

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

November 2009 • Volume 2, Number 11

In Moosomin: Bethlehem Live set for Nov. 27-28

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Preparations are underway for the third annual Bethlehem Live in Moosomin. The live, outdoor nativity—complete with live-

stock, stable, soldiers on horseback, and a very lively marketplace—is set for Friday and Saturday November 27 and 28.

Bethlehem Live got its start two years

ago after Moosomin's Marie Everett saw a similar presentation in Moose Jaw and decided it could be done in Moosomin as well. The production takes place in and around St. Alban's Anglican Church, but all local churches are involved. The leadership has been transferred between local churches each year. The first year most of the leadership roles were taken on by members of the Anglican Church, last year those positions transferred to mostly members of the Baptist Church, and this year most leadership positions have been taken on by members of the Catholic Church.

Bernie Nosterud has taken on the role of Bethlehem Live chair this year, a role she says is made easier with the help of a lot of strong committees.

"I was a little apprehensive at first, but the committees are just fabulous," she said. "I found out that the co-ordinating job isn't that hard when you've got good committees in place."

Nosterud has been involved in Bethlehem Live from the start. "It's been awesome and it's a lot of fun," she said. "It's a satisfying feeling to see that many people interested in putting the effort into it, and it's pretty awesome that all the churches can work together for a common goal. We're keeping the theme of the Christmas story alive."

Committees are rounding up actors, volunteers, and performers.

Bookings are being taken already, and Taylor Charters plans to bus people to the event from surrounding communities.

Nosterud says the planning is a lot easier the third time around.

"It's a lot easier after the first couple

of times," she said. "The first year all the costumes were made, last year all the sets were made, so it's a lot easier to pull it together this time."

The committee has discussed distributing donations raised through the event to the food bank and to other community needs, and will accept donations of non-perishable food items for the food bank at the event.

Visitors to Bethlehem Live enter the church, where they are assigned to a group and enjoy local entertainment while awaiting their tour.

A tour guide takes them outside where they run into beggars, soldiers, and a prophet. They enter the city gates and go through a chaotic marketplace before meeting the tax collector and the innkeeper. They end up at the manger scene, complete with livestock, where they see Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus, and hear a message from a local pastor or priest.

Many people who have taken the tour describe it as a moving experience. The event has been so popular the first two years that all tours have been filled.

Nosterud said she first became involved because she wanted to be part of bringing the Christmas story alive for people.

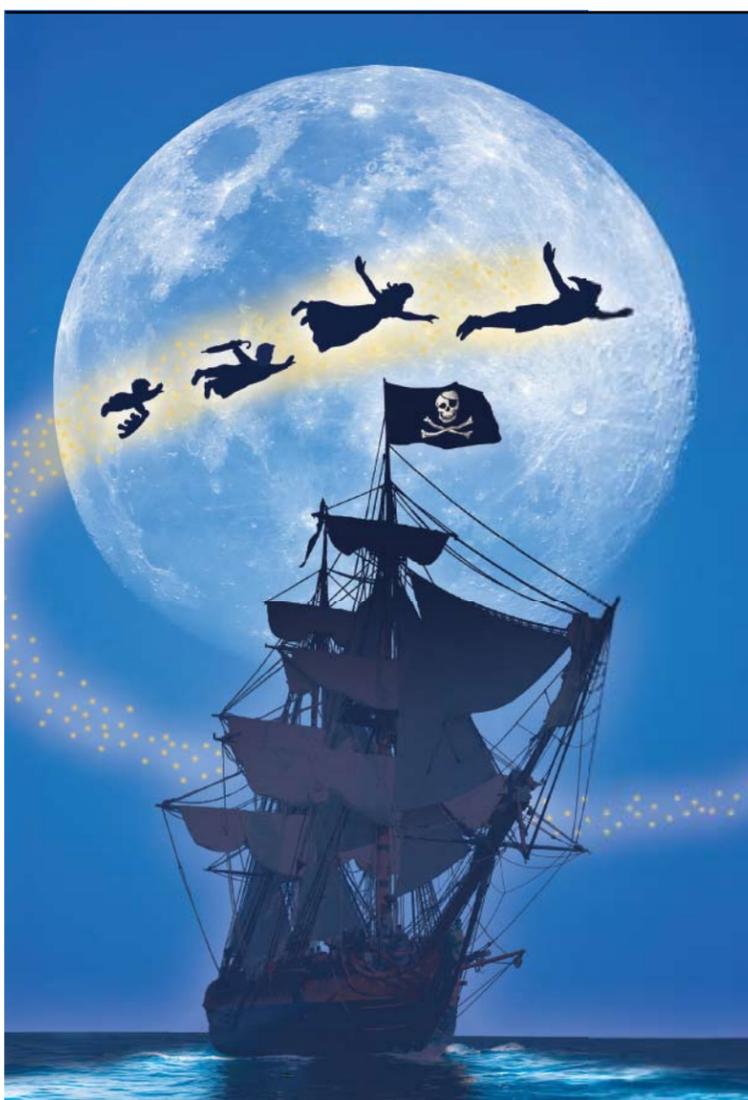
"I just thought that bringing the meaning of Christmas to the public—who may not know exactly what the Christmas story is—was really worthwhile," she said. "I think it's important."

The World-Spectator has designed a website for the event at world-spectator.com/bethlehemlive. More information on the event is available there.

The website includes options to volunteer or to book a tour.



A scene from a previous Bethlehem Live



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Way to go - so nice to have a paper that promotes rural communities.

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Concrete pour about to begin

The base of the headframe for the new PotashCorp Rocanville mine shaft being sunk northwest of Rocanville. The main concrete pour for the headframe will begin on Nov. 16 and will take about 14 days. Presently, crews are placing rebar and finishing up the slip form. AMC is the main contractor for the shaft and FWS, a company out of Winnipeg, is doing the main concrete pour. A satellite concrete plant has been set up near the site of the new shaft, but Crushrite Concrete in Moosomin will supply much of the concrete for the project. The new service will allow the current service shaft to be converted to a production shaft, allowing PotashCorp Rocanville to increase its production.

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McMillen enrolls as cadet with RCMP

RCMP "F" Division enrolled Esther McMillen as a cadet in the RCMP Cadet Training Program at the RCMP Academy in Regina. McMillen began her training Monday, Nov. 9.

McMillen graduated grade 12 in 1975, one year after 32 women made Canadian history when they began their training at the RCMP Academy in Regina. At the time of her graduation McMillen dreamed of becoming a Mountie, however, she says "I was encouraged to pursue a career more suited to traditional female vocations." McMillen later married, raised two sons and helped her husband complete his Engineering Degree.

In 2001 McMillen was hired as a Detachment

Clerk, serving at Esterhazy and Langenburg Detachments. Working with the organization and members she had long admired, the dream of one day wearing the red serge became stronger. McMillen made the decision to make her dream a reality and began the process of applying to become a regular member of the RCMP.

On Nov. 6 McMillen was joined by her friends, family and community and enrolled as a cadet in the RCMP Cadet Training Program.

McMillen says several mentors she worked with while Detachment Clerk attracted her to a policing career.

"I believe that the commitment RCMP members

have to helping and respecting each individual they come in contact with was a motivating factor during the months of preparation needed to apply for the RCMP," she said.

McMillen made several lifestyle changes to achieve her goal including losing weight, living a healthier lifestyle, exercising more frequently and having several sessions with a personal trainer. These steps helped her to achieve her fitness goals and will help her to meet the vigorous physical requirements of the Cadet

Training Program.

Inspector Gerry Gourlay was the Detachment Commander of Esterhazy Detachment and interviewed and engaged McMillen for the position of Detachment Clerk. He was immediately impressed with her and is proud to say that he brought such an outstanding individual into the RCMP family.

"McMillen's strong work ethic, excellent interpersonal skills and desire to take on new challenges are valuable skills she takes to Depot." Insp. Gourlay said.

"She demonstrates the core values of the RCMP as part of her daily routine both at work and in the community. These qualities will assist her with the challenges of the Cadet Training Program. I am very proud of Esther and wish her the very best in her dream of becoming Constable Esther McMillen."

Sgt. Lawrence Whiteman is the current Esterhazy Detachment Commander and believes that McMillen's knowledge of the RCMP and her outgoing personality are important assets she

will take with her to Depot. "I am impressed with her ability to balance her physical training with the demands of a full-time job," t. Whiteman said. "All of us at Esterhazy Detachment are extremely proud of Esther and wish her well with her training at Depot."

The RCMP has more than 27,000 employees and provides municipal and provincial policing services in eight provinces (excludes Ontario and Quebec) and all three territories as well as federal policing services across the country.



Upcoming Events

Nov. 17 - Winter Ceramic Classes Start
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20 - Adult Scrapbooking Crop \$7, 6 - 11 p.m.

21 - Adult Scrapbooking Crop \$13,
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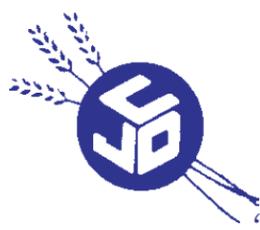
28 - Children's Christmas Ceramic Class
Under 8 years, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon, \$10
8-14 years, 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., \$15

Dec. 4 - Adult Scrapbooking Crop, 6 - 11 p.m. \$7
Free Paper Piecing Polar Bear Class

5 - Children's Card Making
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8-14 years, 1 - 3:30 p.m. \$12

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Rural shopping the focus of 'Women on Wheels'

BY CHRISTALEE FROESE

"Every woman who joins us will have the ride of their lives," say organizers of the upcoming Women on Wheels rural Christmas shopping tour.

Live music, food tasting, sales and door prizes in 12 rural stores and eateries will all be part of this shopping spree to Montmartre, Kipling and Carlyle's Dickens Village Festival on Saturday, Dec. 5.

A 56-passenger bus will transport Regina women to the three rural towns where they'll experience a Christmas shopping atmosphere that organizers promise will be fun and filled with rural hospitality. Women from throughout Southeast Saskatchewan are invited to join the tour with their own carloads of women, following the same route as the Women on Wheels bus.

"We have so many neat things in our rural communities, like handmade jewelry and locally designed purses, that are hidden little secrets," says Susan Sebastian, owner of Montmartre's Trackside Inn, one of 12 rural businesses which will be hosting the traveling Women on Wheels tour. "We're going to show the Women on Wheels shoppers that there's nothing like small-town hospitality to take the stress out of Christmas time."

In 2006, Renate Selinger of Montmartre initiated the first rural Christmas shopping tour by suggesting that a group of women visit several area towns to shop and support local retailers.

This year the tour is expected to include 100 or more women who will make their way to the 12 Women on Wheels rural stores. All traveling women are invited to cut out the Women on Wheels passport below and get it initialed at the 12 participating businesses to qualify for \$1,000 in gift certificates.

"I think when people think shopping, they assume they have to go to the city to get the things they want," says Nancy Matthewson, owner of Carlyle Home Hardware, another participating Women on Wheels business. "Many people don't



Women on Wheels store owners like Marie Anne Fournier of Sister's Boutique and Bistro in Montmartre (left) and Patty Cronan (centre) and Nicole Dusyk of Montmartre's Dragonfly Designs will welcome traveling shoppers to their stores on Dec. 5. The women are pictured here wearing some of the hats, belts, purses and jewelry that will be featured items along the Women on Wheels rural Christmas shopping tour.

realize that our rural stores have all kinds of unique Christmas decorations and gift items, and a lot of the time, things are cheaper here."

All 12 Women on Wheels stores are offering "extras" and specials for their visitors

on Saturday, Dec. 5.

"The Women on Wheels tour is an awesome opportunity to show off our stores and communities," says Ken King of King's Department Store in Carlyle. "We're just thrilled that the Women on Wheels tour

will be coming to our store and we're going to do everything we can to make it a memorable experience."

Montmartre business owners Marie Anne Fournier of Sisters' Boutique and Bistro, Jolene Dusyk of JoJo Beads Studio and Christalee Froese of West Words Communications are the main drivers behind this year's Women on Wheels rural Christmas shopping tour. They say that women who join the tour will have a great time, in addition to making connections with the people behind the Christmas gifts they'll purchase.

"I'm going to be demonstrating how I melt glass for the unique beads in my jewelry, so when someone buys one of my necklaces or earrings, they have a gift, but they also have a story about how it was made and who created it," says Jolene Dusyk of her signature line of JoJo Beads jewelry.

Marie Anne Fournier at Sisters' Boutique and Bistro, says that while people might assume their shopping choices will be limited in rural towns, the exact opposite is actually true.

"At our boutique, we've been able to attract top Canadian fashion designers, many of whom have chosen us as their only Saskatchewan retailer," says Fournier, adding that Sisters' Boutique also features purses, boots, jewelry and artwork that can't be found anywhere else in Saskatchewan. "Out in our rural communities, we know you're going to find something that is unlike anything that comes from a box store."

The tour bus will stop in Montmartre for shopping and lunch before traveling to Kipling and on to Carlyle for a supper buffet at the Office Bar and Grill or a Dickens-style meal of smoked turkey legs served up in Fezziwig's Pub by Carlyle's fire department.

"The Montmartre women have been coming to our store for three years now, and it's always just a blast to visit with them, share some of our new dips and drinks and, generally, just have a light-hearted shopping experience as a group of giddy women," says Kelly Fonagy, owner of Kipling's More Than Just Flowers gift store.

WOMEN ON WHEELS

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WOMEN ON WHEELS PASSPORT

DRIVE AS A GROUP

- 9 a.m. - Meet at Sisters' Bistro in Montmartre on Sat., Dec. 5 for lattes/breakfast, car pooling and the Women on Wheels driving route.

BUS SCHEDULE (From Regina)
SATURDAY, DEC. 5

- 9 a.m. - Bus ticket holders board chartered bus at Victoria Square Mall, Regina
- 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Shopping & Lunch in Montmartre
- 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. - Shop in Kipling
- 5 - 8 p.m. - Shop in Carlyle
- 6 p.m. - Lighted Parade
- 6:30 p.m. - Supper in Carlyle
- 8 p.m. - Depart Carlyle
- 10:30 p.m. - Regina

Cut out this passport & get it initialed at all 12 Women on Wheels stores for a chance to win \$1,000 in gift certificates. Drop completed passports off at any participating store by 8 p.m. on Dec. 5.

Name: _____
Ph: _____
Email: _____

MONTMARTRE (Highway #48, 50 min. East of Regina)

- Dragonfly Designs: 424-7615
- JoJo Beads: 424-2941
- Sisters' Boutique and Bistro: 424-2835
- Trackside Inn: 424-2122

KIPLING (Highway #48, 1.45 hrs East of Regina)

- Balfour Drugs: 736-2242
- Kipling Pharmasave: 736-2810
- More Than Just Flowers: 736-8332

CARLYLE (Highway #13, 2.15 hrs SE of Regina)

- Carlyle Home Hardware: 453-2242
- Carlyle Pharmasave: 453-4466
- King's Department Store: 453-6337
- The Office Bar & Grill: 453-2044
- The Pearl Boutique: 453-4488

The fascination of fire

My wife and I are considering updating our old house's fireplace with a gas-fireplace insert, since we never burn wood in the former and the latter would help heat the chilly living room.

But thinking about it has also made me think about the appeal of fire . . . and in turn has led me back to a column on fire I wrote in my early days of science writing, which is where most of what follows comes from (and which itself was an update of a Fire Prevention Week feature I wrote for the *Weyburn Review* more than 20 years ago now).

As you can see, I've been fascinated by fire for a while. But I'm not alone.

And I suspect I was also not alone in not really knowing what fire was, aside from something that cast light and burned you if it touched you.

Our ancestors certainly didn't understand it, which is why they made fire central to myth, magic and religion. Many myths speak of a time when humans suffered because they couldn't warm themselves, then give some account of how fire was discovered—or, as the myth of Prometheus has it, was given to humans by a god (although it didn't end well for poor old Prometheus, chained to a mountain by Zeus to serve as an endless eagle buffet).

Many other deities have also been associated with fire: Agni, a Vedic god, protected his people against darkness; Baal, the Biblically infamous god of Phoenicia, demanded human sacrifices in fire; the Romans had Vulcan (hence the term "vulcanize") and the Aztecs had Xuihtecutle. (Gesundheit!)

Fire has been viewed as having cleansing qualities, as a representative of the eternal spirit—and, of course, as a



Edward Willett

means of eternal punishment.

During the Middle Ages the four basic elements were considered to be fire, earth, air and water. Fire played a prominent role in the erroneous but catchily titled "phlogiston" theory of matter; but on the positive side, experiments with combustion finally led to the first table of atomic weights and the modern science of chemistry. In 1708 Sir Benjamin Thompson's experiments with burning revealed evidence of heat as movement of particles, which led to the kinetic theory of gases and the laws of thermodynamics, the theoretical basis of the Industrial Revolution.

But despite all this, the details of flames themselves are still something of a mystery.

Dr. Norman Chigier, an Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, has defined flame as "a rapid gas-phase exothermic combustion process characterized by self-propagation."

Uh . . . thanks. I guess.

You might prefer this encyclopedia definition: "A clearly defined region that usually emits heat and light and in which combustion or oxidation reactions involving gases occur."

A flame consists of a layer of hot gas surrounding a tapering column of cool, unburned gas (the dark area immediately around the wick in a candle flame). In the brightest part of the flame, still-unburned carbon particles emit light. In the outermost layer the carbon burns, too, resulting in less light but more heat.

A typical flame is around 1,230 to 1,530 degrees Celsius. It forms an upright tongue hot gas rises and because the air above it expands as it is heated, creating a partial vacuum over the flame.

Ash, soot and smoke are all unburned parts of the original fuel. Ash is made of minerals in the fuel that will not burn. Soot is unburned carbon, a result of there not being enough oxygen available to burn all the fuel, and smoke is basically soot suspended in mid air.

To form, fire needs fuel, heat and oxygen. Different fuels kindle at different temperature—paper at 232 degrees Celsius, wood at 190 to 266, cotton at 266, wood alcohol at 464 and natural gas at 482 to 632—but once a flame forms, it's hot enough to kindle almost anything, which is why fires keep going until they run out of fuel or oxygen—the flame provides its own heat for combustion (hence, "self-propagation").

Powerful destroyer and valuable tool, fire continues to fascinate. There have even been songs written about it—but it's probably a good thing Dr. Chigier didn't write them.

"Chestnuts roasting on an open rapid gas-phase exothermic combustion process characterized by self-propagation," I'm afraid, would never have been a Christmas classic.

Edward Willett is a freelance writer in Regina, Saskatchewan.

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A little help on the farm

I have a friend who's come up to help us. Lord knows, we need help. Keith and I weren't sure how we were going to manage everything this year; we are renovating our home in Fleming around our family of six (six humans; if you choose to take into account the quadrupeds, there are currently 12 beings eking out a living amidst the drywalling, wallpapering, painting, tiling and cabinetwork work taking place in our old-fashioned three bedroom dwelling), gutting the farmhouse, becoming novice cattle ranchers, and trying to avoid the flu. Since we have failed in our last objective, the first three are certainly suffering.

Fortunately for our family, a long-time friend of mine was willing to winter at the farm this year with his dogs. He has been welding up broken gates, replacing chewed wire, and killing spiders. His presence has provided us with some breathing room, and relieved my mind particularly of the concern that the roads might be too bad for us to get out there when the calves start coming in January. At least someone will be there.

Keith and I have been living here for almost two years. Sometimes I find myself at a function, and someone asks me where I'm from. I feel guilty whenever I toss off a casual "Fleming!" The careful looks I get let me know I haven't quite pulled it off. So I am compelled to add, "Well, we moved to Fleming from Southern BC about two years ago." "Ahhh!" people say, nodding to themselves in satisfaction. Sometimes a lady will exclaim, "I moved from Alberta 10 years ago; I'm not from here either!" I wonder when, exactly, you get to be "from" here.

If you ask my friend where he's from, he'll answer with a jovial "Western Canada!" Now, I don't know exactly what that means either, but he did arrive here via Edmonton, Fort St. John, Dunster, and McBride, so it is an accurate answer. He's certainly been noticed around town. I was supposed to meet him at the library a couple of weeks ago and didn't see him when I walked in. "Have you seen my friend?" I asked the lady at the desk. She looked at me quizzically. "The guy with the hair," I elaborated, and her face cleared in instant recognition. Our piano teacher met him in passing as she came to dole out her weekly pearls of instrumental instruction. As soon as he was out of earshot, she looked at me levelly and said, "Well, he's not from here, now is he?"

I guess not.



Monique McKay

I have to admit, he's managed to set me back on my heels once or twice. He has a history of working with horses and cattle, and I think it was that prospect that enticed him out here. Admittedly, I have been slow to get close to our cows. I approach dealing with cows the same way I approach riding a motorcycle; I temper my confidence with respect and aim for the most ideal conditions possible. My friend builds his own motorcycles from scrap and test drives them over obstacles he has built out of other scrap. So maybe I shouldn't have been surprised when I came out to the farm last week and found him kneeling on the grass, surrounded by cattle like some kind of cow whisperer. In fact, I wasn't surprised at all. He does have a certain way with animals and many people are impressed with how well trained his dog is. This dog has such a remarkable personality that a former girlfriend once sighed, looked directly into my friend's eyes, and confided, "You know, I'm never going to forget your dog." But when he stood up, walked over the bull, and casually started picking burrs out of his creamy, matted hair, I stopped dead in my tracks. "Don't worry!" he called out, "He likes me!"

Right. This was a very interesting moment for me. I could feel the look on my face; it was a cross between bemusement, skepticism, and tinged with incredulous disbelief. Thoughts like "What is wrong with that boy?" flashed through my mind. I know exactly what my face looked like, because someone looked like that at me just the other day. It's a look us folk from "Western Canada" catch from the folk "from here" every now and again.

Keith and I have been running back and forth on the back roads quite a bit this past week, trying to ready the farmhouse for winter. We were making yet another trip to town when we saw this beleaguered pup running down the road at full trot with a worried look on her face. To our knowledge, there was no one living out in that area, and we had never seen a person or a dog out on

those roads, other than the locals tending their cattle. We hadn't seen anyone that day; could she have possibly been left behind by mistake? Keith pulled over, and I walked around the Jeep. Sure enough, the stocky little hound ran over, crying like she never thought she'd see another human being as long she'd live, and wriggled around on her back like a turtle that couldn't right herself. This dog was definitely lost.

She eagerly accepted my invitation into the Jeep, and propped her fat paws on the dash like she was born to it. Magnum, our 100 pound Bernese Mountain Dog, was eager to make friends. She wasn't. We realized it was Saturday afternoon, and we had no idea what to do with her. There was no way we could take her home; my mother, who was visiting for a week, had about had enough of my animal hoarding and wouldn't tolerate another addition. The vet was closed. As our options narrowed, I looked at the grinning beast in increasing bewilderment. She was shedding all over me. I was petting her back when two fleas crawled out of her fur and up my hand. I was beginning to regret my humanitarian act.

Keith and I agreed that we would stop at the next farm and ask whether or not they knew the dog. It was a couple of miles away, which I spent trying to keep the hound, Magnum, and the fleas in their separate corners. We met the farmer as he was headed out the drive in his pick-up truck.

"Excuse me!" I called cheerfully (as cheerfully as I could manage) from the passenger seat as Keith rolled down the window, "Do you know this dog?" The man stared at us. "Yes," he said slowly. "I think it's lost," I tried to explain. Keith cut in and told him where we had found the dog, running in lonely confusion down the road. "Uh-huh," answered the farmer. Silence for a second, which seemed like an eternity. "It's my nephew's dog. She is often on the road." Turns out we had scooped the pup maybe 20 feet from a driveway we had never noticed. She was probably going home.

I bet you can guess which look we got. Well, we turned around and put her back. I was too ashamed to drive her all the way into her yard, since she obviously knew where she was and what she was doing.

Now I have to wonder what people are thinking when we drive up. I can imagine someone leaning over to their significant other, and whispering under their breath as we make our way up the walk. "They're nice enough people, but keep your eye on the dog." And maybe the bull.

Monique McKay lives in Fleming, Sask.

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Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Everyone deserves a home:

Special families needed for special needs children

BY MONIQUE MCKAY

Some weeks ago I received a phone call from a harried-sounding social worker. "Look," she said, "there's just no way I can continue with your home study."

My husband Keith and I had applied to adopt a child with special needs.

"Your children are so young," she continued, sounding flustered, "You've only been married for two years. You've moved in the past two years and you're changing residences again. You're self-employed . . . it's just . . . our children right now are so high need."

Ironically, I found myself comforting her. "No, it's all right." I assured her, "We understand. Thank you. Good-bye."

I had been cleaning the bathroom when the phone rang, and as I held the dead receiver in my hand our home was uncommonly silent for a moment. Our eleven month old baby was sleeping. Our elder sons, six, four, and two, were contentedly building with Lego in the next room. I waited for the grief to come. Surprisingly, what I felt most was resignation, acceptance, and maybe a tiny, guilty sliver of relief.

The only people who had been supportive of our application were other adoptive parents. Our friends told us we were crazy, just asking for trouble we didn't need. My mother worried, while Keith's parents shook their heads. Even girlfriends of mine raising children of their own with special needs, from whom we had anticipated the greatest support, told us we didn't know what we were getting into, and that if we had any sense at all we would raise the healthy children we'd been blessed with and be content.

Other adoptive parents, however, shared the few steps we got to take on the journey with joy, strength, and their stories. They recommended books and dispelled myths. They provided advice and encouragement, and when they learned that our adoption was unsuccessful, they urged us to keep trying.

Saskatchewan's current Director of Adoption, Janice Krumenacker, has been on the front lines since the early nineties.

She has seen drastic policy changes take place as pressures on the Ministry of Children and Families and the children in their care continue to intensify. There are currently approximately 100 children on the registry—children for whom an adoption plan has been formulated. A profile of their ideal family has been created, and they are waiting for these families to step forward.

Although there is a diversity of children waiting for homes, the 'average' child waiting for a permanent home in Saskatchewan is of First Nations descent, between the ages of four and seven, part of a sibling group, and striving to cope with a range of special needs.

A policy that was in place between 1992 and 2004 ensured that no First Nations child could be adopted out without the written consent of their band chief. Now the children on the registry are between seventy and eighty percent First Nations. "Hopefully, a decade from now, things will be different," says Krumenacker.

That policy is no longer in place. Previously, between 25 and 35 children were adopted annually. Thus far, in 2008 over 60 children have been adopted through the industry.

"We know what the mistakes of the past were," Krumenacker continues, "We try to build in safeguards, to provide the children with a cultural identity, with their ex-

"If you're going into adoption because you need a baby, it's the wrong reason. It's about the child needing a family. The first illusion to go? The best day of your life is the worst day of theirs."

—Jennifer Nickel



Tanner, 12, Gregory, 14, Caden, 8, and Eric, 13, (from top, clockwise) are brothers growing up together in a small northern town; their parents are also fostering two infant First Nations sisters.

tended family and their cultural family."

The greatest advantage to adopting through the Ministry of Children and Families is generally considered to be the short waiting time. Indeed, Keith and I found this to be true. We had specified that we would be able to adopt only an infant younger than our youngest child, so a baby under twelve months. Since infants, even infants with special needs, are generally in high demand, we expected to wait at least a year for our home study. We were released for home study in less than six weeks.

"We really want to strongly encourage people to have a discussion," says Krumenacker, "Especially those who plan to adopt internationally. We have children."

The most common challenges facing children waiting for their families may include FASD and pre-natal exposure to other substances, developmental delay, and speech delay. Attachment is often described as the greatest test faced by adoptive parents and their children, and parenting a multi-ethnic family might intimidate some. We will now consider each of these issues in brief; anyone seriously considering adoption must conduct a deeper examination of these important topics.

FASD describes a spectrum of permanent birth disorders caused by a birth mother consuming alcohol during pregnancy. Often with children awaiting adoption there is no way to absolutely guarantee that the child was not prenatally exposed to substances, so their profile may read 'possible pre-natal exposure'.

Disorders within the FASD spectrum may be evidenced by growth deficiency or certain facial characteristics. FASD causes central nervous system damage, and there is no cure. Children coping with FASD

will become adults coping with FASD, and some of the trials they face may include difficulty with numbers and money handling, having a hard time thinking things through clearly or understanding the consequences of their actions, learning from experience, or retaining knowledge over a period of time. The damage done to their brain in the womb will ensure they will have difficulty learning and controlling their own behavior throughout their lives.

Developmental or intellectual delay describes lifelong physical or mental disabilities that have manifested in a person prior to the age of eighteen. They may be caused by maternal substance abuse, neglect, abuse, extremely premature birth, or as part of an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Often, 'challenging behaviors' may be displayed by a child striving to cope with developmental delay. These behaviors may include self-injurious behavior, aggression, inappropriate sexual behavior, destructiveness, or stereotyped behavior (repetitive rocking or elective incontinence). 'Challenging behavior' is learned, and is generally considered to be a response to a 'challenging environment', one that is not meeting the unique needs of the child. Patience, love, and support can help adoptive families overcome these behaviors and teach their child new, appropriate, rewarding behaviors. The path to learning can be long, frustrating, and rocky, but the victories are sweet.

Speech and language delays are separate conditions. Speech delay is when a child is facing challenges with the actual process of making sounds. Language delay is when a child is struggling with the use of or knowledge of language. Challenges may include stuttering, cluttering, slurring, unintelligible speech, or an in-

ability or unwillingness to speak. Speech and language delays may be attributed to physical, neurological, or emotional problems. There are a myriad of tools and resources available to parents coping with children with these kinds of delays, from surgery to sign language to speech therapy, and in many cases diligent effort will be rewarded.

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges faced by parents and children alike in an adoptive situation is that of attachment. Often adoptive families will speak of bonding, when what they are really talking about is attachment. Bonding takes place between a mother and her unborn child in utero, and continues through the birthing process and the first few days of life. Attachment takes place primarily between family members and is a longer, more involved process requiring a greater investment of time and energy.

I learned a great deal about attachment from Jennifer Nickel, a young mother I met at a music festival this summer. She was wearing a worn black t-shirt that read 'Spread your wings and fly', which was barely visible because there was a tiny, black-eyed baby tied to her body with a sling. Jen and her husband parent their two adopted sons, two biological sons, and two foster daughters in a small northern town.

Since adolescence, she has known she would adopt. She traveled to Haiti when she was seventeen, and spent time at an orphanage. "I had no idea that people lived like that, without a family," she remembers.

"You have to remember that your greatest joy is their greatest loss," she advises parents considering adoption. "That child has lost everything they know; their family." Although a family is not intact, is not functioning, and is not safe, even infants are bonded with the sounds, sights, and smells of their biological home. A child adopted at birth will miss the familiar sounds he or she heard in the womb. "You need to be able to recognize grieving and loss in a child," Jen explains.

"If you're going into adoption because you need a baby, it's the wrong reason. It's about the child needing a family. The first illusion to go? The best day of your life is the worst day of theirs."

Jen's words sound harsh and hopeless, but as I watched her manage her sprawling young family over the weekend, I noticed that her family was neither. She had recently had two young children—sisters—placed into her care.

The tiny baby was placid and seemed content, and the toddler was quiet and obedient. Jen explained to me that this was because neither child was attached to anyone; they felt no loss or regret if Jen left them in the momentary care of another, and they didn't worry whether or not she would come back. These children were in cope mode, dealing with their lives basically emotionally and socially isolated from that which was going on around them.

"I recommend seclusion parenting for at least six weeks," Jen suggests to new adoptive parents. With an infant, no one but the mom and dad should feed or comfort the child, regardless of how eager grandparents and aunts might be to welcome the new addition to the family. Even with older children, "You have to teach them 'mommy' is more than just a word. You're not the mom she wants. You have to prove you're there for the long haul."

Continued on page 14

Adoption about empowerment for children, parents

Continued from page 13

Interestingly, signs of distress on the part of the child indicate that attachment is taking place. When the baby will only go to sleep in your arms, finally starts to 'make strange' with people she doesn't know, and cries when you leave, you know that this child has begun to trust and rely upon you, and becoming attached to you as a member of her family. With older children, this can be a longer and harder road, and even with young children, attachment issues may come up again years after the adoption has

been finalized.

Jen's family consists of white children, black children, and First Nations children. "You lose all sense of invisibility in a small town," she says,

"There are lots of questions for the first six months, then everybody knows your story." She continues, "I don't consider myself the white mom of a minority family; I am part of a minority family. Our home is reflective of our adopted family; the music, the art on our walls, the books we read, are all reflective of African and First Nations cultures. We foster

relations with a people from different cultural and racial backgrounds. Our children have relationships with adults who understand their reality. I can't understand what it's like to be a black man in Canada, but other black men can. We can't protect our kids from racism, so have to empower them to deal with it."

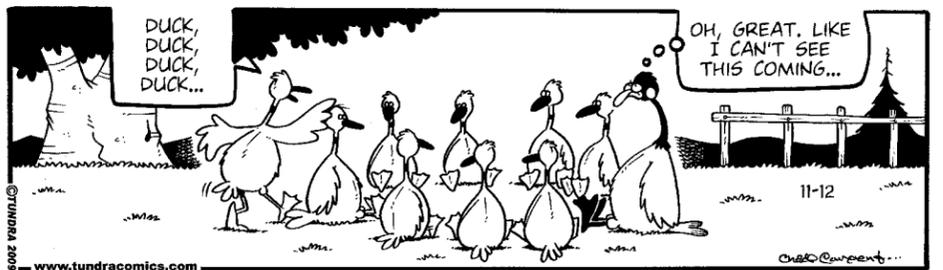
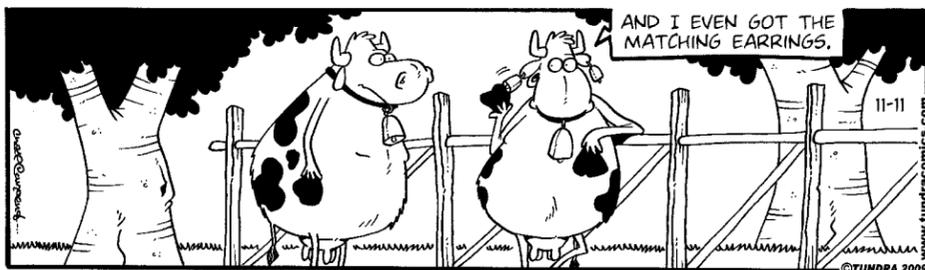
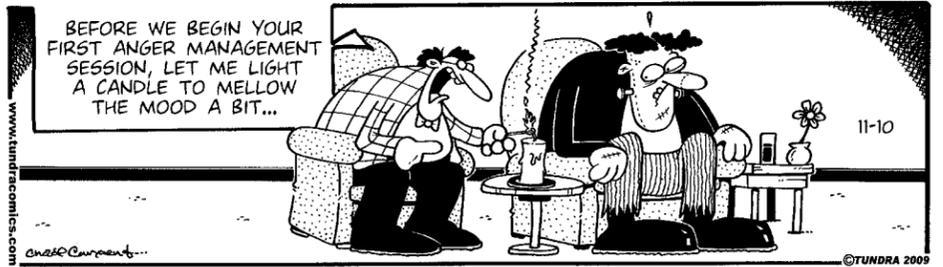
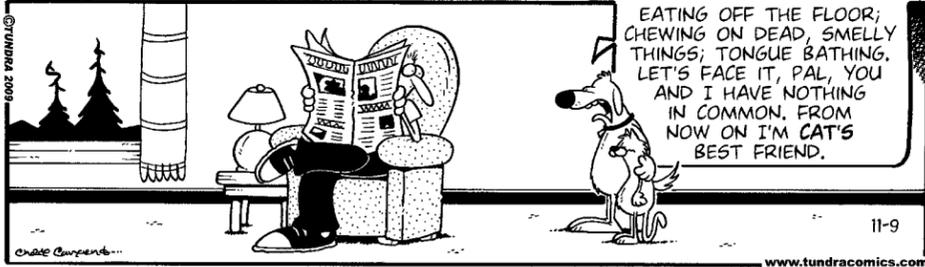
Indeed, adoption seems very much about empowerment; for the parents and the children involved. As we have seen, there is a great local need for families who can step forward and help these youth successfully meet the challenges

they are facing. There are many success stories, but there are many stories of heartbreak too. As my family's adoption experience demonstrates, it takes more than a willing heart. But that's where it starts.

Read Jennifer Nickel's blog at anickelsworthofcommonsense.blogspot.com for more first-hand adoption experiences and information, or contact the Ministry of Children and Families at (306) 787-5698 if you would like to learn more about adoption opportunities in our area.

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October land sale generates \$32.4 million

The October sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights has brought in \$32.4 million in revenue for the province, the largest sale of the year. Total revenue from land sales for the 2009 calendar year now stands at \$83.2 million.

"This shows we continue to be on the right track," Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd said. "Revenue from the October sale is over double that received from the August sale. This is a clear message from industry that Saskatchewan con-

tinues to be an attractive place to invest."

October's sale included three petroleum and natural gas exploration licenses that sold for \$3.8 million and 273 lease parcels that attracted \$28.6 million in bonus bids.

The Lloydminster area

received the most bids with sales of \$13.3 million. The Weyburn-Estevan area was next at \$12.1 million, followed by the Kindersley-Kerrobert area with bonus bids totalling \$4.6 million and the Swift Current area at \$2.4 million.

The highest price paid for a single lease parcel was \$3 million. Windfall Resources Ltd. acquired this 57.47-hectare lease parcel, located 42 kilometers east of Weyburn. This parcel also had the highest price on a per-hectare basis at \$52,847.

The average price per hectare in Saskatchewan's October sale was \$524. The average per hectare price in the most recent Alberta sale was \$273.

The next sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas dispositions will be held on December 7, 2009.

Consumers may not feel pinch of higher tolls

The cost of transporting natural gas eastward from Alberta is expected to rise significantly next year for producers, but that does not necessarily mean consumers will notice a difference on their home-heating bills.

"It would be a reasonable expectation that if shippers and the energy companies are paying more, they'll probably try and recoup those costs through the consumer," said Tara O'Donovan, a spokeswoman for the National Energy Board, the federal regulator tasked with approving pipeline tolls.

"But depending on the scenario involved, it's not always the case."

Natural gas is the predominant home-heating fuel throughout most of Canada, though some parts of the Maritimes still rely on heating oil.

TransCanada Corp ships about nine billion cubic feet of natural gas per day

along its Mainline system, which stretches more than 14,000 kilometres from Alberta to the Quebec-Vermont border.

The Calgary-based company charges producers a toll for every unit of natural gas that passes through the pipeline.

That cost is currently \$1.19 per gigajoule, but TransCanada warns that in 2010 that price could rise to between \$1.65 and \$1.90 per gigajoule.

TransCanada has not hammered out a final price yet, but is in discussions with its customers, who will no doubt feel the pinch.

What's less clear-cut is to what extent the increase will trickle its way down to the other end of the chain, where distributors purchase natural gas and then sell it to consumers.

A lot depends on what

sort of contract a shipper has with the natural gas distributor at the other end, said O'Donovan.

"If there's a fixed price contract in place, then transportation costs may not impact the cost that the consumer pays," she said.

TransCanada is raising its tolls because the volumes of natural gas being fed into the system have dropped more than expected this year, and are expected to keep dropping next year.

Hit by dismal commodity prices and a generally bleak economic environment, many companies have curbed production until it makes economic sense to start drilling again.

"Production in Western Canada is down by about one billion to 1.5 billion cubic feet a day year over year. As a result, our 2010

tolls will rise considerably," TransCanada chief operating officer Russ Girling told analysts recently.

"We'll deal with that in our negotiations with our shippers. We'll try to mitigate it as much as possible."

One possibility is spreading the increased cost over a number of years rather than unleashing it on producers in one fell swoop.

TransCanada said the lower volumes, and the resulting higher tolls, will likely be a short-term phenomenon, as natural gas is expected to start flowing out of emerging shale gas plays in northeastern British Columbia over the next few years.

"We see that gas volume coming on and, I guess, offsetting the decline of conventional here in Alberta sometime in . . . 2011," said Girling.

Alberta's natural gas production has been dropping between eight and 10 per cent per year over the past few years, said Gary Leach, president of the Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada.

"We've been waiting for the shoe to drop. It's something that certainly we were aware was a possibility," he said. "It's not un-

expected, but it's unhappy news."

The vast majority of companies that Leach's group represents are geared toward natural gas.

"The proposed increase in the tolls is quite significant and of course, at a time when producers are fighting to hang on to profit margins, . . . it's going to be very challenging," he said.

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Sask crop insurance deadline extended

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance (SCIC) recognizes there is a significant amount of crop left out in the field and will extend the deadline for 2009 claims and extension requests from November 15 to December 1.

"When the weather doesn't cooperate with crop insurance deadlines, farmers deserve an extension," Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said. "Right now farmers

are focused on getting the crop off and that is why we are working with the Saskatchewan Government to make sure the paperwork can wait."

"Because of difficult conditions and the limited progress of harvest in October, we have extended the deadline to register claims and insurance extensions," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornerud said. "This will give producers cov-

erage as they work to get their crops off the field."

If producers believe they are in a claim position and still have crops in the field approaching the extended December 1 deadline, they should contact Crop Insurance to register a claim and an insurance extension. This will provide producers with compensation for their losses and ensure coverage for potential damages over winter.

Crops unable to be harvested until spring are also eligible for 100 per cent wildlife damage compensation. There are no producer premiums

and producers do not require a crop insurance contract to receive this compensation.

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1997	NH	TX66	Chopper, pu	\$64,500 Reduced to!!	\$52,000
1994	MF	8570	Chopper, cs, swathmaster pu, hopper ext.		\$48,000
1989	Caselh	1680	Chopper, spreaders, swathmaster		\$34,500
1986	Gleaner	R50	PU, header		\$22,500
				COMBINE HEADERS	
1994	MF	9700	30' PUR		\$11,000
1987	Gleaner	330	30', batt & air reel		\$7,500
1994	Gleaner	400	25', PUR		\$9,500
1996	MacDon	960	25', PUR		\$13,500
1996	NH	973	30', flex, PUR		\$12,500
				HAY TOOLS	
2002	Hesston	856A	5x6, full auto Mesh		\$22,900
2001	Hesston	856A	5x6, Full Auto		\$19,900
1999	Hesston	565A	5x6		\$13,900
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2000	MF	220 II	30', p/u reel, gauge wheels, sch drive		\$48,500
1999	MF	220 II	26' DS, PU reel, sch drive		\$46,500
				TRACTORS	
1984	Steiger	CM325	325hp, duals, Atom Jet Hyd Kit		\$34,500
1983	MF	4880	300hp, duals, pto		\$23,900
1989	Deutz Allis	9130	135hp, fwa, 18 sp ps		COMING
1996	NH	8240	96hp, fwa, loader/grapple		COMING
2009	VERS	435	435hp, HD axle, 800/65R38 Michelin drum duals, deluxe cab, 46 hrs		HARVEST SPECIAL SOLD
2009	VERS	2375	375hp, HD axle, 520/85R42 duals, full weight pkg, 30 hrs		
2008	MF	6480	145hp, power shuttle, loaded		FALL SPECIAL
2008	MF	5475	135hp, power shuttle, loaded		SPECIAL PRICING
				COMPACT TRACTORS/LAWN & GARDEN	
2001	MF	1225	24hp, diesel, fwa, hydro, ldr, mower, snowblower		\$18,900
2008	MF	RT470	3pt, 48" rototiller		\$1,900
				SEEDING & TILLAGE - NEW	
				Seed Hawk pre-sell program on now - call for details	
2009	SEED HAWK	600	56" w/12" spacing, 600 bu cart, VR, 10" loading auger, Demo		SPECIAL PRICING
2009	EZEE ON	1225	15', 26" x 3/8" blades		FALL SPECIAL
2009	EZEE ON	6650	32', tandem disk, 26" blades		FALL SPECIAL
				MISCELLANEOUS	
2005	Spray Air	4371	13"x71' swing auger, hopper mover, mint		\$16,500
2009	Sakundiak	HD8-1200	8"x39' transfer auger, belt drive		CALL
2009	Farm King	6640 (Conveyair)	grain vac,		CALL
2007	Rite Way		draper header transport		\$2,900
	Universal Harvester		24' pur		\$5,000
	ALO		loader mounts for MF 6200 series		\$2,500

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8.12c

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10.2c



The Alameda Royals. Back row: Coach Brent Dunnigan, Janae Annetts, Amanda Nixon, Brit-tany Fisk, Danielle Gibson, Breanne Fitzpatrick, Bridget Bjorndalen, Annessa Hannem, Amanda Hannem, and Coach Dale Nixon. Front row: Katie Cameron, Kailey Dunnigan, Meagan Hamilton, Tanisha McKinnon, Shelby Dunnigan.

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11.2c

Alameda Royals compete in Phoenix tournament

On Halloween week-end the Alameda Royals Bantam Girls' Softball team travelled to Phoenix, Ariz., to play in the Ron Bouldin Memorial tournament sponsored by the Amateur Softball Association of America. The teams in the tournament were elite teams from the city of Phoenix which play together 11 months of the year. The girls from southeastern Saskatchewan, representing Alameda, Arcola, Carnduff, Estevan and Moosomin, held their own. The Royals won a pool

game and hung through the early innings against the events runner-up before falling Sunday morning to the Scottsdale Fever. The girls got in an extra practice game against the Scottsdale McCord Friday night under the lights at the Rose Mofford Softball Complex before the tournament. This helped get out the travel jitters, as the team had not played an actual game since Sept. 9. They were supposed to get another game with the state champions (Arizona Hot Shots) Thursday be-

fore the tournament, but the Royals were late getting into town because of weather delays in Denver and being rerouted through Las Vegas. The coach had a surprise for the girls on Halloween night at a waterslide park complete with haunted houses. Joe Lane, commissioner for the tournament, made the team feel welcome and set up an opportunity for the Royals to tour the softball facility at Arizona State University, home of the 2008 national champions. The girls met players

from the university team and head coach Clint Myers. They also heard what it takes to be a softball player of that level. In summary the girls played five games of softball, and comments from the officials and fellow coaches were that the Royals were very sportsmanlike, courteous and should be proud of the way they played. The players, parents and coaches had an awesome softball and travelling experience that will be remembered for a lifetime.



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Wednesday, Nov. 18 Last Chance Presort Feeder Sale 10:00 a.m.	Friday, Dec. 11 Spring Creek & Guest Simmental Sale 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 24 Sheep & Horse Sale 12 noon	Monday, Dec. 14 Bred Cow Sale 1:00 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 27 Bred Cow Sale 11:00 a.m.	Friday, Dec. 18 MountainView Angus Production Sale 1:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 30 Bred Cow Sale 1:00 p.m.	Monday, Dec. 21 Murray Farms Inc. Dispersal 1:00 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4 Bred Cow Sale 11:00 a.m.	Butcher Sale every Monday 9:00 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 7 Bred Cow Sale 1:00 p.m.	Regular Feeder Sale every Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

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