

STAY POSTED

Inside this week:



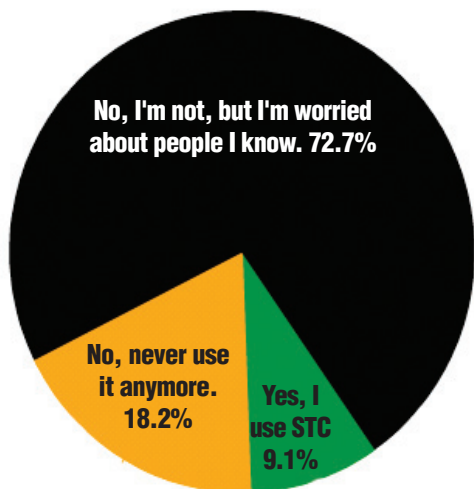
A big week for Adam Lowry signing his first NHL contract. He is in the AHL with St. John's. He joined Swift Current Broncos' alumni Jason Jaffray (above). See Page 21.

What to do this week:

April 19-21-Medicine Hat: Broncs and Honky Tonks Spring Indoor Pro Rodeo and Round-Uptrade Show. At the Stampede Grounds Cypress Centre Fieldhouse & Pavilion (2055 21 Ave. SE). Goes: Friday-Saturday (7 p.m.) and Sunday (1:30 p.m.)

What you thought last week:

We asked this week: Are you worried about flooding in your part of the world?



Next week: Are you looking forward to Swift Current's market square this year?

Look for the new poll question every Thursday on: www.prairiepost.com

Here's what we featured online this week:

Mountain View School hits a bull's-eye with Westwind Division's only archery program

Written by Westwind School Division

It's only just weeks old, but Mountain View School is confident it has hit the bull's-eye with Westwind's only archery program.



Written on Friday, 12 April 2013 10:21 in Alberta News Be the first to comment! [Read more...](#)

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Photos courtesy of Dominique Liboiron

Dominique Liboiron's canoe trip also included a stop in Memphis Tennessee. Below, after leaving the Cypress Hills, the Frenchman meanders for hundreds of river miles until it pours into the Milk River (on the right) near the town of Saco, Montana.

5,000-km trek from Eastend to New Orleans only a small part of Medicine Hat man's story

Hosting a presentation at Medicine Hat Library April 23

BY RYAN DAHLMAN — rdahlman@prairiepost.com

Medicine Hat resident Dominique Liboiron has an interesting story to tell, but it's not necessarily the one you would think.

Liboiron made a trek via canoe to New Orleans in memory of his uncle Michel Hamon who had passed away via complications of heart and cardiovascular issues at the age of 42.

Liboiron will talk about his epic canoe voyage which began in the Frenchman River near Eastend in June 2012. From there, he worked his way southeast down to the Milk River in Montana until eventually joining the Missouri River for 3,300 miles until it connected with the Mississippi River near St. Louis. From there he went to New Orleans to spread his uncle's cremated ashes. In all, Liboiron travelled a total of 5,000 km over a span of eight months. As far he aware, it was the first time anyone had canoed from Saskatchewan to New Orleans.

This voyage is incredibly only one aspect of his talk at the Medicine Hat Public Library Theatre April 23. His 60 to 90-minute presentation and discussion begins at 7 p.m. There is no admission charge.

While this amazing journey would be enough in itself to fill an hour with stories and anecdotes, Liboiron wants to give back and contribute to the betterment of people.

"I talk about the trip, but I also talk about mourning and coping with loss too," explained Liboiron whose resolve, charisma and intellect is evident even through a 20-minute phone conversation. "I also talk about setting and achieving your goals."

Liboiron was determined to pay tribute to his deceased uncle whom he deeply admired.

Liboiron's Uncle Mitch was a big fan of the Cajun culture and had travelled to Louisiana. Being of French decent himself, the Gravelbourg-raised Hamon worked with Francophone youths in and around his community. He also co-hosted radio shows with a Cajun-theme in both Gravelbourg and Regina.

Hamon became enthralled with New Orleans and anything to do with Cajun culture including the cooking and music — hence, Liboiron's desire in scattering Hamon's ashes in the Big Easy. According to a press release, in New Orleans he marched with the ashes of his uncle in a parade and was seen on television coverage of the Superbowl game.

Liboiron decided he would share his deeply personal quest with people because of his own desire to teach. He had many people make requests of him to talk about his journey and about resolve even before the Medicine Hat native took one stroke of paddling.

"I thought I'd like to help people," said Liboiron who at one time taught English in Korea, Africa and in Australia. He was also a tour guide.

He said watching people who made long treks had inspired him. Hence, Liboiron has formed his own company which revolves around motivational speaking. It delves into not only explaining to people how to realize their goals, but also in how to deal with mourning loss including failed relationships, dealing with career changes and even moving to a new city.

It seems like a drastic career shift for Liboiron who is also a freelance journalist and photographer as well, but he said this wasn't something which hasn't been carefully planned.

"I had a lot of time to think about it," he explains with a chuckle.

He said he kept a handwritten journal during his trip which he is now typesetting and turning into a book. He is sending off to a publisher by the end of the summer.

For now, Liboiron wants to connect with people through speaking engagements. He's made three so far including one recent one in Maple Creek. He wants to do as many as possible and has a few different presentations depending on the audience.

He's been adjusting to life on land and not having to camp in a different place every night for eight months. He said becoming reintegrated with society hasn't been difficult from a societal or psychological aspect, but has been a struggle physically.

"The physical challenge has been difficult," explained Liboiron. "My feet would bleed because they get so dry. I've had hip and ankle problems and I'm going through (physical) rehab to get those fixed."

He is getting adjusted to being in one place and while one he has travelled in Europe and spent a significant amount of time seeing the world, he indicated he's happy to be home.

"It's nice to have a home base," explained Liboiron.

On his website, he noted how he lost his home in the infamous 2010 flood and camped for six months.

"To me, all of this has reaffirmed the belief that 'there's no place like home.'"

If you have any questions about the April 23

presentation, phone Hilary Munro at the Medicine Hat Library at 403-502-8533 or email her at hilmun@medicinehat.ca.

If you want to contact Liboiron, please email him at dliboiron4@hotmail.com.

It sounds like an interesting evening. Uncle Mitch would be proud.



Michel Hamon (left) inspired nephew Dominique Liboiron.

