

THE BRETON BOOSTER

Post-Secondary Veteran Support

From Mark Smith, MLA for Drayton Valley – Devon

Sometimes Government is at its best when it thinks outside the box and provides targeted funding to help the citizens it represents. Recently the Alberta Government made a one-time investment of \$714,000 over two years to fund a veteran-friendly campus pilot program at the University of Alberta. I believe that this targeted funding to help our veterans is going to be money well spent. Alberta is leading the way by supporting one of the first veteran-friendly campus models in the country. This investment complements and strengthens other post-secondary supports, helping more veterans access the education they need to transition from military service to a civilian career.

The University of Alberta is currently exploring the needs of veteran students and their families in consultation with veterans, active service members, Veteran Affairs Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Legion, post-secondary institutions and researchers. This review will help inform the veteran-friendly campus model, and students who are veteran can expect to access supports and resources in the 2021-22 academic year. The program is presently under development, but we encourage students to reach out to the university with questions through the U of A student connect website, or by emailing the Dean of Students office at dosdean@ualberta.ca.

Students of history will remember that as WW II ended our veterans came home and were able to receive Government funding to go to a post-secondary institution to receive the training they

needed to transition into a successful peace time career. This program, in some ways, is an echo of that WWII program as it is designed to help veterans have a successful post-secondary experience. Post-secondary education is key to helping those who risked their lives to defend our country find success in other professions once their service has ended. Many of our veterans have unique needs to support their learning. The pilot veteran-friendly campus initiative at the University of Alberta provides specialized support to help veterans achieve their educational goals. The pilot initiative will support one of the first veteran campus models in Canada, with the other based in the University of British Columbia.

Healthy campuses benefit us all, and veterans have transferable knowledge, skills and experiences that enrich the campus community for all students, staff and faculty.

This investment will provide a sustainable model that institutions from across Alberta can replicate, enabling veterans to access supportive campuses close to home. This program will also leverage best practices to provide world-class integrated support and services for veterans, helping Alberta to attract top students from across the country. Lastly, I believe that this is a good use of tax payers dollars promoting a veteran friendly campus seems to me to be a start in saying thank you to those who have served us so well.

I can be reached at the main constituency office in Drayton Valley at 1-800-542-7307 toll-free Monday to Friday, the Devon constituency office at 780-987-3666 Wednesdays and Thursdays or emailed at draytonvalley.devon@assembly.ab.ca anytime.

The

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We can help if you are feeling:

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- Angry
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- Depressed

Breton and Area FCSS is now offering Counselling Subsidies for services with Karunia Counselling in Leduc.

Appointments are available by phone, virtual meetings online or in person.

Individual Couples Family Sessions

RATES DETERMINED BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE HOME. STARTING AT \$15/SESSION

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
BRETON FCSS AT 780.696.3636

The Virtual and In person Mental Health Wellness Support Program is supported by the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund and the Drayton Valley Community Foundation in partnership with Breton and Area FCSS

Emergency
Community
Support Fund

DVCF
DRAYTON VALLEY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

FCSS
Breton and Area



FCSS
Family and Community
Support Services
BRETON AND
AREA FCSS



Armchair Travel!

REGISTER FOR
FREE
780-696-3636
FCSS@BRETON.CA

TAKE A TRIP TO MEXICO FROM YOUR LIVING ROOM



Focus Kits are filled with instructions and supplies for Families and Seniors to help keep you active during the winter months and social distancing.

Inside each kit you will find a cultural experience designed to take you on a trip without ever boarding a plane! You will experience the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of Mexico from the comfort of your own home!



Available to residents of the Village of Breton and Brazeau County east of the North Saskatchewan River.

Pre-K Programming at BES

As we look to start planning for the next school year, Breton Elementary is wanting to expand its Pre-K program. While this year was successful, in consulting with other schools in our division and looking at research, we **feel a separate Pre-K program would be more beneficial for students.**

Should there be enough interest, our Pre-K program would **run separately from the Kindergarten program. It would run 4 days a week** (Monday to Thursday) from approximately 8:30 - 11:45 and the Pre-K would have it's own classroom, as well as its own certified teacher. Much like other community pre- or play-school programs, we would **need to charge a monthly fee in order to make this happen.** The fee would be \$100 per month (Fees may be reduced to \$50 per month for children with delays or academic enrichment needs).

While that may seem like a lot, it is not significantly more than similar community programs, and it **allows children to have the following benefits:**

- **quality instruction and play based programming implemented by a certified teacher**
- **4 days a week allows for more consistent exposure to a language rich, play-based learning environment**
- this programming will **enhance your child's social, emotional, motor, and early literacy skills**
- the richness of this program will **help develop independence, problem solving skills as well as foster a sense of belonging and well being in your child**
- a **professional screening is completed to ensure that adequate support is provided in speech, language and motor skills**
- children will have **access to programming support from qualified Speech and Language Pathologist, as well as an Occupational Therapist (for motor skill support).**

In order for this program to be able to stay at Breton Elementary **we would need 18 students enrolled.** This program is open to children who are 4 years of age by December 31. If you are interested in enrolling your child, or finding out more, we will be hosting a "virtual open house" in March (date to be determined) to allow parents to ask questions and get a better idea of what the program is about.



COMMUNITY & info EVENTS

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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunnybrook Community Hall yearly Membership Renewals are due. \$5 a person Or \$10 for a family. Payments can be done via etransfer to: sunnybrookcommunityhall@gmail.com

PROGRAMS & REGULAR EVENTS

Breton Golden Age Club: Cards (Whist) Mondays at 1 pm. \$3. **Floor Curling** on Tuesdays at 1 pm \$3. **Crib** Saturdays at 12:30 pm starting Oct. 17th. Minimal fee. Come join the fun! COVID protocols in place. Masks are optional. Until further notice the Breton Golden Age Club is NOT available for rent. For additional info you can contact Pat Monteith at 780.696.6557 or clwaymon@telus.net

Winfield Community Library is open *Please note we have new hours as of Sept. 6th* Wednesday nights 5 - 8 pm Saturdays 10- 2 pm. Restrictions are in place. No public access to the school, not even the bathrooms. Please call 780-682-2498 for more info.

Thorsby Bingo has been cancelled (due to COVID-19) until further notice.

"Busy Brushes" meet every Wednesday from 10-2, at the Warburg Cultural Centre. Everyone welcome! Come join us for some relaxing fun and art. Call Linda Mayr @780.848.7782 for more info.

MARKETS / THRIFT SHOPS (NON PROFIT)

Treasures Thrift Shop -IS NOW OPEN! (With restrictions) Please see signs at the store for everyone's safety. Wednesdays from 10 am - 4 pm. Donations will only be accepted during store hours, please ensure your donations are clean. 5112 - 53 Street Warburg.

Thorsby Senior's Thrift Store is OPEN again - ALL COVID-19 regulations apply. Hours of operation: 10 am - 3 pm Thursdays and Fridays. **PLEASE NOTE:** We will only accept donations during store hours. We do not accept mattresses, car seats, strollers, cribs, or furniture. All donations MUST BE CLEAN AND RE-SELLABLE. Thank You!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Breton & Area FCSS (Family & Community Support Services) Please contact Deanne at 780-696-3636 or email fcss@breton.ca

Breton Food Bank - Call 780-696-3669 by Thursday at noon to request a hamper. Please leave a message and a volunteer will contact you.

Meals on Wheels - Are you interested in receiving a hot nutritious meal? Please contact Deanne at 780-696-3636

Bylaw Enforcement Officer and Animal Control Officer - Doris McAllister 780-719-6447.

Does drinking affect your personal life in any way? Have friends or family expressed concerns towards your drinking habits? Have you ever tried to quit drinking, but could not manage to do so? AA can help! 5203 -54th Avenue Thorsby New Life Christian Church (every) Monday 8:00 pm 780-270-7903

WORSHIP

Faith Covenant Church - 4712 53rd Avenue Breton, Alberta T0C 0P0 office.faithcovenantchurch@gmail.com 780.696.3669

Community United Church - 5112 - 53 St., Warburg. Join us for Sunday morning worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10:30 AM. For information please phone the church office 780-848-2227.

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church Thorsby Mass Every Sunday 9:00 am, Father Arun Rodrigues. For more information call 780-987-2858 or visit www.olvthorsby.wordpress.com.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Thorsby is holding in-Church Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Following COVID protocols. Our weekly worship with Pastor Ron can still be found on You Tube.

Alder Flats Community Bible Church - 780-388-0018, Pastor Samuel Hayford - 780-388-3926.

19th Annual Bull Rush

Simmental Bull Sale

Thursday, February 25th at 1:00 pm
Rimbey Agrium Centre

On Offer:

72 Quality Beef Bulls
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Stone Simmentals

Blair and Sheryl Stone - 780-312-4225
Blaine and Susann Stone - 780-312-0098

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WORSHIP

Reg. Sunday Service & School - 11:00 am. Welcome to all!

Warburg Alliance Church is open. 11 a.m. worship service. For more information please phone 780-848-7577, check out our Facebook page or email us warburgalliance@gmail.com.

Warburg Seventh Day Adventist Church, Sat. Sabbath School 10 am, Main Service 11:30 am, Pastor Jason Williams 780-848-2271

COMMUNITY GROUP REGULAR MEETINGS

Village of Breton Council Meetings - 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Carolyn Strand Civic Centre.

Breton and District Historical Society Monthly Board meetings are held the 4th Monday of the Month at 7 PM at the Breton Museum. The Board meets January- June and September- November. New members welcomed. To confirm meeting dates and times Ph. 780 898 1155 and for more information go to www.bretonmuseum.ca

Breton Golden Age Club: Regular Monthly Meetings on the first Monday of the month at 11 am. Come see what we are up to!

The Breton Agricultural Society meets every second Thursday of the month (except July and August) at 7 pm at the Breton Community Center. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Breton Royal Purple meetings are CHANGING starting in January 2021 to the third Thursday of the month (except in the months of July and August) at 7:30 p.m.

Breton Elks meetings are at 7:30 pm every third Thursday of the month at the Breton Community Hall, except for July & August.

Breton Municipal Library Board Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month except July and August and are open to the public. Meetings are at 7 PM in the Library.

The Breton Book Club has online Facebook Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month all day. All readers are welcome to join the conversation! Look for us at "Breton Book Club".

Buck Creek Community Assn. Meetings are held at the Buck Creek Hall the first Wednesday of every

month at 8 PM. Jam Dance and Cards Night the first Friday of every month.

Funnell Community Hall - No Meetings until further notice.

Thorsby & District Fish & Game Regular Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month @ 7:00 pm at Warburg Village Office Basement (entrance through the back). Please join us. Contact Bruce at 780-848-2242 for more information.

Winfield & District Historical Society meets at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Winfield Community Hall Meeting Room. New members always welcome!

FACILITY RENTALS

Breton Community Center- To rent the community center please visit our website www.bretonagsociety.com, call 780-696-3561 and leave a message or email us at bretonagsociety@gmail.com

Winfield Legion is available to rent. Rental Inquiries - Gordon 780-542-1243 or Mona 780-361-9558

Ashland Dam Park - For reservations call Bruce @ (780) 898-9636.

Calmar and District Senior Citizens Club 4916 - 50 Ave Calmar: **hall rentals**, please contact Marg Roskewich 780-985-3221. Rental Rates: 4 hr or less \$100 and more than 4 hrs \$200.00

Funnell Community Hall - For hall rental or more info contact Kelsey at 709.638.3689.

Genesee Community Hall - Rentals call Joanne Liba at 780-940-7229.

Royal Canadian Legion #246 MULHURST Hall Rental Call: Marie @ 780-361-7350

Sunnybrook Community Hall Rentals: Contact Name: Mikayla, Phone Number: 306-307-2599, Email Address: sunnybrookcommunityhall@gmail.com

Warburg Cultural Centre - For rentals of facility, wine glasses and/or tablecloths, phone Linda McLaughlin at 780.848.2916. Meetings held quarterly.

**Community Events are placed
FREE OF CHARGE,
thanks to the
community commitment of**



BRETON AND AREA FCSS



Celebrate Your Family Heritage

We are challenging you this winter to build a snowman (snow woman, snow family) that tells the story of your family or your heritage.



Snowman Kits are available to help you.
Limited Quantity. Pick up at Breton FCSS



Email us your photos with a short description of your heritage or what makes your family unique. All entries will be eligible for random prize draws. These will be made at the end of March. Entries can be sent to fcss@breton.ca

For more information contact Breton FCSS at 780-696-3636 or fcss@breton.ca



Hand's with Heart Wellness Centre Breton, AB



Martha Squire, BSC_(HOLISTIC), Reiki Practitioner/Teacher; Assertiveness Coaching,
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780 667-4395 for more information
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Treatments/Sessions are not a substitute for medical treatments. I do not diagnose, prescribe or adjust medication.

NEED YOUR PERSONAL TAXES DONE????

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Martha Squire – 780-667-4395 (By appointment only)
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Musings from the East End Scriptorium

by Elizabeth Emond
eemond.phd@gmail.com

Here are a few more suggestions to take your mind off Winter:

I'm reading Moby-Dick these days. As you know, it's the story of a madman who chases a whale three-quarters of the way around the world. Now, I'm opposed to killing whales (even though I adore the scent of ambergris), so some passages are disturbing, but I console myself by reflecting that the whales in the story are fictional whales, and, as for the real-life whales on whom they were based --well, in the times Herman Melville wrote of, at least whales had a sporting chance. Throughout the story, the narrator's respect for whales grows, so that at the end, the whale is symbol for --I'd like to know what you decide.

When I've finished with whaling, I plan to re-read Middlemarch, by George Eliot. One of the things I like most about 19th century literature is that one of the overriding themes is the interconnectedness of all members of society, and Middlemarch is the interwoven stories of the assorted residents of a village called Middlemarch. I read it thirty years ago, and I recall that the characters had real depth, and my opinion of them evolved as the novel peeled back layer after layer.

And speaking of the interconnectedness of people, try Bleak House, by Charles Dickens. It takes us from the manor house of Lord and Lady Dedlock all the way down the social scale to Jo (a guy), who sweeps horsesh*t out of the way of pedestrians in hopes they'll tip him some small change. Half the story is told by an omniscient narrator, and half by one of the characters, Esther Summerson. You might find Esther a bit sugary sometimes, even for a Dickens heroine. If so, you'll find that the heroines of Our Mutual Friend, also by Dickens, have a lot more zing.

That will get you through six more weeks of winter!



Dawn Heisler 780-619-2564 (cell)

780-986-2900 (office) www.dawnheisler.remax.ca

email: dawnheisler@remax.net



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2009 modular, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, paved driveway
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Own the lot, many upgrades, 2 bed, 1 bath, open concept, 2 sheds, apple tree. E4011044
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LOG HOME WITH 80 ACRES

Beautifully treed w/ pasture. 1998 - vaulted ceilings, wood burning stove, covered deck, walkout bsmt, in floor heat. 40'x40' shop with 8" structural cement floor, 3 phase hoist, two 14'x14' doors. E4162172
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TRIVIA EVENT



February 26, 7pm

Join us for some movie trivia! Some family fun with a little competition on the side.

Game will be hosted on Zoom.

Contact the library for the access code!

Breton Municipal Library

4916 50 Avenue
Breton, Alberta T0C 0P0 | 780-696-3740
<http://www.bretonlibrary.ab.ca/>

WE'RE OPEN AGAIN

& BRETON HOTEL LIQUOR STORE

LIQUOR STORE

7 days a week

9:30 am - 10 pm

≈ Senior's Discount ≈

5% OFF

at the Liquor Store

EVERYDAY!

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HOTEL - BAR

RE-OPENING

Tuesday, February 16th

1 pm

≈ Try Something Tasty ≈

Customers - We'll order food for you from Breton Family Dining to the Breton Hotel.

FREE DELIVERY

Tuesday - Saturday from 1 pm - 8 pm

780.289.8943 ≈



Brazeau County News



The
Do More
Agriculture
Foundation

TALK•ASK•LISTEN

Mental Health in Ag Workshop

Gain a better understanding of mental health, plus **learn strategies** to help support well-being for you and those around you.

Tailored for farmers and delivered by a mental health professional who understands agriculture.



Date:

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Time:

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location:

Online Via Zoom Meetings

How to register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/talk-ask-listen-wetaskiwin-ab-tickets-13234899039>

If you have any questions please contact:

Carla at 780-361-6232 or e-mail cthompson@jedialberta.com or

Erin at 780-352-3321 or e-mail eballhorn@county10.ca

Bart Guyon, Reeve

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Drayton Valley, AB T7A 2A3
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780-514-4631
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UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

- February 23 | Mental Health in Ag workshop | 9:00 a.m.
- March 2 | Council Meeting | 9:00 a.m.
- March 17 | Agricultural Service Board meeting | 1:30 p.m.
- March 23 | Special Council Meeting | 1:00 p.m.
- April 1 | Alternative Land Use Services PAC meeting | 9:00 a.m.

brazeau.ab.ca | (780) 542-7777



Brazeau County News



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swheale@brazeau.ab.ca

Pollinator Projects

Putting the Buzz in Pasture Management

Webinar

March 31st 10:00am
Learn more about

The value of pollinators and the benefits of establishing pollinator projects

Identifying locations for pollinator projects on marginal lands

Forage species selection, establishment, management & longevity

Funding options for pollinator projects

With speakers

Grant Lastiwka, Forage Specialist & Luke Wonneck, Agroforestry Project Specialist

Register at
<http://bit.ly/3tkvALE>

For information contact Ph:403-333-6943 or
Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca



The Brazeau County Mobile App is here!

Connect with your Community.



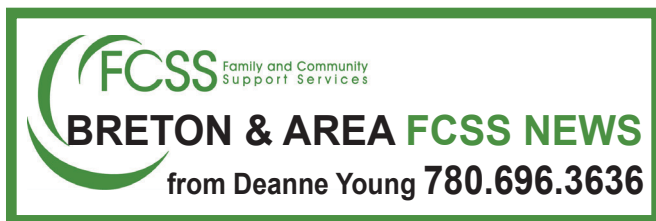
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brazeau.ab.ca | (780) 542-7777



Need A Holiday – Let's Go To Mexico with our Arm Chair Travel Kit – Call into our office or email us at fcss@breton.ca to claim your Arm Chair Travel Kit. These kits are filled with instructions and supplies for you and your family to experience Mexico. In each kit you will find a cultural experience designed to take you on a trip without ever leaving your living room. Experience the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of Mexico. Crank up the heat, find your summer clothes and enjoy a winter get away.

Wintertime Blues - Now that the holidays are over and we still have some restrictions in place we want to help with your Wintertime Blues. Write a paragraph of what you like about where you live – Village of Breton or Brazeau County. Submit your paragraph and we will reward you with a new board game or puzzle. Submissions can be made by email – fcss@breton.ca, Fax – 780-696-3590 or dropped off at our office at 4916-50 Avenue in the Village of Breton Office. Limited to one per household. Please list your top three choices of games/ puzzles with your application. Choices can be found in our ad in the Booster or on our Facebook page – Breton and Area FCSS. Submissions are being accepted now. We have had some wonderful applications already submitted. Let us know what you love about the community you live in!

Current Services and Programs Available Fully Subsidized Counselling Services for individuals, families and youth – Until March 31, 2021. Counselling is through Karunia Counselling in Leduc. Appointments can be in person, over the phone or internet.

Online Course – Kids These Days with Dr. Jody Carrington – Self paced course for any-

one who has children, grandchildren, or works with children. **FREE**

Online Course – Home Alone – aimed at youth 10 and older to learn skills to be Home Alone for short periods of time. - \$10

Home Support Services – light household cleaning services to those that require assistance due to mobility, injury, age. Rates are income based

For more information on these and additional resources, please contact the Breton and Area FCSS Office at 780-696-3636 or email fcss@breton.ca

Snowman Kit – For the first time in many years we are not able to host our Family Day Celebrations. We would like to celebrate the families in our community this month. To learn about your family, we are encouraging you to pick up a snowman kit from our office. Use it and any other items to build a snowman (family) that shows the heritage of your family. Email pictures of your creation to be entered in our prize draw. Entries will be shared on our social media account. Random draws for the prizes will happen in March.

Random Acts of Kindness Week is February 14 – 20. Here are activities for you to do each day that inspires Kindness. Sunday, February 14

Kindness Jar - Start with an empty jar & decorate it however you'd like. Every time you witness an act of kindness, write it down and place the memory in the jar. Collect memories, observations and unexpected surprises of kindness throughout the week. On the last day of kindness week, Saturday, February 20, 2021, empty the jar and reflect back on the kindness you experienced, witnessed, or perhaps performed yourself. Keep the jar going and continue to Explore the Good throughout 2021 and help Make Kindness the Norm.

Monday, February 15 - Love Note

Find your favorite pen and two nice pieces of paper. Write a letter to someone who has

changed your life for the better. Tell them how they have helped you. Then send it.

Next, write a letter to yourself. Describe all your strengths, skills, values, behaviors and actions that have gotten you to where you are. Seal it in an envelope and put it somewhere that you'll find later when you really need to hear those words.

Tuesday, February 16 - Blessing Bags

Gather items to create a blessing bag for a temporarily displaced resident. Once complete, put in a vehicle you often travel in or your backpack to hand out to the next person who could use a lift me up.

Items to include: Socks, to go wet wipes, travel size tissue, chapstick, face mask(s), travel toothbrush & toothpaste, pads/tampons, small first aid kit, hat, gloves, protein bars, instant oatmeal packets, ready-to-eat cans w/ tab open lids, cash (trust your gut). Place items in a large plastic gallon bag that zips closed or find a plastic water bottle to put items in.

When handing to the recipient don't forget to make eye contact and smile as human connection helps us all remember to Explore the Good and help Make Kindness the Norm. A few things to consider: don't include religious literature, please do not throw from your car, and always go with someone else when delivering.

Wednesday, February 17 - Kindness Worksheet

List five day-to-day activities you do. Then, next to each activity, write a way you can do the same activity, but with an added element of kindness.

For example, "Floss & brush teeth" might get transform into "Think of five things I'm grateful for while flossing and brushing." This is an excellent exercise to think of ways to incorporate kindness (for others and yourself) into your daily routine.

If you come up with any clever ideas, please post it to social media with #explorethegood and #makekindnessthenorm to inspire others.

Thursday, February 18 - Care for Three

Visit www.careforthree.com and follow the in-

structions for creating three notes with a short personalized message. Decorate and personalize anyway you want.

We love the power of three. Put your notes out into the world for friends, family or strangers to receive. Let's remind someone that they are not alone and we are in this together!

Friday, February 19 - \$5 Dollar Difference

Take \$5 dollars (even a \$1 dollar will work) and within the next 24 hours make a difference with one or five dollars.

Saturday, February 20 - Reflection

At The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, we follow a simple kindness framework for everything we do. One of the last steps in that framework is to reflect on how kind acts affect others and yourself.

We are hopeful that thinking back to those good thoughts and feelings you experienced this week will lead to including kindness more in our daily lives.

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Covenant Corner

from Pastor Jeff Gooderham

There is no situation I can get into that God cannot get me out. A Baptist preacher once told this story; "Some years ago when I was learning to fly, my instructor told me to put the plane into a steep and extended dive. I was totally unprepared for what was about to happen. After a brief time, the engine stalled, and the plane began to plunge out-of-control. It soon became evident that the instructor was not going to help me at all. After a few seconds, which seemed like eternity, my mind began to function again. I quickly corrected the situation. Immediately I turned to the instructor and began to vent my fearful frustrations on him. He very calmly said to me, "There is no position you can get this airplane into that I cannot get you out of. If you want to learn to fly, go up there and do it again." At that moment God seemed to be saying to me, "Remember this. As you serve Me, there is no situation you can get yourself into that I cannot get you out of. If you trust me, you will be all right." That lesson has been proven true in my ministry many times over the years."

"Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go!" Joshua 1:9



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- Wednesday February 17th -

LASAGNA W/ GARLIC TOAST & CAESAR SALAD

- Thursday February 18th -

EXTREME COD

- Friday February 19th -

STEAK NIGHT

- Saturday February 20th -

ROASTED CHICKEN W/ ALL THE TRIMMINGS

Sunday February 21st

HAM & SCALLOPED POTATOES



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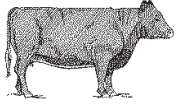


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Minerals Bagged & Bulk
Oster Clippers & Clipping Supplies
Ritchie Waterer & Parts
Rubber Buckets & Tubs
Salts-Blocks & Bagged
Sucker Rod Fence Posts
Tack & Hardware-large Variety
Watkins Household Products
Wrangler Jeans

Accidental Author

By Amissa Jablonski

At this time last year, local mom Pam Fouillard (nee Techer) never imagined she would be a published author with over 200 sales under her belt and with her work available worldwide.

Temporarily laid off in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pam found she had much more time on her hands. To fill this time, Mrs. Fouillard turned her attention to a box of childhood memories and notes that she had kept for her eldest son, Dakota, now 27. Throughout Dakota's childhood, Pam had written these notes with the intention of compiling them as a future gift and the pandemic was the perfect excuse to make this dream a reality. These words of love soon developed into what would eventually become 'Wally,' her now published children's book.

When Dakota was born, Pam and her husband, Dan, discovered that he had left hemiplegia cerebral palsy. This diagnosis meant that he would potentially have issues with movement, muscle weakness, and a number of other concerns. While some parents would have seen this as a struggle, Pam and Dan were determined not to let Dakota be limited by the diagnosis. The Fouillards never treated the cerebral palsy as a disability and Dakota thrived in this environment. For example, they enrolled Dakota in 4-H when he was old enough and he showed his approximately 1200-pound steer, just like his clubmates. He is now a Red Seal Journeyman Millwright and coming into his own in his adulthood.

As she moved into the March lockdown, Pam began building her story of what would become 'Wally'. She originally started crafting the book as a Christmas gift for Dakota and both his grandmothers. She connected with another Thorsby alumna, Jeanine Kuva (nee Brod),

who is well-known for her artistic talents, to illustrate the gift. Jeanine took the photos contained in the memory box and developed images based on them and Pam's notes to Dakota. It was these illustrations that really helped bring 'Wally' to life and Pam was grateful that Jeanine's talent helped her nail down the story she wished to tell. When the book was completed in November, Pam ordered four copies, one for each of the intended recipients and one for herself. She showed her copy to friends and family who then encouraged her to see if it was possible to publish it. With Dakota's permission, she began the process of publishing, eventually reaching a deal with Amazon.

While publication was never her intent when she began tucking away those notes and photos into the memory box, Pam is pleased with the final result. She hopes that anyone who reads 'Wally' is left with the messages that you cannot judge someone at face value and that you need to accept people for who they are. Now that she is a published author, she is not sure if she would seek to write another book; however, if she is inspired by the right story, she just might try!

'Wally' is available for purchase on Amazon, for loan at the Thorsby Municipal Library, and at numerous schools throughout the Black Gold School Division.





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• References Available •



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Pandemic day 485...



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Email it to media@community39.com
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Does anybody have a recipe for
"I don't know"?

or

"I don't care"?

It's what my family requested for supper and I can't seem to find any recipes.



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WINFIELD

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50.41 ACRES, gently sloping open & treed pasture. Bordered by Hwy 20 on west & RR35 on east. Dugout. Winfield

EVANSBURG

\$340,000
157.97 ACRES High gently rolling land. Cultivated grain land w/small tree grove along north boundary. Approx 7± acres not worked up.

DRAYTON VALLEY

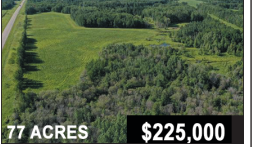
\$700,000
155 ACRES Nature's Haven- Towering spruce, mixed forest, rustic cabin, well, surrounded by miles of crown land. Fish pond.

WINFIELD

\$149,000
45 ACRES - 6.4 km to Hwy 13, gently rolling terrain, annual surface lease revenue. Land south of leases is fenced.

WINFIELD

\$225,000
58 ACRES Incredible natural spring. Land gently slopes from south to north. Mostly open pasture. Along Hwy 20

WINFIELD

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BUCK LAKE

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