Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Les Jack at the cutting horse world finals in Fort Worth, Texas, left, and at a competition at the Calgary Stampede, right.

Les Jack wins 2021 cutting horse championship

2021 Canadian Non-Pro Cutting Horse champion Les Jack, 54, of the Tantallon/ Rocanville area has been an avid horse-man all his life and it comes as no surprise that his passion for cutting and his love of horses has taken him down the competi-

horses has taken him down the competi-tive road for many, many years.

In cutting horse competitions, a horse and rider have exactly two and a half minutes to single out a cow from a herd of cattle and "cut" it from the herd. For a great visual on "cutting," think Yellow-stone (the show). Once cut from the herd, horse and rider must keep the cow from returning to the rest of the herd. What's required for a cutting horse and rider to succeed? Besides a great rider who

is very in tune with his animal, a horse has to have the agility and the strength to move back and forth as the cow moves back and forth. Once the singled-out cow loses interest and looks away, the horse and rider can re-enter the herd for another cow to cut from the herd.

In an interview recently, Les Jack talked about his love of cutting and of his early years as well. Jack grew up with horses, alongside his parents who instilled in him their love of horses.

"Dad was a cowboy and worked in community pastures and mom loved horses too," Jack said. There was a good 4-H program in the Tantallon area where he grew up and he had the opportunity as well to be part of the Twin Valley Riding Club where he ran barrels and participated in pole bending.

After college in Saskatoon where he met



Les Jack at a cutting horse competition in Moose Jaw.

his wife, Jack moved back home, began married life, and to add to the one horse he already had at that time, he added another. His interest in cutting horses began

other. His interest in cutting norses began when he was 22 years old.

"I met a gentleman by the name of John Bishop who was doing a cutting horse clinic in Yorkton," Jack said. "He would come down during the day and was a great mentor. He even wrote letters of instruction that he would send me—I still have every one of those letters. He really have every one of those letters. He really

piqued my interest in cutting."

Though John passed away around that time, it was through him and his wife that Jack was able to get his very first trained cutting horse which he showed in 1991 at a beginner class where Jack won all three awards.

In 1993 Jack says he had to slow down with horses and competition in order to concentrate on a new business venture. Though he didn't know much about the pole framing building process at the time,

he went into it hook, line and sinker, and he went into it hook, line and sinker, and along with his wife and many great employees over the years, he has turned AFAB Industries in Rocanville into a successful, long-standing business.

In 1995, Jack began showing a bit once again and in 1996 got more serious about competition, winning the Non-Pro Saskatchewan award that year.

"In horse cutting competiting " Jack ex-

"In horse cutting competition," Jack explained, "there are two categories —Open and Non-Professional. Riders in the Open category are horse trainers whereas riders in the Non-Pro category don't train horses

"T've been pretty lucky," Jack says about his years of competition. Back in 1998 he won the Spring Spectacular in Claresholm, Alberta. He also was Canadian Reserve Champion in 2020, 2017, and 2012. In fact, he has placed in the top 10 since early 2000.

'Ít's all about the horses." Iack ex-"It's all about the horses," Jack explained as he talked about having a really good eye for seeing horse talent. Jack has had a lot of great horses and for that he feels blessed. However, he explained, a cutting horse has to want to do what they are doing. "They need agility, intellect, grit and determination," he said.

"The great ones (horses) tell me they are

grit and determination, 'ne said.
"The great ones (horses) tell me they are great," Jack went on to say. "Even from an early age, these horses read a cow."
Jack says training of a horse starts usually around the end of their yearling year. He has sent many horses for their early training to Mandy Quam who starts them before Jack takes over.

Continued on page 3 ™



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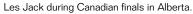
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Les Jack during a cutting horse competition in Moose Jaw.

Les Jack wins 2021 cutting horse championship

₩ Continued from front

Jack also credits many for what he has learned, soaking up everything he could from those he watched and talked to, saying those in the cutting horse field are very open with their knowledge and that he has learned so much from them.

"It's a cool sport," Jack said. "Other riders help me and really when they help me they're setting themselves up for me to beat them. But it's all about the horses. We all love horses."

Jack spent a lot of time on the road in 2021 both in Canada and the U.S. and racked up around 65,000 kilometres that year. He competed and had a great showing in South Dakota last year, winning all three days. He was only home a few days before he headed off to Arizona, driving 38 hours to compete there and finally to World Finals in Texas in an effort to make it into the top 15. He took 16th spot, just short of his goal.

Jack was humbled last year to be inducted in the Canadian Cutting Horse Association (CCHA) Hall of Fame. Jack is the 16th inductee since the CCHA formed in 1954, so it is a remarkable accomplishment and one that Jack can be very proud of.

Jack is also CCHA President and has also acted as Vice-President. He feels so fortunate to be part of this great organization and this great sport and to have had the successes he has had. Those two and a half minutes of competition are intense for Jack, but he is very competitive. He says he has learned to control his nerves when he competes and when he's in the midst of those two and a half minutes, he is totally in tune with his horse and he is fully concentrating on the lieb at hand.

natt munutes, he is totally in tune with his horse and he is fully concentrating on the job at hand.
"It may sound silly, but what's been good for our sport is Yellowstone (the show)," Jack said. "It really helps people understand what cutting is all about and how it's done."

Jack says he is eternally grateful to his wife, his parents and his daughter (who has traveled with him at times and gotten his horse ready), as well as the good people at AFAB.

"It's easy to say, 'look what I did,' " he said, "but the people around me have really helped me be able to do what I do."

And with that, Jack and his horse are already preparing to head out to Arizona this week. While the Canadian season lasts from May to October, the U.S. season runs from January to November and that means that with just a little travel (or a lot as the case may be), Jack can get into the arena to compete there long before the Canadian season even starts.

Jack's plans going forward are to keep on doing what he's doing, cutting and competing and enjoying every moment of it.







MNS hosts winter camp weekend at Kenosee

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On the weekend of Dec. 18, Métis citizens gathered at Keno-see Lake for the first winter camp at Métis Nation Saskatchewan— Eastern Region 3, to learn and engage in traditional activities like dogsledding, which is one of a series of Traditional Métis Land

aseries of industrial multiples Land Based Education Programs. "I think what makes this unique is that it's a winter camp. A lot of people do the summer and the fall, but they don't do

and the fall, but they don't do
the winter," says camper Shannon Landrie-Crossland.
"We do harvest during the winter, we do it through all seasons
but I think that's what makes
this really cool and unique, is
because not many people know
how to do it during the winter."

One of the main focuses for the winter camp is to teach youth about winter survival and Métis traditions, including "lii shyaen di trenn," also known as dog-

An Elder from the region, Calvin Racette, says dogsledding carries traditional meanings and values to the Métis Nation.

He also says that it's impor-tant to pass down the practices of survival to Métis youth so that they too can learn about wildlife track identification, how to set snare and beaver traps, as well learning how to build and tear



Above: Eagle Ridge Dog Sled Tours, owner Garrick Schmidt, has about 24 dogs who have been in training since September. Left: Calvin Racette, Garrick Schmidt, Shannon Landrie-Crossland and Heather Witherspoon.

down camp sites.

"Dogsleds are a big part of our community, they have been for-ever," says Racette.

"Our people used to deliver the mail by dogsleds, in the win-ter and summer time, by horse and carriage as well. They were the backbone of the workforce."

Racette says his ancestors used to take great care of their dogs because of how valuable they

"These guys would treat their dogs so good that each of these dogs would have their own blankets. They had coats and a little blanket that they would wear on

their backs, dog shoes that they would wear, stuff like that. These guys would really look after their dogs, it's like the equivalent of looking after your car today," says Racette.

President of Eastern Region 3 of Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Dexter Mondor, says the commitment of caring and looking after their sled dogs is equal to an individual caring for their car.
"How you would wash and

wax your car, each of the compartments in a car is like each dog has their own separate compartment. Garrick (owner of sled dogs) knows each of them, they all have their own name, their own personalities."

Garrick Schmidt is the owner of Eagle Ridge Dog Sled Tours. He has about 24 sled dogs, ranging in ages from eight months to 10 years old.

He's been in the field of dog-sledding for about four years and has a passion for it.

Schmidt has been training his dogs since September for a competitive sleddog race in February, right now he says his dogs have the stamina to run for three

"He's (Garrick) been doing dogsledding for a couple of years, he did four tours for our Eastern Region last year and he helped with the summer camps, so we decided let's do a winter camp and do a lot more dogsled-

"This, is the first winter camp for our region, this summer we did three summer camps."

Mondor says winter camps have been done before, but this is the first year its happened in

Continued on page 23 🕾

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Asessippi Ski Area & Resort located just north of Russell, Manitoba, offers a variety of outdoor activities throughout the winter and summer time. Individuals from across the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan go to the area for skiing, snowboarding, downhill tubing, mountain biking, camping, golfing, weddings, cottage coves and more.

Asessippi Ski Resort & other winter activities

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Manitoba's outdoor adventure resort—Asessippi Ski Area & Resort, has redesigned its rental area to allow families and individuals the opportunity to enjoy winter activities, all while staying safe through social distancing

"Certainly we had to change a lot of our policies, procedures and protocols, but Manitoba Health has been fantastic in helping us with trying to make everything as safe as possible," says Richard Crosthwaite, general manager

as possible, says include Crosinvaile, general manager of the Assessippi Ski Area & Resort.

"It's been a learning curve for us just as it's been for every other business. Hopefully when our clients get here, we want them to feel safe enough. We want people to come here and have fun, that's what we strive for."

The Asessippi resort is located just north of Russell, Manitoba. They offer outdoor activities all year around

such as skiing, snowboarding, downhill tubing, golfing, mountain biking, camping and more. "We certainly do different things on the hill, we want to give people a variety, so we thought why not have something different for a bit of everyone here," says Crosth-

We offer a wonderful variety of activities, we have a ski hill here with 26 runs, we have a magic carpet, we have multiple things available for all walks of life. Basically we don't just offer skiing at the hill, we also have ski bikes, we've got snow shoe trails, we also do weddings. We do up to 40 weddings a year. We have different venues." During the winter season, Crosthwaite says the Ases-

sippi resort also offers beginner to intermediate lessons of skiing and snowboarding. However, due to the inconsistent weather during the months of November and December, the business was not able to stay open for a con-

"We make 100 per cent of our snow at Asessippi and we like to start at the end of October. It was unfortunate that during this year in November and in the beginning of December, the temperatures were not favorable. They were very warm so we couldn't really make that much snow," Crosthwaite says.

That affects us because obviously we can't open in the time frame that we need to. I pump about 10 million gallons of snow a year, that takes a considerate amount of effort and time to do. If we can guarantee a consistent temperature of minus 25 that would be absolutely spec-

Crosthwaite says Asessippi resort was closed during the Christmas period, due to the weather being too cold to operate the snow hills in a safe manner.
"Our policy is that if the weather is minus 35 with a windchill, we don't operate," he says.
"My number one goal is for everyone to have fun and

windchill, we don't operate," he says.

"My number one goal is for everyone to have fun, and everyone's safety. Safety is my number one concern on the hill, I'm constantly observing what the temperatures are and unfortunately when the temperatures are not favorable, we cannot open with respect to the rules."

The days when it is too cold to be outside, Crosthwaite says the business is forced to close due to safety concerns. "We can't operate when it's minus 35 with a windchill, it's just too dangerous, the machines don't like it and it's not healthy for the staff."

"When people come to Assessippi I want them to en-

"When people come to Asessippi I want them to en-joy the experience and not leave thinking it could've been better. It's the safety aspect that really worries me."

Although the business started off to a rough season,

Crosthwaite says the weather now, seems to be good enough to run winter activities and stay open.

"We have a lot going on here and just getting people to the area is terrific for the local community."

not only during the winter season, but during the summer time as well.

"It (Asessippi Ski Area & Resort) certainly benefits the community because we get about 80,000 people that come here a year," Crosthwaite says.

"People come from all over the province which is absolutely fantastic. Everyone spends a lot of time in the area, at the local shops, the retails, the gas stations and more, so I'd like to think those are all ambassadors for the area."

"Hopefully people come back not just for skiing, but in the summer, because during the summer there's so much going on in the area. We have wonderful golf courses, we have fishing in the nice lakes, camping, things like that."

During the summer, Crosthwaite says the resort is the During the summer, crostinuate says the resort is the only place in the area that offers downhill mountain biking throughout the months of June to September.

"We are actually the only west access mountain bikes trail system in Manitoba, which is quite unique for us."

"We're always trying to expand the business, so that we can be a year round resort rather than just being open during the winter resort. We have a fabulous chalet here, which doesn't get utilized to its full potential so that's what we're trying to aim for. Trying to accommodate for weddings and just make use of the surroundings we have. It's a beautiful adventurous area during the summer as well, so we need to jump on that bandwagon."

Individuals can check www.asessippi.com for additions and updates on current winter activities

Crosthwaite says the business has made enough snow now to last until March, and as long as the weather coperates, he says the Asessippi Ski Area & Resort should be busy and able to stay open.





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Pilot immigration program aims to address labor shortage

BY FABIAN DAWSON,
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
BY 2029, Saskatchewan will likely have 12,300 more
jobs than the domestic labour force can fill. To address the

critical labour shortage, the provincial government announced a new pilot immigration program.

Located approximately 140 kilometres east of Saskatoon, the BHP Jansen Project in Saskatchewan is taking shape to be the largest potash-producing mine in the world

The project is expected to create around 3,500 jobs annually during construction plus more than 600 jobs at the mine site and corporate office in Saskatoon. In Yorkton, one of the fastest-growing cities in Saskatchewan, dozens of local businesses have "We are hir-

ing" signs posted on their windows and parking lots.
"In early November, Canadian Tire, Starbucks, SaskTel,
The Brick, Walmart, Mary Browns, Omega Auto Parts,
Parkland College and many others had similar signs on

Parkland College and many others had similar signs on their buildings or in their parking lots, telling locals about available jobs," reported Sasktoday.ca
Across the prairie province known as the 'Bread Basket of Canada', the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council predicts that by 2029, Saskatchewan will have 12,300 more jobs than the domestic labour force can fill. "Saskatchewan's agriculture sector has limited access to forcing workers and the lowert rollage on this labour.

to foreign workers and the lowest reliance on this labour source: only 1.6% of the province's agricultural workforce is foreign workers, compared to 17% across the entire Canadian agricultural sector workforce," the council said in its forecast 2029 report.

Critical shortage of workers

Jim Bence, president and CEO of Hospitality Saskatchewan said that his industry has thousands of vacancies including almost 600 for cooks and kitchen staff.

Saying it's a crisis or an acute problem, will be an un-derstatement, Bence said.

To address the critical shortage of workers in Saskatchewan, the provincial government last week announced a new pilot under the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) to address hard-to-fill positions in the

The 'Hard-To-Fill Skills Pilot' will enable Saskatchewan employers to recruit workers through overseas missions, or other international recruitment activities, into select jobs that have significant recruitment challenges, the government said.

"The pilot gives employers the ability to recruit in these occupations to fill critical vacancies that can't be filled by domestic labour or other Federal immigration programs and enables the workers to become permanent residents faster," said Robin Speer, a spokesperson for the Government of Saskatchewan.

"The majority of the occupations under the pilot were not eligible under the SINP or any immigration program before. Five of the eligible occupations previously required the worker to work in Saskatchewan for at least six months before they could apply to the SINP and start the permanent immigration process," he said in a written response to questions from NCM.

Speer said the Hard-To-Fill Skills (HFS) Pilot includes 23 occupations in the following sectors: Health, Hospi-



tality, Agriculture Value Added, Primary Agriculture, Forestry, Sales and Service, Logistics and Transportation, Residential and Commercial Construction and Metal and

Agriculture Machinery Manufacturing.

"In second quarter of 2021, there were 685 job vacancies for construction trades helpers and labourers, up 149% from the same quarter in 2019 (pre-pandemic base), Other occupations with a high number of vacancies that have increased over the same period are heavy equipment op-erators (except crane), transport truck drivers, food and beverage servers, material handlers, janitors, caretakers and building superintendents, and home support work-

ers and housekeepers," said Speer.
"We anticipate demand will increase for many of these occupations as major economic projects continue to come on stream in the forestry, mining, manufacturing, and agri-value sectors...Completion of phase one of the BHP Jansen mine alone will alone create 3,500 construction

Bence from Hospitality Saskatchewan described the pilot program as "a much needed timely solution.

Post-COVID immigration

"It's a great move to attract immigrant talent and pro-vides a quicker pathway to residency," he said. "While we always work hard to exhaust every oppor-

tunity to hire locally, we have to be creative to ensure we have the right labour supply to help our business and communities grow and thrive in Saskatchewan, some-

thing this very unique program will be especially helpful with post-COVID. $^{\prime\prime}_-$

with post-COVID."
"This new Hard-To-Fill Skills Pilot – developed in Sas-katchewan for Saskatchewan – is progress on our autono-my discussions with the federal government and is going to help provide employers with greater access to interna-tional options to recruit workers," said the province's Immigration and Career Training Minister Jeremy Harrison, in a statement.

The pilot is scheduled to launch this month. To be eligible, applicants to the Hard-To-Fill Skills Pilot

must:
Have a full-time, permanent offer of employment and SINP job approval letter for an eligible occupation from a registered Saskatchewan employer;

Meet a minimum Canadian Official Language profi-

Meet the minimum educational and work experience requirements, which include having at least one year of work experience in the same occupation as the job offer or

work experience in the same occupation as tiel po offer or six-month work experience in that job in Saskatchewan. The employers in the pilot program must demonstrate they have made extensive efforts to hire domestically prior to utilizing the pilot for recruitment, demonstrate the need and benefit for their business, and fulfill require-ments related to providing settlement support for the

For more information on the initiative and eligibility criteria, contact 1-833-613-0485 or immigration@gov.sk.ca.

Procurement begins for new Weyburn General Hospital

The Government of Saskatchewan has issued a Request for Qualifications (RPQ) to identify qualified firms to design and construct the new Weyburn General Hospital and lead the demolition of the existing

We are pleased to be taking the next step toward an "We are pleased to be taking the next step toward an integrated model of care, bringing acute care and mental health services together," Rural and Remote Health Minister Everett Hindley said. "This new facility will be more efficient and will ultimately provide better patient care for residents of Weyburn and area."

The new 35-bed hospital will be built on a greenfield

site located on the north side of 5th Avenue North be-tween Hamilton Street and 5th Street at 275 - 5th Av-enue North West. When complete, it will include 25 acute care beds and 10 in-patient mental health beds

This is such an exciting announcement for our community and the entire region," Education Minister and Weyburn-Big Muddy MLA Dustin Duncan said. "Our government has committed to investing in generational health care projects like the Weyburn Hospital and I am pleased to see this move forward today."

The teams shortlisted through this RFQ will proceed

to the second stage of procurement for the project: a Request for Proposals, that is expected to open later this year and will be used to select a team to lead the project.

"We look forward to the progression of this project," Saskatchewan Health Authority Acting Vice President of Infrastructure, Information and Support Derek Miller said. "The new facility will serve the residents of Weyburn and the surrounding area by ensuring access to expanded health care services as well as efficiencies made to existing services."

Sask leads in job growth in December

Job numbers released by Statistics Canada for December 2021 show Saskatchewan's month-over-month employment (seasonally adjusted) increased by 6,000 (up 1.1 per cent) from November 2021, which was the highest

growth among provinces in terms of percentage change. Year-over-year employment increased by 21,900 (up 4.0 per cent) from December 2020. The unemployment rate

per cent) from December 2020. The unemployment rate was 5.4 per cent, down from 8.0 per cent a year ago, and below the national average of 5.9 per cent.

Major year-over-year gains were reported for health care and social assistance with 8,000 more jobs (up 9.8 per cent), trade with 7,400 more jobs (up 8.4 per cent), and construction with 4,700 more jobs (up 12.2 per cent). Over

the same period, the private sector was up 10,800 jobs (up 3.5 per cent), female employment increased by 10,600 jobs

3.5 per cent), temale employment increased by 11,600 jobs (up 4.2 per cent) and youth employment was up 7,700 jobs (up 11.3 per cent).

In 2021, off-reserve Aboriginal employment was up by 6,300 (up 12.1 per cent), the highest year-over-year growth rate ever on record since 2005. Off-reserve Aboriginal youth employment was up by 1,700 (up 20.5 per cent) from a year ago, the second highest year-over-year crouth art over or proceed sizes 2005.

growth rate ever on record since 2005.

According to an average of major private forecasters, Saskatchewan's real GDP is expected to rebound and grow by 4.0 per cent in 2022.



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Gloria Stevenson retires after 46-year career with Southeast College

Many changes seen at college over Stevenson's 46-year career

BY DONNA BEUTLER

After more than four and a half decades of working for the Southeast College, Gloria Stevenson of Whitewood has retired. Effective January 4, 2022, Stevenson stepped back from her position with the college and, in a recent interview, says the reality of it hasn't quite hit her yet.

a recent interview, says the reality of it hasn't quite hit her yet.

Stevenson grew up in Medicine Hat, Alberta and by the time she was in high school, she was helping her dad with the publishing work he did by putting type together (yes, one letter at a time) and with proofreading.

In August of 1975, after marrying Brian Stevenson of Whitewood, she moved to Whitewood and it wasn't too

long after that that she began to give some thought to

getting a job.
"It was different for me," Stevenson said, "coming from the city to a farm and I was ready," both to get a

job and to get off the farm.

At the time, the president of the college, Al Yeaman, had a decision to make—start the college office in Whitewood or in Moosomin and by a stroke of luck, Whitewood was the chosen location and Stevenson was glad that that was his decision. She was interviewed by Yeaman and in November of 1975, she started her new

"I really respected Al Yeaman," Stevenson said of the former president (now deceased). "He was a fatherly-like figure and it was under his leadership that the col-

like figure and it was under his leadership that the college was started that year (1975)."

The first South East Region College office in Whitewood (1975) was a tiny one-room office on the main floor of Joe Ashfield's 3rd Avenue building. The building at the time also housed Dr. Joomun's office and the newspaper shop (the Whitewood Herald) in the basement. In the early '80s, the college moved to a bigger space next to Carson's Carpet Centre on South Railway. The new space included two offices, a storage room and a washroom.

Several years later the college was on the move again, this time to the space they still occupy—the northwest wing of the Whitewood school on 5th Avenue. This space offered something they had never had before and that was classroom space, two classrooms to be exact plus a board room which doubled as another classroom. The official administration area was very spacious in comparison to the smaller offices of the past

In 2021, the college expanded yet again, this time into the remaining space once occupied by the elementary school. No longer was the college utilizing just the north end of the west wing of the school, it now occupied the entire west wing which features four additional classrooms. This additional area has allowed the college to expand its classes and has meant increased staff in Whitewood as well.

Stevenson feels the future of the college is a strong one and the location is great. It is close to First Nation communities and it offers many programs including the Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) program and Adult



Gloria Stevenson in front of the Southeast College building in Whitewood.

Basic Education (ABE).
"Students come from all over to attend the CCA program," Stevenson said, "and that has had a big impact on a community like Whitewood because those stu-dents need accommodation and so businesses such as restaurants, gas stations and stores all benefit. Plus,"
Stevenson added, "it shows you can take your education close to home."

Stevenson reflected on the many changes she has seen Stevenson reflected on the many changes she has seen over the years, explaining that in those early years when the college was just starting up, they got local contact committees in many communities. These committees determined program ideas and what teachers or skilled people would be able to teach the classes.

"The contact committees took the phone calls for registration and even collected the tuition money," Steven-

istration and even collected the tuition money, Seven-son said. The classes included macramé, organ playing, oil painting, microwave cooking and many more. Over time, as people aged and instructors were harder to get, the college moved away from doing the programming as they had and began to do needs assessments which showed what types of skills were needed.

"Now, credit classes, basic education, safety educa-

tion and business education, to name a few, are all offered." says Stevenson.

The college has learning centres that now have hightech equipment, something that has had a huge impact on the courses they offer. The college also has learning centres on nearby First Nations such as Cowessess and

Zagime.

"Back in 1975, we didn't even have computers, venson said. "I lived on the farm then and we still had party (telephone) lines in those days. When you see how we have changed over the years and what we have now, it's hard to believe."

Stevenson went on to say that, with the technology we have today, students could continue to learn even during Covid because so much could be done online. "In the past," Stevenson recalled, "we (staff) traveled once a month to Weyburn for staff meetings but most of

That is now done via Zoom."

Presently, the college staff in Whitewood includes a student advisor, an ABE instructor and a campus manager that divides her time between the Whitewood and Moosomin offices

Stevenson didn't only work for the college, she took several classes as well in order to earn her Diploma of Associate Administration from the University of Regina. She proudly graduated in the same ceremony where her daughter received her Bachelor of Administration. Stevenson has held several roles with the college over

her many years there including Secretary, Program Clerk, Administrative Assistant, Senior Project Officer, Supervisor Campus Services, Consultant, Marketing Manager, Aboriginal Assistant/Aboriginal Education and Training Co-ordinator and her most recent title, Program Co-ordinator.

Program Co-ordinator.

Stevenson's strong administrative and organizational skills were well-utilized throughout her years and she says there were many highlights in her career including one where she did a Senior Independence Project. This meant working with seniors in eight communities and, according to Stevenson, it was a delight to work with the 893 participants in 39 different programs including such classes as Prescription Drugs, Travel to other Countries, Gentle Exercise, Introduction to Computers, Osteoporosis, Bird Watching and even Line Dancing!

Another area that Stevenson really loved was applying (and getting) funding for such things as a Mining Essential Work Readiness program for the Indigenous, and for a Cooking and Hospitality Training program.

Stevenson knows retirement will mean she will now have more time to spend with her family, go camping, get a small greenhouse put up, read more and cook more.

"The college has been a wonderful employer all these years," Stevenson said, and she feels blessed to have been able to work for them. She knows she will miss her colleagues and instructors because they have been her work family for so long, but now, it's time to retire and she says, "I am really going to enjoy it!"





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Sask 'Farm TV' YouTubers attract millions of views just acting naturally

BY NICK PEARCE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Mike Mitchell shoots first and speaks in the third person

later.
The Saskatchewan farmer's breezy, off-the-cuff, thirdnne saskatcnewan tarmer's breezy, oft-the-cuff, third-person narration from behind a phone camera has attract-ed millions of online views for his YouTube channel. "I talk about the pros and cons, and that's just how Mike has always done videos," Mitchell said. Call it Farm TV, but aside from entertainment, it can dis-pel myths about modern agriculture, he added. His noughly 10-to 30-minute videos documenting daily.

His roughly 10- to 30-minute videos documenting daily life on a Saskatchewan farm are part of a growing trend of farmers reaching out to consumers with slice-of-life videos. The reality TV elements of farm YouTube may also point

to a desire among urban consumers, who've grown de-tached from rural lifestyles, to reconnect with the sources of their food.

That approach has drawn viewers ranging from other farmers comparing notes to urban dwellers intrigued by

authentic farm life.

Whatever it is, it's popular. Mitchell has accrued roughly 162,000 subscribers on YouTube. Mitchell, a movie buff, aims for a realistic but entertaining representation of farm life, with all the attendant chores and frustrations.

He seeds, fixes machinery and patiently explains every minute detail so that every viewer can understand what

happens next.
Some entries have gained millions of views. Michell said the most popular tend to include shots of farm equipment getting stuck and breaking down.

His page on Patreon, an app where users subscribe and pay monthly fees to content creators to be more personally

connected, has about 900 subscribers.

This article won't share where he farms because some uninvited fans have even tracked him down.

Last spring, three unbidden viewers showed up in his yard looking for autographs and photos. Mitchell asks that viewers at least contact him beforehand.

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Continued on page 22 18



Farmer Mike Mitchell has attracted 162,000 subscribers to his YouTube chronicling farm life.



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Wapella game pays tribute to Blackhawk legends

The echoes of senior hockey games past will come alive in the Wapella rink on Saturday, January 15 when the Moosomin Rangers take to the ice against the Wawota

Rangers take to the ice against the Wawota Flyers for a Big Six League senior hockey game that pays tribute to the legendary Wapella Blackhawks.

Wapella's proud hockey history will be on display in living action that night when the Rangers don Blackhawks jerseys for the game with the names and numbers of former Wapella Blackhawks abusers on of former Wapella Blackhawks players on them.

Some of the players on the ice—such as Bud Holloway, Brayden Holloway, Devin McGonigal, and Levi Horn—will be wearing the jerseys of their relatives who used to play on the Blackhawks back when the team was known to be one of the best se-nior hockey teams in the province, pack-ing the rink in Wapella every time there was a game.

was a game.

The team was the home of the famous
Holloway brothers—five brothers who were legendary
for their hockey skill on the ice. Former pro hockey player
Bud Holloway, who now plays for the Moosomin Rangers, will be wearing the jersey of his grandfather George
Holloway—one of the five Holloway brothers—while
player Brayden Holloway will be wearing the jersey of his
grandfather Leeson Holloway, also one of the brothers.

After the game, all of the Blackhawks jerseys from that
night will be auctioned off at a post-game social in the Wapella rink lobby.

It will be the first senior hockey game in Wapella since
1994 with the puck dropping at 8 pm that night.

Long-time Rangers executive member Donnie Ferguson, says he remembers when the Blackhawks were the
pride of the senior hockey world.

son, says he remembers when the Blackhawks were the pride of the senior hockey world.

"In the 1950s they had a whale of a team and Moosomin didn't have a team then and that's why the Moosomin guys went and played with them," says Ferguson. "They would go to provincials and win or be right up at the top. And I remember going to games in Wapella and there were people sitting up in the rafters.

"I'd be seven or eight years old then and I remembered you'd go in there and hope that nobody had to go to the bathroom because there were so many people you couldn't get to the waiting room.

"The women from the cafeteria came out and they went around the ice with a few carts and they sold coffee and

around the ice with a few carts and they sold coffee and hot dogs and chocolate bars and hot chocolate, and they served the people from on the ice because the people couldn't get into the lobby.

"I'm expecting a whale of a crowd there (for this game

on January 15)

In expectung a whale of a crowd there (for this game on January 15)."

Wapella's Bud Holloway, who has joined the Rangers for his first season after his pro career, along with his cousin Brayden Holloway, says he's excited for what this game means for his home town.

"I have a lot of good friends in Moosomin, and with Brayden, my cousin being there too, it was another great reason to join the Rangers this year," he says. "I just thought if I could get the game in Wapella, it would be a good thing for the Wapella rink. We haven't had a lot of minor hockey teams in the last few years, and the last senior game was in '94 when my dad played. I thought it would be a special thing to have hockey back there.

"It's a big hockey town, and everyone remembers the Blackhawks. Most of the hockey clubs remember them so I thought it would be a pretty cool thing. Moosomin took it a step further and got the jerseys for this game, and that was just awesome.

was just awesome.
"I've been driving around doing hockey camps and I've
talked to people in Carlyle and Esterhazy and everywhere
and they ask 'when is that game in Wapella?' It's not just
isolated to Wapella, I think a lot of people are excited to
see hockey back in the old barn, so it will be pretty fun. It
should be a fairly coed turnout.

see hockey back in the old barn, so it will be pretty tun. It should be a fairly good turnout.

"I think they all have memories of going and watching senior games there, or their family member or somebody played there, or they have relations in Wapella.

"It just seems like everyone has a bit of a memory of a game from a long time ago and they are excited to go back and see the game in that rink. It's a really tight rink so things harpen fairly quick and it will be fairly fast-paced.

and see the game in that rink. It's a really tight rink so things happen fairly quick and it will be fairly fast-paced hockey because it's a smaller ice surface than Moosomin. "It's pretty special for me, getting to wear my grandpa's jersey. I know how proud he would be. He'd be telling people since October when the game was first planned, he'd be telling everyone every day about it. For me that's a pretty cool thing to get to wear his jersey. "Hockey has always been a part of my family. I watched my dad play senior all the time and just loved to be at the rink. You'd always hear the stories—my grandpa would tell stories. I got to watch a lot of dad's hockey. I was quite tyoung but I still remember it. Those were quite special times for me. Watching that, listening, that just kind of pushes you, not so much to make the NHL, but just the love for hockey, wanting to be out there, wanting to play. When I was a kid, I was at the Wapella rink—if they had open ice I was there."

Bud says he hasn't played a serious hockey game on his

open ice I was there."
Bud says he hasn't played a serious hockey game on his
hometown rink since he was a kid.
"The last time I played in that rink was probably when
I was a Pee Wee or a second year Atom. I've played rec
games but never a game that was being kept track of.
"It will be pretty special. I have the memories of going to



games, and my dad after warmup would take me around skating with him between the warmup and the game and then I'd be able to sit in the crowd with mom or the other kids and watch the hockey game. Its a lot of emotion for sure, especially wearing grandpa's jersey and having hockey back in that rink. It's a really good thing for the community as well. Right now with everything going on and how crazy it is, it's something to look forward to and

and how crazy it is, it's something to look forward to and I think everyone kind of needs that right now.

"The Rangers have done a great job as far as having the alumni game with the former Rangers and the former Blackhawks. The whole organization has been great for Wapella and trying to promote and do all that stuff to make this game happen. The alumni game was really fun to go watch. They've done a lot of really great things this year—we are really lucky."

"As soon as I heard about this game, I was really excited and hoping that it would go through," says Bud's cousin Brayden Holloway, who will be skating with his grandfather's jersey that night. "Everyone kept their word and did it. It's kind of nice to see a game being played in Wapella, especially with the Blackhawks in mind playing it. "I'll be wearing my grandpa Leeson Holloway's num

"Til be wearing my grandpa Leeson Holloway's number. Our son's middle name is Leeson, so we are carrying on the tradition of his name.



From left: Devin McGonigal wearing the jersey of his relative Winston McGo niigal, Levi Horn wearing his great grand-father's jersey, and Bud Holloway wear-ing his grandfather George Holloway's jersey. All of the Rangers will be wearing the jerseys of former Blackhawks play-ers during the Jan. 15 game.

"My dad played up until '93, the year I was born. We all won a senior championship in the C division—my grand-

"My dad played up until '93, the year I was born. We all won a senior championship in the C division—my grandpa, my dad and myself.

"It's going to be great, I haven't played in Wapella in a long time. I'm really looking forward to getting back to the old ways and carrying on the Holloway name. Hopefully we can put together a fun game for everyone to watch and hopefully we can keep doing this every year. It would be really great, especially for the community. I look forward to playing every game with my cousin Bud, this one will just be a little more special with the family name.

"I think it's just going to help out the community and keep awareness of all the great hockey players there were in Wapella. It's a lot smaller center. My grandpa and Bud's grandpa are both passed away now. I think it's just a good tribute for them and keeps the name alive."

Why are people so passionate about hockey in Wapella?
"Tactually think it all started with those guys on that list of jerseys that we are going to be wearing," says Brayden. "They gave everyone a fun reason to get out of their house and do something on the weekend, to go out and watch some hockey and socialize with people, and something to cheer for."



Winter Wonderland day coming up at Moosomin Regional Park

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
This year, the Moosomin and District Regional Park Board has decided to host a Winter Wonderland all-day event, on

Saturday January 22.

The chair of the Moosomin Regional Park committee Karen Hebert, says she

and Cathy Doane came up with the idea while planning for Regional Park events for the new year.
"Cathy Doane came up with the idea,

her and I were working together on dif-ferent things to do at the park all year around, and we put our heads together and came up with this one," says He-

Because there were no activities happening at the Regional Park during the winter season, Hebert thought an event should take place.
"Well because we don't do any events

"Well because we don't do any events during winter at the park, we just have our August long weekend in the summer and do different things during the summer time, but we've never held an event during the winter time."

"We thought that last year with Covid, the park was very busy which was wonderful and it's just another attraction to the park for people to come and enjoy it.

the park for people to come and enjoy it,

in all the seasons," Herbert says.
During the Winter Wonderland event, individuals will be able to participate in horse-drawn sleigh rides, to grab some smores around the fire, have some hot chocolate and have a chance to go skating on Moosomin's Lake.

"The winter time is such a great time to have a sleigh ride, that's why we thought the activity would be best. We're going to try to get some of the icc cleaned off of the lake, weather permitting, and let people get out there skating, and just enjoy the outdoors."

The Park Board and volunteers will be

ing, and just enjoy the outdoors.

The Park Board and volunteers will be

helping out at the event.

Hebert says she hopes this event let's the community know that Moosomin's

Regional Park, is a place for people to go to all year around.

"It's just not a place to go in the summer time, there's lots to do at the park in the winter time too '



Alyssa Jones submitted this photo of skating on Moosomin's Lake in last year's Winter Fun Photography. The Moosomin Regional Park is planning to clear off part of the lake for skating at their Winter Wonderland event on Jan. 22.



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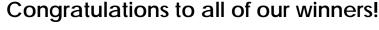


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A site has been selected for a new nursing home for Grenfell. The community has been without a nursing home since the former facility closed

Site selected for new Grenfell nursing home

The Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) have finalized the location of a new publicly-funded, publicly-operated long-term care facility for residents of Grenfell and area.

The 33-bed home will be built on a vacant parcel of

The 33-bed home will be built on a vacant parcel of land located on the northeast corner of Grenfell.

The property is owned by the Town of Grenfell.

The SHA will operate the new facility.

Saskatoon-based Strategic Prairie Region Alliance has been engaged to design the new facility, with Colliers Canada's Regina-based team providing project management services, following a Request for Proposals process earlier this year.

"We're happy to be moving ahead with this project."

"We're happy to be moving ahead with this project, which will provide a safe, healthy and home-like environment for residents and staff," Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health Minister Everett Hindley said.

"Not only will the new home be a wonderful place to live and work, it will allow seniors to remain in Grenfell

and be closer to their loved ones.

The Provincial Budget, released on April 6, included \$3.6 million in funding to advance design and engineering work for the new facility.

"This site selection is a key milestone for the new facility in Grenfell," SaskBuilds and Procurement Minister

ly in Gerifielt, Saskbulus and Procurement Minister Jim Reiter said.

"This project is an important part of our government's commitment to build a stronger, healthier Saskatchewan through investments in health infrastructure."

"The community of Grenfell has been looking forward to this announcement," Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk said.
"This investment will improve long-term care services

for the people of Grenfell and will be a great addition to the community." 'The Saskatchewan Health Authority is excited that the site has been selected so we can move forward with the new care home," Primary Health Care Executive Di-

rector Jacqui Kennett Peppler said.
"The publicly owned and operated Grenfell Care

Home will provide 33 residents the comforts of home with the high quality care needed in a supportive environment."

Residents of the old Grenfell Pioneer Home, which closed in 2018, were relocated to nearby facilities. They will be offered the first opportunity to move into the new home.

Funding for the new Grenfell facility was approved as

part of stimulus funding announced in May 2020.

"They've selected the site, they've purchased the land and the initial geo-technical work has been done. So now the next stage will be to get shovels in the ground," says Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk, whose constituency

includes the Grenfell area.

"It's been a while that they've been without a nursing home at Grenfell—it closed in 2016, so people are happy to see some progress being made.

Continued on vage 19 ™







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Moosomin local celebrates being 102 years young

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Full of joy and enthusiasm, it's no surprise why Frances McCarthy has reached her milestone birthday of 102 years. On Dec. 29, McCarthy celebrated her birthday with

family at her home in Moosomin.

McCarthy has her own house and has been living independently since her husband, John McCarthy, passed away in 2008.

Her son, Brian McCarthy, lives in a house next to her with his family, on their family farm.

When asked if she felt her age, McCarthy said not at all. "I'm lucky to be as well as I am. I'm not sick, my body is just tired."

Living for more than a century, McCarthy says she had to evolve with the times.

"I've seen a lot of changes in my day. I've lived before radio was even talked about. Now they have T.V., and there are iPads and there are telephones, just everything,

"I've always lived on a farm and I've seen the changes in the farm. Back in the days when they used horses for everything, tractors weren't even heard of, hardly. A lot has changed."

Growing up and living on a farm her whole life, Mc-Carthy says she feels at home living there. "One time I looked into town to see if I should get a suite, but I'm a farm girl. I've always lived on a farm,"

she says.
"I feel as if I lived in town and looked out my window I wouldn't see anything, but here I can look out and see what's going on. We just got 17 brand new calves here, it's calving season and we'll have over 200 by the time we're finished.

McCarthy says she doesn't mind being alone and en-

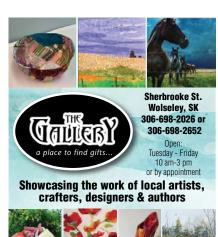
joys living by herself.
"I've always been interested in the farm, I'm interested in the farm work. I'm not one to need to get out and have company all the time. I'm not that person who needs to be talking all the time, some people are like that, but I could

just live here and do my work."

Born in 1919, McCarthy has experienced the drastic changes and development of what farming was like in the early 1920s, to what it has become now in the 21st century.

"My dad was a farmer too, I remember one year he thought he had a really great crop for 25 bushels to the acre, now they're looking for 75," she says.

Continued on Page 20 FF





On December 29th, Frances McCarthy celebrated her 102 birthday with her family in her home, where she lives independently on her family farm, next to her son's house, Brian McCarthy. The independent woman keeps herself active through cleaning, cooking, playing piano and watching from afar, the work that is being done on the farm.





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Tim Dew

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Rocanville Folsom site subject of archeology presentation

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter There will be an upcoming virtual presentation on the archeological site found in the Qu'Appelle Valley near Rocanville.

The presentation will be held on Tuesday, January 18 at 7:30 pm, and people can sign up for the Zoom session by emailing reginaarcsoc@gmail.com

reginaarcsoc@gmail.com
The Regina Archaeological Society is in partnership with All Points Archaeological Society, to provide a series of virtual presentations on archeological discoveries in Saskatchewan.

The Folsom site was first discovered by Jake and Brenda Sarazin and their son James of Rocanville in 2000. Upon discovery, Jake and Brenda began collecting the artifacts found there and contacted the Saskatchewan Heritage Conservation Branch about their finds.

For the virtual presentation January 18, James Sarazin and Tom Richards, one of the two archeologists who have been studying the collection, will be presenting.

Sarazin will talk about how he found the site with his late wife Brenda, how they collected the artifacts, what they researched and how they curated the collec-

Their collection of artifacts became known as the Sarazin Collection. At the time of the finding, the collection was donated to the Rocanville Museum who in turned have loaned it to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum for study.

The other guest speaker at the presentation will be Tom Richards.

Richards will discuss the results of his analysis of the Sarazin Collection and "interpret what Folsom people were doing at the site 12,000 years ago."

The World-Spectator spoke with Richards in an earlier interview, about two artifacts that were found at the site.

One artifact was a distinctive spearhead that was used to hunt the extinct bison, *Bison antiquus*. The other was a Folsom Ultrathin Biface, a type of knife made of heat treated material that was very thin and took a lot of skill to create.

At the upcoming meeting, Richards will talk about his analysis of the findings and its connection to the Folsom period, which was between 11,500 and 12,750 years ago.



Jake (left) and Brenda (right) Sarazin searching for freshly exposed artifacts at the Rocanville Folsom site, in the Qu'Appelle Valley near Rocanville. Items were found from the Folsom period, around 12,000 years ago.





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USask signs MOU for Agtech Accelerator

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIA-TIVE REPORTER

In a sign of the university contributing to the province's agricultural industry, the University of Saskatchewan (USask) recently announced signing a memorandum of understanding with the Agtech Accelerator.

USask's associate director of research excellence and innovation Alix Hayden, talks about how the Agtech Accelerator will benefit the university's role in the innovation ecosystem, and how the program will include its students in this field of work.

this field of work.

"We know that in Saskatchewan we have over 40 per cent of Canada's aruble farmland and that there's more than 30 million acres used for crop production each year. Right now we know the environment is right for this innovation ecosytem development," Hayden says.

"We have a government that's supportive of agriculture and agriculture innovation, we have a unique research cluster at the University of Saskatchewan and so, as this project started to evolve we noticed that there were many key players supporting it in the province. It was apparent that this is the right time and place to start with the Agtech Accelerator."

Hayden says the partnership between the organization and the university will focus on exposing students to opportunities in agriculture.

"USask looks forward to providing opportunities for the Agtech Accelerator company that will be working there, to connect with our innovators and our campus resources. The partnerships is designed to also offer opportunities for

our students to be exposed to an aspect of that growing innovation ecosystem, that will provide new ways for them to think about their future careers."

"The accelerator is a program where companies will come to learn how to accelerate the success of their ventures," says Hayden.

"The programs run for four months and some over the summer. While that is happening, there are a lot of opportunities for mentors and networks to be built. People that come to Saskatchewan and investors that will come to Saskatchewan, is all a part of the program. The Agtech Accelerator organization is really dedicated to offering opportunities for students."

"For them to come in and participate in events, to come in and learn more about what different companies programs do, so that students have the chance to meet founders, meet entrepreneurs, meet investors and to see people developing new companies in a technical space like that. We hope they really get inspired about what the future career opportunities that they have, might look like either working in a start-up, working in a technical company or maybe founding a company themselves," she says.

Along with the Agtech Accelerator organization and USask professors and students, different agricultural companies from across the world will also be involved in the program.

gram. "This new Agtech Accelerator program that they're offering is different then existing incubator programs because there's an investment fund that every single company that

applies to be a part of this program, when they come in they will get \$100,000 of investment right away. That's why it's called an Accelerator, it accelerates the company development."

"It's a program where they go to a place to learn, students will have to apply their knowledge to the work. There's companies from Canada as well as the UK, they will do some things virtually on Zoom, or they will come to Regina and Saskatoon for some parts of the program and the goal at the end is for them to learn how to make their companies successful so that they can seek more investment."

The main focus for the partnership between USask and Agtech Accelerator is to have Saskatchewan as a world centre for agriculture, says Hayden.

Continued on page 19 🖙



The Phenotype Acquisition and Measurement Machine (PAMM), a robotic imaging platform developed for field crop phenotyping, collects data on wheat, lentils and canola phenotypes.

Photo by Tyrone Keep, USask





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In Moosomin:

BMX Pump Track at Bradley Park



An example of a BMX Pump Track. Moosomin is planning to build a BMX Pump Track at Bradley Park so that kids have a safe and fun place to ride their BMX bikes.



LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

By fall of 2022, the community of Moo-somin may have a fully constructed BMX Pump Track at Bradley Park, a safe space

for people to ride their BMX bikes in.
Mike Schwean, Moosomin Rec Direc-Mike' Schwean, Moosomin Rec Director, says the idea of building a pump track came from seeing children in town building tracks and ramps of their own. However because the self-made bike ramps were not safe, the town had to continuously take them down.

"It was something that came to us from the community because kids were making their own ramps, and it wasn't safe. They were doing it around the pool and it was just some stuff that was boards over a rock or boards over some wood," says

a rock or boards over some wood," says

"We agreed that there was a need in town for that. This bike path is more formal and a safer way for them to do that type of thing."

Another reason why the Recreation De-partment decided to install a BMX track

partment decided to install a BMX track was because there's no dedicated place in town for individual's to ride their bikes.
"It's quite popular up north, there's a lot of tracks up there but I don't think there's one around in this area. I'm sure people will come from out of town to let their kids give it a try, it's great for the community as well," he says.
"It's not just for kids, everyone will be able to go out there with their bike and do the different levels of ramps.

Continued on page 19 ™





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Site selected for new Grenfell nursing home

Long road

Bonk says it has been a long road to get to this point. "First thing, we have to thank the people of Grenfell for their patience because they've been advocating for a new nursing home for a long time, and they've been constantly told it's one of the top priorities of government to replace their nursing home.

"When the nursing home finally got to the point where

it couldn't be repaired anymore, unfortunately we had to close it and move some of the residents to other facili-

to close it and move some or the residents to other facti-ties.

"At that point the process became one of advocacy— part of my job is to advocate for the community to make it top of mind for the Ministry of Health.

"At that point they started considering proposals, get-ting engineering reports and making the site selection. When all of those pieces of the puzzle fit together that's when we were able to make this announcement about where the site will be and hopefully a completion of a 33-bed, publicly owned, publicly funded nursing home in Grenfell."

Design phase

The project will soon be moving from the design phase to the construction phase, says Bonk.
"From what I understand, the design has been chosen

and they're working now with contractors to start this project," he said.
"They're hoping to have it completed in 2023."

Lots of work behind the scenes

Bonk says there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes for a project like this.

"There's a lot of moving parts when you're dealing with a project of this scale and with so much complex-

ity," he said.
"Everyone's involved, from the Ministry of Government Relations, to the Ministry of Health, to engineering, to Sask Builds for procurement. There's a lot of moving parts that have to be co-ordinated and it's a lot more people realize—me included.

Lots of people worked on project Bonk said he worked to secure the new facility for

"It's definitely my job as a MLA to advocate for the community but I would like to say a huge thank you to Mavor Rod Wolfe and to Tyler Tomlinson in Grenfell to Mayor Rod Wolfe and to 1yler Iominison in Grentein because without their just quiet, persistent efforts this project might not have been realized," Bonk said. "They're a perfect example of what you can accom-plish when no one cares who gets the credit."

Good reaction from community

Bonk said there has been a lot of reaction from the ommunity.

community.

"It's been a long, long time coming for them," he said.

"I couldn't be happier for the people of Grenfell because, like I say, they've shown so much patience and just their willingness to work with the government to make sure that this does happen.

"I've been hearing nothing but positive reports since we've announced where it will be and when the completion date will be It's a good project."

tion date will be. It's a good project.

UPCOMING

Online-timed Coin & Currency Dispersal for Estate of Willard Tweed

Bidding starts: Fri. Jan. 28 @ 9am

Bidding ends: Sun. Feb. 6 @ 6pm - soft close Featuring: RCM sets; pennies; silver coins; variety of Cdn. currency incl. \$100 bills; collector sets; key date coins; & more

Online-timed Gun & Sportsman's Auction Bidding starts: Fri. Feb. 4 @ 9am Bidding ends: Sun. Feb. 13 @ 6pm - soft close

Featuring: un-restricted rifles; .22 cal. guns; ammunition; collector knives. Consignments are welcome of hunting/sporting equipment; guns, bow & arrow, fishing, camping, ammo etc. To consign contact Warren 204-534-7997

Online-timed Tool & Household Auction for Est. of **Ron Beddome & Consignors**

Bidding starts: Fri. Feb. 11 @ 9am
Bidding ends: Sun. Feb. 20 @ 6pm - soft close
Featuring: Snap-on tool chests; hand tools; ladders; power tools; household furniture & more

More info & sample pictures to come @ mid Jar

Online-timed Farm Toy & Antique Toy Auction For **Jake Rempel & Consignors**

Bidding starts: Fri. Feb 25 @ 9am
Bidding ends: Mar. 6 @ 6pm - soft close
Featuring: Trains, mini buildings & track from Boissevain Train Museum; 1/16, 1/32 scale farm toys, NASCAR, Lincoln, Buddy L, Marx toys die cast cars, & more - Approx. 500 lots

Online-timed Antique & Collectible Auction for Est of Ron Beddome & Consignors Bidding starts: Fri. Mar. 18 @ 9am Bidding ends: Sun. Mar. 27 @ 6pm - soft close

Featuring: Farm related antiques - drill ends, cast iron well pumps, insulators, tools, nice selection of carnival glass, mid-century glassware, vintage toys, repro advertising items, furniture incl. 1/4 oak

Online-timed Household & Collectible Auction for Mr. Bev Lockhart & Estate of Mary Lou Barnes

Bidding starts: Fri. Apr. 1 @ 9am Bidding ends: Sun. Apr. 10 @ 6pm - soft close

Online-timed Collection Reduction Auction for Bob & Brenda Nixon

Bidding starts: Fri. Apr. 15 @ 9am Bidding ends: Sun. Apr. 24 @ 6pm - soft close

Online-timed Yard Equip. & Tool Auction for Myrna Wicklund Bidding Starts: Fri. May 6 @ 9an

Bidding Ends: Sun May 15 @ 1pm - soft close Featuring: Snap-on Tool chests & tools; lg. selection of shop tools, JD R tractor; Motorhome; Household items; various yard equip. & more

Online-timed Household & Tool Auction for Al & Lynn Pearen & Consignors Bidding starts: Fri. May 27 @ 9am

Bidding ends: Sun. June 5 @ 6pm - soft close

Online-timed Farm Retirement Auction for JK Bolton Farms Ltd - Keith & Joan Bolton

Bidding starts: Fri. June 10 @ 9am Bidding ends: Sun. June 19 @ 1pm - soft close Featuring: v. clean JD 9500 combine w/ new rubber; Ford 846 4WD, Case 2290, medium-sized tillage, augers, harvest equipment, hopper bottom bins, antique farm implements, vintage vehicles, panels 8 bale feeders & more

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In Moosomin:

BMX Pump Track at Bradley Park

™ Continued from page 18

Schwean says everyone from Moosomin and surrounding communities can access the BMX Pump Track free of

charge.

"Our vision is that there is no cost, it will be open to the public so that they can use it. It will be at Bradley Park on the southwest corner. People can just come whenever, there might be some events that people plan to have there,

but it will always be open."

IJACK has signed on as the main sponsor and purchased the naming rights, so the track will be known as the IJACK Pump Track

He says the designing and building of the track will be done by BMX U.S.A.

re working with BMX U.S.A—New Track Development. They have done some design work for us. His name is Justin, he will aligning us with an engineer, a designer

The location of the BMX Pump Track will be behind the baseball diamonds, around the southwest corner of Brad-

ley Park.
"We try to be the leading edge among communities, and this track is another outlet for the kids at Bradley Park," Schwean savs

"Bradley Park is getting pretty full as far as facilities, but this project is another opportunity for that facility. We can sneak it into the corner of the park."

The installation of the project will also include a fence that separates the bike track from Highway 8.
"I'm just excited for the kids to have a place to bike and

do it safelv.'

Schwean says the building of the project should start around spring of next year and will be set in stone for bicyclists to ride by fall 2022.

USask signs MOU for Agtech Accelerator

"The goal of this Acceleration program is to make Sas-katchewan a global location for agriculture technology, to

become recognized that this is the place for agriculture."
"If investors want to come and put money towards Agtech and if companies want to grow and have access to experts in agriculture, that this is the place to be," says

"In that partnership, we have formally agreed that the university will contribute some funding to run the program and bring companies here for that program. That we will help those companies in the program find the researchers that they may need to work with at the university, or find research facilities that they may need to versity, or find research facilities that they may need to work with that only the university has. There are some resources that we have at the university, that some companies and entrepreneurs can't find anywhere else.

"Also the piece about providing access for our stu-dents to be exposed to this and to learn about entrepre-neurship in an agricultural space, because we're a big agricultural university and a big agricultural province." Hayden emphasizes how important and influential

this program will be for students who have an interest in a future in agriculture.

"Young people and our students, may not always think about a start up company, and Agtech could be using drones to fly over a field, it could image things and decide where you should put fertilizer. That's an example, or using robots that go over your field and analyze your soil or do tilling for you. So allowing students to see that stuff, there could be an engineering or a computer science student who never really thought that their discipline that they are learning, can be applied to agriculture. That's the agreement between the Agtech Accelerator and us, we'll help them provide some funding and access to infrastructure and they'll help us expose our researchers and students to all of these new and exciting technologies.

citing technologies. She says the program will benefit Saskatchewan's economic development and its overall agriculture industry.

"I think the economy will definitely benefit from this program. When you can draw global attention for this type of work we end up attracting investment into the province. There's venture capital investors that look at Saskatchewan and say 'wow what is happening there, we didn't know what was happening there we need to we didn't know what was happening there, we need to be there and look at how we can become involved,' and that turns into investment. Investment into companies, investment in programs, things like that. That's definite-

investment in programs, things like that. That's definitely a benefit for the province itself," Hayden says.

"For producers, hopefully it helps them worldwide if it has a global impact. It was pointed out recently at an event that any technology that reduces costs for producers is best for producers. The way you reduce cost is by reducing inputs, reducing chemicals required and all of those things have net benefits for the environment," says

Hayden.

"Anything that we can do to help producers work more efficiently, to save their money, results also in less continuous and their money are pore efficiency. fertilizer use or less chemical use, or more efficiency like you can be more efficient if you grow more food in smaller areas. These are all things that are positive for producers and they're positive for food security, for farming in general and better for the environment.

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How gene editing helps farmers and consumers

Health Canada is reportedly likely to treat gene-edited crops differently than genetically-modified crops, or GMOs. That would be the right move.

GMOs. That would be the right move.

That means the oversight provided by the Canadian
Food Inspection Agency would look very much like what
we see for conventionally-bred crops.

This issue is obviously far removed from consumers,
but it will certainly affect them.

Genetic modification is different from gene editing. Genetic modification typically involves artificially inserting
genes into the genome of a plant or animal. Gene editing
can instantly in a very targeted way edit parts of a gecan instantly, in a very targeted way, edit parts of a genome by eliminating, correcting or adding sections to a plant's DNA.

Gene editing typically doesn't involve introducing genes from other species, but these techniques allow quite complex control of an organism's genome. With gene editing, many years of research can be saved by doing simi-

lar adjustments through conventional breeding.
Biological and anti-GMO enthusiasts will claim both

are the same. They simply aren't.

Many countries, including some in Europe, are rewriting regulations for genetically-modified seeds to reflect what gene editing can do. This biological compromise is different from unnaturally crossing breeds to create a new

This is welcome news for everyone, including consumers who barely understand the ramifications of such a de-

cision.

Gene editing will impact agriculture and make our farms more efficient.

Consumers will benefit from gene editing without realizing it. By making crop production more efficient, yields



Sylvain Charlebois

can increase while using less land, less water and fewer

natural resources. Gene editing can make agriculture even more sustainable.

By tweaking the DNA of plants, crops can adapt faster to climate change, a huge boost for a sector highly vulnerable to Mother Nature's wrath. Plants can be designed to resist drought, diseases and pathogens, helping farmers in Canada and other parts of the world where farmers are often impoverished by climate change. Banana produc-

tion is a good example.

In addition, gene editing can change the nutritional composition of a plant for the better. For plant-based afficionados, protein content in crops can be increased to make processing products more efficient and cheaper. Fat content in crops can also be lowered, which would mean less processing for the food we buy. The food we waste is the one bill we never get but al-

ways pay as consumers, and gene editing can help on that front, too. Lettuce, mushrooms and tomatoes would have a longer shelf-life as they could ripen later. Supply-chain woes are shortening the shelf-life of many foods we buy at retail. Gene editing can help.

If you have allergies or intolerances, gene editing can

also play a role. For example, non-gluten wheat can make bread and pasta edible for those who suffer from celiac disease. More than three million Canadians say they have at least one food allergy and a million others have food intolerances. Science can make some food less frightening

for millions of Canadians. The possibilities are endless.

But gene editing is no panacea for all our ills in food.

Fear-mongering groups have already started to express concerns about gene editing. And to a certain extent, these groups are right that more research is needed and that we should move forward with extreme caution. Nothing is should move forward with extreme caution. Nothing is absolute or perfect in science, and we need to appreciate the risks involved with gene editing over time.

The other challenge is transparency. Every day, we're exposed to food products that include genetically modified ingredients without knowing where they are.

Over 75 per cent of food products sold in Canadian grocery stores can contain some genetically-modified ingredients but labels make no merities of it. There's a good ingredient but labels make no merities of it. There's a good ingredient but labels make no merities of it. There's a good ingredient but labels make no merities of it.

dients but labels make no mention of it. There's a good chance, for example, that you've eaten genetically-modified salmon without knowing it. That's perfectly legal.

To get consumers to befriend technologies that make

agriculture more efficient and more beneficial for us all the least we can do is let consumers appreciate how farm-gate practices upstream benefit them.

It's a concern that the majority of consumers don't care about or they don't understand these technologies. For more awareness, identifying genetically-engineered or edited ingredients at retail is the least we can do.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is senior director of the agri-food analytics lab and a professor in food distribution and policy at Dalhousie University.

102 years young Moosomin local celebrates being

Continued from Page 15 "It's different the way now that they work the land and work everything, back in those days with \$10 you could buy your groceries, now you can't do much with that."

The independent wom-an keeps herself active through cleaning, cooking, playing piano and watching from afar, the work that is being done on the farm.

"I play the piano, my fingers can still play the piano. My eyesight is not that good now so I don't use music sheets, I just play by ear old pieces I used to know," McCarthy says.

"Way back when my sister and I were little kids we used to sing songs, and I remember some of them, I let my fingers and my ears

go and just play."

She says she thinks her secret to living a long healthy life is because of inheriting her dad's genetics.

"I think I got my good genes from my dad. My dad was a strong man. He died when he was 92 and here I'm at this age, and I'm still able to do all those

things he did," she says. Throughout her 102 years of living, she talks about electricity being the biggest change in the world that she's seen. "I think electricity has

been the biggest change. That's made the biggest difference you know, to live in a house where you have your fridge, and your deep freeze, running water and everything, none of that was possible before," McCarthy says.
"It was hard work. In

those days we would bring a pail out for water, we baked our own bread, we churned our own butter, we milked cows, it was hard. Everyone else did the

ame thing."

McCarthy says she misses those days of socializing with people around the

"One thing where I do notice a difference in those

days, is the district you know, you were like one large group. You would visit back and forth, you would have your card games and your dances at school and everything, now there's nothing. You go to town or you go to the pub, you do whatever," she

"We did a lot of what they called old time danc-The old Waltzes, not like the kids today where they get up and jump

around, we really danced. From the older days Mc-Carthy says she misses when people would visit each other on the farms.

"We would get to see our friends all the time, the

don't see anybody.
"No one visits around the farm anymore, every one goes to town. We used to have our own gang, we would cook up a big sup-per and then have a whole gang, now we don't do those things."

What family means to Frances

Being a widow, a moth-er of four children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, Mc-Carthy says her family is a major cornerstone in her life and brings her a lot of

happiness.
"It's like a root of a tree, they send out the branches, then comes the leaves and the flowers and then everything flourishes.

McCarthy says proud of her four children, Joan who lives in Winnipeg, Brian who lives beside her on the farm, Rosemary who lives in B.C., and Tim, who lives in town in Moo-

somin.
"I'm just so proud of them, there isn't one that I can criticize for anything.

"I just feel that I've created a wonderful family tree, and that's the most important thing." McCarthy

says she's grateful to have her chil-dren care for her during this time of her life.

She mentions how happy she is to have Brian bring

her groceries every week and to receive daily phone calls from her daughter Rosemary.

"I'm so appreciative. I guess it feels like you've accomplished something, if you're proud of your family and your kids, it just means so much."

"I'm just so proud of all of them that I feel like I'm leaving something that's worthwhile. I can't live forever and that never bothers me. I don't think about dy-

ing."
Although aware of her age, McCarthy says she's not fearful of death. She wakes up every morning and doesn't even think

"It's something that I know needs to happen, but I don't go to bed thinking about it or anything. When you get to my age, you know you can't live forever, but I have lived a full life time. I've seen it from beginning to end really." "I've been through the

good times and the bad times, you take what comes and make the most of it."

From farming to being a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she says she's experienced a great and happy life through living just over a century long

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26	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale	9 a.m.		
	– F	EBRUARY 2022 -			
2	Wednesday	Presort Sale	11 a.m.		
4	Friday	Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	12 Noor		
7	Monday	Butcher Cattle Sale	9 a.m.		
9	Wednesday	Regular Feeder & Butcher Sale	9 a.m.		
10	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale			
		Sheep & Goat	10 a.m.		
		Tack	5 p.m.		
		Horses	7 p.m.		
16	Wednesday	Presort Sale	11 a.m.		
17	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale			
23	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale/Show List			
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24	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale			

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A feral boar is captured in the wild

Wild pigs on the Prairies: **USask researchers documenting exponential increase**

For more than a decade, Dr. Ryan Brook (PhD) has seen the warning signs and been sounding the alarm about the ecological and agricultural disaster the Prairies are facing from the uncontrolled spread of wild pigs and the damage they do.

By James Shewaga
His warnings have gone largely unheeded, while wild pigs continue rapidly expanding across Western Canada, with no nationally co-ordinated science-based containment strategy in place and limited provincial resources available. For Brook, it's a recipe for disaster ît's a recipe for disaster.

"What we have seen on the Prairies in the last 10 years is this absolutely expo-nential increase in the number of wild pigs," said Brook, who joined the Univer-sity of Saskatchewan (USask) in 2010, and is one of the few researchers in the country actively tracking the unchecked growth of this destructive and elusive invasive spe-cies. "Let's be clear, wild pigs on the Ca-nadian Prairies are expanding completely out of control, and you can quote me on

With limited resources, Brook and his raduate students and volunteers with the USask-based Canadian Wild Pig Research Project have been charting increased wild pig sightings across the Prairies, with the majority occurring in Saskatchewan where feral pigs have been spotted in 80 per cent of the province's 296 rural municipalities.

"We have this huge database of over 60,000 individual wild pig occurrences across Canada," said Brook, an associate professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science in the College of

Agriculture and Bioresources at USask. "Sometimes those are repeats of the same pig wandering by trail cameras, so it's not all necessarily individuals, but either way, that is a lot of occurrence data.

"Saskatchewan has 60 per cent of all of our occurrences in our entire data base and 99 per cent are on the Prairies and 91 per cent are just in Saskatchewan and Manitoba combined. We have a hot spot in large of an area but it actually probably has the same number of pigs as the rest of Canada combined."

Wild pigs have spread as far as British Columbia and Ontario, and in the past few months, Parks Canada confirmed they were found for the first time in a national park, spotted at Elk Island National Park east of Edmonton. Brook said it is only a matter of time before they invade Prince Albert National Park, and other cherished—and fragile—environment sanctu-

aries.

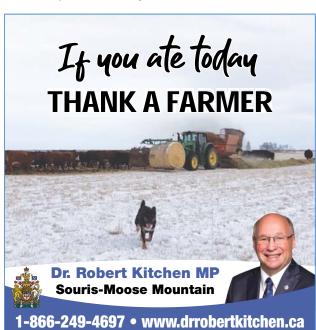
"We need to recognize that there are some major strongholds that will never be eradicated, but there are other areas that are nearly pig-free, or could be made so," said Brook. "My worry about recognizing that we won't fully eradicate them from Canada now is I don't want that to be an excuse not to try and not to address this. We still need to act."

The wild pig problem began innocently enough back in the late 1980s when wild boars from Europe were imported by a few Canadian farmers to raise for meat with most interbred with domestic swine. Some were set free when the boar meat market cooled off, while others escaped due to inadequate fencing and have con-tinued to spread and breed uncontrolled for decades (averaging litters of six every ror decades (averaging inters of six every six months), destroying crops, contaminating watersheds and damaging fragile ecosystems while running amok.
"Crop damage is often the biggest economic impact. The U.S. loses 2.5 billion dollars per year just in crop damage alone.

dollars per year just in crop damage alone

due to wild pigs," said Brook, who noted the problem is an economic disaster in the making for Prairie producers, if left unchecked. "No question the potential is to get into the tens of millions just in crop damage alone. Disease is harder to esti-mate in terms of cost, but we do know that when we had mad cow disease, one farm in Alberta had one case and the whole country shut down. So certainly, if we had African swine fever in one wild pig, it would cost millions upon millions to address it. And it's also harder to put a value on wetlands and clean freshwater and ecosystems in general; they are invaluable

Continued on page 22 🖙





Sask 'Farm TV' YouTubers attract millions of views

*** Continued from Page 9

He also doesn't do it for the cash. However, for other producers, Farm TV is a side income that relies on connecting with an audience over notoriously unreliable rural internet.

A 2020 online survey of roughly 500 self-selected farmers by the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan found 75 per cent of participants were dissatisfied with their internet connections.

Rural internet woes even throw up road blocks for Mitchell.

blocks for Mitchell.
"It's not unheard of for Mike to run to
Swift Current, which is about a four-hour
round trip at 200 miles, just to upload two
videos and then come back and do it again
within two days," Mitchell said.
Internet issues aside, he's not the only
one with a wide following.
Jan Kielstra, better known by his You-

Tube handle SaskDutch Kid, has 158,000 subscribers watching the expanding chronicles of life on a dairy farm.
When he had about 70,000 subscribers,

he conducted a survey among them and was surprised to learn about half were other farmers. They like to see how their peers do business, but there may be something else to it, Kielstra said.

People like farming. I think there's a lot of people that don't have a connection to a family farm anymore, and they still are interested to see how their food is produced.

"You see a lot of people on social media saying, 'I bought a new house or I bought a new Lamborghini.' This is just about going to go milk some cows."

Milking cows resonates enough for SaskDutch Kid to market a clothing line.

Kielstra sells shirts, hoodies and caps on

The income from his YouTube exploits is solid, but it's also not a huge impact on his dairy operation, he said. He's a farmer first, and sees the You-

Tube channel as a way to counter some of the negative press dairy operations can

of the negative press dairy operations can get.

"Open the doors to our farm, give people a view inside of what our operations look like and they can like that or not based on the video," he said.

Nicholas Moreau, also known as South Sask. Farmer, has also expanded into merchandise with a similar set of wares emblazoned with his YouTube logo.

He also attributes his channel's success

He also attributes his channel's success to a sense of authenticity. Moreau swears, drives a combine with his kids snacking in the back seat, and runs into bad spells of weather and luck, like this summer's

"Thate videoing it, but it's part of it. Peo-ple have to see," he said.

He isn't so keen on other channels from outside of the province, who sanitized their image after building popularity on YouTube, he said. For him, it's more im-

portant to be honest on the channel. You won't find Mike Mitchell begging viewers to hit the "like" and "subscribe"

viewers to hit the "like" and "subscribe" buttons, either.

He refuses all sponsorship offers, for the simple reason that he doesn't want anything limiting his freedom. He also turns down anyone offering to film for himpart of a running joke where Mitchell calls himself a human GoPro.

His philosophy behind the camera is ctraightforward; just eat pathen!

straightforward: just act naturally.
"I'm the same person on YouTube as I am in real life," he said. "In fact, I probably tone it down."

Wild pigs on the Prairies: USask researchers documenting exponential increase

Growing to sometimes more than 600 pounds, wild pigs are aggressive with ra-zor sharp tusks and have been known to attack humans, including a Texas wom-an killed in her driveway two years ago. Brook also noted a major recall of spinach in California due to E-coli, connected to wild pigs contaminating a field and creat-

ing a health risk.
So what's the solution? Brook advocates So what's the solution' Brook advocates for a multi-pronged approach to containment, since "we have missed our window of opportunity" to eradicate the invasive species. In an ideal world, Brook's wild pig-containment toolbox would include batting, trapping, and the strategic removal of wild pigs using helicopters to capture them. Sport hunting is not part of a viable solution

"(Helicopter capture) is expensive, but it's highly, highly effective," said Brook. "We net them out of a helicopter and that works great because you can cover huge

However, Brook said the biggest prob-

lem is we simply don't know how big of a problem wild pigs have become. Brook's current PhD student Ruth Aschim recently led the first and only scientific survey of wild pig expansion in the country—published in Nature Scientific Reports.

"If Canada is going to get really serious about pigs and try to remove some, or at least control them, then you need data to actually tell you if you are winning or if it is getting worse. We just don't know what the population numbers are," said Brook. "Like a wildfire, the cornerstone for dealing with invasive species is early detection and rapid and aggressive response, and we missed that window.

"It was easy to ignore them through the '90s and the 2000s, but as we are seeing in 2021, you can ignore wild pigs all you want, until you simply can't ignore them anymore. The problem has exploded over a very short timeline and it is painful that all the predictions that we have been mak-ing have become absolutely true, in terms

of their expansion."

Brook, who calls the uncontrolled

spread of wild pigs "an ecological train-wreck," fears it will take a major economic catastrophe or extensive environmental damage to create the impetus to act.

"T believe that a lot of my work with my research team has really been about collecting data and preparing for a big crisis, and hopefully it's not a major disease outbreak," said Brook. "That's a real concern. African swine fever is a major, major concern and it would be a massive hit to our economy. I think we are just waiting for a big crisis to happen, whether it is an out-break, somebody being killed by a pig, or a major increase in highway collisions. It is unfortunate if we only see major effort after a major crisis occurs." "People often ask me what the path for-ward is, what we need to do," Brook add-

ed. "What we desperately need is leader-ship and a co-ordinated effort. I am happy snip and a co-ordinated effort. I am nappy to talk about the details of which technique is better at finding pigs and which is better at removing them, and that is important. But the most important thing we need is for all stakeholders to come together on this recoming it is a problem and deal. this, recognize it is a problem, and deal with it before it is too late."



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After meeting the homestead animals and walking from the Shelterbelt Tree tour, Rhys Mondor (left) and Monroe Mondor sit down by the



In between dogsledding and planting snare traps, (left) Derek Racette, Calvin Racette, Shannon Landrie-Crossland, Shauna Fay, Monroe Mondor and Garrick Schmidt gather around the fire.

MNS hosts winter camp weekend at Kenosee

™ Continued from page 4

Meaning behind winter camps to the region

The camp consisted of 12 attendees. Mondor says he hopes the camp gets more exposure and reaches its full potential.

"We hope these activities teach people who have never

done winter camping before, about how people used to live and how they used to do it," Mondor says.

"This is our fourth camp this year, our first winter

camp. There's 12 people, we would like to see 30 or 40 come to these."

"We hope to gain traction, gain interest and sharing sto-ries in the media to let people know what we're doing and try to tie people back into our culture."

He says it's important to share the understanding of

dogsledding and inform others about the meaning of the

activity.

"Dogsledding for example, was a main mode of transportation back in the day and Garrick is the only one out of Prince Albert that does this."

"It's important to show people what is all involved, when everyone thinks of sled dogs they think of a great big husky and there's no huskies here. Its' Greyhound, Healer and Siberian Husky crosses. It's a different mix of dogs, just giving people the knowledge is important,"

"With the Métis and even Indigenous culture, they stopped teaching a lot of it in schools so I never found out I was Métis until 15 years ago. I never learned that as a kid and I'm doing this now, to teach my kids. That's also why someone like Calvin who grew up in the Métis culture is here. He's got stories and knowledge to share, that's why we're doing this winter camp."

Mondor says it's important for Elders to attend activities, otherwise the culture will die if not passed on to younger Métis generations.

"They have a language it's called Michif, it's a Cree,

French and their own dialect mixed, there's not many people left who can speak it. Like nobody here can speak it. When you lose aspects of your culture like your language, it's tough to learn, even aspects such as the tradi-tional uses of harvest."

"We went out and harvested chaga off a birch tree and it's got medicinal uses, not a lot of people know that. To ass that on, we hope it continues to carry on."

Chaga is a fungus that grows on birch trees, it is rich antioxidants and contains medicinal properties.

Calvin Racette, an Elder from the region says it's incredible to have a winter camp in Métis Nation—Sas-

credible to have a winter camp in Metis Nation—Sas-katchewan—Eastern Region 3.

"We keep saying 'we're only claiming our identity,' and that's what we're doing, it's incredible."

"This is a way for us to gather as friends, this is a way for us to gather as family. We're reclaiming our history, our traditions, our existence, we're sharing, we're build-ing. It's huge, this is huge for us," says Racette.
"This way I get to know Dexter as a friend. I get to know

"This way I get to know Dexter as a friend, I get to know his kids and build those relationships. It's massive, and not only that, I know quite a lot of history about the valley but I don't know anything about Kenosee. I'm learning a

lot about this place now and to me, that's huge. I get to expand my knowledge, I get to expand my connections, my network and it just feels great."

Racette spent the weekend telling stories, playing tradi-

tional games and teaching the group how to set hunting

"Last night we went out and set beaver traps at the lodge, and we got up this morning and went for a walk down the trail looking for chaga," says Racette,
"Now we're just here for this afternoon, to sit around

the campfire and tell stories and play traditional games. We all have our life experiences, those are stories I want to share, lot of our games, our board games too, and then tomorrow we will go back to check the snare traps to see if we got anything.

Future of additional winter camps

Mondor say's he's happy that the winter camp is finally happening in the Eastern Region 3 because it will bring more awareness to the presence of Métis communities. "It's big because there hasn't been a lot of winter camps anywhere and nothing in the south, because the Métis

community started in the south but they're more preva-lent in the north, there's not a lot of camps in this year. By showing that we're active down here and having more winter camps, we want people to learn from it." Mondor says he plans on organizing additional win-

ter camps in the new year in January and February and intends on including more dogsledding and other Métis traditional activities



Owner of Eagle Ridge Dog Sled Tours, Garrick Schmidt and president of Métis Nation of Saskatchewan—Eastern Region 3 Dexter Mondor, go dogsledding on Kenosee Lake during their winter camp weekend.



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