Inside this edition of Plain and Valley

Plain & Valley

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Carter Tilbury and Shayna Barnesky of Melita were killed August 7 when the vehicle they were driving in was picked up and thrown by a tornado south of Virden.

Melita mourning teen tornado victims

Shayna Barnesky and Carter Tilbury, both 18, were killed by a tornado Aug. 7 care of yourself in these times. To know BY KARA KINNA AND KEVIN WEEDMARK

People in Melita are in mourning after a tornado touched down on the evening of

August 7, taking the lives of two teens. Shayna Barnesky and Carter Tilbury, both 18 from Melita, Man., had been driv-ing about 16 kilometres south of Virden when the EF-2 tornado touched down.

RCMP believe the tornado picked up their vehicle and threw them from their car. Both teens were pronounced dead on the scene. The two 18-year-olds had been dating, both loved to play volleyball, and both had jobs in the town.

'Two amazing kids'

"They were two amazing kids," Fr. Matt Koovisk, the priest at Christ Angli-can Church in Melita, said in an interview with Plain and Valley. He said there was a lot of sadness at the

Sunday worship service. "With the recent tragedy with the tornado just outside of Virden, things took a bit of a sombre turn this morning as we remembered those who died in our prayers," he said. "It was a cloudy day Sunday, not just in terms of the weather but also there was a sombreness in the air, a heavy feeling in the air. think the whole community is grieving this loss

"Whether you knew them well or didn't know them at all, one of the things I've noticed about Melita is its ability to grieve to-gether. When one person grieves in Melita, the whole community grieves with them. "If you didn't know the person, you know somebody who knows the person.

The whole community is really grieving right now. Shayna worked at the Co-op, and a lot of people would have had a lot of interaction with her."

What message does he have for people who are grieving?" It's not the natural or-der of things for us to be burying teenag-ers," said Fr. Koovisk. "What we're going through is not part of the natural order. To grieve in community, to gather with others as best you can in a time of pandemic to remember Shayna and Carter is important. To share the memories of these two teenagers, and also to remember to take

that these feelings of sadness, of loss, are natural, and to know that other people are grieving alongside you is important.

'He was like any other

love-struck 18-year-old.' Brayden Lesy is the branch manager of Enns Brothers John Deere dealership in

Melita, where Carter worked. "Most people in a workplace have some characteristic that irks one or two of their co-workers and causes a little bit of friction. Carter was one of those guys who didn't seem to have one of those charac-teristics," Lesy told Plain and Valley in an interview.

"He was your typical 18-year-old kid. He loved his truck and loved his toys. He loved anything that went. He rode dirt bikes and snowmobiles, your typical rural 18-year-old kid. He and Shayna were high school sweethearts. He was like any other love-struck 18-year-old. It was his toys and Shayna. "He was a very social kid, very well-

liked. He was very active in sports-hock-ey, golf, but volleyball was his main passion

He said his staff is feeling the loss. "It can't help but affect everyone. It's al-

ways tough to lose a young kid who was showing so much promise. These kids are going to miss out on a lot of life, so it's tough. In the community it's a void that will never be filled.

'Everybody knows everybody

Melita Mayor Bill Holden said every-one in town knew the young couple. "It's a small community—everybody knows everybody here. We're only 1,000 people here. Shayna did work with us last year as a Green Team member, and she just lived down the street from us not too far. Carter, his father, is our Public Works foreman and her step-father is our Water Treatment Plant manager. They were both quiet kids, they were very likeable. They were both active in sports—volleyball, hockey, basketball. Continued on page 3





Melita mourning teen tornado victims Shayna Barnesky and Carter Tilbury, both 18, were killed by a tornado Aug. 7 ^(a) Continued from front "Losing a couple of people_like that ^(c) the dependence of the people come together in a small commu-^(c) the dependence of the people come together in a small commu-^(c) the dependence of the people come together in a small commu-^(c) the dependence of the people come together in a small commu-^(c) the dependence of the people come together in a small commu-^(c) the dependence of the people come together in a small commu-^(c) the dependence of the people come together in a small commu-^(c) the dependence of the dependence o

Continued from front "Losing a couple of people like that" in any community is tough. The whole thing is hard to get grips with. It's a trag-edy. Both come from farming families, but they're old, well-rooted families in the community. The two kids were private, but they had a lot of friends.

"They both just graduated—one this year and one last year—and I think we have four kids right now that are working for us as the town Green Team members. Two graduated last year with Carter and two graduated this year with Shayna. It's a small school, under 200 students, so ev-erybody knows everybody there, too.

"It affects everybody, but everybody wants to be with the family and friends and support them. That's what small town people do. You find out who can bake what and there is no shortage of baking for the families, and every other kind of support. I've got a table full that my daughter baked and she is going to take it to some of the families. We just pull together. "I went by one of the family's homes one

evening and there were grocery bags and food like pizzas on the front door steps. We have had reporters out here from the

nity. Things like this happen in the city all the time but you don't know who they are, but here everybody knows everybody and you embrace them. The way we are is just like family basically." Holden said he has tried to be as sup-

portive as he can be in his role as mayor. "I've just basically been reaching out to the families and giving them our support right now—it's all we can do."

Counselling support through school division and PM health region

Jill Patmore, Director of Student Ser-vices with the Southwest Horizon School Division, says the school division has been working with the Town of Melita and Prai-rie Mountain Health Region to provide counselling services and grief support to students and community members

"We've been working with the town to make sure we have counselling services available," she said last week.

"For Monday, Tuesday and Wednes-day afternoon, a school psychologist and

ed to meet and just debrief or just needed somebody to talk to. And this evening (Thursday) we are partnering with Prai-rie Mountain Health to bring in a trauma support team to do a community debrief about the incident and provide some ways that you can cope with the stress and the grief and debrief on what happened and just give people a safe place to talk." Patmore said the health region was

sending out four people as part of their

trauma support team. She says the school division has part-nered with the health region before in traumatic situations, but every situation is unique.

"Certainly every school division has dealt with tragedy. We've partnered with Prairie Mountain Health to bring in this community trauma debrief before. I would say every situation is unique, but we just try to have people available no matter what the tragedy is, people avail-able to just to talk, and over the years we've learned more about what resources are available."

She said the community really seems to

be pulling together in this situation. "I'm always so touched and grateful

just to see how our small communities do come together," she said. "I know they did a barbecue to try help raise funds for the families last night (Wednesday), and there were a lot of peo-ple that attended it.

"Everyone is dealing with tragedy in their own way, and I think as we go forward people will need to continue deal-ing with it in their own ways, and there will be people that reach out and want to talk, and there will be people that want to touch base with the people that they are close to and surround themselves with people that they love." With Shayna just graduating this year,

and Carter graduating last year, she says as students head back to class this fall, counselling services will be available for anyone who needs someone to talk to.

"We do have a half-time guidance coun-sellor in the school that is always available as well as lots of other mental health sup-ports, and getting closer to school we will re-evaluate and talk with the school team, and if we need to bring a team back in, we definitely will."

Scene left by tornado in Virden area was unlike anything Wallace District Fire Chief has seen

be



Wallace District Fire Department Chief Brad Yochim says what he witnessed at the scene of where the tornado touched down in the Virden area was new to him.

BY ROB PAUL LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In times of distress and emergency the fire department shows up, no matter the time of day, no matter the circumstances, and no matter the risk to their own lives.

Being a firefighter takes bravery, heart, and a self-

The fire department deals with all kinds of different chaotic situations as first responders and they do so without flinching. Firefight-ers see a variety of different disasters and what they can leave in their wake.

On August 7, with the vi-cious tornado that touched down in the Virden area, two teenagers from Melita were killed while driving. Shayna Barnesky and Carter Tilbury were both 18 years old.

For the first responders to emergencies like this, it's their job to be there, but they're human too and can feel the long-term im-pacts if they aren't able to handle the circumstances of the events and aftermath of what they see. A hard day at work for

a first responder can be etched in their mind for vears



"We get lots of car crash-es and motor vehicle inci-

dents-that's what we call them—and lots of our guys are seasoned in what they see," Yochim said. "What Yochim said. "What we witnessed on Friday we witnessed on Friday night was something new for all of us, me included and I'm 40 years in the fire service and that was the first time for me to see comathing like that To see something like that. To see the destruction a tornado can cause and what it can do to a vehicle and the con-

sequences as far as the pas-sengers go is all fairly new." Nothing about the job is easy and debriefings after

more major emergencies are a part of the process of moving on, but Yochim stresses how much more important talking it out can when there's death involved.

"We had a regular debriefing or what we call a debriefing session," he said. "We just sat down and talked about the call after on Friday night. We got back to the hall around 11 p.m. and we just had a talk with everybody that was in the room, what they saw, what they did, what went

wrong, what went right, all of that kind of stuff. We focussed in on more with what they saw, and dealing with the deceased and that type of stuff. That's a regular process for us. Continued on page 26 🖙

Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

622 Main St., Moosomin SK Phone: 306-435-4005 Fax: 306-435-4008





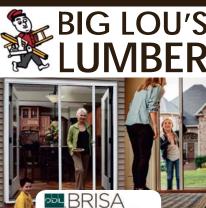


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3



BY ROB PAUL

BY ROB PAUL LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REFORTER The Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) was implemented by the federal government to help strug-gling businesses through the Covid-19 pandemic. The federal government intended for the CEWS to help businesses pay employees as the pandemic impacted revenue. Originally the CEWS was put into place for a 12-week period from March 15 to June 6 with businesses being eligible for up to 75 per cent of employee wages. It was later extended another 12 weeks until August 29. With the CEWS came much criticism over the lack of information on the process, the strict criteria for eligibil-ity, and the timeframe businesses could access the CEWS. On July 17, the federal government announced pro-

If y and the third and businesses could access the CEWS. On July 17, the federal government announced pro-posed changes to the CEWS with the intent to extend the program until December 19, though the current program details have only been extended until November 21. The changes to the CEWS still need to pass through legislation to be constructed. to be enacted.

to be enacted. The new CEWS details will allow for more businesses to be eligible, according to Finance Minister Bill Morneau. "We are ensuring that Canadians are able to get back to work as quickly as possible," he said. "The adjustments we are proposing would ensure that the CEWS continues to address Canadians' needs while also positioning them for growth as economies continue to gradually and safely record at the continue to gradually and safely

Proposed changes for the CEWS from the government:

- Allow the extension of the CEWS until December 19, 2020, including redesigned program details un-til November 21, 2020.
- Make the subsidy accessible to a broader range of employers by including employers with a revenue decline of less than 30 per cent and providing a gradually decreasing base subsidy to all qualifying employers employers
- employers. Introduce a top-up subsidy of up to an additional 25 per cent for employers that have been most ad-versely affected by the pandemic. Provide certainty to employers that have already made business decisions for July and August by ensuring they would not receive a subsidy rate lower than they would have had under the previ-ous rules ous rules.
- Address certain technical issues identified by stakeholders.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) has been asking the federal government to make the CEWS criteria more clear and change it to allow for more small businesses to be

and charge it to allow the and the eligible. "CFIB is pleased the government has finally released details of what the CEWS will look like for the summer and fall of this year. Assuming the legislation passes, small businesses will be able to make their staffing plans

small businesses ivill be able to make their staffing plans for the rest of the year with a better understanding of how much government support will be there, depending on their sales. Extending the subsidy and providing firm de-tails are critical parts of getting Canadians back to work," said CFIB President Dan Kelly. Kelly said the previous "all or nothing" approach ex-cluded many struggling businesses that were unable to predict their sales levels or had revenue losses under 30 per cent. Although CFIB is pleased the criteria for eligi-bility have been expanded to help more businesses and the program has been extended, they still have concerns around the rules of the CEWS. "The new rules are incredibly complicated and small

"The new rules are incredibly complicated and small business owners will need significant help in understand-



CFIB Prairie Region Director Jonathan Alward.

ing whether they will qualify and how much support they may receive," he said. "There are top-ups for those with revenue losses great-

er than 50 per cent and 'safe harbour' rules for those who would otherwise get a smaller subsidy in July and Au-gust. Over one-third of CFIB members report their sales are less than half of normal levels. "Many of these decisions make good sense, but a de-

tailed analysis is required to fully understand all of the implications," he said. "CFIB is committed to working with the federal government to help communicate the new rules to small business owners and provide advice on any necessary changes.

It's taken a couple months, but CFIB Prairie Region Di-rector Jonathan Alward says the CEWS program is on the right track to towards helping as many small businesses

"The reaction has been quite positive," he said. "If you look at the previous CEWS program, it was really at a

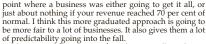
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point where a business was either going to get it all, or just about nothing if your revenue reached 70 per cent of normal. I think this more graduated approach is going to be more fair to a lot of businesses. It also gives them a lot of predictability going into the fall. "One part of the program that's been a really welcome addition is the security it provides giving businesses a clear path forward into the late summer, fall, and early winter with the program now running until mid-Decem-ber. I think this will give businesses a chance to actually plan accordingly to help their recovery in terms of invest-ments and bringing staff back as they can." Having the program extended multiple months is ma-jor, says Alward, because with the short-term window for the CEWS previously it didn't allow businesses to confi-dently plan ahead.

the CEWS previously it didn't allow businesses to confi-dently plan ahead. "It was originally only a three-month program and then they extended it until July and August," he said. "But even up until the middle of last week—halfway through July—they hadn't even provided the details about how the program would be changing. "I think giving this several months of time for business-es to plan is going to be a very important addition to the program and hopefully we'll see a lot of uptick continue going forward because people will have the confidence to know that it's going to be there as they make those invest-

know that it's going to be there as they make those invest-ments to bring staff back." Even though the federal government has made im-

provements to the CEWS program, Alward says, it re-mains hard to navigate and expects CFIB members to be seeking guidance. "The biggest problem right now is how complicated it

"The biggest problem right now is how complicated it is," he said. "There's so many different layers. There's obviously the drop test that changes based on the period, which basi-cally the periods go on a monthly basis and it drops de-pending on where your revenues are, but it also drops depending how far along in our economic recovery you are too. Meaning what you get in August, might not be what you're going to get back in November even if your revenue drop is the same. "On top of that, there's the top-up provision if your business has been severely impacted and there's also the safe harbour period for July and August for those busi-

safe harbour period for July and August for those busi-nesses that had their revenues meet the at least 30 per cent drop, then they'll be getting at least the 75 per cent wage subsidy for those first two months into the new phase. Continued on page 9



Contact Shannon Arnold at 306-435-2954.

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6 Skate Esterhazy planning Drive-in Comedy night to raise funds

BY VICTOR VAN DER MERWE

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER Sunday, September 6 will be comedy night at Camp O'Neil in Round Lake as Big Daddy Tazz will be perform-ing to a drive in putding to a to a drive-in audience.

ing to a drive-in audience. This is a family friendly fundraising event put on by Skate Esterhazy. "Initially we wanted to do a drive-in bingo. It was go

"Initially we wanted to do a drive-in bingo. It was go-ing to happen a few times a month consecutively for how-ever long possible, but with the whole COVID-19 thing, we were not able to get a license for that," say Meranda Pangracs, President of the board of Skate Esterhazy. "We were just kind of brainstorming and another di-rector of the board (Chantelle Hruska) got ahold of the comedian (Big Daddy Tazz). He was willing to work with us because obviously due to COVID-19 he is not really getting any shows. it just kind of all came together." The idea of live drive-in shows is not new, however during a pandemic, nothing is easy.

"With the whole social distancing, everyone will be required to stay in their vehicles. Our comedian will be on stage. Kerr's Bouncers and Inflatables is letting us use the jumbo screen so everybody can see and hear. We are

the jumbo screen so everybody can see and hear. We are hoping that by then (Sept. 6) people can bring some lawn chairs and sit close to the stage," says Pangracs. The fundraiser is especially important since the fall school at Skate Esterhazy had to be cancelled. "For the last 42 years we've had a fall school in the month of September. This year due to COVID-19 we had to cancel. We are not getting the funds from those regis-trations. So far, our regular season is still going ahead. It will start in October and go to the end of March," says Pangracs. Pangracs

The drive-in comedy night is not going to replace the bingo idea, the board just needs to figure out how to make



Skate Esterhazy Figure skaters at last year's Christmas Gala

it happen. If they can get the license there might radio bingo coming soon. These events are not just about raising money, but also

serving the community.

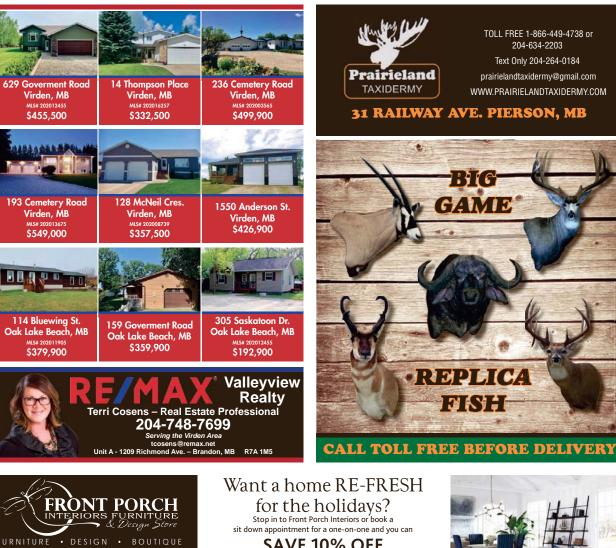
"We are trying to figure out ways to bring in money to make up for the fall school and also give people some-thing to do because everyone is stuck inside and no one can do anything and this is a way we can do it and it is all social distancing and we are working with Saskatchewan guidelines. I think it will work out for everyone, " says Pangracs.

Skate Esterhazy offers a range of programs like CanS-

"We have lots of hockey players and figure skaters and lots of people who just want to know how to skate," says Pangracs.

Skate Esterhazy hopes that people will come out and enjoy the night.

"We want to get the community involved and for peo-ple to get to know Skate Esterhazy and we want people to come out and take a break from all that has been going on and laugh a bit," says Pangracs.



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August 2020

Impaired driving at record low:

Sask police focus on impaired drivers

BY VICTOR VAN DER MERWE LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) will partner with local law enforcement to focus on impaired driving during their August Traffic Safety Spotlight.

during their August Iranic sarety Spoungit. "Each month there is a different spotlight on a different traffic safety issue. With impaired driving being the leading cause of fatalities on Saskatchewan roads, it is something we focus on quite often," says Tyler McMurchy, Manager for media relations at SGI.

The other major causes for fatalities are distraction, speed-

The other major causes for tatalities are distraction, speed-ing and improper or lack of seatbelt use. 2019 saw a record low year for the number of people killed and injured in impaired driving collisions in Saskatchewan. According to estimated numbers, fatalities are down over 50 per cent from 2018 and it was down almost 70 per cent from 2012 which had the highest number of fatalities in the last decade. 2009 saw impaired driver injuries hitting a high of 889 where as 2019 saw 332 injuries. Although this is good news, the province feels the work is not done. "Fewer deaths from impaired drivine is positive news, of

"Fewer deaths from impaired driving is positive news, of course, but the only acceptable number of impaired driving deaths is zero," said Penny McCune, Chief Operating Officer of the Auto Fund.

"Every single person who dies as a result of impaired driving has someone they leave behind and a story that wasn't finished. If their story wasn't done, then our job isn't done either.

Between January and June of this year, there have been 1,988 impaired driving offences reported through the Traffic Safety Spotlights. These include 1,691 Criminal Code charg-es. Of course, not all charges result in convictions, and TSS results don't necessarily include every charge laid by police.

"Over the last decade, we have seen numbers going in the right direction when it comes to impaired driving. Of course we want to see that improvement accelerated," say McMurchy.

2019 not only saw the lowest number of impaired driving fatalities in Saskatchewan's history, but also record breaking low numbers in overall traffic safety fatalities. These num-"Some of the factors that are taken into account is the in-

creased awareness on the issue of impaired driving in Sa katchewan.

"It is not just the work of SGI either. There has been a lot "It is not just the work of SGI either. There has been a lot important work done by a lot of different parties including law enforcement and groups like MADD and SADD. One of the things that we really want to highlight is the work done by people who were personally affected by impaired driving. The families of victims that lost their lives," says McMutohy. McMurchy.

Some other factors include enforcement and legislation too according to McMurchy.

"When you combine the enforcement along with legisla-tion and the increased awareness of the issue, those factors all combine to help people make better decisions (behind the wheel)," says McMurchy. Although fewer people are choosing to drive impaired, law enforcement has not chosen to relax on the issue.

"Our roads are getting safer. The number of charges and convictions when it comes to impaired driving has come down but not to a large degree. This mean that the few



people who still choose to do it (drive while impaired), are more likely to get caught, but if you are seeing fewer colli-sions, injuries and fatalities related to impaired driving, that means overall our roads are getting safer. We have seen a real attitude change when it comes to impaired driving in

real attitude change when it comes to impaired driving in Saskatchewan," says McMurchy. This is a leap in the right direction especially considering that last year Stats Canada reported that in 2017 Saskatch-ewan had the highest impaired driving rate in rural areas (939 incidents per 100,000 population); it was followed by Alberta (597 incidents per 100,000 population) and Mani-toba (588 incidents per 100,000 population). In comparison, the lowest rate was posted in Ontario (187 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Newfoundland and Lab-rador (192 incidents per 100,000 population).

100,000 population), followed by Newfoundland and Lab-rador (192 incidents per 100,000 population). "We know that the problem isn't solved. Police are still catching 300 to 400 impaired drivers every month is Sas-katchewan so there still are people doing it and we want them to get on the right side and making that decision not to drive impaired," says McMurchy. McMurchy also says that number of impaired drivers is disproportionately high on provincial highways and rural roads and First Nations roads, so this is an area that will be looked into by SGI and its supporting around

looked into by SGI and its supporting groups. To make sure drivers are safe SGI has a few suggestions:

Always choose to #DriveSober, and never get in a



The Working Foreman assists the Public Works Superintendent in planning and performing work on the Transportation Department which includes, but not limited to:

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- Be a good "wingman." Don't let friends or family get behind the wheel impaired. Choose to be the designated driver
- Plan a safe ride home before you start drinking and your judgment is impaired. Know the laws. Drinking alcohol or using drugs and then driving are both forms of impaired driving.
- Report impaired drivers and suspected impaired drivers by 9-1-1 through the RID program.

 Become aware of the impacts impaired driving has on not only the victims, but their families.
 "Impaired drivers face vehicle seizures, licence suspensions, steep financial penalties, along with possible jail time and a criminal record if convicted of driving impaired.

"More important than the penalties that come with get-ting caught are the human consequences: someone getting

injured or killed as a result of an impaired driver's actions, says McMurchy.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY **VILLAGE OF MARYFIELD SEEKS** ADMINISTRATOR APPLY BY: SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Village of Maryfield invites applications for the position of Administrator. The Village is located on Highway 48 in Southeast Saskatchewan. A community of approximately 365 residents, Maryfield offers a school with K-12, a small business sector, a medical clinic, a digital movie theatre and a recreation facility with curling and ice skating available.

The Administrator will be responsible to Council for all operations of the Village in accordance with the policies established by Council and The Municipalities Act. Preference will be given to applicants with an Urban Class "C" Certificate or those willing to work towards this certificate. Experience in Municipal Governments, as well as, knowledge of the Munisoft system and Microsoft Office would be an asset. This position also offers a competitive wage, a pension plan and a group benefit plan.

Start date and wage is negotiable based on experience; applications will be received until 5pm September 17, 2020. Only selected applications will be contacted for an interview. Council wishes to thank all applicants.

Applicants must include a detailed resume including qualifications, experience, three references as well as a criminal record check to

Village of Marvfield - C/O Mavor David Hill P.O Box 58, Maryfield, Saskatchewan SOG 3KO Email: villageofmaryfield@sasktel.net

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Armed robbery in Esterhazy

Shortly before 8 p.m., on Tuesday, August 11, Esterhazy RCMP were dis-patched to an armed robbery in progress at Koss Esso in Esterhazy.

An adult male and an adult female had entered the Esso and demanded money from the employ-It was reported that the

female was armed with a handgun.

An employee disarmed the female and restrained her while another employee called 911.

The male exited the building and got into a white 2008 Ford F250, licence plate 218 ILB.

He proceeded to drive into the front door of the business numerous times

Get your message out to 28,000 households! plainandvalley.com causing significant damage At this point, the employee released the female and she got into the sus-pect vehicle and the two

The truck has been re-ported stolen from the Whitewood area. If anyone has any information about this armed robbery, please call the Es-terhazy RCMP at 306-743individuals fled the scene.

5600. Information can also be submitted anonymously to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit-ting a tip online at www. saskcrimestoppers.com.

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Changes made to CEWS to help more businesses

** Continued from page 5 "All that said, I have no doubt that there will be a lot of small businesses calling into CFIB or the federal government to get some clarity around those rules to get some clarity around those rules and what they mean for their business," he said. "We know that even in the simpler

of how that even in the simpler form, there was a huge amount of confu-sion and questioning that came as a result of how to calculate the drop, what hap-pens if you're at 29 per cent vs. 30 per cent, all of those kinds of things. So we're certainly hoping the federal government will provide as much clarity as possible.

"With it being so complicated, we're still combing through everything with a fine tooth to make sure that it is going to be the most fair plan for small businesses out there, but I do think as a whole it addresses a lot of the problems that we had raised in the previous two months.

"We've gotten a few calls just looking for more information on the program," he said.

"I expect that as people have a chance to read through it and really digest it—it came out very late in the week so I expect that there will be some lag between when it came out and when people can really digest it—I expect we'll be getting a lot of calls throughout the following weeks and we'll be there to try and answer ques-tions with our Business Help Line or via

email."

email." On top of giving guidance on the CEWS program, Alward says, CFIB will continue to get feedback on the situa-tions Covid-19 has put small businesses in throughout Canada. "That's (giving guidance) certainly a big part of it for us," he said. "The other thing though is we're talking with busi-ness owners every single day, we've field-ed over 45,000 calls regarding Covid-19, so all of this is in our wheelhouse, but we're also surveying members every oth-er week now. I expect we'll be asking for er week now. I expect we'll be asking for feedback on this program and others, as we have been, and we'll be taking those recommendations to the federal government.

"It's really hard to get these programs right, especially when they're being rolled in a very short amount of time. The federal government has been relatively responsive in the past few months to change this program in particular based on foodback usy're provided to them

on feedback we've provided to them. Hopefully that's the case going forward. "The other thing is, they've put the idea forward, but it still has to pass legisla-tion." tion

Assuring businesses owners fully un-derstand the CEWS program is CFIB's top objective, says Alward, because they want to make sure they're confident in accessing it.

"It's a big financial commitment to make because at the end of the day you're still paying to bring your staff back and getting the money back after that period once you've applied for those hours," he said. "It's a commitment that you have to make with the financial risks that your business has to make. But what's nice about it now too, is a lot of businesses are going to be more confident with this.

"I was talking to a friend in the res-taurant sector where he's bringing back dine-in and he wasn't sure if he was going to be at that 30 per cent revenue drop for July. What this does now is it at least don't meet that criteria, that there will be at least some rebate back to help you cover those staffing costs. I think hope-fully that will give business owners a lot more confidence to invest in the program

The CEWS program changes are a great step by the federal government, says Al-ward, but listening to feedback and mak-ing changes to other programs to help businesses through Covid-19 is a must. "Absolutely (CFIB wants to see chang-es to other pandemic related programs)," he said. "One big one that's been a very successful program too, along with the CEWS, is the Canada Emergency Busi-ness Account (CEBA). If you look at the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent As-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent As-

sistance program it's really been plagued with significant problems. I think if the federal government wants to, and re-ally need to, help a lot of businesses still that are struggling with cash flow prob-lems they should be improving access to CEBA.

"Increasing the loan from much higher than the \$40,000 that was originally pro-vided and increasing the forgivable por-tion upwards of 50 per cent. I think those would be two very important steps. "As well, they have recently expanded

the CEBA program for the third time and we need to still make sure that businesses with personal accounts still have access to that original program. That would be an-

that original program. That would be an-other very important improvement that needs to be made, yesterday frankly." "They (giving guidance to small busi-nesses and giving recommendations to the federal government) go really well hand in hand," he said. "From the start of the pandemic when they originally brought out the CEWS program at a 10 per cent wage subsidy to what it is now, it's because we heard formation, but that's because we heard so many problems from our members through calls and surveys.

"We took that to the federal govern-ment and they fortunately listened, in most respects, and we'll definitely con-tinue to do that going forward."



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August 2020





West End Resort at Round Lake adds marina

Y VICTOR VAN DER MERW

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER Willie Kuzub, owner of the West End Resort on Round Lake, has made a substantial improvements to his property by putting in a marina. This has been a long time coming and something Kuzub felt would be of great benefit not just for campers and boat owners, but for the habitat as well. Having owned the resort for a long time, he had a sense of what needed to be done to bring the area's full potential to life.

Long term vision It all started when he bought lake side farm land in his early twenties. When the previous owners of the West End Resort were ready to sell, they came to an agree ment with Kuzub.

"I purchased the Tantallon bar when I was 24 and then the following year, that is when the owners of the campground ap-proached me."

Kuzub has been running the West End Resort now for 20 years and was there during the flooding of 2011. "That set me back pretty much ten years. None of my

buildings got hurt so much as the land that had a lot of campers on is pretty low elevation so a lot of that got flood-ed out in 2011," says Kuzub.

He used this moment to put in place a vision he had for a marina.



Above: An aerial view of the marina leading to the lake

"Over the course of the next couple of years I had got-ten into the construction business. I acquired a few pieces of equipment so I could do some subdividing on the (lake side) farmland that I bought. We always had a bit of a vision what we wanted to see out of that marina," says Kuzub.

Carefully planned project Kuzub says that in 2016 it seemed the right time to start seriously thinking about building the maria

On the construction end we had done firm and we decided to come up with a design and apply for it and see what hapbens

The next obstacle would be getting all

The paper work in order. "We applied at Sask Water and they said we had to apply to the federal gov-ernment. Once the federal government approved it the Saskatchewan govern-ment approved it too," says Kuzub.

Although the process may have seemed daunting it made the work much easier going forward. It isn't just the visitors to the West End

Resort that will benefit from this marina, but with its construction came the added benefit of helping the water habitat. The shallow bay that has been deep

A station of the marina would see fish
 trapped in there and they would freeze
 every winter as the shallow water froze
 to its full depth each winter. Deepening
 the bay and opening it up to the lake allows the fish to survive the winter.

"The way we presented it to the government was that we were going to allow this aquatic habitat to survive—to

adjust in adjust Continued on Page 12



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☞ Continued from Page 11

Do it yourself The plan was there and the paper work was in order, now all that needed to be done was the actual construction. One way that Kuzub set out to keep cost down was to do most of the work himself using his experience in the con-"We needed a lot of equipment to pull it off. That was

kind of the reason I got into the construction end so I could help develop roads and stuff around my camp ground." The construction company expanded after the flood of 2011 and allowed Kuzub to have the equipment needed for

the marina project. "I could never have done it, or afford it or justified doing it hiring another contractor. It wouldn't have been feasible at that point," explains Kuzub.

A project that started with a vision in 2016 became a real-ity in 2020.

One feature that stands out is the new boat launch that was put in by Kuzub. "The original boat launch doesn't work, because there is

not enough water in the actual lake. If we can't get boats in the water, who would want to camp here. Now we can launch boats even if the lake were to drop by two feet," says Kuzub.

The boat launch along with the boat slips will help guests

"We got 50 (boat spaces) there right now and I got room to probably triple that. With the materials I have purchased I can be at a 150 easily," says Kuzub. There is also talks of expanding the boat launch to accom-

modate two boats at a time.

Investment starting to pay off

The time and effort it took to do this project is paying off now. As Kuzub is seeing renewed interest in the Resort. Not just from campers but from people wanting to live close to the lake year round. "People are inquiring about buying residential lots. The nice thing about the bay is that you can leave your pier in the water, in the winter. It is not going to be destroyed," says Kuzub

says Kuzub.

With the marina in, Kuzub can now focus on expanding the campground, residential lots and activities around the lake.

"Right now we have a 110 camp sites. I'd like to have a couple hundred for sure, maybe more even. I've been picking up golf course equipment. I am planning on doing a par 3, nice little family course," say Kuzub.

Just like the regional and provincial parks of Saskatch-ewan, West End Resort has had a busy summer. "It is unbelievable, it's incredible, we are packed almost all the time right now. People are booking sites now for

next year." says Kuzub.

The feedback that Kuzub is receiving is also very posi-tive. "We couldn't be more happy with the feedback we are getting, everyone is just saying it is so nice and so handy,"



Above: Turtles sunning on some rocks in the channel near West End Resort

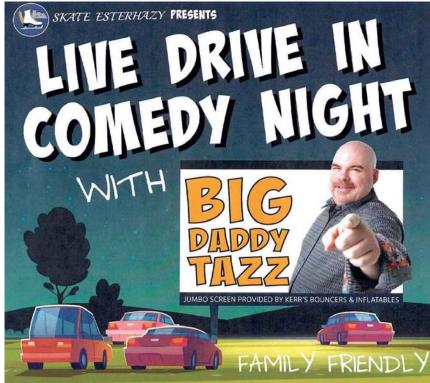


says Kuzub. The easy access for boats have people using their vessels more too.

"People who have been with us long term are saying that last year they used their boats three times the whole season. and now use it three times on an afternoon because it's so much easier with the marina," says Kuzub. "It might help people who are getting older be able to camp for a few more years, since there isn't as much work when the boat can just be left at the marina."

Right: Willie Kuzub in front of the new marina he has developed at his West End Resort on Round Lake.





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Bring lawn chairs in case government social distancing rules allow for a crowd by September.

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It has been a beautiful, warm summer in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba and people have been making the most of it. At left, Declan McCormac enjoying some time out on Moosomin Lake on a SeaDoo. This photo was submitted by Lana McCormac.







SHSAA prepping for return of fall sports

RV ROB PAUL LOCAL JOURNALISM

INITIATIVE REPORTER Students will be returning to classrooms all over Sas-katchewan this September after school closures took place March 20 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

School is more than just the classroom setting though with plenty of social benefits to go with the academic side. For many, athletics are a place to build long last friendships and bond groups of students together forever. The Covid-19 pandemic is trickier to maneuver for ath-letics with the impossibly of physical distancing in many.

letics with the impossibly of physical distancing in many sports and the issues masks could cause while in play. The Saskatchewan High School Athletic Association

The Saskatchewan High School Athletic Association (SHSAA) has announced an update and outline for school athletics this fall as students in all 27 school divisions re-turn to high school for the first time in months. Although it's not a fully detailed return plan, it's the first steps to-wards fall high school sports returning as students return. The actual return of sports in high schools will be a deci-sion made at a later date and need division approval for implementation implementation. The SHSAA reviewed the current information sur-

The STSAR reverse due current information suf-rounding the Saskatchewan Safe Schools Plan, School di-vision re-opening plans, the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan, current Public Health Orders, Provincial Sport Organiza-tion (PSO) sport specific protocols for re-opening sport, and a draft document that is being designed to assist those school divisions and schools that choose to include sport as part of the school re-opening process.

sport as part of the school re-opening process. After meeting on August 12, the SHSAA Executive Council finalized their staged re-introduction of school sports plan with an adjusted schedule for fall sports.

SHSAA adjusted fall sports season of play schedule:
Golf- September 8 to September 26
Cross country- September 14 to October 17
Soccer- September 14 to October 31
Football- September 14 to November 14
Volleyball- September 14 to November 28

"It was evident throughout the executive discussions that the safety of school sport participants is paramount as is the opportunity for school divisions, schools, admin-istration, staff, and students to make a focused transition

Istration, star, and students to make a focused transition during the return to school process," said SHSAA Execu-tive Director Lyle McKellar. "The Executive believe that a gradual and methodical approach to re-introducing school sport is warranted to assist the entire process of re-opening schools. A gradual return to school sport will allow teacher coaches and stu-dent adultos an proscutivity to goin an widentan direct dent athletes an opportunity to gain an understanding of, and become comfortable in, the new school environment while looking forward to a re-introduction of school

"Although there are lessons learned and skills devel-Aimough there are lessons learned and skills devel-oped by students during competition, the executive re-main focused on the educational foundation of school sport and the need to support everyone involved in re-turning to schools this fall." SHSAA five staged re-introduction of school sports this fall.

fall:

- (September 1 to 13)- Promotion and education of school sport preparedness.
 Promotion and education of: current Public Health Orders and Sports and Activities Guidelines, SHISAA Return to Sport document, PSO return to sport protocols, expectations for a return to school sport, competition modifications. Determine interest in school sport participation.
- Geptember 8 to 26) Golf training and competition.
 Registration of golf teams and students in ExNet.
 School and district golf qualifying competitions.
 Provincial golf championship event
 2.2. (September 14 to 27)- Athlete and activity prepared-

ness. Establish teams, mini-leagues, and plans for future

competitions. Registration of cross country, soccer, football, and

- volleyball teams and students in ExNet. Register mini-leagues with districts.

 Student athlete and team training in preparation for competition.
 (September 28 to end of sport specific season of play)-Mini-league and cross country competitions.
 (TBA)- Modified playoffs and championships.
 (TBA)- Playoffs and championships (no modifica-tions (sociation)) tions/restrictions).

"Under the current Sports and Activities Guidelines and Public Health Orders, the SHSAA will be able to sanction modified competitions in all five of the fall activ-ities, but, at this time, will not be able to provide a playoff structure leading to provincial championships in soccer, football, or volleyball," said McKellar. "Plans for modi-fied provincial championships in golf and cross country are being prepared for further examination by health and sport experts. Detailed plans for these championships, if approved, will be included in the SHSAA's Return to School Sport document. As changes occur in the Sports and Activities Guidelines and/or Public Health Orders the executive will revise the various stages at which school sport is occurring. Edits to the final SHSAA Re-turn to School Sport document will occur over the next number of days before being released to members and districts. The final details of the document, should serve as a multi-sport, one stop shop for members, and will be finalized through consultations with a number of agen-cies including: SHSAA members, the Education Response



Students at a cross-country meet last year in Rocanville, Sask.

Planning Team, Saskatchewan Health Authority, and the Government Business Response Team." With the Sports and Activities Guidelines released by the province in the Saskatchewan Re-Open Plan, it pro-vides broad health and safety protocol that can be applied to all sports situations, but the SHSAA is developing the protocol that must be applied specifically to each sport to resume in a safe manner this fall. It's a similar situ-ation to the Ministry of Education putting out the Safe Schools Plan, but each division in the province then tak-ing those protocols and specifying them to the context of ing those protocols and specifying them to the context of their school community.

High school athletics in other provinces throughout Canada are still up in the air, B.C. hasn't made a decision yet, Alberta won't bring them back until they enter stage three of their Covid-19 re-open, Ontario is holding off on bringing them back for the time being, while other prov-ince by work made nublic extension.

bringing them back for the time being, while other prov-inces haven't made public statements. The SHSAA specifically highlights that tournaments and interprovincial travel are not permitted and large public and private gatherings are prohibited. Guidelines and sport specific plans for winter activities and spring activities will be developed and released as the school year progresses, says the SHSAA.





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Farm safety demonstration tractor unveiled

By Crystal Jorgenson faculty of agricultural and food

SCIENCES, SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, U OF M A collaboration between the University of Manitoba (UM), Red River College (RRC) and Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) driven by the need for an agricultural safety training tool has produced a unique vehicle that will help predict, teach and demonstrate tractor roll overs.

overs. The Mini Roll Over Training Tractor (Mini ROTT) was demonstrated at the UM's Glenlea Research Station on July 16. Approximately the size of an average lawn tractor but with the appearance of a traditional tractor, the radio-controlled Mini ROTT will be used for teaching and demonstration of roll overs and activities that will enhance students' and farmers' understanding of farm safety practices.

The project was initiated by the UM's Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences to supplement hands-on safety workshops developed for diploma students and farmers. The UM teamed up with KAP's Manitoba Farm Safety Program staff to explore the concept of a remotecontrolled tractor as an interactive training tool for teaching roll over prevention strategies.

Safety Program staff to explore the concept of a remotecontrolled tractor as an interactive training tool for teaching roll over prevention strategies. UM and KAP then engaged with RRC's Technology Access Centre for Aerospace and Manufacturing (TACAM) and Vehicle Technology & Energy Centre (VTEC) for the fabrication process. The research staff at TACAM designed and built the tractor, with support from the VTEC team on the electronics and systems control components. Going forward, the Mini ROTT will be housed at the Glenlea Research Station and utilized for farm safety

Going forward, the Mini ROTT will be housed at the Glenlea Research Station and utilized for farm safety training for post-secondary students and Manitoba farmers. The Manitoba Farm Safety Program and UM staff plan to collaborate on expanded tractor training and develop programs aimed at creating a safer agri-food industry.

Funding for the project came from a variety of sources, including the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences Endowment Fund, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada through Red River College's TACAM and VTEC-Innovation Enhancement grants, and Keystone Agricultural Producers.

TACAM and VTEC-Innovation Enhancement grants, and Keystone Agricultural Producers. "The Faculty, especially the farm safety training leaders in our School of Agriculture, are keenly engaged in farm safety training, both for our students and for our wider agricultural community," says Martin Scanlon, the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at UM. "We were excited to partner with Keystone Agricultural Producers and Red River College to create this novel training tool that will assist the University of Manitoba in delivering potentially life-saving knowledge to the next generation of Manitoba producers. This project



Thea Green, Keystone Agricultural Producers, and Tom Prud'Homme, Red River College, demonstrate the mini roll over training tractor

underlines the high value and mutual benefit of collaboration with talented industry partners and other educational institutions."

"Keystone Agricultural Producers is proud to be a part of the roll over training tractor (ROTT) project through our Manitoba Farm Safety Program," says Bill Campbell, President, Keystone Agricultural Producers. "We look forward to using this innovative tool to further promote the need for safety awareness and training across our sector to reduce the risk of serious injury in the operation of tractors and large equipment on farms across the province. The partnership we have forged with the University of Manitoba and Red River College shows the importance of our industry to this province and showcases some of the brightest minds and ingenuity we have here in Manitoba."

"Working with Keystone Agricultural Producers and the University of Manitoba on the roll over training tractor (ROTT) is the perfect demonstration of the value of applied research: providing tangible solutions to realworld problems," says Fred Meier, President and CEO of Red River College. "The ROTT highlights the skill and expertise of our TACAM and VTEC teams, and now that we've created this first product we're excited to explore similar projects in the future. We're proud to play a role in farm safety awareness and supporting the agriculture industry in Manitoba."

Roll overs, falls and contact with tractor attachments are the leading causes of injury and death to farm tractor operators, according to SAFE Work Manitoba.



New USask disease detection tool may save millions for canola industry

The new testing can be done in the field in just one hour with accurate results

BY FEDERICA GIANNELLI University of Saskatchewan (USask) researchers have developed a new testing tool for faster, cheaper and eas-ier detection of aster yellows, a leafhopper-borne disease that can devastate canola yields and farmers' income. "Our tool will help save precious time and resources

"Our tool will help save precious time and resources for scientists, agronomists, and producers," said USask biology PhD student Karolina Pusz-Bocheńska. "Farmers will be able to mitigate the potential damage to their crop yields. Our tool will help them understand whether they should spray pesticides right away to kill infected leaf-hopper insects." The canola season in Canada is short, and the disease spreads yew fast so understanding whether crops and

spreads very fast, so understanding whether crops and insects are infected saves time and money. In 2012, the canola industry saw 80 per cent of fields infected and at

Least a \$270-million loss. The new testing can be done in the field in just one hour with accurate results. Regular lab tests can take from sev-eral days to two weeks, and are more expensive.

Aster yellows, caused by a bacteria-like organism, is carried by a variety of insects. It reaches Canada mainly through leafhoppers moving from the southern United States in the spring. When leafhoppers feed on infected crops they are unharmed, but they carry the organism in their bodies, ready to spread it to healthy plants, includ-ing vegetable crops such lettuce and carrots, when they

ing vegetable crops such returce and ended feed again. To detect whether leafhoppers are infected, the USask researchers extract and analyze DNA from the insects. "It's actually very simple. Farmers could even do the testing in the back of their trucks," said Pusz-Bocheńska. "All you have to do is to crush a leafhopper on a special piece of paper and expose it to a certain temperature."

"All you have to do is to crush a leatmopper on a special piece of paper and expose it to a certain temperature." After 20 minutes, the researchers use a fabric puncher on the crushed insect to obtain a sample that can then be analyzed with a LAMP assay—a DNA-amplifying method that also can be adapted to the field. The analysis accurately reveals whether the insect is positive for aster yellows. The test also can also indicate whether plant tis-rue are infected. sues are infected.

The USask research team's results, published in Plant Health Progress, show that in the case of aster yellows, the LAMP assay technique more accurately detects the disease and is more sensitive than the usual gold stan-

dard test for DNA lab analysis. "The development of this novel and more sensitive test was driven by one of our molecular scientists, Tim Dumonceaux, in response to our need to rapidly identify whether individual aster leafhoppers had aster yellows disease," said Tyler Wist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Can-ada (AAFC) researcher and Pusz-Bocheńska's co-supervi-"Now we can more accurately assess the risk of disease

spread from those early arriving leafhoppers and warn the agricultural community if there is a risk."





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PhD student Karolina Pusz-Bochenska holds a canola plant.

Photo by Tyler Wist

The novel testing technique could also be used for de-tecting a variety of insect-borne plant diseases, such as Dutch Elm Disease. Current testing for beetles carrying

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the disease can take weeks, so the research team is collab-orating with the Saskatchewan government to calibrate their new test for detecting the disease. "Our testing technique may also apply to human and animal health, such as for testing ticks for Lyme disease or mosquitos for Zika," said Pusz-Bocheńska. "Now re-searchers at other universities are even trying to adapt a similar technique for rapid COVID-19 testing of human blood samples." blood samples

The next step is to use the new technique to establish an aster yellows risk index for canola in the summer. While farmers cannot directly access the test yet, the research team is in touch with companies in Canada interested in

Icensing the technology and offering the test. The novel testing is the result of a collaboration be-tween AAFC scientists Wist, Tim Dumonceaux, and Chrystel Olivier and USask researchers, including former post-doctoral fellow Edel Pérez-López. The research is funded by: AAFC

post-doctoral reliow Edel Perez-Lopez. The research is funded by AAFC. Federica Giannelli is a CGPS-sponsored graduate stu-dent intern in the USask research profile and impact unit. This article first ran as part of the 2020 Young Innova-tors series, an initiative of the USask Research Profile and

Impact office in partnership with the Saskatoon StarPhoenix

HORIZED DEALER



New Schools of Business report highlights importance of women ag entrepreneurs in SK

BY U OF R UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT AND

COMMUNICATIONS A new report by the University of Regina's Hill and Levene Schools of Business sheds lights on the status of women entrepreneurs in agriculture and outlines recommendations to con-tinue the advancement of women ag entrepreneur-ship in Saskatchewan.

On Thursday, June 11, the Hill and Levene Schools of Business at the U of R released the findings of their first report as the "Women Entrepreneurship Knowl-edge Hub (WEKH) for Sas-

edge Hub (WEKH) for Sas-katchewan: A Report on Women Ag Entrepreneur-ship in Saskatchewan." Led by Dr. Amber Fletcher, Associate Pro-fessor in the Department of Sociology and Social Studies, Christie Newton, Lawron School of Businger Studies, Christie Newton, Levene School of Business graduate student, and Dr. Gina Grandy. Dean of Hill and Levene Schools of Business, the Report was funded through WEKH to gain insight into the challenges facing women entrepreneurs within the agricultural sector, and future opportunities—Gor the entrepreneurs and for the entrepreneurs and for the economy. With 10 per cent of Saskatchewan's GDP—and \$13 billion an-nually—directly attributed to the agriculture sector, greater knowledge of the role of women in agriculture entrepreneurship will have significant economic have significant economic and social impact for the growth of the province. The report is based on ex-isting studies on women in agriculture, as well as 32 interviews conducted with Saskatchewan-based with saskatchewan-based women entrepreneurs in agricultural and related in-dustries.



Christie Newton BScHons'18, Levene School of Business graduate student.

'There is currently very little research on the re-lationship of women, entrepreneurship, and the agricultural sector," says Newton. "In many of the existing studies, the term 'entrepreneur' in agriculture only refers to farmers, but not those who work in the processing, financing, advocating, and technol-ogy side. Add to the mix that many farm operators do not even consider them-

selves entrepreneurs." Across the country, there is a significant gap when the percentage of women-owned businesses is compared to the percentage of those owned by men. By addressing this gap, stud-ies have found that by 2026, the Canadian economy could realize a \$150 billion-plus much-needed injection. As the global economy starts its CO-



Dr. Gina Grandy, Dean of the Hill and Levene Schools of Business

role in running farms, the work that women agricul-

tural entrepreneurs per-form often remains hid-

den, unrecognized, and undervalued.

"The

women inter-

VID-19 recovery journey, agriculture will continue to play a vital role in builda strong Saskatchewan. While more programs and opportunities are being created to aid in encourag-ing a greater gender bal-ance in agriculture, more work is required.

"Our report found that there is continued gen-der inequality in agricul-ture, but conditions are changing for the better," says Fletcher, "The role of women antrapreneurschin women entrepreneurship women entrepreneurship in agriculture is such an important topic and the timeliness of our WEKH report is significant." Many of the problems women agriculture entre-preneurs experience, based on the interview con-

on the interviews conducted for the report, stem



Dr. Amber Fletcher BAHons'06, PhD'14, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Studies

from established gender roles of women on farms, maker. It's not always about having more female farmers but changing the their access to capital and financing, stereotypes and discrimination, and a lack perception of what a women's role is on the farm and of visibility. In many ways, agriculture continues to be an "old boys club". Even though women have and continue to play a critical who is an agriculture en-trepreneur." Despite the obvious challenges and frustra-tions, Newton was encour-

aged by the information shared in the interviews and the overarching posi-tive outlook shared by most women agriculture entrepreneurs.

"There was a lot of optimism from these wom-en," says Newton. "They are passionate about their work and want to help and want to help inspire change for the fu-ture."

Based on the research findings, the Report has eight recommendations for advancing women ag

entrepreneurship in Saskatchewan:

 Recognizing women as agriculture entrepreneurs; Recognizing women farmers for the work they

do; Increased childcare support and child-friendly spaces;
 Men supporting

supporting

change; • Building coalitions; • Access to training and

 Access to training and education;
 Access to finance; and,
 Policy and commit-ment to change.
 "Agriculture is a key driver of the Saskatchewan economy, and a more thor-work understand ince of the economy, and a more thor-ough understanding of the role women play in its fu-ture is great for the growth of the sector, great for the family farm, and great for the province," says Gran-dy

dy. The Hill and Levene Schools of Business and WEKH plan to continue their role in advancing women entrepreneurship in ag by working collab-oratively with various stakeholders across the province and country to

determine next steps. "At a time when young people are leaving the fam-ily farm and the challenges facing our economy post-pandemic, there are significant practical and economic benefits to increasing the participation of women in entrepreneurship," says Newton. "It will take time, but our recommendations will help women entre-preneurs in agriculture to be role models, inspire the next generation of women to pursue careers in this sector, and underscore the economic engine waiting to be harnessed."

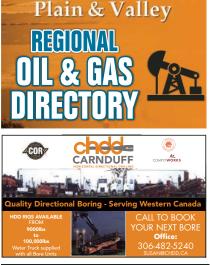
Continued on page 24

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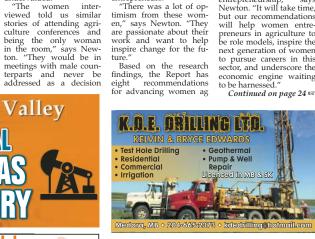
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How to measure canola losses out the combi

BY ANGELA BRACKENREED

The Canola Council's goal is for an average threshing loss of two per cent—or less—of total yield across the Prairies. But what is an acceptable amount of canola com-bine loss for your farm? Every farm will have a different answer, striking their own balance between capturing as much of the crop as possible while also maintaining harvest productivity.

To answer that question for your farm, you must first figure out the level of losses out the back of the combine. You might decide that one bushel per acre (bu./ac.) is an acceptable amount of loss, but what if your combine is throwing over three bu./ac. throughout most of the harvest day? You have to check to find out. And then you can decide whether to keep going or start making adjustments.

You need three tools to accurately measure losses: • A drop pan. You can get pans that attach to the bot-tom of the combine and drop by activating a switch in the cab. These pans usually match closely to the discharge width of the combine sieves. For a lower-tech option, someone can toss a throw pan or use a pan on a stick while the combine goes by at normal operation. No mat-ter what pan you use, you need to know its square foot-

Some way to separate the seed from the chaff. This can be done by hand, but it can be time consuming. Canola screens or an airstream to lift chaff is best. Bushel Plus produces a screening device for this purpose.

• A weight or volume measure the clean collected sample in grams or millilitres, dividing by the square footage of the pan to get a result in millilitres or



Try the Combine Optimization Tool at canolacalculator. ca. It provides guidelines to set the combine to meet tar gets for grain loss, grain sample quality and/or productivity.

grams per square foot. Plug your combine dimensions (header and discharge width) and the amount of loss into the conversation tables to get loss in bu./ac. For the ta-bles, print off the Combine Seed Loss Guide. A link to the guide is in the "Measuring actual losses" section of the Harvest Management chapter at canolaencyclopedia.ca. Once you've made a few loss measurements, the next

part of the process is to determine how to reduce those -if you decide they're too high. The Combine Optimization Tool at canolacalculator.ca is an excellent resource, showing step by step adjustments to align com-bine losses with your harvest goals.

21

In 2019, Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) visited 31 farms across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and measured canola threshing losses from 50 machines. These included 40 models from six combine manufacturers. The survey found no connec-tion between combine model and the amount of loss, but weather was a major factor. This emphasizes the need to regularly adjust and test throughout the day and harvest season. Temperatures greater than 23°C, relative humidity less than 45 per cent, and low cloud cover all contributed to lower losses.

uted to lower losses. Once you become familiar with a machine, you will start to recognize ideal settings for those harvest after-noons that are warm and dry and for the evenings when the straw starts to toughen up. But you can't get familiar without putting in the time and measuring losses from field to field and with changing weather conditions. You will have in your mind what kind of loss you're willing to accept, but you can't know whether the com-bine is on target unless you check. And by measuring losses, you have a better idea how the combine performs and can be reassured that the combine is doing exactly

and can be reassured that the combine is doing exactly what you want it to do.

Angela Brackenreed is an agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada and serves central and eastern Manitoba. Email brackenreeda@canolacouncil.org.

Sask invests Ş in agtech 15 million

The Government of Sas-katchewan announced Friday it will provide \$15 million to help develop new technologies in agri-culture and position the province as a global leader in the agtech sector. Through Innovation The Government of Sas-

Through Innovation Saskatchewan, funds will be invested in a privatelymanaged fund targeted exclusively at agtech companies that require venture capital to develop past the startup phase and scale up their business operations and manufacturing.

"The proper support, combined with strong

research in agricultural innovation and the success of agtech startups, can make Saskatchewan a global force in agtech, Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan Tina Beaudry-Mellor said. "This investment will bring jobs and new growth to our province and equip farmers and producers with game-changing tech-

nology." This investment will accelerate the province's economic recovery from Covid-19 and build upon a record year for venture capital investment in Sas-

katchewan. Deals worth katchewan. Deals worun \$114 million were made in 2019, more than the previous five years com-bined, and most of those investments were made in Saskatchewan's tech sector. Once a partner is found, the \$15 million investment is expected to leverage millions more from private investors, complementing Innova-tion Saskatchewan's existing programs which sup port agtech startups but are not designed to scale

companies to full business capacity. Innovation

Saskatch-Innovation Saskatch-ewan will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) in the coming weeks to begin ex-ploring fund options with the private sector. "Saskatchewan is rising

a growing world popu-lation and innovation in agriculture technology plays an important role in meeting that growing demand" _____ demand," Agriculture Minister David Marit said.

"This will investment ensure producers have made-in-Saskatchewan technology that supports their efforts to grow high-quality, sustainable food." With global demand for

food anticipated to rise 70 per cent by 2050, Innovation Saskatchewan is help-ing farmers gain a competitive edge to meet the future by building upon a significant and historic economic driver.

The agency's new in-vestment, combined with

its Saskatchewan Advantage Innovation Fund, Saskatchewan Technology Startup Incentive and the \$1 million Agtech Growth Fund announced in July, will work with the rest of the province's agricul-tural infrastructure to help stimulate the provincial economy, add value to Saskatchewan's agricul-tural products, and grow the technology sector – all important objectives in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2020-30.



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Who's the CTO on your farm?

BY PETER GREDIG The business world is great at creating impressive-sounding job acronyms for executive positions. A CEO, or chief executive officer, is the boss. CFO or chief financial officer is the money person and a COO is a chief operat-ing officer, the person who keeps things humming day-to-day and keeps the CEO apprised of how things are going. It's an interesting exercise to consider who is filling the most common executive positions in your business. If other successful businesses use these titles to define and assign responsibilities, why wouldn't farm businesses? While most farms can identify who might fill the CEO

While most farms can identify who might fill the CEO or CFO role, the position of CTO, or chief technology of-ficer, is often overlooked. No major company is without a CTO and it's one of the first positions filled at a tech start-up company.

THE CTO JOB DESCRIPTION

The responsibilities vary depending on the company and nature of their business but tend to include the following tasks: • Develop a technology strategy aligned with the com-

pany's business goals.
Discover and implement new technologies that cre-

ate a competitive advantage.Help staff use the technology profitably by cutting

costs, boosting productivity or improving efficiency. • Ensure proper use and efficiency creation of new and existing technologies.

 Make adjustments based on feedback from staff and clients to improve the use of technology. • Communicate the technology strategy to partners

and investors.

We know advances in technology will continue to change the way we farm and live our lives. But does your farm have a strategy for exploring and adopting new technology? Is there a person who is responsible for working with employees to make sure tech is being used optimally? Whether you formally assign someone to this role or have an informal arrangement within the family someone

have an informal arrangement within the family, someone needs to be fulfilling the responsibilities of a CTO. It can be as sophisticated as having your full-time CTO create and implement a complete precision farming strategy takand implement a complete precision farming strategy tak-ing into account seeding, spraying and harvesting equip-ment, the software required and a data analysis plan. Or it can be as simple as asking your tech-savvy daughter to be responsible for selecting the next smartphone upgrade and reviewing the current mobile data plan. It's not realistic for all farms to have a full-time posi-tion for a CTO and the same holds true for small or start-un commaine autridue arciculture. Going from an ad box

up companies outside agriculture. Going from an ad hoc or informal approach to hiring a full-time employee as a CTO is too big a jump. The intermediate step is to hire a technical advisor on an as-needed basis.

Maybe a dairy farmer is considering a move to robotic milkers or a greenhouse grower is looking to upgrade the heating system and water treatment processes. An inde-pendent technical advisor can be hired on an hourly basis to ensure all factors are considered in decision-making. A technical advisor can also help producers and staff transi-





tion to new technologies smoothly and provide training

where required. Understanding the qualities that make a good CTO or technical advisor helps when hiring or selecting an exist-ing employee or family member to fill the role. Look for:

People eager to learn and understand new things rather than someone who already has all the answers.
 A good multi-tasker, with the ability to manage numerous challenges at once is required.
 Strong communication skills, which allow the CTO to bring the rest of the team on board. Everyone needs to understand the teachers may it will be stilled and and the set of the team of the set of the set

understand the technology, how it will be utilized, and what the goals are for the operation. Translating tech jar-gon to layman's terms is a big part of the job. • **A focus on appropriate technology**. For example, technology that enables scale and efficiency if the opera-

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Going through this process with staff and family members is valuable, even on farms with a small team of fambers is valuable, even on farms with a small team of fam-ily or employees. Knowing how everyone feels about ex-isting and new technologies helps build the right process going forward. You may find there is a real tech champi-on on your team you weren't aware of. If you're the CEO on your farm, part of your job is to make sure tasks and responsibilities of a CTO are being fulfilled.

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USask emeritus professor appointed to Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame

After a highly successful career as a barley breeder with the Crop Development Centre spanning almost four decades, Dr. Bryan Harvey (PhD) has been inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.

By Gloria Gingera

Harvey joined the University of Saskatchewan (USask) in 1966, quickly advancing through the university tenure system from associate professor in 1969 and full professor in 1975. He served as assistant dean of the College of Agriculture from 1980-1983, and head of the Department of Crop Science and Plant Ecology and Crop Development Centre director from 1983-1994. He acted as the Department of Horticulture Science chairman from 1994-1999, later moving to the office of the vice-president of research to serve as coordinator of agriculture research from 1997-2002, acting vice-president of research from 2002-2003, and special advisor to the vice-president of research unit his refirement in 2005.

Ill his retirement in 2000. Harvey is the author of eight books and book chapters relating to cultivar development and almost fifty refereed journal publications. He bred or co-bred over 50 barley varieties, several of which have played a major role in the brewing industry in North America, Latin America, Asia and South Africa.

Two of his varieties, Harrington and CDC Copeland, received Seed of the Year honours in 2009 and 2019 respectively, highlighting their importance in the seed industry and to crop production in Canada. Harrington barley remained in production for over 25 years being grown on over 60 million acres and having an estimated value of over \$15 billion. CDC Copeland continues to dominate the malt barley industry demanding almost fifty per cent of the malt barley acreages in Western Canada for the past fifteen years.

Harvey's contributions to the agriculture industry have not gone unnoticed. He received honourary life memberships from the Saskatchewan and Canadian Seed Growers Associations, and the Saskatchewan Agricultural Gradu-



Dr Bryan Harvey has received the Order of Canada and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal

ates Association (SAGA). He also received fellowships in the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC), the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) and the American Society of Agronomy (ASA).

Harvey was also awarded the Alumni Achievement Award by the USask Alumni Association and an Outstanding Contribution to Industry Award from the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA) and the Master Brewers Association (MBA). In 2005, Harvey received the Saskatchewan Order of

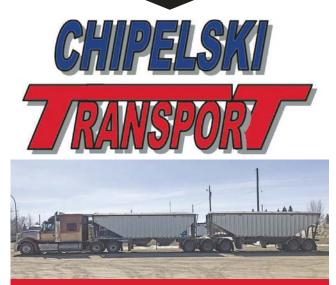
In 2005, Harvey received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and was officially inducted into the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2006. The Canadian Seed Growers Association (CSGA) awarded him the Clark-Newman-Clayton award for exceptional contribution to Canadian pedigreed seed production and the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) honoured him with their highest honour, the Presidential Award. In 2007, Harvey was appointed to the Order of Canada, recognizing him for a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.

In 2012 Harvey was one of 57 Saskatchewan residents given the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, marking the celebrations of the queen's 60th anniversary on the throne and honouring an individual's significant contribution and achievement to Canada. Harvey was also an original member of the University

Harvey was also an original member of the University of Saskatchewan Sodbusters group, whose vision for Saskatchewan was to construct the largest agriculture teaching and research facility in Canada. A true Saskatchewan story of communities coming together, the group's fundraising abilities resulted in the construction of the Agriculture Building and a legacy for the future of agriculture on the University of Saskatchewan campus.



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Importance of women ag entrepreneurs in SK

** Continued from page 20 The Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub, part of the Government of Canada's Women Entrepreneurship Strategy, is a national program comprised of ten regional hubs working to increase women entrepreneurs' access to financing, talent, net-works, and expertise. The primary hub is located in Toronto at Ryerson University's Diversity Institute and has a national net-work of more than 250 oreanizations and reaches more than work of more than 250 organizations and reaches more than 100,000 women entrepreneurs. Recently, the Hill and Levene Schools of Business at the U of R were selected as the regional hub for Saskatchewan.

"Becoming a regional hub for WEKH is an opportunity to provide a voice and connection point for women entrepreneurs across the province to build networks, share resources, and advance the impact of entrepreneurship on our economic growth," says Grandy. "This report is the first example of the important work the Hill and Levene Schools of Business will be able to complete through the WEKH."



More than \$13 billon of Saskatchewan's annual GDP is attributed to the agricultural sector. A better understanding of the role of women in agriculture entrepreneurship will have significant economic and social impact for the growth of the province.



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Plain and Valley



The Bekevar Heritage Foundation of Kipling is fundraising for the Bekevar Country Church Restoration Project.

Bekevar Heritage Foundation fundraising for church

BY ROB PAUL

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER Certain buildings have an ability to tell stories of the past, stories of where people came from and why they stayed. If buildings from the past aren't maintained, they eventually disappear as they age, and so too can their stories.

That's why the Bekevar Heritage Foundation of Kipling is reaching out to people for support in fundraising for the Bekevar Country Church Restoration Project. The Bekevar Church is full of stories and stories are worth saving. It's located six miles south and one and a quarter miles east of Kipling.

Kipling. The Bekevar Church was built in 1911, by pioneer immigrants that came to Canada from Hungary as early as the late 1800's and settled in the Kipling area. The church's architecture is styled similarly to the Reformed Great Church in Debrecen, Hungary—it was built in the early 1800's and is the largest Protestant church in Hungary.

Hungary. Led by Bekevar Heritage Foundation committee member Jack Daku, the Bekevar Heritage Foundation is hoping to restore the church as it's still used for weddings, funerals, social and ethnic gatherings, and tourist functions. "Recognition and support of other reli-

"Recognition and support of other religious denominations from the past, present, and to the future are respectfully acknowledged and appreciated by the Bekevar Heritage Foundation Committee," said Daku.

The Bekevar Presbyterian Church is over 100 years old and like anything worth saving, it needs proper upkeep to be sustained.

"It's a country church and like many churches it's starting to need work done on it," he said. "It's fashioned after a church in Debrecen, Hungary."

"Basically we're trying to raise money— I've been working with Steven Bonk so we've gotten some money from the Heritage Foundation of Saskatchewan—to help keep the elements out of the church. It needs windows, shingles, paint, and everything. But what we're trying to do right now is keep the rain and the varmints out.

"This is phase one for 2020 that we'll attempt to do because we have a matching grant from the Government of Saskatchewan. This is just phase one and we'll proceed with phase two, three, and four depending on how we can manage this and how the money comes in. The other phases will be for total restoration.

"Our plan with phase one is to save the inside before there's too much damage because the Heritage Foundation of Saskatchewan doesn't cover interior work. We've applied to the RM of Hazelwood because that's where the construction is taking place.

"We want to reach out to anyone able to donate money—large or small—to help us restore the church," he said. "Donations are tax deductible and receipts will be issued with names and addresses. Responsible, legal accounting and documentation of funding and bid work completed on the project will be publicized when completed."

The Bekevar Heritage Foundation committee has a phased fundraising plan, says Daku, and it starts with getting enough money to prevent weather and animal damage going forward.

"We have to try and raise \$21,000 to get

our preliminary work done on the church for keeping the elements out," he said. "Our total fundraising goal for complete restoration is \$220,000. "Last year we were approached by the

"Last year we were approached by the Hungarian government, Esterhazy was able to get it together to receive funding from them, and now Steven Bonk is trying to put something together for us to try and reach for this money from Hungary." The Bekevar Church is full of history,

The Bekevar Church is full of history, says Daku, as Hungarian immigrants came to Saskatchewan—then a part of the Northwest Territories—and settled in Kippling in the early 1900's, eventually building the church.

Noping in the early 1900's, eventually building the church. "A lot of people immigrated to North America from Hungary in the late 1800's," he said. "In 1890 John Szabo came to Whitewood and on July 10, 1900 he and his two friends, Joseph and Aaron, established a new settlement known as what they call Bekevar. "My grandfather and his two brothers

"My grandfather and his two brothers and father came here in 1902. They walked from Whitewood to Bekevar and established the land in 1905 when Saskatchewan became a province.

"The community at one time had over 1,500 people. The church was a core foundation of the community, the country church was the basis for them. It developed and became what it is today, but now there's nobody there to take care of it. We still use it in the summer time for special services. "That's why we want to fundraise to

"That's why we want to fundraise to keep the church and its history. It's something we're trying to do for the community. We're trying to preserve this for our history."

This isn't the first time the Bekevar Church has needed fundraising to help with a restoration project, and Daku says, the early support has been strong with people across Canada reaching out.

The early support has been strong with people across Canada reaching out. "Basically we're doing this due to necessity," he said. "This church has been lifted and moved once already about 30 years ago when the foundation was giving away. Back then, people came up with money to help move it and restore the roof. It's gotten to that point again through time because weather takes its course and something needs to be done. It's still a beautiful church inside. I just want to bring attention to this because we want to save something thread needs to be saved.

save something that needs to be saved. "There are still people who come to it. We usually have a yearly pricinc there and we get around 300 people from all over the country. It's there for people to use. There are so many connections to this one church."

Bringing attention to historical buildings like the Bekevar Church is a first step, and Daku thinks with the right support the church can last for many more years.

The church can last for many more years. "We have to pace ourselves because of funding," he said. "Our stage one funding would be just to fix the root, entrance way, the corners of the church where there's water damage, and we'd have to have that done by November to achieve the Saskatchewan grant. Phase two is when we'll start to replace our windows—right now a lot of the windows are just pieces of plastic—we'll also need to replace our shutters.

"We've got a good small group of people who are supportive of this project. We want to make it known to more people.

"We've had some money come in al-

ready and we'll use all donations fully put a be do be do be do be do church. Once we reach the be do church will be do

put away for the next project. It will all be documented and put to the use of this church."

BEKEVAR Heritage Foundation

Help us preserve this truly unique and iconic place of worship and pay tribute to our forefathers

who worked and sacrificed to bring it to life

We, The Bekevar Heritage Foundation of Kipling, Saskatchewan, reach out to anyone able to donate (large or small) to assist with the Bekevar Country Church Restoration Project (SW 26-5-12-W2) 6 miles south and 1-1/4 miles east of Kipling, Saskatchewan

Donations are tax deductible and receipts will be issued with names and addresses. Responsible, legal accounting and documentation of funding and bid work completed on project will be publicized when completed. Work includes painting, shingles, repairs of windows, etc.

The Bekevar Church was built in 1911, by pioneer immigrants that cam from Hungary as early as the late 1800's. The church's unique architecture is fashioned somewhat after a much larger church in Debrecen, Hungary.

The Bekevar Church is still used to this day for weddings, funerals, social, ethnic, picnic, community and tourist functions. At one time a community hall was associated with this church for fowl suppers and social functions.

Recognition and support of other religious denominations from the past, present and to the future is respectfully acknowledged and appreciated by the Bekevar Heritage Foundation Committee.

DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO Bekevar Heritage Foundation Jack Daku - Committee Representative Box 502, Kipling, SK S0G 2S0 306-577-7858 • jackdaku@sasktel.net



Scene left by tornado unlike anything Fire Chief has seen

S Continued from Page 3

We do that if it's required after any call whether it be a car accident or a fire call, whatever it is. But especially when there's people who have died, we definitely need to do it in those situations."

A fire department is like a family and that point is driven home even further in times of tragedy with the constant com-munication to ensure everybody in the de-

partment is doing well mentally. As chief, Yochim reaches out to his firerighters and starts that conversion be-fighters and starts that conversion be-cause he doesn't want anybody struggling with how situations played out or with what they saw from a catastrophic event.

"After the debriefing we just keep in touch with all the firefighters," he said. "I call them and make sure they're doing okay, especially the new guys who have never seen something like that or maybe have never seen a dead body before. We keep in close touch with those guys just to make sure they're doing okay and we contact their families

"We make sure to keep in very close touch with them after an incident like that. Friday night was crazy. There was lots go ing on and it was a very stressful event, obviously.

"With two people dying and also having For some of the young metally to handle with

some of what happens on the job, espe-cially if it's new to them says Yochim, and although tragedy comes with the job title, it's important to remember these types of scenes can change a person. "For those of us that have been here for

while and have done this for a long time, we bounce back fairly quick," he said. "For those younger guys who have maybe never seen something like that be-fore, it could take weeks and they'll never forget it. None of us will ever forget some-

thing like that, especially the ones that witnessed the deceased. They're never going to forget that scene, but hopefully they can cope with it and deal with it. If not, we have extra services that we can get more help for them down the road if it becomes an issue

Mental health has become an increasingly important topic in every field and Yochim says it's important to talk about the events they go through and if that's not enough, they have other options to get fire fighters the help they need to move

"Communication is huge, talking is key," he said.

key," he said. "I remember the very first call I went on "I remember the very first call I went on when I saw a person killed in a car acci-dent and I'll never forget it. "But you do learn to deal with it and

hopefully you can deal with it. If you can't, we have other avenues we can go down to get more help. Talking does help." Yochim acknowledged events with dire

circumstances like the one in Virden will still be in firefighters minds days later and it can be difficult to talk about if nobody reaches out.

Talking about it does help to move past it together as a fire department and that's why we sit down after and have a debrief-

ing." Everybody handles traumatic events and stress differently, Yochim said, and at though it can get easier to move past with experience, these types of situations can be

"For some of us it gets easier to deal with," he said. "We can let it go, but for others that are

"We can let it go, but for others that are newer to the department, they're going to hang onto that for quite awhile probably. Hopefully it doesn't bother them to the point that they're losing sleep and they can't eat, that kind of thing can happen. "In that situation we get more help for them. It's not something you soon forget, that's for cure "

that's for sure."





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Young farmer-programmer pushes tech learning for rural-based kids

BY EVAN RADFORD LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER REGINA LEADER-POST As a kid who can't decide on his favourite computer language—Java, Python or Arduino—Luke Silinski doesn't fit the stereotype of a rural-based farm kid.

Then again, Silinski thinks farm kids don't realty get a fair shake, as far as stereotypes go; long gone are the days of cover-alls and pitch-forks, and now is the time for frequent tech usage out in the fields, he says.

That's why the Albertabased high school student is using his new company and software to give farm kids a fair shake for learning what he thinks is an essential skill—using computer code to write programs.

grams. Dubbed Ag Tech STEAM, the program is getting financial support from several backers so Silinski and his mom, Shanyn, can ensure kids like Luke will download its content packs for free.

Among the backers is Farm Credit Canada (FCC), whose head office is in Regina, along with Olds College and Lethbridge College, among others. "The main goal is to in-

"The main goal is to increase the amount of peo-



Alberta 14-year-old Luke Silinski created Ag Tech STEAM, for kids in rural and remote areas to learn about agriculture and technology through online programs. Photo submitted by Shannon Silinski

ple who have experience in agriculture and experience in the field of computer science and technology, because there's really not a lot of overlap in those two fields," Silinski, 14, said. Highlighting his multi-

Highlighting his multidisciplinary approach is the acronym in the program's name: STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math. He figures all five areas are applicable to agriculture, plus they expose learners to a wide range of ideas.

Silinski says accessibility

is important, too: He lives near the village of Carbon, about 110 kilometres northeast of Calgary.

"Power outages are kind of an issue. The Internet out here (isn't always) the best, which is why there's offline stuff with Ag Tech STEAM: Not everyone has Internet that can go as fast as a jet plane," he said. There's also the issue

Ihere's also the issue of proximity to a major urban centre where kids can attend tech-based day camps, he says. That was his experience a couple of summers ago. For a whole week, he and his mom got up everyday at 5 a.m., drove through Calgary to the day camp and returned home each evening. "After that, I was tired,

"After that, I was tired, I was beat. I'm like, 'what could be the solution to this?' It's not moneyfriendly ... your parents also have work to do over the summer, and then there's the fact of parking (a big farm truck in a congested city)," he said.

He found the fix—his newly minted program and company—in early 2019 at the University of Saskatchewan while attending a two-day innovation hackathon, a collaboration event intended to find tech solutions for the agriculture sector.

The program is now in its early stages, with its website just up and running. Silinski expects to have the first content pack, which focuses on entomology, ready for download later this summer. He's also planning to finish 49 more content packs, thinking there'll be plenty of practical applications. "Maybe (kids) can help their parents or grandpartic calculate the concurrent

"Maybe (kids) can help their parents or grandparents calculate the economics of their fields, after a storm or a disease come through," he said.









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