

BROOKS BULLETIN

Serving Brooks & County of Newell since 1910!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020

City taxes to decrease in 2021; two utilities to increase

Taxes to drop 2.1 percent, water and garbage pick-up to increase....

The city expects to drop taxes next year by 2.1 per cent.

"Going into 2021 we do expect some uncertainty and the continuation of unfavorable circumstances for many of our residents," said Shelley Thomas, the city's finance manager.

Mayor Barry Morishita said the budget is forward-looking in terms of supplying value for money and being very cognizant as to what residents are going through.

Some of the programs that staff suggested should be cut council maintained or reduced their budgets to keep them operating.

The projects include \$3,500 in funding for the installation of wheelchair accessible doors into the corridor at the Centennial Regional Arena. If a grant for the project is approved the funding will be removed.

Council maintained \$5,000 in the staff wellness budget instead of removing the suggested \$11,000.

"I think 2021 is going to be challenging still with

COVID and other issues. I think we should be promoting staff wellness," said Morishita.

Council agreed to postpone the vehicle and equipment replacement fund which was slated to receive \$32,000, as a way to provide relief to taxpayers.

However, council may top up the account with funds from the city-county Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) agreement. The plan will likely be signed by both municipalities this month.

Councillor Norm Gerestein said it's better to wait until the agreement is in place before decreasing or shifting anything.

"Once we get that in place then we can go back and readjust the budget," he said.

Council will carry over \$10,000 from SPEC's MakerSpace program into next year. The organization was given \$10,000 in 2020 as part of the annual agreement. MakerSpace stopped operating in March due to COVID19.

Fire chief Kevin Swanson suggested to council to cut \$14,420 from the firefighters budget which would reflect a two hour per month reduction in training

from six to four hours.

Morishita was not comfortable with the decision and said that council has always made the commitment to ensure the department is well funded.

"I feel we should leave the fire budget alone. It's a very essential service and I would hate to see anything happen. Even though it's a small amount I believe they need every cent they can get," said councillor Jon Nesbitt.

To reflect the uncertainty in the recreation department, revenues were reduced to \$704,950 which is the same amount expected this year.

"We just want to recognize that we don't anticipate those revenues to be the same," said Thomas.

Randi McPhillips, the recreation manager, said she is expecting negative feedback when they move to an external fee-based fitness instructor but it will save \$32,000.

She said fitness classes have been part of the recreation membership.

"We will get complaints from members who regularly attend classes," she said.

City council agreed with the recommendation to

increase the potable water rate by five per cent and the garbage pick-up rate by 1.3 per cent. No increase to surface irrigation or sewer rates will be applied next year.

Both the Newell Regional Solid Waste Management (NRSWM) board and the Newell Regional Services Commission (NRSC) board passed increases for 2021.

The NRSWM passed annual increases of 1.5 per cent until 2024 and about a decade ago NRSC agreed to an annual five-cent increase to potable water. The rate must be passed by the board annually.

Councillor Bill Prentice said the water board considered keeping the rate status quo because of the economy.

"I guess it could have been held off at this time but we don't have a clue what's going to happen in the future so the five-cents keeps the plan in place as it was presented 10 years ago," he said.

Brian Rollag, NRSC general manager, said funds continue to be set aside for replacement of equipment including water filter membranes which are valued at \$1.6 million.

The membranes were

to be replaced in 2020 but a membrane autopsy found they could remain in place until 2023. Another membrane will be examined next year.

The water treatment plant will require new membranes when there is an increase in demand.

The city increased its funding to the Brooks Animal Protection Society (BAPS) by \$20,000 for additional operating expenses and the Arts, Culture and Heritage Centre will receive \$5,000.

The city budgeted \$15,000 for the soon-to-be provincially mandated e-ticketing program.

The budget amount is expected drop to about \$6,000 in future years.

Video conferencing has been a beneficial tool for transparency and public participation so the city will keep \$4,500 in the budget for the program.

A grant was received last year for the municipal energy manager's position and this year the city will cover it with \$16,200.

There will be a five per cent decrease to the Shortgrass Library System at their request to \$4.864 per capita which will lower the city's contribution to

\$70,290.

The city will reduce its RCMP contribution through a reduction of one municipally paid member.

Last year's controversial fee for the Alberta Counsel, a team of lawyers who lobby government on behalf of municipalities, will continue until the end of March 2021 as agreed to during the 2020 budget meetings.

During last year's deliberations council had agreed to withdraw from the advocacy but the decision was reversed during the second day of budget meetings.

CAO Alan Martens said the lobbying effort was well spent and allowed the city to get in front of many ministries.

He said with the counsel's help the city pushed for a francophone school which is now under construction.

A policy change was needed in the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and the counsel helped bring that forward, he said.

"We pushed very hard for very long on that and we ended up getting that \$1.4 million grant. That was very beneficial in my mind," he said.



BIG BUCK | This fella was photographed last week south of Brooks. | BULLETIN PHOTO

Municipal transportation grant could affect future city projects

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

The federal Basic Municipal Transportation Grant (BMTG) which was wrapped into the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) program in 2013 could be reduced which could affect capital projects in the city beyond 2021.

During last week's budget discussion mayor Barry Morishita said he has been hearing the program will be cut by between 10 and 25 per cent. He asked staff if there are contingencies in place for funding projects.

"Do we have other opportunities to fund our entire program if we do not get all of our BMTG? I think you can count on a cut of some sort for sure but what the magnitude of that is yet to be determined," he said.

Shelley Thomas, the city's finance manager, said there are no plans but when the information is released they will work on plans.

"When the information comes out about that grant we definitely have to come up with a secondary plan or prioritize the projects

that do have to be done," she said.

City projects partially funded with BMTG money include solar crosswalk lights which cost between \$11,000 and \$12,000, a portion of the street improvement project which is \$1.7 million next year and the linear paths and beautification program. Last year the program was reduced by \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Morishita said the city probably won't be able to deal with the BMTG issue until the provincial budget which is expected to be tabled in February.

"At least for 2021 we will be OK because we would have some room in the gas tax fund where we could allocate some funds to those projects," said CAO Alan Martens.

The city's capital items budget has not yet included the outdoor fitness equipment at Duke of Sutherland Park because it is four-years-old.

"I do know that one of the pieces of equipment has a failure on it. It's been on the Newell Connect for quite

some time," said councillor Dan Klein.

The equipment was installed in 2016 by the Community Choosewell committee.



Brooks mayor Barry Morishita tests out a piece of the outdoor equipment at the Duke of Sutherland Park in 2016.

| BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

City working to bring broadband to community

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

City council on Monday unanimously agreed to accept a proposal from Lite Access Technologies to negotiate a mutually agreeable structure to provide city-wide broadband.

The city issued an RFP in August of which about 50 companies downloaded the information package, five companies met with the city and three RFPs were submitted.

While Lite Access was accepted for further negotiations, the other proposals that were received were from CCI Wireless (Xplornet) for a \$4.140 million wireless solution and a wireless proposal from Valo Networks worth \$12.120 million.

The \$14.444 million proposal to provide broadband to the city could cost taxpayers \$2 million to help finance the up front costs.

The information provided to council states that Epcor, which is a company partner, could provide up to 100 per cent of the up-front capital investment and costs to operate and maintain the network.

But, Lite Access suggested the city may want help finance until they are in a revenue positive position.

CAO Alan Martens said \$2 million was suggested by administration but it could be another amount.

The agreed upon amount could go towards the city's share of a partnership and future revenue stream or it could be paid back.

A steeper risk would be providing more money which could be lost if the project did not move forward.

Councillor Norm Gerestein said following the meeting he likes the idea that 100 per cent of the up front costs will be paid by the company.

He would prefer that no taxpayers money be put at-risk.

"I would certainly hope if there was a binding agreement there would be a caveat so we wouldn't be out that money if it was to not move forward," he said.

"What I'm trying to do is to help avoid taxpayers from losing money on a project that may not move forward."

Martens said there is also a risk when considering what kind of a loss there would be if the city does nothing or if they wait until the major service providers move in.

"It's been found that municipalities that do have broadband ability are prospering a lot better than others," said Martens.

There could be a build

out by Lite Access in two years.

Mayor Barry Morishita said if the city is going to be competitive they have to move as quickly as is reasonable on the broadband project.

"I think to serve our business community and economic development in the future, it would make sense for us to take steps no one else is taking.

"I think we're trying to look after several risks initially that the City of Brooks is faced with."

He said without broadband there is a risk for new and recruiting businesses which need faster speeds and he said there are local dealerships that have put in their own systems.

"While they're negative to look at, they all speak to opportunities in the future that could serve us, create jobs, create wealth and knowledge and thus keep our community sustainable," he said.

In addition to the EID building out their fibre optic service in the rural areas, Rogers has said they will be bringing a 5G system to Brooks.

No one from Rogers was available as of press time.

Morishita said with revenue sources threatened and under a lot of pressure, the opportunity to look at

broadband as a revenue stream is worth exploring.

"I'm really excited to see what opportunities there are to negotiate a good proposal and a good

position for the City of Brooks to be in not just now but in the next three to 10 years," he said.

Negotiations will continue and it's likely over

the next couple of months it will return to council with a mutually acceptable agreement.

"It is a priority," said Morishita.



The Brooks & District Chamber of Commerce in partnership with APEX Southeast Alberta, the Medicine Hat and District Chamber of Commerce and Invest Medicine Hat are taking the local shopping experience one step further with an online Southeast Alberta marketplace. With a project grant from the Rural Opportunities Fund, APEX Southeast Alberta, Medicine Hat and District Chamber of Commerce and Invest Medicine Hat, have been able to partner with Local Shops to provide small businesses the opportunity to sell on the custom local marketplace for no cost.

With or without an existing website, our local business members may use the marketplace to sell online. The marketplace will be comprised of small businesses in the Brooks Region selling their unique goods and services. The platform empowers sellers to do what they love and helps consumers support local creators, makers, and entrepreneurs. Our marketplace will make it easy to find, discover and buy local, and empowers businesses by creating a competitive advantage online.

Within three clicks, a small business can be up and selling on our marketplace. With no fees, powerful tools, support and education, our staff will help small business start, manage, and sell their products and services.

For more information on how to get your business online please email Margaret Plumtree manager@brooksdistrictchamber.ca

FORGET THE BATTERIES WITH OUR LATEST RECHARGEABLE HEARING AIDS.

Amplifon is the global leader in hearing healthcare with more than 10 million satisfied customers worldwide.



BO GO **TIS' THE SEASON FOR BIG SAVINGS**
50% OFF RECHARGEABLE TECHNOLOGY on the 2nd aid*

AMPLIFON'S BONUS ACCESSORY EVENT
2 FREE accessories
Receive a FREE accessory of your choice!

QUOTE REF: BOGO50PC

Call and book a complimentary hearing test today!
403.723.4000

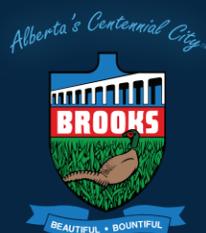


300 Merganser Dr W, Unit 106A
Chestermere, AB

www.amplifon.com/ca



*Applicable on Premier tier and discount is applicable to binaural purchase, the second aid only. Sivantos, Phonak, and Oticon manufacturers are eligible. Cannot be combined with other discounts. **See clinic for details. Expires 31/12/2020. © 2020 Amplifon Canada, All Rights Reserved



City of Brooks

CONTACT US
 201-1st Ave. W.
 Brooks, AB, T1R 1B7
 403-362-3333
 www.Brooks.ca

FIND COVID-19 INFORMATION AT
BROOKS.CA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**CITY OF BROOKS, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
 PROPOSED BYLAW 20/22 (LAND USE BYLAW AMENDMENT)**

To be held at 4:30 pm, December 21, 2020
 City of Brooks Council Chambers

PURSUANT to Sections 230, 606 and 692 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Council of the City of Brooks in the Province of Alberta hereby gives notice of its intention to adopt Bylaw 20/22, being an amendment to Land Use Bylaw 14/12 for the municipality.

THE PURPOSE of proposed Bylaw 20/22 is to streamline the development permit process by combining and clarifying the definitions for uses, and by generally expanding the types of uses under the permitted versus discretionary category within all Land Use Districts.

HOW TO REVIEW THE BYLAW AND SUBMIT COMMENTS

A copy of the proposed Bylaw is available on the City of Brooks website at: shorturl.at/hjHKZ

If you would like to submit comments or require further information on this proposed Bylaw please email lub@brooks.ca, call 403-362-3333, visit the City of Brooks office during normal business hours, or mail comments to the following address:

Alicia Bartlette
 201 - 1st Avenue West
 Box 879
 Brooks, Alberta, T1R 1B7

Please forward written submissions on or before December 15th at 4:30 PM.

HOW TO ATTEND OR VIEW THE PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing to consider proposed Bylaw 20/22 will be held in the City of Brooks Council Chambers at 4:30 p.m. on December 21st, 2020.

The City of Brooks Council Meeting and public hearing will also be streamed online on the City of Brooks Facebook page.

Pregnant women deserve quality care in their own community.

All women need, and deserve, comprehensive prenatal care. Closing maternal care clinics in smaller communities means many women will have to drive long distances to receive care that used to be available closer to home. Not everyone will be able to make the journey.

Albertans may have voted for this government, but they didn't vote for this.

Let the Minister of Health know how you feel about it at health.minister@gov.ab.ca. You can also send your MLA an email through www.patientsfirst.ca.



TOYS FOR TICKETS

The City will be accepting toys in lieu of payment for municipal parking tickets. All toys received will then be donated to local families through the Scotiabank Smiles for Christmas Toy Drive campaign.

Details:

- Any ticket with a value of \$57 or less issued between November 16 and December 11 is eligible for the program.
- Bring your toy donation to City Hall.
- Toys for ticket payments only be accepted until December 11th.

Learn more at Brooks.ca



PUBLIC WORKS HOLIDAY HOURS

December 24 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	December 25 - 28 CLOSED	December 29 & 30 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
December 31 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	January 1 CLOSED	

RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE INFORMATION

There will be NO CHANGES in residential garbage pick ups but residents MUST have their garbage bins out by 7:00 a.m. on both December 24th and December 31st as garbage collection will be starting at 7:00 a.m.



City of Brooks

BULK PASS SALE

December 7th - 11th
 purchase bulk passes in multiples of 5 and receive

25% OFF!

To purchase, please visit the JBS Canada Centre, Centennial Regional Arena or call 403-362-3622



CRAM THE CRUISER

WHERE: Canadian Tire Parking Lot

WHEN: Saturday, December 12 from 12pm - 4pm

We're accepting **toys**, **warm clothes**, or **non-perishable food items!**

Come meet your local RCMP Officers and Firefighters and help us spread some Christmas cheer!



EDITORIAL

Now is the time for leadership, Mr. Premier

The impact of Covid-19 on the mental health of Canadians across the country has been a serious issue since the beginning of the pandemic last spring.

But the relentless ability of the virus to quickly spread when we fail to practice even the simplest of precautions is taking an even greater toll.

The second wave of the pandemic, according to the Canadian Mental Health Association, has intensified feelings of stress and anxiety, causing alarming levels of despair, suicidal thoughts and hopelessness in the Alberta population.

Obviously, restrictions on our ability to visit with friends and family or simply gather for coffee or attend a sporting event are having a negative impact on our mental well-being.

Adding to this is the fact that we have been denied these simple pleasures during seasonal celebrations such as Thanksgiving and now Christmas. The fact that winter is upon us does not help either.

Sixty-six per cent of Albertans say they are worried about the second wave of the virus with 54 per cent concerned about a loved one or family member dying.

And so now is the time for our leaders to make positive comments about the future and to take action to limit the spread of the virus.

We expect our premier to deal with those who ignore the simple but necessary

precautions to protect the majority of the population. Recent limitations on "private social" outdoor gatherings were a necessary step but it's obvious Premier Kenney wouldn't go so far as to prohibit large protests or demonstrations.

In the legislature last week he said anti-mask protesters who gathered in the hundreds in Alberta's two major cities should "be responsible."

Surprisingly, he also said their right to protest was protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Well, here, he is wrong. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms "guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society."

And there is no question that the great majority of us would agree with reasonable limits on huge gatherings of unmasked people.

While we all enjoy the freedoms offered by living in a democratic society, the ability to enjoy these freedoms comes with a good measure of responsibility.

And putting others at risk of contracting the virus and increasing stress among the public is irresponsible and even dangerous.

Now is the time for reassurance that a vaccine will be provided soon and that until then measures will be taken to protect our health and mental well-being.



Bow City skyline on south side of Bow River. 1911

Salvation in a Vat

COLUMNIST

GWYNNE DYER



"We are putting a final end to the fossil era," said Denmark's climate minister, Dan Jorgensen, last week. What he meant was that the European Union's biggest oil and gas producer is officially getting out of the petrochemical business after 80 years.

There's still more oil under the North Sea off Denmark's west coast, but the government has just cancelled its next scheduled auction of oil and gas licenses. There will be no further exploration, and no new production platforms built.

It's not quite as big a deal as it sounds, because Europe's three biggest oil and gas producers, Russia, Norway and the United Kingdom, are not members of the EU, and they are still in the business. But the latter two are now also discussing whether they should leave some of their oil and gas in the ground forever, which is a step in the right direction.

This is how progress is generally made in the struggle to stop global heating: one slow step at a time, and maybe therefore too little, too late. But last week saw something much more dramatic on what you might call the Food & Climate front: the first restaurant to serve artificial meat.

Next to burning fossil fuels, the biggest cause of anthropogenic (human-caused) greenhouse gas emissions is agriculture - and more than half of all food-related G-G emissions come from producing meat. That's

the hardest part of the puzzle to solve, because people are very attached to eating meat and there's no good substitute. Until recently.

Now there's plenty. Near Tel Aviv last Thursday a burger joint called The Chicken opened its doors for the first time. It looks pretty normal, except for a glass back wall through which you can see people in lab coats moving between big stainless steel vats called bio-reactors. That's where they make the chicken.

It's 'cultured' chicken: real live chicken cells grown in a solution containing all the necessary nutrients and doubling in volume every day. But no bacterial contamination from animal waste, no hormones and antibiotics to speed growth and slow the spread of disease, no land used to grow the chicken feed, no 130 million chickens slaughtered every day.

SuperMeat, the parent company, is sticking with ground meat for burgers for now, but there's no technical reason why it couldn't be chicken breast with the familiar texture and taste of real chickens. And they're currently giving it away (to invited guests only) rather than selling it, because Israel's regulatory authority has not approved it for sale yet.

That will come soon, but they'll probably have to go on giving it away for a while because each burger patty costs around \$35 to produce. But that's down from \$300,000 for the first beef hamburger patty in 2013, and Ido Savir, CEO of SuperMeat, reckons that the cost of cultured or 'cultivated' meat (the terminology is still evolving) will fall to parity with slaughtered meat in six or seven years.

It's moving fast. Just the day before The Chicken opened in Israel, an American company called Eat Just got regulatory approval to sell its cultured

'chicken bites', produced in a 1,200-litre bioreactor, in a restaurant in Singapore. And back in Israel Aleph Farms unveiled its first lab-grown beef steaks last month. (They prefer the term 'biofarmed')

Aleph's innovation is cultured beef that actually comes with the shape and texture of traditional steak. (All the players can pass the taste test, because they are all working with real beef cells.) The process is designed for large-scale production, they've patented it six ways from Sunday, and they'll do a pilot launch at the end of 2022.

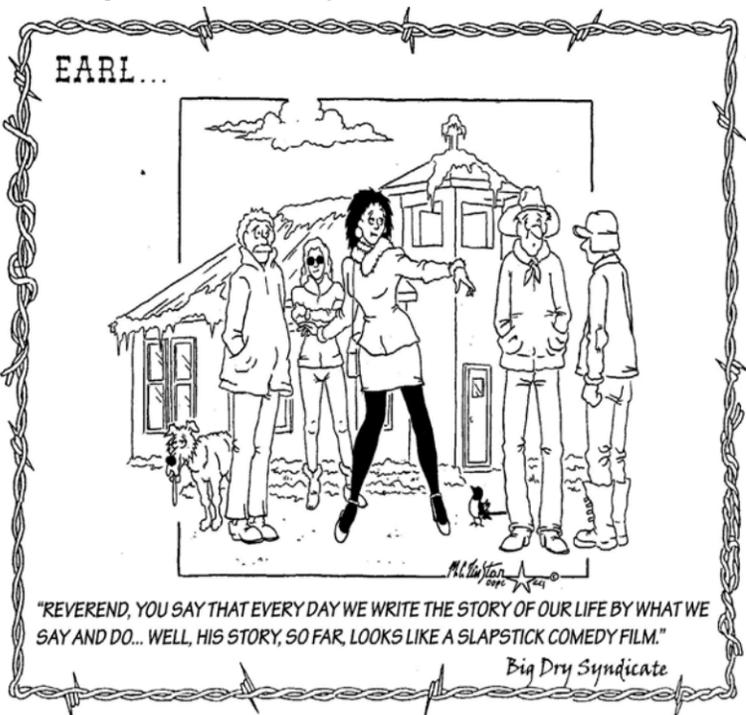
This is going to happen. All the promising start-ups are attracting major investment from food giants like Cargill (Aleph's godfather). We are at the start of a high-speed global transition, at least for the mass market, from born-fed-and-slaughtered beef, pork and chicken to 'cultivated' versions of the same meat.

How fast. Think 10-15 years. It needs to happen fast because meat and dairy production alone account for almost 15% of greenhouse gas emissions. Vegetarianism and veganism alone will not solve the problem because they still depend on growing crops on the land, and also because people are very conservative about diet.

This is how to save the Amazon, where the forest is being cut down to grow the soy that will feed the world's cattle. In fact, this is how to take half the world's cropland out of production.

Rewild that land and we solve about six problems at once. We even give ourselves a chance of cutting emissions fast enough to avoid driving global average temperature above +2°C and unleashing hell on Earth.

All we have to do then is to figure out what a billion or so farm families will do for income instead. That's tomorrow's problem.





Serving Brooks & County of Newell since 1910!

Telephone (403) 362-5571 Fax. (403) 362-5080

Email: editor@brooksbulletin.com | www.brooksbulletin.com

Published Every Wednesday by Nesbitt Publishing Co. Ltd.

124 - 3rd St. W., Brooks, AB.

Jamie Nesbitt
Sandra Stanway
Michelle Gietz
Diane Reiss

Tracy Fyfe
Kari Beblow
Kevin Fowell
Carol Robinson

Anne Beblow
Chris Dingwall
Christine Dingwall
Val Hok

The contents of this newspaper are protected by copyright.

Return Undeliverable Canadian
Address to: Circulation Dept.,
Brooks Bulletin, P.O. Box 1450 Brooks, Alberta, Canada T1R 1C3

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Buffalo Briefs

LORRAINE MONKMAN



BUFFALO - Sometimes over the years, this job of writing the column is a very emotional experience. Once again I find myself reporting the passing of former friends and/or neighbours.

Violet Ward (nee Martin) of Calgary passed away November 4, 2020 at the age of 82 years. She is survived by her husband Allan and two sons as well as her sister Nina Dziatchewich and sister-in-law Muriel Martin both of Oyen. Violet lived with her parents and siblings north of Buffalo many years ago and attended school here. Our sincere sympathy to all the family.

S. "Tal" Talarico, husband of the late Sheila (Anderson) passed away in Medicine Hat on November 25, 2020 at the age of ninety-seven years. Sheila was raised here and she and Tal were married in 1950. They had two children. Pam Kulyk and Bonnie Ross are nieces. Our sincere condolences to all the family.

On a happier note, Kristen and Keldon Kulyk became parents to Rylan

Charles Kulyk on December 3, 2020 (Uncle Darcy's birthday) in Medicine Hat. He weighed 10 pounds

8 ounces and is a little brother to Cailyn and Ethan. Grandma and Grandpa Kulyk are somewhat "over

the moon" right now. What a happy relief from the COVID stuff! Congratulations to everyone.

Former mayor passes

City flags were at half-mast last week to mark the passing of former mayor Eric Fleury who died at Brooks Health Centre on Saturday, November 28 at the age of 89.

He and his wife Ann came to Brooks in the late 1960s where he was the manager of Niagara Finance. Shortly after arriving he took over the operation of Toshach's Furniture and Appliances which he operated with his wife until retirement in 1995.

He was dedicated to serving this community and was first named to the school board by acclamation in 1970 and was re-elected for two more terms, serving as board vice-chair.

He was elected to his first term on town council in 1977 and entered the mayor's race against Chris Stark-Dunsmore in 1980 but was defeated. He was returned to council in 1983 and was elected mayor in 1986. He served until 1989.

He was active in the St. Alban's Church community and was a member of the Brooks Kinsmen and K-40 Clubs.

He was also a huge supporter of minor sports over the years and was instrumental in bringing junior B hockey to Brooks.

He is survived by Ann, his wife of 67 years, four children and several grand and great-grandchildren.

A private graveside service was held in Brooks.



ERIC FLEURY
Mayor, May 1989

Perfect Timing

DEVOTIONAL
THOUGHT OF
THE WEEK

EID MINISTERIAL ASSOC.

Pastor Alvin Penner

As we begin winding down 2020, it seems to me like many folks seem to be getting ready for Christmas a little earlier than usual. We received our first Christmas card of the season by November 15. That does seem a little earlier than usual, but then maybe it is because we all want parts of this year, to move along a little faster.

But one thing we should not be in a hurry to rush through is the celebration of Advent. I am not saying this just because Advent is my favorite time of year but rather, because I believe that as we prepare to say farewell to 2020 we really need all the encouragement that Advent brings!

Before we can hear the angels proclaim "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10), it might be helpful to go back and consider how much time the people of God had to weigh the ancient prophecies of a coming Messiah. What an

exercise in patience! The timing must always have seemed remote and a little vague to them. "This is what the LORD says: "In the time of my favor, I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you." Is. 49:8 And so they waited. And so we wait. In fact, it could be argued that they waited so long that when Messiah did come, many missed it because it seemed like the promise would never be fulfilled.

During Advent 2020 we can and should be reminded of the good news that Messiah has come, has been declared to us and is preparing His people for His return! John the Baptist boldly declared "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 2:29) As we prepare our hearts to celebrate the "good news of great joy" over the next few weeks, my prayer is that this good news will rise above our circumstances in 2020 as we close out the year. That you will be encouraged with the "good news" and this Advent will be rich time of waiting patiently for the full revelation of "great joy" that is ours in Jesus!

Church

Come worship with us...



**St. Mary's
Catholic
Church**

511 - 4th St. W.,
Brooks, AB.
Ph: 403-362-4466
Fax: 403-793-2571

Parish Priest
Father Marino Infante

MASSES

Saturday at 5:00 pm
Sunday at 9:00 am,
11:00 am,
and 6:00 pm

**WEEKDAY
MASS**

Please call church
office at
403-362-4466



**St. Alban's
Anglican Church**

**NEXT SERVICE:
TO BE
ANNOUNCED**

"Forward in Faith"



804 Cassils Road E.,
Brooks, Alberta T1R 0L2
Pastor Daryle Fox
Church: 403-362-5060
Cell 403-793-7203

**SUNDAY WORSHIP
SERVICE - 11 am**

Affiliated North American
Baptist Conference
Connecting People to Christ and
His Caring Community!
EVERYONE WELCOME!



**Pastor Ryan Reeves
780-232-2926**

430 - 2nd St. W.

**SATURDAY
SERVICE
Sabbath School:
10:00 am
Worship
11 am**



**Brooks
Alliance Church**

304 Cassils Road East
Phone 403-362-8908
Website:
www.brooksalliancechurch.com

PASTOR DAVID BRADFORD

**SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP SERVICE
10:45 am**

**DUCHESS LUTHERAN
CHURCH (LCC)**

PASTOR ANDY KAHLE
Phone 587-832-3221

**Sunday Worship
Service 11:30 am
Everyone Welcome!**

LUTHERAN HOUR
Sundays 7:30 am
CHAT FM94.5 RADIO
8:30 A.M.
CKMX 1060

"The Prophet's Paradox"
(Daniel: 10, 11 and 12)



Box 298, Duchess, AB. T0J 0Z0
Phone 403.378.4966
Email: office@duchessmennonite.ca
Website: www.duchessmennonite.ca

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 am
Sunday School
Children, Youth and
Adult Sunday School starts
at 9:30 am

Pastor Alvin Penner
Associate Pastor Nathan Ramer
Associate Pastor Terry Jackson
Office Hours: Tuesdays to Thursdays
8:30 am to 12 Noon



507 - 3rd Ave. W.
Brooks, AB.

Phone/Fax: 403-362-3637
Email: bksunite@shaw.ca

Office Hours:
9:00 to 12 Noon
(Tues. - Fri.)

**SUNDAY SERVICE
NURSERY & SUNDAY
SCHOOL 10 AM**



Pursuing God, Life, Family & Purpose

God is doing a NEW thing!
Jesus came so we could all have life, and life in abundance.
Come & encounter your fullest life with us!

Worship Service & Kids SuperChurch (K-Gr.6)
Sundays | 10:00am

Youth Group (Gr.7-12)
Fridays | 7:30pm

Pastor Aaron & Cynthia Barrington

15th Ave & 3 St W
403.362.7785



403 - 2nd Street West

PASTOR KOLA AYENI

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
10:30 am

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
5:30 pm

Everyone Welcome!



120 - 1st Ave. E., Brooks, AB. T1R 0S4
T: 403-362-2129 CP: 403-363-0848
Email:
brooksintl@gospelchurch@gmail.com

"We believe in the Prophetic"
Year to Walk In Your
Destiny Habakkuk 3:2
2020

Sunday Adult Bible Study - 10:30 am
Youth Bible Study - 10:30 am
Sunday Service - 11:30 am
Tuesday Bible Study - 7 pm
Prophetess Maureen Banda



403-378-4933

Sunday School
10 am
Worship Service
11 am

Welcomes Everyone!

Pastor: Lorne Willms



One Block North of Cassils Rd. at
11th Street West

REV. J. VANDERBURGH

Join us for
Sunday Worship
10:00 am

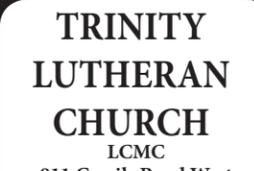
Sunday School
for all ages
11:40 am

587-914-3542



Join us for online
ZOOM WORSHIP SERVICES
For login info. email:
spiritofgracelutheran@gmail.com

PASTOR JANICE WHITELOCK
Phone: 403-362-1944
Inviting, Including, Inspiring



811 Cassils Road West
Brooks, Alberta

Pastor: Maggie Theiss
403-362-4259
www.brookstrinity.ca

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10 am
IN PERSON and
ONLINE





Six-year-old Nikolai Dafeo and Quinton Forsyth, 7, are all smiles as they glide down the toboggan hill at the Duke of Sutherland Park on Sunday. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

City to remove van from local handibus service in 2021

Two vehicles will remain in the fleet....

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

It's expected that one city handibus van will be taken out of service and replaced with a taxi program.

The city will issue a Request for Proposal for the service to carry registered users of the handibus van who do not have mobility issues.

"The city would essentially pay the taxi service annually the average round trip subsidization cost which is \$23,855," deputy CAO Amanda Peterson told council during last week's budget meeting.

In her budget presentation she wrote, "The city will no longer provide the City of Brooks Specialized Transit Service for ambulatory ridership."

There were 3,012 one-way rides for the van in 2019 as the average round trip subsidization cost of \$23,855.



The city is expected to remove the handibus van from its fleet as of April 1, 2021 and replace the requirement for the service with a taxi program. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

Removing the vehicle from service would save the city \$26,713 including rides, value of van, insurance and the salary for the driver.

Mayor Barry Morishita and councillor Joel Goodnough said they support looking at other options.

"This could be a savings for residents and taxpayers," said Goodnough.

The city's two other handibuses for those who use wheelchairs and have other mobility requirements will remain in service.

Bow City Signal

JOYCE CALVERT



BOW CITY - Our weather has sure been up and down this past couple of weeks. It has sure been warmer in Calgary than here but guess we can't control it.

If you have some news for my newsletter please phone me at 403-362-2206 or you can email it to Vikki at 1252@hotmail.com. Has to be in by Sunday night so give us a shout with some news.

A very sincere sympathy to Brad and Carrie Palko who's uncle Ken Onheliger, who passed away in Medicine Hat on Nov. 23rd. Our thoughts are with you. A funeral service was held online on Monday the 30th.

Rob Bridges, Carrie's brother, came on Friday the 4th as he needed some work done on his truck. Guess where it was all done. Lots of work, and thanks to Jerry for all the help. Brad and Rob did a lot too.

Dan and Wanda and Brad took a day trip to DeWinton to Joan and Michel Berys for lunch and to deliver his trailer back to him. Great lunch.

Jerry and I took a road trip to Vauxhall on the 28th to see Ray and Dixie, then

came around home by Hays and Rolling Hills just to see how much wildlife we could see. Not much.

Wanda and I were in Medicine Hat on Friday for her appointments. You can't imagine the amount of antelope we saw on the way there and back. Even a couple right in the city.

Three old hillbilly men

at an Old Folks Home were discussing the ideal way of dying. The first, age 74, said he'd like to crash in a car doing 100 miles per hour. The second age 87, said he'd like to take his finish in a jet plane going 900 miles per hour. The third, age 95, said he'd like to be shot by a jealous husband.

Give the gift of GOLF!

But this opportunity only good until Christmas!

Purchase our "5 rounds of golf card" and we will throw in **1 FREE ROUND**

All 1 year unlimited **GOLF PASSES** are now selling at **20% off** the 2021 rates. That's a savings of up to \$180.00.

Even our single round **GREEN FEES** are reduced by **15% off**

MEADOWS EXECUTIVE
PAR 3 GOLF COURSE

Corner of Cassils Road and Hwy. #36
Box 877 | Brooks, AB. T1R 1B7
Ph: 403-362-6477

Pregnant women deserve quality care in their own communities

All women need, and deserve, comprehensive prenatal care. Closing maternal care clinics in smaller communities means many women will have to drive long distances to receive care that used to be available closer to home. Not everyone will be able to make the journey.

Albertans may have voted for this government, but they didn't vote for this.

Let the Minister of Health know how you feel about it at health.minister@gov.ab.ca. You can also send your MLA an email through www.patientsfirst.ca.

Your health matters to Alberta's doctors. It should matter to government too.

Authorized by the Alberta Medical Association, Third Party Advertiser, jointtaskforce@albertadoctors.org.



Rainier Record

JANE BELLWARD



RAINIER - Happy Birthday greetings for this coming week go out to Noralyn Johnson on December 11; Thomas Neumann on December 15; Val Haag, Arlene Smith on December 16; Linda Gubbins on December 17.

Rainier Community Club will be holding a Paint Night with Rita Wildschut on Saturday, January 23, 2021, at the Hall. Includes all supplies. Space will be limited. Payment will be required to save your spot (e-transfers are available). Contact (text) Dana at 403-952-8604.

Alcoma Community Library is now open on Thursdays! Late afternoon, from 3.30pm to 5.00pm. Please use the north door. Wearing a mask is mandatory. We have gloves available for you to use. Happy reading!

Alcoma School News - Alberta Health and Safety protocols have been put into place. Please keep watch in the Alcoma School Happening's information on Facebook for information on fun activities that are being planned for the school year. If you plan on visiting the school, please call ahead to arrange a time. There

is a doorbell installed at the front door. It must be depressed until there is a red light.

The school is asking for donations of plastic bottle caps, of any colour, for an art project being planned for the school year. Please start a collection at home and it will be announced at a later date when it is a good time to bring them to the school. Thank you.

The school is continuing to accept bottle donations. These are much appreciated and can be dropped off beside the Quonset.

Alcoma Community Library will continue with its touchless pick up. Please contact Janet Wagner at janet@shortgrass.ca or call the school at 403-36-3741 to leave a message. Once she receives your requests, she will contact you to arrange a pick up.

The Sidelines Café at the Rolling Hills Arena is open daily from 8.00am to 2.00pm.

Please contact me by Sunday if you have any news you would like included in this column. janebellward20@gmail.com or 403-793-0692.



Former DA – Sad days for vital agriculture industry

**JOHN CALPAS, P. Ag
(Retired)**

LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA

My commendation to the Brooks Bulletin for generous space allocated to agricultural issues in your Nov. 4th and Nov. 18th issues. Somewhat later than ideal for Michelle Gietz's very excellent and detailed historical about the Brooks Hort Center, embellished with comments by former directors of the complex, Dr. Ron Howard, Tom Krahn and also Lloyd Hausher. Rather neat in the same issues "Go West - Young Man" re: the late Leonard Nesbitt and Will Verboven's equally detailed account of the rest of the once glorious department's demise. At a time when there is growing concern about sustainable food in Canada, the "rookie" ag minister seems to be on an ego trip and become the favored 'disciple' of Premier Jason Kenny's Cabinet. I predict that his legacy to the whole Alberta Ag. Industry will prove to be ill-advised.

The province's emerging most important industry since oil and energy will be ending up with no ministry of any significance to lead, promote and inspire various sectors of the industry. Back in 1970, the whole department set out to move Alberta's gross ag GNP from

third to first after Ontario and Saskatchewan. A ten year goal was set which we achieved in seven (look for Sask. to be on top this year with double our arable acreage and with excellent yields and improving commodity prices).

Alberta's Agricultural Dept. built up under former Peter Lougheed and Ag Minister Hugh Horner was the envy of every other province. As district agriculturalists in the south our contact was welcomed. The producers and general public looked forward to the Center's Open House field days. I have a story to relate about most of our feed and food industries including canola, field beans, corn alfalfa cubing and for sure potatoes.

I will trace the evolution of our potato industry segments right back to those Field Days and other special tours arranged for potato growers. Supt. Dunc Hargrave and Dr. Steve Molnar were front and center with potato growers in Newell County and the Taber MD, primarily, and some in Lethbridge and Forty Mile Counties. They advised and advocated and related to plots and research at the Center. At the time it was only fresh market production and chips for Old Dutch.

There were several tours to Idaho and Washington to relate with growers and industries there. But back to fresh market production, wholesalers were taking advantage of growers by buying and paying on basis of No.2 grade. At their own facilities they regraded and retailed and bagged them as Canada No. 1s (Alberta's gems and Idaho russets are always about 80% #1s).

To make a long story short, by then Larry Jorgensen was employed at the Centre as Special Crops Specialist. He concentrated efforts first with potatoes and added to the zeal of Dunc and Steve and the growers as well. They were encouraged to do their own wholesaling and hence "Packwell Produce at Vauxhall. This model was also promoted with greenhouse growers in Redcliff and Medicine Hat to do their own wholesaling and thus the birth of Red Hat Co-op. Incomes can be improved with yields, varieties, agronomy and management. The other best way is to move growers up the food chain and take control.

So how did the rest of the country discover Alberta potatoes and potential. Larry Jorgensen was a member of the Canadian Horticultural Council and he finally convinced

them to hold their annual conference in Alberta. I still envision the huge "Welcome Potato Growers" sign at the entrance gates of Tajiri Farms. The added dimension in contrast to other provinces was wide scale production under irrigation. To this day, the Hort Center deserves the credit for planting the early 'seeds' of the now huge multi-million \$, multi-nationals here in southern Alberta--Lamb Weston at Taber, McCain's in Coaldale and the latest and largest, Cavendish Farms in Lethbridge. That is not to miss reference to Frito Lay in Taber and Lethbridge in chips and other products. The big three do frozen french fries for domestic and export markets geared down somewhat due to the pandemic and trade issues. Larry Jorgensen was so effective in his work that he was lured away to work for the Washington Potato Growers Commission.

This year Alberta's production moves ahead of Manitoba despite the efforts of many to entice Simplots of Idaho to locate in Southern Alberta. They chose Portage/Carberry instead. One wonders about their decision in retrospect. The last two years they had to import potatoes from Alberta and Idaho to keep

their plants going. Our meticulous growers average 20% higher yields than other provinces. (Water is the magic for agronomic practices). I am also told the Alberta potatoes, due to altitude, are 2% higher in specific gravity which means more product out for product in. Our earliest growers and founders of the industry were all Japanese. In recent years, their decedents have taken over and other producers from Holland joined the production sector as well.

Our trips to Idaho also inspired our now 60,000 acre multi-million \$ field bean industry operated by Viterra Industries at Taber and Bow Island. The account of that evolution is similar to what I have outlined here for potatoes. I could do the same for silage and grain corn and Alfalfa cubing. There are some 50 different crops woven into our rotations and the Hort Center was part of most of them. Then I haven't even mentioned trees, shelterbelts and farmsteads with fruit trees. All these make up the incredible pristine landscapes of our province along with habitat for wildlife. I almost forgot to mention that Dunc Hargrave motivated growers Tono Ohama and Min Fujimoto

to enter their potatoes in the Toronto Royal Winter Fair where they won first placings in world class competitions. Most recently we commercialized onion production replacing imports and supplying most supermarkets in the province and beyond from the Gouw family new multi-million \$ plant operation east of Taber.

It will take years if ever to rebuild that research and extension capacity. The colleges and universities are not into applied ag research nor staffed for it. The BIG planned farm lead research will run into similar issues. The key word is 'capacity' and the department had it all. Time will tell of poor political decisions. It's sad days for this vital industry.

A native of Tilley, Alberta, John Calpas started his career in agriculture as assistant district agriculturist at Taber in 1956, moving to DA of Taber two years later. He served as regional director of Alberta Agriculture, southern Alberta Region from 1968-1972 and was appointed Director of the Irrigation and Conservation Division of Alberta Agriculture in 1984. He holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta and an M. Ed in agricultural Education from the University of California.

He is now retired and resides in Lethbridge.

Camels in Canada are quite Scarce – part three ... government officials will see it stays that way

In previous camel columns, I eluded to the opportunity of camel milk production in Alberta. It could be done; we have production experience with exotic species like llamas, alpacas, ostriches, elk, bison. The animal feedstuffs, handling technology, husbandry practices, and markets are here or could be acquired or developed. What's missing is the availability of camels. Most camels in Canada are in zoos and wildlife parks. There are some in private hands, and they do show up in exotic animal auctions. There are more camels in the USA, and camel milk farms are being developed, but they are usually less than a hundred head in size. Compare that to gigantic camel milk operations with thousands of cows in the middle east gulf states. I suspect the biggest hurdle to importing camels into Canada are our federal regulatory



AG WRITER

WILL VERBOVEN

agencies, Agriculture Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Those federal folks have become somewhat tarnished for erecting restrictions to thwart livestock movement and new entrants into Canada's animal industry. I suspect federal officials remember the importation of wild boars as an ag diversification scheme. Some escaped into the wild and are now an ecological menace in Alberta, no one wants to see a repetition.

Ag Canada has regulations for camelid importations from the USA, including llamas, alpacas, vicunas, dromedary and bactrian camels. The original rules

allowed for reasonable movement across the border, similar to domestic livestock. However, an amendment was added later, explicitly restricting the movement of camels to a case by case basis. Why was that amendment made – someone in the bowels of the Ottawa bureaucracy knows. Essentially it means no camels will be imported from the USA into Canada outside of zoos. It would take a monumental lobby effort to change that amendment.

What about importing camels directly from the middle east. I suspect federal officials never imagined anyone would want to import hundreds of camels into Canada for commercial milk production purposes. I expect the usual bureaucratic reaction to such an application would be to delay and derail the idea into oblivion. This would be especially true

for importations from the middle east, where animal health standards would be suspect at best. But there is another camel source from a country that is as developed as our own and has animal health standards similar to Canada – it's Australia – where modest camel milk farms exist. Camels were imported into that country in the 1840s to be used as pack animals. But unlike the small doomed BC Cariboo trail experience with camels, the Aussies imported thousands of them, and they proved a successful mode of transport in the outback. However, after decades of use, they were displaced by railways and were cut loose. Unlike in BC, the Aussie camels thrived and now number over 1 million head in the wild. In fact, with no predators, they are now so numerous and destructive that they are considered a pest and subject to

culling programs where helicopter-borne hunters exterminate thousands. I am sure the Aussie government, for a price, would be willing to round up and export thousands of healthy, hopefully docile, camel cows to Canada – good riddance, so to speak. Shipping would be easy; Australia has the most experience of any country in shipping live animals long distances. Every year they successfully ship hundreds of thousands of live sheep, goats, cattle and water buffalo on large specialized vessels to markets in the middle and far east. But alas, even if Australia was a safe source of obtaining camels, it's not likely to happen. The idea would be alien to our regulatory authorities, and they are guaranteed to raise insurmountable barriers. Never mind opposition from the national dairy supply management folks

who would be suspicious of anything that might challenge their hegemony over milk. But wait, there are other camelids that produce milk - llamas and alpacas. There are about 25,000 head in North America, most already located on farms. That's probably more than the regular camel population on the continent. There has been research done on llama/alpaca milk qualities, the comparisons are more to bovine milk rather than camel milk, but there are similarities. However, llamas/alpacas are said to be even more uncooperative to milk than camels, and that's bad enough. Well, camel milk production seems like a good idea for Alberta if all the stars aligned – but probably not. Dang, another brilliant ag diversification inspiration bites the dust. *Will Verboven is an ag opinion writer and ag policy consultant.*

BSSA

BOW SLOPE SHIPPING ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING SALES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
Regular Sale 9:00 am

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
Bred Cow Sale 12:00 Noon
Deer River Ranching- 45 Blk (1-3 yrs) Cows Bred Blk July 15-Sep.15
Osadczuk Cattle- 50 Red Hfrs Bred Red June 4 (30 days) 50 Red Hfrs Bred Red July 1 (60 days)
Windy Hills- 120 Blk & Red 2nd & 3rd Calvers Bred Blk June 25-Aug.25
Jason Hale- 60 RBF, RBLD, BBF, BBLD Bred Blk July 1-Sep.1
Tammy Stuber- 20 Red Hfrs Bred Red June 15
Diamond L- 30 Red (3-6 yr) Cow AI to Char Bulls June 14, Red Cleanup June 22-Aug.24
Ross Nelson- 35 Red 1st Calvers Bred Red May 28 35 Red Mature Cows Bred Char May 28
Broken Arrow - 45 Blk 2nd Calvers Bred Blk July 1
Dennis Bjelland - 65 Red & Blk Cows Bred Red June 19
Rafter T - 30 Blk Cows Bred Blk July 10 - Aug. 27
Deschamps Ranching - 30 Blk Cows Bred Blk July 1
Monty Becker - 20 Blk Hfrs Bred Blk June 5 - Aug. 5

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14
Last Chance Calf Sale 10:00 am

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18
Last Regular Sale of 2020 9:00 am

For a list of all upcoming sales & pictures visit our website
www.bowslope.com

Lachie McKinnon, Gen. Manager 403-362-1825
 Erik Christensen, Asst. Manager 403-363-9942
 Cole Webb, Fieldman 403-793-5387
 Sam McKinnon, Fieldman 403-793-1731

bowslope@eidnet.org




BROOKS, AB. • (403) 362-5521 • FAX (403) 362-5541

EID's C Springhill rehab project underway



The map shows the EID's C Springhill project that started over the past couple of weeks. When it's completed, which should be prior to the next irrigation season, the closed pipeline will supply 6,224 acres. Below, pipe and equipment on site near Hwy. 873. | EID MAP/SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

The Eastern Irrigation District's major construction project for the season has started which will see a closed gravity pipeline to supply 6,224 acres. The C Springhill rehab project is 10 kilometers long and is located about seven kilometers north of Brooks. The price tag is about \$11.4 million. The pipeline will start at Rock Lake and continue east across the Duchess highway (Highway 873). The system will tie into some existing pipelines



including Long Pump west of Highway 873. The major benefit of the project, states a report from June, is that all of the spill water that would normally run out will stay in Rock Lake.

Wardlow Westerly

JEAN LAVOIE



WARDLOW - We were so lucky to have a couple of really nice days so we could get our outside lights and decorations up this year. Last week I was so sick and John so busy carrying for me we didn't manage much for Christmas. I'm seeing other homes in Wardlow are lighted and decorated. So if you need an outing I'd suggest a drive by to check it out. Wishing a speedy recovery to our daughter Missy as she had her

bothersome Gallbladder removed last week. If you have some news to share call me at 403-566-2448 or email at hippies2@telusplanet.net

Births

DIOP/SAINB - Born to Adama Diop and Abdou Karim Sainb of Brooks, AB., a son on December 1, 2020.

Evergreen Activities Centre

PRAIRIE PIONEERS - Our condolences go out to the Fleury family. We are sorry for your loss. Our centre will remain closed for the time being. We hope everyone is keeping healthy.

JBS CORNER

CANADA

As a critical industry that produces protein as an essential need for people in our country and around the world, JBS has put in place safety protocols to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure we are able to continue to meet the demand for high quality food products globally. These protocols are important in keeping the 3000 JBS team members employed at our facilities safe, as well as members of our community and are implemented under the guidance of Alberta Health Services.

The JBS Hygiene crew was implemented in March of 2020, as one of many action plans put forward as a defense in combating COVID-19. These team members are specifically trained in COVID-19 safety protocols, guidelines and prevention measures, focusing on high traffic areas including hand rails, door handles and ensuring proper COVID-19 safety measures are observed at all times.

We want to salute our amazing Hygiene teams for their on going protection and prevention measures. You have helped build an even safer working environment for our JBS team, allowing us to continue to supply wholesome, safe food to our families, our community and our country.

Visit www.jbsfoodcanada.ca for a full list of COVID-19 protection measures.

Salute to Our Hygiene Crew






The COVID-19 plant strategist, Aimee Kapeta, has assisted in composing a team of 17 members to help the facility stay safe and utilize all prevention measures.

Duchess residents hold drive-by Santa Parade

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

Heather Finkbeiner of Duchess wanted to ensure everyone has a smile on their face during the holidays despite COVID 19, so she planned a community-wide Santa Claus Parade.

The socially-distanced parade wound through the Village of Duchess ensuring to pass each and every home collecting foods items and funds for the Brooks Food Bank, Christmas cards for seniors and gifts for Cantara House.

Finkbeiner said she got

the idea while watching the news one day and realizing that all of the Santas in malls and anywhere else they would attend were cancelled because of the pandemic.

"It just struck a chord with me," she said.

She wondered what could be done and how she could make a difference.

"I knew I needed the help of the village," she said.

Pulling together friends and family the drive-by parade was held on Saturday.

Items were collected that had been left on curbs and

other items were put into a small pail at the end of six foot extended poles.

Donations were accepted at ATB Cares which matches donations for an organization at 15 per cent.

Finkbeiner said the event exceeded her expectations. Two SUVs and the Santa trailer were all filled with items.

"We made a huge difference. We saw the smiles from the kids. We saw the excitement. Everything that we wanted to accomplish was accomplished in a little two-and-a-half hour Santa drive-by," she said.



Top, Keith Finkbeiner pulls Santa Claus during a COVID-19 socially-distanced parade in Duchess on Saturday. The event was held to put smiles on people's faces while collecting for charities. Centre, some of the 200 cards for seniors from Duchess residents. Left, Linda Morey, left, and Michelle Hemsing, with some of the items collected. All of the items will be dropped off this week to the proper agencies to distribute.

DIANE REISS/SUBMITTED PHOTOS



TARHEEL OVERHEAD DOORS

- GARAGE DOOR OPENERS
- REPLACEMENT PARTS
- SERVICE
- RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Call **403-427-0583**

One Tree World

IRMA MERKL



ONE TREE - Well, we sure have had some nice weather the past couple of weeks, and last couple of days have been really nice. Good for taking walks. I'm pretty sure it won't stay this way, but I could take this till after the holidays and beyond. Of course that would be dreaming. So, we'll just have to take what we get and go with it.

It seems there isn't anything new going on in the neighbourhood, so I don't have anything to report this week. I guess with this COVID pandemic most folks

are staying close to home. Hopefully one of these days we'll be able to go back to where we were prior to this.

Happy birthday greetings go out to Valerie (Spicer) Hok on Dec. 10th; to Dillison (Malinsky) Buteau on Dec. 11th; Dianna Visser of Cheadle, to Benjamin Huggons of Sundre and Emma Sinclair, all on Dec. 12th; to Greg Patterson on Dec. 14th; to Jason Church and Shelley Airth, both on Dec. 16th. We wish each of you a great day and a "Very Happy Birthday" to everyone and to everyone else that is

celebrating this coming week. We wish everyone all the best for the coming year. May you all be safe from this darned COVID Pandemic.

There aren't any anniversaries this week again.

As a man was driving down the highway in thick traffic, his cell phone rang. Answering, his wife's voice urgently warned him: "Herman, I just heard that there's a car going the wrong on the highway. Please be careful!!!" "ONE?!" Herman shouted, "It's not just one car, Martha, it's hundreds of them!"

ONLINE TIMED AUCTION

REGISTER AT: live.tdown.ca REGISTER AT: live.tdown.ca

DECEMBER OPEN CONSIGNMENT TIMED AUCTION

Bidding Begins: Monday, December 14 @ 8 am
Bidding Ends: Wed., December 17 @ 1 pm
Lots begin to close @ 1 pm on Wed., Dec. 16

Grandfather Clock
Honda 4 Trax
Maple Table & 8 Chairs with Christmas Setting
Hydraulic Squeeze

FOR INFO CALL ANNETT AUCTIONS 403-362-5252

ANNETT AUCTION SERVICES

Box 1952 - Brooks, AB. T1R 1C7 - License #331406
ROSS W. ANNETT • OFFICE: 403-362-5252 • FAX: 403-362-5254 • CELLULAR: 403-793-4715
www.tdown.ca - Email: ross@tdown.ca

BOBCAT.COM

GET YOUR **HANDS ON A REVOLUTIONARY SKID-STEER LOADER.**

R-SERIES LOADERS ARE HERE.

Brooks Farm Equipment Inc.
Brooks Farm Equipment, Inc.
BROOKS, AB
403-362-8222

Bobcat
One Tough Animal.

Bobcat®, the Bobcat logo and the colors of the Bobcat machine are registered trademarks of Bobcat Company in the United States and various other countries.
©2020 Bobcat Company. All rights reserved. 13421826

Brooks and area RCMP report



SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

Senior injured in scooter collision

A vehicle driven by an 83-year-old struck a 94-year-old who was driving a scooter on Cassils Road Friday.

The collision took place at about 3:45 p.m. near 10th Street West.

Police say the scooter driver was crossing Cassils when he was struck. He was transported to Brooks Health Centre with non-life threatening injuries.

Eastbound traffic was re-routed for a short period of time.

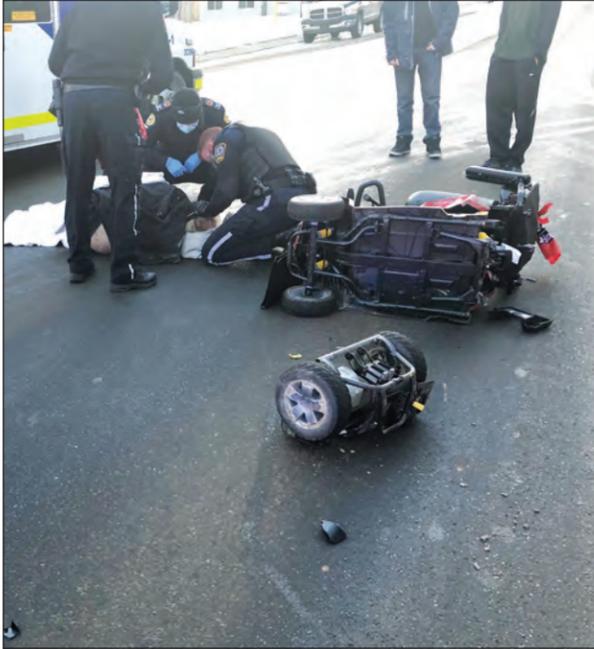
RCMP are continuing their investigation.

Police identify suspects on stolen surveillance cameras

Several items, including wireless security cameras, were stolen from a Brooks residence on Nov. 2 which later led to arrests.

RCMP report that several days after a break and enter, the victim received an email indicating the cameras were turned on.

It sent images of persons in possession of the stolen cameras and Brooks RCMP were able to identify several people.



First Responders treat a senior who was driving his scooter when he was struck by a vehicle on Friday afternoon.

| SUBMITTED PHOTO

A search warrant was executed on a residence which led to charges against a pair of Brooks residents, a 39-year-old female and a 58-year-old male.

"Fortunately the suspects were unaware of the cameras ability to send notifications to the victim," said Brooks RCMP Sgt. Bruce McDonald.

"Thankfully, Brooks RCMP were able to quickly identify several suspects from the images which led to the execution of a search warrant and recovery of the cameras."

The pair are scheduled to appear in Brooks Provincial Court on Jan. 6, 2021.

A third suspect is being investigated.



Decorations cover the front lawn of this home on Charlesworth Crescent East in Brooks.

| SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO

Crossroads Clinic

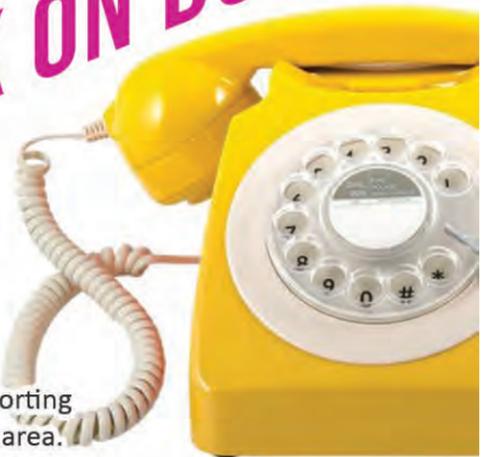
crossroadsclinic.ca
403-362-4600

ROCK ON DUDES!

You helped our 80s telethon raise a *totally tubular*

\$32,600*

for programs and services supporting healthy sexuality in Brooks and area.



If you missed the event, you can still watch & donate at live.crossroadsclinic.ca until Dec. 23, 2020.

*We have raised 50% of a \$207,000 operating budget, year ending May 31, 2021. 50c

BROOKS TO MEDICINE HAT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

SAVE THE SHUTTLE

Who can help: Individuals, Service Clubs and Businesses

Shuttle provides transportation for those who need a ride to access vital service such as:

- Life saving treatment such as dialysis and cancer treatments
- Specialist appointments
- Maternity Clinics
- Day Surgeries

How to Donate:

1. In-person at the City of Brooks Municipal Office (201—1st Avenue West, Brooks, Alberta).
2. By cheque: City of Brooks (The word "Shuttle" in description. Mail to City of Brooks, Box 879, Brooks AB. T1R 1B7).
3. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Call City of Brooks Municipal Office 403 362 3333 get transfer information.

Tax Receipts can be issued!

If donating by cheque (or E-transfer), please include request for tax receipt.

In-person donations will be issued a receipt at the time of donation.

FUNDRAISING
GOAL \$40,000

RAISED \$15,325.00
DATE: Dec. 4/20

TOGETHER
WE CAN SAVE
THE SHUTTLE



Brooks to Medicine Hat

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Brooks Leaves @ 7 AM → Medicine Hat → Brooks Arrives @ 4 PM
JBS Canada Centre Call to ask about drop off/pick up locations JBS Canada Centre

\$10 ONE-WAY \$20 ROUND-TRIP

PLEASE NOTE: FEES WILL BE INCREASING TO \$20 ONE-WAY, \$40 ROUND-TRIP ON JANUARY 1, 2021

OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

RIDERSHIP IS NOT RESTRICTIVE, HOWEVER PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE IN NEED OF MEDICAL SERVICES



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE

PLEASE CALL 403-362-6190 OR VISIT

WWW.BROOKS.CA/SERVICE



Classifieds

**Deadline for Classifieds
word ads is Monday - 3 PM
Call 403-362-5571**

obituaries



1931 ~ Ronald James Cyr ~ 2020

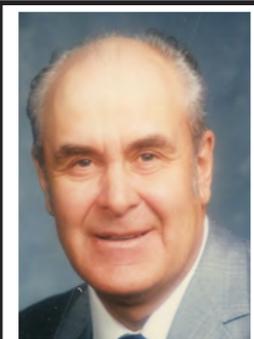
Ronald James "Ron" Cyr of Medicine Hat, beloved husband of the late Jennie Cyr, passed away on Monday, November 30th, 2020 at the age of 89 years. Ronald leaves to cherish his memory his daughters; Donna Dueck of Beaverlodge, AB, and Holly Cyr (Ken) Morrison of Edmonton, AB; and grandchildren, Koby, Kira, Rachael, and Quinn. Ronald was predeceased by his wife, Jennie; parents, John and Emilie Cyr; and daughter, Terry Van Der Kaaden. Ron was born in Brooks, AB, July 22nd, 1931, where he grew up and attended school. Following high school, he began working as a power linesman for Calgary Power and then for Sask Power. In 1959, he started his own business in Medicine Hat that provided well servicing and hot shot services. He also trained as an instrument technician and was able to utilize his skills to work in compressor stations. Ron retired from full time business in 1996, but continued to drive bus from Medicine Hat to the Suffield base for some time. During his leisure time, Ron enjoyed travelling throughout Canada, the United States, and Asia. He was especially fond of the time he was able to vacation in Japan, China and the Philippines. At home, Ron was an avid RC aircraft enthusiast. He particularly enjoyed planning and constructing his own model aircrafts as well as flying them. Ron was proud of his family and enjoyed spending time with them and he will be deeply missed. A private family Funeral Service will be held at SAAMIS MEMORIAL FUNERAL CHAPEL, 1 Dunmore Road SE Medicine Hat, AB T1A 1Z5, on Thursday, December 3rd, 2020 at 10:00 am with Gary W. Goran officiating. Interment will follow at Hillside Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to view the service by live streaming at www.saamis.com through the webcast link shown on Ronald Cyr's obituary page. Streaming will begin at 9:55 a.m. Condolences may be sent through www.saamis.com or to condolences@saamis.com subject heading Ronald Cyr. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to

and then for Sask Power. In 1959, he started his own business in Medicine Hat that provided well servicing and hot shot services. He also trained as an instrument technician and was able to utilize his skills to work in compressor stations. Ron retired from full time business in 1996, but continued to drive bus from Medicine Hat to the Suffield base for some time. During his leisure time, Ron enjoyed travelling throughout Canada, the United States, and Asia. He was especially fond of the time he was able to vacation in Japan, China and the Philippines. At home, Ron was an avid RC aircraft enthusiast. He particularly enjoyed planning and constructing his own model aircrafts as well as flying them. Ron was proud of his family and enjoyed spending time with them and he will be deeply missed. A private family Funeral Service will be held at SAAMIS MEMORIAL FUNERAL CHAPEL, 1 Dunmore Road SE Medicine Hat, AB T1A 1Z5, on Thursday, December 3rd, 2020 at 10:00 am with Gary W. Goran officiating. Interment will follow at Hillside Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to view the service by live streaming at www.saamis.com through the webcast link shown on Ronald Cyr's obituary page. Streaming will begin at 9:55 a.m. Condolences may be sent through www.saamis.com or to condolences@saamis.com subject heading Ronald Cyr. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to

Saamis Memorial
Funeral Chapel, Crematorium,
& Reception Centre
#1 Dunmore Road SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 1Z5
403-528-2599 1-800-317-2647 www.saamis.com
Locally owned and directed CGR Holdings Ltd. c/o

sports, news, columns
click on
www.brooksbulletin.com

in memory



ALFRED JANKE

**In loving memory of
a dear husband who
passed away,
December 8, 2017**

*THE SPECIAL TIMES -
WE SHARED*

We shared so much
happiness
In times of yesterday
And to say how much
I miss you
I could never find a way
I wish with all my heart
That you were here
with me
And we could share
the laughter
That there always used
to be.

I know we'll meet again
In another life elsewhere
And those very special
times
We once again will share.

Love you forever & ever,
FREDA

50p

in memory



ALFRED JANKE
**In loving memory of
our dear dad, grandad,
father-in-law who passed
away December 8, 2017**

Three years have passed since
that sad day

When one we loved was called
away.

God took him home it was
his will
But in our hearts he liveth still
We often think of days gone by
When we were all together
A shadow o'er our lives has
cast

Our loved one gone forever.

*Forever loved and in our
hearts,
Kathy
Brian
Brandon, Tyler & Jamie*

50p

**coming
events**

**ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS
MEETINGS**

Mon & Sat
8:00 pm Brooks United
Church, 507 - 3rd Ave. W.,
Brooks

Tues. & Thurs.
8:00 pm Trinity Lutheran
Church
811 Cassils Rd. W., Brooks

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CALL
403-793-4796**

35-52p

**business
announcements**

**AERUS
ELECTROLUX**

Vacuum Cleaners
& Air Purifiers
**SALES &
SERVICE**

**ALL MAKES &
MODELS**

Vincent J. Henry
403-630-0439
www.AerusVacuums.com

28-52p

**for sale
misc.**

12" Dovetail Jig with 1/2"
template, \$80. Call 403-362-
0589. 49-51p

livestock

HORSE BOARDING - 4 km
from Silver Sage. Pasture or
pen boarding. 1 feed. Call 403-
793-1410. 35-52p

feed & seed

**TAKING
ORDERS**

CERTIFIED
- Stronghold Duram
- Glas Flax
- Brandon HRS
- Reg-Brandon HRS

3x4x8 ft. Flax Bales

**Call
403-501-1565**

50-53c

real estate

**PRICE REDUCED
2011 MANUFACTURED
HOME:** 3 bedrooms, 2 baths,
fixed appliances, central air,
landscaped yard. Contact for
more info. 403-363-9883. 49-
52p

real estate

FOR SALE BY OWNER
5 acre acreage, 6 miles
from Brooks. Mature treed
yard. 1250 sq. ft. bungalow,
detached garage. Call 403-
928-8072. 50-51p

rentals

IN BASSANO
Updated 2 bedroom apt, in-
suite laundry, large storage
room & plenty of parking,
reference required. Call 403-
793-0030. 48-02p

**ACREAGE FOR RENT:
ROOM FOR HORSES/
CATTLE.** 2 storey house,
1 3/4 baths, quiet country
life style, laundry facilities,
no house pets. References
required, several bedrooms,
small family preferred,
\$1300/rent + electricity,
yard maintenance required,
available immediately. Call
1-403-375-8277. 02-52ftn

rentals

SIGNATURE SQUARE



SIGNATURE SQUARE
333 - 2nd Street West

- Mature Adult Building, no smoking or pets
- 2 bedroom
- Available Immediately
- Includes dishwasher, stove with self-cleaning oven & large fridge
- Rent includes heat, water, garbage & sewer
- Intercom & security
- Full bath - large bathroom
- Laundry hookups (laundry machines available for extra monthly charge)
- Elevator
- Sheltered Parking
- Security
- Balcony
- \$925/mo + DD

**Phone
403-362-0482**
(Ask for Shelden or
Robin)

46-52c

employment

**Employment
Opportunity**

Hopf Mechanical &
Hydraulics is looking
for a

**HEAVY DUTY
MECHANIC**

(3rd year apprentice or higher)
Send resumes to
jbolen@hopfmechanical.com .
Competitive rates offered
Benefits package available

49-50c

crematorium

**SMITH FUNERAL HOME LTD.
AND CREMATORIUM**

In November of 2015, Smith Funeral Home Ltd. purchased our own crematorium, conveniently located in the City of Brooks, alleviating the unnecessary need to transport your loved one out of the local area and allowing cremations to be conducted as soon as possible.

Our deep roots in the community are a source of pride, as we grow side by side with the families we serve. We hope you will consider us your source for compassionate care and exemplary service. Our pledge is to help you honor your loved one in a meaningful way, offering thoughtful guidance and personal attention to every detail.

**Due to the worldwide COVID-19
Pandemic Smith Funeral Home Ltd.
is now "LIVE STREAMING" funeral
services with family approval.**

Smith Funeral Home Ltd.
and Crematorium
has been serving Brooks and
areas with compassion and
respect since 1951.

50c

Thom's
FUNERAL HOME AND RECEPTION CENTRE
"A Life Well-Lived Is Worth Remembering"

*During difficult times, Thom's Funeral Home is
where you "Pay Your Last Respects,
Not Your Life Savings."*

thomfuneralhome.com 403-501-1010

21ftn

rentals

UPGRADED OFFICES, Cottonwood Court, 403 - 2nd St. W. 140 to 1100 sq. ft., large windows, wheelchair access, \$400-\$1000 per month. Utilities & taxes included. Call 403-362-4475. 43-01p

BASEMENT SUITE FOR RENT, 2 bedrooms, 3 appliances, shared laundry room, non-smoking, new flooring. Near hospital, schools & downtown. Call 403-362-6778. 50-53p

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 4 appliances, 16th St. East, \$1,000 SD, \$1200/month includes all utilities. Please text/call Diane 493-363-7179. 50ftn

employment

CITY TAXI
Need something to do?
We are hiring
FT/PT DRIVERS
Day shift or evenings.
Call
403-501-4395
47-02P

see us online at
www.brooksbulletin.com

employment

FARM WORKERS REQUIRED
15 POSITIONS AVAILABLE
LOOKING FOR
SPECIALIZED LABOURER.
Duties include potato grading inspection. Wages are \$15 per hour with housing available. Monday - Saturday with some Sundays 60+ hours a week. Job start date: March 15, 2021
Fax resume to:
1-403-654-4420
49-50c

Scandia Sketch

KARLYN TAKEDA



SCANDIA - Did you know that on December 10th there is possibly a 2nd reading of the Bylaw that would have Division 4 split up, and our agriculture communities to the north being joined with urban residents. The Survey Monkey questions on the County of Newell website are not adequate. The limited map choices we were given reflect a loss or rural representation. We are an agricultural county. We need to keep our representation.

As one of the councillors said in the October 8th meeting, "Feedback is what makes it flexible." Let's give the council feedback. This is rushed. Adequate community engagement not possible with the pandemic; halls are closed to large groups. 5 councillors are retiring. Why not leave this decision to the new councillors elected next year? They will have more time to redraw boundaries and consider other factors aside from population and... they will be the ones governing.

Wayne would like people to contact him with their opinions at (403) 501-8909; email- hammergrenw@newellmail.ca. He will bring your concerns to that meeting.

Letters are great feedback. Write: County of Newell Councillors P.O. Box 130 Brooks, Alberta,

Canada T1R 1B2

Alcoma School News- Lots of fun festive events taking place throughout the next few weeks! The 12 Days of Christmas has begun. Watch the calendar that was sent home with students or the Facebook page to see what the daily activity is.

Alcoma Food Bank Drive- staff and students will be participating in a food bank drive from December 1 through the 15th. Items will be collected and each homeroom and a tally will be kept with their number of donations. The class with the most donations will win an ice cream treat! All donations will be delivered to the Brooks food bank. Thank you to all those who support our school!

Christmas coloring contest- Students can pick up coloring sheets from the office and once they are colored they can be handed in at the office and they will receive a raffle ticket towards more Alcoma swag!

The Alcoma library is now re open every Thursday from 3:30-5:00pm. Masks will be mandatory and we will have gloves available. Please use the North doors to enter. Happy Reading!

Please note that a doorbell has been installed at the school... you must press it until there a RED light appears. For any visits please contact the school 4033623741. Keep watch in the Alcoma School Happening's information

on Facebook for all current activities and information.

Please save your bottle caps as the school is still collecting these. The school is continuing to accept bottle donations. These are much appreciated and can be dropped off beside the Quonset.

The Rolling Hills arena concession (sidelines cafe) will be open daily from 8-2.

Please Note- Masks are now mandatory inside the Post Office. Also due to the size of the reception area in the Scandia Post Office, the Area Superintendent has advised to limit the number of customers coming in to pick up their mail/parcels, to one at a time. Please respect this request and act accordingly. Thank you.

Have you checked in with your senior neighbors? If you're going for groceries, maybe you can pick something up for them? Support seniors at home. Seniors can contact 211 if they need help finding resources in their community. 211 is a comprehensive referral system accessible to all Albertans. Call or text 2-1-1 or visit ab.211.ca

It's always great to hear about our neighbors and the exciting things happening in the community. If you have any news or interesting Scandia trivia you'd like submitted in the sketch, please contact me at Karlyn. takeda@hotmail.com or 403-362-5488.

AWNA blanket ads

Coming Events
FIREARMS WANTED FOR FEBRUARY 20th, 2021
LIVE & ONLINE AUCTION: Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Militaria. Auction or Purchase: Collections, Estates, Individual Items. Contact Paul, Switzer's Auction: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, sales@switzersauction.com or www.switzersauction.com.

Employment Opportunities
BLANKET THE PROVINCE with a classified ad. Only \$269 (based on 25 words or less). Reach 90 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903 Ext 225; www.awna.com.

SEEKING PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS WITH CLASS 1 - 5 license to transport RV's throughout North America. We have company driver spots available in Double Haul, Triple Haul and Semi fleets and O/O spots available in Single (1 ton) and Double Haul fleets. For more information on each fleet, please visit roadexservices.com. Subsidized health and dental insurance, monthly bonus available for company drivers. Must have valid passport and be able to cross the border. To apply, please email resume and a current driver's abstract to recruiting@roadexservices.com.

Feed and Seed
HEATED CANOLA buying Green, Heated or Springthashed Canola. Buying: oats, barley, wheat & peas for feed. Buying damaged or offgrade grain. "On Farm Pickup" Westcan **Feed & Grain**, 1-877-250-5252. **Land For Sale**

VERY INEXPENSIVE 2 QUARTERS OF PASTURE LAND, Central SK, for sale. 8 other good quarters may be available. Requires fencing. Great hunting \$74,900. Call Doug at 306-716-2671.

AGRICULTURE or FOR SALE
INTEGRITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS since 2008 BUILT WITH CONCRETE POSTS. Barns, Shops, Riding Arenas, Machine Sheds and more. sales@integritybuilt.com; 1-866-974-7678; www.integritybuilt.com.

Health
GET UP TO \$50,000 from the Government of Canada. ALL Ages & Medical Conditions Qualify. Have a child under 18 instantly receive more money. CALL THE BENEFITS PROGRAM 1-(800)-211-3550 or Send a Text Message with Your Name and Mailing Address to 403-980-3605 for your **FREE** benefits package.

HIP/KNEE REPLACEMENT. Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING? The Disability Tax Credit allows for \$3,000 yearly tax credit and \$30,000 lump sum refund. Take advantage of this offer. Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide. Expert help. 1-844-453-5372.

GET YOUR MESSAGE SEEN ACROSS Alberta. The Blanket Classifieds or Value Ads reach over 600,000 Alberta readers weekly. Two options starting at \$269 or \$995 to get your message out! Business changes, hiring, items for sale, cancellations, tenders, etc. People are increasingly staying home and rely on their local newspapers for information. KEEP people in the loop with our 90 Weekly Community Newspapers. Call THIS NEWSPAPER now or email classifieds@awna.com for details. 1-800-282-6903, 780-434-8746 X225. www.awna.com.

GET BACK ON TRACK! Bad credit? Unemployed? Need Money? We Lend! If you own your own home - you qualify. Pioneer Acceptance Corp. Member BBB. 1-877-987-1420. www.pioneerwest.co

To advertise your company call **403.362.5571**

Business directory

BROOKS BULLETIN

AUTO PARTS

BAP BROOKS AUTO PARTS
USED AUTO PARTS AND AUTO WRECKING
WE SPECIALIZE IN NEWER MODEL 4x4 TRUCKS!
PHONE: 403-362-2653
EMAIL: parts@brooksautoparts.ca
WEB: brooksautoparts.ca 01-52c

ACCOUNTING

Bevan & Partners
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Bay 2, 320 - 8th Ave. W.
Brooks, Alberta
Ph: 403-362-3472 01-52c

Murray & Associates
BOOKKEEPING, ACCOUNTING
TAX RETURNS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Diane Murray Don Murray
C212 - 3rd Ave. West
Box 759, Brooks, AB. T1R 1B7
Phone: 403-362-2285 02-10

DENTAL/DENTURE

NEWELL DENTURE CLINIC LTD.

• Complete Dentures
• Implant Retained Dentures
• Partial Dentures
• Relines & Repairs
• Free Consultations
• Sports Mouth Guards & Night Guards
Darren Strach Denturist
403-362-3181
220 - 3rd Street West • Brooks, Alberta T1R 0S3 01-52b

Brooks Denture Clinic Ltd.
Alan Treiber, DD
"Keeping Brooks & Area smiling for over 25 years!"

ALAN TREIBER, DD
DENTURIST
Complete Dentures • Partial Dentures
• Relines & Repairs • Mouthguards and Nightguards • Injection Processed Dentures
FREE CONSULTATIONS
Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
PHONE/FAX: 403-362-5803
Brooks Professional Bldg.
#103, 428 - 2nd St. W. • BROOKS, AB. T1R 0E9
www.brooksdentureclinic.com

EYECARE

FOR SIGHT VISION CENTRE
South Shore Centre
640 Cassils Rd. E.
Brooks, AB.
403-362-5063
www.forsightbrooks.ca
Dr. Dallas Wagner, OD
Dr. Darren Wagner, OD 01-52c

GOVERNMENT

MARTIN SHIELDS,
Member of Parliament
Bow River Constituency
2, 403 - 2nd Ave. W.,
Brooks, AB. T1R 0S3
403-793-6775/fax: 403-793-6778
martin.shields@parl.gc.ca
www.martinshieldsbowriver.ca
27-52c

RENOVATIONS

D.K. CONTRACTING & RENOS
* Renovations * Decks * Additions * Garages * Roofing
* Siding Vinyl * Wood & Chain Fences * Drywall & Painting
* Mobile Home Levelling & Skirting * Bobcat Work & Snow Removal
01-52p
DARRELL: 403-362-0864 24 years experience

We do...
• FAXING
• PHOTOCOPYING
• COMMERCIAL PRINTING
Business Cards • Invoices
Work Orders • Menus
Flyers • Pamphlets and more!
• COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

BROOKS BULLETIN
Serving Brooks & County of Newell since 1910!
403.362.5571

LIBERTY TAX SERVICE
TAX Preparation
01-52p
Address: 215 - 3rd St. W. • Brooks, AB. T1R 0N8
Phone: 403-793-2674 • Fax: 403-793-2884

click on www.brooksbulletin.com



DECORATING | This home-owner did a good job in decorating for Christmas. | BULLETIN PHOTO

New impaired driving rules now in place in Alberta

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

The provincial government has made changes to help keep impaired drivers off the road with steeper penalties and education.

The provincial changes are through Bill 21, the *Provincial Administrative Penalties Act* which went into effect on Dec. 1.

It includes fines up to \$2,000 and vehicle seizures for up to 30 days for some offences.

The changes also allow officers to issue penalties on the spot.

"The new process will also free up court and police resources and as a result allow them to focus on the most serious offences."

Many first time offenders will be able to deal with their

penalties through an online traffic dispute system.

Repeat offenders can expect to have mandatory education programs, increase driver's licence suspensions and expanded interlock time.

The bill also puts into law a zero blood alcohol and drug concentration for commercial drivers while they are on-the-job.

Cassils Clarion & Antelope Creek

JODI NIZNIK



CASSILS/ANTELOPE CREEK - I hope this finds you well as you read this and if not, reach out and talk to someone or seek some help. It's difficult to navigate these uncertain times of isolation and separation. Check in others as well because chances are they're lonely and isolated too. The weather has made it easier to be outside going for walks and enjoying this rare December sunshine. The higher temps have us back doing fall jobs like pounding posts and washing windows!

I ran into Jackie Murray recently and had a quick catch up. I'm glad to see her getting around so well after her fall injury. She wished a hello to anyone from out here that I

saw. I reminded her I don't get to see anyone, so here I am extending her hello!

Ladies club 12 Days of Christmas tickets are selling fast and there are very few left. Call a member to get your tickets today, draws start in 7 days!!!! Members you are to have all tickets turned in Friday to Joan and raffle items to the hall this Sunday as well as baking. If you have any questions please call Crystal @403-793-0195. Or Joan @ 403-793-0826.

Junior and high school area students are at home learning while elementary age still take classes at the schools. All students will be starting Christmas break on December 18th. In the New Year students will all do one

week of learning from home with hopes to all return in school on January 11th. That's the plan for now, possible to change I'm sure. So far this is running smoothly at my house with both girls at home and me working from home. Only glitch so far was the band class last week while I was in a board meeting. The drum kit in the middle of the house had me heading to the furnace room to host my meeting! Minor scheduling issues!

Have a great week and enjoy the little Christmas traditions and rituals that you still can. Call Jodi with news or information to share at 403-501-1583. All hall inquiries can be directed to Heather @ 403-793-3890.

Grasslands in good shape despite COVID situation

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

The Grasslands School division 2019/20 audited financial report, which was reviewed by the school board last Monday, shows an operating deficit of \$382,015.

During the period revenue decreased about \$1.6 million while expenses decreased by \$1.77 million.

"It was good to see with revenue coming down that expenses were decreasing," said Calvin Scott from Avail Chartered Accountants in his presentation.

The deficit is about \$160,000 less than last year. "Given the COVID environment that we're in, having an increase to the bottom line from the last year's deficit is a better financial position than the prior year," he said.

He said it was very well done for the board to maintain a small deficit

during uncertain times.

The decrease in revenues over the previous year was due to cuts by the province of \$789,000, loss of fees, donations and investment income.

The bulk of the donations during the previous year had been for the playground at Eastbrook Elementary School.

Scott said with COVID occurring there were reductions in expenses including in transportation and staffing wages and benefits.

The division can use its infrastructure maintenance and renewal (IMR) program funding if required.

On the asset side he said cash and cash equivalent is higher in 2020 over 2019 because of the IMR from the province but the net financial assets, including liabilities, are at \$4.5 million which are down from last year's assets of \$4.9 million.

The non-financial assets

include prepaid expenses of \$527,027 which is up about \$366,000 over last year and covers costs related to getting schools prepared for the return to in-school learning following the school closures that took place from March to September.

"You're in a solid financial position still (as of Aug. 31), in light of all that's occurring," he said.

Looking at other school divisions, Scott said, they are also looking at decreased revenues and decreasing expenditures by cutting staff.

In Grasslands there was an increase in the number of students which can be difficult as revenues decrease but "maintaining the surplus in the uncertain times is a wonderful thing to see and maintaining a healthy financial position," he said.



In your garden...

LINDA TOMLINSON

Still looking for presents for the gardener in your life?

A gardening book, if chosen with care, can make a good present. For the most part, gardening books are either instructions on how to do something or plant references.

Both genres cover a multitude of topics. When looking at how to books, choose ones that interest the gardener and are slightly above their level of expertise which allows them to try out new ideas and learn.

Reference books also need to be relevant to the gardener's interest and location.

Before purchasing any gardening book about outdoor gardening, look to see where the author lives and gardens. The goal is to insure the information pertains to the area or zone where your gardener lives.

When purchasing books on growing plants indoors, be sure the book includes each plant's preferred growing conditions including: light level, temperature, fertilizer, soil and moisture.

Gift certificates from local garden centers, or favorite seed companies are always welcome as it allows the gardener plan and dream for the next season.

Support a local farmer and purchase a gift certificate for fresh produce delivered throughout the 2021 growing season. CSA,

Consumer Supported Agriculture works on the premise that customers either pay up front or pay weekly for a basket of fresh in season produce. The amount of produce received depends on the package purchased and the season.

The Alberta government has a list of SCA gardens, <https://csaday.info/places/canada/alberta/>

It is a good starting place to search. Word of mouth, local Agriculture Offices, Farmer's Markets are other places to look for local producers.

Garden supports are an integral part of any garden as they keep plants upright. Plant supports can be hidden by foliage as the season progresses or main structures such as trellises. Plant supports may be designed for one plant or may work for a number of different ones. When purchasing plant supports look for ones that are sturdy and large enough to support the plants at maturity. If they are going to be visible, they should be attractive and fit into the theme of the garden.

Garden ties are often needed to hold the plants in place but they should be discreet, not obvious. Ties are available in an assortment of products and styles. Look for ones

that are wide enough that they will not choke the plant when tied tight.

Early and late frosts plague most gardeners. Giving a gardener a floating row cover is the same as giving them another month of gardening. The average floating cover will provide 5 degrees of frost protection if the fabric is secured at the ground level. The polyspun cover allows moisture and sunlight to penetrate. The floating row cover also works as an insect barrier in the vegetable garden.

This year's local artisan events have been canceled or limited, find out there contact information to see what they have available for the garden. Unique benches and bird feeders always add to the garden. Their contact information should be available through the



Hops have grown and covered the arbour attached to the bench.

event organizers.

Linda Tomlinson has gardened in Central Alberta for over 30 years. She can be reached at your_garden@hotmail.com

Tilley Telegram

ANITA CHAPPELL



TILLEY - The Hamlet of Tilley will shine on December 12! Unfortunately, the hayrides are cancelled, but if you are able, consider a walk around town to enjoy the efforts of all who have decorated. The Community Light-Up Contest wraps up with judging on December 12 - prizes for 1st place, \$60 gift certificate, 2nd place, \$30 gift certificate. The Kids' Colouring Contest judging will take place December 12, so please turn them in by December 11. There are four age categories, pick-up and drop-off at the Spike & Spur Mercantile. Prize package is a Duffy's Fun Centre gift card and Hot Chocolate Bomb (donated by Back Alley Barnwood Builds and Hannah's Gift Creations).

Worship services at Bethany Lutheran Church have been suspended indefinitely. For online options, please contact a church member.

The Tilley and District Public Library is open Mondays 7:00 to 9:00 pm; Wednesdays 9:00 to 11:00 am and 7:00 to 9:00 pm; Saturdays 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Library membership is free for residents of Tilley. Patrons are requested to wear a mask in the library.

Masks are available for patrons if needed. Holds are delivered Thursdays and are available for pick-up on Mondays. Contactless holds pick-up is an option by request. The library board is currently seeking some additional members. If you are interested, please contact Anita at 403-377-2259.

Check out the Tilley Community Centre Facebook page with photos, rental rates and general hall information. There is a new email for inquiries at tilleyhall@outlook.com. The board is always open to new members and the Annual General Meeting will be held on March 9, 2021.

The Spike & Spur Mercantile on Main Street in Tilley is now open Thursdays from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm (until December 17), Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (including Christmas Eve). On Saturday, December 12, hours are extended until 8:00 pm. Don't forget to drop off your colouring contest page by December 11!

Something new for your Christmas enjoyment - the Christmas Tour of Artists! The starting point is the Spike & Spur Mercantile in Tilley, where you will

receive a passport for entry into a draw. There will be various locations at which to stop and shop! Here is your opportunity to support local artists and get some quality Christmas shopping done!

The Sidelines Café in the Rolling Hills arena will be open daily from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Join us for some great food.

To submit news items, please PHONE Anita Chappell at 377-2259. You may also EMAIL me at goombaw@eidnet.org with subject line Tilley Telegram. Please contact me by or before 8:00 am on Monday mornings to have your news included for the week. On long weekends, news is due Thursday morning before the holiday!



Serving Brooks & County of Newell since 1910!

403.362.5571

Duchess Dispatch

LINDA MOREY



DUCHESS - What a gorgeous week we had! You could actually feel the sun's warmth while you were outside. Many families took advantage of that warmth and hung Christmas lights. Thanks to all those who were able to add to the spirit of the holidays! They bring so much cheer when you're out for a walk or driving home from work!

Warm weather didn't hurt the early arrival of Santa as he spread good cheer through the streets of Duchess. It was so fun seeing the kids faces light up as his float got closer. A big thank you to masterminds Keith and Heather Finkbeiner for thinking to do something good for the kids during these crazy times. It was socially distant and seeing the families on their front steps with their kids and the candy canes handed out with a handle and a pail was just so heartwarming. They made a difference! Residents were so generous with their

food and toy donations. Bags and bags of food were laying on the sidewalks ready to be collected by Santa's elves. Many local people were helped by everyone giving just a little. Keith and Heather thank everyone for making their "small" idea turn out so good. They were truly humbled.

The Duchess & District Public Library will be closed the week of December 21st and December 28th. Please have the items on hold at least 2 weeks before we close for the holidays. January 5, 2021, the library will be open at 10:00 am.

Our grade 7-12 students are finishing up the year by working from home. This virus isn't going away without a fight. I feel for our kids as they are not allowed to gather, hang out etc and that just seems tough for kids of any age especially teenagers. (I waver between feeling sad for our little kids and the big kids.) Being a teen is

the time for exploration of who they are. Social circles help them become who they want to be and who they don't want to be. It's the time where they lean closer to their peers than their parents. They start gaining more independence, straying further from their home lives and spreading their wings just a little more each year as they approach adulthood. To make them stay home for safety just about breaks your heart.

The vaccine is just around the corner. Soon, we will be able to protect ourselves from the virus and move on with our lives. Teens can go back to being teens, sports and groups and music will resume and gatherings will be allowed again. All will be right in this world again.

Stay strong, wash your hands often, wear a mask when asked and always be kind. The people in the stores are not making the rules. They are only trying

to stay safe through this time.

This week's shout out goes to our postmistress, Brenda Murphy. She works day in and day out, busily sorting our mail and parcels. Please note, the post office is tiny and when people enter, they need a mask. It's so busy there this month so please be kind when doing your business there!

Have a good week! If it's a bad week, call someone and ask for help. There are so many agencies that offer help for the mind, body, spirit and everything in between.

Call or text me your news at 403-793-1630.

BROOKS BULLETIN ONLINE READER POLL

Will you spend more or less than last year on Christmas presents?

LESS

82%

MORE

18%

TOTAL VOTES CAST: 85
View our weekly polls @ www.brooksbulletin.com
Online poll for the week of Dec 2 - Dec 9, 2020.

COUNTY OF NEWELL

Penalties on Current Taxes

A penalty of 5% will be levied on all unpaid CURRENT taxes as at 4:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 15th, 2020

Current taxes are any levies or adjustments (unpaid utilities) that have been added to the roll in 2020.

Not sure if you paid your taxes this year? Log in or set up an account with e-services Virtual County Hall (check it out on www.countyofnewell.ab.ca) to view your transaction history.

Please make payments to:
County of Newell
Through your financial institution (online banking)
Etransfer to eft@newellmail.ca
Credit card via Option Pay (additional fees apply)
cash/cheque/interac at reception during business hours,
or mail a cheque to:
Box 130 (183037 Rge Rd 145)
Brooks, Alberta
T1R 1B2

49-50c

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE IS SEEKING HONORARY APPLIED DEGREE RECIPIENT NOMINATIONS

Medicine Hat College invites members of the college community and the general public to nominate worthy individuals to receive an honorary degree.

The individual upon whom the college bestows an honorary degree should reflect qualities that Medicine Hat College reveres. Achievement and distinction in activities in alignment with the mission and vision of the college, including: scholarship, the advancement of learning, welfare and social responsibility, creativity and innovation, enterprise, and public service.

Candidates who accept an honorary degree are asked to attend and address the convocation ceremony on June 11, 2021.

To make a nomination, please fill out the form at www.mhc.ab.ca/degree. All nominations may be forwarded in confidence to:

Paula Forsythe, Executive Assistant, Academic
Medicine Hat College
299 College Drive SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 3Y6
or by email pforsythe@mhc.ab.ca

The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2021.

50&01c

www.mhc.ab.ca

FOOD BANK DONATION | Left to right: Jeremy Harty (left) owner of Harwood Ford and Lloyd Fehr (right) from the Brooks Food bank. Donation of \$740 was for test drives in November. For every test drive Harwood Ford donated \$20 to the Food Bank.

ELKS 2020 CASH CALENDAR WINNERS

NOVEMBER WINNERS	DECEMBER WINNERS	2020 PRETEND GREY CUP WINNERS
Nov 2 – Jodi Niznik Nov 3 – Jennifer Nashida Nov 4 – Marcia Aebly Nov 5 – Barbie Rhodes Nov 6 – Nicole Keeler Nov 9 – Neil Schmeichel Nov 10 – Trinity Keeping Nov 11 – Gordon Musgrove Nov 12 – Janice Jensen Nov 13 – Kimmi Bosman Nov 15 – Merle Zatylny Nov 16 – Wayne MacKinnon Nov 17 – Brett Woods Nov 18 – K. E. Paulry Nov 19 – Vicki Miller Nov 20 – Gregory Valerian Nov 23 – Crystal Beblow Nov 24 – Travis Christoffersen Nov 25 – Mike Morishita Nov 26 – Lucy Primeau Nov 27 – Judy Shephard Nov 30 – Amy Seely	Dec 1 – Cam Drake Dec 2 – Darlene Curran Dec 3 – Kortney Follett Dec 4 – Marilyn Greenwood Dec 7 – Randy Flatla Dec 8 – Breanne Schuh Dec 9 – Keenan Warnoch Dec 10 – Roland Gagnon Dec 11 – Philip Plouffe Dec 14 – Annelise Hartman Dec 15 – Mark Kurtz Dec 16 – Len Mruzek Dec 17 – Kim Flemming Dec 18 – Dena Hiscock Dec 21 – Dorothy Walton Dec 22 – Ryley Schuh Dec 23 – Cam Olson Dec 24 – Dan Mills Dec 25 – Marlon McGuire Dec 28 – Nadine Sanford Dec 29 – Donna Morishita Dec 30 – Dale Heidmiller Dec 31 – Dena Hiscock	First Quarter - Jeremy Harty Half Time - Evelyn Winchester Third Quarter - Ray Hendersen Final Score - Lauren Garner

THE ELKS WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR 2020 CALENDAR. UNFORTUNATELY WE WILL NOT BE SELLING A 2021 CALENDAR DUE TO ALL THE RESTRICTIONS. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ALL WHO BOUGHT PRETEND GREY CUP TICKETS. THE PROCEEDS ARE ALL GOING TO COMMUNITY PROJECTS. WE HOPE EVERYONE HAS A SAFE AND THE BEST CHRISTMAS SEASON UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

BROOKS ELKS LODGE #77

50c

WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

COLOMBIA

This South American country is famous for its proud people, coffee, emeralds, flowers and, unfortunately, its illegal drug traffic. Colombia is also notable as a highly diverse country — it is estimated that 1 in every 10 species of flora and fauna on earth can be found here.



The national flag has three horizontal bands of yellow, blue and red. Every color has a different meaning:

Red symbolizes the blood spilled in the war for independence.

Yellow represents the land's gold and abundant natural riches.

Blue signifies the land's seas, its liberty and sovereignty.

In a word

The official name of Colombia is the **Republic of Colombia**. It was named for the explorer **Christopher Columbus**. The country's name is pronounced koh-LOHM-bee-ah. Early Spanish colonists called the land New Granada.

Looking back

Before the Spanish arrived in 1499, the region was inhabited by the indigenous tribes Muisca, Quimbaya and Tairona.

In 1819, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama declared independence from Spain.

Dinnertime

The national dish of Colombia is **bandeja paisa**. Servings of this specialty are so generous that it is often served on a large platter or tray. It is traditionally made up of minced meat, red beans with pork, white rice, fried pork, fried egg, plantain, chorizo, arepa, black pudding and a slice of avocado.

Bandeja paisa



Colombia is the fourth-largest exporter of **bananas** in Latin America.

Colombia exports almost 60% of the world's emeralds.



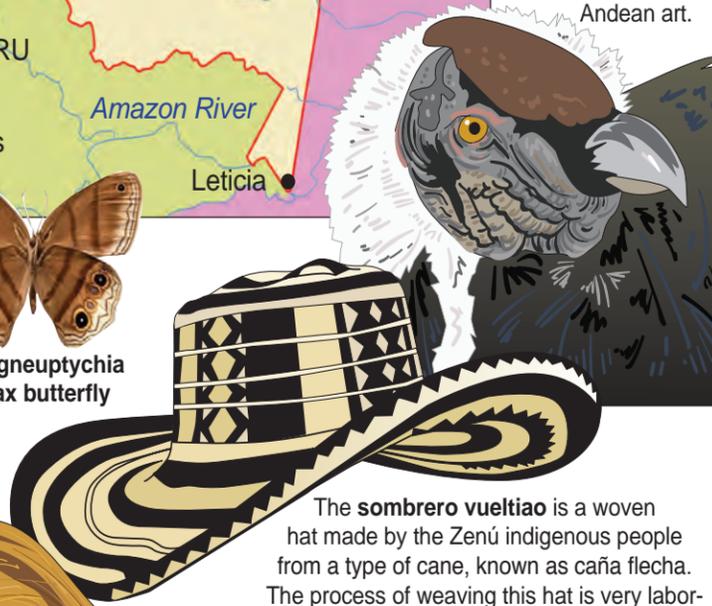
Colombia is the only country in South America that has coastlines on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

One-third of the country is Amazon rainforest.

The **Andean condor** is the national bird. It is one of the world's largest birds and can live more than 70 years. This bird was often depicted in indigenous Andean art.



Magneptychia pax butterfly



The **sombrero vueltiao** is a woven hat made by the Zenú indigenous people from a type of cane, known as caña flecha. The process of weaving this hat is very labor-intensive and can take up to a month.

Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll is one of Colombia's most famous singer-songwriters. Sometimes called the Queen of Latin Music, this great talent made her recording debut at the age of 13.

Colombia is the third-largest exporter of **coffee** in the world after Brazil and Vietnam.



Coffee plant



Cattleya trianae orchid

Sometimes called the May Flower or the Christmas Orchid, Colombia's national flower is rare and grows high in the cloud forests.

Just the facts

Area	440,831 sq. mi. (1,141,748 sq. km)
Population	50,372,424
Capital city	Bogotá
Highest elevation	Pico Cristóbal Colón 18,947 ft. (5,775 m)
Lowest elevation	Sea level
Agriculture	Coffee, cut flowers, bananas, rice, tobacco, corn, sugarcane, cocoa beans
Fishing	Shrimp, billfish, dorado, tuna, peacock bass
Industries	Textiles, chemicals, natural gas, oil, cement, construction, iron and steel products, metalworking
Mining	Emeralds, gold, coal, copper, salt, limestone, gypsum, clay, mica, marble

Did you know?

Bogotá is the third-highest capital in the world at 8,660 feet (2,640 m) above sea level. In second place is Quito in Ecuador, and in the first place is La Paz in Bolivia. These cities have altitudes so high that some visitors need to use oxygen tanks while they adjust.

Colombia has more than 300 beaches. Its hotels and resorts have the potential to contribute a lot to the nation's economy.

Radio and public television in Colombia play the national anthem every day at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The second-most biologically diverse country in the world, Colombia ranks No. 1 in diversity of bird species. It also has the most species of butterflies and orchids.

The traditional national sport of Colombia is called **tejo**, a team sport that involves launching objects at a target.

At 4,265 feet (13,000 m), Colombia's Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is the world's highest coastal mountain range.

SOURCES: *World Book Encyclopedia*, World Book Inc.; <https://www.colombia.co>; <https://www.travel-docs.com>; <https://worldstrides.com>