeastern sky at daybreak, so only visible for a short time. The crescent Moon passes 4 degrees to its south on April 7. Various double shadow transits occur in the first half of April, where two of Jupiter's moons cast shadows on the face of the gas giant at the same time. These occur on: April 3, April 6, April 10, and April 14.

Saturn meets up with the Moon on the morning of April 6. Both Jupiter and Saturn become visible briefly before sunrise.

Uranus presents a difficult challenge in the western evening sky, gradually closing in on a solar conjunction at the end of the

Neptune slowly emerges in the morning twilight for observers with telescopes.

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Few delight in weaknesses, insults, hardships, etc.

Does labeling start at school, even at kindergarten? Young children easily decide who is shy and timid and who is pushy and bossy. From young children to adults and beyond, some folks are seen as weaker and perhaps needing protection, while other people are seen as strong and in no need of any help.

Often, children and adults resent being labeled as weak and don't want to be considered so weak that they are teased, insulted or persecuted. Being weak invites hardships and difficulties as those who seem power-

I asked Ed, my old neighbor in Saskatchewan, what is the source of our power or strength? He said it comes from ourselves, being healthy, confident, our attitude that we are strong rather than weak.

We both agreed that people want to be seen and think of themselves as powerful rather than

Ed summed it up this way, "Few want to be seen as weak or old. Everyone knows the older you get, the weaker you may become."

It would seem strength and power are in, and weakness is out. But there are a few wise voices that caution about power.

Albey warns, "Power attracts the worst

Published Fridays

Visit us at grasslandsnews.ca and corrupts the best." R. Heinlein cautions, "Never underestimate the power of human stupidity.

R.W. Emerson sugests, "Our strength grows out of our weakness." This is the case of Christians who understand Isaiah 40:29, "God gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

Paul speaks of God's power this way: "There was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I

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Rev. Seon Ok Lee

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COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Wed. ~ Kids Club ~ 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Held at New Life Church

Pastor Doug Lancaster

EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY

Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.

Friday Youth Bible Study

6:00 p.m.

Pastor Samuel Jung

(Ages 5 - 10) Youth Group ~ 7:00 p.m. (Ages 11 & Up)

am strong."

2 Corinthians 12:9,10 Jesus displayed the power of God, which was teaching, healing, curing sickness and death. He was tempted but remained sinless as God's Son. His sinlessness or righteousness was for us who cannot be sinless. He did not amass an army to gain political control. His kingdom was not of this world. He was a humble carpenter who became a rabbi willing to suffer in weakness and death to bless others.

Jesus came as a servant to serve God his Father in heaven and sinful humankind here on



Sunday service 10:30 a.m. Service is also available on YouTube and will be livestreamed. Please call the church at 306-332-580 for information regarding COVID-19 regulations or check our website: vallevalliance.ca

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Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

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*Services CANCELLED

until further notice

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UNITED CHURCH

*March 28 - 2:30 p.m

Worship Service

Isaiah 50:5,6 pictures Jesus' willingness to conquer evil with what many thought of as weakness. Instead, it was a sacrificial death on a cross in love for others. "I have

not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting."

Jesus was cut off from

the land of the living crushed in death on the cross for our iniquities. In our world, power and strength are considered best, but Jesus set for us the example of self-sacrifice for others.



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238 - 3rd Ave. E. Office - Ph. 306-728-2551 Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon Pastor Kim Sherwin - www.stpaulsmelville.ca March 28: 9:30 a.m. Worship at All Saints'

11:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School at St. Paul's All services at St. Paul's can be streamed live on Facebook. Sunday morning live streams start at 10:50 a.m

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5th Ave. E. & King St Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 noon Ph. 306-728-5057 Rev. Brian Mee, Ph. 306-335-7611 website: firstunitedmelville.org

March 28: Worship Service with Ray Yost

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER

800 Prince Edward St. (Melville Comm. Works) Ph. 306-728-2347 - Pastor Tim Oehler

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Doors Open - 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Pre-registration is welcomed, but not required. More information available online at: Website: www.melvilleriverchurch.org Facebook Page @melvilleriverchurch Recorded services will continue to be posted online

MELVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Office Ph. 306-728-5022 - Pastor Jon Pettinger

Sunday Service Times: 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Pre-registration is required

Online services can be found at: www.melvillebaptist.com

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH

5th Ave. W. & Queen St. - Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001 March 28: Worship Service 10:30 a.m. April 4: 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Service

MELVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

115 - 11th Ave. W. Pastor Doug Braun – Office Ph. 306-728-0197 email: mpc@sasktel.net www.facebook.com/melvillepentchurchsk

March 28: In-Person Service

*Please join us on Facebook at Melville Pentecostal Church

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

258 - 10th Ave. W. - Ph. 306-728-3971 Pastor Doug Schmirler facebook.com/gslcmelville

March 28: 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship Service 2:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

April 2: 10:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service, In-Person and Online

April 4: 10:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service, In-Person and Online

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St. Fr. Basil Malowany basilmalowany@gmail.com - 306-540-5102

March 27 (Saturday): 7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy March 29 (Monday): 6:30 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy Friday, April 2: 4:00 p.m. Service at the Tomb Satuday, April 3: 4:00 p.m. Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Baskets

Please Note: Parishioners MUST register 24 hours in advance for each service. Contact 306-728-3813.

ST. HENRY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

729 Main St. - Office Ph. 306-728-5702 Res. Ph. 306-728-2305 - 111 - 8th Ave. W. Father Andrzej Sowa, OMI

Saturday Mass: 7:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Lutheran Church - Canada) 502 - 4th Ave. W. – Church Office Ph. 306-728-5689 Email: zlcpastor@myaccess.ca Website: www.zionlutheranmelville.com

Sunday, March 28: 11:00 a.m. Divine Service Friday, April 2: 11:00 a.m. Good Friday Worship Service Sunday, April 4: 11:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service

Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

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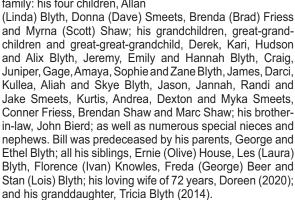
ONE AD, THREE NEWSPAPERS: All classified ads appear in the Melville Advance, Fort Qu'Appelle Times and Whitewood/Grenfell Herald Sun

Obituary

William "Bill" Blyth May 5, 1925 - March 18, 2021

It is with much sadness, but also with grateful hearts for a long and full life, that our family announces the passing of William (Bill) Henderson Blyth, late of Whitewood, SK, on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at the age of 95 years, with family at his side.

Bill's memory will be forever cherished by his loving family: his four children, Allan



Bill was born in Wapella, SK, on May 5, 1925, to George and Ethel Blyth. He was the youngest of six children. Bill was raised on the farm and was involved with the operation of the farm from a very young age. After becoming engaged on Christmas Eve 1946, he married the love of his life, Doreen McPhee, on June 9, 1947. Bill and Doreen started their married life on the farm and continued to farm in the Parkin district for many years where they raised their four children. Life was good!

Bill had many interests. For 57 years, he was a faithful and active member of the Knights of Columbus. Bill was an avid ball player and enjoyed both playing and coaching ball. He enjoyed dancing, socializing, travelling, curling and playing billiards. Bill especially loved to play crib, and he didn't mind skunking anyone willing to play against him. He was a gentle man and usually had a smile on his face but could be feisty when called for. He had a great sense of humour and enjoyed a good laugh.

Throughout his lifetime, Bill had numerous jobs including work with SaskPower, Whitewood Rural Telephone Company, Walter Reynold's Electric and working as maintenance engineer at the Whitewood Hospital. After the family moved to town, Bill never lost his love of farming and continued to farm a quarter section of land south of town. He had a very strong work ethic and could be found chopping wood for his fireplace, pushing snow with his beloved tractor for his neighbours or fixing a bike for his grandkids. But above all, Bill loved his family beyond measure. He was loved and was a blessing to all of us. He leaves a legacy of love to his children, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren and his great-great-grandchild.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Whitewood Community Health Centre for loving Bill like he was their own Dad and for the exceptional care he received over the past three years. Those so wishing may make donations in memory of Bill Blyth to the Whitewood Community Health Centre, Box 699, Whitewood, SK, SOG 5CO.

A private family graveside service took place on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at the Whitewood Cemetery with the Rev. Father Tomy Mandapathil officiating.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Whitewood.



Advertising Deadlines

Display, Classifieds and Obituaries Tuesday by Noon

306-728-5448

Obituary Caroline (Carrie) Hauk Sept 14, 1918 - March 19, 2021

It is with sadness that the family announces the passing of Caroline (Carrie) Hauk at the age of 102 years and 6 months, a life well lived. She passed peacefully with family by her side on Friday, March 19, 2021 in the South Eastern Integrated Care Center, Moosomin.

Mom was born in the Josephburg District, north of Grenfell on Sept. 14, 1918.

She was predeceased by her husband Philip of 59 years; sons-in-law, Ernie Rathgeber and Ellwyn Parsons; three brothers, Philip, John and George; three sisters-in-law; an infant granddaughter; and her parents, Jacob and Katherine (Wolfe) Schlamp.

She is survived by her daughters, Jean Parsons and Bernice (Horst) Sawatzki; six grandchildren, Dale, Brent, Melanie, Lanette, Laurel, Mark and spouses; eight greatgrandchildren; one sister, Hilda Fuchs; and many nieces, relatives and friends.

Mom and Dad lived in Grenfell. She was very active in her church, hospital and nursing home auxiliaries, the Grenfell Sunshine Singers, Friendship Club and for 40 years in Public Health (as child health clinic convenor). She enjoyed playing cards and going for coffee with friends. She always had jam-jam cookies on hand when the grandchildren and great-grandchildren came to visit and she enjoyed their visits immensely. In 2014 Mom moved to Memory Lane in Grenfell and in 2017 moved to SEICC in Moosomin.

Due to COVID-19, a private funeral service was held in the Peace Lutheran Church, Grenfell, SK on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 2 p.m. with Pastor Gerald Andersen officiating. Interment followed in the Grenfell Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to watch the video of the funeral service that will be made available to the public on Go Forth in Peace Lutheran Parish's Facebook group.

Memorial donations may be made to Peace Lutheran Church, Box 520, Grenfell, SK S0G 2B0 or to SEICC-LTC, Box 1470, Moosomin SK, SOG 3NO. Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com



Obituary

Larry McNaughton March 1, 1954 - March 20, 2021

It is with great sadness that the family announces the death of Larry McNaughton. Larry passed away Saturday, March 20, 2021 in Echo Lodge, Fort Qu'Appelle with family by his side.

Larry Allan McNaughton was born in Indian Head, SK March 1, 1954. He loved fishing anytime of the year and if not fishing he was found watching curling.

will be deeply missed by his daugh-Tonya (Brian) Missens and family; his son, McNaughton and family; his Mabel McNaughton; his brother, Stan (Pat) McNaughton; his sisters, Deb (Carson) and Cindy (Doug) Walsh; and sister-in-law, Jan McNaughton; 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Larry was predeceased by his father, Ernie McNaughton and his brother, Tim McNaughton.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Donations in memory of Larry may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, Saskatchewan Division, 1910 McIntyre Street, Regina, SK S4P 2R3.



Obituary

Elvira Lysechko April 2, 1927 - March 17, 2021

We the family are saddened to announce the passing of our beloved Elvira Lysechko on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 after a long battle with health related issues.

Elvira (nee Norman) was born in Dubuc, Sask. on April 2, 1927. She received her senior matriculation in Dubuc. Elvira was united in marriage to Orest Lysechko on June 2, 1947 and were blessed with one son Gray, on July 11, 1948.



Elvira worked for Eaton's in Melville for many years until she assumed a position of receptionist for her son, Gray, in his dental practice in Melville from 1994 till 1998. She developed a love for petit point and needlepoint and produced many works of artistry that are displayed on family walls.

Elvira was active with the Kinettes and K-40 for many years. Her fondest memories are of the cabin at Crooked Lake where she entertained family and friends for many

Over the last few years she battled with many significant medical issues that eventually overcame her will to perse-

Elvira is survived by her son, Gray and his wife Beverley; her three grandchildren, Tara, Erin and Warren; and three great-grandsons, Arlo, Anson and Carver.

The last eight years of her life were shared and enjoyed with her partner, Bob Martin, as they resided in Caleb Village where they spent many years of happiness together.

Arrangements were by Bailey's Funeral Home, Melville.



Memorium



MANN - Harold, Sept. 1, 1930 March 28, 2013. A loving heart, a secret thought A silent little tear, Are all the things that keep you

When Easter time is here. For you were someone special,

One of the very best, The pain and grief was hard to

When you were laid to rest. Our bond was sadly broken And for now we are apart But time they say, can help to

This ever aching heart. Easter thoughts are bitter sweet Yet lovely to recall. For Dad, it's at special times You're missed the most of all. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. Happy Easter, Dad. Violet, Carol and Royce, Randy, Deb and Rene, Gail, Gary and Anna Judy and families.



SCHMIDT – Darcy Robert, January 1972 - March 2019. We love you and miss our won-

derful husband, daddy and son, every single day.

Two years have passed, you are forever in our hearts, until we

-Love Deb, Bronson, Matilda and

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Card of Thanks

The family of Malina Benna would like to extend their sincere appreciation and utmost gratitude for the outpouring of support, fond memories, lovely thoughts, prayers and condolences during this difficult time. We find great comfort in knowing that our Mom was loved and will be remembered by so many. A very special thank you to the staff at the Whitewood and District Care Home; the compassion, care and respect extended to our mom and our entire family during the past four years has been simply outstanding and will never be forgotten.

The family of William (Bill) BLYTH, would like to express our heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful community, family and friends, near and far, for the kind and comforting words and supportive acts, in the passing of our dear Dad, grampa, and great-grampa.

A special thank you for all the beautiful flowers, gifts of food, visits, messages, calls and memorial donations in Dad's memory. Thank you to Rev. Tomy Mandapathil for his comforting words at the graveside service.

We also want to say a huge thanks to the Whitewood Community Health Centre for all their loving care and assistance throughout the 3 years that Dad was in your care.

We are grateful to Matthews Funeral Home for their very compassionate guidance at this time. To each of you, your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. May God bless you all.

 Allan and Linda, Donna and Dave, Brenda and Brad, Myrna and Scott, and their families.

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com 6-4c

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NW 06-16-04 W2; SE 06-16-04 W2 Will sell altogether or in different parcels. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Tenders close Monday, March 22, 2021. For more information call 306-807-7472

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Notice

NOTICE

Under the provisions of *The Al-cohol and Gaming Regulations Act, 1997.* Notice is hereby given that **Success of Unity Trading Inc.** has applied to the Liquor and Gaming Authority for a **Restaurant Permit** to sell alcohol in premises known as **Hwy. No. 1 Road House Bar & Grill** at 100, 101 Winter Road, Mc-lean SK

Written objections to the granting of the permit may be filed with SLGA not more than two weeks from the date of publication of this notice. Every person filing a written objection with SLGA shall state their name, address and telephone number in printed form, as well as the grounds for the objection(s). Petitions must name a contact person, state grounds and be legible Each signatory to the petition and the contact person must provide an address and telephone number. Frivolous, vexatious or competition-based objections within the beverage alcohol industry may not be considered, and may be rejected by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Licensing Commission who may refuse to hold a hearing.

Write to: Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority Box 5054 Regina, Sask. S4P 3M3

49-2p

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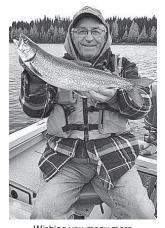
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8-1p

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Melville Advance | Fort Qu'Appelle Times | Whitewood Grenfell Herald Sun

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Grenfell Town Council

Grenfell lagoon expansion continues

By Sarah Pacio **Grasslands News**

Grenfell town council held its regular meeting March 17. Town staff submitted written reports regarding their work for the previous month. Public Works Superintendent Van Bot and CAO Brenna Ackerman's reports indicated that plans to expand the town's lagoon are continuing. Over the past few weeks, they reviewed a draft for the lagoon and proceeded with necessary correspondence to the Government of Saskatchewan. The pre-design for the lagoon was approved at council's meeting on March 3.

Superintendent Bot's report also noted the

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ads@grasslandsnews.ca

Public Works department is preparing for spring thaw by removing snow accumulated in potential high flood areas.

Plans were also presented to council for the annual spring cleanup programs. From May 4 to May 8, Public Works staff will collect garden refuse, grass clippings, and tree branches from residents' front curb. Residents are also encouraged to clean up their properties by taking old appliances, furniture, scrap metal and lumber to the transfer station, free of charge on June 13.

Grenfell's Recreation and Culture Department is tentatively preparing for Canada Day celebrations, including fireworks

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on June 30 and a parade on July 1.

Council approved fundraising opportunities for local non-profit organizations that expressed interest in hosting various aspects of the cele-

On June 30, the Wildlife Club will host beer gardens to raise funds for a dock and trout at its pond at the edge of town, and the fire department will host a barbeque.

The Spitfires hockey team will organize a street hockey tournament on June 30 and host beer gardens on July 1.

The Grenfell Athletic Association and the Grenfell Child Care Centre



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Notice of Assessment Roll

Village of Neudorf

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Village of Neudorf for the year 2021 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the following days: Monday to Thursday, March 26 to May 26, 2021.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of The Municipalities Act has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal, accompanied by a \$100.00 appeal fee to: The Board of Revision Secretary, Aileen Swenson, P.O. Box 187, Neudorf, SK. S0A 2T0, by the 26th day of May, 2021. Dated this 22nd day of March, 2021.

Angela Robertson, Assessor

Assessment Roll Notice RM of Cupar No. 218

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the RM of Cupar No. 218 for the year 2021 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the following days: Monday to Friday, from March 24 to May 24, 2021, excluding holidays.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of The Municipalities Act has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal with:

> The Secretary of the Board of Revision, c/o RM of Cupar No. 218, P.O. Box 400, Cupar, SK, S0G 0Y0 on or before May 24, 2021.

Dated this 22nd day of March, 2021.

Nikki Czemeres, Assessor

RM of Elcapo No. 154 **Notice of Assessment Roll**

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the RM of Elcapo No.154 for the year 2021 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, March 26 to May 28, 2021.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of The Municipalities Act has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal, accompanied by a \$200.00 appeal fee per parcel, which will be returned if the appeal is successful, with: The Assessor, RM of Elcapo No.154, P.O. Box 668 - 524 Main Street, Broadview, Sask., S0G 0K0, by the 28th day of May,

Dated this 26th day of March 2021.

Mervin J. Schmidt, Assessor

LOCAL MATTERS.





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NOT THE LIBRARY YOU REMEMBER



TOWN FOREMAN

Town of Broadview

The Town of Broadview is accepting applications for the position of Town Foreman. This is a permanent fulltime position which is directly responsible to the Town's Public Works Committee and is responsible to direct, control and administer all operational aspects of Public Works.

Applicants must possess a minimum Grade 12/GED, valid Class 5 Driver's License and have or be willing and able to obtain their Water Treatment and Distribution Level II Certification and Wastewater Collection and Treatment Level I Certification.

Individuals that are self-motivated with organizational, supervisory, communication and management skills are encouraged to apply. Previous experience in operating and maintaining large equipment also preferred.

Submit resumes stating experience, certifications, salary expected and references by Friday, April 9, 2021 at 4 p.m. to:

Town of Broadview P.O. Box 430, Broadview, Sask. S0G 0K0 Phone 306-696-2533 Fax 306-696-3573

email: town.of.broadview@sasktel.net

The Town of Broadview would like to thank all who apply, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

RCMP attend two rollovers

By Sabrina Bailey

Fort Qu'Appelle Detachment

Reporting period: March 16 to March 22 Fort Qu'Appelle detachment dealt with 118 occurrences over the past week.

Traffic

Police responded to a 911 call of an impaired driver. Members located the 80-year-old sober driver who reported swerving while letting out a sneeze.

A 40-year-old female is facing two charges of impaired driving. The female got into her vehicle and drove off after being refused the sale of alcohol for being too intoxicated.

An 18-year-old female was charged with failing to remain at the scene of an accident, fleeing from

was worried for no reason!"



police and driving unaccompanied while holding a learner's licence.

Police attended a single vehicle rollover where passengers were ejected. The intoxicated driver fled the scene, but could not hide from the police dog. The driver was taken to the hospital to treat his injuries. He will be charged with driving while impaired and refusing to comply with a blood demand.

The same night police attended another single vehicle rollover. The driver is charged with driving while suspended

LGBTQ curling at the Brier

- continued from page 16

are that way - well they aren't worthy of your time.

Any influence I can have would just be me doing me

and literally not caring what people think. I haven't

had any negative experiences since coming out, and so

all those years I was worried and hid my true self...I

matter where you are from or who you love, curling

is a game everyone can play and be successful at. The

likes of Smith, Epping and Kidby are three role models

for anyone struggling with their sexuality.

These three gentlemen are proof that it does not

after totalling his mother's vehicle. A reminder to stay safe and be responsible on the road.

Mischief

A couple of calls were resolved by the persons going to bed.

Reports were received of an intoxicated male leaning on vehicles and walking in the area. He was located and arrested on an outstanding warrant.

A male reported that his ex would not leave his house. He had just called off the relationship that morning. Members advised it was not a police matter and that some expectations were not logistical.

Police responded to a disturbance involving intoxicated party-goers leaving a residence highly intoxicated. Officers arrived on scene and arrested an adult female who was passed out in the middle of the road. She was held in cells to ensure she had a safe place to sleep.

While on patrol members located an intoxicated individual crawling across the street. The individual's sober uncle arrived at the same time and vouched to take care of his family member.

Police are also inves-

tigating two assault complaints.

Crimes Against the Person/Property

A driver parked their vehicle after being stopped for driving while suspended. When they returned to pick up their vehicle it was gone. The vehicle was reported stolen and later found burnt on a grid road. This is still under investigation.

Updates

In October, a 41-yearold male was located in a ditch off of Hwy. 35, approximately 2 miles north of Fort Qu'Appelle with multiple injuries, including a severed left pinky finger and multiple lacerations across his face/head. The aggressor has plead guilty and is sentenced to 1,980 days of custody for robbery with weapon, aggravated assault, and forcible confinement. The accused is also on a mandatory firearm prohibition and will need to submit DNA.

An abandoned vehicle was reported this week. The vehicle was determined to be the one that hit the planters last week. Who was driving the vehicle at the time can not be confirmed as the vehicle was reported stolen.



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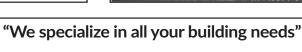
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Future of Pipestone Livestock remains uncertain

By Spencer Kemp

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The future is uncertain for a livestock market in Pipestone, Man. that burned to the ground at the start of this month.

The livestock auction in Pipestone was destroyed in a fire on the evening of Monday, March 1.

The fire, thought to be electrical in nature, began around 6:30 p.m. when Chad Parks saw what he thought to be blowing snow and went to investigate. When he reached the building, the flames had already begun to spread.

Rhett Parks, the owner of Pipestone Livestock Sales and Whitewood Livestock Sales, says it all happened very quickly. He says the building held a lot of memories for him and his family. His father Gene Parks and Jim Morris owned Pipestone Livestock Sales before Rhett Parks bought the business.

"It happened pretty quick," said Parks. "From the time my brother noticed there was something up, when he saw the smoke, in about an hour to an hour and a half there was very little

It was the first auction market that was built outside of Winnipeg in Manitoba back in the late '50s. At that time all the cattle would get on the rail and would be sold at the stockyards in Winnipeg. So Pipestone was the first market outside of Winnipeg. It was a place where people would come week in and week out. People would bring their cattle, and they would visit.

One of my fondest memories was Thanksgiving dinner. Auctions were originally on Monday at the market and so Thanksgiving would fall on a Monday and my dad would be down there; then we would go down as a family and we would have our Thanksgiving dinner down at the mar-

ket. It was our tradition for quite a number of years until I came to the market here in Whitewood and started running

Parks said the fire was a big loss for their family.

"It's a hard day for our families. The community as a whole are all feeling a bit of loss here today."

Nobody was injured in the fire, something Parks says he is grateful for.

"We've been very fortunate. We've had the market there since 1985. My dad and his partner bought it in 1985, then we bought it out from my dad's partner in 2003. It's been almost 40 years. We're fortunate to have the producers we serve and the customers that brought us their cattle to the employees that we work with and work alongside, and many of those employees have been with us for a while. We're very fortunate to have the staff that we do.

"We're very grateful for the relationships we've made over the past 40 years and we're extremely grateful that nobody was injured or hurt in the fire, and my brother, Chad Parks, was able to get the cattle that were in the barn out, so that's the most important thing. Buildings, property, and structures can all be replaced but people can't," said Parks.

"Things could have been worse. We're fortunate that in the big picture it's just a headache, it's definitely a setback but in the big picture we're all still here and we're all still pushing forward. So we need to be thankful for that. We also have to be thankful for all the emergency response services such as the firefighters, paramedics and hydro workers.

"I want to thank everyone who was involved in helping get the fire under control. It meant a lot and it's no doubt a sad day for my family. It still hasn't quite fully set in. I grew up with that place being



The future of Pipestone Livestock, which is owned by Whitewood Livestock's Rhett Parks, was lost to a fire on March 1. The future of the business is still being decided.

where dad worked. That was his business. I've been involved in the business for 20 years myself and this was kind of my time to shine. It's tough, it's almost like losing a family member in the sense that Pipestone was almost like a home away from home."

Reconstruction of the auction building is something Parks says they are entertaining, but nothing is decided.

"I don't want to promise that we are. But in saying that I don't want to say that we aren't. In the next little while here we'll be dealing with our insurance company. I don't want to lead anybody one way or the other but I do want to say that we haven't ruled anything out. We're going to be giving it some serious thought. It's still just kind of fresh here with the circumstances at this time, but over the next few days, we're going to be doing some talking and meeting. At this point, I would say nothing is

ruled out, but nothing is decided."

Parks says that the cattle run is thankfully starting to slow down for the season and they were able to operate through the busy season.

"The cattle numbers are going to start slowing down in the next few weeks. In a couple of weeks, the number of head at a sale will start to get very small. That should carry on through the summer.

In the meantime we're undecided. We haven't had a whole lot of time to wrap our heads around what has transpired. We're going to be talking here and we'll have to talk to the insurance company and they'll have to do an investigation. We'll get a better game plan going forward from there. In the immediate future, we'll be closed for a number of months then see what takes place going forward. It's hard to say at this point."

For those who want to still support them, Parks encourages producers to make a trip to Whitewood and auction cattle there.

"We're always happy to see customers come up to either of our markets. We have sales every Tuesday in Whitewood.

We have some strong buyers and a strong market here. If any producers are wondering where to go, we're more than happy to see them come to Whitewood. Our doors are always open."



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Applicant: Must have a valid driver's license and be comfortable in operating a riding lawnmower. Applications will be accepted until Monday, April 5,

2021 at 3:30 p.m.

Please submit resumes to: District of Katepwa Beach P.O. Box 250 Lebret, SK S0G 2Y0

or email: katepwabeach@sasktel.net

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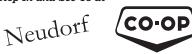
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Area fuel prices begin seeing a steep increase

By Elaine Ashfield Grasslands News

Those feeling the stress of the pandemic, as the number of COVID-19 cases have not quite settled in our area of the province, may resort to a drive in the countryside as their safe alternative to an outing. This drive may be adding to their stress when they head to the gas station to fuel up their vehicles.

The price of gas seems to have been creeping up since the beginning of 2021 with an average of \$1.24 per litre this past

Prices throughout the area on Wednesday at press time varied by 8 cents per litre with prices in Whitewood being as low as \$1.17.9 while it was \$1.18.9 in Grenfell and Broadview, \$1.19.9 in Melville and \$1.25.9 in Fort Qu'Appelle.

According to tracking by GasBuddy, gas prices eased slightly over the past week due to concerns about rising COVID-19

cases in Europe. But that move follows a gain of about 20 per cent since the beginning of 2021, and nearly 60 per cent since last April.

"... we could eventually see prices in Canada potentially eclipse some of the higher levels we've seen in recent years," Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy told CTVnews. ca in an interview.

Several oil-producing nations, including the OPEC group, slashed production last April and have continued to keep it low despite the recent strength in crude prices.

WTI crude oil has risen more than 25 per cent so far in 2021 and was trading at US\$61.20 on Monday, according to oilprice.com.

The surging price of crude oil has been driven by expectations of higher demand as economies reopen with tight supplies due to production cuts made last year.

Also contributing to the supply constraints



Geese return

The geese are back earlier than usual on the Qu'Appelle lakes this year, signaling the beginning of a warm spring. After a very dry winter across southern Saskatchewan, the weather office is increasingly concerned that the above normal temperatures in March could contribute to widespread drought conditions as we head into seeding season. Bring on the spring rain.

were the refinery shutdowns in Texas due to extreme cold weather in February. Those shutdowns alone have likely added seven to 10 cents per litre to gas prices in Canada, said De Haan.

The typical price boost comes as people travel more with the arrival of summer and is added to by the pricier warm weather blend of gasoline that refiners switch to ahead of the summer. Those factors, combined with the supply situation, could continue to push prices higher over

the coming weeks, said De Haan.

He also feels that if OPEC raises production,

that would keep prices from escalating signifi-

"But if they do not we

could be talking about Canada prices this summer over \$1.30 or \$1.35 per liter," DeHaan added.







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