

**COVID-19
INFORMATION**
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COVID19

Shootin' the Breeze

September 2, 2020

Year 9, Issue 49

FREE
Until Sept. 16/20



LIVINGSTONE SCHOOL.

Come Sabres Come!

The school chant of "Go Sabres Go!" may not echo through the hallways on the first days back to class, but staff of Livingstone School in Lundbreck are excited, prepared and ready to welcome their students back. With Covid-19 health protocols in place, school resumed Tuesday for area students.

Photo by Shannon Robison

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Town of Pincher Creek Notices and Announcements

COUNCIL MEETINGS



NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 9 a.m.

Council chambers at Pincher Creek town office 962 St. John Avenue

Unless otherwise advertised, council meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. and the first Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m.

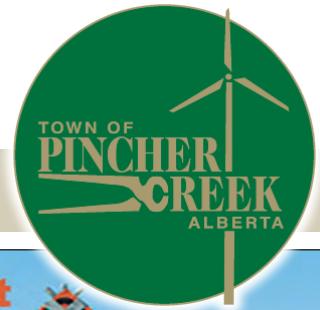
Please contact the town office if you would like to speak at a council meeting. Minutes are posted on the Town of Pincher Creek website after adoption by council.

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Residents are encouraged to attend virtually as there is limited space for appropriate physical distancing.

[www.gotomeet.me/
TownofPincherCreekCouncil](http://www.gotomeet.me/TownofPincherCreekCouncil)

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



Voluntary Water Restriction in Effect

MAKE WATER WORK!



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Call the recreation office to register
403-627-4322



Community "Keep Fit" with Jane

Fitness program designed for those with mobility issues, chronic health conditions or inactive lifestyle.

Jane will get you stretching and moving to a healthier you.

Free class. Must preregister – no drop-ins.

Maximum 15 participants.

Mondays and Wednesdays – 10 a.m. at the town hall gym

Starts Sept. 21

Afternoon Fitness Break

Join Hilary for a body workout that includes strength, flexibility and low cardio.

\$7 per class. No drop-ins. Maximum 12 participants.

Mondays and Thursdays – 4 p.m. at the town hall gym

Starts Sept. 21

Free Gym Walk

Drop-ins welcome. Maximum 15 participants.

Fridays – 10 to 11 a.m. at the town hall gym

Starts Sept. 25

Modified Moon Shadow Run



Saturday, Oct. 3

We are excited to offer a physically distanced version of our annual event!

\$5 registration benefits our local KidSport chapter.

Registration and details at www.MoonShadowRun.ca

Max numbers apply due to Covid-19 restrictions, so sign up early!



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\$200 weekly prize

\$1,000 grand prize

Share local shopping experiences and purchases for a chance to win!

Grand prize to be drawn during Small Business Week in October

Contact Marie at 403-627-3156 for details

Local shopping has big rewards!

IMPORTANT TAX REMINDER

The non-residential education taxes deadline is Sept. 30, 2020

Payments can be made in-person by attending the town office during business hours (by appointment only) and/or leaving payments in mail slot, mailing, online banking, or at any financial institution.

To avoid late penalties, all non-residential education tax payments must be made, or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2020.

To ensure that your payment goes onto your account when using online banking, please use the full 12-digit account (roll) number without the decimal, which can be found on your tax notice.

Please note: if a payment is made online after hours on the due date, the bank may post it to the following day. Please try not to make late payments or you may be required to submit proof of payment date to avoid penalties being applied to your account.

Tax Deadline Reminder!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Pincher Creek Community Early Learning Centre Ltd. (PCCELC) is seeking one member-at-large to serve on the board of directors.

Eligibility requirements for appointment to the PCCELC board are:

Must be 18 years of age or over; a Canadian citizen or Land-ed Immigrant and a resident of the Town of Pincher Creek, the MD of Pincher Creek or the Village of Cowley.

Board composition:

Four council reps, three citizen-at-large reps and two school board reps.

Current vacancies: One

Term: One year (extendable)

Number of meetings:

Third Thursday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m.

Mandate:

Town-owned not-for-profit corporation established to carry on any and all such business acitivites as may relate to the operation of childcare, before- and after-school care and early learning centre facilities in the Town of Pincher Creek.

Questions should be referred to:

David Green, project co-ordinator, at 403-627-3156

Please submit your letter of interest to:

Pincher Creek Community Early Learning Centre Ltd.
Box 159, Pincher Creek T0K 1W0;
or drop off at the town office at 962 St. John Avenue;
or email to fcss@pinchercreek.ca

Application deadline is Sept. 15, 2020



Connect with the Town of Pincher Creek:

403-627-3156 962 St. John Avenue www.pinchercreek.ca



#PincherCreek

Local school doors open with active Covid-19 count at zero

By Shannon Robison, Publisher

The weeks leading up to the first day of school generally come with a degree of anxiety for all — kids, school staff and teachers alike — this is nothing new. But going back to school in the midst of a pandemic is something no one facing it has experience with.

The usual stresses are there for students as they perhaps deal with being the new kid in town, moving to a different school, deciding what to wear to make that all-important first impression, attending a first day of kindergarten or starting their final Grade 12 courses.

It's not uncommon for teachers to worry about class sizes, curriculum changes, general preparedness, lesson planning and changing trends.

And parents have long worried about how their children will adapt to new teachers and peer groups, unfamiliar social situations and changing expectations.

Cold and flu bugs regularly make themselves known in fall and winter when large groups come back into close contact.

It's also not uncommon for parents and caregivers to require time to stay home to care for youngsters when they encounter these bugs and other fun things such as hand-foot-and-mouth disease.

Those who are ill — whether student or staff member — have always been encouraged to stay home to prevent the spread of germs.

These concerns have been par for the course, in varying degrees, for years.

Generally, the excitement of going back to school overrides the fear.

But 2020 is different.

The novel coronavirus has thrown a kink into the mix and given us new things to worry about and, for many, a level of anxiety much higher than usual.

The wider community has an increased interest in the adjustment to school re-entry this year as well.

Covid-19, the highly infectious disease caused by this virus, has had a significant impact on our community.

Schools and businesses were closed on short notice last spring by order of the provincial government, as health officials made decisions based on best-known practices of the day against a pandemic the likes of which no one has seen.

Teachers, students and parents did their best to adapt to a completely different way of teaching and learning to finish the school year out.

Now they are revising, improvising and readjusting to bring a new school year in.

There has been considerable dispute about managing the back-to-school scenario and a good deal of angst created in the process.

The provincial government, teachers' associations, school divisions, boards, trustees, teachers and school staff have been tasked with providing the safest possible way for everyone who chooses in-person school to return.

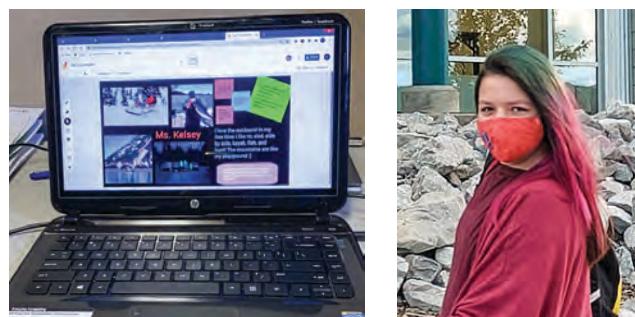
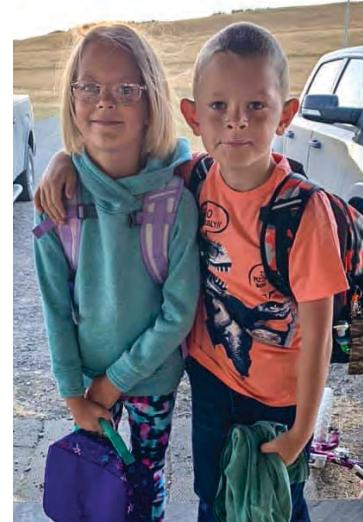
At the same time, options needed to be

created for those choosing at-home learning and homeschooling.

In the end, the hope was for a choice that suited everyone's learning needs and that respected personal beliefs.

This has been no small undertaking.

If you look at the faces in these back-to-school photos shared Tuesday to the Shootin' the



Breeze page on Facebook, there are many happy eyes and wide smiles.

Despite the typical first-day-of-school jitters and all of the extra chaos created by this day falling in the midst of a global pandemic, the excitement of getting together with friends, of learning and of being part of something special appears to have prevailed.

School is more than a place to learn, and getting back to it is a positive move forward after nearly six

challenging months.

Local school administrators, teachers and staff have done everything within their means to ensure the settings in each classroom within every school are as safe as possible.

Personal connections in our small towns make the desire to keep everyone safe strong.

We can still expect to see seasonal colds and flu and, no doubt, new cases of Covid-19 confirmed. It is something we must learn to live with going forward.

As Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's chief medical officer of health, said last week, there is "no one perfect way to go back to school."

She believes the plan in place is the right first step.

There will be ongoing evaluation, monitoring and adjustments made as necessary. An Alberta Education toolkit is available at <https://bit.ly/2Qs01gW> to enhance information specific to individual schools.

Advice for those choosing at-home learning can be accessed from this link, along with plans for what will happen if

Covid-19 is diagnosed at a school.

Teachers and staff are excited to be back at their schools as well.

They have been given an enormous responsibility to uphold to the students and their families, to one another, to themselves and their own families, and to their communities.

Families tackling homeschooling and at-home learning have put tremendous effort into preparing for these early days as well.

Low community spread shows neighbours are looking out for one another and doing the best they can. This is what the success of the school year depends on.

"Welcoming the students this morning reminds me of why we do it," said Eliza Grose, vice-principal of Livingstone School in Lundbreck, on Tuesday afternoon.

"It also reminds parents of how much we care about the kids — this caring is what keeps everyone safe."

In the Pincher Creek region — which includes the town of Pincher Creek, the MD of Pincher Creek and its hamlets of Beaver Mines, Lowland Heights, Lundbreck, Pincher Station and Twin Butte, along with Piikani Nation — and Crowsnest Pass, there are currently no active cases of Covid-19.

To date there have been 26 cases confirmed in the Pincher Creek region and two in Crowsnest Pass.

If community members are committed to a safe return to school and to keeping case counts low by following public-health protocols and respecting restrictions, there is hope of lessening the impact of Covid-19 for us all.

All the best to everyone as the doors to learning and living open again. Have a great school year!

Busy agenda at MD of Pincher Creek's final summer meeting

**By Sean Oliver
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**

Councillors for the MD of Pincher Creek met Aug. 25 for their last regular meeting of the reduced summer schedule. Council and administration will now resume meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Connecting with AltaLink

Representatives from the electrical transmission company AltaLink were on hand to update and answer any questions council had about the proposed Chapel Rock to Pincher Creek area transmission development project.

The project has been under consideration since May 2019 and involves two proposed scenarios to satisfy conditions set by the Alberta Electric System Operator. If the project is approved, only one of the two scenarios will be selected.

The first scenario, called South Technical Solution, would see a new Chapel Rock substation built just north of Bellevue at SW-8-8-3-W5. The new south transmission line would run mostly east to west, connecting to the Goose Lake substation. Plans also require the Goose Lake, Russell and Pincher Creek substations to be modified.

The North Technical Solution is the second proposed plan. Like the first, a new Chapel Rock substation would be needed, though currently two sites are being considered: outside Todd Creek at NW-33-9-2-W5, and the other right beside the hamlet of Chapel Rock at NW-31-8-2-W5.

The new north transmission line will run west and north, with most of the line sandwiched between Highway 22 and the Oldman River. Several routes are included in the North Technical proposal, but only one will be chosen if the proposal is approved. If chosen, current transmission route plans would require modifications to the Goose Lake substation.

A new substation southwest of Cowley may also be built next to the existing Cowley Ridge substation to ensure service is provided to the Cowley North Wind Farm, depending again on which transmission line route is selected if the North Technical plan is approved.

Landowners or any others with questions about the project are asked to contact AESO directly at stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca or 1-888-866-2959. A more in-depth description of the substations and transmission lines involved in the proposal can be viewed in the AltaLink brochure in the meeting package, available online at <https://bit.ly/3jrlQ91>.

Operations report

The operations department updated council members on

activities ranging from paving to weed control. Two notable items were the Castle area regional water supply contracts and the Beaver Mines water distribution, collection and wastewater treatment system.

For the Castle water supply, locating utility lines around Beaver Mines was partially completed by the contractor, who will return once incomplete areas within Castle Provincial Park are finished.

As for the pipeline, as of Aug. 12, 19.9 of the 25.4 kilometres had been installed, though an additional 1,850 metres has been added on as part of a change order to extend the line around Beaver Mines. The schedule for the extension is yet to be determined.

Discussion with Alberta Environment and Parks regarding approvals under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act is complete for the Beaver Mines water treatment plant, though the MD is still waiting to hear any statements or concerns submitted by the public to the AEP.

MPE Engineering is reviewing the scope for stormwater drainage and upgrades within Beaver Mines, which will be submitted to the MD for review once completed. Submissions from contractors for the lift station, force main, and water collection system will also be reviewed, with the approved list of contractors being finalized with the MD in the coming weeks.

The next design meeting for the treatment plant will take place Sept. 10.

Weeding out a budget

The agriculture and environmental services department also presented its August report to council. The department has been hard at work controlling and eradicating noxious weeds.

Though MD workers regularly inspect areas under provincial jurisdiction, such as highways and parks, the AES 2020 operating budget does not include contracts with the respective provincial agencies to actually spray and pick the weeds employees discover.

As an easy source of additional revenue, AES approached council for approval to enter into a highway agreement with Alberta Transportation, with the MD then having the option to contract out the weed removal. Council passed the motion unanimously.

2021 Ortho photo project

Every three years the MD participates in the Southern Alberta Ortho Photo Partnership, which is paid for by MDs across the region and headed by the MD of Willow Creek.

Back in 2018, the MD was responsible for covering \$70,000 of the project's costs, though grants

secured by the MD of Willow Creek helped reduce that cost to \$40,000.

Ortho maps are used by landowners, real estate agents and land developers for accurate depictions of local geography. Images are created by taking photographs from an airplane.

The maps provide a greater resolution than satellite imagery, allowing an accurate historical record to be kept in the event a natural disaster like a flood alters property lines along creeks or roads.

Council approved the MD's participation in the project, though the MD still has the option of withdrawing support once the total cost of the required financial contribution is determined.

Dump fees revisited

At the beginning of August, the MD's policy for covering the cost of residents taking waste to the landfill was updated. Ratepayers dropping off loads exceeding two tonnes must pay the landfill themselves, while loads under two tonnes are still covered by the MD. Commercial loads are also directly invoiced, regardless of weight.

A letter sent from an MD resident who owns a garbage-removal company requested that council reconsider the policy change. It

means she now has to charge her customers an additional cost to access the landfill, which, she argued, the customers have already paid through their taxes.

Coun. Terry Yagos agreed with the resident's concerns.

"If you get somebody to trim your trees, and he's hauling it to the landfill, you'll pay him to haul it, and once he's at the landfill, if he's got a commercial vehicle, you'll pay for the tippage," he stated.

"Some people don't have access to their own vehicles, and this really discriminates against people who don't have that transportation. It's not fair to people who don't have vehicles to haul it themselves."

Council opted to revisit the policy after a six-month period to see if the letter's concerns were limited only to the resident. While the motion was passed, Coun. Yagos requested a recorded vote and was the only member of council to oppose the motion.

Next meeting

MD council will next hold a regular council meeting in the MD council chambers Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 1 p.m. The agenda package will be made available prior to the meeting online at <https://bit.ly/31JRj4b>.

Dispatches From the Fire Hall

**By Jenaya Launstein
Community Reporter**

The week started off with an announcement that the MD and Town of Pincher Creek, along with Piikani Nation, are now under a fire ban rather than a fire restriction. It didn't come as a surprise to many, as last week saw several fires in the MD alone.

"It basically means that there is no open fire now," explains Deputy Chief Pat Neumann of Pincher Creek Emergency Services. "The only stuff that's permitted are propane or natural gas barbecues [and] propane firepits."

The move also means that no fire permits will be issued and any existing firepit permits are now suspended until the ban is lifted.

As you may have surmised, the fire ban was put in place due to the recent hot and dry conditions. A look at the 10-day forecast doesn't look promising for such weather to subside, with this Friday expected to reach 29 C.

During the harvest season, the fire department asks people to make sure equipment is properly maintained.

"We're seeing fires started by hot bearings on equipment," says Deputy Chief Neumann, adding that field fires can be started by something as simple as equipment catching a rock.

He shares that one of the larger

fires this season was likely caused by someone driving down a gravel road with bad equipment.

Of course, there's always a chance of starting a fire when someone throws a cigarette out of their vehicle window, something the deputy fire chief says people have done for years.

"Pay extra special attention to that over the next couple weeks until we get some rain," he adds.

Deputy Chief Neumann explains that as the day heats up, the relative humidity drops. When the relative humidity drops below the temperature — let's say it's 26 C and the humidity is 16 per cent — it creates the perfect recipe for a fire. At this point the ground has no more moisture to give up, meaning the material on the ground is now the driest it will be within that 24-hour period.

The deputy fire chief sends a big thank you to Pincher Creek's farming community.

"They're always willing to help when we've got these fires," he shares. "The one we had up Snake Trail last week, which was quite a big job for our three stations, there was lots of rural help out there that gave us ... a hand getting that fire under control."

The quicker the firefighters get on the fire, the quicker they can bring it under control.

Thank You

To those women and men who fought the August 24 Snake Trail fire,
Theresa and Sheldon feel blessed to share community with you.

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Dynamic duo share inspiration through podcast series

By Jenaya Launstein
Community Reporter

Courtney Cann and Jody Peebles are looking to change the world, one positive message at a time. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the two have taken to social media from their homes in Crowsnest Pass to create and share encouraging podcasts.

"It was an idea that we've had on the back burner for a long time," says Courtney.

Once Covid struck, they couldn't meet in person anymore, so one day they decided on a whim to just go for it.

"That's how we do things, that's how we roll," says Jody with a laugh.

The goal of the podcasts is to make the world a more positive place, create connections and share people's stories. The two women know many "brilliant human beings" and relish the opportunity to speak to them.

A big component of the podcasts is empowering women, something Jody and Courtney try to weave into every episode.

"We definitely like to ask questions that touch on that topic, but it's not limited to just that domain," says Courtney.

Thus far, the majority of their guests have been women, but they have also welcomed their husbands onto the podcast, as well as acclaimed conductor Kirk Muspratt.

Near the launch of their podcast, Jody and Courtney sat down and talked about the type of people they wanted to invite.

"We want to be bringing people onto the podcast who we genuinely think kick ass," says Courtney with a chuckle, adding they want people who create a space in the world for growth and empowerment.

A lot of preparation goes into deciding what types of questions to ask guests and what to discuss. Sometimes, they'll have everything sorted within 20 minutes, but other times it takes several hours.

"I think that goes down to our level of comfort with the person and how well we know them,"



Photo by Ryan Peebles

Through their podcast series, *Jody & Court*, Jody Peebles, left, and Courtney Cann are inspiring others to live their best life.

explains Jody. "If we know them really, really well, it doesn't necessarily require as much preparation because we already know what we want to talk about."

Other times, the two women want to be extremely intentional about the questions they ask and the conversation created with guests.

Jody and Courtney do everything themselves, from coming up with questions, to filming and editing the videos, though they've recently enlisted Jody's husband, Ryan, to help with editing.

Each episode ranges anywhere from 20 minutes to nearly two hours, but most are between 45 and 90 minutes.

"We've come to realize that what really gets us fired up, and the natural fit for us, is to take deep dives into topics versus shorter, more surface-level conversation," shares Courtney.

Because of this take on things, the duo have decided to take as long as needed during podcasts to explore discussions instead of being trapped in a set time frame.

Throughout the summer, the women have been

hosting live Facebook videos without guests. They prepare a topic and invite viewers to join the conversation. These videos have been well received and it is hoped they can be continued.

When they're not empowering people through their podcasts, Jody and Courtney are inspiring their students. Jody teaches math for grades 10 through 12 at Crowsnest Consolidated High School, and Courtney is a facilitator for at-home students of Isabelle Sellon School and Canyon School from grades 4 to 6.

Jody encourages everyone to be compassionate when it comes to going back to school.

She had no idea what to expect of her first days back at school prior to the doors opening to students.

She knew staff would be wearing masks at their meetings and that hand sanitizer stations would be set up outside school doors.

Aside from that, she didn't have a clear picture of what things would look like and thought that was going to be the case for her fellow teachers as well.

Although Courtney's teaching experience will be much different from Jody's this year, she echoes the same advice.

"Everything that everyone is doing, they're doing with the best tools that they have at the moment," she says. "We're all doing the best that we can with the information that we have in the moment and that's why compassion is such an important part of that."

If you would like to learn more about Jody and Courtney's podcast, as well as watch recent episodes, check out their Facebook page, *Jody & Court*.

The duo invite people to do one small thing every day to help them get wherever they want to go, whether that's creating a quiet space for themselves on a daily basis or a goal they are trying to achieve.

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Minister delivers economic report

By Sean Oliver
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Although Albertans across the province enjoyed summer temperatures with mostly clear skies back on Aug. 27, the economic forecast coming out of the legislature was one of dark days ahead.

Alberta's 2020 deficit is projected to be \$24.2 billion after falling oil prices, compounded with the global economic shutdown instigated by the Covid-19 pandemic, devastated the province's economy.

The deficit comes from a \$5.3 billion increase in spending towards Covid support while revenue was \$11.5 billion less than expected.

In a Breeze interview shortly after reporting to the legislature, Finance Minister Travis Toews affirmed that attracting investment was the only way Alberta could push through its current fiscal challenges and secure future prosperity.

"Our economic recovery plan includes attracting investment, creating job opportunities for Albertans, which leads to additional government revenues," he said. "In order to disproportionately attract investment, we have to have the most competitive business environment."

Creating that competitive environment includes lowering business income taxes to eight per cent, with the government also considering changing how linear assessments are done so the oil and gas industry pays less in property taxes.

The proposed changes have led to outcries from MDs across the province as the cuts would significantly limit municipal revenues. The MD of Pincher Creek, for example, estimates it could lose up to \$1.2 million in its operating budget.

When asked about such concerns, Minister Toews recognized the property taxes play an important role in sustaining municipalities but said the need for investment justified their review, given that energy property taxes in Alberta are currently higher than what is paid in Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

"The sustainability of municipalities is very important. At the same time, it is very important that we have a very competitive energy industry in Alberta," he said.

"We're going to be working with municipalities with energy interests and rural Albertans to understand if there is improvement that can be made."

Controlling spending on social services to better match other provinces, Minister Toews added, is also key in improving Alberta's financial fortunes.

"We need to deliver the most cost-effective government services possible — that's absolutely essential," the finance minister insisted. "Alberta can no longer afford to be an outlier."

When asked why funds should be directed towards future economic benefit instead of covering immediate public social needs, Minister Toews replied that the two aren't mutually exclusive.

"I really believe that, in order to pay for social services, we are going to

have to ensure our economy is growing and healthy, because that's ultimately the tax base that will provide for social services into the future," he reasoned.

"Economic growth will lead to increased government revenues in the future, revenues that we're going to need to pay for social programs in the province."

Locals last week had the chance to listen to the minister outline Alberta's economic recovery plan during a presentation at the Crowsnest Pass golf clubhouse.

For Blair Painter, mayor of Crowsnest Pass, the opportunity to discuss aspects of the plan with Minister Toews was too good to pass up.

"Anytime we can get a minister to come into our community and I have the opportunity to have a few minutes' face-to-face time with them, I definitely feel privileged — and I think our community should feel privileged as well," he remarks.

Pincher Creek's economic development officer, Marie Everts, agrees.

"It was great to have an opportunity to have some face time and kind of that one-on-one, more relaxed conversation opportunity — just to be able to ask him questions directly, [without it] going through anyone," she says. "It just seems more authentic."

Another important aspect in facilitating Alberta's economic recovery is dealing with the high level of unemployment brought on by the Covid shutdown.

The provincial unemployment rate sits at 15 per cent. From April to June, 330,000 jobs were lost, equalling the amount created this past decade.

Doug Schweitzer, newly appointed minister of jobs, economy and innovation, states the focus of his newly formed ministry is to roll out strategies for each sector of the economy to get people back to work. Agriculture and tourism figure predominantly in recovery plans.

"Agriculture is a foundational element of our economy, and we have some really amazing announcements coming out this fall that's going to see us lay the foundation for future growth in agriculture," he says.

And though tourism has undoubtedly taken a hit, Minister Schweitzer sees changing travel habits of Albertans as a key opportunity to help the industry recover and flourish.

"We should really be selling this province to people here in Alberta as well as selling it internationally," he says, adding that encouraging Albertans to enjoy what their own province has to offer will help tourism in the short and long terms.

As for the recovery plan overall, Mayor Painter believes it's the best path forward the provincial government can take under the circumstances.

"You know, they're trying — what else can you ask? If we all had that crystal ball, we wouldn't be in the situation that we're in right now," he says.

Alberta's recovery plan can be read in full at www.alberta.ca/recovery-plan.aspx.

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"Through the Web"

Teen photographer continues developing international recognition

**By Sean Oliver
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter**

Pincher Creek teenager Josiah Launstein continues to make waves in the international photography community, with two of his pictures placing among the top 100 images in the National Audubon Society's annual contest.

The competition focuses solely on birds and features the best photographs captured by amateur and professionals from around the world.

This latest recognition joins an impressive list of accolades accrued by the 15-year-old, who began taking pictures at the age of seven and was named Young Outdoor Photographer of the Year in 2014, when he was nine.

Since then, Josiah has continued to receive international recognition. Recently, he was named the 2019 Young Close-Up Photographer of the Year and commended in the 2018 Outdoor Photographer of the Year competition.

He has several repeat honours, including being named overall winner of the Young Outdoor Photographer of the Year competition twice, and being shortlisted twice for Wildlife Photographer of the Year and three times for Bird Photographer of the Year.

Many of his images have been shortlisted as finalists in multiple competitions, with several being

published in books and placed in exhibitions.

The most recent is a picture of a fox kit posing in the snow, which was chosen for a one-year exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., as part of the 2018 Nature's Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards.

Though the latest award by

Audubon is just the most recent in a long list of admirable achievements, Josiah doesn't take the recognition for granted.

"It's always still humbling for people to still recognize my work," he remarks.

Having been born into a family that loves wildlife and the outdoors, Josiah concedes he comes by his milieu naturally. "I think it came along in the genes," he says with a laugh.

On top of enjoying the family time spent in nature, Josiah's final products often come as a result of a team effort, with the family brainstorming picture titles together and Josiah's dad researching which images should be submitted to specific contests.

If anything, photography skills aside, the biggest trait that contributes to Josiah's success is self-discipline.

**See TEEN PHOTOGRAPHER,
continued on page 8**



Photo by John Launstein



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Group Group Youth spreads happiness to seniors

By Jenaya Launstein

Community Reporter

Residents of Vista Village in Pincher Creek were surprised on Monday with a visit from members of Group Group Youth, who decided it would be nice to take the seniors a care package.

The junior staff, who are between the ages of 12 and 16, got together and decided they wanted to send surprise bags to the residents. Those same kids are also part of the Group Group Youth Shutterbugs program and have snapped many beautiful photos over the years.

Some of these photos were put in the care packages as greeting cards. Also



Group Group Youth drop-in members Shaylee Teneycke, left, Sara Gaudry and Helena Bruder present gift bags to Vista Village resident Tina Webber and caregiver Diane Smyth.

Photo by Lynne Teneycke

included in the packages were word-search booklets and crafts made from origami and pipe cleaners.

Lynne Teneycke, the organization's executive director, was told there are about 60 residents at Vista Village. Knowing they couldn't come up with that many packages, the youths decided to devote their efforts to those who are room-bound or who haven't had a chance to get out much.

There are hopes the group can do this for other seniors homes in

Pincher Creek in the near future. Lynne says it was a fun project and the kids had a good time putting it all together.

TEEN PHOTOGRAPHER, continued from page 7

"I just try to focus on what's in front of me and live in the moment. Some of it is luck, and a lot of it is plain and simple patience," he says.

The two images selected by the Audubon Society — "Owl Totem," featuring mating pygmy owls, and "Through the Web," a picture of a juvenile American robin — demonstrate this principle as they both, in Josiah's words, "kind of just happened."

Originally photographing a lone female owl atop a willow branch, Josiah was in the optimal spot when the male just happened to fly in.

"A lot of the time it is being there at the right time, but to have actually caught that was quite amazing," he says. "The expression on the owls' faces — you

have to watch out for those things and hopefully capture them."

And the young robin caught his attention one evening at home while Josiah was admiring the sunset during dinner.

"I watched [the robin] and started planning in my head how to get out there and not disturb the animal, and came out the opposite door before going around the front of the house," he recounts. "I stayed a ways back, caught some moments, and just tried to get him used to my presence."

Luck aside, Josiah also credits research and word-of-mouth from other photographers in determining where to go to find wildlife. Often, he says, determining the next shooting location

is as simple as the family spotting an animal as they are driving.

"Sometimes we just start driving and see this animal and go back to research it, and we'll see what we can find out on it, try to find out if it's nocturnal, things like that," he explains.

"I really just love photographing any animal, and a lot of it is just, let's go see what we can find and see if we can get anything good."

While contributing to the Launstein photo galleries, the teen is optimistic he'll be able to continue perfecting his art and make photography his full-time career. Eventually starting his own gallery when he's older, he muses, is also a possibility. The business side of things, however, is less fun than the camera work itself.

"For me, all of it is photographing animals and being out in nature," he says. "The gallery is the 'how you make a

living' part of it."

Though every image is different, the motivation for Josiah's work remains constant.

"I'd like to bring awareness to animals that are not usually known or really protected," he explains. "I hope to continue on with my photography and tell stories on images that other people can't always experience."

At the end of the day, the thrill of capturing that perfect image is what really drives the young photographer forward.

"I've never gotten a very good picture of a lynx, and I've always wanted that."

Josiah's and his family's work can be viewed online at www.launsteinimagery.com or in person at the Launstein Imagery Wildlife Art Galleries in Waterton and Blairmore.

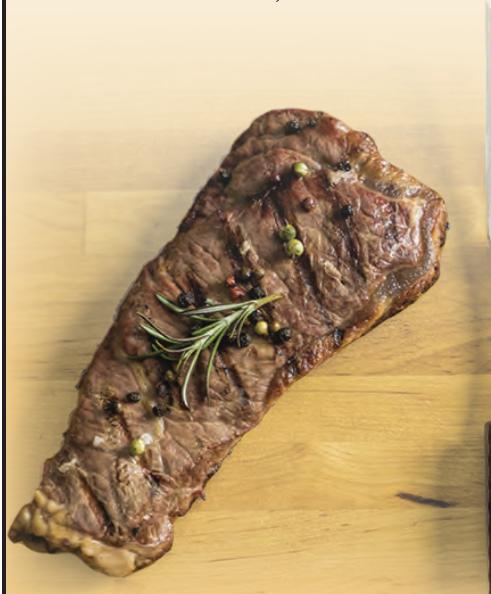
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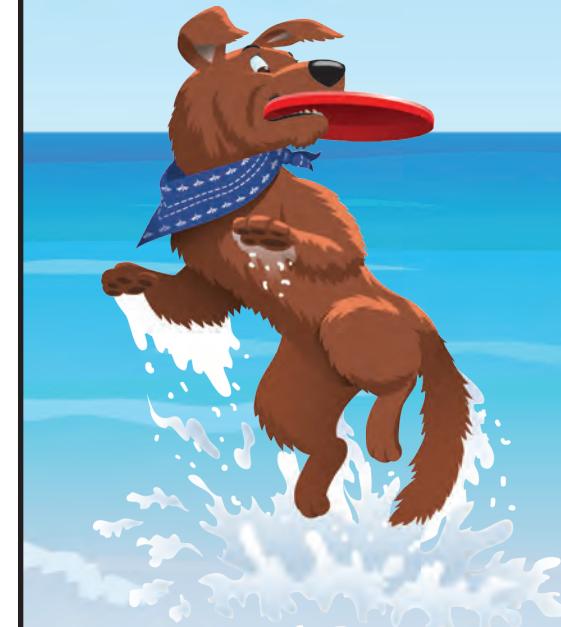
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My Little CORNER

Live • Laugh • Love

An editorial column
by Shannon Robison

This week's editorial is short and sweet.

Are you one of the almost 800,000 Albertans who have been tested for Covid-19?

The process is simple for this important test. You can book online at <https://bit.ly/SelfAssessmentTesting>

or call 811 to make arrangements.

When I went last month, it was quick and easy. I was told it was luck of the draw whether one gets the nose or throat swab, and it was nasal swabbing happening the day I attended the drive-thru test at the Pincher Creek hospital.

It didn't hurt, but I won't pretend

that it wasn't uncomfortable or that the feeling of invasion didn't last for a few hours. It was all good.

If, like me, you've wondered what happens after the swab is taken, this great graphic shows the processes and time involved to get your result.

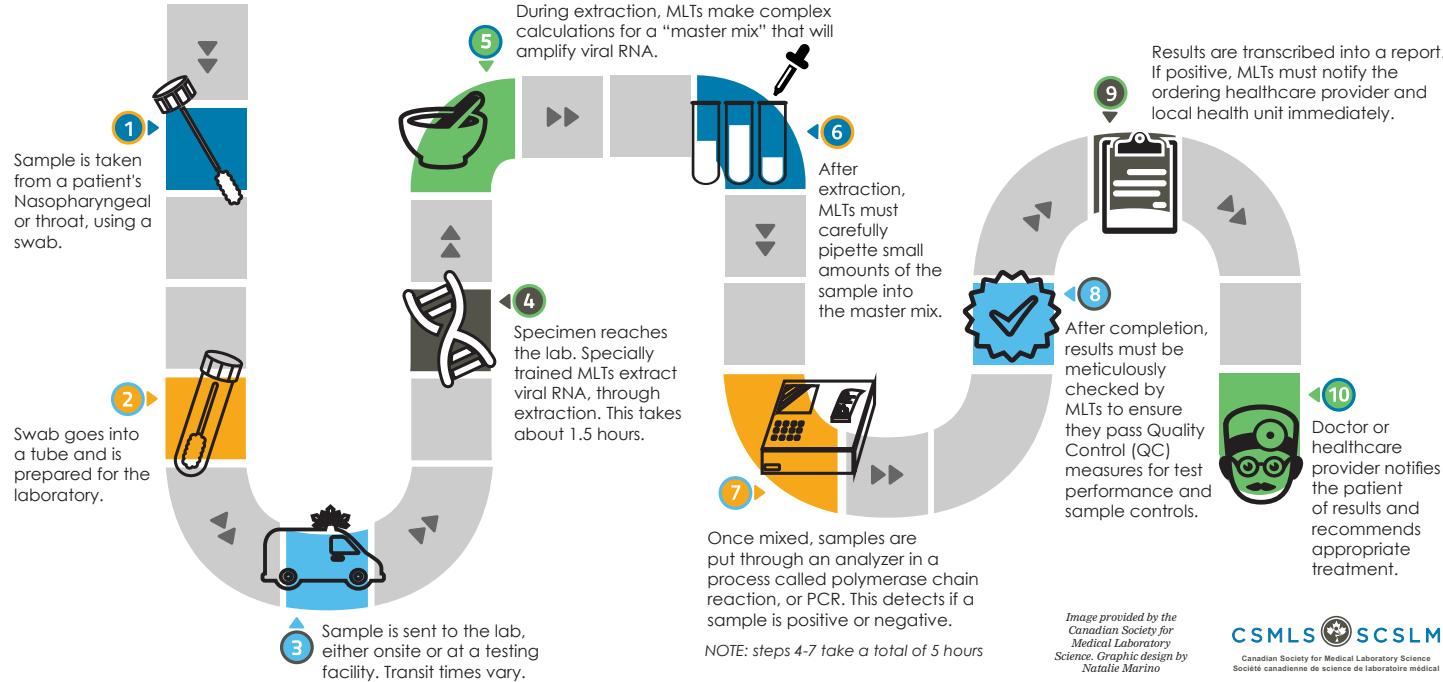
Alberta Health Services staff have been working around the clock for months to process the tests as quickly as possible.

Think about it — 33,669 tests went through provincial labs over the weekend.

THANK YOU to all lab technicians doing this important work.

COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Process

Below is a simplified 10-step process to walk you through how COVID-19 testing is done by medical laboratory technologists (referred to as MLTs). This is a very precise process with no room for error, so it must be performed by skilled individuals like MLTs.



Mental health tips for return to school during Covid-19

Submitted by
Alberta Blue Cross

Starting a new school year can be stressful for children and parents alike. Add in the unknowns of starting a new school year in the midst of Covid-19, and many parents and children across the province are experiencing high levels of anxiety.

Through this time of uncertainty, Alberta Blue Cross is reminding parents to keep an eye on their children's mental health, and to be particularly conscious of their own mental health needs.

"These are definitely not normal circumstances, and what should be an exciting time for many of us and our kids has turned into a time of worry and fear," says Brian Geislinger, vice-president of corporate relations with Alberta Blue Cross, who has three children returning to elementary school classes this fall.

"These next few weeks represent an exceptionally challenging back-to-school season for our children. We all realize this and want to be there

to support our families, so we can navigate these circumstances safely and successfully," says Braden Norman of Homewood Health, an organization Alberta Blue Cross works with to offer counselling services through individual and employee family-assistance programs provided through many of its benefit plans.

They offer the following advice to help parents and children through the stressful period of returning to school during the pandemic.

Prepare as you normally would

—Gather school clothes and buy school supplies in advance.

—Ensure your emergency contacts are known and readily accessible to your child, the school, babysitters or after-school programs.

—Establish bedtime and morning routines a week or so in advance of the start of school, so that sleep schedules and wake-up times are in line with the school timetable.

—Strategize and develop "backup plans" for days when your child is sick, so that emergencies don't catch you off

guard.

Stress-less tips for your kids

—Regularly let them know you understand they're stressed and don't dismiss their feelings.

—Make time for your kids each day. Play a board game, read a book together or watch a favourite show as a family. Sometimes kids just feel better when you spend time with them.

—World news can cause stress. Talk with children about what they see and hear so that you can help them understand what's going on.

—With all that's going on, don't feel compelled to register your children in extracurricular activities this fall. Base participation on your comfort level, and don't add to your or your child's stress.

—Do your children hear you and your partner talking about troubles at work, worrying about a relative's illness, or arguing about financial matters? Try not to discuss such issues if children are within earshot,

**See MENTAL HEALTH TIPS,
continued on page 10**

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EDITORIAL

Share your stories and news ideas! Submissions, letters to the editor (limit 350 words please) and photos are always welcome.

403-627-9510 403-904-2227

news@shootinthebreeze.ca

civic@shootinthebreeze.ca

Editorial deadline is Friday at noon



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RCMP REPORT

August 24 to 31, 2020

The following is an overview of the nature of complaints Pincher Creek and Crowsnest Pass RCMP detachments received for the period. Note that the summary indicates what was reported to the police and may not have been substantiated.

Pincher Creek Detachment

Total calls for service: 45
Sexual assault: 0
Assaults: 3
Domestic assault: 1
Break and enter (residential): 0
Break and enter (commercial): 0
Break and enter (other): 1
Fraud or forgery: 0
Uttering threats: 1
Mischief (vandalism): 0
Mischief (interfere with enjoyment of property): 0
Theft of motor vehicle: 0
Theft over \$5,000: 0
Theft under \$5,000: 3
Impaired driving: 0
Drugs: 0
Disturbing the peace: 0
Driving complaints (general): 5
Motor vehicle collisions: 7
Liquor offences: 0
Suspicious occurrences: 1
Assistance to general public: 1
Assistance to other agencies: 2
False alarms: 1
911 calls (invalid): 5
Animal calls: 1
Municipal bylaws (barking dogs, noise, OHVs): 0
Prisoners held: 1

Crowsnest Pass Detachment

Total calls for service: 54
Assaults: 3
Domestic assault: 0
Break and enter (residential): 1
Break and enter (commercial): 0
Break and enter (other): 0
Fraud or forgery: 0
Uttering threats/Harassment: 3
Mischief (vandalism): 1
Mischief (interfere with enjoyment of property): 0
Theft: 1
Theft of motor vehicle: 0
Theft under \$5,000: 0
Impaired driving: 0
Drugs: 0
Disturbing the peace: 2
Other Criminal Code: 3
Other provincial statute: 3
Driving complaints (general): 5
Motor vehicle collisions: 13
Liquor offences: 0
Suspicious occurrences: 5
Assistance to general public: 2
Assistance to other agencies: 3
False alarms: 3
911 calls: 0
Animal calls: 0
Municipal bylaws: 0
Lost/found: 6

The Breeze MAILBOX

Notes from our readers,
letters to the editor,
op-eds and
government news



Shootin' the Breeze welcomes your submissions about local issues and activities. Personal views expressed in Mailbox items are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect views of *Shootin' the Breeze* staff. Personal opinion pieces (op-eds) should be about public policy issues, not personalities, and should be debatable in nature. Letters should be no more than 350 words (op-eds may be longer) and may be edited for style, grammar and length. Short letters are less likely to be condensed. Please submit by email to news@shootintthebreeze.ca with "Mailbox" as the subject line, by regular mail to Box 811, Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0, or drop off at 697A Main Street in Pincher Creek.

LRSD trustees concerned about superintendent organization

Alberta Education is currently engaged in discussions regarding the College of Alberta School Superintendents becoming a legislated organization. The Livingstone Range School Division board of trustees does not support this decision, believing it would not be in the best interest of students.

Allowing CASS to become a legislated organization has the potential to remove the local voice and local context from the decision-making process.

With the government lobbying in support of a legislated superintendent organization, the board of trustees is concerned that it may result in decisions being made centrally rather than locally; increased costs associated with memberships and professional development; and human resources concerns, including a disconnect between school boards and

superintendents and confusion as to whom superintendents are responsible.

Should the Alberta government decide to move forward, LRSD trustees believe this could be a costly process, wasting dollars that would be better spent in the classroom.

Because LRSD trustees believe that all decisions are best made closest to the child, the board of trustees would like to continue with school board autonomy, and continue positive relationships with superintendents and CASS as a non-legislated organization.

The board has written to Education Minister Adriana LaGrange with trustees' concerns, and will continue to petition for local authority to make decisions that affect students.

Livingstone Range School Division Board of Trustees



MENTAL HEALTH TIPS, continued from page 9

as they may pick up on adult anxieties and start to worry themselves.

—Tension is contagious. Set a good example when it comes to managing your own stress.

—Remember, some level of stress is inevitable in every child's life. Teaching healthy coping skills today will help kids weather life's ups and downs as they get older.

Stress-less tips for you

—Recognize the need for flexibility in your life. Flexibility can make people feel happier, grateful, more satisfied and less anxious.

—Take time to get organized in advance for what might cause the most considerable stress.

—If finances are stressing you, work on a budget and create a financial roadmap for yourself for the rest of the year.

—It's OK to say no. September tends to bring on a mindset that overwork is routine. Stop before it starts.

—Take time for yourself to be present. Breathing, meditation and visualization exercises, and yoga are all important activities that heal your mind, body and spirit.

—If your children are participating in remote learning from home, establish routines and a set place in your home for learning to take place. And if you're working from home, find a balance between your need to manage your work and your children's need for support and supervision during the day. But again, recognize the need for flexibility.

"Particularly through this challenging time, we encourage our

plan members to take advantage of the mental health supports available through their benefit plans," says Mr. Geislanger.

In addition to counselling services, Alberta Blue Cross offers a wide range of mental health resources through its Balance online wellness platform.

It's important for parents to recognize that children may worry about themselves, their family and friends getting ill with Covid-19. Parents, family members, school staff and other trusted adults can play an important role in helping children make sense of what they hear, in a way that is honest, accurate and minimizes anxiety or fear.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has created recommendations to help parents have conversations with children about Covid-19. These recommendations are available online at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.

Alberta Health Services also provides a wide range of mental health resources to support Albertans through Covid-19. For more information, visit www.albertahealthservices.ca/amh/Page16759.aspx.

As a locally based, not-for-profit organization, Alberta Blue Cross provides benefits to more than 1.8 million Albertans. Earlier this year it committed \$500,000 from its community foundation to addressing priority needs to support Alberta's most vulnerable populations through the pandemic, and also extended temporary premium relief to its customers.

Good enough

One of the questions that constantly runs through our minds is: "Am I good enough?"

"Am I good enough?" feeds that inner need we have to perform, please and pretend. "Am I good enough?" pushes us above and beyond to prove to everyone that our existence really matters.

This can be very dangerous to our emotional and mental health. It also damages our spiritual lives.

When we experience conditional love, it feeds this particular question of "Am I good enough?" The truth is, in God's eyes we are good enough.

There is nothing we can do to make God love us more, and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less. His love for us is truly unconditional. We are good enough.

When we can step away from this question and say, "Yes, I'm good enough," our focus can be on the right things. We know we can improve, but that does not make us more worthy or valuable as human beings.

Our worth is not found in our achievements — it's found in our character.

Being good enough is the wrong

question because it causes us all to question our value and worth as human beings and individuals.

We all have our own particular stories that are undesirable, painful, shameful or embarrassing. When we can walk into those stories and accept them as a part of us, we can experience the power of worthiness. Those stories don't define us but we can use them for good.

That's what God does every day, brings good out of bad. When we can love ourselves despite those stories, and see our worth as a human being, then we can love others and encourage others along the way.

God says we are good enough just as we are, dysfunction and all. He loves us totally unconditionally and desires for all of us to grow and connect with Him every single day.

So it boils down to this: Stop asking yourself if you're good enough. God created you and planned for you to be a part of this world at this particular time in history. You are enough! Simply because you are you!

Pastor Billy Karasz
Crowsnest Pass

Youth teach adults digital literacy skills

ABC Life Literacy Canada, a national non-profit literacy organization, recently released new digital literacy resources from the Youth Teaching Adults program, which aims to increase the digital literacy skills of adult Canadians through workshops led by youth volunteer tutors.

These new resources focus on tools that help people virtually connect with friends and family. Four new lesson plans, written in clear language and formatted as step-by-step guides for at-home learning, show adults how to use Skype, Zoom, Google Duo and FaceTime. These lesson plans come at a much-needed time as many adults, particularly those in disadvantaged communities, face isolation.

Since the older population are most vulnerable to Covid-19, they are likely to spend more time physically distancing themselves than the general population. Sadly, this isolation can have major repercussions. A recent study showed that social disconnection puts older adults at greater risk of depression and anxiety, and can even lead to health problems such as cognitive decline and heart disease.

People with strong social bonds are 50 per cent less likely to suffer negative effects from isolation than those who have fewer social connections. While technology can be effective in connecting isolated seniors with friends and family, access to technology is still an issue.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2016, 68.2 per cent of seniors had access to the Internet, up from just

32.2 per cent in 2007. While this growth is positive, 30 per cent of the aging population still has no access to the Internet. And of those who do have Internet service, many don't have strong enough digital literacy skills to use videoconferencing tools that may help improve their mental health.

"We know that digital literacy is an important skill that Canadians need, especially with 84 per cent of jobs currently requiring computer and technical skills," says Mack Rogers, executive director of ABC Life Literacy Canada.

"We are pleased to offer programming to help our Canadian seniors, who need these skills now more than ever. Digital literacy plays a huge role in maintaining social relationships, and our hope is that seniors will access these free lesson plans on our website and equip themselves with the know-how to use these important tools."

Video-calling platforms can help support the development of a stronger sense of connection and maintain already existing relationships. In one study, older adults who used video-chat technology such as Skype had significantly lower risks of depression than those who did not video chat.

To access the free resources, visit YouthTeachingAdults.ca/resources. Youth Teaching Adults is a collaboration between ABC Life Literacy Canada and Youth Empowering Parents, and is partly funded by the federal government through the Digital Literacy Exchange Program.

ABC Life Literacy Canada



**Put your money,
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Have you browsed the beautiful selection at Blackburn Jewellers, visited Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village or indulged in some self-care at Providence Salon and Spa this summer?

**Local business owners live here. They play here.
They invest here. They are the heart of the community.**

Remember when Facebook bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?

Remember that time when Amazon sponsored your church fundraiser?

Remember when Google provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

Local businesses support their communities.

Think Local First!

Start your shopping for goods, services and experiences with businesses in Pincher Creek and Crowsnest Pass

Shootin' the Breeze

Watch for more advertorial features in coming issues as Shootin' the Breeze supports its community through a Covid-19 Recovery Program. For information on participating, contact Shannon Robison at publisher@shootinthebreeze.ca or 403-904-2227



PROVIDENCE

The care or preparation in advance; foresight



New, expanded space – all the better to pamper you in!

The noun “providence” refers to the care or preparation in advance, or foresight one puts into things. Providence Salon and Spa in Pincher Creek encompasses putting care for self into play in a genuine way.

Rosanna Higginbotham purchased the business from Lisa Tompkins 11 years ago and is proud to have such a welcoming salon.

In her own words, “Providence is all about good small-town vibes.”

“We hear it, time and time again. Our clients say this is their happy place and they look forward to their appointments,” she says.

“By coming here you get quality services, with the comfortable vibe of a close community.”

Providence is a full-service salon and spa offering services that include hairstyling, microblading, lash extensions, waxing, manicures and pedicures, gel nails, tanning and registered massage therapy.

Each service provider brings her own special touch and personality to the fun atmosphere under the Providence roof.

‘Life is short and it’s all about having fun and enjoying yourself.’

Rosanna Higginbotham

“I get to work with amazing people,” says Rosanna. “It doesn’t really even feel like work. We laugh a lot and enjoy ourselves.”

“What happens at the nail table stays at the nail table,” she says with a chuckle, alluding to the conversations she gets into with clients while they’re at the salon.

Providence features a diverse retail lineup of personal care products, including top brands like Eminence Organic Skin Care and Hempz lotions.

For hair care you will find Surface, Kenra and Saryna Key solutions along with a full line of hair tools, including flat irons, blow-dryers and brushes, as well as fun accessories like scrunchies, elastics and barrettes.

“This is a beauty industry, which is external, but we don’t want to neglect who our clients are on the inside,” Rosanna adds. “We try to create an atmosphere that refreshes one’s mind, body and spirit.”

“Covid-19 has changed everything at Providence,” says Rosanna.

Extensive renovations were finally completed during the shutdown this spring. This included an expansion that effectively doubled the salon’s space.

With the new layout, everything is open and accessible and has brought new life to the salon.

This has been practical as well, because each team member now has her own space to work in and no one is too close to one another.

This makes physical distancing easier during the pandemic, and has created an overall more relaxing and spacious environment.

“Life is short, and it’s all about having fun and enjoying yourself. People love the atmosphere of Providence,” Rosanna says with a smile.

“We all get along, we like to have fun and it’s comfortable, so people love coming here for their appointments.”

To make an appointment at Providence Salon and Spa, you can call 403-627-5667 or stop by the shop at 673 Main Street.

The lively atmosphere is inviting, and in no time you’ll find yourself laughing and smiling, while feeling ever so relaxed and ultimately refreshed in mind, body and spirit.

In Rosanna’s words: “Life is moments and experiences.”

Come down to Providence to experience their good vibes and professional services.



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*Enjoy the luxurious, jetted pedicure chair
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PINCHER CREEK

ADVERTORIAL CREATED BY MIA PARKER



Crimson Dreams and Butterfly Kisses

Blackburn Jewellers is a charming jewelry shop located in downtown Pincher Creek. The big display windows on either side of the front door are always filled with creative, colourful and themed arrangements, showcasing the beautiful products that can be found through the door.

The business is family owned and operated, established in 1936 by William Laurie Blackburn and now run by his daughter, Doris Blackburn.

Laurie was born in 1914. He was fixing clocks by the time he was 12 with tools he made from darning needles. After becoming interested in watch repair, he apprenticed for a watchmaker in Pincher Creek. He bought the business for himself 84 years ago and thus began the Blackburn Jewellers business the community knows today.

Laurie was lucky enough to have help in operating his new store from two of his sisters, then the help of his wife, Margaret, for 29 years, his daughter Maureen for 10 years, and finally Doris.

Doris fondly remembers her father's work ethic, as he was always filling his days with as much work as possible, trying to help whomever he could and rarely turning anyone away.

When Maureen called saying their dad needed help, Doris was happy to return to her hometown in 1996 after college studies in the theatre arts took her to Illinois, New York and Toronto, and a stint living in Edmonton. She and her father worked together to evolve Blackburn Jewellers into the full-service jewelry shop it is today.

Laurie passed away in 2000 and Doris has been running the business by herself ever since. She feels connected to this store through her father and she remembers him with a warm heart whenever she glances at his old work station and bench.

Doris is very proud to be continuing her father's legacy. She loves the business and that she can interact with all of her customers on a personal level.

"I love my customers and I love meeting new customers. When someone comes into my store they get personal service, because I really feel like I am here to serve my customers," says Doris with a smile.

"It's not just about sales to me, it's really about giving service – I actually develop relationships with the people that come into my store."

She is very happy to serve the community and to help develop who we are as a town. Doris loves Pincher Creek and the people here.

She was happy to raise her two sons close to the mountains, and she makes a conscious effort to support the community in whatever way she can by donating to local organizations and supporting local businesses.

Blackburn Jewellers offers a great variety of services. Doris will do free gift wrapping for any purchase from her

store. She has loved this task since she was just a little girl, and appreciates the beauty of a well-wrapped gift.

"It's like the icing to the gift," she says. "There's more anticipation and thought that goes into opening a wrapped gift."

Doris would much rather wrap something than put it into a bag.

Another service offered is watch battery replacement and basic watch repair. Doris will also shorten watch bands and adjust them to suit the individual.

"About seven years ago, I was working on someone's watch, and the second hand flipped out somewhere on my bench," Doris recalls. "I looked everywhere, I combed over the entire bench and I swept the floor. It was nowhere."



"The next day, the person called to ask if their watch was ready. I was in a panic and I didn't know what to do, and I just looked at the bench and I said, 'Dad, will you please help me find this watch part?' Then I looked on my father's bench again and there it was."

Doris does basic jewelry repair and has access to a goldsmith in Edmonton, and you can enlist her services for jewelry cleaning and diamond inspection. She will also engrave store-bought items for her customers.

"My dad was very meticulous about his tools, and I'm not as meticulous as my father was because I have so many other things to do," she says. "He used to sharpen and flatten his tools constantly to keep them in good condition. One day I came to work and all of my tools had been mysteriously sharpened, and I thought of my dad."

She also offers a few other specific services, such as pearl restringing and basic jewelry creation.

"Last Christmas I had a woman come in who wanted a couple of bracelets for her two-year-old daughter, so I made a little black pearl bracelet and a stretchy gemstone bracelet," Doris shares, as she is always happy to help someone get the perfect gift.



'It's not just about sales to me, it's really about giving service ...'

Doris Blackburn

One of Blackburn Jewellers' most popular services is custom orders. Doris will work with customers to ensure they get exactly what they want, and she utilizes her access to many jewelry companies.

The little business has always been a place of family, from when it was a team of siblings, to a couple running it, to a father-daughter duo and now Doris, keeping her family's legacy alive.

Doris shares her favourite memory in the store, describing the time her two sons came to help her at the last minute when she needed them.

"It was just the three of us. They could freely ask me questions in front of the customers, and I could see that customers were reacting positively to the fact that we were a team and a family. I just had such a sense of pride, and it also helped me to understand how my father felt when I moved back to help him."

Blackburn Jewellers sells beautiful and inspiring products – not only jewelry, but also fine china and pottery, scarves and apparel, handcrafted soap, Christmas decor and baby gifts.

Doris chooses to work with mostly Canadian sources, but she also offers brilliantly crafted artisan jewelry from across the world. She sells necklaces, bracelets, earrings, watches, body jewellery and rings.

At Blackburn's, you can find products from a number of famous jewelry creators and designers, including Ayala Bar, Jacqueline Kent, Elle, Kurshuni and many more.

You can also find handmade soap at Doris's store. She carries handmade soap bars from Hillcrest Naturals and Esther Newfeld's Handy Dandy soaps. These products fill Blackburn Jewellers with a sweet aroma, making the shop that much more inviting.

If you are interested in more pragmatic jewellery, Doris also sells smart watches to help with fitness and health tracking.

At Blackburn's, the Christmas spirit never really disappears. There are beautiful displays of the Nativity scene along with artificial trees and ornaments available for purchase year-round.

A small collection of dresses is displayed in the corner of her shop, most of which are ethically and sustainably made. She also sells a collection of scarves and winter apparel such as mitts and toques.

Wallets are bestsellers in the store. These colourfully themed wallets sit together in the glass display case near the back. Each wallet has a personality of its own, some with fun, intricate designs and others showing beautiful stills of nature.

Alongside her more elegant products, Doris also sells heavenly gifts for babies. Ever-so-soft blankets, pillows, jackets and more line the display shelves inviting childlike wonder among adults.

The china displayed is delicate and charming. There are gorgeous little teacups perching on wooden shelves, some even repurposed into candles, and there are sets of fine plates with matching designs.

Along with the fine china, you can find lovely mugs, coasters, bowls and plates. The mugs are detailed with scenes from nature, coasters express positive messages to inspire you, and the bowls are covered inside and out with unique and tasteful designs.

Doris recalls when her father used to brew tea in the store. Customers, friends and strangers would come in to sit down for a cup and share delightful conversation while Laurie worked on watches.

Doris never imagined she'd be running her father's business, but is so glad she decided to come back to help him.

"I realized that we're here to make connections with people," she says. "Life's about making connections and helping each other."

The next time you're in downtown Pincher Creek, make sure to give Blackburn Jewellers a look. You will find yourself enchanted by the beauty and charming nature of the store and its displays.



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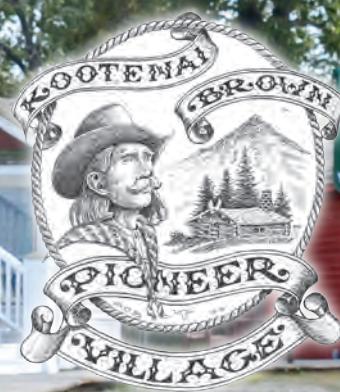
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HISTORY COMES TO LIFE

in the heart of Pincher Creek



There's always something new at Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village

As a small community, Pincher Creek is lucky to have a wonderful interpretive museum within the town. Not only is it a beautiful tourist attraction, it is also a place of family that holds a place in the hearts of many community residents.

Colleen Casey-Cyr, president of the Pincher Creek Historical Society for nearly 20 years, is passionate about her work at the museum and loves sharing local history.

"I enjoy every part of what I do here," she says. "I get to be around good friends, good meals and good times. Everyone's working together for a common cause, and that's the best part."

The historical society has been operating the museum since Sept. 2, 1966, making it 54 years old. Despite being so grounded in the community, the museum is constantly evolving as staff work hard to create new attractions and maintain the older ones.

"My favourite part has got to be making it new," shares Colleen. "Everytime you come, you're going to see something you've never seen before."

One of the coolest aspects of the museum is how family-friendly it is. Unlike many historical museums, Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village is interactive and staff make a point of engaging the kids as well as the adults.

"We like to cater to the kids because that's the future," says Colleen.

She describes how the museum adapts to the interests of children when putting on big events, and that at larger celebrations like Canada day, about half the participants are kids.

Museum staff organize camps during the summer for kids to learn about this area in a fun and hands-on way. It's truly a great way to educate children on local history without treating them like students.

The museum also draws many families in because of the fun and interactive nature of the historical displays. Everything is well put together and it's realistic – one may feel like a true pioneer as they stroll down the paths.

"Our museum is different from all other museums in that everything is out there," Colleen explains. "We don't just put everything behind glass like many city museums – it really is a pioneer village."

All the artifacts at Kootenai Brown are donated by people from Pincher Creek and the surrounding community. Colleen mentions that when new people come to the museum, they may be able to find artifacts originating from their family.

"All of a sudden, there's that little bit more pride in your own community. I think that's really cool because we represent a tremendous number of families

that have got history in Pincher Creek."

For many in younger generations, Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village provides a connection between them and their heritage.

"All of our artifacts that are donated come with their own story, and these are the best stories because it's local history," Colleen explains.

Colleen's personal favourite story is of her husband, Francis Cyr. When he was a little boy growing up in the Cyr house, which is now located in the museum, he wrote his name in large print on the ceiling above his bed.

"I love telling all the kids that come here that story. Especially when Francis is here, I can say that that very same kid that stood on his bed to write on the ceiling is standing right over there," she says joyfully.

"All of a sudden, the story has a personal touch to whoever I tell it to. They're never going to forget that they met that guy."

To find the ceiling signature, look in the children's room on the second floor of the Cyr house the next time you visit.

The museum's main focus is on sharing heritage and helping individuals learn about the roots of Pincher Creek and area.

One special program put on by the museum is Talking Tombstones. Curator Farley Wuth conducts research on the stories of people buried in certain cemeteries and shares the history to others in a creative, first-person storytelling manner on evening tours.

The museum's driving tours are also interesting. In the summer of 2020, museum staff offered a tour of the school and church quarters in the Fishburn area, starting from the old Fishburn school at the museum site.

"It's a way of bringing history to life and making it more relevant to you now," says Colleen, who is passionate about the role the museum plays in engaging individuals in the history of the community.

The museum is also invested in sharing indigenous voices and stories with the community.

"We have a good working relationship with Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and the Métis Association here in Pincher Creek, and we find that if we ever need anything in the way of information, or we need to borrow someone who can be a good speaker or representative, they are more than happy to send someone over," Colleen says.

"The good thing is they're the real thing, and we're passing that information on from a first-person view, which is what we like to do in the museum. We make that history come to life, and we make it current for today."

Aside from the in-person storytelling by museum staff, there are also other means of accessing historical information and stories. Books containing historic information and stories by local authors can be found in the little bookstore in Pioneer Place, the main building of the museum.

You can even join the genealogy club through the museum for monthly meetings, and access to museum archives as well as Ancestry.ca, to learn more about your roots in the community.

"Ranger" Gord Tolton, the education co-ordinator, has developed podcasts about every single building in the museum. When you visit, you can log on to the Wi-Fi and listen to the podcasts through the museum's website, PodBean Podcasts or Apple Podcasts. You can also listen to additional podcasts about the museum with fun stories for both kids and adults.

For more visual storytelling, you can follow the Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village YouTube channel to learn about different historical figures and buildings in the area.

You can also find historical stories compiled by Farley in each weekly issue of *Shootin' the Breeze*.

As museum curator, Farley loves educating individuals about local history.

Farley's favourite part of working at the museum is sharing the stories and things he learns.

"I've always enjoyed listening to the seniors in our community and hearing the stories they have in their minds," he says. "The stories about being raised in the Pincher Creek area and their upbringing here – it's first-hand knowledge of the history and tales of the olden days."

The museum also serves as a community information centre for the Town of Pincher Creek. It provides brochures and booklets containing info from all over the province, but especially the Prairie communities in southern Alberta.

The museum sells souvenirs and home decor from its Country Store in Pioneer Place. It stocks different items that can function as gifts or decorations, as well as books and artwork by local artists.

"When we first decided to start the Country Store, we wanted to put things in there that remind customers of olden times while still being useful in a modern way," says Colleen.

Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village is constantly changing and updating, and often brings in new buildings and exhibits. Currently, there are about 35 buildings to explore and, chances are, you'll find something new each time you visit.

Aside from showcasing history, the museum can be used for many different things. It's a great place to have a picnic on a sunny afternoon, or to show your family when they come to town.

"I think that having this awesome facility right in the downtown of Pincher Creek, right alongside the creek and right where everybody can see it, reminds everybody that Pincher Creek is a special enough place to last as long as it has," Colleen says.

You can purchase an annual pass to the museum for special benefits including 20 per cent off admission to special events and 20 per cent off select items in the Country Store. The cost of an annual pass is less than the cost of two visits to the museum.

Coming up soon is a special harvest dinner hosted by the museum. This is an event where participants can dress up as pioneers and dine in one of the museum buildings. You can also keep an eye open for upcoming Halloween and Christmas events.

The next time you find yourself looking for entertainment, education and inspiration, stop by Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village. As Colleen quotes: "You'll never be able to plan your future unless you understand your past."

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Pincher Creek council settles on grant application

By Sean Oliver
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Members of Pincher Creek town council debated last week what projects should be submitted as applications for the municipal stimulus grant provided by the provincial government.

The town has been allocated \$432,921 for infrastructure projects that can be quickly started in the hopes of helping increase jobs across Alberta.

Administration brought forth a list of projects that spanned from upgrading the sanitary lift station, to installing irrigation systems at the newly constructed early-childhood centres, to upgrading walking trails around town.

Two projects emerged as priorities, however, as Coun. Brian McGillivray made a motion for council to use the funds to replace pumps at the water treatment plant and construct a new sidewalk on Frederick Street.

Replacing the pumps, which is expected to use \$365,000 of the grant, was unanimously supported by council. Most of the existing pumps are originals from when the plant was built in 1991.

Multiple pumps used along the various stages of treating water in the plant could use replacement, including the raw-water pumps that bring untreated water into the plant, backwash pumps that clean filters, distribution pumps that pressurize the town's water main system, and process pumps that help with steps in treatment.

While support for replacing the pumps was shared by all members, Coun. Scott Korbett questioned how necessary a new Frederick Street sidewalk was.

"There's a sidewalk on Adelaide street already, [and] there are other accesses around there that will serve people walking from Tim Hortons to downtown," he noted.

He pointed to other projects where he said the remaining \$67,556 could be better spent.

"The chamber of commerce has made a request for \$46,000 worth of garbage bins along the town and creek, and I've had people asking why there aren't more garbage cans around to put stuff in," Coun. Korbett related.

"Installing irrigation systems for the early-learning buildings would be a no-brainer too, as we've got these flagship buildings with no irrigation."

Both Coun. Lorne Jackson and Coun. McGillivray said the sidewalk should take priority over other potential projects in order to respond to public discussion and requests.

What made those requests for the sidewalk more compelling than other suggested projects, Coun. Sussanne O'Rourke affirmed, was the emphasis on public safety.

"I want the safety of proper streets for people to walk on, and to encourage mothers with their carriages — I think that's what's [a] priority right now," she said.

The motion to submit the treatment plant pumps and new sidewalk proposals as the town's application for the stimulus funding passed. Applications to the province are due Oct. 1.

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Pincher Creek town council briefs

By Sean Oliver
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Project funding was a hot topic at the Aug. 24 Pincher Creek town council meeting. Discussions included the Lebel Mansion, pumps for the water treatment plant, street repair and sidewalk construction.

Stepping up for Lebel Mansion

Stacey McRae from the Allied Arts Council attended the council meeting virtually to report on progress with Lebel Mansion's new elevator. Estimates put the project under budget to the tune of \$59,000 to \$100,000.

With the excess cash, AAC decided to approach council for permission to also repair the mansion's aged veranda. Ms. McRae informed council that rot was beginning to compromise the entrance's structural integrity.

"It's transitioning from a visual concern to a safety concern. We definitely need to have it looked after," she said.

As this past summer has been one of the busiest on record, the AAC was hoping to have the entrance completed by the spring of 2021 in anticipation of another tourist season.

While the repairs will likely be covered by grants, the veranda needs a structural engineer's assessment completed before applications can be submitted. Given that the mansion is a provincially designated heritage building, requirements to maintain the historicity of the site will incur additional costs.

Council had approved the repairs as part of a previous budget, though the details were not readily available before press deadline. The amount will now be reallocated to help the AAC apply for grants before their October deadlines.

Street smarts

Communication from a citizen expressed worry that driving conditions on Bev McLachlin Dr. were unsafe. The narrow road, coupled with the curve just south of the bridge, was cause for concern.

Three solutions were suggested: making the road a one-way street heading south, making the road wider, and including painted lines on the curve.

Council decided to pass the matter on to the Sept. 24 operations committee meeting and have the committee submit recommendations before the end of the month.

Also considered by council was the poor state a section of Willow Street regularly finds itself in.

Just east of Waterton Avenue, a portion between Fountain Tire and the Parkway Motel regularly floods with rainfall and has some of the biggest potholes around.

Despite frequent complaints from the public, efforts to re-gravel and grade the street have come up short, as inadequate drainage has led to disintegration.

"It's just to the point where, unfortunately with the ground there, it's not able to sustain the weight that we get there from large trucks driving down in the industrial area," concluded Al Roth, director of operations.

Part of the trick with repairing Willow Street, he continued, is that the area is undergoing a master plan study this winter or next spring, which will include a review of the roads, drainage and underground utilities possibly impacting the waterline directly under the street. As such, operations didn't want to replace the road with asphalt and risk having to dig up the area in the near future.

In speaking with engineers, however, a solution was found that includes installing two concrete

swales to pick up water runoff from the adjacent parking lots so material added to the road doesn't erode away with rainfall.

The base structure will be reconstructed but the surface will remain gravel to minimize the potential costs of a future waterline replacement while not requiring removal of the newly placed concrete swales.

Council approved \$120,000 from general street reserves for the construction, which will be completed in the next 30 days.

Municipal stimulus funding

Discussion surrounded what projects council should submit for the \$432,921 stimulus package provided by the provincial government.

For more information on how council members settled on replacing pumps at the water treatment plant and constructing a new sidewalk along Frederick Street, please see Pincher Creek Council Settles on Grant Application, page 15.

Double duty

Council approved \$4,888,000 to twin the town's sanitary force main pipe. \$2,333,000 will come from the Municipal Sustainability Initiative capital funding and utility reserves, with the remaining \$2,555,000 provided by an Alberta Water/Wastewater Partnership grant that was awarded back in June.

"We're lucky in the town of Pincher Creek to actually go out and do this project," noted Mayor Don Anderberg. "Some other centres I know of wouldn't be able to do this, under the rules of engagement."

A sanitary force main is simply a sewage pipe that is pressurized so waste can travel uphill. Installing another pipe will help reduce stress on the system when excess wastewater is added to the system, like during a rainstorm. Having a second pipe will also allow repairs to be conducted without interrupting service to the town.

The second pipe will help address costly issues caused by the force main failing, the most recent occurring back in 2016 when the pipeline ruptured.

Proposals have been requested from engineering firms for the project with the hopes of selection being completed this month. The initial plan is to begin construction next summer, though the timeline will depend on the project design and securing crossing agreements for portions of the forcemain that cross the railway and highway.

Operations report

The operations department presented its second-quarter report as the concluding agenda item. A total of 339 citizen requests were logged, 237 of which were operational and responded to.

Crosswalk and no-parking zones were painted, and street sweeping started and will continue as needed throughout the fall. A new water line valve was installed on Veteran's Street to help limit the number of businesses that lose water during pipe repairs.

A concrete replacement contract and water treatment plant flow meter contract were awarded, as well as Phase 1 of the sewer condition assessment being completed.

The department also assisted in the removal and temporary storage of donation bins for Diabetes Canada, trained the new grass-cutting crew from the recreation department, and welcomed the arrival of a new garbage truck.

Next meeting

Town council will next meet for a regular meeting 6 p.m. on Sept. 14 in council chambers. The meeting agenda will be available online at pinchercreek.ca/town/minutes.php.

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If you've enjoyed receiving the complimentary papers, please let the participating businesses know you appreciate their community support!

The Community Connection Partnership program ends Sept. 16.



Community is our Priority



Photos compiled from iNaturalist users Tab Tannery, je9h and C Graydon

While you're out exploring during the final days of summer, be sure to keep a lookout for some of Canada's endemic species, such as the Lake Louise arnica (at left and centre) and the Raup's fringed gentian (at right).

Waterton a hot spot for endemic species

**By Jenaya Launstein
Community Reporter**

If you were to guess how many animal and plant species are exclusive to Canada, what would you say? I myself wouldn't have thought there are actually 308 species. Even more interesting, Alberta is home to 54 of those, including five hot spots.

Alberta's hot spots are Banff, Jasper and Waterton Lakes national parks, Cypress Hills and the western edge of Lake Athabasca.

Alberta has the third-most of Canada's endemic species, behind Quebec (57) and British Columbia (105).

The study, titled *Ours to Save: The Distribution, Status and Conservation Needs of Canada's National Endemic Species*, is the first of its kind in Canada. It was done by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and NatureServe Canada and aims to use the results of the project to prioritize conservation actions and inspire public support for species and habitat protection in Canada.

"No other nation can protect this group of all-Canadian species. Their conservation is completely up to Canadians," says Dan Kraus, senior

conservation biologist for Nature Conservancy of Canada.

"Protecting these species is Canada's priority in the fight against global biodiversity loss. The consequence of our failure to conserve them is their extinction."

Of the 54 species in Alberta, 18 are found nowhere else in Canada. They are the Nicholl's bog fritillary (a type of butterfly), *Ceutorhynchus carteri* (a type of weevil not yet named), Alberta fossaria (a type of mollusk), Athabasca thin ant, Pocahontas's thin ant, *Ophraella nuda* (a type of leaf beetle not yet named), Alberta needlefly, white northern caddisfly, Thor's northern caddisfly, blunt albino physa (a type of snail), Banff Springs snail, *Platphalonias dangi* (a type of tortricid moth not yet named), Alberta trumpet-net caddisfly, Banff longnose dace, Bert's predaceous diving beetle, Castleguard Cave stygobromid (a type of amphipod), Cordilleran stygobromid (a type of amphipod) and the ragged divided ant.

Many of these Canadian species could be vulnerable to extinction. In fact, the Banff longnose dace is already presumed to be extinct.

Several of Canada's endemic

species can be found in Waterton Lakes National Park and other areas surrounding us. These include the Lake Louise arnica, Galling small minnow mayfly, three-lobed fleabane, Raup's fringed gentian and *Neoligia lillooet* (a type of noctuid moth not yet named).

Of particular interest among these species is the Lake Louise arnica. As you probably guessed, it is named after Lake Louise in Banff National Park. This beautiful yellow wildflower is found only in the Canadian Rockies of Alberta and British Columbia, and is particularly vulnerable.

The Lake Louise arnica, also called snow arnica, grows at high elevations on exposed alpine slopes and rockslides. You may have a chance at spotting this rare flower in Waterton Lakes National Park or Crowsnest Pass.

At one time, the endangered whooping crane was down to about just 20 birds. Thanks to captive breeding and habitat protection, numbers have increased to over 600. Though the United States has continued its efforts to establish breeding colonies, the only self-sustaining wild population nests in

Wood Buffalo National Park.

The Harris's sparrow is the only songbird that breeds exclusively in Canada. Although this small bird breeds primarily in the Northwest Territories, northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba, it has been known to pass through Alberta during migration.

Also on the list are wood bison, which are located, you guessed it, around Wood Buffalo National Park.

In the Pincher Creek, Lundbreck and Crowsnest Pass area, you may also have a chance at seeing the three-lobed fleabane flower and the Rocky Mountain woodland spider.

The three-lobed fleabane is a beautiful whitish-purplish flower in the daisy family, known to grow only in British Columbia and Alberta on alpine scree slopes.

The Rocky Mountain woodland spider is another species restricted to Alberta and the east Kootenays of British Columbia. This large spider is easily identified and unlikely to be confused with other species in the same family, *Cybaeus*.

To learn more about Canada's endemic species, go to www.bit.ly/2AJ5RX6.

No, we don't want to go 'back to normal'

AUPE isn't looking back this Labour Day

You've probably heard it at least once in the last five months: "When will things go back to normal?" which forces a bigger question, "What is normal?"

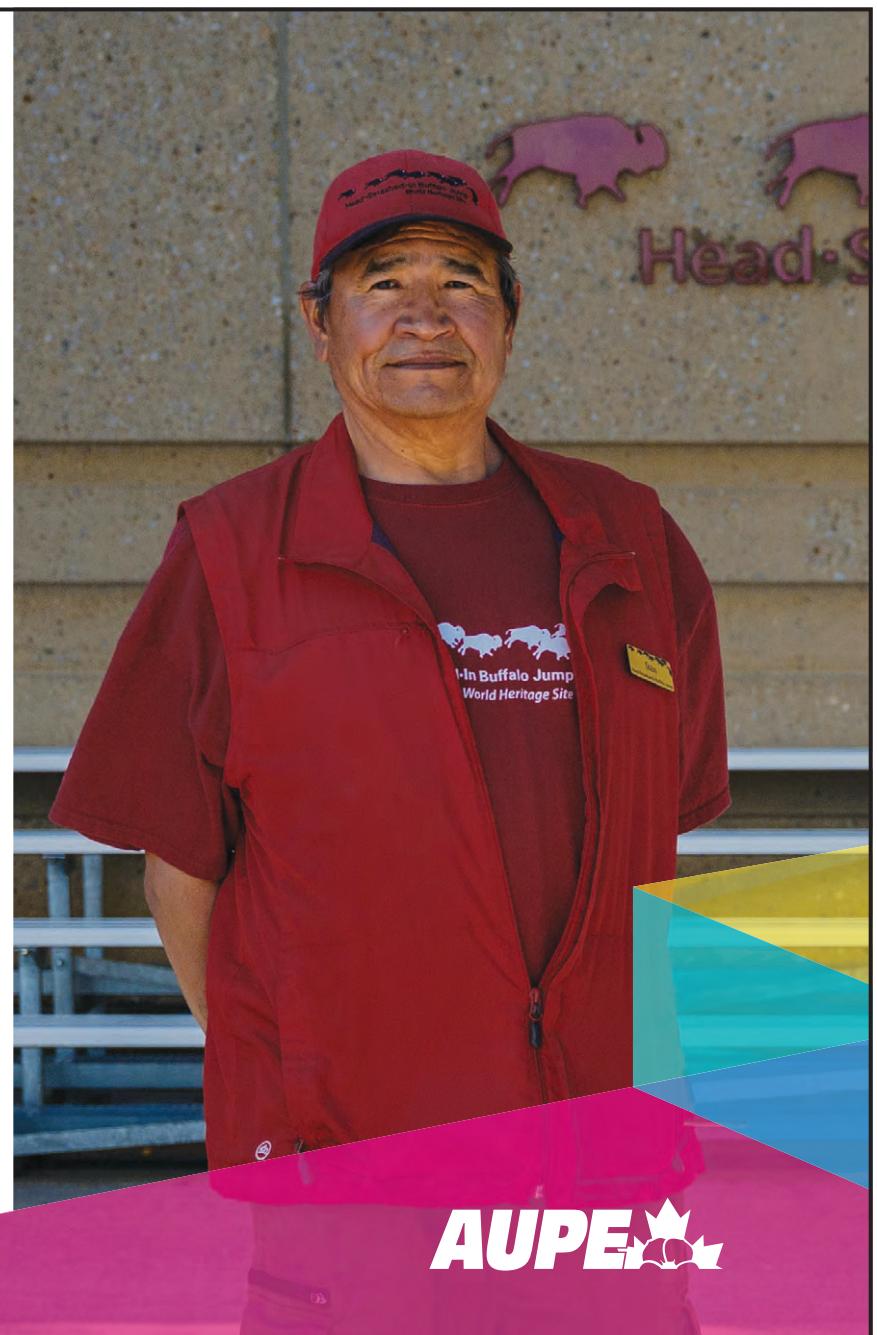
For working Albertans, "normal" is working thirty years and having no retirement plan to show for it. "Normal" is picking between a sick day and making rent. "Normal" is getting zero compensation for your emotional labour. "Normal" is working multiple jobs. "Normal" is being unable to afford childcare. "Normal" is losing your job at a moment's notice. "Normal" is being unable to afford prescribed medications. "Normal" is never owning a home.

And in these extraordinary times, "normal" is what bosses and politicians are trying to sell everyday Albertans in exchange for their labour — "peace of mind" in the middle of a pandemic.

Well, working people can't feed their families or buy homes on a phoney peace of mind. To do that, they need real power. That's how organized working people built democracy, and that's how we will resurrect it.

Unions are more relevant today than ever. Yes, because bosses and politicians continue to profit off our backs and sell off the province to corporate cronies, but also because upheaval — something workers have never shied away from — surrounds us.

The pandemic has put us on a roller-coaster. Now it's up to us to harness that motion and bring it in line with the labour movement...and maybe by next September, we'll have even less reason to look back, our sights set on a future built by working people.



AUPE

Take a walk with your doc

By Jenaya Launstein
Community Reporter

Take a leisurely walk along the Crowsnest River with your friendly neighbourhood doctor on Sept. 10.

"Our goal is to have people connected again with our physicians and our health-care professionals in an organic way," says Beth Pounder, clinical care co-ordinator for Crowsnest Medical Clinic.

Pedometers and water will be provided to participants before starting the walk, as well as healthy snacks afterwards.

"We're going to start outside of the clinic and the doctor is going to give a short information session about the benefits of walking — everything from mental health to

the physical health," says Beth.

Dr. Melnick, who came up with the idea, will be leading the way, with kinesiologist Sebastian joining in on the fun and touching briefly on energy management.

From the clinic, participants will progress over the bridge and walk along the river until they reach the bridge at Blairmore's centre access. At this point the caravan will make its way back to the starting point.

"If you're not able to social distance," adds Beth, "we'll encourage people to wear a mask and [we'll] provide masks for those that do not have them."

Everyone is welcome to attend, whether a Crowsnest Medical Clinic patient or not, and can sign up by calling 403-562-8804 before Sept. 10.

Crowsnest council approves Sartoris and trail upgrades

By Sean Oliver
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Crowsnest Pass residents may soon get to enjoy a new community trail system and upgraded Sartoris day use area, pending approval from provincial powers.

On Aug. 18, Crowsnest Pass council discussed what local projects would best be submitted as applications for the municipal stimulus fund. Crowsnest Pass is eligible for a total of \$707,064.

Due Oct. 1, applications for up to five shovel-ready projects can be submitted by the municipality.

Brainstormed proposals from administration ranged from upgrading generators in the Coleman water treatment plant to improving the Pass Powderkeg lodge.

To help streamline the application process, council settled on creating two proposals: a \$200,000 project upgrading the Sartoris day use area, and using the remaining \$507,064 to develop a community trail system.

Part of the reasoning in deciding on the two projects rested on funding items that would make a visible difference for the entire community.

"All of these projects are very worthwhile," said Mayor Blair Painter. "But I'd like to see the walking trails addressed."

Not only was a trail system mentioned throughout public comments in the municipal development plan survey, but a trail master plan, the mayor pointed out, has already been made.

"Some of the questions in our survey that were answered lead me

to believe that we need to do more for our walking trails. We do have a walking trail master plan. It sits on the shelf and probably has an inch of dust on it by now," the mayor quipped.

"I think we really need to open that up and take a look at it, expand those trails to the west and to the east so that they do loop. That's an important feature, along with incorporating washrooms along it too."

As for the Sartoris day use area, he added, "If we're working with the province, I think that's imperative that we move ahead with that."

Coun. Lisa Sygutek agreed with both ideas.

"If you're talking what's going to have the highest impact ... for every person in this community, walking trails are it," she said. "I would spend the entire amount on that because I think that we will hit every demographic in this community with that."

The Sartoris day use area, she continued, was a good option because it would be a noticeable contribution to the community at large.

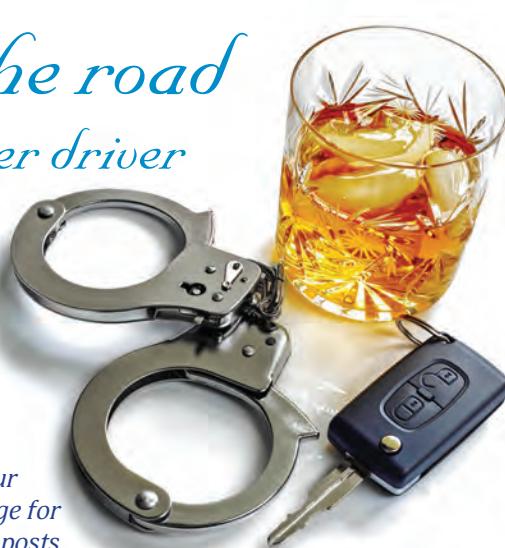
"I'm looking for something that's visual so the community sees that we've done something with the gift ... of money that we never would've received."

Applications for the projects must be submitted to the province by Oct. 1, with construction beginning by the end of 2021.

The next council meeting will be held Sept. 1 at the MDM Community Centre in Bellevue at 7 p.m.

*Be safe on the road
Always have a sober driver*

Enjoy the beauty of Crowsnest Pass and have a safe and fun September long!



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Our Blairmore office is open for drop-off and pickup only at this time.

We have provided access to a secure drop box at both our Pincher Creek and Blairmore offices during regular office hours for you to drop off your tax records and documents.

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By Farley Wuth, Curator
Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village

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The frontier chronicles of the Fugina family

One pioneer agricultural family from the Pincher Creek area only partially remembered from the pages of our local history is the Fugina family. Their farm house was a landmark for several generations.

The family patriarch, Francis Joseph Fugina, was born in Independence, Wis., on April 22, 1880. His wife, the former Anna Cecelia Dugan, was born three years later, in 1883, in Carrington, N.D. Both were raised in their respective rural American West settlements, where they received a traditional education grounded in the three Rs.

It is believed that Francis Fugina immigrated to Canada in the early 1900s, eventually settling at Pincher City. In 1908, Anna Dugan followed suit, also settling in this railway and ranching settlement. The couple were married that year.

The Fuginas had two daughters

and a son: Anne, Frances and Joseph.

Agricultural heritage

Some three years later, in 1911, the Fugina family moved to a farm located on the northwestern outskirts of Pincher Creek. Situated on the north side of the creek and accessed by the pre-First World War traffic bridge constructed to bring traffic into town from the rural communities of Mountain Mill and Beaver Mines to the west, the farm was ideally located to offer the best of both worlds.

Agriculturally, the farm's proximity to the creek and one of its tributaries to the west ensured a fairly regular water supply, essential for Fugina's herd of cattle and the varied crops with which he experimented. The area was fairly sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, which aided the farm's success.

The property's close proximity

to town ensured that the family had easy access to the community's commercial and religious services.

Francis and Anna Fugina were regular grocery shoppers at the Main Street Fraser-McRoberts and White Hall stores, the latter operated by the Allison family. History tells us that the Haltons' horse-drawn rig service delivered groceries as far west as the Fugina residence.

Roman Catholic in faith, the family worshiped regularly at St. Michael's Church on the south hill.

The dwelling that Francis and Anna Fugina constructed was an impressive two-storey frame structure with a wrap-around veranda that faced east. This architectural feature provided the family an eye-catching view of the farm and nearby creek.

The house dated back to the pre-First World War era and included a massive parlour and dining room on the main floor. A working kitchen was added onto the house's west side many years later. An array of out buildings stood further west still.

The house, sitting on the north side of the creek, was situated directly opposite the old Bossenberry dwelling, and the two were in some ways similar in function and design.

Retirement

Francis and Anna Fugina resided on their Pincher Creek farm for over 35 years. In 1947, the

couple retired, sold the property and moved to Creston, B.C. Folklore indicates that the Fuginas particularly enjoyed the climate in this new setting.

After a decade's residence there, Francis Fugina passed away at the Creston Valley Hospital on Jan. 19, 1957. He was in his 77th year.

His widow, Anna, remained in the community for another 11 years. Then, in 1968, she moved farther west to Nelson to be closer to family. She passed away on Nov. 25, 1970, at the age of 87.

As adults, the three Fugina children had British Columbia and United States connections. One daughter, Anne, became Mrs. Brady and resided in Nelson. Their other daughter, Frances, became Mrs. L. Drew, and lived south of the border in Bremerton, Wash.

The family's son, Joseph, resided in Kimberley, B.C., where he was active in the garage business. In early January 1947 he was united in marriage with the former Lucille Edith Hamilton, a highly respected school teacher from Trail.

As of 1970, there were 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren in the Fugina family.

Many of the research sources used for this article are found in the Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village archives. Thanks go out to the Creston Museum for its help in retrieving the Creston newspaper articles.



ANIMAL CONTROL



The MD has entered into an agreement with the Town of Pincher Creek to utilize the town's community peace officers for animal control services within the MD

If you have an MD animal control complaint, fill out the online form at <http://bit.ly/MD9AnimalControl>

There is no need to create an account, proceed as a guest. Be sure to select "Animal Control MD" under the category section.

The animal control complaint form is an easy-to-use Internet application that allows the MD to accept submitted animal control issues and allows the resident to check on the request's status using a generated request number.

If a more urgent response is required, MD residents can contact Town of Pincher Creek community peace officers Lindsey Johnson at 403-627-6080 or John Herasemluk at 403-627-6090, or call the MD office at 403-627-3130.

Questions or concerns regarding the process of filing a complaint, or on animal control in the MD, can be directed to the MD administration office.



Carol LaRose

Carol Loreen LaRose of Pincher Creek, beloved wife of the late Gerald Patrick LaRose, passed away after a lengthy illness on Aug. 21, 2020, at the age of 74.

Carol is survived by her three sons: Randy (Barb) of Penticton, B.C., and his children, Aliagh, Dylan and Jessica; Brent (Shelley) of Letellier, Man., and their children, Andrew and Madelaine; Colin (Rhonda) of Lethbridge, Alta., and their children, Peyton and Morgan; sisters: Cathy (Chuck) Skretting of Coaldale, Alta., Wendy (Larry) Orsten of Milk River, Alta., and sister-in-law Kathy Klim from Lethbridge, Alta.

Carol was predeceased by her parents, John and Ruby Klim, and by her brother, Larry Klim.

No service will be held at this time.

The family would like to thank Vista Village in Pincher Creek and Fort Macleod Extendicare for their dedicated and loving care during Carol's illness.

Condolences may be sent through www.edensfuneralhome.com.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to
Eden's Funeral Home

403-553-3772 www.edensfuneralhome.com



MD of Pincher Creek Administration Office

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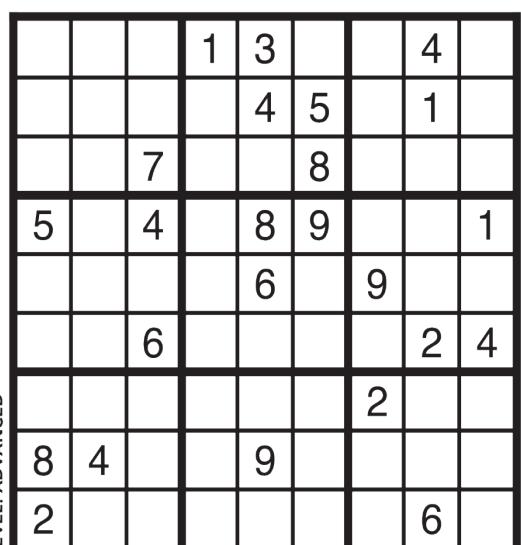
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PUZZLE NO. 781

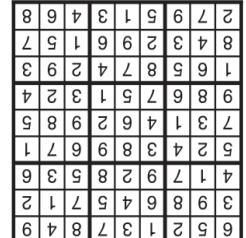


HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: you must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 781

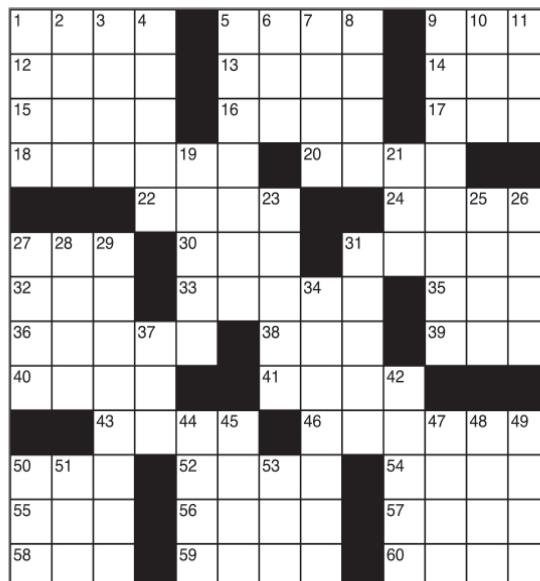


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CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 49



ACROSS

- 1. Leap headfirst
- 5. Literary work
- 9. Fore's opposite
- 12. Point-scoring serves
- 13. Volcanic liquid
- 14. Recognize
- 15. Golf-ball stands
- 16. Bone-dry
- 17. Female fowl
- 18. Catch
- 20. Allowed to borrow
- 22. " ___ So Cold"
- 24. Abilities
- 27. Yellow-pages fillers
- 30. Hard wood
- 31. Separated
- 32. Say yes to
- 33. Wrecks
- 35. Senate vote
- 36. Overhead
- 38. Kind of room
- 39. Studio decor
- 40. Garble
- 41. Pairs
- 43. Fling
- 46. Gooey
- 50. Owed
- 52. Object
- 54. Naught
- 55. Beast of burden
- 56. Body of knowledge
- 57. Got taller
- 58. Ante
- 59. Unbarred
- 60. ___ out (barely manages)

DOWN

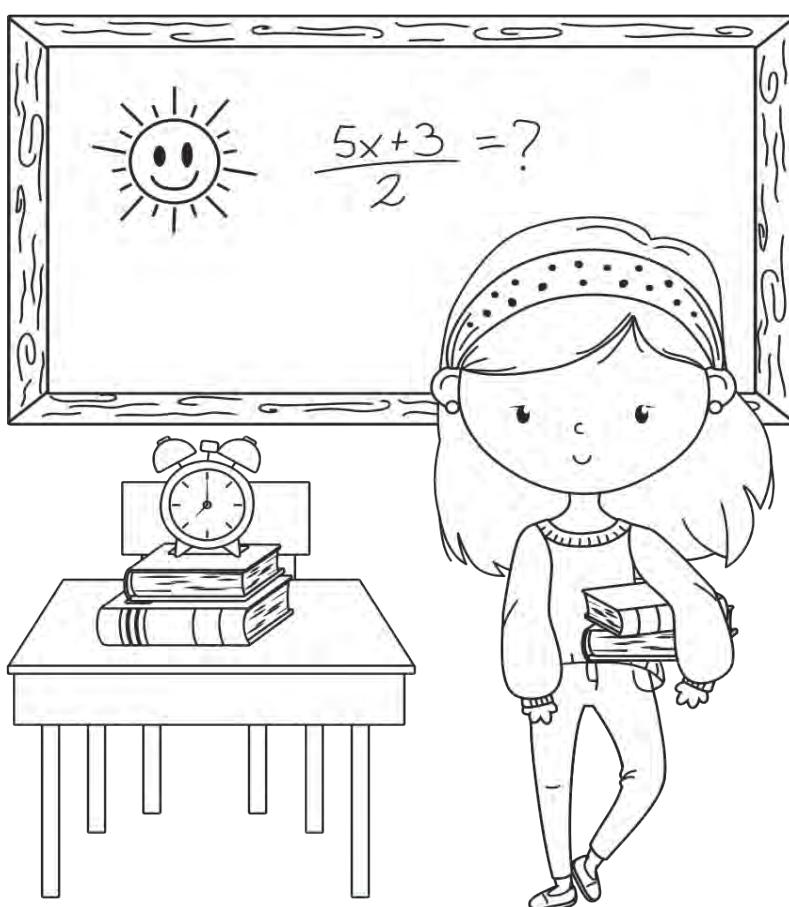
- 1. Computer fodder
- 2. Froster
- 3. Swerve
- 4. Roadway hazards
- 5. Raised flatland
- 6. Rowing implement

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 49



CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS
USE AMERICAN SPELLING

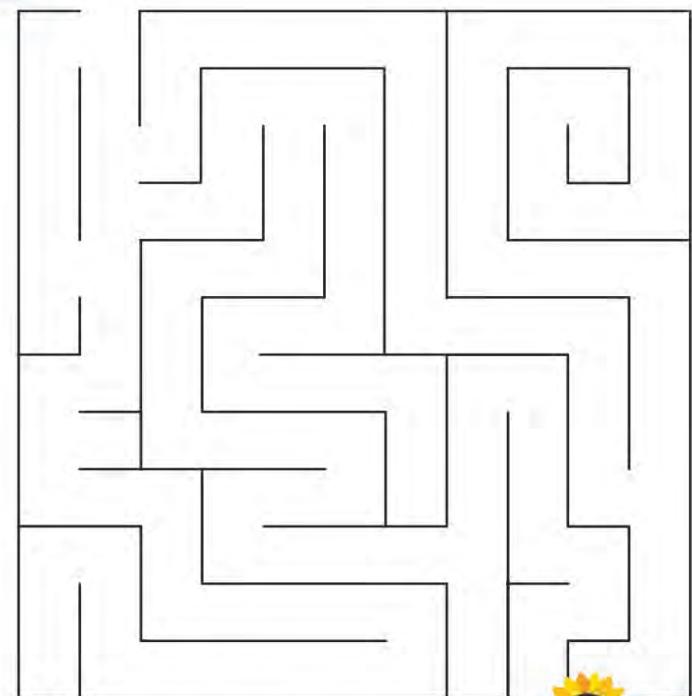
 For the up-and-coming artist



Amazing maze

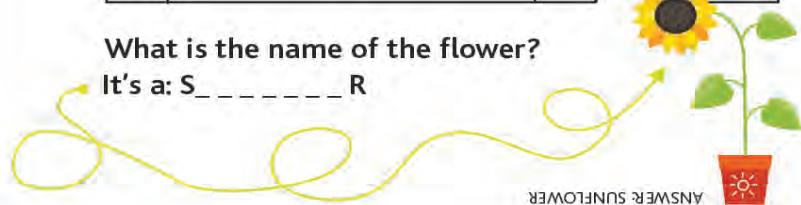


Your flower needs to be watered;
can you find the path that leads to it?



What is the name of the flower?

It's a: S - R



ANSWER

SUNFLOWER



Photo by Jenaya Launstein

Maskmaker extraordinaire

Aug. 24 was a very special day as Coleman resident Sandi Knight put her 2,500th mask in her mailbox. Since the Covid-19 pandemic struck Alberta, Sandi has been hard at work making masks and placing them in her mailbox for anybody interested. The masks are free, but donations are accepted and appreciated.

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Spiritual Gleanings

By Joyce Sasse

Joyce is a writer, storyteller and retired minister from Pincher Creek.



Happier days (daze)

With the abrupt shutdown of our seniors lodge in March 2020, we residents became locked in ("for our own good") and it was implied that all our rights to speak out were suspended.

Because of the crisis, we complied for a while. But as realization came that the threat of Covid-19 could go on, and on, and on ... we started to cry foul. "Little old ladies and little old men have rights too!"

Eventually, since there was an eruption of storm clouds, management and staff began trying to find ways to start resetting lines of communication — and we residents want to help.

The reality of the situation has taken its toll on all of us over these five months. Ambulance-driver and undertaker visitors diminished our spirits.

Then one day it happened. A new resident "moved in" and smiles erupted in one room after another. Furthermore, many of us knew this new arrival to be a happy, competent local musician whose presence would enrich our lives.

We did have to groan with her because we recognized how the two weeks of quarantine she had to endure were like the labour pains that accompany any live birth!

Happy days came in other forms as rules became more

relaxed, and the interpretations of various groups within the lodge were made known.

At one time, our lodge was known to be a place where residents shared their suggestions with the management. But all signs of that practice were withdrawn in March, and the residents advisory council ceased functioning.

Getting restarted has been like trying to prime the old well pump. Matter of fact, it is taking more than one priming. But, gradually, we start hearing a few gurgles and gulps of promise, accompanied by smiles and good-well expressions along the sidelines.

Appointments for visitors to join us in the Tranquility Garden or in our room (with masks and six feet apart) are now more easily arranged. These visitors are even welcomed on weekends.

Management is starting to think about how "suggestion papers" can be more easily accessed, with pens and pencils in reach, in front of a suggestion box that is accessible to all residents (including those in wheelchairs).

Once the pump comes to life, hope keeps us going. Covid-19 may have created pandemonium in the beginning, but many of us believe that the chaos can be calmed. Thanks be to God!

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Weekly local ad rate is \$10 plus GST for up to 25 words. Additional words are 15 cents each. If ad is booked to run more than one week, client pays full price for the first week and half price for consecutive weeks running without changes. Blanket classified ads appear in all Alberta weekly newspapers (total circulation 800,000+) for \$269 plus GST per week for 25 words. Additional words \$8 each. To place your ad call 403-904-2227 or send an email to office@shootinthebreeze.ca.

Crowsnest Community Support Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 5 p.m.

8102 19th Avenue, Coleman

Everyone is welcome! Social distancing measures will be in place and masks will be required.

The Society is currently looking for new, dedicated board members to volunteer on our board of directors.

Please contact James Woodall at 403-563-3585 ext. 22, for information or to advise if you are planning to attend.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, space will be limited.

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Photos by Jeriada Lauritsen
At left, Adam Carney, Nic Jordan, Alex Shenton and Lonny Ouellette delivered large planters to various businesses on Main Street earlier this summer. At right, the Communities In Bloom garden outside of the Pincher Creek pool is thriving.

Communities in Bloom keeps town looking spiffy

Pincher Creek organization seeks new committee members

**By Jenaya Launstein
Community Reporter**

Thanks to Pincher Creek's Communities in Bloom committee, the town is blossoming, and you could be a part of it. The committee is in search of three members to join the team.

"Communities in Bloom isn't just about plants, it's about civic pride [and] a beautification of our community," says Rhonda Oczkowski, Pincher Creek's parks and rec office administrator.

and Eco City administrator.

Beautifying the town can be done in many ways, such as floral displays, landscaping, cleaning and even recycling.

"We're looking for someone who

has an interest overall in keeping Pincher Creek looking great or adding to it in some way," says Rhonda.

Rhonda.

Every year, communities across Canada are recognized for their beautification efforts. Pincher Creek has steadily moved up the ranks over the years. At first, the town was judged on a provincial level, but was later moved into the national level, and since 2016 has been competing at the international level.

Communities are judged by a professional panel on six key criteria: community appearance, environmental action, heritage conservation, urban forestry, landscape and floral displays.

"That's pretty exciting when you get to that status and met the criteria in order to enter that," beams Rhonda. "That means that Pincher Creek has done well over the years in terms of building on what we have and continuing to grow."

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the judging and in-person awards ceremony was cancelled this year, but that doesn't mean Pincher Creek's committee is sitting back. Among other things, this year saw them help with two big projects: the gorgeous planters stationed in front of various businesses on Main Street, as well as the fixing of two historical murals (see the Aug. 19

issue of *Shootin' the Breeze*).

"What was exciting this year is, because of Covid, Communities in Bloom Canada has offered a lot of online webinars, which has been great because we've never had that before," says Rhonda.

Several videos that used pictures of Pincher Creek's projects were shown as examples of what the judges are looking for in floral and landscaping designs.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member, contact Rhonda at 403-627-4322 or fill out the application at <https://bit.ly/34xazDD> and drop it off at the recreation office.

The advertisement features a red header with the Co-Op Pincher Creek logo. Below the header is a white banner with the text 'COLLECT CREATE SHARE' in large, colorful letters. The main visual consists of a white surface against a red background. On the surface are six clay models of farm animals: a purple cow, a yellow horse, a blue rabbit, a pink pig, a black sheep, and a brown dog. To the right is a product shot of a Hey Clay pack. The pack is divided into four vertical sections: 'LIGHT CLAY' (blue), 'RANDOM COLOUR' (pink), 'COLLECT AND CREATE' (purple), and 'FUN AND EDUCATIONAL' (yellow). It features a central circular logo with the 'HEY CLAY' brand name and 'FARM FRIENDS AMIS DE LA FERME'. The pack also includes icons for an 'iOS, ANDROID APP', 'AIR DRYING', 'BRIGHT AND SOFT', and '100% FUN'. A small note at the bottom says 'Clay inside: Argile à l'intérieur: 5g (+/-9%)'. The overall design is vibrant and family-oriented.