

Ferster keeps farm's focus on efficiency

By Jordan Twiss

If you've driven north out of Shellbrook with any frequency over the past few years, and glanced to the left, you may have noticed a gradual change to the landscape.

True, massive grain bins aren't exactly a rare sight in Saskatchewan — especially in this area. But Jay Ferster's bin yard, an extension of his farming operation located 16 kms north and 2 kms west of Shellbrook, is turning into quite the sight to behold.

The growing bin yard, which now houses just over half of Ferster's total grain storage, is the end result of his five-to-10-year search for land along a primary highway, as a means to avoid the inefficiencies of spring road bans. And now that Ferster has relocated his grain dryer, a GSI 1226 model purchased from Glenmor Equipment, in Prince Albert, the yard has become a key piece of his operation.

"We look at that drying system as another combine," Ferster said. "You can't say it replaces a combine, but it almost acts like another combine, because we can go at it tougher this way. Instead of waiting until it's dry and going with three combines, we run two combines and that helps speed us up."

As an added efficiency, the dryer also comes equipped with a blower that blows the grain into bins, where it stays until it's sold.

This, Ferster says, was a key consideration in upgrading from his old grain drying unit, as it meant less time wasted hauling dry grain by trucks in the morning. And, as any farmer knows, time is money during Saskatchewan's often short harvest season.

"It slowed our harvesting down," he said of the old grain dryer, which was located at the farm rather than the bin yard. "From the time everybody started, until noon or even 2 p.m., we were moving dry grain."

Sticking with the theme of efficiency, Ferster says the decision



Jay Ferster's bin yard, located just north of Shellbrook on Highway 55, has become a key piece of his farming operation. It now stores about half his grain, and brings added efficiency to the harvest.

to relocate the new grain dryer to the bin yard was made because the unit could be run on natural gas. This translates to huge cost savings, as natural gas costs considerably less than propane.

It also makes a huge difference when it comes to the federal carbon tax, which Ferster estimates has been costing him between \$10,000 and \$20,000 per year since it came into effect.

With the carbon tax being charged by the dollar spent on propane, Ferster says he expects natural gas will be about a quarter of the cost. It's an improvement, but still a large chunk of change for a small, family-run operation.

"It's not great for us. The worst thing about the carbon tax is that a farmer can't claim anything back on it. It's just another an expense you don't need," he said, adding

that he thinks it's unfair for farmers to be penalized by the tax.

"I believe farmers help the carbon in the world. We should all basically be carbon neutral, because the crops we grow are removing carbon from the air."

All told, Ferster's farming operation spans about 6,000 acres. He farms with his wife, Angela, his three kids, and his parents, Ron and Bev. His operation also has two key partners in his brother, Shea, and Stuart Person, both of whom work with MNP on the agriculture side.

Ferster's farm primarily grows wheat, barley, oats, canola, peas, and fava beans, keeping an even rotation to better control weed and crop diseases.

In a 2020 that has been nearly impossible predict, Ferster says he started out the growing season

thinking he might have a bumper crop, and perhaps the best crop his farm had ever seen. That all changed, during a month-long heat spell throughout August.

"We don't know how much yet, but the stuff we have harvested... it hurt our yield," Ferster said, adding that this harvest is still looking pretty good — weather depending, of course.

"Our farm is still going to have an average crop, to maybe a little bit better than that."

While harvest season always comes with a degree of unpredictability, what's certain is the future of Ferster's operation. Currently, he says he's working towards a succession plan to take over from his parents.

This, in turn, will pave the way for his own children to takeover the farm one day. And, with one

son working to become a farm mechanic, and the other having just started his studies to become an agrologist, Ferster says he's as passionate as ever about farming.

"Watching them, and their interest in the farm, it's similar to how my parents helped me in getting started, and made it so I could afford to do it," he said.

"Now, I'm trying to do the same thing with my sons. That gives you extra energy to want to do better, and teach them, and work with them and see what their new ideas are."

In particular, he said he's interested to see the ideas his sons bring to the table.

"The young generation definitely has different ideas, and it's exciting to see when they get excited to try different things. That keeps the passion going."



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Wandering Shovel Farm offers supply, variety of fresh produce

By Alison Sullivan

Just south of the town of Spiritwood lies Wandering Shovel Farm, a market garden owned and operated by Trent and Lois Lowen.

Trent Lowen moved from Alberta to the Spiritwood area as a teenager, when his family decided to start raising cattle and sheep and available land was limited in Alberta.

Trent and his wife Lois started growing fresh produce for market in 2015 and began offering a farm share program in 2018.

"We have always had a large garden and I was getting more interested in growing things, particularly fruit," said Trent. "We had sometimes joked about starting a market garden in our large garden area, and late winter 2015 we got serious about it."

Trent has an uncle who runs a similar operation in Northern Alberta, which is where the idea for their current business came from.

Lois has said that they like to experiment and grow

something new each year. Currently, they grow around 40 different types of vegetables in a season and multiple varieties of some of them

The Lowens start to seed crops in February and finish harvesting in late October or Early November with the bulk of harvest happening in July and August. They own one heated greenhouse, which is used to start seeds in the spring for transplant and to ensure a steady crop of tomatoes and cucumbers throughout the season. Several smaller, unheated poly tunnels allow them to extend their growing season in both the spring and the fall.

While they try to keep their daily working hours between 8 AM and 6 PM, some days are longer in the height of the season. The Lowens hire in 3 to 4 part-time employees during their busy season to help with harvesting and processing of vegetables.

Trent estimated that they move anywhere between 1,000 to 2,000 lbs of produce each week, dependent



A medium sized share from Wandering Shovel farm with a few additions.

on the on the time of year.

Apart from fresh produce, they also make a homemade Ranch Dressing and offer products from other local small businesses such as pastured eggs, bread, flowers, soap, and honey. Animals are something Trent said they were interested in adding to the business. "We did raise chickens and turkeys for a few years and will hopefully do them again, maybe when the children are able to look after some of that."

Over the past five years, the couple has learned a lot about market gardening and the different avenues available to market produce.

While Trent says all marketing strategies are an important source of business income, their largest revenue generator is selling at local

farmer's markets. The family regularly sells at three farmers markets a week and occasionally a fourth. Their produce is mainly sold within a half an hour of the farm, but some does make it as far north as Chitek Lake and some as far south as Saskatoon.

Another major marketing tool that Wandering Shovel uses is a farm share program. People are able to sign up at the beginning of the season to receive a weekly basket of fresh produce from July through the end of September. This type of program, which originated in the Eastern United States, has been around for close to 40 years according to Trent. It is a popular business model for many market gardens in both Alberta and Ontario.

The Lowens offer three sizes of weekly baskets at different price points for customers to choose from. This year they have about 40 people on their program and receive a lot of positive feedback. "Our members say they are happy with the quality of the produce and are delighted to get fresh veggies without the effort of growing their own garden," said Trent.

The Lowens started to use a market garden management program called Harvie this year, which Trent says they look forward to continuing to use. "Harvie does most of the backend work for us, it really streamlines harvesting and packing boxes because it spits out harvest lists and packing labels," says Trent. "For our customers, the main benefit is the ability to customize boxes." Traditional farm shares don't allow for swapping of items or additions. The program lets customers preview their box, swap items, add items, and reschedule their weekly share. The Lowens pay a percentage of sales to Harvie, which Trent says is viewed as a marketing cost and is well worth the time savings.

The Lowens also sell produce directly from the farm. When asked whether the pandemic had affected on

farm sales, Trent said there were not a lot of people coming to the farm at one time so distancing hasn't been an issue. However, they have substantially increased sanitation and food safety protocols this year in response to the pandemic.

Throughout the fall, winter, and spring, Wandering Shovel markets winter stored crops through their online store. Trent says this has not taken off just yet, but they are building it up.

Other marketing strategies that they have either started or are looking into would be sales to restaurants and retail grocers. Trent says that improving production consistency is an important step to be able to sell to a retail grocer.

Weather, weeds, and pests are all challenges faced by the Lowens according to Trent, but the biggest challenge is really time management to be able to get things done on a tight schedule. Being able to watch seeds sprout and grow into all kinds of delicious food is something the couple enjoys. "We feel very blessed to harvest an abundance of produce but in the end, what really inspires us is the people we meet — customers, our local community, employees, and our family."

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

VILLAGE OF SHELL LAKE

Public notice is hereby given that Nominations of Candidates for the offices of:

MAYOR: Village of Shell Lake
COUNCILLOR: Village of Shell Lake,
four (4) elected

Will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October, 2020 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Village Office located at 210 Main Street in the Village of Shell Lake.

Nomination forms may be obtained from Tara Bueckert at the Village Office.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2020.

Tara Bueckert,
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496

Public notice is hereby given that nomination of candidates for the office of:

Reeve
Councillor – Division No. 1
Councillor – Division No. 3
Councillor – Division No. 5

Will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during regular office hours until Wednesday, October 7th, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office and must be accompanied with a criminal record check and a public disclosure statement.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2020

Colette Bussiere
Returning Officer

TOWN OF SHELLBROOK



The Town of Shellbrook will be hosting an electronics collection event from Friday, September 25th, 2020 to Sunday, September 27th, 2020 from 9am to 4pm daily.

The following items can be dropped off at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Center during the above times:

- Home Audio/Video Players
- Home theatres/vehicle audio systems
- Computers, printers and peripherals
- Phones and phone systems
- Fax machines
- Monitors

TV's and household/personal appliances will not be accepted. For a complete list of acceptable electronics, visit the Town of Shellbrook website @ www.townofshellbrook.ca or www.era.ca

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2020 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Appendix C
FORM H

[Section 66 of the Act]

Notice of Call for Nominations

(School Division Elections)

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nomination of candidates for the office of:

BOARD MEMBER - ONE FOR EACH SUBDIVISION FOR Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division No. 119

Subdivision No. 1 Subdivision No. 4
Subdivision No. 2 Subdivision No. 5
Subdivision No. 3

will be received by the undersigned on the **7th day of October, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** and during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.) on September 21, 2020 to October 6, 2020 at the

Education Centre, Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division No. 119, 545 – 11 Street East, Prince Albert, SK S6V 1B1
Fax # (306) 763-4460 - email address elections@srsd119.ca

Nomination forms may be obtained at the Education Centre, Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division No. 119, 545 – 11 Street East, Prince Albert, SK S6V 1B1 or at www.srsd119.ca

Dated this 1st day of September, 2020.

Jerrold Pidborochynski, Returning Officer

Public Notice

In-City Board Elections

Notice of Call for Nominations for all In-City Board Members (5 vacancies) will be advertised by the Returning Officer for the City of Prince Albert.

Nomination forms and Candidate packages may be obtained from: The City of Prince Albert, 1084 Central Avenue, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Visit our Website at: www.srsd119.ca

Please note: Recently Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division distributed a flyer called the Election Guide. There is an error under the Qualifications of Candidates.

NOMINATION DAY SHOULD READ OCTOBER 7 AND NOT NOVEMBER 7, 2020

Big River resurfaces damaged sidewalks



Workers replace sidewalks in Big River.

Sidewalks in the town of Big River got a much-needed facelift at the tail end of August, as part of a multi-year budgeted project to upgrade local infrastructure.

The resurfacing work, completed by Saskatoon-based Lajcon and funded, in part, by the province's Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP), cost about \$35,000 and saw sidewalks along Highway 55, from Forbes Street up to Main Street on the east side, resurfaced or replaced.

"It all started because we wanted to resurface the sidewalks and create accessibility for wheelchairs on the curb," said Noreen Olsen, administrator for the Town of Big River.

"A couple years ago, we got accessibility from the roads onto the sidewalks on all the corners on Main Street. We just wanted to continue, so we budget annually to get that done."

Olsen says the sidewalks were resurfaced using MG Krete, a tougher, more durable alternative to standard cement-based patch materials. While the town was hoping to do the work on its own, it found the product wasn't going on as smooth as it had hoped, and so it brought in Lajcon last year.

During this time, the sidewalk in front of TD Michel Elementary School was resurfaced and replaced, as well as some other troubled areas

throughout the town.

Looking forward, Olsen says the town plans to continue with the project in the future.

"Next year, we'll probably budget the same and continue from Main Street to George Street, which will complete the east side of the highway," she said. "Then, we'll continue on the other side."

Students in Blaine Lake will be learning in a brand new K-12 school as soon as 2023.

That's according to Premier Scott Moe, Deputy Premier and Education Minister Gordon Wyant, Batoche MLA Delbert Kirsch, and officials from Prairie Spirit School Division, who were in the community Monday morning to announce the beginning of the planning and design phase for the replacement for Blaine Lake Composite School.

"Infrastructure investments make Saskatchewan communities stronger so we are excited to move ahead with this project," Moe said in statement. "The new school will serve the students, school staff and community members of Blaine Lake for many years to come."

Construction of the new K-12 school, which is expected to cost about \$9.5 million, is slated to begin in 2021. The province and the Prairie Spirit School Division will share the costs.

The facility was first announced in July as part of the province's \$7.5 billion two-year capital plan to "build a strong Saskatchewan and stimulate our economic recovery following the pandemic."

The new school will be built next to the existing school, which was constructed in 1954, and will offer a mod-



With Blaine Lake Composite School nearing the end of its lifespan, the town will be getting a brand new K-12 facility as soon as 2023, thanks to a \$9.5 million investment by the province.

ern learning space to accommodate up to 150 K-12 students. The new school design will also include cultural spaces, and be accessible to handicapped staff students.

"The Prairie Spirit Board of Education would like to thank the Minister of Education and the provincial government for the commitment to build a new school to serve our students and the community of Blaine Lake," Prairie Spirit Board Chair Sam Dyck said in a statement. "We know this new school will offer exciting learning opportunities to our students, our staff and the community."

Speaking to the *Chronicle* following the announce-

ment back in July, Blaine Lake Composite School principal Sean Lockwood stopped short of calling the facility unsafe. He did, however, say that it had outlived its lifespan.

"It's pretty worn out. There's not much left of the school," he said. "They took a peek at it, and figured it was cheaper to rebuild it than to fix what needed to be done in it."

Unsurprisingly, given its age, Lockwood says the biggest problems with the facility are with air ventilation, and heating.

"We've got boilers from 1960 that are pushing air through the school, and pipes that get plugged up," he said.

"They've tested it, and it's safe. But the boilers are always shutting down, and the heating doesn't push through the school evenly. You have some rooms that are boiling hot and others that are really cool, so our custodians have to play with it all the time."

As of Monday, The Ministry of Education was in the process of hiring a project manager to complete the design and planning phase.

FOR SALE BY TENDER

With the consolidation of our Spiritwood operations into one building, Prairie Centre Credit Union (PCCU) has for sale by tender, our commercial property and contents at 116 First Street East, Spiritwood, SK. The legal description is Lots 9 & 10 Block 3 Plan 100371596 Spiritwood, SK.

PCCU is accepting tenders for the land, building and contents as one package. Possession date shall be as soon as possible after closing but no later than November 30, 2020.

The sale by tender includes:

- Land and building
- Fireproof vault
- Alarm & CCTV System
- Office furniture and chairs including a board room table and chairs
- Numerous file cabinets
- Building sound system
- Miscellaneous appliances – fridge (2), microwave
- Other miscellaneous office items

The sale by tender excludes:

- Phones and the phone management system
- All computer equipment

All property included in this request for tender is being sold "as is where is" with no representations or warranties save as to title. Property viewing requests require 24 hours' notice. Appointments for viewing are available by calling the local branch at (306)883-2250.

Tenders shall be accompanied by a bank draft or certified cheque for 10% of the tender price payable to Prairie Centre Credit Union. **Tenders close at 4:00pm October 7, 2020.** Sealed tenders marked as "Confidential - Spiritwood Tender" may be dropped off at the Spiritwood branch or mailed to:

Prairie Centre Credit Union
Confidential - Spiritwood Tender
 Attention Tim Askin – Chief Project Officer
 PO Box 129
 Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M0

NOTE: If a tender is mailed, sufficient lead time must be considered to ensure it will arrive in our Spiritwood office by the indicated tender closing date and time. Only the successful Tenderer will be contacted. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. PCCU reserves the right to reject any tender.



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In a difficult year, we should all say thanks to our farmers

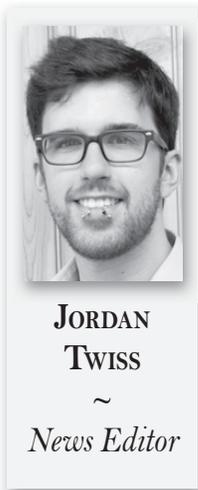
When you settle on a career in agriculture, whether it be working on the farm or in a related sector of the industry, you have no choice but to embrace the unknown and the unexpected.

Farmers, especially, can only control so much when it comes to their operations.

They can choose their crop rotations, and when to begin seeding. They can decide whether they want to use chemical inputs, or go strictly organic. And they can choose when to water their crops, and when to hold out for rain.

But, at the end of the day, once the seeds are in the ground, there's a lot that's simply left up to chance.

And in a province like Saskatchewan, where farmers can often experience a couple seasons on any given day, chance can be a pretty frightening thing to depend upon.



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

Like everything else in 2020, this growing season has been unpredictable.

Summer was marked by cool, rainy weather throughout much of June and July, and these conditions were punctuated by a few hot and dry spells in August. Now that we're somehow already halfway through September, however, the weather

switch has flipped once more, and the mercury is starting to dip below freezing in the evenings.

This weather yo-yo has wreaked havoc on the crops of local producers like Jay Ferster, who said he started the growing season thinking he might end up with a bumper crop this year. But after receiving a patented dose of the 2020s, he thinks this harvest will be an average year for his operation — or above average, at best.

Indeed, if there's any silver lining to be found in this nightmare-filled year, it's in the fact that we only have to endure a little more than three months of it.

Of course, based on how 2020 has treated us thus far, there's no telling what exactly October, November, and December have in store for us.

Hopefully, the coming



months will bring us a well-earned reprieve from the trials and tribulations each of us has faced throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Hopefully, they'll be particularly kind to our farmers, who are working hard, as they do every year, to complete their harvest operations and get their crops to market.

Lest I jinx the rest of the year, I'm going to place my bets on swarms of locusts or rains of frogs. A little too Biblical and "End of Days," perhaps, but, truthfully, nothing seems out of the realm of possibility in 2020.

In all seriousness, though, 2020 will likely be remembered, with bitterness, as the year in which Murphy's Law ran rampant across the globe.

But for all of the uncertainty that has come with this year, there is one thing we can be absolutely certain of: each of us owes our producers a debt of gratitude, for weathering not only the usual unpredictable storms that come with farming, but also the maelstrom of uncertainty that has accompanied the COVID-19 pandemic and

all of 2020.

In what have been some of the most trying times most of us will ever know, farmers have persevered and kept on trucking, making sure that all of us can keep food on the table.

Of course, this is what farmers have always done — often with little fanfare — throughout the best of years and the worst of years.

And, as the true backbone of our country, it's what they will always do.

That's why now, more than ever, we should all offer a hearty thank you to the farmers in our communities for everything they provide for us. And we should offer our gratitude to these men and women, not just during the upcoming agriculture month in October, but year-round.

There are plenty of people who deserve thank yous for helping us through the COVID-19 pandemic, from front-line healthcare workers to grocery store clerks.

But without the farmers who produce the food that nourishes us, nothing would be possible.

Commercial Media Free Day

Dear editor,

Have you watched a video that uses a hand to draw objects or write text? Brain research shows that we pay special attention to movement. The hand movement in animated explainer videos focuses our attention. Focused attention means improved retention and transfer of any information, "real" or "fake."

In our information age, media is a moving hand. Media draws our attention to information. With the wave of a news media hand, we focus on issue A rather than issue B. With the wave of the political media hand, we vote for politician A rather than politician B. With the wave of the advertising media hand, we buy product A rather than product B.

The media is controlled by six global commercial media conglomerates. Apart from public broadcasters and rare independents, what

we talk about, how often we talk about it, and how it's talked about is determined by businesses with commercial interests. The profits from commercial enterprises, including media, produce yet more hand waving because it is effective.

Commercial interests like selling tobacco conflict with public interests like citizen health. Healthy democracies depend on informed citizens. To make good decisions, our information needs to be free of bias and free to access.

On October 9th, participate in a Commercial Media Free Day. Encourage your family, friends, and your elected representatives to do the same. Let's wave a people's hand to bring attention to the need to strengthen non-commercial and accessible public media services for a healthier democracy.

Nancy Carswell, Shellbrook, SK

Shellbrook Chronicle

Serving the Communities of Shellbrook, Canwood, Debdon, Big River, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin, Blaine Lake, Holbein, Mont Nebo, Mayview

Spiritwood Herald

Serving the Communities of Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Mildred, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, Mayfair, Bapaume, Belbutte, Glaslyn

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with the writer's name on it. Letters should be limited in length and be typed or clearly written. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on available space.

Member of



Rabbit Lake news highlights

By Alan Laughlin

How come the day becomes dark before my work is done? There is no doubt that the days are getting shorter and it was almost magical to see the harvest lights dotting the fields between North Battleford and Rabbit Lake as harvesters worked into the late night! Let farmers know how much they are appreciated as food producers for a growing global population. Our hope is that harvest can progress quickly and safely.

When the seasons change, they change fast. From above 30- degree temperatures in August to -5- degree nights in early September the countryside has changed remarkable.

Aug. 21 and 22 saw 19 ladies gather at the Rabbit Lake Community Hall for a closed to the public quilting retreat. Unlike other years local residents were not able to drop in to view the phenomenal artistry due to COVID-19 restrictions. Quilters came from Saskatoon, North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Spiritwood, Big River and Rabbit Lake. Hopefully next year the retreat can return to its former format.

After the retirement of Carol Rohl as Rabbit Lake post mistress, some time passed before her replacement could be secured. Appreciation to Brandy Swistun, Collette Cooper and Holly French for filling in as casuals until the new postmistress could begin work. Welcome to the Rabbit Lake post office, Miranda Egeland. Miranda is from Medstead and commutes daily to Rabbit Lake.

Some years ago, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Rabbit Lake was closed and the property taken over by a non profit group called the Rabbit Lake Lutheran Church Society, Inc. The members of this board were Karen Kuffert, Cindy Miller, Jeanette Krelow, Al Richter (for a time) and the late Janette Klaassen.

This summer the former church was sold as a private residence. The proceeds from the sale was distributed to various not for profit organizations within the community. The Rabbit Lake Community Hall, the Rabbit Lake and District Museum and the Rabbit Lake Senior Sunrise Circle each received \$800. The Rose Gill Lodge resident's fund received \$1,000 and Rose Gill Lodge received \$5,256.74. The community thanks the Lutheran Church Society for their generous donations.

As autumn dawns, so do the activities in the community. Over the summer we have enjoyed an open-air market featuring and array of vendors. Gratitude to Joan Dzialo for her inspiration in getting the market established. Next year it will be bigger than ever. Although it was intended to operate until the end of September the cold weather has determined that it close as of Sept. 12.

In addition to the market the Rabbit Lake Seniors opened their doors so that market goers could buy a coffee and take some time

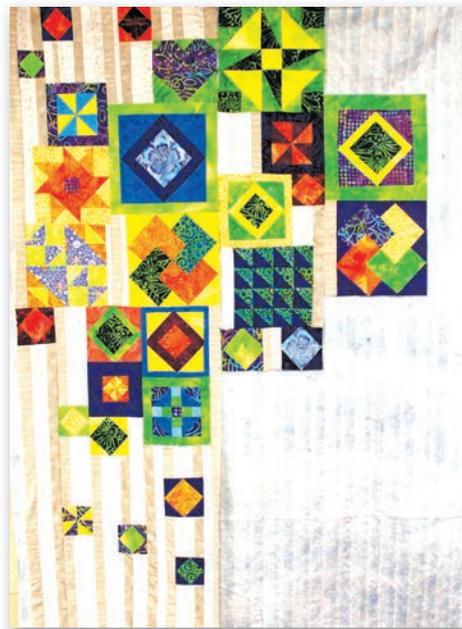
to visit neighbours. This coffee session is in addition to the Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning and afternoon coffee rows at the seniors. Beginning on Sept. 16, and continuing until spring, the senior center will be open from 7 to 9 p.m. for people to socialize over various games and activities. So, if you like to play pool, or Kaiser or Canasta, Mexican train or any other choice drop in and have some fun.

Once again, Rabbit Lake will have entertainers providing music, and JK Kitchen will be preparing supper as the "Blue Sky Boys" come to the community. Due to COVID restrictions, a limited number of tickets will be available for the supper and the musical evening on Sept. 26. Contact Jim Tomkins for complete details.

Cowboy church has resumed on the first and third Fridays of the month, and are once again being held at the Rabbit Lake Community Hall.

We all know that Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, but what did 87 year-old Peter Pawlivsky do? Peter Pawlivsky did not pick peppers but he did pickle carrots! In fact, he packed 20 good sized jars with carrots and dill and garlic from his garden.

On Monday, Sept. 14, friends gathered at



An example of the work being done at the Rabbit Lake Quilt Retreat.

FORM H
[Section 66 of the Act]

R.M. of Medstead No. 497 Notice of Call for Nominations

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

Reeve: Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497

Councillor: Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497 - Division No. 1

Councillor: Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497 - Division No. 3

Councillor: Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497 - Division No. 5

(Reeve and Odd Numbered Divisions will be elected for a four-year term.)

And By-election for

Councillor: Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497 - Division No. 4

Councillor: Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497 - Division No. 6

(Division No.'s 4 & 6 will be for a two-year term beginning at the first meeting of council after Nov. 9th, 2020.)

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office, and during regular business hours on September 17th to October 6th, 2020 at the Municipal Office.

Nominations forms may be obtained at the following location:

Municipal Office

Dated this 9th day of September, 2020.

Christin Egeland
Returning Officer

the seniors' hall not for the regular Monday morning coffee, but rather to gather to extend best wishes to Henry Konopelski, who, on Sept. 13, turned 95 years old.

Henry and Mary drive in to Rabbit Lake to enjoy coffee with friends each day that coffee is available winter and summer. I remember last year, on Henry's 94 birthday, he entered the seniors and said, "Good morning my young friends!" This year the community joins in saying to Henry, "Happy Birthday our old friend and neighbour!"



Henry Konopelski celebrates his 95th birthday!



Peter Pawlivsky pickling carrots at age 87.

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Work the October provincial election.

We're looking for workers on election day (Oct. 26) and for the 5 days of advance voting. Work together with your spouse, your teenager, or anyone else from your household. Every job is a paid job!

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or call 1.877.958.8683.



**SK
VOTES
2020**

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Local municipalities receive more COVID funding

As the COVID-19 pandemic wears on, the money keeps coming.

The government of Saskatchewan has announced plans to immediately disperse Safe Restart Canada Plan funding from the federal government.

The funds, totalling about \$70.32 million, will be given out to municipal governments across the province, and will be used to aid the post-COVID recovery of cities, towns, villages, and Rural Municipalities.

"As Saskatchewan returns to a new normal, this is another important investment to help municipalities and their residents weather the storm," Lori Carr, Minister of Government Relations, said in a statement.

"This funding will support efforts to protect health and safety, prepare for potential fu-

ture waves of COVID-19, and facilitate the safe reopening of economies."

Of the total, \$62.26 million will be granted in general municipal support on a per capita basis, while \$8.07 million will be allocated to municipal public transit support for the four cities with transit systems, based on ridership.

While no communities in this area have public transit systems, they can still expect to see funds from the general municipal support portion of the Safe Restart Canada Plan.

Starting with towns, Big River received \$41,758, while Blaine Lake will be awarded \$29,767. The Town of Shellbrook was the largest recipient, with \$86,140 coming its way, and the Town of Spiritwood is next, receiving \$54,464.

Among villages, Canwood received \$19,805,

Debden was awarded \$20,103, Glaslyn brought home \$23,806, Leask's share was \$23,802, and Leoville received \$22,370.

Rounding out the list, Marcelin's take was \$9,127, Medstead was awarded \$7,755, Parkside received \$7,218, and Shell Lake brought home \$10,439.

Turning to Rural Mu-

nicipalities, the R.M. of Big River was awarded \$53,032, while the R.M. of Blaine Lake received \$17,358, the R.M. of Canwood's share was \$82,382, and the R.M. of Leask brought home \$40,923.

Rounding out the funding haul, the R.M. of Medstead received \$30,304, the R.M. of Shellbrook brought

home the largest total of \$94,761, and the R.M. of Spiritwood was awarded \$72,957.

This federal funding was matched by \$150 million dollars announced previously through the Saskatchewan government's Municipal Economic Enhancement Program.

Additionally, this summer, the province

fast-tracked a record breaking \$278 million in Municipal Revenue Sharing. Annual, no-strings attached funding was paid directly to municipalities to support local priorities and recovery efforts.

The ministry will be contacting all municipalities directly with details about their specific allocation.

Town of Spiritwood aims to improve traffic safety

The Town of Spiritwood submitted an application for the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant through SGI for a Speed Reduction Initiative & Pedestrian Safety Project.

The application was approved, and the town received a \$9,033.34 grant for two portable Ped-In-A-Bag School Stop Signs and two Pedestrian-Activated Crosswalk Signs.

The project goal is to enhance

road safety in the community.

The portable School Stop Signs were given to the elementary schools to use between Rivier and Hartley Clark schools during school bus drop off and pick up of students.

The Pedestrian Activated Crosswalk Signs are located at Main Street and 2nd Avenue, a crosswalk which experiences high pedestrian traffic before and after school.

Town Council also decided to purchase a solar radar speed sign, and installed it on 3rd St E, south of the Kidzland park to help with speed reduction in that area.

Another application will be submitted to SGI this fall. Upon approval, there will be solar radar speed signs installed along 4th St E to address the number of complaints received concerning speeding along that highway within town limits.

MEETING LAKE REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

will be holding their
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
on **October 17th, 2020** at **1:00 p.m.**
at the round hall to review the
Regional Park business.

One person per family only.

If more than 30 people attend, additional space will be made available outside the building.

Appendix C

FORM H

[Section 66 of the Act]

Notice of Call for Nominations

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

REEVE

COUNCILLOR – DIVISION 1
COUNCILLOR – DIVISION 3
COUNCILLOR – DIVISION 5

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493

Will be received by the undersigned on the 18th day of September, 2020,

From: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

At RM OFFICE – 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, Saskatchewan,
To October 7th, 2020,

At RM – 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, Saskatchewan.

NOMINATION FORMS may be obtained at the following location(s):

RM of Shellbrook No. 493
71 Main Street

Shellbrook, Saskatchewan **OR** on the RM Website www.rmofshellbrook.com under "Elections" tab.

Completed Nominations Forms MUST be returned to the RM Office in person for a Nominations Receipt.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2020.

Duane Storey
Returning Officer



New pedestrian activated crosswalk signs were installed in the Town of Spiritwood near the RCMP detachment.

FORM H

[Section 66 of the Act]

Notice of Call for Nominations TOWN OF BIG RIVER

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

Mayor: Town of Big River

Councillor: Town of Big River

Number to be Elected: four (4)

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time and, during regular business hours on September 17th to October 6th, 2020, at the Town of Big River Municipal Office located at 606 1st Street North, Big River, SK.

Nominations forms must be accompanied by a completed version of the Town of Big River's Public Disclosure Statement, as required pursuant to *The Municipalities Act*, and *The Local Government Election Act, 2015*.

Nomination forms, along with the Town of Big River Public Disclosure Form, may be obtained from the Town Office.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2020

Noreen Olsen
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF LEASK NO. 464

Public notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

REEVE

COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 1

COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 3

COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 5

will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during normal office hours until Wednesday, October 7th, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office and on the municipal website.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2020.

Returning Officer
Judy Douglas

FORM H

[Section 66 of *The Local Government Election Act, 2015*]

NOTICE of CALL for NOMINATIONS RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BIG RIVER, NO. 555

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

Reeve: Rural Municipality of Big River, No. 555,

Councillor: Rural Municipality of Big River, No. 555, **Division No. 1,**

Councillor: Rural Municipality of Big River, No. 555, **Division No. 3**

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October, 2020 from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. local time and during regular business hours on September 17th to October 6th, 2020 at the RM Office located at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK.

Nomination Forms must be accompanied by a completed version of the RM's Public Disclosure Statement, as required pursuant to *The Municipalities Act* and *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* and a Current Criminal Record Check required pursuant to the RM of Big River, No. 555 Bylaw 1/20.

Nomination forms along with the RM of Big River, No. 555 Public Disclosure Form may be obtained from the RM Office.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2020.

Donna Tymiak
Returning Officer

AGRICULTURE

SHELLBROOK CHRONICLE & SPIRITWOOD HERALD

7

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 • FALL AGRICULTURE EDITION

Gene science is the key to ag's future

The farm sector should be smiling over the prospect of what a recent science accomplishment could mean.

It was recently reported at www.producer.com that "on Aug. 10, University of Saskatchewan and Agriculture Canada researchers said they had decoded the full genome of the black mustard plant. Black mustard is grown in India and other countries in South Asia. It's closely related to the mustard and canola grown in Western Canada."

There are two reasons this is big news. First is the accomplishment itself, and

how cracking one genome could quicken work on others.

And, secondly, is how in this case black mustard is a close relative of canola, which could hasten the process of genome mapping in a key Canadian Prairie crop.

So why is genome mapping such a major breakthrough?

Well the real benefit comes from another science; gene editing.

Gene editing allows scientists to delete genes from a

plant's genome or add genes from the same family of plants to achieve a desired



CALVIN DANIELS

crop trait.

So think of the issues in canola, from blackleg to sclerotinia, then think of borrowing a resistant gene from a cousin plant and in-

serting it into canola to boost resistance. The new 'variety' would offer much to the farm sector.

The question of course, for scientists is which gene do they need to delete, or add?

In the same Western Producer article Richard Cuthbert, a wheat breeder with Agriculture Canada in Swift Current noted "in bread wheat there's 120,000 genes, roughly."

What science has lacked is a map they can follow in identifying the gene they seek.

That is where genome

mapping comes in, and the black mustard success is exciting as a precursor to what can come next.

The better the mapping, the more easily, at least in theory, science can follow that map to the destination they seek. Then through gene transfer the science community can look at addressing some of the issues facing production, in particular in terms of disease and fungus resistance.

However, such science can go to more places than disease resistance.

It may be possible to in-

crease drought resistance, increase tolerance for saline soils, or for the plant to do a better job of nutrient absorption. It all comes down to discovering genes that make a difference, and transferring within a plant family.

Longer term transfer from unrelated crops; say alfalfa to canola, may be possible. Imagine a nitrogen fixing canola and what that would mean to the farm sector.

But the transfer technology has needed a map to be efficient, and that appears to be happening which is big news for agriculture.

Canada's agri-food sector needs more young people, diverse talent

(NC) The pandemic is helping us learn how important it is to be able to produce local food right here in Canada. This means that cultivating the next generation of tech-savvy farmers will soon become one of the country's top priorities.

A recently released report from RBC finds that while 37 per cent of the agricultural workforce is set to retire over the next 10 years, entry to the industry is slowing, with 600 fewer young people stepping into the sector each year.

At the same time, there are persisting barriers that prevent a more diverse talent pool from participating in the industry, including women and Indigenous workers who respectively constitute only 28 per cent and 1.9 per

cent of farm operators today.

"Canada could soon face a shortage of talent with diverse skills, posing a potential risk to the resiliency of our agriculture sector," explains Ryan Riese, national director of RBC agriculture. "Our industry is at a critical turning point, and we must collectively work to advance a dynamic workforce for the future."

To attract and develop the next generation of agriculture talent, industry leaders and policymakers need to invest in these areas:

Innovation: With more than 80 per cent of producers under 40 years of age reporting the use of digital tools, young Canadians displaying a keen affinity for technolo-

gy. Investment in innovation will be critical to attract these young workers, along with non-traditional talent from other industries such as technology, sustainability, finance and more.

Inclusion: To eliminate the barriers created

by capital intensity, ensuring inclusive access to capital is essential. This can mean investing in new financial and farm management solutions and creating loans designed to address the challenges faced by young people, women and BIPOC.

Education: Like many other industries, education is crucial to paving a path for new talent to enter the sector. While Canada's post-secondary institutions are stepping up with inventive programs to interest students, more should be done to engage younger students by integrating agriculture and non-agriculture learning at an earlier stage, starting in K-12.

Find more information at rbc.com/agriculture.



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Mon., Sept. 28, 2020

Presort Sale 9:30 a.m.; Regular Sale 1:30 p.m.

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Office 306-763-8463 ~ Fax 306-763-4620

For market info visit: www.northernlivestocksales.ca

Repeat win in tenth Ryder Cup

"Age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill". Those familiar with the adage will show no surprise when they are told that the winning team in Ryder Cup 2020 contained the three oldest in the competition, while the losing squad was comprised of no fewer than five of their sons.

True enough, two of those sons won their singles matches on Sunday, but Spiritwood Ryder Cup is a marathon, not a sprint. And at the end of the three-day event, Team Jubes emerged as the winner in a 13-1/2 to 11-1/2 victory over Team Sherm.

True, Team Sherm managed to shave a half point off the 14-11 score that defeated them last year, but a loss is a loss, right?

For Team Jubes, the win was still reason for triumph. Lately, repeat wins have been elusive.

Ryder Cup 2020 – the tenth annual – started Friday, Sept. 11, with a two-player best-ball match, with five points up for grabs. Each golfer played their own ball, but



Ryder Cup 2020. Team Sherm in black, Team Jubes in white. Back: Tyson Turgeon, B.J. Brataschuk, Ryan Willick, Kyle Brataschuk, Lane Buswell, Colin Heppner, Brad Brataschuk, Don Turgeon, Dustin Smolinski, and Ryan Turgeon. Front: Tyler Fisher, Brad Nemish, Warren Schira, Lanny Fisher, Sheridan Lehouillier, Jeff Hujber, Todd Turgeon, Tyson Walter, Greg Rogers, and Lloyd Fisher.

only the lowest factored into the scoring on each hole. As a result, matches were tight, and the end result was that the teams were tied at the end of it at 2-1/2 points apiece.

Team Jubes pulled out ahead by a couple of points on Saturday with 3-2 advantages in both the two-man scramble and two-man alternate shot rounds.

With a mere two-point deficit to make up, and

ten singles matches to be played Sunday, Team Sherm was optimistic. That optimism was buoyed Sunday morning when Ryan Willick defeated Jeff Hujber to bring them to within a point.

But then the roof caved in on Team Sherm, as the next four matches re-

sulted in wins for Team Jubes, and technically, the competition was over, as the winners had scored a total of 12-1/2 points and could only be tied.

There are no ties.

However, these Ryder Cup guys play every match to a conclusion, and the next three went

to Team Sherm. Add to that another point from a round played Thursday in secret between Brad Nemish and Dustin Smolinski. The two were involved in a golf event Sunday in Regina, and were given clearance by both captains to play their singles match ahead of time.

That meant then, that Team Sherm had taken five of the ten singles matches, and since there is always reason to find positives in a negative, playing the winners to a standstill on Sunday can be seen as such.

The only award given at the Ryder Cup is the trophy, presented by the losing captain to the winning captain. It was the final act as skipper of Team Sherm for Sheridan Le-

houillier, since next year, two new captains will be appointed and new teams drafted.

There are some unofficial highlights that bear a mention. For starters, Warren Schira and partner Lane Buswell deserve high marks for playing Todd Turgeon and Don Turgeon to a standstill in their Friday best-ball match. Since anybody being sent up against Todd is normally viewed as cannon fodder, squaring the match has to be considered an achievement.

And you want to believe participants take this competition seriously. If there was an award for heart, grit and determination, it would have to go to Lanny Fisher, whose dedication to the competition deserves special note. As he is currently living in Chicago, he was required to quarantine for fourteen days after arriving in Canada. He had come prepared to log in to his parents' wife and work from there while he was quarantining. However, the day after his arrival, everybody's internet went down in the Sasktel fire, and Lanny was forced to hole up in a motel in Saskatoon for the two weeks and work from there.

As in the past, Marion's Burger Bar provided a meal for the golfers Friday night, and Papa Rene's provided the food for the Saturday supper.



Jeff Hujber, captain of Team Jubes, receives the Ryder Cup from Sheridan Lehouillier, captain of Team Sherm.

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NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR LIGHT OF CHRIST ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 16

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that Nominations for candidates for the office(s) of: Board Members: Light of Christ Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 16

Subdivisions

Spiritwood – Number to be elected – 1
Unity – Number to be elected – 1
City of North Battleford – Number to be elected – 5

will be received by the undersigned on **Wednesday, October 7, 2020** from **9:00 am to 4:00 pm** at the **Office of Light of Christ Roman Catholic Separate School Division** and during regular business hours commencing Friday, September 25 to Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at the **Office of the Light of Christ Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 16, 9301 – 19th Avenue, North Battleford, SK.**

NOMINATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED AT:

Light of Christ Roman Catholic Separate
School Division Board Office
9301 – 19th Avenue, North Battleford

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2020

Allie Raycraft
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR LIVING SKY SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 202

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that Nominations for candidates for the office(s) of: Board Members: Living Sky School Division No. 202 Subdivision #1 – Spiritwood Area – Number to be elected – 1 Subdivision #2 – Hafford Area – Number to be elected – 1 Subdivision #3 – Wilkie Area – Number to be elected – 1 Subdivision #4 – Unity/Cut Knife Area – Number to be elected – 1 Subdivision #5 – Macklin Area – Number to be elected – 1 Subdivision #6 – Luseland/Kerrobert – Number to be elected – 1 Subdivision – Town of Battleford – Number to be elected – 1 Subdivision – City of North Battleford – Number to be elected – 3

will be received by the undersigned on **Wednesday, October 7, 2020**, from **9:00 am to 4:00 pm** at the **Office of Living Sky School Division** and during regular business hours commencing Friday, September 25 to Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at the **Office of Living Sky School Division No. 202, 509 Pioneer Ave., North Battleford, SK.**

NOMINATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED AT:

Living Sky School Division Central Office
509 Pioneer Ave., North Battleford, SK

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2020

Allie Raycraft
Returning Officer

JOIN THE AUCTION-ACTION TEAM

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Farm-Ranch Auction Sale for Bev & Alex Beebe
10:00 am – Saturday, September 19, 2020
Leoville, SK (Capasin area)

*Directions from Spiritwood - 29 kms (18 miles) north on Highway #24, turn east on Grid #793, go 13 kms (8 miles), turn right (south) 3.1 kms (1.93 miles)
Land location: SE 19-53-9-W3rd*

Large Antique and Collectable Auction Sale
For Connie Leask-Grant
10:00 am – Sunday, September 27, 2020
Battleford, SK

Directions: 10 kms south on Highway 4 from Battleford (Biggar Highway), turn left on Saskatoon Trail

Please note – we will be following the Provincial COVID-19 Guidelines at these sales.
We ask everyone to practice safe social distancing at all times.
Looking forward to seeing all our auction friends!
Check our Website and Facebook for sale details and pictures.

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It's a busy bee business at CanPhill Apiaries

By Alison Sullivan

Five years ago, five Filipino men who met through Fast Genetics decided to invest in a business partnership to produce honey. What started out as a simple backyard business idea has grown into a 200-hive operation that produces around 14,000 lbs of honey a year.

Jeffery Mangubat, Antonio Rosal, Geoffry Cimafranca, Lorenzo Tomarong, and Emerson Tablason have been operating CanPhill Apiaries since 2015. The idea originally came from Mangubat, who thought they could try out honey production with three hives and see how it went.

Their first operating season ended up bigger than originally intended however when "someone with a good heart let [them] use his 32 hives," according to Tablason. The hives came with an agreement that they would be returned once their business grew in size and production.

Tablason noted that starting in honey production can be done on a small scale, with little capital investment before growing the business to the size you want.

Their operation has grown to 200 hives with 120 of them producing honey. As the number of hives has grown, so too has the volume of honey that they need to process each year. "The goal is to expand every year, but it is challenging for us because we have full-time jobs," says Tablason.

The processing operation, which was initially being run out of Tablason's garage, quickly outgrew the space that they had, so they started to look for a place to rent. They came across a place in Mayfair in 2016, which

gave them enough space to process and store their honey.

With two 33-frame radial extractors, on site in Mayfair, the men stay busy through July and August harvesting and extracting their honey.

Liquid honey is the only product they had been producing until this year when they decided to try creaming some.

Beeswax is another product they are working on processing.

They do not currently

have plans for other new products, but "look forward to the possibility of product development," according to Tablason.

While trying to juggle full-time jobs with their busy "bee" schedule in the summer can be a

challenge for the men, Tablason indicated that the biggest challenge they face every year has to do with the weather. Winter survival varies each year and, even in the summer months, cold and rainy days can

make keeping the hives healthy and pest free a challenge.

CanPhill sends bulk honey in barrels to Alberta for sale and sells tubs and containers locally around the Spiritwood area.



The men from CanPhill Apiary working in the bee yard.



Antonio Rosal extracting honey at CanPhill Apiary's processing facility in Mayfair.

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Fast Genetics is currently looking to fill a permanent full-time Maintenance Technician position. This position will report directly to the Maintenance Manager.

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- Complete routine repairs and preventative maintenance ranging from heating and ventilation to plumbing, welding, carpentry, and troubleshooting several assets,
- Travel to various locations in the Spiritwood area,
- Adhere to all SOPs, biosecurity, and health and safety,
- Ensure proper operations and maintenance of all barn equipment,
- Responds to ER situations and works on an on-call rotation as required for after hour call outs.

The successful candidate should possess the following qualifications:

- Effective time management with a clear focus to attain results,
- Able to manage priorities and solve problems,
- Self-motivated and reliable,
- Strong troubleshooting skills,
- Demonstrates a strong technical sense and understanding of equipment operations and maintenance,
- 5+ years of experience in a related field or position,
- Class 5 driver's license,
- Shares in Fast Genetics' core values.

Wages range from \$18-\$25.00/hr and is based on the successful candidate's experience and qualifications. Fast Genetics offers a comprehensive benefit plan including health, dental/ortho, vision, disability, group life insurance, and a registered pension plan.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please send your cover letter and resume to:

Attention: Human Resources
E-mail: ismolinski@fastgenetics.com

We thank all applicants, however, only those under consideration will be contacted.

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Drugs, weapons seized from Ahtahkakoop home

Four individuals from the Ahtahkakoop Cree First Nation are facing a slew of drug and weapon charges, after a search warrant was executed at a home within the community.

According to RCMP, The Prince Albert Crime Reduction Team obtained the warrant on Sept. 9 under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

The warrant was executed at 6 a.m. that morning, and a search of the property was carried out in conjunction with the Saskatchewan RCMP's Emergency Response Team and the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment.

At the time of the search, six individuals were taken into custody without incident.

Two of the six were later released without charges.

During the subsequent search of the residence, RCMP say they discovered and seized of drugs, weapons and miscellaneous items, some of which in-

clude, pre-packaged meth, crack cocaine, knives, machetes, airsoft pistols, a conducted energy weapon, and ammunition.

As a result of this investigation, four adults from the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation have been arrested and charged as follows.

Russell George Bird, 53, has been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking methamphetamine, possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and breach probation

Bird was remanded and he was scheduled to appear in court in Prince Albert on Sept. 10, 2020.

Jo-Dee Margaret Ratt, 53, has been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking methamphetamine, possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, three counts of breach undertaking

(judge).

Ratt was remanded and she was scheduled to appear in court in Prince Albert on Sept. 10, 2020.

Dakota Bird, 21, has been charged with possession of a prohibited weapon.

Bird was released on an Undertaking and she

is scheduled to appear in court in Prince Albert on Nov. 9, 2020.

Marlene Ratt, 55, has been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking methamphetamine, and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

Marlene Ratt was re-

leased on an Undertaking and she is scheduled to appear in court in Prince Albert on Nov. 9, 2020.

The investigation is ongoing.

According to the RCMP, the mandate of the Saskatchewan RCMP Crime Reduction Team is to assist

RCMP detachments across the province in capturing prolific offenders, repeat offenders, and members of organized crime groups.

It also helps address any specific public safety issue a Saskatchewan RCMP detachment area may be experiencing.

Moe stops in Spiritwood for Highway 24 announcement

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe was in Spiritwood Tuesday, Sept. 8, to announce his government's plan to rebuild 50 kms of Highway 24 between Spiritwood and Chitek Lake.

Moe made the announcement at Spiritwood's Cameron-Bourdages Memorial Park, alongside Trade and Export Development Minister and Meadow MLA Jeremy Harrison.

As Previously reported, the 50 km project will be delivered in two stages. The first 21 km section, from Spiritwood to Leoville, will be tendered this fall, while the second segment, from Leoville to Chitek Lake, is expected to be tendered in the spring.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2021.

"Saskatchewan's Growth Plan has a goal of building and upgrading 10,000 km of highways over the next decade," Moe said. "This construction season we have built or upgraded more than 1,000 km of Saskatchewan Highways, putting us well on our way of reaching our goal of 10,000 km in the next decade. Highway 24 is a large part of this goal, it will be upgraded to a structured pavement highway, which will improve the road surface and enhance safety."

Calling the announcement "great news" for the people of the Spiritwood, Leoville and Chitek Lake area, Harrison added, "A safe and efficient highway system is also crucial for our export-based economy to continue to grow and prosper."

Highway 24 runs north of Spiritwood and provides community access to the village of Leoville and Pelican Lake

First Nation and access to Chitek Lake. The highway has high vehicle and truck traffic for a regional road, with more than a thousand vehicles per day north of Spiritwood.



Premier Scott Moe announces a major project for Highway 24 during a stop at Spiritwood's Cameron-Bourdages Memorial Park.



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Shellbrook Library names Summer Reading Program winners

By Dian Campbell

We had a very successful Summer Reading Program. We had 82 children register and 155 Activity/Learning Kits taken home. Funding for our Summer Reading Club was provided by a grant from The Kimberley Foundation.

Local winners for this year's program are: Milo Naber, Jack Robin, Natasha Naber, and Aurora Hatch.

Regional Winners for this year are: Aubrielle Booth and Amaya Archibald.

Appreciation to all who participated in our Online Book auction. Over \$1,000 was raised for the Library, thanks, in no small part to all the hard work of Laura and Laurel.

Programming

Please note the Shellbrook Public Library is open to the public, with a

limit of 5 patrons in the library at a time. Our hours are Monday 2-6:30 p.m., Tuesday 12-8 p.m. Wednesday 2-8 p.m., Thursday 12-6:30 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As there is no inside programming at Shellbrook Library, due to COVID-19 restrictions, our Adult Book Club has moved to ZOOM. If you're interested in joining with us, contact the Librarian for information

T.O.P.S. – Take Off Pounds Sensibly – is still meeting Saturday Mornings at 9 a.m. Please check the T.O.P.S. website (<https://www.tops.org/>) for location or call Brian at 306-841-7966.



Regional Winner, Amaya Archibald.

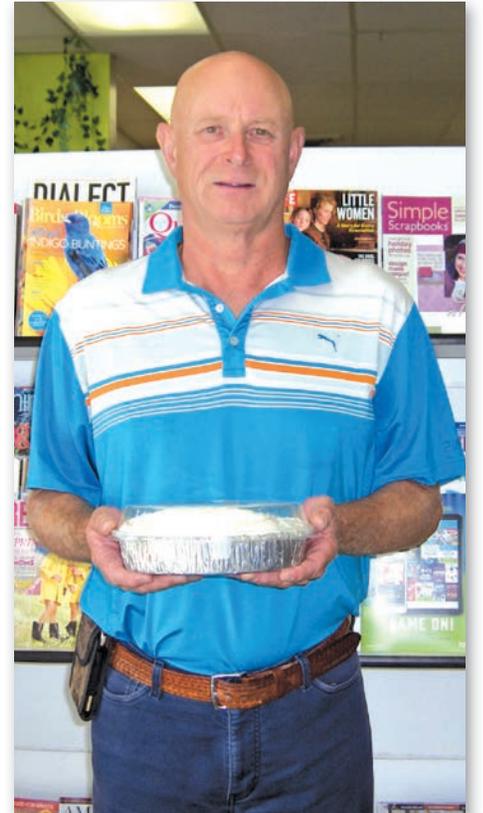


Local Winners, Natasha and Milo Naber.



Regional Winner, Aubrielle Booth.

Dessert of the Month draws resume



The Spiritwood Public Library was able to resume their monthly draw fundraiser "Dessert of the Month." This month's winner was Terry Thompson, who took home a dessert made by Librarian Joyce Carriere.

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With harvest in full swing, safety is key

By Jordan Twiss

In the spring, when Saskatchewan's producers were gearing up for the growing season in the midst of the burgeoning COVID-19 pandemic, Todd Lewis, president of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) was confident they could provide a safe food supply.

Yet, despite this optimism, he was also adamant that the pandemic needed to be taken seriously.

"This is serious. We don't want to see this spread into our communities," he said.

"We're always science-based in agriculture, and there's never been a time when we should be listening to our scientists and medical professionals more than right now."

Months later, with harvest operations around

the province about 50 per cent complete, the need to be safe and follow the COVID-19 guidelines set out by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) hasn't diminished.

Especially when one looks at the frightening situation farmers and farm workers south of the border find themselves in.

As of August, American Farms had already reported outbreaks among hundreds of workers in states that include California, Washington, Florida and Michigan. Meanwhile, looking nationally, the National Center for Farmworker Health reported at least 3,600 cases of farm workers testing positive for COVID-19.

And yet, the federal government had not established any enforceable rules to protect farm

workers, or to instruct employers what to do when their workers get sick.

Here in Saskatchewan, where active cases are hovering around the 100 mark, it would be all too easy to dismiss the pandemic as being over and done with.

Nonetheless, with agriculture being an essential service, the provincial government is still advising those in the agriculture industry to adhere to the following recommendations, whether they're in the yard, shop, or field:

- Practice physical distancing in the workplace, including those workplaces that are outdoors. Maintain a two-metre separation between individuals;

- Wash your hands often. Cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue and wash your hands immediately;

- Frequently disinfect shared surfaces and equipment like vehicles, tools, doorknobs, work benches, etc;

- Actively self-monitor for symptoms, and, at the first sign of cough or fever, immediately self-isolate for 14 days;

- Self-isolate upon

coming into close contact with someone with COVID-19;

- Avoid unnecessary trips, even if travel for agricultural production, industry, transport, medical appointments, is permitted and always will be; and

- Immediately self-isolate for 14 days following return from any interprovincial or international travel

Though COVID-19 is likely top of mind for most producers, it's not the only thing they need to take precautions against throughout harvest season.

Like it does every year, SaskPower is urging producers to be cautious while moving farming equipment.

As of early August, there had already been 200 incidents involving farm equipment and machinery contacting power lines and poles.

Typically, this number only goes up as harvest operations continue.

"We're reporting roughly 30 fewer incidents involving farm equipment from this time last year — which is encouraging — but that's still too many incidents," said Kevin Schwing, director of safety at SaskPower.

"We still need to remind everyone to be extremely careful when operating equipment near power lines, and to get home safe at the end of the day."

According to Sask-

Power, there were 81 incidents during the 2019 harvest and 327 overall during the year, causing \$635,000 in damage. No deaths or injuries were reported.

To help keep the number of incidents low, SaskPower advises producers to have a plan in place prior to moving equipment, ensure machinery is at its lowest level, and use a spotter.

Other tips include getting proper rest, drinking plenty of water and taking breaks throughout the day.

SaskPower says that if farm equipment comes into contact with a power line, producers should stay in their cab and contact 306-310-2220 or call 911.

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Vidal, Falk named to O'Toole's shadow cabinet

Gary Vidal, MP for Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River, has retained the position of Shadow Minister for Indigenous Services, under new Conservative leader Erin O'Toole.

"I am very pleased to continue as the critic for Indigenous Services,

and grateful for the confidence that Mr. O'Toole has shown in me," said Vidal.

Prior to announcing his group of Shadow Ministers, O'Toole explained that his team would be based on having "a respectful, professional, pursuit of excellence. We

want Canadians to see our caucus as the Government in waiting," he said.

The job of a Shadow Minister is to hold the corresponding government Minister to account on everything from spending, to programs, to communications with Indigenous leaders. Various avenues available to do that include committee meetings, Question Period and Parliamentary debates. In MP Vidal's case, its Minister Marc Miller.

"My team and I believe in Building Authentic Relationships. We will continue to stand up for the rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Desnethé-Missinippi Churchill River, and across the country," concluded Vidal.

Vidal is one of four Saskatchewan MPs selected for these roles. He was originally named to the position by former Leader Andrew Scheer following the 2019 election.

Vidal is joined in the shadow cabinet by Rosemarie Falk, MP for Battlefords-Lloydminster, who was named Shadow Minister for Seniors.

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Regenerative practices: a new approach for sustainable farming

By **Dunling Wang, PhD, PAg, Provincial Specialist, Alternative Cropping Systems, Regina**

Regenerative agriculture was first introduced by the Rodale Institute - Pioneers of Organic Agriculture Research in the United States in 2014. Their goal was to enhance carbon sequestration and reverse the effects of climate change.

In 2018, the Regenerative Organic Alliance created the regenerative organic certification program to improve current organic management standards and practices.

The program focuses on increasing organic matter in soil over time as a tool for climate change mitigation, further developing animal welfare and creating economic stability and fairness to producers and workers. Regenerative practices emphasize on building soil health, restoring biodiversity and reinstating the soil's functionality in the ecosystem.

In March 2019, General Mills announced its commitment to advance regenerative agriculture practices on one million acres of farmland in the United States and Canada by 2030. The company encourages both organic and conventional producers to join in the program to adopt regenerative practices, which focus mainly in four areas:

1. No-till to reduce soil organic carbon loss;
2. Use of cover crops, mulches and composts to improve soil fertility;

3. Incorporation of agroforestry and perennials in crop rotation to increase biodiversity; and,

4. Managed grazing to reinstate soil health.

Several other companies, like Danone, Kellogg and Nestlé have also invested in regenerative farming to boost biodiversity on cultivated lands, eliminate deforestation, restore natural ecosystems and promote diets through their supply chains and product portfolios.

Regenerative agriculture allows for flexibility and tailoring to individual farm situations and environments. In dark brown soil zones, producers who adopted regenerative practices with cover crops and intensive animal grazing have seen their soil organic matter level increased by about one per cent in five years. Common regenerative practices include:

Minimize soil disturbance: Tillage leads to soil structure destruction, reduces soil water infiltration, storage and causes soil erosion and compaction. After adopting no-till practices, soil organic matter increases over time creating healthier and more resilient environments for plants

to thrive.

Keep soil covered: Mulch reduces soil moisture evaporation and cover crops prevent soil erosion. Growing cover crops and terminating with crimpers keeps soil covered and also returns organic matter to soil and improves the environment for soil microbial diversity.

Maintain living roots in the soil as long as possible: Living roots feed soil microbes by exuding organic compounds into the soil. Root

exudation can release up to 20 per cent of carbon fixed by photosynthesis. The living roots eventually become part of soil organic matter.

Maximize crop diversity: Crop diversity is key to farming resilience and stability. Diverse crop rotation, incorporation of intercrops and adding cover crops in the rotation can improve nutrient use efficiency, reduce the pressures from weeds, pests and diseases. It increases crop yield, decreases risks

and reduces the use of chemicals in the meantime.

Integrate livestock: Incorporating livestock into crop production diversifies the farm's income and also provides farming resilience. Animal grazing turns cover crops and crop residue into dollars and nutrient cycling helps build soil health. A healthy soil nutrient cycle help grows a robust crop and reduces chemical inputs, both fertilizers and pest control products.

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OBITUARY

Stanley W. Moore



Stanley W. Moore

August 10, 1935 - August 14, 2020

Stan passed away peacefully on Friday August 14, 2020 with his son by his side and his family in his heart.

Leaving to mourn and celebrate his life are his beloved wife Rose, his children, Crystal Moore-Orlecky (John Orlecky) and their son Evan; Troy (Amanda Moore) and their children Hannah and Jaeger, brothers Jim (Jan), Wayne, Brad (Cheryl), brother in law Bob (Phyllis) Carpenter, sisters in law; Gwen Moore and Margaret Moore

as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Stan was predeceased by his parents; Hartley and Florence Moore, brothers; Cecil, Gary and Rod Moore, sisters; Diane Moore and Gloria Moore, parents in law; Chancey and Anna Carpenter, brothers in law; Don Carpenter and Lee Carpenter, and sisters in law; Ernetta Seebach and Florence Buyaki.

A private family service will take place with Cornie Martens officiating. Stan's final resting place will be the Rabbit Lake Municipal Cemetery.

Friends so wishing to make a donation may do so to the Rabbit Lake Health Centre (Rose Gill Lodge) in memory of Stan.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beauacfuneralhome.com. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306-883-3500)

There is a wonderful story about Augustine, after his conversion to Jesus he met his mistress down town one day. When he saw her he turned away and started running. And she said, "Augustine, Augustine, it is I." And Augustine looked back over his shoulder and said, "Yes, but it is not I!"

This may or may not have happened. If it did I sure love how Augustine expressed what Paul said in Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..."

It was a little while ago now that I connected with Walter Rusnell. I had caught Walter's teaching in Calgary a number of years ago. He taught on the presence of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life.

Walter asked me where I was pastoring I told him in Shellbrook, not too far from Prince Albert. He began to tell me about his father. He later sent me a copy of his testimony I

found interesting. He said his dad actually spent time in the P.A penitentiary.

Walter explained his father had aged due partly his life style. He told Walter when he was 35 years of age some thought he was 70. I love what happened to Walter's dad. He picked up a Bible in the P.A Penn and began to explore it.

With hardly a grade one education he prayed "God, if you help me understand this book then I will serve you for the rest of my days." Walter's dad's life changed.

I realize biological roots are important, but I am of the belief spiritual roots carry far more influence on who we become. Walter's dad became a model prisoner and he got released. He chose to walk some 1,200 miles from PA to the Four Square Bible

College in Vancouver. He saw it as a pilgrimage.

Jerry Falwell Sr. Passed away in 2007. Falwell had quite the background. Jerry Falwell was not shy about sharing it. At the University Jerry Falwell founded he developed a museum. The first exhibit is devoted to his father, Corey Falwell. You see his dad was an atheist or some say agnostic.

There might be some who think that is a strange to display this publicly but

Falwell's intent was for people to see the transforming power of God and realize even the son a sinner can become a man of God.

Where you were born, your background is important and can determine much who you are. But I have this belief your spiritual roots are even more important they determine who you become.

Blessings,
Dave Bodvarson
SPA, Pastor



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Limited Capacity. Tuesday 9 am - 5 pm; Wednesday 9 am - 5 pm; Friday 9 am - 5 pm

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Appointment only. Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 2 pm

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Curb Side Pickup. Tuesday 12 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12 pm - 4 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Appointment only. Wednesday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 pm; Saturday 12 pm - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Curb Side Pickup. Monday 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm; Wednesday 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm; Friday 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Appointment only. Tuesday 10 am - 3 pm; Thursday 10 am - 4 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 pm

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Appointment only. Monday 2 pm - 7 pm; Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Limited Capacity. Tuesday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Friday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Saturday 1 pm - 5 pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Appointment only. Tuesday 2 pm - 7 pm; Thursday 2 pm - 8 pm; Saturday 9 am - 2 pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Limited capacity - Monday 2 pm - 6:30 pm; Tuesday 12 pm - 8 pm; Wednesday 2 pm - 8 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6:30 pm; Friday 9 am - 4 pm.

SHELLBROOK: Junshin Judo Club - Royal Canadian Legion Hall (102 - 2nd Ave. E., Shellbrook) Registration - All Ages - Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020, 1 pm. Classes begin Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020. All classes are co-ed. Season: Early Sept. to end of April 2021. Beginners: Sunday - 1 pm to 2 pm; Advanced: Sunday - 2 pm to 3 pm; Adult: Sunday 3pm to 4 pm. *COVID-19 protocols will be followed.* Sensei Fred Tatler 306-747-3143.

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Brady, Bucs in NFL's spotlight

All eyes following the National Football League in 2020 will be focused on TB in TB — that's Tom Brady in Tampa Bay.

For 20 years, the 43-year-old Brady — undoubtedly the greatest quarterback of all time — was a record-breaking fixture with New England Patriots, but the six-time Super Bowl champion wanted to spread his wings before hitting the retirement rocking chair. He played out his contract with the Patriots, had his agent weigh numerous offers, and finally decided he'd take TB12 to TB, Florida.

Not only were football fans around the world watching with eager anticipation when Brady's Buccaneers opened the 2020 season this past Sunday in New Orleans, but Bucs fans are already making plans for Super Bowl celebrations in February.

Tampa Bay, under offensive minded head coach Bruce Arians, was already a decent

team with unlimited weapons — Chris Godwin, Mike Evans and O.J. Howard are among the top pass catchers in the league — when Brady joined the squad, bringing with him former Patriot Rob Gronkowski, an All-Pro tight end who retired following the 2018 season and lived a rock star lifestyle during his 12-month hiatus. But when Brady joined the Bucs, and Tampa officials expressed an interest in having Gronkowski join his long-time teammate, he jumped at the chance to return.

With Brady guiding the offence instead of the interception-prone Jameis Winston, the Bucs could be dynamite this year — if there is 'a year'. COVID-19 lurks everywhere, and while the NFL has taken extreme steps to keep their training facilities, locker rooms and stadiums virus-free, there are no guaranteed interruptions, similar to the ones that plagued major



BRUCE
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league baseball early in its return to play, won't occur.

"If we stay healthy, if we beat the virus, we're gonna beat a lot of teams," Arians told si.com's MMQB.

Expecting spectacular, championship-style play from a 43-year-old quarterback, however, might be a fool's game. Fans remember how quickly the skill levels of quarterbacks such as Peyton Manning and Brett Favre dropped off precipitously as they reached their late 30s.

Brady, however, is renowned for his fitness and diet, and the Bucs, who signed Brady to a two-year deal with more than \$50 million in guarantees, obviously feel he's still at the top of his game.

Whether Brady can lead Tampa Bay into the upper echelons of the NFL remains to be seen, but there is no doubt Brady and the Bucs will be must-see viewing — New England excluded — all year.

• Dr. Carlos Del Rio of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, to reporters, on college conferences shutting down their fall seasons: "We have hit the iceberg, and we are making decisions about when we should have the band play."

• Phil Mushnick of the New York Post, on hitters still swinging for the fences instead of playing small ball with MLB's new runner-on-second rule for extra innings: "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him

bunt."

• Nick Canepa of the San Diego Union-Tribune, on the folly of trying to play football amid campus COVID spikes: "Have most of our colleges been in business only a few months? They seem shocked students prefer partying to rules."

• Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha: "On the news tonight all they talked about were boycotts, protests, riots, violence, dissension, disease, lawsuits and court cases. And that was just the sportscast."

• From the Chicago Sun-Times, via fark.com: "Bears to keep two kickers all season. With one who kicks wide right, and the other wide left, they expect to have the best field-goal average of all NFL teams."

• Bob Molinaro again: "If Usain Bolt can't outrun the coronavirus without a mask, nobody can."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Ex-Winnipeg Jet

Dustin Byfuglien recently pled guilty in a Minnesota court. He got two days community service for unsafe boating and a \$1,000 fine for an unpronounceable name."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: Giants manager Gabe Kapler challenged a play at first base with his team ahead 18-2 in the seventh inning. So why isn't there an unwritten rule about that?"

• Perry again: "Allegiant Stadium, the Raiders' new home in Las Vegas, will be the first American pro sports venue that won't accept cash for game-day transactions. And no, not poker chips, either."

• Brad Dickson again, on reports that steroids might be effective against COVID-19: "I guess Big 12 and SEC football players don't have anything to worry about after all."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Frost damage: is temperature the only factor that matters?

By Erin Campbell, PAg, MSc, CCA,
Crops Extension Specialist,
North Battleford

As crops continue to mature this season, the risk of frost will have a larger impact on crop harvest timing. Most often when temperatures start to dip into the single digits, it is habit to start looking solely at the thermometer to determine the impact. However, it is a good idea to pay close attention to a few other factors when determining the impact of those cooler or sometimes freezing temperatures on your crops. Questions that you may want to ask when assessing cooler temperatures are:

- What stage is my crop at?
- What temperatures were recorded?
- At what time and how long did the low temperatures occur for?
- Was there any dew or fog?
- Are the plants in the fields affected stressed?

The answers to these questions help to determine what type of impact the weather conditions may have had on your crop. It will likely take three to four days for the frost effects to start to show up in plants and can take up to 10 to 14 days to fully assess the impact, particularly if cooler growing conditions are present.

Crop stage is an important factor to consider as frost damage occurs when moisture in the plant crystallizes and expands, resulting in the watery substance that leaks out. As a plant matures it loses moisture and there is less to freeze which is why less damage can be seen in a ripe canola crop with less than 20 per cent seed moisture or cereals

that are in the hard dough stage. Shrivelling of cereal crop seeds in milk stage can be impacted by temperatures at 0 C while in the mid dough stage kernels can tolerate down to -4 C before bran frost occurs and kernels are affected. The earlier the frost occurs relative to crop maturity, the more the germination and seedling vigour can be affected. Kernels affected by frost will appear soft and watery and will ooze water when squeezed in the milk and early-dough stages followed by kernels shrinking. At later stages, mid to late dough, the damage will occur as bran frost and some shrinkage. Wheat is more tolerant to frost than barley followed by oats.

Earlier stages of canola with immature seeds that contain 50 to 60 per cent moisture can be severely damaged by temperatures greater than -2 C while more mature seeds with 35 per cent moisture or less result in very little or no damage. To determine whether frost damage has occurred in canola, you can assess the pods and immature seeds. Pods that have had light frost will have white speckling while severe damage will result in large parts of fully white pods. Immature seeds will become water masses that shrivel away or look like pepper once dry. More mature seeds will remain hard but may retain their green colour resulting in higher green seed counts when crop is harvested.

Often the assumption is that lower temperatures cause worse damage to a crop. This may not always be the case. If the temperature drops quickly and rises quickly then the damage can sometimes be less than a longer duration of a milder negative temperature.



Canola seed pods with moderate frost damage.

For example, a temperature of -2 C for five hours may have the same or greater impact than -3 C for less than one hour on a crop. If lower temperatures occur earlier in the night, they can have a larger impact than a lower temperature seen just before sunrise when warming will occur.

Relative humidity and dew point are other factors that can influence how low temperatures will affect a plant. Relative humidity (RH) refers to how much moisture is in the air compared to how much it could hold at that temperature. When RH is 100 per cent the dew point is reached and condensation or fog appears. If dew is present on plants, then the process of freezing that condensation can give off heat that can help keep plant tissue above a temperature where freezing damage can occur. While water continues to freeze on the outside of the plant it remains at 0 C un-

til all the water is in a frozen state. However, once all the condensation around the plant has frozen the temperature of the tissues can start to drop and the plant is no longer protected. This is why there is so much variability in weather conditions and the resulting damage that can occur. Sometimes shorter durations at low temperature where dew or fog is present can cause less damage compared to a night with no dew or fog where -1 C or -2 C frost occurs for a longer period. Along with weather conditions the overall field conditions and crop health can affect the ability of plants to recover from frost. If drier soil conditions occur, then it can reduce the ability of a plant to recover from the injury.

If a severe frost has occurred in your crop and you have made the decision to use it as a feed source for animals, it is important to consider nitrate levels. Nitrate accumulation can become a problem when crops experience frost for even a few hours. Nitrate levels will peak at three to seven days after frost and will then decline to a normal level after 14 days if no other frost events have occurred during that time period. Nitrate levels can be managed if feed is tested and then used in a feeding program with other sources of feed. It is also important to note that fungicide and herbicide products that have been sprayed on a crop may have feeding or cutting restrictions. More information can be found on product labels or in the Guide to Crop Protection.

For more information, contact your local Regional Crops Extension Specialist, or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



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Sask., Feds, ranchers partner to protect biodiversity

As Canadians, we are fortunate to have an abundance of nature in our backyards – a gift that comes with a tremendous amount of responsibility to protect it.

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Jonathan Wilkinson along with Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Marie-Claude Bibeau, and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced a land exchange that will allow the federal and provincial governments to work with the ranching community to conserve prairie grasslands in southwestern Saskatchewan.

This land exchange helps Canada work toward its goal of conserving a quarter of its land and a quarter of its oceans by 2025.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) will acquire Govenlock, Nashlyn

and Battle Creek pastures from Saskatchewan, and manage them for the conservation of species at risk and migratory birds, while continuing sustainable cattle grazing.

Livestock grazing mimics traditional disturbance by plains bison and maintains the health and quality of the grasslands.

In return, Saskatchewan will acquire federal lands and improvements, such as fencing, barns, and corrals, of equivalent value in 55 former federal community pastures that have transitioned to producer control.

This land exchange will simplify and improve land management, enabling the efficient production of beef cattle, while supporting biodiversity.

Govenlock, Nashlyn and Battle Creek pastures cover an area of 800 km² and are an excellent example of how

governments, ranchers, and conservation groups can work together to protect iconic Canadian species.

Through collaboration, a strategy was developed to manage the pastures in an economically, socially and environmentally responsible way to support livestock production, wildlife habitat protection and local and Indigenous community interests.

“The Government of Canada is pleased to work with the Province of Saskatchewan, ranchers, and Indigenous leaders on this important land transfer in southwestern Saskatchewan,” Wilkinson said. “Together, we are protecting iconic Canadian biodiversity, including 10 species at risk, for generations to come. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard over the years to make this transfer a reality.”

“This is a wonderful story of collaboration between many different groups to preserve the environmentally-significant grasslands and achieve our goal of protecting 25 per cent of Canadian land by 2025,” Bibeau said. “We are especially thankful to the ranchers who will continue their great work as stewards of the pastures on the land.”

“Saskatchewan ranchers play an important role in our pasture biodiversity and protecting the environment,” Marit said. “Our cattle producers are the best stewards of the land and they serve a vital role in preserving native prairie landscapes.”

“The certainty of continued access to the pastures for sustainable cattle grazing while maintaining the ecological and environmental benefits of these grasslands is important for ranchers,” Battle Creek Pasture Patron David

McLeod said. “We look forward to continuing to build on the cooperative relationship we have established with Environment and Climate Change Canada.”

In 2017, the Government of Canada confirmed its desire to acquire and manage these pastures, covering an area of 800 km².

As part of this agreement, Canada acquires land from Saskatchewan valued at \$64 million for conservation purposes, in exchange for transferring land valued at \$64 million to Saskatchewan for efficient operation of pastures as provincial leased lands.

The area is recognized nationally and internationally for its significant concentration of migratory birds and grassland birds.

ECCC, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Saskatchewan engaged local ranchers, communities and Indig-

enous People regarding the transfer of lands and administration.

First Nations and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and ECCC are working to establish an Indigenous Advisory Committee to include Indigenous perspectives as a core partner in the ongoing management of these lands.

Patrons from the Govenlock, Nashlyn and Battle Creek pastures were actively involved in the development of the operational model that was used for the past two years and that will continue to be used in the future.

This area supports habitat for 10 species at risk including Swift Fox, Sprague's Pipit, Chestnut-collared Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Greater Sage Grouse, Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew and Northern Leopard Frog.

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Effects of COVID-19 on animals

Experiences and research over the last several months have identified some animal species with varying susceptibility to infection with COVID-19.

Mustelids, such as ferrets and mink, appear most susceptible and infection can result in severe clinical symptoms and death, as evidenced by current outbreaks on mink farms in the Netherlands and Denmark.

The mink outbreaks have resulted in infection of at least two people, which is the only documented evidence of animal-to-human transmission of the virus.

Felines, such as house cats and tigers, are also susceptible to infection; most seem to be asymptomatic although cases of comparatively mild clinical symptoms have been identified.

The virus will transmit

among feline populations but is not known to spread from cats to humans.

Hamsters can also become infected, and the virus will spread amongst hamster populations.

Infection in dogs has been documented less frequently, with confirmation of clinical disease in only one case to date and no evidence of spread between animals.

It is considered very un-

likely that an animal would be a source of infection for humans. To date, all reports of animals becoming infected with SARS-CoV-2 are believed to be cases of human-to-animal transmission, usually from an infected owner to their pet dog or cat.

If any person has COVID-19 symptoms or is self-isolating due to contact with a COVID-19 case, they should follow similar recommendations around their animals, as they would around people in these circumstances:

- Avoid close contact (petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, sharing food) with their animals during their illness.
- Practise good hand-washing and avoid coughing and sneezing on animals.
- If possible, have another member of their household care for their animals.
- If this is not possible, they should always wash their hands before and after touching their animals, their food and supplies.

• Restrict their animal's contact with other people and animals outside the household until their illness is resolved or they are no longer required by public health to self-isolate (approximately 14 days).

• Cats should remain indoors at all times.

• Dogs should be kept on a leash or within a private fenced area when taken outside for elimination activities, and kept away from other animals and people.

An additional risk to animals is what will happen to them if their owners become ill and are unable to take care of them.

You can help reduce these concerns by planning for your pet's care in advance. This includes identifying a family member or friend who will care for your animals if you become ill or are hospitalized.

Animal owners should also keep crates, food, and extra supplies on hand in case you are required to stay home for an extended period of time.

As always, help protect

your animals by making sure all their vaccinations are up to date and that pets have a collar and identification tag. This will help ensure your pet is returned home safely, should it need to be moved from your home because you are unable to care for it yourself.

Livestock and poultry producers have similar concerns about caring for their animals if they or their staff become ill.

Producers should be having discussions with their families and employees about who can help care for the animals should someone become ill. Producers should also arrange alternatives for animal care when employees are sick or required to self-isolate for a period of time.

Planning should include identifying the minimum level of care that is necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the animals, and making arrangements in advance with friends, family or neighbours for getting a "helping hand" when needed.



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Healthy litter for productive pastures

**By Luke Jorgensen, AAg.,
Range Management Extension
Specialist, Humboldt**

The primary objective of a pasture system is often to maximize forage yield to feed your livestock. There are many ways to improve pasture productivity such as applying fertilizer or introducing legumes, but a healthy level of plant litter is a critical component of a productive pasture.

Litter is the plant material that is left over from previous growing seasons. It includes residue on the soil surface as well as dead tissue that is still standing. Litter decomposes over time and contributes to soil organic matter, so it is important to add to the litter bank every year.

Litter is what's left after the growing season, so the only way to build it is to make sure that there is plant material remaining in your pastures when the snow falls. This can be achieved by letting a pasture rest and recover after a grazing event, or by taking your livestock off the pasture before they have utilized all of the available forage. Some years it might not be feasible to leave forage in the field, but litter accumulation is a long-term process and managing for litter is a long-term objective.

It's easy to assess the litter on your pastures. An accurate way to measure litter is to rake it up with your hand from a small patch of soil, then dry and weigh it. A 50cm x 50cm (0.25m²) quadrant is often used to define an area to collect litter from.

You can build a frame with these dimensions, or just use a measuring tape every

time you collect litter. Make sure to only collect dead plant tissue. Dry the litter in an oven and weigh it, then multiply the dry weight in grams by 35.6 to convert it to pounds per acre. You can keep the dried litter in plastic bags to use as a visual reference when assessing litter in the field.

Raking litter from a 0.25m² area and visually comparing it to your reference bags is another good option for measuring litter. You should aim for at least 250lbs/acre of litter on tame fields, and consult page 41 of

the Native grassland and forest Rangeland Health Assessment field workbook for recommended litter levels in your native pastures.

Managing your pastures to improve litter cover means leaving some forage left ungrazed, but there are many advantages. Adequate litter can improve forage yield by up to 50 per cent through several processes.

The benefits of litter are most pronounced in times of drought because litter acts as a sponge that absorbs rainfall and slowly re-

leases it into the soil. This means more water stays in the field instead of running off, and it reduces the chance of soil erosion.

The blanket of litter on the soil surface also helps keep the soil cool which reduces moisture loss by evaporation. Litter is also a food source for soil microorganisms, which use it to produce nutrients for your forage crop.

Managing litter is a key component of keeping your pastures healthy and productive, and it's a long-term investment that pays off.

Revisiting your farm's risk management plan for COVID-19

(NC) From markets to Mother Nature, Canada's agricultural producers are experienced hands when it comes to navigating the common risks of the farming business. But while most producers have solid risk management practices they can count on in times of crisis, the pandemic has been an unprecedented shock, leaving many wondering if there's more they could be doing to prepare for the unexpected.

"At RBC, our advisors have their ear to the ground on all

matters that impact your agriculture operation. We're always here to support producers as they plan for the realities that exist today, and for those that could exist in the future," says Ryan Riese national director of agriculture at RBC.

For farmers looking to revisit and strengthen risk management plans in light of COVID-19, Riese recommends the following tips:

Make risk management routine. In an evolving situation such as COVID-19, it's especially

important to monitor for new trends, conduct risk assessments and create contingency cashflow projections on a regular basis. Be sure you've adequately accounted for a broad range of risks across political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal areas, as the impact of the pandemic is multifaceted and complex.

Prioritize risks. Categorize risks into current and emerging risks and dedicate your contingency planning efforts to those that are most likely to occur and

to impact your business. Right now, this may mean planning to mitigate any renewed lockdowns, on-site outbreaks or macroeconomic changes that may ensue in the coming months.

Work with a trusted advisor. Consider sharing your contingency plan with your accountant, legal counsel or financial advisor. Not only will they then be aware of your plans should you need to spring into action, but they may also be able to provide insights and keep you on top of new developments as they emerge.

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Regulation changes enacted for livestock transporters

By Janelle Smith,
Livestock and Feed
Extension Specialist,
Tisdale Regional Office

In 1977, the federal government released the 'Health of Animals Regulations: Transport of Animals' to update standards on the welfare of animals in transport.

Participants in the amendment process included researchers and veterinarians as well as legal, government, and animal advocacy stakeholders.

The updated regulations were published in 2016, and enforcement of these changes began in February 2020. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is implementing a two-year gradual enforcement period involving education, promotion and outcome-based requirements as opposed to penalties for industry.

Failure to comply with the new regulations will result in penalties beginning in February 2022.

Some of the most notable amendments include:

- The addition of feed, water and rest (FWR) intervals and changes to overall transport times;
- New definitions and clearer language with outcome-based requirements;
- Updated vulnerable and compromised animal considerations;



and

- Innovation options for fully equipped conveyances.

Previous regulations focused on confinement time or the period animals are loaded and subsequently unloaded from transport.

The new amendments focus on the FWR interval instead of the total period that animals have been restricted. This interval accounts for the total time that animals are taken off feed and water

to the time they arrive at a destination that provides FWR.

This FWR interval cannot exceed 12 hours for vulnerable animals, 28 hours for porcine/equine and 36 hours for ruminants.

The outcome-based measure that will be enforced ensures animals get rest that prevents suffering, dehydration and exhaustion. If animals must be unloaded at a rest facility, the rest time must be at least eight hours, where it was

five hours previously.

Additionally, young ruminants eight days of age or less cannot be more than 12 hours without FWR, where previous regulations stipulated a maximum of 18 hours confinement time (see Related Links below for more information).

With these changes, new training is a compliance requirement for commercial transporters. The Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) Certification Program was

recently released by the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council in Canada. The training is provided online and is accessible from a computer or a smartphone.

There are two training streams: poultry or livestock (including cattle, sheep, hogs, bison and elk). Each stream provides instruction and best management practices for the welfare and safe handling of animals.

The CLT Certification Program focuses on key topics over six modules and graduates will be certified for humane handling throughout Canada and the United States. The cost is \$200 and funding assistance may be available.

Animal welfare is an important factor in animal agriculture from both a public trust, trade and production standpoint.

Commercial transporters, as well as other industry members including loading crews, animal catchers, producers and regulators need to stay informed on training and regulatory compliance changes.

If you have any further questions regarding the changes, please contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

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Father Peter Nnanga MSP

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake - Sun. 10 am
(Worship in Lutheran - United Church)

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Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
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MENNONITE BRETHREN

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Worship 10:50 am

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Glenbush
Worship - 11:00 am

BETHEL

Medstead
1st Sunday, 10 am -
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Pastor David Jensen
3rd Sunday - 10 am
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Pastor David Jensen

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Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Spiritwood
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Gerry Zak

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INSIDE EACH ISSUE Place Yours!

Ag groups ask feds for easier support payments

By Nick Pearce,
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

Saskatchewan agriculture groups are urging Ottawa to lower barriers blocking farmers from accessing supports in the face of volatile markets.

They've joined producers from other provinces asking the federal government to lower the threshold for payments under the AgriStability business risk management program from 30 per cent to 15 per cent lost income.

"Producers have faced some of the steepest declines, most profound declines our markets have ever seen," Sask Pork general manager Mark Ferguson said.

He supports making payments easier to trigger. As the pandemic stalled meat processing and restrictions shuttered restaurants, he said an

oversupply of pork products earlier this year sent prices plummeting.

Saskatchewan pork producers lost about \$40 to \$50 per hog shipped this spring and summer, Ferguson said. Market average typically falls around \$150 to \$200 per hog. This year, producers will likely lose an average of about \$20 per hog, he said.

He noted assistance did arrive: AgriStability waived its six-month waiting period and increased interim payments from 50 per cent to 75 per cent. Those changes helped, but "it doesn't fix the fact that this is a deeply flawed program," he said.

Another suggestion is to raise the payout percentage from 70 per cent to 85 per cent, he said.

Pointing to those earlier changes, federal Agriculture

Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau said in a statement that Ottawa "has been very clear that we will continue to work with provinces and territories to improve the suite of business risk management programs, with a focus on AgriStability."

While raising interim payments and extending the deadline, the federal government's business risk management programs could pay out more than \$2 billion to farmers this year, she said.

"As I have consistently said, we are working on a national approach that is fair across the different sectors and across the provinces and territories."

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture spokeswoman Angela Hall wrote in a statement that the province understands there is "interest in further changes to AgriStability."

The province is committed

to working with federal and provincial counterparts to create "a program that works for producers and will continue to consult on potential changes to the suite of programs," she wrote.

Producers are encouraged to take advantage of AgriStability, Crop Insurance, AgriInvest and the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program, Hall added.

Todd Lewis, president of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), said he supports the call for easier triggering, especially for livestock producers, noting Ontario groups have made similar calls.

Lewis added that Saskatchewan producers are weary of the program and less than half are enrolled in it.

In 2016, an APAS poll of producers found only 18 per cent

of respondents felt AgriStability could benefit them.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation spokesperson Whitney Treasure said 11,337 producers paid enrolment fees for the program in 2019. Census data from 2016 counted 34,523 farms in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Cattleman's Association CEO Ryder Lee said lowering the threshold would make the program more responsive, but wouldn't be a full solution.

Ranchers' expenses tend to be calculated differently from other producers because they often grow their own feed and hire less labour — which leads to less access to support, he said.

"If you make the triggers kick in quicker, it would kick in for more people. But we'd still be unfairly treated," Ryder said.

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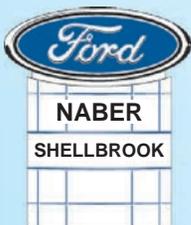
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