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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba











Kennedy celebrating homecoming with 90th rodeo

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

In celebration of Kennedy's 90th Moose Mountain annual rodeo, a concert—All Roads Lead Home—will be happening this year to kick-off the homecoming, rodeo weekend event.

The event will take place on the July 21

"We're in the process of planning something special, we haven't got anything definite except for the homecoming concert on the Friday night of this year's event, which is new this year," said the president of the rodeo association Jill Lowe.

"The concert is something we've had in the works for a long time. Eli came to us

with hers, Heidi, Blake and Lane's idea, then we brought it forward to the table and decided to go for it."

Lane used to sing together when they were in high school, then they all went their separate ways" she said. whith tiefs, friend, blake and Lane's idea, then we brought it forward to the table and decided to go for it."

With all four of the performers being

from Kennedy, the concert will help make the big event even more special, saidLow-

"Way back in the day, Heidi, Eli and

"They were well known here in this area when they were growing up. It's pretty spectacular that they went their own ways and have become great musicians."

Continued on page 3





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Above are a few of the different rodeo performances from Kennedy's weekend rodeo event in July, 2022.

Kennedy celebrating homecoming with 90th rodeo

™ Continued from front

On Friday July 21, the event will begin with the slack which starts at 5 p.m. Later that night at 8 p.m., is when the concert will start and feature Eli Barsi, Heidi Munro and Scott Patrick, Lane Easton and Blake Berglund.

"It's always been a weekend event. We used to do slack in the morning on the Saturday, but it became a busy day and because we're the same weekend as Morris, Manitoba, it was actually the contestants that asked us to do our slack on Friday so they can get to both events," Lowe said.

"It works way better to have the slack on the Friday night because it spreads it out, that way we're not in a rush and we can actually enjoy it too."

On the Saturday, there be a parade followed by a de-molition derby, then a rodeo performance. The night will close off with beer gardens and a performance by Switch. On Sunday, July 23, there will be a pancake breakfast

at Kennedy Friendship Center, then a cowboy church service at the rodeo grounds.

The final rodeo performance for the weekend will be in the afternoon at 2 p.m., followed by the demolition

Lowe has been a part of the rodeo association for two decades and said she is looking forward to the club celebrating its 90th year.

"I think it's a pretty big deal," she said smiling.
"To just think about how they started the rodeo, I don't think any of them thought it would still be going 90 years later, but it's definitely unique and worthy to celebrate.

"T've been an active member for about 20 years, it was actually my great-grandfather who was the very first president and that's why I joined. I love my community Kennedy, and this is what puts Kennedy on the map."

It really is something special, especially to be in this

Lowe said celebrating 90 years of the rodeo is a special moment for her and the community.

"This is pretty special and is something that the rodeo association has kept our focus on, which is getting to the

90th year," she said.

"We've all pulled together and we're ready to host the party of the century.

"I'm looking forward to getting together with all of my family too, we're having a Dorrance family reunion that weekend so it will be nice having them all here to celebrate with us."

With this being an important milestone, Lowes said she hopes to see people from the community come out. "Anyone who is from Kennedy and has been to a Ken-

nedy Rodeo, hopefully they remember what that's like

and that they bring their families," she said.

"It's a chance to get together, to see some old friends and meet some new people. Kennedy is thriving so it's a great chance for all the new people who have moved to the area to see what we have to offer, and it's not just Kennedy, it's the whole southeast area that comes to-

Lowe was asked how many people they are expecting to come out for the weekend rodeo event

"Usually we estimate for about 1,500 for the weekend," she said.

"Because it's the 90th year, we're calling it a Kennedy homecoming so that people can plan class reunions, family reunions, etc."

How can people help leading up to the event?

With a lot still needed to do in preparation for the big

event, Lowe said help is always welcomed. "We're always looking for sponsorship, people and new volunteers to come out and help for the weekend,"

"There will be some work that we need to do at the rodeo grounds once the snow is gone to get the grounds We can always use people, many hands make a light work.



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New funding announced by province, Nutrien

Nutrien Executive Vice President and President of Potash Chris Reynolds, left, and Saskatchewan Highways Minister Jeremy Cockrill, right, both announced new funding for Moosomin's airport expansion project on Feb. 8. Nutrien has donated \$2.7 million, and the province provided \$1.3 million in new funding, bringing their total commitment to about \$2.7 million

\$4 million boost for Moosomin Airport expansion \$2.7 million from Nutrien, \$1.3 million from province

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Moosomin airport expansion is \$4 million closer to reality after announcements by Nutrien and the provincial government on February 8 of new funding for the expansion.

Nutrien donated \$2,718,902.34 to the project and the province committed \$1.3 million above the amount the province has already given, for a combined total of \$4 million in new funding for the airport. The Nutrien contribution matches the total government funding for the project.

project.
With the new funding, work on the airport expansion

Before the announcement, municipalities had donated

\$832,500, the province had committed \$866,526.82 and donations from companies and individuals added up to \$277,959, for a grand total of \$1,976,958.80.

The province will contribute the additional \$1.3 million

The province will contribute the additional \$1.3 million from its highways and transportation budget.

"Thave to give credit to the community because they've really kept this on the radar and really facilitated this discussion," Highways Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "When we learned about the possibility of Nutrien coming in as a partner, that's really when things accelerated in terms of what the government can do to get this over the line. We really view this as a strategic investment in this area, and certainly one that justifies the investment."

"The pitch for me that really got it over the line was

the community involvement," said Chris Reynolds, President of Potash for Nutrien. "That the community was committed to this, the community had taken the initiative to start the fundraising effort, made a difference. It wasn't just the community saying 'you're a big corporation, you have deep pockets, you need to contribute to this.' They were saying, 'we've got this need in this community, can you help us get there. We've started with a portion of the fundraising, can you help us get there, and by the way, the government of Saskatchewan is going to come in as

"I think all of that came together, but the fact that it started from the community was very important."

Continued on page 6 **



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\$4 million boost for Moosomin Airport expansion

\$2.7 million from Nutrien, \$1.3 million from province

"We've got a significant investment in this area and we are going to be here for decades to come. This investment for us (to the airport) is just a natural extension of that. So this is just investing in our home. This is investing in our back yard and that's very important to us. I can't and that's very important to us. I can't wait to fly a plane in here and enjoy the new facilities when it's up and running." Reynolds said the local region is important to Nutrien.

"This area is critical for Nutrien," he

said. "This area represents 25 per cent of our total production in the province. We our total production in the province. We have six mine sites spread out across the province and to think that 25 per cent is represented right here with that Rocanville site, this region is very, very critical. We expanded the Rocanville mine about five years ago with the digging of a third shaft and I think that shows the commitment the company has to this area, to this mine, and we're going to be here for a long time."

He said he understands the importance

of the airport expansion to the region.

"You could feel the emotion in the

"You could feel the emotion in the reeve's voice when he was talking about it," Reynolds said. "Obviously it's been a lot of work for him and I think he's felt a lot of responsibility to the community to get this project over the line. We're just proud to be a part of it."

He said Nutrien will use the Moosomin Airnott regularly one; it's expanded.

Airport regularly once it's expanded. "From our headquarters in Saskatoon this is the most remote mine site that we have. Flying here involves either going into Yorkton, or today we came into Brandon, then driving in. If we can fly straight into Moosomin, that's 30 minutes from our mine site.

"So for us, getting our board in here, getting other employees in here, getting customers in here and allowing customers to come and visit this site will become so much easier with this airport. So there is a business proposition here for us as well."





Nutrien President of Potash Chris Reynolds, above left, and Saskatchewan Highways Minister Jeremy Cockrill, above right. Below representatives of the three local partners in economic development, Tyler Thorn of the CBA, Reeve David Moffatt of the RM of Moosomin and Mayor Larry Tomlinson.







next logical step for our

grow to be a regional center for business and health services," Mayor Larry Tom-

"We are very thankful to the govern-ment of Saskatchewan and Nutrien for sharing in our vision for the Southeast corner of Saskatchewan."

"This is a real success story as a region-

al partnership. The airport is located in the RM of Moosomin, but not only are we working with our partners at the Town of Moosomin and the Community Builders Alliance, but 14 different municipalities are involved in funding the expansion, including two municipalities in Manitoba," said Reeve David Moffatt of the RM

of Moosomin.

"We're grateful for their support, and for the support we have received from the provincial government through the CAP

"That support, that partnership, from the local level to the provincial level, has brought this project to the point we are

"This project is equally important to this area of the province by allowing businesses ready access to the province, the country, the world. That access will be a game-changer for many businesses and will add productivity and opportu-nity. I can feel the energy of the business community and I am so excited to be able to watch them maximize this valuable re-

Community Builders Alliance president Tyler Thorn said the airport will save time for both businesses in the area and the health care system by allowing access to the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance.

to the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance.
"In today's world, time is our greatest asset, an airport is one of the few ways entrepreneurs and health care professionals can buy back time," he said.
"To those of you who have made the decisions to help fund this project, we understand and appreciate the magnitude of those decisions and our organization fully careatte you in here decisions and of those decisions and our organization fully supports you in those decisions and will continue to work alongside you providing the people and financial resources we have available to help see the project through to completion.

"On behalf of the CBA, I would like to thank all of you who have worked hard and invested in this project to make it a reality."

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BY BRUCE LUEBKE,
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTENT CO-ORDINATOR, SUNRISE CREDIT UNION

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mediate response by increasing stress and urgency, affecting how your brain processes information. Pausing, even if it is iust for a minute, will allow your mind to better process the situation.

There are many scam types, from those offering an unexpected financial windfall to buyerseller fraud to threats and extor-

Familiarizing yourself with common scams and learning to spot the warning signs are a start to avoiding being the victim of a

There are several other ways you can help protect yourself from scammers and identity theft, including:
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 Choose passwords that would be difficult to guess and include upper and lower case letters, numbers, symbols, or punctuation.
- Never reply to a spam email, even to unsubscribe.
- Get a shredder and use it! Get into the habit of shredding

things before throwing them out. especially expired credit cards, utility bills, cellphone bills, paycheque stubs, old boarding passes, ATM receipts, and travel itineraries

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- Choose a solid PIN. Avoid PINs derived from your personal information and change up your PIN occasionally.
- Don't overshare on social media; ensure you're not acci-dentally broadcasting sensitive information.
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Moosomin asks Statistics Canada to review census numbers again, in light of World-Spectator reporting



An aerial picture of Moosomin taken by Kevin Weedmark.

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The town of Moosomin is asking Statistics Canada, which has already re-

tistics Canada, which has already revised Mosomin's 2021 census population upward by 4.3 per cent, to take a look at the number again.

The town sent a letter to StatsCan in early March thanking them for revising the number upward once, but asking for another look in light of reporting by the World-Spectator. Statistics Canada results of the state of the World-Spectator. Statistics Canada responded saying it "will review the additional information provided with the Census review team and provide further

response."
"Council does appreciate the January "Council does appreciate the January 17 email from Statistics Canada indicating that the Published and Revised Counts for 2021 has resulted in an increase in population from 2.657 to 2.774," the town wrote. "However at their regular meeting of February 8, 2023, Council further discussed this matter and still

believe the census count is in error. "In reviewing the facts uncovered by the World-Spectator and the Plain and Valley newspapers, there are many inac-curacies that have been identified in the

curacies that have been identified in the census reporting, and council feel that another review is warranted even so far as to perform another physical recount," the town said in its letter.

"Therefore, council does respectfully request that Statistics Canada review the attached portions of the newspapers to respond to the inaccuracies identified, and advise if another physical count will indeed be undertaken."

When the 2021 census numbers were released in early 2022, the World-Spectator investigated as Moosomin had gone from the highest growth rate in rural Saskatchewan between the 2011 and 2016 censuses to losing population over the next five years before the 2021

The World-Spectator heard from multiple readers who said they had not been included in the census.

One resident of a Moosomin seniors' residence said no one in the residence received the household codes needed to fill out the census, even though they contact

out the census, even though they contact Statistics Canada several times about the error, and were told they would receive codes, but they never did.

The World-Spectator compared the number of households reported by Statistics Canada with the number of households shown by utility connections in Moscowija and other level core. tions in Moosomin and other local comIn 100 per cent of the communities examined, Statistics Canada had incorrect and low numbers of households, off by as much as 34 per cent from known household numbers.

In addition to an incorrect number of households, the census showed large numbers of vacant homes in local communities, hundreds in some cases and almost 300 in the case of Esterhazy.

Following that reporting in early 2022, council asked for the number to be reviewed.

The town followed up with Statistics

Canada over several months.

Continued on page 9



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Moosomin asks Statistics Canada to review census numbers again

** Continued from page 8

Earlier this year, Statistics Canada reviewed the numbers, and concluded that it was in error.

It increased Moosomin's official population upward by 4.3 per cent, which will mean \$100,000 more for Moosomin

in provincial revenue sharing alone. Since then, more people have come forward and said that they and their neighbors were never counted in the 2021 census. At the January meeting of the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce, a resident mentioned they had never been included in the census and no one on their block had been. "Neither was I," said Mayor Larry Tomlinson, who lives a couple of blocks away. The World-Spectator looked further

into the 2021 numbers and found for

example:
• The 2021 census shows zero people
100 and over in Moosomin, while the
Sask Health numbers show three as of

2021. Those three people are known to

a lot of Moosomin residents.The census showed 280 Filipinos in Moosomin under visible minorities. and zero under any other category, (no Koreans, no Hondurans, no south Asians) but a total of 335 visible minorities. But is also reported only 160 peo-ple with a Filipino ethnic background.

• Stats Can showed Moosomin with

2,557 people in Moosomin in 1986, 35 years ago, when entire sections of town were undeveloped, when there were no condos and fewer apartments. And its initial figures for 2021 showed 2,657, an increase of 100 people in 35 years. Over those years, the Stats Canada fig-ure started deviating from the health counts more and more. As the town grew, that was reflected in the health counts but not the StatsCan counts. The initial 2021 count was 646 people or 19.5 per cent less than the health card count.



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The new SARCAN building in The Town of Redvers is currently under construction and is expected to be finished by May. The other section of the building will also be used for Evergreen Construction and its restoration company.

Upcoming projects in Redvers:

New SARCAN building, Kubota dealership underway

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

With a few ongoing projects being developed in the Town of Redvers, the owner of Evergreen Construction said he is excited for his business to have a dedicated facility in town, and for the community to have a

new SARCAN building.
"The front 85 feet of the building will be for the new SARCAN, and then the back 60 feet will be for our construction company and for restoration company," said Tyson George, owner of Evergreen Construction.

The total size of the building is 7,400 square feet. Due to the town's old SAR-CAN building not having enough room to crush the recycled bottles and cans that are being brought in, the need for a bigger fa-cility in the community became apparent. "The front of the SARCAN building will

be where guests can bring in their bottles then at the back they can do all of the

crushing," said George.
"The other SARCAN building is in dire need for some upgrades and renovations. Before I bid on it, I went to the new Melville one and I took a look around to get an idea of what they wanted and what kind of quality of stuff they wanted, all of that. "I talked to the workers there and they

"I talked to the workers there and they said a new facility for them to work in that's clean and where everything is up to date, instead of working with old stuff where everything takes longer, that a new building is just better for everyone. "That's why they needed a new building here. They're getting bigger and more volume, so they can handle more with the bigger building."

bigger building."
Aside from the building being used for SARCAN, it will also serve as George's first dedicated space for his business.

"I've been running my business out of my farm before this. We do have an office

on Main Street right now where our book-keeper is, and we have a few houses that we work out of, but this will be our first work building," said George.

"This is a big step for us, but it's defi-nitely exciting. It's something to look forward to.

Continued on Page 23 🖙



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Langenburg students visit Rocanville ski trails

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
Around 250 students from Langenburg Central School came out to Rocanville Cross Country Ski trails from March 8 to 10, as part of their outdoor physical educa-

tion. During the pandemic, teachers and parents from Langenburg Central School fundraised \$30,000 worth of skiing equipment, snow shoes, and built a shed at the school to store all of the equipment.

"Over Covid, when we were getting pushed outdoors for phys-ed because of all of the things going on, we decided to turn it into an initiative at our school where we did this outdoor recreational project," said Luke Krienke, physical education teacher at Langenburg Central School.

"We reached out to some of our big sponsors, Mosaic, Brooks Mack Law, Family and Friends, and we had a

few other locals as well.
"We ended up raising about \$30,000. We got 75 sets of

our shool yard because we don't have anything like this "If we lived a little closer to these trails, we could come





From March 8 to March 10, the Rocanville Cross Country Ski Club received a visit from about 300 students from Langenburg Central School. All of the students and teachers brought their own skiing equipment which was fundraised by the school last year.

out here for classes, but now we just do an annual trip

every year where we come out."

All of the Grade 1 to Grade 10 students from the school came out to the trails with their own equipment in groups, from Wednesday to Friday.

"We came out here last year and it was our first time,"

We just brought out our middle years and our senior

what stoped in dut of indude years and our selfor kids last time. This year we've got our elementary kids down to Grade 3 as well." Layne McFarlane, president of Rocanville Cross-Coun-try Ski Club, said it's great to see the trails be used by students.

students.
"It's wonderful to see," McFarlane said smiling.
"We're just a small group that volunteers to create the trails, and to see them used like this and appreciated, is really amazing.

"It's sort of like you're coaching hockey or figure skat-

ing or something else, and you see a lot of interest in it. It's really encouraging."

Krienke said introducing students to an activity such

as cross-country skiing is great for physical education.

"Part of the curriculum is our outdoor education piece, for getting out to other environments," he said.

"This, basically costs the kids nothing to come out and do. We do go downhill skiing too, but the cost is high. It's a good experience for the kids too, but this is just an experience the kids can come and do.

"It's low impact, it's not quite as scary for some of the younger ones to come out. And, it's something they don't get the chance to do that often either. It's a different experience for them to get out and get active as well."

experience for them to get out and get active as well."
For over 30 years now, McFarlane and Dennis Hack—
equipment co-ordinator of the club—have voluntarily
maintained the popular ski trails so that families and children can go skiing during the winter months of the year.
The trails can also used during the summer for walking
and hiking

and hiking.
"Dennis and Layne have been fantastic. They welcomed

us with open arms and have gone above and beyond to what I would've expected," said Krienke.

Continued on Page 17





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New development proposed for Redvers



More than 50 people came out to the community meeting for a new hotel in the Town of Redvers recently. The meeting was held at the Golden Age Centre.

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

BY SHERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

A full crowd showed up at a public meeting in Redvers on February 7 to hear about Steel Creek Developers' proposal for building a hotel, or a mixed facility that would serve as a hotel and senior living facility, in the Town of Redvers.

There were a lot of questions and encompact from the companyity with about

gagement from the community with about 50 residents coming out.

"It's really nice to see the turn out we have here tonight, give yourselves a hand for supporting our community and thank you all for coming out," said Brad Bul-buck, Mayor of Redvers.

'We got a community here that we're very proud of and we want to develop into the future. I want to introduce Ken Rempel, he is with Steel Creek Developers. He's done a number of hotels/apartment building projects throughout Sas-katchewan and Manitoba.

"We've been talking to Ken for probably six months to a year now, and he has some good ideas that we would like to present to everyone tonight."

Ken Rempel, the president of Steel Creek Developers, proposed building a 30-room hotel building in Redvers.

"The advantage of a quality hotel in a community is that when you have hockey tournaments, when you have weddings, if you have any events in town, people come and they stay, and when they stay, they spend money in your community," said

"We built our first hotel in Souris, Manitoba. A year after it was built, I went to visit them and asked them if they had seen any difference in that year and every one of them said they had seen an increase in

their business. I think it's pretty safe to say that same thing will happen here."

Rempel said Steel Creek Developers are proud of their unique hotel room designs, where the bathroom in each hotel

Stever room is down the middle,

dividing the beds, as it fits the needs for customers who pass through small communities. There are also rooms

built that are best suited for sports teams who are staying as a group, as well as large families. Rempel stated their hotel buildings also include a meeting room

that the community can use for public or

During the meeting, quite a few residents showed their interest in having a building in town that would work as an assisted living facility.

Although Rempel said the company has only built mixed facilities as a hotel and apartment building, they are interested in creating a model that would work as a ho-

tel and assisted living building in Redvers.

"The way we build our hotels, generally, we put them in a lot so that it's a business you can expand and add on to (in the future) without a lot of extra costs," Rempel

"The reason for that is because want the shareholders to make a good return and empty hotel rooms don't make you any good money. We much rather add on because of the need for it, than build it too

big at the start and have it losing money.
"Another thing is our room design has some of the features purposely designed for, let's say, someone else came to town and built a massive hotel and your hotel becomes obsolete, overnight we can turn this hotel into assisted living.
"That's one of our models, if there's a

need for assisted living and if we could get enough shareholders to do it, I would

If the community wishes to move forward with the project, Rempel spoke about needing local investors to cover the

cost of the project.

"For anyone that is really interested, we would have another meeting and I would bring my son out and he could run

"No one is going to say they're going to invest unless they really feel comfortable that the numbers will get them enough re-Continued on page 18 ™

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President of Steel Creek Developers, Ken Rempel, spoke about his interest for building a hotel in the community and answered residents questions at a public meeting that was held on Feb. 7.



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Around 250 people came out on Feb. 21 to attend a public meeting about emergency service disruptions at the Town of Oxbow's Galloway



MLA for the Cannington Constituency Daryl Harrison answered some of the questions residents had about health care concerns happening

Oxbow residents hold public meeting to address concerns over repeated ER closures

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS AND KARA KINNA

The room was full of concerned citizens at Oxbow's public meeting pon Feb. 21. which was held to find out why the town's Galloway Health Centre was having emergency room closures for the last month and a half.

Due to the health centre's ER being closed about 12 times since the beginning of the year, people in town felt the need to hold the meeting to get an answer as to why the closures kept reoccurring.
"The problem was that we didn't know

what the reasons were, that's why we held the meeting," said Tara Brock, one of the organizers for the event.

"There's so many people on social media or in the town or at the coffee shop discussing why they think we're having a closure, but nobody really knew the answer. That's why we invited these representations of the control of the con

swer. Ihat's why we invited these representatives to get the answer from them."

Colleen Easton, Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) Director of Acute Care, explained why the repeated ER closures were happening in Oxbow.
"For Oxbow specifically, the 12 disruptions that took place from the beginning of the year until now were always because

or the year until now were always because we couldn't fill a Registered Nursing (RN) shift that was open," Easton said.

"Whether it was someone who was sick or someone was away, there was no one to back fill it. When you don't have a RN then you can't have an emergency room open."

During the time of the ER closures, the health centre had two and a half RN vacancies, which had not been filled until

Easton made it clear to the residents at the meeting that the vacancies had been filled prior to the public meeting being

With the positions now being filled, Easton was asked if she thinks it will solve

the issue of the repeated ER closures. "I wouldn't promise that there would be no more disruptions because things can happen, but it certainly should stabilize," said Easton.

"We are going to request to see if we can get that extra funding in this third round (of recruitment) for one more position which is for a redundancy so that you're not always the last nurse on duty. If some-

not always the last nurse on duty. It some-one goes off you can still stay open." Aside from Easton, SHA Interim Direc-tor of Primary Healthcare Candace Kopec, MLA for the Cannington Constituency Daryl Harrison, Galloway Health Cen-tre Community Services Manager Caro-line Hill, and Dr. Robert Kitchen, MP for Souris-Moose Mountain, were present at the event to answer any questions.

Throughout the meeting, residents expressed their concerns for not having enough RNs at the health centre in Oxbow and requested to have additional positions

Easton said she will be putting their re-

quest forward for another full-time RN.
"They have experienced disruptions and they didn't have two RNs at night,

and they didn't have two KNs at night, which was some of the criteria that were required," she said.
"I think the request is a shot, but it isn't up to me and I don't want them to think that it is, but I think they have a valid shot. Then you have to fill those jobs too, which



From left are, SHA Interim Director of Primary Healthcare Candace Kopec, MLA for the Cannington Constituency Daryl Harrison, Caroline Hill Galloway Health Centre Community Services Manager, Dr. Robert Kitchen MP for Souris-Moose Mountain, and SHA Director of Acute Care Colleen Easton.

is the other thing."

Easton spoke about what SHA will be doing next to address the concerns that were brought forward at the meeting.

"What happens now is we will summa-rize what went on here, who was at the tarize what went on nere, who was at the ta-ble, what questions were asked, and write a report and send that through our com-munity engagement portfolio," she said. "They then will forward it to the Min-istry of Health. Having said that, Daryl

Harrison was here, I'm sure he will do that as well, but it will come officially from the

SHA to the ministry of health.

"They are aware of what's happening and they really have shown dedication to try and stabilize ERs. It's kind of unprecedented funding that's been coming out for these positions, but it takes time.

What are the plans now for moving forward?

For questions that could not be answered at the time of the meeting, SHA representatives stated they would look further into the issues, and follow up with

the community afterwards.

With the issue being addressed as to why the repeated ER closures were happening at Oxbow's health centre during the meeting, MLA for the Cannington Constituency Daryl Harrison spoke about what actions will be taken now to help the community move forward.

ommunity move forward.

"The local community committee is going to be putting together some notes and questions," said Harrison.

"As well, there's some outstanding questions to be answered, a lot of those

will come from the SHA officials calling in to Candace (Kopec).

Harrison was asked if he will be bringing any of the concerns addressed at the meeting to the Rural and Remote Health Minister directly.

"Any time there's a bypass of emergency services I always make sure they're aware and where the issues lie," he said. "I advocate for the constituency every

chance I get, and I (look) over the jobs and there's lots of RN positions available throughout the southeast and sometimes

s (because) an RN changes facilities. Hopefully we get some new recruits coming in to help."

The organizers of the meeting were

pleased to see 250 people from the community come out, and express some of their concerns about the ER closures and

how it has personally impacted them.

At the beginning of the meeting the group also addressed four main questions that they felt needed to be addressed by

that they left needed to be addressed by the panel, the following being: What is the difference between a health centre and hospital? How does this affect nursing staff and funding? Is there a full complement of staff at the

Galloway Health Centre and if not what are the reasons for this? This includes LPN, RN, Environmental Service Workers, Care Aids and any other positions re-quired to keep the facility in use. For this facility to remain open, what is the staffing requirements per shift?

In regards to out-of-country recruitment, once a foreign employee comes to Saskatchewan what is the additional training required before starting to work? What is the time frame that is expected for this extra training?
What is the correct process to ensure that

our concerns as individuals and commu-nity members are being acknowledged? Are these forms of contact checked regularly and thoroughly?

larly and thoroughly?

The group of organizers for the event were asked if they felt their questions were answered during the public meeting.

"We understand staffing is the issue. They told us this evening that some of those positions have been filled, but still all of those positions are not filled so it still doesn't help us,"said Tamera Brock one of the organizers for the event.

"It's still significant. STARS cannot

"It's still significant, STARS cannot come here if our emergency services are closed. Our EMT services can't come or take people there. We're 45 minutes from Estevan, if someone is having a stroke or heart attack they can't make it. "Did we get our answers? Maybe a bit,

not entirely, but I guess we'll have to wait

Treena Mohrbutter added that the issue of needing more RN positions at the Galloway Health Centre is still a concern.

"With having only one RN in the eve-ning, the staff has expressed their concerns that it's not enough to cover both sides of the health centre," Mohrbutter said. "It's a safety issue because if someone

omes in and it's an emergency and they have someone looking after the in-patients, they can't do two things at once. "There's times where it's been a severe emergency and people have been pulled from the acute side of the centre to deal with ER, which is fine because they need to do that as well, but there should be two

people present.

"Right now they're saying they're hoping to get to the point where we would have one RN and one LPN on in the evening, so then we would have one more person on shift."







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Students from Grade 5 and Grade 8 from Langenburg Central School visited the Rocanville Cross-Country Ski Trails last Wednesday as part of their physical education.



Aside from ski equipment, students also had access to snow shoes from the money Langenburg Central School and community raised in support of outdoor activities,

Langenburg students visit Rocanville ski trails

*** Continued from Page 13
"It's a hidden gem out here. I wish our school was right beside it so I could come out here for my hour long

classes.
"We love coming here. It's a perfect set up, the kids go out, everything loops back to the warm up shelter. Kids can't get lost or anything like that, it's set up really well." Krienke said giving students an opportunity to try cross-country skiing through school may help lead them to continue the activity later down the road.
"I think some of the kids look at cross-crounty skiing and or, this is completed."

ing and go, 'this is something I'm not going to do,' but then they get a little bit older, and might want to get into cross-country skiing," he said.
"Then they can recall some of these experiences they had in phys-ed class with us where it's like, 'oh we did

that in phys-ed class, I can get out there that and do that

"Hopefully it will encourage them to try it on their own time or with their parents. I know Rocanville has

their own equipment here so once the parents see that this is here, parents might show up with their kids and do it as a family too.

"You just hope it carries over into their lives and that they stay active doing whatever they want to do, but this

is just another option for them."

Krienke said he was very appreciative for McFarlene and Hack's help with while visiting the trails with teach-

ers and parent volunteers.
"I love these days, as a teacher these are days I really enjoy myself too," said Krienke.

port.

"And honestly, Dennis was out there on the skis on the skid making sure kids had Wednesday, Layne was in the shed making sure kids had hot chocolate and stuff. I can't say enough to them for being so good to us when we come." After each visit, students enjoyed complimentary cups

of hot chocolate and hot dogs at the trail's bonfire













New development proposed for Redvers

"We would have some

really serious meetings be-fore we would expect peo-ple to say they would do it. We would have to provide numbers that are based on

current prices."

With the estimate cost for building a 30 room hotel being \$7 million, the community would have to come up with 50 per cent of the funds before construction can start.

However to get the project to fruition, local investors are highly encouraged, Rempel said.

"The reason why we work with communities to have local investors as much as possible because we found that they all would help support it," Rempel said.
"We haven't done our

homework yet, but we're suggesting a hotel with 30 rooms. If the previous hotel had 64 rooms in Redvers and that was too big, I think with 30 rooms we should be pretty safe be-cause we only need half of those rooms filled and

we're making money. "If you fill 15 rooms on average then you're doing okay, you're not making a lot of money, but you're, probably, making a 10 per cent return on your invest-

Rempel said he does not have a location in mind for where the hotel would be located in Redvers, but recommends the local investors and shareholders to pick what they think is best for the town.

Mayor happy with turnout at event

The mayor of Redvers said he was happy with



Above is a front design of the hotel Steel Creek Developers is proposing for Redvers.

how many people from the community showed an interest in the public meeting for the hotel.

"I think the meeting went okay, I think there's some apprehension," Bulbuck said.

"I think everyone was tentative, they were here to find out information and ask guestions.

"The ones who are interested in investing, they aren't going to talk tonight, they're going to talk in pri-vate. They don't want to have conversations in public about investment opportunities.

Bulbuck said he was thrilled to see so much community engagement happen during the meet-

"First of all attendance wise, we had about 50 people here. Someone asked me last week how many people do we hope to have, if we expect to get 10 or 20, and I said I don't think we'll be a success un-less we get 50," he said. "In a town of 1,000 peo-

ple I think that's fire.
"The attendance was

good, the engagement was good, the questions were challenging because people want to know that they're getting into a ven-ture that's going to be suc-

cessful.
"Let's face it, people don't want to throw good money after bad.

With multiple questions being asked by residents about the development for the town, Bulbuck was asked what he thought was the biggest concerned

"I'm hearing a need for

assisted living. When we originally thought about this project, the first time with him, we spoke about an assisted living compo-nent and a hotel compo-

nent" he said.
"The more council and "The more council and I talked to him, I thought with what's happening with the Saskatchewan Housing Authority and the private sale of that unit, that depending what someone does with that, maybe it will just be a hotel unit, but again, we don't know what that's going to

look like until that property sells and that development comes in.

"It would be nice to nail that down. Having said that, what I'm hearing tonight is there is a need for assisted living in Redvers. "What level of care that is? We don't know at this

point, but I think that's where the community engagement is important.

After the meeting, Rempel met with members from the community and took down any further questions they had.

"There will be follow up phone calls that Ken will be making where he will find out what people are looking from us," he said. Bulbuck said he saw a balance of investors and

residents who came out at the night of the meeting.

"Tonight there were peo-ple in the community who wanted a hotel because they need a place for family and friends to stay when that come here," he said.

"There's people in the room who were looking for information with respect to assisted living and there were people in the room who are here for investment purposes. That's the cross-section we want.

He was asked what the next steps are to move the project forward.
"I think the next steps

are to follow up with the people that are here, see where what their thoughts were," he said.

"Then, we can get together as a council and re-evaluate at that point, then to have more conversations with Ken and see what the next steps are with him.
"I think that's important,

we have to gage the community interest as well."



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The Carnduff competitors waiting their turn.

Carnduff Gym Club hosts fun gymnastics competition

On February 4 the Carnduff Gym Club Hosted a fun competition at the Dean Fra-

ser Center in Carnduff.
The Carnduff Gym Club competitive

The Carndulf Gym Club competitive team hosted 84 gymnasts from Ross Gym & Fit (Moosomin) and Moose Mountain Jumpers (Carlyle) during this fun meet. Recreational, Competitive and Acrobatic Gymnasts completed routines and enjoyed meeting other gymnasts from around the southeast corner of Saskatchewan.

ewan.

This is the second year for Carnduff to host this fun competition.

It gives all the recreational and acrobatic symnasts a chance to show off what they have been learning and the competitive symnasts get a fun practice run before they head to actual competitions throughout the province over the next couple of months.

Each participant went home with a sub-

Each participant went home with a sub-way gift card, thanks to the sponsors—Ca-nadian Energy Services, DM Farms, Wes Way Farms, and Dixon Well Servicing. The competitive team is already looking

forward to next year's event after the success of this year's.

Carnduff Gymnasts participated in

Carnduff Gymnasts participated in one more fun competition at Moosomin,

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Each participant received Subway gift cards thanks to sponsors.

Daryl Harrison

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The Cobblestone House is a three-story home in Moosomin, located in a residential area overlooking the baseball fields and beautiful prairie. Our peaceful prairie setting offers residents access to safe outdoor areas for fresh air, walking, gardening, and bird watching. The main floor provides 14 suites that are designed to offer any care the residents may require including memory care. The 2nd floor will provide assisted living (level 1 and level 2) and the 3rd floor will provide meals, housekeeping, and activities, plus the added options of a "Living Plan" for independent residents that prefer more services.

The primary focus of this traditional house is to provide a comfortable and happy home that supports the "Aging in Place" concept. This gives residents the comfort of knowing they never have to look at alternative living arrangements as care needs change. The Cobblestone House provides residents with a home that adapts to their needs, so residents never have to leave their community, their families or their friends. The goal is to keep community members part of their community at every stage of life.



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Plain & Valley March 2023 • Page 21 Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

SARM aims to attract the next generation to rural government

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) is aiming to attract the next generation to get involved in rural municipal covernment

municipal government.

As more young families are calling rural Saskatchewan home, recruitment of the next generation is vital to maintaining a healthy rural municipal government. SARM stated.

the next generation is vital to maintaining a healthy rural municipal government, SARM stated. "This is something our SARM board has been talking about for a while," said Ray Orb, President of SARM.

"Also, we can see what's happening in rural Saskatchewan. We can see the demographics of our councils.

cils. "We have a lot of older councillors, I'm one of them. I've been involved with council for quite a few years, also with SARM too. I think we would like to see more young people or new people being attracted to council, and to getting elected into council.

"We put this out for people to start thinking about, and to be able to help us come up with some solutions on how to attract people.

people.

"We have some ideas of our own, but we would really like to talk to our members too."

During SARM's 118th Convention on March 15, members will hear from current RM council members about bridging the aging demographic with SARM members and recruiting future diverse young leaders in rural Saskatchewan.

Orb spoke about a few of the ideas he has in mind for attracting young people to council.

"I have ideas and our board does too," he said. "Perhaps career fairs and

"Perhaps career fairs and things like that would help. Even going to local high schools, getting people that are in the later grades especially who are interested in maybe getting elected into a council.

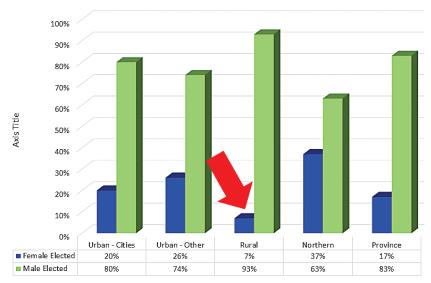
"I know there's some RMs that had some junior members sitting at their



Above: The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) is calling out for ideas on how to get younger and new people to be a part of rural municipal governments at their next SARM convention on March 15.

Below: The below graph shows the percentage of women compared to the percentage of men that are involved in urban/city governments, rural governments and provincial government. Graph credited to the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM).

Elected Officials Gender Breakdown, 2016



council meetings as advi-

sory members.

"They're not elected, but they're sitting as an advisor. It could be as a youth councillor, maybe a 4H councillor, things like that. I think all of those ideas will help. We're hoping we can get some feedback at our convention about this as well."

Orb spoke about the advantages and differences he has seen from being a part of a rural municipal government.

government.
"I think it's really important for everyone out in rural Saskatchewan to see what the role is for the council and reeves, and the administration as well," he said.

"Obviously working through SARM there's a chance to advance Ag policy. We have a lot of policy people that work within SARM, but helping attract economic development into your rural areas too. Even right now, attracting rural doctors and nurses, there's a role for the municipal council to be able to do that.

"Also the RCMP and

"Also the RCMP and policing, sub-committees provide housing for some of these people. Veterinarians are another one. For a number of years there have been quite a few RMs that have jointly owned veterinary clinics."

nary clinics.
"It all helps in the speed of things to work together. I think that's the role that I see, good governance is the other thing. Getting that message out of what the RM is doing, what they plan to do, like infrastructure and improvements. Communicating to the members to really make sure that they understand what's going on, and also to get feedback from them.

what's going on, and also to get feedback from them. "That's one of the reasons why we put out this press release. We wanted to draw attention to that."

Aside from aiming to involve more young people in rural municipal government, Orb said they hope to get more women involved as well.

Continued on Page 29



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Upcoming projects in Redvers: New SARCAN building, Kubota dealership underway

"Our space will mainly be for equipment. We do a lot of cabinets and home projects. This will be a place to get everything from, and get organized with our staff in the morning.

"Our restoration company needs a huge spot to clean all of our equipment and stuff like that. This will be a location for the starting point of everyday as well."

George said he expects the

George said he expects the construction of the building to be finished by May. He said he is looking forward to the project being completed.

"This will be year eight since I started the business. This will definitely grow our business, and for SARCAN, a cleaner and newer building is going to be great." he said.

newer building is going to be great," he said.
"We plan to do a lot of landscaping around it, once we get the building made, to make it more appealing because there's going to be a lot more people coming in. The closest SARCAN to here is in Moosomin, all of our inlaws are out by Carievale and Gainsborouch so a lot and Gainsborough so a lot of them come here.

of them come here.
"There's a lot of people
that are going to see it,
that's why we want to put
some curb appeal out front
just to add a little bit, because there's going to be
lots of people coming in
and out."

Progress on Kubota dealership

Another ongoing project that is happening in the community of Redvers is the building of a new Kubota dealership.

Redvers Ag took on the Kubota brand two years ago. The owner, Perry Dangstorp, said having the new business in town will be a great addition to the community

and surrounding area.
"We would be the only Kubota dealership between Estevan and Yorkton. It's pretty much our job to service a 60 mile radius of

job to service a 60 mile radius of Redvers," he said.

"For the town, we've added three staff which is good because it's added more jobs. Then from the previous stuff we sold there was no product overlap. It's all new stuff that we're selling."

Dangstorp said the construc-

tion for the dealership is expected to be finished by the end of summer and should be in use by

Bedecs proud of development in Redvers

Being a part of a family busi-ness that has been in Redvers for 60 years, Frank Bedecs said he is proud to see local businesses in the community continue to grow and flourish in the Town of Red-

"Any development that hap-

pens in a smaller community promotes every business in town," Bedecs said, he is the owner of Bedecs Ready Mix Ltd.

"It brings employees, it brings families, obviously the housing market develops even more too. I've noticed in the last year, and this year, that Redvers is having a little bit more growth than other towns." other towns.

"Any time you bring even one

family into a smaller communi-ty, it makes a difference."

Bedecs said it is important for local businesses to work together, and for neighboring communities to support one another.

"If we didn't support one another than you wouldn't have a community," he said.

'You're hurting yourself if you don't help everyone else. That's what I see, and that's what we've been doing for 60 years. We don't just develop one spot, we develop a whole southeast corner as a whole with advertising, with donations. It helps everyone out.

eryone out."

He said he is looking forward to the new SARCAN building being completed, along with Evergreen Construction and the Kubota dealership having a space for business in town.



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BRIMNERS KANYON 162K CEDARLEA HILTON 204H X MCTAVISH ROCK SOLID 38Y 09.03.22 | BW 99 lb | Oct 12 WW 750 lb | Homo Polled CE: 7.3 | BW: 0.0 | WW: 46 | YW: 91 | M: 20 | TM: 43



BRIMNERS KEGGER 108K SOS GAME OF THRONES 98D X BNE CONGA 9C 02.03.22 | BW 100 lb | Oct 12 WW 700 lb | Homo Polled CE: 4.7 | BW: 0.9 | WW: 44 | YW: 91 | M: 24 | TM: 46



BRIMNERS KASTLE 6K HVA HARCO 11H X LT LEDGER 0332 P 12.02.22 | BW 101 lb | Oct 12 WW 860 lb | Homo Polled CE: 7.5 | BW: 0.3 | WW: 53 | YW: 103 | M: 18 | TM: 44

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William: 306-575-7697



Alanna Koch named Farm and Food Care Champion

wan announced recently at the Ag Awareness Summit in Saskatoon that the winner of the 2022 Cham-

that the Winner of the 2022 Cham-pion Award is Alanna Koch.
Each year, the Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan Champion Award recognizes a recipient who has engaged consumers about agriculture and worked to build public trust in farming and food in our province and beyond.

A long-time agriculture cham-pion and senior government ex-ecutive, Alanna served as Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary.

net Secretary.

Prior to that, she was the Sas-katchewan Deputy Minister of Agriculture for nine years. As one of the longest serving Ag-riculture Deputy Ministers in Saskatchewan and Canadian his-tery. Alanna worked closely with tory, Alanna worked closely with farmers and industry and her priority was to build and main-tain public trust in agriculture by focusing on science-based deci-sion making and communicating

technology.

Alanna has been involved in Alana has been involved in the agriculture industry, both professionally and personally, for most of her life. Before joining government, she was President of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance and was a Director with Agricore United (a predecessor of Viterra), and Executive Director of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

She was on the board of the

Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP) and the Buf-falo Plains School Division.

Alanna's influence as a mentor was highlighted in 2021 when she was included in the Top 50 in Canadian Agriculture.

In 2015, she was recognized by the Regina YWCA with the Wom-en of Distinction Award for excellence in Leadership and Manage-

In 2012, Alanna received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and in 2011, she was



Alanna Koch

inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame for her outstanding achievement in the sector. In 2005, her contributions to the agricultural industry and to her community were recognized when she received the Saskatch-ewan Centennial Medal.

Alanna is a graduate of the Ca-

nadian Agriculture Lifetime Leadership program and an Honorary Life Member of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists.

She is a member of the Sas-katchewan Agriculture Hall of

She has a Chartered Director designation from the Directors College, a program of the Con-ference Board of Canada and the Michael D. DeGroote School of Business at McMaster University.

Alanna and her husband, Gerry Hertz, farm at Edenwold. They have two daughters, Shayla and Keisha.

"Saskatchewan is fortunate to have many talented agriculture influencers," said Joan Heath, who has known and worked with Koch for several years. "What sets Alanna apart is her ability and opportunity to traverse into the broader community outside of agriculture to advance agriculture public trust."

"There are so many who do so much and I'm just so honoured

to be recognized as this year's Champion," Koch said in her ac-ceptance speech. "What better way to make a dif-

ference in the world than to cham-pion the best people and the best industry? To be able to share our story of how we farm and why we need innovation and access to all the tools and technology to sus-tainably feed the world is where so much of our focus has been the last 10 years, since the very first Ag Awareness Summit. We have come so far and made huge progress on getting our message out—and we have so much more to do."

"Farm & Food Care Saskatch—

ewan is pleased to recognize Al-anna Koch as our champion for 2022," said Clinton Monchuk, Executive Director. "She is well-known within Saskatchewan and around the world as a tireless advocate for agriculture in our province. We're so proud of the amazing people this award recognizes."

SK ag minister asking federal gov. to reconsider decision of pesticide use

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

On behalf of the Canada Grains Council and their respective associations, Saskatchewan's Agriculture Minister David Marit sent a letter to the Government of Canada asking them to reconsider extending the timeline for allowing grains produced from crops treated with lambda-cyhalo-thrin in 2023 and previous years, to be market for feed and grain.

The letter is in response to the federal Pest Manage-ment Regulatory Agency (PMRA) announcement for changing its approved uses for lambda-cyhalothrin, an effective pesticide that many farmers rely on to control grasshoppers and flea beetles.

"It's very concerning," said Marit in an interview with the World-Spectator

last Wednesday. "We've always said to

riculture that any decisions we make should really be science based, and really have a serious look at it. This one just seemed to pop out.

The letter of concern was addressed to Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau and Canada's Min-ister of Health Jean-Yves Duclos.

"How much research did they do? How much collaboration within the industry did they do? When you look at the U.S. model and what they did with it, and what Canada PMRA did with it, is very concerning because they did it on the feed grain side. If you look at the U.S. they didn't change any-thing," Marit said.

thing," Marit said.
"Ontario, Quebec, and Alberta to the biggest degree, they import a lot of animal feed from the United States, but there's nothing saying they are going to

ban that or anything about that. So why did they do this?"

In 2019, the United States Environmental Protection Agency removed restrictions on lambda-cyhalo-thrin's use. Yet, the PMRA made the opposite decision, which has led to confusion about what will be done about livestock feed com-ing in from Saskatchewan's

rgest trading partner.

Marit said the Governent of Saskatchewan ment ment of Saskatchewan is in support of delay-ing the implementation for PMRA's review of the Re-evaluation Decision of lambda-cyhalothrin and its Associated End-use Prod-ucts (RVD2021-04), as implementing it a year from now will allow producers more time to seek an alternative for a product they can use to treat pesticides

for their crops.
"It's industry led, we're supporting it, the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan are supporting it and saying, give us a year to figure this thing out and let's do some more research on it," he said. "Let's collaborate with

our counterparts across the border because in the Ag in-dustry, product moves very fluidly across the border, especially when it comes to live animals, even pro-cessed animals, but also feed. Feed moves and we saw it in 2021 when corn was coming up here to the feed lots because we didn't have enough feed, and vice versa.

"We really need to have a serious look at this, and I would really hope the PMRA would say, we're go-ing to extend it for a year. We're going to have a seri-ous look and let's base this decision on science and not on some anecdotal comment that might have been made, or however it came

made, or nowever it came to transpire.

"But, I think it's an opportunity that we really have to base this on science and be fluid with our country the United States."

terparts the United States." Marit was asked if he thinks the federal govern-ment will take a serious

look at their request.
"We're hopeful," he said.
"We've asked our federal agriculture minister to raise it with her counterpart to help and say, look we're going to give it at least a year. Then we're going to do more research and more collaboration consultation with it, and find out what the issue is here.
"I would hope that we

would get that (response) because the company that makes the product has already said, if it can't be used for feed then we're not

used for feed then we're not going to give it.

"If you just look at what happened here in the last couple of years with grass-hoppers and flea beetles, and if we lose a product like this, we are going to lose a lot of crop.

"The other thing is we don't have an alternative

don't have an alternative that works as good as this product does."







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If you are a grain farmer, that picture says it all

As I was scrolling through my FB feed earlier today, I came across one of those "I have been chosen to post I came across one of those I have been chosen to post a 'finding joy in life challenge' photo, no explanation," posts and there it was—a night-time picture of a semi unloading grain at a bin on a Saskatchewan farm alongside a tractor, lights on, powering the auger that took the grain from the beneath the trailer up into the bin.

the grain from the beneath the trailer up into the bin.

If you are a grain farmer, that picture just says it all—
long days and longer nights in the effort to bring in the
fruits of our labour all while (hopefully) staying one
step ahead of the weather. Working day after day until
the only word left is this: "done!"

Talk about a feeling of nostalgia as I began to write
this column, so thanks for your post MK! Because of all
the steps and the challenges every one of us as grain
farmers goes through to get to the 'end' which really
isn't an ending but rather a moment to regroup before
carrying on with life down on the farm, I am reminded
of a time when 'the end' was near and I was at my wit's
end shall we sav. end shall we say.

Many years ago, literally 35 plus or so, when my kids were little, our farm family which included my parents-in-law, my hubby, hubby's baby bro (but old enough to drive lol) and our hired hand had reached the end of a long drawn-out harvest.

We were down to the last couple of fields but we had reached those short October days—you know those days when nights come way too quickly and the moisture means you can no longer keep the combines growl-

This was, quite possibly, the last day, the last night of harvest and the last night of meals in the field.

My mother-in-law had made a crock pot of soup and I told her I would go along with her, or rather she could come come along with me and we would head out to the field in our old three-speed half ton, the one without power steering and not quite enough room for the five of us, let alone the required three car seats.

We piled in, leaving the farmyard later than we should have knowing darkness would come all too soon and made our way some 20 miles and three creeks away, down grid roads and prairie trails.

Grandma struggled to keep the soup steady between her feet while holding a toddler; I struggled to steer that miserable truck to the right going down the hill and left back up the hill as I changed gears repeatedly in the process, knocking the littlest one in the head every time or so it seemed.

By creek #3, I was getting frustrated and the baby was now asleep which only made her harder to hang on to. At last, though now dark, we arrived and I pulled into the field. We had arrived!

As I swung the truck to the left and then to the right, I had this sinking feeling—there were no combine lights, no grain truck lights, no nothing.

Just blackness. I looked at my mother in law and said, "They finished already and took the south way home to awaid the greater disk they?"

avoid the creeks, didn't they?"

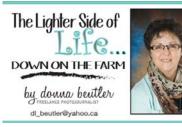
And indeed they had. We worked our way back through the creeks (fortunately the water levels were

low at that time of year) and prairie trails, no pow-er steering, constantly changing gears and now all three kids were sleep-ing and bouncing around in that old rough half-ton.

Did we take the south, but longer, creek-free way? Oh no, we took the north, but shorter way of course. And there on the last twenty acres of crop were my guys—right across from my house where we had left from a mere hour before.

We pulled up to where my brother-in-law sat in the grain truck and asked him if he was ready for





"Nope," he said, "the guys are finishing up here and we need to go out to the field we were on before this and bring dad's half-ton home. We can eat at the house

And in he hopped behind the wheel, pushing me to enter seat as the six of us in a truck meant-for-thegan the trek back, the same way we had just gone.

By now, Grandma had two sleepy kids sitting on her knee but her feet never left that crock pot of soup! The soup was cold of course by the time we actually got around to feeding everyone, but hey, we were DONE and done has the power to obliterate the memory of any parior (and in hindelich in this case, mirror) challenges. prior (and in hindsight in this case, minor) challenges

This past month I have had the opportunity to spend ome time away from home and away from all things

Also, away from the cold and the snow-the part of home I don't miss. To the land of cacti I hear from the grands now and then (though the twins haven't kept me updated on calving numbers).

Some of the kids are competing in skating and hock

Some of the kids are competing in skating and nockey and curling and are mastering their gymnastic and
dance skills and we can cheer from afar. I have sent
them pics of "our desert view" complete with cattle,
horses, coyotes, rabbits, quali, doves and other birds
that call the desert their home and I have told the twins
that Grandpa feels quite at home in his desert home
because there are cattle to check right out back of our
place, though he wonders how many cattle a person can run on a section of rather barren desert.

During my time in the Mesa area, I have never been so

aware of how deeply imbedded farm-life is within me Cacti-laden sunsets are indeed beautiful but not

long after arriving at our beside-the-desert home outside of Mesa, we were ready to leave the city behind and do some day tripping through nearby 'farmland'—not the end-less stretch of Saskatchewan prairies we call home, but rather bits and parcels

of land where cotton fields lay, interspersed with irrigated alfalfa fields, orange groves and Walmarts. Well perhaps, that's not quite accurate, but in the Pheonix area, you can very quickly be in 'farm' courty and then hit miles of suburbs, box stores and multiacres of RV resorts.

It's been nothing but a delight to see other parts of the continent on our trip south—the Dakota and Kansas plains, the red rocks of Sedona; the artsy 'old-town' streets of places like Cottonwood; the mountains and valleys of Pine and Payson, but in the words of our Saskatchewan neighbour down here in Gold Canyon on a beautiful Arizona night as we watched the sun set over the cactuses behind our temporary home, "There's truly nothing anywhere that can match a Saskatchewan sun-

And I could not agree more! And as I close off, I know I am not the only one who appreciates the beauty of places other than home, but one thing I know—we live on the most amazing and beautiful prairies of Saskatchewan, Canada and you just can't beat that!



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	23	Thursday	Sheep & Goa	t Sale	1 p.m.	
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	3	Monday	Butcher Cow	& Bull Sale	9 a.m.	
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	12	Wednesday	/ Presort Sale			
	17	Monday		Butcher Cow & Bull Sale		
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RM of Mount Pleasant #2 Carievale, SK

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K1 headframe dismantled

The Rakowski demolition team was in Esterhazy recently taking down the retired K1 headframe at Mosaic Esterhazy.

Rakowski, in conjunction with South East Construction, was dismantling the upper sections until their 40-metre-high reach could take on the lower half to finish the job.







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SARM aims to attract the next generation to rural government

"We don't have a lot of women on council, but we'll be pushing for that at our convention," he said.

"We have about seven per cent of wom-en on council. I've noticed over the years we have more women now than we did

we have more women now than we did five or 10 years ago, but it's not increasing as much as I would've thought. "For the administration side it has changed a lot. Now we have a lot of wom-en that are administrations whereas 20 years ago we had mostly men." Orb was asked if he thinks bringing in

younger and new people on council will

younger and new people on council will improve governance.

"It's diversity that we're saying we need more of, and a part of that is young people being involved as well, women being involved as well," he said.

"They bring in a different point of view in a lot of cases.

"People like my own age, you know, I'm getting to the end of my own municipal career. Obviously that all helps in the decision making because different points of view, lead to because different points of view, lead to different outcomes."











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SARM, SSGA, SCA call for support for cattle industry

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), along with mem-ber RMs, is concerned for the future of livestock producers operating in the prov-ince, with the industry continuing to see issues such as veterinarian shortages, low issues such as veterinarian snortages, row profitability, support on premiums, and year-over-year drought. "Cattle producers have been strug-gling with feed concerns due to ongoing

gling with feed concerns due to ongoing drought and it has taken its toll on the profitability of producers. Alongside the feed concern, young ranchers are strug-gling to get into the industry, or find sus-tainability with fluctuating prices and lit-Ray Orb, President of SARM.
Saskatchewan ranchers are heading into

one of the most important seasons, calving, and are concerned about the shortage of rural veterinarians. Livestock producers need the support of nearby veterinarians for the health and safety of their herds

ians for the health and safety of their herds and the longevity of their stock. "Can we put incentives in place to at-tract veterinarians to consider opening clinics in our rural communities? Let's start offering opportunities for youth en-tering the field to open clinics in our prov-ince. The lack of veterinarians is a chronic concern for producers who are being left concern for producers who are being left to travel great distances to find animal aid, or enduring additional costs for mobile vet appointments, we just don't have enough services for our livestock industry" says, Orb.

"The Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Associ-ation (SCA) has been working with cattle producers to bring forward concerns to decision makers about the challenges that the industry has been facing and contin-ues to face," says SCA Board Chair Keith Day.
"We are continuing to bring these issues forward by working with organizations like SARM and SSGA to ensure that the

economic future of our industry is pre-served. The agriculture sector is funda-mental to the growth of Saskatchewan's economy, and the livestock sector needs to be recognized for the outsized role it plays in sectorities are outsignment while serve in protecting our environment while pro-viding quality protein for a world facing a food crisis."

"The last five years of drought has ex-posed some major cracks in the cattle business. The lack of business risk man-agement tools, the lack of pricing trans-parency, and the rapid exit of aging pro-ducers threaten the very existence of the beef industry in Saskatchewan. Economics has speed the decline in cattle numbers as has sped the decline in cattle numbers, as well, the relative economic success in oth-er sectors has turned the land from grass to annual crops, ensuring that the cows won't return. While all indications point won't return. While all indications point to better days ahead for producers who remain, the SSGA welcomes all industry partners to continue to work together to fix the problems that got us here so that when these situations arise the industry is more resilient and able to operate on the same footing as other commodity producers," says Jeffrey Yorga, 1st Vice President Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association. SARM, SCA, and SSGA are invested in finding solutions and immediate support

finding solutions and immediate support for the ranchers that make up a large por-tion of rural Saskatchewan. The organizations want to see producers grow and suc-ceed and to do this they need support with better risk management programs, more rural vet clinics, irrigation, and consideration for a joint effort from our provincial and federal governments in cost-sharing premiums.
SARM, SCA, and SSGA continue to call

for action in support of cattle producers and push for discussions with the provin-cial government, delegates, and producers at their convention on March 14-16 in Sas-



Community builder Doug Griffiths will be coming to Moosomin on March 22

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

Best-selling author of 13 Ways to Kill your Community and former Alberta MLA Doug Griffiths will be speaking in Moosomin on Wednesday, March 22 to talk about collaborating and working together with surrounding communities to support overall regional collaboration, and economic growth.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Moosomin Conexus Convention Centre. Prices for early bird tickets are \$20

exus Convention Centre. Prices for early bird tickets are \$20 until March 8, afterwards tickets will be selling for \$30.

"I'll be sharing, like I always do, stories about when collaboration doesn't work and a lot of stories about the importance of collaboration between businesses, between businesses and chambers, between the chambers and local government and industry," said Griffiths.

"I'll be sharing stories about where communities fall down and also success stories. I do often relate a story about two towns and a county working on a regional economic development strategy where I gave a bit of a presentation about the need for regional collaboration to be successful. After I finished, one of the gentlemen from the county said 'Doug, you said we're friends and that we need to work together, but you're wrong. They're not our friends in town, they're our enemies, they want our money so they can build more sidewalks in town, put a pool, do more street lights, more sidewalks in town, put a pool, do more street lights, they're not our friends.' Then another guy from the county stood up and said, 'but doesn't your mom live in town?'

"The actual title of the presentation I'll be doing is: I've seen the enemy and it's my mom. I've described that (attitude) as the plague of the 21st century when it comes to municipalities, which is the fear of losing your autonomy, your identity and your power.

"I've actually been in places where a regional collaboration framework is being signed so that they can work be

"Tve actually been in places where a regional collaboration framework is being signed so that they can work together, share resources for economic development, have a marketing strategy, to dealing with other things like housing, which is a huge issue all over North America right now. "I have had to deal with people who openly say things like, I heard if we sign this deal they're going to take our town sign down, they're going to take the history books out of our library because we won't exist anymore. It's sort of the conspiratorial mindset. I have seen that a lot, it is a thing that holds municipalities back from achieving success probably more so than anything else."

Last year alone, Griffiths visited over 522 communities where he gave presentations and spoke to representatives

Last year atone, Griffiths visited over 5.22 communities where he gave presentations and spoke to representatives about community collaboration.

One of the key points to how municipalities can work together with their neighboring communities is building a relationship with one another, Griffiths said.

"You've got to start, I always say, with beer and burgers," he said

he said.
"You've got to build a relationship, too many municipalities start off with trying to sign a formal agreement when they don't really have a relationship between their administrations or between their publics or between their councils, and you've got to build that relationship of trust (first). "It's a little like approaching getting married, you don't start with the proposal you start with a date and seeing if you're compatible and what you can work together on. "Then another significant milestone is we presult generally encourted."

"Then another significant milestone is we usually encourage municipalities to pursue is a common ground docu-

"A lot of municipalities will start off with, 'we don't need "A lot of municipalities will start off with, 'we don't need to work together we're just fine' or, 'we're already doing everything we need to do.' They don't spend enough time finding out if they have issues that they're both dealing with or how they both want more economic development, so all of them end up focusing on payroll and administrative stuff that there's no money (left) to do economic development or

The mindset is that you need to start with common ground to find common ways to work together instead of fighting for scraps from the table. As a small municipality you're going to take seat at the table, you're going to grow the pie instead of fighting over the little pieces that you hope you can attract.

"No municipality has the resources available or necessary

to do all of this stuff by themselves. You need to work with your neighbors because we're not competing against each other anymore, we're competing against other regions that have learned to work together."

With Moosomin having groups in town that focus on

working together as a community, such as the Community Builders Alliance (CBA), Moosomin Chamber of Commerce, the town and the RM, Griffiths said the community is on the right path.

"I'm looking forward to learning more about what you guys are doing in Moosomin because we have a podcast that we do about our success and in progress stories," he

that we do about our success and in progress stories, he said.

"They're specifically for all of those people who say 'that won't work and it can't happen' so we show them an example of where it is working."

As excited as he is to come to Moosomin, Griffiths spoke about how the idea for him presenting in Moosomin came

about.

"(Community Futures) and I will call once and a while.

"(Community Futures) and I will call once and a while. We spend some time talking about issues and what the next steps are and where to go," said Griffiths.

"I always tell people I'm not a lawyer, I don't charge by the hour, if you have any questions give us a call. We talked about a regional collaboration, we talked about how the world is changing in the future, we talked about strategic planning, we talked about a lot of different areas, and they said they thought regional collaboration would be a good point to come talk about in Moosomin.



Community builder and internationally known speaker Doug Griffiths will be speaking in Moosomin on March 22, at the MCC Centre about collaboration, co-operation, and the future of communities.

"I'm definitely going to talk about the next steps and the new things that Moosomin can do that you may not have gotten to yet, but it will also reaffirm that you are on the right path and how important the work that the community's doing, is.

Treat what ails them

Griffiths said that the most important aspect of collaboration all depends on the community and people you are working with.
He made the connection of treating the condition of neu-

rosis with how communities can work together to achieve economic development.

to do a strategic plan, and walk away from a community when we haven't treated what really ails them, we haven't helped them move

forward.
"The biggest way for a community to move forward on collaboration is to figure out what kind of mindset is holding us back, is it fear, is it a lack of autonomy, is it the desperation to maintain control, is it a hatred because someone hip checked someone else back in 1922 in a hockey game? So, moving forward first requires asking the big question, 'why don't we already do this together?

What's holding us back?'
"There isn't exactly one prescription, which is why I always recommend beer and burgers, or breakfast and Bloody Mary's whichever people prefer, but without an agenda, without trying to sign a contract to actually figure out what's holding you back, because when you find out what's holding you back and you can strip that away, then you can start to move forward by building the relationship and figuring out always recommend beer and torward by building the re-lationship and figuring out that common ground, about the things that you need to work on together and how you can be successful.

"I guess if I was trying to put a positive spin on it, if there was one thing to do, it is to recognize that no one

has enough resources to do everything, not even the big-gest city in the world."

Why should people attend the presentation?

Griffiths said he hopes to see people from different back-grounds come out to the presentation on March 22 at the Moosomin Conexus Convention Centre

"I hope the elected officials come out, I hope administrations come out," he said.

"I also hope that regional economic development will come out. I know Community Futures will be there, but I hope the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce will come out

"I also hope a lot of members from the public come to rec-ognize the opportunities that are there because the hardest

ognize the opportunities that are there because the hardest part about moving forward, generally and it's every aspect of what we do with communities, is you need the public to buy in and understand how they're going to benefit from it. "Most of the time we're so busy with our day-to-day lives we say whatever until an agreement gets signed, then someone says 'see, they're going to take down the town sign and burn our history books because now we're going to be one big regional municipality.' The only way to overcome those sorts of fears where there's a backing of information is to get people out to hear what's possible, and fill that vacuum where there's no information with some really creative, positive ideas that will get people excited about.
"I hope the school boards come, I hope anyone from the health authority comes. If you're going to keep your school full, you need families, and in order to have families you need parents who have jobs, parents who have housing,

full, you need families, and in order to have families you need parents who have jobs, parents who have housing, parents who have business opportunities.

"The school board should be just as concerned about economic development, businesses being profitable, and attracting new immigrants and newcomers as much as anyone else is because that helps with their viability.

"It's that way with every single piece of the community. The curling club should be concerned about how they're going to work with their neighbors so that their curling club remains viable as they attract new people to the region. It

remains viable as they attract new people to the region. It would be easier for me to list people who shouldn't come and listen to this presentation."

Griffiths was asked what he hopes people take away from

Griffiths was asked what he hopes people take away from his presentation.

"I hope people take away energy and excitement, and say I'm really glad Moosomin and the region are working well together because this bodes well for us," he said.

"As well as listen, so that two months from now if someone says we're going to lose something through collaboration, they know enough then to say 'no that's not true. We need to work together and we're origing to be better for it." need to work together and we're going to be better for it.'







Four of the ten different burgers that were a part of Sharpe's Burger Blitz organized around Canadian Ag Day in Moosomin, Rocanville and Fleming. Above: Nutrien Sportsplex's the Whiskey Queen and the Witch's Brew Honey Garlic Hawaiian Chicken Burger Below: Rocanville Golf Clubhouse Élvis! burger and the Cork & Bone Bistro's Horizon Burger.





Sharpe's Burger Blitz a different way to promote Canadian agriculture products

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
Sharpe's Crop Services' third annual Burger Blitz promoted Canadian agriculture and moved a lot of burg-ers—3,668 burgers were sold in the Moosomin, Fleming and Rocanville area from Feb. 13 to Feb 18, more than ever

before.

Ten local restaurants participated in this year's Burger

Ten local restaurants participated in this year's Burger

Ten local restaurants participated in this year's Burger Blitz selling burgers made from only Canadian agricultural products, timing it to coincide with Canadian Ag Day 2023. The Burger Blitz also gave Sharpe's a way to support local restaurants while promoting the ingredients used that come from Canadian agriculture. The number of burgers sold was up 1,000 from last year.

"We sold 2,600 burgers last year, but we also added two new restaurants for this year," said Lori Yeske of Sharpe's. "The World-Spectator helped promote it, so everyone knew about it. That made it a lot easier for us."

The 10 participating restaurants included the Red Barn.

The 10 participating restaurants included the Red Barn, Cork & Bone, Witch's Brew, Fleming Windsor Bar & Grill, Moosomin Dairy Queen, Nutrien Sportsplex, TJ's Pizza, The Crate House, Blueberry Kitchen and the Rocanville Town & Country Golf Clubhouse.

lown & Country Golf Clubhouse.

Based on its success from previous years, Sharpe's wanted to include more communities for this year's event.

"The feedback we got from Rocanville was awesome, they said it was nice to be included in an event in Moosomin," said Carly Miller of Sharpe's.

"We had a few different places reach out in previous years who said they wanted to be involved. We thought we would talk to Rocanville because they're in the area, to talk to Maryfield and try to get a few more communities

involved.

"We asked Blueberry Kitchen and Rocanville Golf Clubhouse and they said yes right away."

Next year Sharpe's is hoping to possibly include a business in Maryfield.

Last year, Sharpe's held their Burger Blitz during the week of family day. This year, they hosted it from Feb. 13 to Feb. 18, making it a six-day burger week.

"Every year we try to get some feedback from the restaurants and switch it up a little bit for the following year," said Miller.

"Canadian Ae Day always falls on the 15th so they were

"Canadian Ag Day always falls on the 15th, so that's why we decided to have it this week at this time, even though it was the same week as Valentines Day.

"I know last year, businesses felt that because it was held on the Family Day week, they had less business because off the rainity Tay week, they had responsible because there was lots of people away. That's why we stayed away from the break week this year because we thought there was probably lots of people out of town."
Miller said Sharpe's Burger Blitz is also a great chance for the business to connect with the community in Moo-

somin.

"It's great to put on something that gets everyone in-

volved, from people of all ages enjoying the burgers to businesses coming up with their creations," she said. "We are a local business so it is nice to connect with the

other local businesses in town through this event too."

How did the idea for Burger Blitz come about?

Miller said the idea of starting Burger Blitz in Moosomin to help promote Canadian Ag Day came from a community doing a similar event.

"We actually got the idea from Winnipeg who ran the burger week, but we've always wanted to do something more for Canadian agriculture too," said Miller.

"We have done lots of stuff at the schools in previous years, which is also where the idea came from which was challenging the local businesses to use Canadian products.

challenging the local businesses to use Canadian products and maybe create their own feature burger with something

and maybe create their own reature burger with something that's truly agricultural.

"We felt that the whole burger encompassed Canadian agriculture from every aspect."
Restaurants from the area were happy to be a part of the event and are looking forward to next year, said Miller.

"Blueberry Kitchen Rocanville stopped in and told us she already has an idea for next year," said Miller.

"Also Jarrod from the Cork & Bone stopped in and said it was feat-saic, that he loves being a part of it was feat-saic, that he loves being a part of it.

it was fantastic, that he loves being a part of it. "We haven't really had any negative feedback. I think

people are just happy to do it."

Yeske mentioned that the Crate House and Witch's Brew stopped selling burgers by the end of the event due to sell-

ing out.
"Blueberry Kitchen was also telling me that they had people come from Virden and Esterhazy to buy burgers,"

Also one day, they sent out 40 burgers to the mine.

With Sharpe's Burger Blitz bringing a lot of business into town, Miller and Yeske were asked how it feels to be part of having an impact on the community.

"It's definitely outside of our realm of things," said Mill-

"I feel like because we're not on Main Street, this helps Sharpe's get involved and helps to connect with the community a little bit more. We connect with our agriculture

munity a little bit more, we connect with our agriculture area a lot, but not necessarily with people who are in town. This is great for that."

People who tried the burgers also got a chance to vote on their favorite burger, as well fill out a Burger Stamp Card for a chance to win \$500 in a draw from every four burgers

for a chance to win \$500 in a traw from every four outgets they purchased.

From the week of the event, around 486 people placed their votes online with the results of Red Barn having the highest number of votes, and Blueberry Kitchen being a close second. The other participating restaurants were not

Yeske said she was happy to see how many people took part in placing their votes for their favorite burger. "That's pretty good, that's the best feedback we've had,"

Sharpe's staff also took part in trying as many burgers

"I got to try seven out of the 10 burgers," Miller said. "When we had a work meeting during the week, every-one ordered something different.

"I think across the board we probably got to every single restaurant, but maybe just not every single person got to

try every single one.
"I also liked that for us at work it allowed us to get together every lunch hour and enjoy it as a staff.

"I hope that other businesses are doing the same thing as we are because we've had it a couple years now where our whole company, from Langenburg and all of the people from Sharpe's, came together in Moosomin to eat the burgers in town.

"It is a cool way to get together as a group and have lunch."

Excited to make Burger Blitz an annual event

Yeske was asked if she thinks Sharpe's will continue to have Burger Blitz as an annual event.

"How can we not?" she said laughing.
"It helps get our name out there too. People usually stop and ask us too if we're doing burger week again or not, a lot of people do ask.

"As well, right before we started thinking about it, busi-

"As well, right before we started thinking about it, businesses were asking if we were going to host it again."

Based on the feedback they got from restaurants and people in the community from this year, Miller spoke about what Sharpe's plans to do differently for next year's event. "Depending on when Canadian Ag Day falls, we'll see," said Miller.

Miller said the event really helps spread the message about how important Canadian agriculture is.

"There's so many different components of Canadian agriculture that all goes into it," she said.

"That's why we chose the burser because it encompass-

"That's why we chose the burger because it encompasses several different sectors, whether it was pork, whether it was beef, whether it was grain, even lettuce, tomatoes. All of those different things can be included on a burger so that was the message we wanted to get out there, that every component of a lot of these burgers came from ag-

"As well, it celebrates Canadian Ag and supports local businesses. Sharpe's is a local business too so we want to tie in the rest of every one in town as well."

tie in the rest of every one in town as well."

"Also to help give people a boost during the winter time, because it is pretty quite," added Yeske.

In this year's Sharpe's Burger Blitz, Red Barn sold 654 burgers, Cork & Bone Bistro sold 260 burgers, Witch's Brew sold 375 burgers, Fleming Windsor Bar & Grill sold 234 burgers, Mosoomin Dairy Queen sold 608 burgers, Nutrien Sportsplex sold 312 burgers, TJ's Pizza sold 100 cheeseburger pizzas, The Crate House sold 515 burgers, Blueberry Kitchen sold 415 burgers, and the Rocanville Town & Country Golf Clubhouse sold 195 burgers.





Saskatchewan's Minister of Agriculture David Marit with Global CEO of ETG Commodities Rav Kapoor, during his trade mission in India from Feb. 13 to 22. ETG Commodities has six facilities located in Saskatchewan, and is one of the largest importers and processors of pulses in

Ag minister returns from trade mission to UAE and India to advance trade expansion

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS From Feb. 13 to Feb. 22, Agriculture Minister David Marit led a delegation to India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a trade mission, as well attended the Pulses Conclave in Mumbai. India and the Gulfood Exhibition in Dubai, UAE.

In 2022 Saskatchewan was the United Arab Emirates' and India's largest supplier of lentils, accounting for 70 per cent and 55 per cent of the country's imports, respectively.

The trip was about trying to improve trade and building relationships,"
Marit said.

"I was there three years ago and spoke at their Pulses Conclave, and and spoke at it again this year. India buys an awful lot of lentils and pretty much all of them come from Saskatchewan.

"We are about 90 per cent of the export business so it was important for us to build relationships with companies that do business there, that buy our product, and process it. As well, to see if there were opportunities for expansion and growth.

"Also we wanted to

hear from them if there are challenges in dealing with Saskatchewan companies or buying Saskatchewan product. The concern that we heard most was the logistical part of it, but the one thing I did hear quite significantly is they really like our product."

Marit spoke about some of the challenges and feedback stakeholders shared

pack stakeholders shared with him, during his visit. "The biggest issue is re-ally logistics. Other than that, they have no problem in dealing with Canadian companies," he said. "They love buring Sac

"They love buying Sas-katchewan product for, probably the two biggest reasons, the consistency in the product, and the high quality of the product. Even with some of the companies in Dubai that I

met with as well, they like Canadian lentils because of the process side of things."

In 2022, total exports to India were valued at \$1.4 billion, according to the Government of Saskatchewan. "Between

India Dubai, over \$700 million a year goes into those two markets," Marit said. "We were at the Gulfood

Exhibition in Dubai. There was over 4,000 exhibitors from around the world and a waiting list of thousands of people trying to get in.

"We met with companies that are from Saskatchewan that do business in that whole Gulf region. They like being in Dubai as a business hub and exporting from there, but they also are obviously looking at building facilities in India. Some of the big players here in the province are looking at facilities to store, and distribute from there as well.

"There's lots of potential, lots of opportunity, and that's what the mission was about, where can we grow that business, to let them know that we're open for business here as well, and expanding our trade.
"The more we expand

our trade the better op-portunity the farmers and ranchers here have for improving their bottom line, when you have more customers who want your product. And, we're see-ing that, we're seeing that growth in India and Dubai. "We're seeing that

growth consistently over the last two years. Obviously canola oil, canola seed is still a big player, non-durum wheats are as well, and even some

growth in other ones like oats are starting to grow. We see opportunity in that market as well."

Ongoing partnership is important for the province's future

Saskatchewan's contin-ued partnership with both India and Dubai are important for the province's future, said Marit

"It's very important and that's why we made it pret-ty clear and opened the trade offices. We opened one in Dubai and one in Delhi," he said.

"When we see the numbers growing the way they are, when we see the population growing in that whole Asia region, we see

some great opportunities.

Continued on page 35

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Ag minister returns from trade mission to UAE and India

"We also see, and heard from both, where the diets are changing in those countries as well. There are more people coming into middle class, they want to eat healthier and better foods, and that's what we do.

"We grow it here, so we see it as a great opportunity. That's why it was very important to open the offices and quite frankly, those offices have already more or less paid for themselves, and have opened doors to the meetings we had with very high officials within the Indian government, and in Dubai as well.

"It's very important for us to have boots on the ground. What I did see was those government officials and those companies really look to our resource staff that are on really look to our resource staff that are on the ground there for guidance and input. They have a great mutual respect for each other, and that's key." Marit said the possibility of expanding and growing Saskatchewan's agri-food ex-ports with UAE and India is on the right

path.
"I think there's some great opportuni-

ties," said Marit.

"We can't talk about them at this time,

but I can say we met with some companies that are very interested in looking at what we grow here, how we grow it, and in expanding that side of it, or looking at invest-

ment opportunities as well."

Saskatchewan has a network of nine international trade offices, two of which are in India and the United Arab Emirates.

The offices are working to grow Sas-katchewan's exports, attract investment into the province and strengthen relation-

ships with the province's partners in these

"The people at the offices, for Saskatchewan companies who go over there, they help assist in setting up meetings and work with them as well," said Marit.

"Also if there's businesses or govern-ment in those countries that have concerns and want to meet to officials here in Saskatchewan, they can help orchestrate that.

"I could go on a whole list of the meetings I had, I don't know how we would have done it without some of the folks on the ground. We used to go through the Canadian Consul, they're a great venue and I really want to take this opportunity to thank the Canadian Consuls because they allowed us into their offices which really did well.
"When I talked to the Consul Generals

from both India and Dubai, they said the same thing. That it's been a great fit, a great collaboration and partnership. They welcomed it. Obviously why it's important for us is because Saskatchewan's priorities are a lot different than let's say Ontario or Quebec or British Columbia or any other jurisdiction. We just want to make sure we have the right folks on the ground to guide, whether it's business or government, that want to talk to us about whatever it might be, that we have the expertise on the ground to do so."

Premier Scott Moe also led a trade and investment mission to India to promote closer ties between the two jurisdictions in the areas of critical mineral and natural resource development, agriculture, post-secondary education and sustainability.





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