

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Moe talks seniors' issues in Shellbrook



Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe was in the hot seat, when he met with members of the Shellbrook Seniors' Association to discuss the challenges facing the province's elderly population.

You learn to do without.

That's how Shellbrook senior Edith Henry explained the options many seniors in the province are left with each month, as they are forced to decide between purchasing groceries or necessary, but sometimes costly, prescription medications.

The comment came near the tail end of an informal discussion about the challenges facing Saskatchewan seniors. That discussion saw Premier Scott Moe spend nearly two hours with members of the Shellbrook Senior's Association, listening and empathizing with the struggles they're facing.

But, for some seniors, having to

choose between prescriptions and groceries is just the tip of the iceberg.

As Henry explained, some are stuck between "a rock and a hard place," unable to handle the responsibilities of owning a home, but unable to afford (or find) a rental or assisted living.

"With fixed income, there's no way we could possibly go into an assisted living place, because even a poor assisted living place is over \$2,000 [per month]," she told Moe.

"If you want a place that offers the standard of life you're used to, they're up to \$4,000. There's no way we can do that on an income of \$1,600 a month."

Commiserating that Levels 3 and 4

nursing homes can cost upwards of \$6,000 per month — all of that paid for by provincial healthcare funding — Moe said that the government has tried to make things easier for seniors by investing in home care initiatives that allow seniors to stay in their homes longer.

"The longer that someone isn't at that cost level is actually good for the system from an economics perspective, but it's also good for us, as people, to be at home and near our families," he said.

"Home care has been effective where it's available. The best place for people to be is in their home for as long as they can be," he continued, adding, as he would at many times during the meet-

ing, that there's always more discussions to be had on home care and individualized funding models.

With cost of living being a dominant theme throughout the afternoon, Moe conceded that there are times when government can inadvertently get in the way of supports for seniors.

He added that different levels of government (or even different ministries within government) don't always do the best job of communicating, and that this is something his government, and its new Ministry of Seniors headed by Minister Warren Kaeding, intends to work on.

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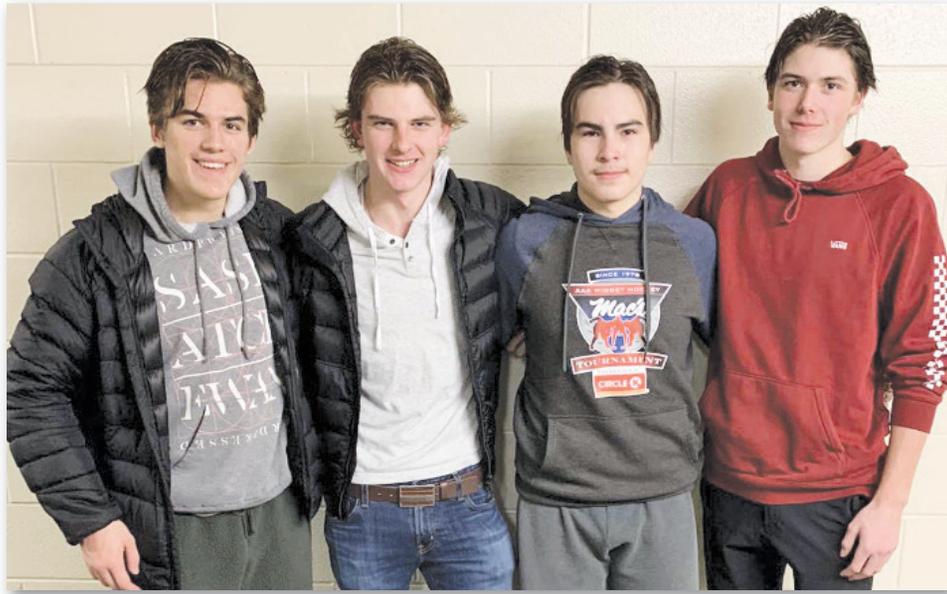
Hockey Day brings Mintos players back home

The Shellbrook Recreation Complex is set to be a hub of activity this weekend, as the fifth Hockey Day in Shellbrook officially gets underway.

Friday evening and Saturday morning will keep the focus fixed firmly on local hockey, with many of the events that people have come to love and expect from Hockey Day: The Tremblay Classic, the Shellbrook Silvertips headliner game, the Shellbrook Skating Club showcase, and an IP hockey tournament.

Once Saturday afternoon rolls around, however, Hockey Day attendees will be able to watch some high-level action from young up-and-coming talent, as the Beardy's AA Midget Blackhawks face off against the Martensville Marauders and Prince Albert's AAA Midget Mintos take on the Saskatoon Contacts.

While all four teams are coming from out of town, they'll be bringing no shortage of home-grown talent with them. All told, three out of the four teams feature players from Shellbrook and the surrounding area (indeed, almost half the Blackhawks' roster was



Prince Albert AAA Midget Mintos players Marek Schneider, Gage Helm, Dallyn Peekeekoot, and Ashton Ferster will be among the local players returning home to Shellbrook for Hockey Day.

wearing Shellbrook Elks jerseys last season).

In anticipation of these homecomings, the *Chronicle* spoke with three Mintos players who will be well known to the community: Ashton Ferster, Gage Helm, and Marek Schneider.

What's your fondest memory of playing in the Shellbrook rink?

Ashton: The year we won provincials [2014]. I was a second year atom playing up at pee-wee. We won Provincial B playing against Balgonie. That was one of the best moments I've had there, along with the

atom league championships as well.

Gage: Playing on the Shellbrook rink always felt like home. Growing up with your school-mates and classmates, everything happened in that rink: your first goal, your first assist, you met your best friend there. I still have those friends

to this day.

Marek: It was just having a great time. I had Drew [Ferster] as my coach, and always used to play with Ashton, Gage, and we had Brooklyn Anderson on our team at one point. It was honestly really fun. A great time.

How did playing in

Shellbrook help you reach the AAA level?

Ashton: I learned how to win. In our age group, I don't think we ever had a year where we didn't win. Knowing how to win just made losing that much worse. Whenever you lost, you didn't want to keep losing.

Gage: The coaches I grew up with were the best coaches I have had until this day. They taught me everything I need to know to perform at this level, and I still use some of those aspects until this day.

Marek: Playing there, it was more of a team kind of thing. Drew always used to put us with different guys. I was always a defenceman and I would always be playing with different people and getting to know different people. That whole teamwork concept was probably the biggest.

What are you most looking forward to

in returning to the Shellbrook rink?

Ashton: I'm looking forward to getting to play in front of people who maybe haven't seen me play in awhile. I'm coming back to show them it was worth leaving.

Gage: I'm excited for the atmosphere, mostly, but also to play in the new facility. It's pretty much all brand new, the boards, the lights, and even the dressing rooms have been updated. I'm just excited to come back and see what's new at the rink.

Marek: I lived in Shellbrook for three or four years, and I remember just going to school and having a good time. I'm excited to see all those people again. It's been a really long time.

The Chronicle also tried to reach Dallyn Peekeekoot, a fourth Mintos player with local ties, but didn't hear back before deadline.

Moe talks seniors' issues in Shellbrook

Continued from 1

"We're starting to bring those under one portfolio, one minister, and one ministry, so that you are really aligning the resources and the conversations," he said.

"It's not always an increase of funding. Sometimes it's recognizing a simple situation where one arm of funding will go up \$50 or \$100, and it will automatically cancel out \$200 of funding that's happening over here. Those are the things that are the unintended consequences."

On the issue of the rising costs of housing and utilities, Moe said that his government has had many conversations on how these rising costs impact seniors who are on fixed incomes.

For those who still own their homes, he did have one suggestion, the Seniors Education Property Tax Deferral Program, which allows seniors to forego some of their municipal property tax and pay it whenever they sell their homes.

When it came to healthcare and prescriptions, including false teeth and oral healthcare, Moe focused much of his attention on the federal government's pending exploration of nationwide universal pharmacare, and expressed cautious support for it.

"I have no doubt that the federal government is go-

ing to move on pharmacare, and we'll be supportive of that as long as we're able to work through the questions we have, just to be fiscally prudent – which I think we will," he said, touting the province's own pharmacare program

"We have a very strong, vibrant program here in the province. I suspect it will get stronger, with respect to coverage, as the federal government moves towards universal pharmacare."

With many seniors facing challenges when it comes to mobility and travel, Moe also heard many questions and comments about the shuttering of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC) in 2017.

Calling it one of the most challenging decisions the government has had to make, Moe said it was also a necessary decision to make in order to get the budget back to balance.

While some limited private services have popped up in place of the STC, mostly operating in urban centres, Moe admitted that this was something his government yet to figure out.

"The conversation around access to medical professionals and getting there is one that continues in government. It's expensive. We haven't come to an answer on how we address that."

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Ministerial hands out 42 Christmas food hampers

While Christmas is meant to be a time of joy and togetherness, this past holiday season in Shellbrook saw greater need than ever for the food bank operated by the Shellbrook and District Ministerial Association.

All told, the faith-based organization handed out 42 food hampers, complete with ham and turkey, to families and individuals, benefitting 134 people in the community (73 adults and 61 children).

This is a startling uptick from the 29 food hampers handed out during the 2018 holiday season.

But although overall food bank contributions were down compared to 2018, Ministerial treasurer Dave Whalley says the ministerial was still able to come through and meet the great need in the community.

He adds that it was all thanks to the support of volunteers, community organizations, schools, local and area businesses, and, for the second consecutive year, the Green Leaf Hutterite Colony.

"I'm just so grateful that the people gave the contributions that they gave," he said.

"The fact that people will come together for a common cause, and how the people come together for their own community, that's what makes our community viable. The volunteers just about bring tears to your eyes."

Calling the food hampers a key piece of the community's Christian heritage to help those in need, Whalley says that folks in the community don't fully understand just how much need there is out there.

While hesitant to get political, Whalley adds that this lack of understanding also permeates all levels of government.

"When we look at our economy, we look at the richness and we forget about those at the bottom end.



The Parkside Community Club got involved with the cause, donating \$500. Here, Community Club member Melissa Moe presents the cheque to the Ministerial's David Bodvarson.

There's more people falling off, and I just wish our governments would recognize that," he said. "They're always saying 'We balanced our budget, we've done this and we've done that,' but we've got people starving."

One community organization that clearly understands the need within the community is the Shellbrook Kinettes, who, over the past five years (according to Kinetite Tasha Cyr's estimates), have offered a helping hand with the hampers.

Calling the work "important" and "at the top of the list" of the services the Kinettes provide each year, Cyr says the Kinettes are happy to be able to say that they lightened the weight and the expense of the holiday season for families in need.

While the group's members are no strangers to supplying donations for the food hampers and helping pack them, this year saw them go the extra mile by supplying a loaf of bread and butter for each of the 42 hampers (thanks, in some part,

to cash donations received from the community).

While the giving is important, Cyr says that what she likes to see is the Kinettes' kids pitching in and learning first-hand the impact that a selfless act can have.

"That is the point of Christmas right? To spread joy and help others," she said, noting that a group of Grade 5 students also came to help pack hampers. "It is important to a lot of us to pass this on to our kids, and to make sure they see the meaning of the holiday season."

Recalling a time when the Kinettes used to only give their time and whatever personal donations they brought with them, Cyr says she loves how much the Kinettes' involvement has grown over the years.

She adds that the Kinettes will be back to help again next holiday season.



The Shellbrook Kinettes (and some of their kids) continue to play an important role in putting the food hampers together and providing donations.



Junior Citizen of the Year Scholarship

For over the past four decades The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and with the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, have recognized the youth of Saskatchewan through the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

- Have a positive lifestyle
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HOCKEY DAY In Shellbrook

Friday, January 17th

- 1:00 - 3:00 pm School & Community Skate
- 4:30 - 8:30 pm Street Hockey Tournament
- 4:30 pm Tremblay Classic
- 5:30 - 7:00 pm Come & Go Appreciation Event @ Curling Rink Lounge
- 6:30 pm SHELLBROOK RINK GROUP PHOTO
- 7:00 - 7:30 pm Skate Club Showcase
- 8:00 pm Shellbrook Silvertips vs. Birch Hills Blackhawks
*Beer Gardens & Smokie Sale

The Sports Banquet promises to be a great night out! Tickets are selling fast, get yours soon by contacting Becky at 306-747-7976

Saturday, January 18th

- 8:00 - 10:30 am Pancake Breakfast @ Rink
- 8:00 - 11:00 am Initiation Hockey Tournament
- 9:00 am Street Hockey Tournament
- 11:15 am AA Midget Game - Beardys Blackhawks vs. Martensville Marauders
- 2:00 pm AAA Midget Game - Prince Albert Mintos vs. Saskatoon Contacts
- 5:30 pm Banquet
 - Emcee: Comedian Kelly Taylor
 - Guest Speaker: Dennis Hull
 - Live Auction
 - Music & Socializing

Sex offender's name change raises many questions

Can people ever really change? Or are the genetic markers and personality traits we inherit and develop immutable?

It's a simple question; a question that has been debated for longer than anyone can remember. But for all the arguing that has been done, it still boils down to one's philosophical point of view.

An optimist will tell you that yes, absolutely, people can change. They can learn from their mistakes, grow and improve as people. The work to change may be challenging, and the desire to revert to what comes naturally may be overwhelming at times, but anyone who genuinely wishes to change can do it.

A pessimist will say that we are who we are, warts and all, and that there's nothing that can really be done about it. A bad person will always be a bad person — or, in the very best of times, just one step away from relapsing into being the bad person they are at their very core.

Conveniently, we tend to lean more towards the side of optimism when it comes to ourselves. Who, after all, would want to believe themselves incapable or undeserving of redemption?

When it comes to others, though, we're rarely as forgiving.

If it's a family member or a close friend, we might give them the benefit of the doubt. But for strangers, especially ones who have been convicted of a crime, an old saying about leopards and their spots comes to mind rather quickly.



JORDAN

TWISS

~
News Editor

The debate about change seems rather apropos, given recent headlines that a convicted sex offender relocated to Regina and changed his name without anyone batting an eye or asking a question.

The offender, David Donald Stryker (né David Donald Shumey) was convicted in Nevada in 1999 for incidents involving a young girl. After he made parole in 2018, the United States shipped him back to us, on the grounds that he was an "illegal immigrant."

Information about Shumey's name change is available to the public through the Saskatchewan Gazette. But if not for the media, it's easy to imagine that no one would be the wiser.

Needless to say, with this not being the first time this has happened in the past few years, the Saskatchewan government is conducting an internal review into how these things keep happening.

"The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry Health are currently examining changes to the application process including not allowing a change of name where an offender has been convicted of committing specific sexual offences," Minister of Justice Don Morgan said.

The trouble, however, is that these are almost the exact same words that were said in 2018, when sex offender Justin Gerard Gryba succeeded in changing his name (Gryba was convicted of producing, possessing and distributing child pornography).

While the public scratches its head about

how convicted sex offenders keep being allowed to change their names — no doubt as a means to hide from their past wrongs — the debate about change once more comes to mind.

So, too, does a common debate about the intended purpose of our criminal justice system.

For some, prison is no more than a place where the worst of society goes to rot so that the rest of us law-abiding folk can live in peace. That's it. That's all.

Others, meanwhile, have a more aspirational idea for what prisons can do. They contend that the criminal justice system's focus should be on fixing criminals so that they can become productive, law-abiding members of society in the future.

Regardless of where one stands, one can't deny that the latter would be the ideal scenario, if for no other reason than it would allow us to recoup some of the costs of locking

the bad guys away.

The question, then, becomes whether or not it's feasible.

Can the David Donald Shumey and the Justin Gerard Grybas of the world be fixed? Or will they always be nothing more than the heinous and perverse acts they committed?

Are criminals the way they are because something inside of them is lacking or irrevocably broken? Or are they led to a life of crime by extenuating factors?

History tells us that crime is more complex than "bad guys being bad guys." There's also evidence to suggest that restorative justice can help some criminals turn their lives around.

Nonetheless, the idea of Shumey and Gryba hiding from their past sins by taking new names remains highly unpalatable.

The Saskatchewan government's review of how criminals change their names needs to be swift and fulsome.



A walk around town: Spiritwood Spirited Arrows

I drive by the old Spiritwood Ag Barn just about every day on my way to go feed pigs but I hadn't ever seen the inside of it. Friday, I took a trip over there to hang out with the Spiritwood Spirited Arrows for their weekly archery shoot.

It was the second shoot of the year for the club, which is currently organized by Jennifer Epp and Tanis Franson. Jennifer and her son Travis help coach the youth archers (aged 21 and under) who are participants in the Junior Olympic Program which has clubs across North America.

Epp said the first thing that youth are taught is about safety when shooting arrows. A green and red lighting system is used to indicate when it is safe to be shooting and when it is safe to be collecting arrows.

After safety, posture and technique are worked on to help kids improve their personal accuracy and consistency.

Every Friday from now until April the 15-20 youth that participate in the club come out for 10 rounds of 3 arrows. If an archer obtains

60 points 2 evenings in a row, the following evening they move up to a farther distance to practice at. After the youth portion of the evening is over, adults can drop in around 8:30 to do some shooting of their own. It's \$10 for a week to get 10 rounds in.

The archery season wraps up with the Provincial Junior Olympic Program Shoot in April, which determines whether any youth get to advance to a bigger shoot throughout the summer.

Michael Robinson was one youth who did very well in his younger years at these archery shoots. After placing 1st at the provincial shoot in Prince Albert and 2nd in Estevan, he came 1st at a national shoot in Prince George, B.C. and went on to the World championship in Snow Shoe Mountain, West Virginia where he came 6th out of 450 shooters.

His father Cal Robinson, who originally helped found the Spiritwood Spirited Arrows, has had his share of winning as well. Cal has placed 3rd at a provincial shoot in Estevan and 2nd at a national shoot in Prince George, B.C.



Silvertips keep wins coming in Dalmeny

The Shellbrook Silvertips were back in action on the road Sunday afternoon, stopping in Dalmeny to cross sticks with the Dalmeny Sabres.

Though the Twin Rivers Hockey League's regular season campaign is only weeks from wrapping up, this marked the first meeting between the Tips and the Sabres. But like all but one of the Tips' opponents this season, the Sabres were unable to weather the offensive storm.

The Sabres hung tough, but in the end, the Tips skated away with a hard-earned 7-4 victory on the strength of a solid

(and rare) start between the pipes for netminder Todd Bazley.

Where games over the last few weeks saw the Tips get off to slow starts, the team wasted no time getting on the board and building a good lead.

Mitch Wourms got things started only 11 seconds into the match, scoring on an assist from Parker Turner. Brett Robillard struck, unassisted, about five minutes later.

Closing out the first period score sheet, Wourms netted his second of the evening on the power play, thanks to helpers from Brendon Beaulac and Nathaniel

Martin.

Building on the momentum they'd established in the opening period, the Tips pushed the score to 4-0 early in the second frame. Daryl Blais netted a short-handed goal, drawing assists from Devin Dicus and Beaulac on the play.

Later in the frame, however, the Tips' penchant for inopportune penalties came back to bite them, allowing the Sabres to finally get on the board. Joe Luciano scored the power play marker, with assists from Daniel Blick and Caleb Scheller.

Dalmeny would wrap up the frame with an-

other goal in the dying seconds, this one netted by Dawson Rowley on assists from Terrin Belosowsky and Rylan Couture.

Where the first period of the game was all Tips and the second period was mostly Sabres, the third period of Sunday's matinee match was a back-and-forth volley, which in the end was won by the Tips.

Shellbrook's Justin Kerr got things started early, scoring on assists from Braidon Turner and Daryl Blais. But penalty troubles would dog the Tips again, allowing Ben Strautman to bring Dalmeny back

within two on helpers from Kyle Martin and Scheller.

Tips forward Braidon Turner would fire back minutes later, scoring an unassisted marker, but again the Sabres would strike to close the gap to two. Couture scored the goal, on an assist from Dawson Rowley.

As the action settled down in the back half of the final frame, the Tips would add an empty netter for extra insurance to claim their 7-4 victory. Dicus scored the goal, unassisted.

For his 54-save performance on the afternoon, Bazley earned "Tip of the Game" honours.

Most importantly, the victory saw the Tips climb to 12-1 on the season and retain their one-game hold on first place.

This weekend will see the Tips in action on home ice for the Hockey Day in Shellbrook festivities.

They'll be hosting the Birch Hills Blackhawks, the only team to beat them this season, in the headliner game on Friday evening. The game, sponsored by Lake Country Co-op, will feature a guaranteed \$1,000 50/50, smokies, and a beer garden.

Puck drop for the match is slated for 8:30 p.m.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Is a flat earth really so out of the question?

Dear editor:

There is a worldwide discussion happening as to whether the earth is flat and stationary as the Bible teaches or if it is a revolving sphere hurtling through space.

Some questions should be answered before one writes off the flat earth belief as being nonsensical.

How can planets and moons maintain an orbit when just a slight variance in the balance between centrifugal force and gravity would quickly compound with the moon or planet either flying off

into space or being pulled quickly in to a crash. Yet we are to believe that this balance has been maintained for billions of years.

With the moon supposedly creating the pull to create the tides, why does the moon not lose speed because of this drag? Imagine a water skier behind a boat. And if supposedly the sun has much greater gravitation pull than the moon so as to keep the earth from flying off into space, why does it not create massive tides as the earth's oceans rotate into or away from the sun on a daily basis?

Why does the moon exhibit different traits than

the sun if supposedly its light is a reflection of the sun? Moon light is cold, sunlight is hot. Moonlight aids in fermentation, sunlight is a disinfectant.

Why can we see objects which supposedly should be hid behind the curve of the earth? For example, I have taken a picture with the camera flat on the ice and I can see the lake edge 3.7 miles away. The lake edge should be hidden behind 9 feet of earth curvature.

Laverne Isaac
Saskatoon, Sask.

Ottawa needs to act on Global Polio Initiative

Dear editor,

What is the government waiting for? The international community has pledged a new round of disease prevention through the Global Polio Initiative, but Canada is nowhere to be found.

Vaccinations are the cheapest, most effective way to prevent disease and reduce poverty worldwide. Disease and poverty are twin sides of the same coin: someone suffering from measles, malaria or polio or a whole host of other preventable diseases cannot work or support a family.

It makes far more economic sense to fund vaccinations than complex medical services for the sick. The world knows this and most developed nations have already pledged their share of funding. But where is Canada?

The election was a long time ago, yet Minister Gould is still missing in action. While the world waits for Canada to act, recent outbreaks of polio and measles show that infectious diseases do not.

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Member of



Anderson, Wolfe commit to Trinity Western

Just two-months ago, Brooklyn Anderson was making history as a member of the Team Saskatchewan squad that won the province's first-ever U18 Women's Nationals medal (a silver).

Now, the 17-year-old Shellbrook-born hockey player, who currently captains the Prince Albert Northern Bears of the Saskatchewan Female Midget AAA Hockey League, is further padding her resume with a commitment to play for the Trinity Western University Spartans in Langley, B.C.

"It's something I've always looked forward to," Anderson said. "I always want to become the best player I can be, so I think it's the best opportunity for me."

Trinity Western only came onto Anderson's radar when she received a text from an unknown number while sitting in class one day.

That text was from Spartans head coach Jean Laforest, who was interested in seeing more video of Anderson, and also curious about her plans for university.

"I was looking to go to university for further education and to play hockey, but I wasn't sure where yet," Anderson said. "I was talking to a few schools, but I wasn't too keen on any of them."

After that initial text, Anderson says she and Laforest began talking over the phone, and discussing what it would look like for her to apply to the university and

join the team. Then, in December, Anderson and a fellow teammate travelled to Langley for a campus visit.

Based on that visit, and Trinity Western's educational offerings, Anderson says she made her mind up.

"They've got a few programs I was interested in, and the program I'll be taking is the pre-medicine one," she said. "Then, when we got to visit the campus, it felt comfortable. I could see myself living there."

On the hockey side, Anderson says that Laforest has hopes that she'll become one of the team's top forwards and goal scorers, and that she'll bring her style of play to the team's overall game.

While she shares

those hopes, she's also aware that playing at the university level will be a whole new experience; one that requires her to focus intently on her training and diet regimen during the upcoming offseason.

"It'll be a different atmosphere with all new girls," she said.

"It might be a little bit intimidating, but to further my hockey, that's something I'm really looking forward to."

Helping to ease the transition, Anderson will be joined by fellow former Shellbrook hockey talent Ashlee Wolfe, who has also committed to play for Trinity Western.

The two started going to school together in Kindergarten, and were separated in Grade 9 when they went to play hockey in different cities. For Anderson's part, she's excited to



After years of playing in different cities, local hockey talents Brooklyn Anderson and Ashlee Wolfe will be reunited at Langley, B.C.'s Trinity Western University.

suit up with her old teammate again. "Now that we get to come back together, and go to school and play hockey together again, that's really something I'm looking forward to."

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1

DISTRACTED DRIVING PENALTIES ARE GETTING TOUGHER IN SASKATCHEWAN. FINES ARE INCREASING:

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Ag regulations require difficult balancing act

If there is one thing I am rather confident in, when I look toward the future of agriculture, is that producers will face more and more rules and regulations in terms of what they do on their own land.

That is perhaps not a particularly surprising statement since there has been a trend in that direction for years now.

Regulations rarely start here on the Canadian Prairies, but as new rules come into play in other jurisdictions they are often adopted here, albeit at times tweaked to specific situations here.

As examples, farmers today face much more

regulation when they go to trench across their land to drain a slough than they did a decade ago. The new rules developed as it was better understood that draining a slough might well aid the producer doing the draining, but the impact on neighbours 'downstream' where the water would flow might well be negatively affected.

Farmers can also face localized regulations for the rather straightforward fall burning of straw, which of course creates smoke that can be an issue for neighbours, especially for urbanized clusters near the fields in question.



CALVIN DANIELS

There are also rules, developed in the last decade or so, regarding the disposal of dead farm animals. Simply dragging them to a fence line for the coyotes and magpies to clean up being frowned upon, for some rather obvious reasons.

Livestock producers

also face new regulations when it comes to veterinary work on the farm. It is no longer a simple case of going to the farm supply store to buy a bottle of penicillin and going home to self-treat a sick animal.

The list of regulations will only get longer moving forward.

Producers wanting to get a glimpse of what might be coming down the road need only watch international news, in particular in Europe and California, both locales where the urban voice is organized, strong and ultimately listened to by governments.

It can be argued poli-

ticians should listen to those who put them in power, but often voters come at perceived issues from an emotional viewpoint rather than one based on good science and common sense. That can create some real issues for governments trying to appease the voters they need to keep happy to be re-elected, and doing the best thing, for in this scenario, agriculture.

That was the apparent case in France recently, when the government established safe distances for pesticide spreading on crops near homes in an attempt to settle a debate between

farmers and environmentalists.

From Jan. 1, there must be a five-metre gap between sprayed fields and housing for shorter crops like cereals and a 10-metre zone for taller crops like fruit trees, the agriculture, environment and health ministries said in a joint statement according to a recent story at www.producer.com

The government regulations haven't made either side happy, not a surprise, but it does show how politicians have to juggle to try to develop reasonable rules and to hold onto votes.

John Feige inducted into Sask. Ag Hall of Fame

The Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame (SAHF) has announced the five individuals and one couple who will be inducted into the Hall in 2020.

The inductees being recognized for their contributions to Saskatchewan agriculture are: John Feige, Adele Buettner, Jack Hay, Eileen and William Lamont, the Honourable Gerry

Ritz and Ted Serhienko.

The Lamonts and John Feige are being honoured posthumously.

"Saskatchewan agriculture, and by extension the province as a whole, has benefitted from the contributions of these leaders," SAHF board chairman Reed Andrew said in a release.

"We are stronger as an indus-

try due to the dedication and hard work of the 2020 inductees and it is my honour to announce their upcoming inclusion in the Hall of Fame."

The inductees' portraits will formally be added to the Hall at a ceremony in Saskatoon on April 18, 2020.

John Feige (deceased in 2004), born and raised in

Shellbrook, helped promote beef genetics across the globe through his involvement with the Hereford Association and has a long list of community involvement.

He received the Cattlemen of the Year Award in 1991 and the Saskatchewan Livestock Association Honour Roll in 1995. He received the Canadian Her-

ford Association Honor Roll, and was honoured at the Prince Albert Exhibition and Saskatoon Fall Fair, both in 1998.

He was then honoured posthumously by the Prince Albert 4-H in 2005.

John loved life on the farm and was proud to be a part of the agricultural business in Saskatchewan.

Sask Wheat commits \$1.9 million to collaborative wheat research

The Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat) has committed \$1.9 million to support wheat research projects funded under the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) in 2019.

Saskatchewan's Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. David Marit, announced the funding of all crop-related ADF projects at CropSphere 2020 on Tuesday morning.

"The ADF funding process is a key mechanism to connect researchers and wheat breeders with Saskatchewan's wheat producers, keeping producers involved in developing new varieties and finding solutions to pests, diseases and environmental stressors," says Ken Rosaasen, Sask Wheat Director and Research Committee member. "These projects will allow Sask Wheat to continue to achieve our mandate of maximizing

returns on producer check-off investments and building long-term, sustainable growth for the industry."

Sask Wheat has committed over \$9.3 million to projects through the ADF process since 2014. This research falls into the areas of variety development, production and post-production.

"Investing in targeted research and allowing researchers and wheat breeders to leverage funding from several sources will benefit Saskatchewan wheat producers now and in the future," Rosaasen says. "We are very pleased to partner with the Government of Saskatchewan and collaborate with other ADF co-funders to find new opportunities for wheat producers and strengthen the future of Canadian agriculture."

For a look at currently funded research, visit www.saskwheat.ca.

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Highlights of an R.M. of Leask council meeting

(Where necessary, the following minutes may have been edited for clarity or brevity)

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 held in the Leask Municipal Office on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019.

The meeting was called to order by Reeve Cantin at 9:05 a.m.

Present were Reeve Len Cantin, administrator Judy Douglas and the following Council members: Grant Thiel - Division 1; Gordon Stieb - Division 3; Ed Musich - Division 4; Robert Girod - Division No. 5; and Clarke Gossen - Division 6.

Absent was Real Diehl - Division No. 2.

Girod: That the Minutes of Dec. 4, 2019 regular Council meeting be

adopted as presented. Carried

Thiel: That Bylaw No 8-2019 A Bylaw to Appoint a Bylaw Officer be read for the second time. Carried

Stieb: That Bylaw No 8-2019 A Bylaw to Appoint a Bylaw Officer be read for the third time. Carried

Thiel: That we send a letter to Robert Lane to attend a Council meeting to discuss options regarding the roadway to the North Emerald subdivision. Carried

Stieb: That we accept the attached list of fire fighters for 2020. Carried

Girod: That Wayne Minnie be approved under the tree clearing policy for clearing brush and trees on the east side of SE 2-48-5-W3 and NE 2-48-5 and the SE 11-48-5-W3 for a to-

tal of 1 ½ miles. Carried
Musich: That the Council Indemnity be approved for payment #11136-11141 in the amount of \$3,191.90. Carried

Girod: That we approve payment for the list of accounts cheque #12547-12595 and 5172-5185 in the amount of \$126,165.20 and payroll Cheque #2078-2090 in the amount of \$23,379.22 and 11116-11134 in the amount of \$5,570.22. Carried

Musich: That we authorize payment of the Green Fund awards for 2019 as follows:

- Leask Recreation Board: \$600.00
- Leask Golf Club: \$2,722.25
- Village of Leask: \$2,722.25
- Royal Canadian Legion: \$2,722.25
- Leask Happy Home-

steads: \$2,722.25

• Leask Sports Centre Inc: \$2,722.25. Carried

Stieb: That the Budget Control Report for to Dec. 11, 2019 be received as presented. Carried

Gossen: That we accept the October and November 2019 bank reconciliation reports as submitted. Carried

Delegation: Guy Cadrain & Ginette Grening 11:30 - Guy Cadrain and Ginette Grening attended the meeting to discuss undesirable road traffic, enforcement, signage, graveling and road widening for equipment.

Gossen: That the Planning Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Girod: That the Administration Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Stieb: That we accept the Report from the Su-

perintendent of Public Works. Carried

Stieb: That the RM agrees to the route of the proposed power line as per Service Order 20266245. Carried

Gossen: That the Reeve and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the Statutory Declaration Clearing The Path Incremental Maintenance. Carried

Gossen: That we notify Sasktel that we welcome the proposed plan for a wireless expansion with the proposed location of SW 04-48-07 W3 for constructing a tower in the RM for enhanced wireless cell service. Carried

Musich: That we enroll all of the municipal Council and staff into the Respect in the Workplace program at a cost of \$20 per partici-

pant. Carried

Thiel: That we authorized the Reeve and CAO to sign the Letter of Engagement with Jensen Stromberg for the 2019 audit. Carried

Girod: That we authorize the CAO to apply for the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth program for construction on the road East of Sec 16, 21, 28, 33 - Twp 47 - Rge 6 W3 and the road North of Section 22 and 23 - Twp 47, Rge 6 W3. Carried

Thiel: That we cancel the taxes for Lot 2, Block 1 Plan 102073913, Darren & Randi Lamotte in the amount of \$1,432.02 due to a 293 error on roll # 2196 102. Carried

Thiel: That the correspondence be received and filed. Carried

Stieb: That this meeting be adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Smart Meters to Cut Costs for Businesses

**Paid advertorial*

SaskPower is offering a new program that could help cut power costs for businesses. The new smart meter program is a helpful tool for businesses to track their power use. The company is offering 1,000 smart meters to selected small- and medium-sized business across Saskatchewan in the coming months.

Here's how it works: interested business owners can go online to apply. If you are selected, SaskPower will send out a technician to replace your existing power meter with a smart meter. SaskPower provides these meters at no cost. The smart meter will automatically track your power use. SaskPower then bills for the exact amount of power a business uses each month. This means no more estimated bills between actual meter reads.

Smart meters track data points every 15 minutes. Business owners can see this data online. This access to power use data can help businesses cut costs. How much a business saves depends on how much action they take. Businesses in North America that use smart meters have been able to save 2% on their power bill just by having better data. No-cost or low-cost actions can help increase these savings up to 15%. These actions include

“No one is excited about paying bills, but this is one bill we're looking forward to.”

improving your heating/cooling schedules and having staff be more conscious of power use.

According to the US Department of Energy: Federal Energy Management Program, some businesses with smart meters have noticed savings up to 45% on their power bills. This happens when

business owners combine tracking their power use with long-term procedure changes. Changes can include upgrading equipment or changing operating procedures.

Safety is another key feature of the new smart meters. All meters have passed third-party testing. They've also passed harsh condition tests, which means that business owners can rely on them during Saskatchewan's toughest weather.

One business owner who has taken advantage of this offer is Alan Dougherty, owner of the Orpheum Theatre in Estevan. The Orpheum opened in 1914 and is a landmark of the community. “The theatre, being this old, has a lot of power consumption,” says Dougherty. “The boiler uses it, the air conditioning, the projectors. It has limited insulation because of the brick building. It definitely consumes a lot of power.” He was drawn to the program because he wanted to avoid true-



Dougherty inspects smart meter with SaskPower technician. Photo courtesy of Scott Goodwill.

ups and estimated bills.

For interested business owners, installing a smart meter is easy. Contact SaskPower online at www.saskpower.com/smartsignup to sign up. Quantities are limited. If chosen, SaskPower will contact businesses to schedule their free installation. “It was a very simple process,” says Dougherty. “[The technician] came and talked to me about what the procedure was—shutting off the main power to the building. It only took two or three minutes. It went very smoothly.”

For Dougherty, the smart meters are a

welcome improvement to his business. He's looking forward to seeing his power usage in real time. “No one is excited about paying bills, but this is one bill we're looking forward to.”

Leask Legion presents awards to students



Leask Legion #79 presented awards to the following students from Blaine Lake and Leask schools for their entries to the Remembrance Day Poster and Literary Contest. Dillon Weber, Paige Luciw, Valerie Priestley, and McKenna Swystun. Missing - Jourri Atabbas, Violet Moshenko.



Valerie Priestley, Sierra Lafond, Dakota Skwark, Wyatt Henderson, and Brienne Grenier. Missing - Natalie Ledoux, Sienna Stieb.



Valerie Priestley, Taneisha Bell, and Daisy Dunning. Missing - Iyana Boissoneau.

How to shovel snow without hurting yourself



(NC) Save yourself a trip to the clinic the next time you shovel the snow from your driveway by following these tips from Dr. Kevin Velicaria, M.D. family medicine:

Warm up and cool down. Shovelling snow can be as much of a workout as going to the gym, so prepare your body with a brief warm-up to get your muscles ready. When you're done, be sure to do some cool-down stretches, especially for your lower back.

Use the right tools. An ergonomic shovel with a

curved handle will help reduce the strain on your back. Avoid choosing one that's too large because you're likely to strain yourself if you try to move too heavy a load. Be sure to also wear footwear with good grip to prevent falls.

Bend your knees. Protect yourself from back injuries by bending your knees when lifting any amount of snow. Try to avoid twisting your body as you work and you'll keep your lower back happy.

Take your time. Don't try to do everything at once. Shovelling too

much, too fast usually leads to injury. Pace yourself and do only as much as your body can take. If necessary, come back at another time to clear the rest.

If you do overdo it, there are ways to control pain and inflammation. Applying ice to the affected areas is always helpful as is an application of Awaye, a natural, topical pain cream developed in Canada. It works by leveraging the body's own defence system and combines two pain-relieving agents to help you get back to normal faster.

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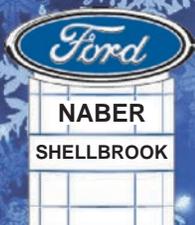
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Minutes of a Village of Leask council meeting

(Where necessary, the following minutes may have been edited for clarity or brevity)

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Leask which was held in the Leask Village Office on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019 commencing at 6:30 p.m., with Deputy Mayor Gordon Harris, Councillors JoAnne Lapierre and Thomas Spriggs, and administrator DeAnne Robblee present.

Absent was Mayor Arthur Spriggs.

G. Harris: The Leask Hardware Store Meeting on Nov. 20, 2019 was called to order by acting Mayor (Deputy) Gordon Harris at 6:20 p.m. - 7 p.m. Carried

G. Harris: The Council Meeting on Nov. 20, 2019 was called to order by acting Mayor (Deputy) Gordon Harris at 7 p.m.

B. Galambos: That council update resolution No. 275/19 to read:

“Resolution to get a No Fee Cash Back business Credit Card with a maximum limit of \$500 from the Affinity Credit Union for DeAnne Robblee, Village Administrator’s use.” Carried

J. Lapierre: That the Council approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council on Oct. 16, 2019. Carried

T. Spriggs: Robert McHanson – Title Transfer – to Leask Community Hardware Ltd. from

McHanson’s Hardware. Tabled

Delegation: 6:20 - 7 p.m. Kathy Sevigny from the Leask Community Hardware Store presented the monthly and annual financials to council along with a monthly reporting of operations.

T. Spriggs: Resolution to accept the Quote from Pricewaterhouse Coopers to perform the Audit for the 2019 Financials for the Village. Carried

B. Galambos: Resolu-

tion to accept the Quote from Pricewaterhouse Coopers to perform the Notice to Reader for the 2019 – 2020 Financials for the Leask Community Hardware Store. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution to sign the Gas Tax Fund Agreement. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution for council to appoint Brian Galambos as a new Shareholder for the Leask Community Hardware Ltd. Corporation – Brian to sign Shareholder Documents. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution to give Mike Rogers a gift from the Village for his years of service. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution for council to sign the “Annual Resolution of the Board of Directors of Leask Community Hardware Ltd” corporation documents. Carried

B. Galambos: Resolution for council to approve and sign the Annual Resolutions for the Leask Community Hardware Corporation. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution for Dec. 11, 2019 be the designated day for the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Carried

B. Galambos: Resolution to hold the Village Holiday Party on Dec. 13, 2019 at the Legion.

J. Lapierre: Resolution to approve Accounts for Payment as presented. Carried

(7:15 p.m. Councillor Harris removed himself from the meeting declaring pecuniary interest for

reimbursements. He returned to the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

B. Galambos: Resolution to accept the Financial Statement from the Leask Community Hardware Store - October 2019. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution to accept the Financial Statement October 2019 for the Village. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution to begin having discussions about the 2020 Budget. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution to accept the following reports:

- Foreman Report
- Water Treatment Plant Report
- Employee Time Sheets
- Leask Sports Center Meeting Minutes 09/03/2019
- Leask Sports Center Meeting Minutes 11/05/2019

• RCMP Quarterly Report

• Administrators Report. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution to accept the Correspondence:

a. Letter and donation from the Leask Historical Committee for restricted funding for the upkeep and beautification of the area between the fire hall and the library. Carried

G. Harris: The next meeting of council be held on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Office.

G. Harris: 9:45 p.m.: That this meeting of council be adjourned. Carried



BILL 194 MAKES LOCAL GOVERNMENT LESS OPEN

Bill 194, the Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, was recently given second reading in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly and could soon become law. It recommends amendments to several Acts relating to the publication of official notices by city, town and rural municipalities.

In short, Bill 194 removes the requirement for city, town and rural municipalities to provide ‘public notice’ of valuable information that affects our daily lives, in exchange for ‘public access’ to that information.

It gives local government the option to post information only on its own website rather than using independent media to inform citizens of its actions.

If this bill is passed, it will be up to you to have to go and find out yourself if any land is being rezoned, or if your municipality has hired people without advertising that a position was available, or if there is a notice of an upcoming election.

Local government has said that the sections in Bill 194 that affect mandatory publishing of public notices in newspapers will be at the discretion of the council or municipality as to whether they will do that.

Bill 194 must be amended to keep public notice in independent media and to protect openness and transparency of local government.

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Shellbrook Chronicle

Canada's hockey talent overflowing

Sports fans love debates. Who starts in goal? Who should be traded? Should the coach be fired? Who gets time on the power play?

So with that in mind, let's pretend that some sort of international hockey championship — Winter Olympics, for example — is approaching and every country has to select a 22-player roster (12 forwards; seven on defence; three goalies). Canada has such a deep pool of talent that some tremendous players would be left at home.

Sorry, John Tavares, you simply aren't good enough to play for Canada. Our country is too deep at centre.

Our fictitious Canadian team starts in the middle, with the world's best player, Connor McDavid, leading the way. He's backed by fellow centremen Nathan MacKinnon, ol' reliable Sidney Crosby and Steven Stamkos, who edges Tavares for the final centre position. Other star centres left at home include the likes

of Patrice Bergeron, Logan Couture, Matt Barzal, Ryan O'Reilly, Taylor Hall, Brayden Point and Tyler Seguin. Wow! Canada has enough centres to fill three rosters.

On left wing, the Canadian squad might be led by Brad Marchand, even though he'd be likely to incite an international incident. Others on the port side are Johathan Huberdeau, David Perron and Matthew Tkachuk. (Maybe the coaches can add Tavares to the roster and use him on left wing to shore up an otherwise weak collection of players.)

Mark Scheifele would lead the Canadian right-wingers, followed by Mark Stone, Mitchell Marner and Brendan Gallagher, whose grit would come in handy to help deal with the Marchand-sparked 'incident'. A spare part on the right side would be Travis Konecny.

Defence would be another area of strength for Canada, with Drew Doughty, Shea Weber, Alex Pietrangelo, Dougie Hamilton,



BRUCE
PENTON

Morgan Rielly, Brent Burns and super rookie Cale Makar manning the blue line. Just missing the cut are Kris Letang, Ryan Ellis, Thomas Chabot, Shea Theodore, Josh Morrissey and the reigning Norris Trophy winner, Mark Giordano.

While many of the best NHL goalies are internationals, Canada would still be strong in the net behind Carey Price, No. 1 for perhaps the final time in this fictitious event. Backing him up would be Jordan Bennington and Marc Andre Fleury, with Braden Holtby and Darcy Kuemper waiting in the wings.

How would Canada stack up against the world's best with this squad? Almost unbeatable, IMO. Next week, we'll select a U.S. team that, at first glance, looks decent but has nowhere near the roster depth of Canada.

• R.J. Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Police in China have used an unusual method to try to slow down speeders — cardboard cutouts of squad cars. They were inspired by the Cincinnati Bengals defence."

• Norman Chad of the Washington Post: "Watching Tom Brady throw these little hitch passes would be like listening to Sinatra sing 'Frère Jacques.'"

• Comedy writer Jim Barach: "The Angels will buy Angel Stadium and stay in Anaheim through 2050. The plan is to merge with Disney and turn the ballpark into the new theme park, Troutland."

• Washington Post reader Mark Cohen, quizzing columnist Norman Chad: "Are there any videos in the Patriots' 'Do Your Job' series

that aren't about cheating?"

• Headline at Fark.com: "Rendon joins the Angels, but in the good way."

• PGA player Max Homa, on Twitter: "Tiger somehow got people to believe we're real athletes. Let's not ruin all his hard work."

• Homa again, who has qualified for his first Masters: "I don't think I'd be nervous on the first tee at my first Masters. It's always been a dream of mine to play that tournament. I'd jump right past nervous and skip straight to violently ill, unfit to be in public."

• Patti Dawn Swansson, the River City Renegade, on the information blackout over the departure of Dallas Stars' coach Jim Montgomery in December: "The Stars have only told us that Monty was dismissed for 'unprofessional conduct,' a blanket statement that could cover everything from aiding and abetting Lee Harvey Oswald to piddling on the Grassy Knoll while intoxicated." (Montgomery later went public with an alcoholism admis-

sion.)

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, on Twitter: "Half-time security alert from the Capital One Orange Bowl: When leaving tonight's game and headed to your car, if you hear someone say, 'What's in your wallet?' — chances are you are being robbed."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg, on the Seahawks failing to deliver a last-minute TD from the one-yard-line in a big game once again: "We may have to call Pete Carroll Repeat Carroll."

• Jack Finarelli at SportsCurmudgeon.com, on Jimmy Haslam about to hire his seventh head coach and sixth GM since purchasing the Browns in October 2012: "If Haslam planted a vegetable garden, I would not be surprised to learn that his harvest was meagre because every other day he would pull the plants out of the ground to see how the roots were developing."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Demystifying dyslexia

(NC) As children settle into a new school year, they are making friends, adapting to new teachers and facing new challenges. Some may struggle more than others, but how can you tell if a learning disability is impacting your child's ability to succeed?

One of the more prominent is dyslexia. Approximately 15 per cent of Canadians struggle with it, yet according to a recent study less than a third of us would be able to recognize the signs.

While dyslexia cannot be cured, with early identification and proper instruction, it can be managed. This is why it's important to understand how to recognize dyslexia.

Here's what you need to know:

What is it? Dyslexia is a learning disorder that makes it difficult to identify speech sounds and recognize letters, words and numbers. It affects the way the brain interprets these when putting them together and can often jumble everything up, creating a

confusing experience. Dyslexia affects everyone equally, regardless of gender, socio-economic or ethnic background.

What you can do. If you suspect that your child may have dyslexia, don't wait — act. There are many online screeners that can help identify it. If you think your child has the condition, speak to your school to access additional resources, or contact a tutor who specializes in structured literacy. Find dyslexia support groups to learn more.

How to succeed. "Just because someone is diagnosed with a learning disability doesn't mean that they cannot be successful. They just learn in a different way," explains Christine Staley, executive director of Dyslexia Canada. "Early identification and proper reading instruction are key to managing dyslexia and creating a successful future."

For more information on the test and resources that exist in Canada, please visit dyslexiacanada.org.

Saskatchewan Winter Parks Offer Fun Winter Experiences!

This winter, many Saskatchewan Provincial Parks will be hosting events to help Saskatchewanians embrace the winter season. Enjoy outdoor activities like tobogganing, snowshoeing and ice-fishing along with a variety of others including several Winter Fun Day events that can be found at www.saskparks.com by clicking on Activities.



Nadine Wilson
MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers
saskrivers@sasktel.net

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
MLA for Meadow Lake
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

Hon. Scott Moe, Premier
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

GOOD NEWS

~
HOW DO YOU KNOW?

There is a story I heard years ago that still speaks to me.

It is about a Chinese man who had one son and one horse.

As life has it, the one horse he had broke out the corral and ran away. His neighbours came by and commented "Your horse got out? What bad luck!"

I love the Chinese man's response he said, "Why? How do you know it's bad luck?"

Interestingly, the next night the horse came back to the

corral looking for his usual feeding and watering, leading some 12 wild stallions with him!

Not bad! The young son saw the 13 horses in the corral, and he quickly slipped out and locked the gate. Wow! Now the Chinese man had 13 horses instead of none.

One got to love his neighbours. They came by and said, "Oh, you have 13 horses now! What good luck!"

The wise Chinese man said,

"How do you know it's good luck?"

As the days went by, the young son decided to break one of the wild stallions. Things happen. The young guy got thrown off the horse and broke a leg.

Of course the neighbours heard about it and had to comment. They came by and said to the Chinese man, "Your son broke his leg? What bad luck."

The wise father answered again, "How do you know it's

bad luck?"

Interestingly, a warlord came through the very area the Chinese man lived and conscripted every able-bodied young man. You may have guessed, it the young man was spared because he had a broken leg.

Only Jesus knows what's good for us and what's not. Romans 8:28 says, "...we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."

It may take a life time to learn this lesson, but when we do it makes it possible to pray the prayer Jesus prayed to the Father, "... not My will, but Yours, be done." Luke 22:42

Wishing you His best in 2020. And when you confess that you don't know be assured God does, and that He is too wise to make a mistake and too loving to be unkind.

Blessings,

Pastor D. Bodvarson
SPA

Sask. adds 10,400 new jobs in 2019

According to new Statistics Canada data, Saskatchewan saw an increase of 10,400 jobs, or 1.8 per cent, from 2018 to 580,400 jobs. More than half of that job growth is due to full-time jobs.

Saskatchewan's annual unemployment rate was the fourth lowest among provinces at 5.4 per cent

and remained below the national rate of 5.7 per cent in 2019.

"In spite of external headwinds, the creation of 10,400 jobs in 2019 is an indication that Saskatchewan has a robust, diverse and growing economy," Immigration and Career Training Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Sas-

katchewan's growth plan set an ambitious target of 100,000 new jobs by 2030, last year's job growth shows that this target is reachable and well on its way of being met."

December 2019 also marked the 17th consecutive month of job growth on a year-over-year basis.

In December 2019, there

were 579,900 people employed, an increase of 6,700 jobs over December 2018. Saskatchewan's monthly unemployment rate was 5.7 per cent (seasonally adjusted) in December 2019, down from 5.8 per cent in November 2019.

Other December 2019 highlights:

• Record highs for the month of December for

labour force (612,000 persons), employment (579,900 jobs), full-time employment (470,000 jobs) and female employment (269,300 jobs);

• Off-reserve Aboriginal employment increased by 4,400 jobs (+9.8 per cent) and Aboriginal youth employment was up 3,200 jobs (+45.1 per cent);

• Major year-over-year

gains were reported for information, culture and recreation up 3,500 jobs; accommodation and food services up 3,500 jobs; and manufacturing up 3,100 jobs; and

• Female employment was up 3,100 jobs (+1.2 per cent) and youth employment up 1,500 jobs (+2.1 per cent) compared to last December.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Regular services, Sunday school and special services will be listed.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN**

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Chris Dean

**PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH**

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Doug Hope
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Glenn Blazosek
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Lorne Valuck

**SOVEREIGN GRACE
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Currently meeting in
homes on Sunday morning
& Wednesday evenings
Parkside 306-747-2309
Leask 306-466-4498
Marcelin 306-226-4615

EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Summer: 10:30 a.m. - 12
306-469-2258
Youth Nite: Fridays
Mont Nebo
Bible Study & Prayer
Sun., 11:00 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Michael Fahlman
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Michael Fahlman
Eucharist Celebrations
Muskeg
Sunday, 3 p.m.
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday - 11 a.m.
Mistawasis
2nd & 4th Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Phong Tran

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Katherine Bretzlaff

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ADVENTIST**

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
Broadcast on
VOAR 92.1 FM
Pastor Liviu Tillihoi
306-313-8685

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Service
2 p.m. Service 2nd Sunday
of the month
Rev'd Eyad Ajji
306-980-5916

UNITED CHURCH

Shellbrook - Knox United
Sun., 10 am - Worship
306-747-3434
Student Minister
Jon Worrall
Big River
Sundays
10 a.m. - Worship
at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804

MENNONITE

BRETHREN CHURCH
Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel
109 Railway Ave. W.
Blaine Lake
306-497-3316
Pastor: Rick Schellenberg
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Worship

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Books, Movies, Magazines, Children's Section, Internet, Printing, Study/Meeting Space, Proctor Service, Community Programming. Hours: 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.

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Regular Library Hours - Tues. 1 - 5 p.m., Thurs. 10:00 a.m. - 4 pm & Friday 1 - 5 pm. Storytime: Fridays 2 pm. Play cards the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. Crafter's Choice the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 am.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Monday 3 pm - 7 pm; Tuesday 11 am - 4 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

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

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library is open Tues. 2 pm - 7 pm; Thur. 2 pm - 8 pm; Sat. 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: Mon. 2 - 6:30 pm; Tues. 12 - 8 pm; Wed. 2 - 8 pm; Thur. 12 - 6:30 pm; Fri. 9 - 4 pm. Children's Story Time: Fri. 10:30 am (Sept - June).

LEASK: Leask Sports Centre Inc. AGM @ Rink. January 21, 2020 ~ 7 pm. Opinions & support needed.

CANWOOD: Canwood Curling Club Elimination Draw - Saturday, February 1, 2020, Starting at 8:30 pm, Canwood Skating Rink. Grand Prize \$3,500 Cash plus every 50th ticket wins \$100. 2nd last ticket drawn wins \$500 (total value of prizes \$4,500) \$50 per ticket - max 300 tickets sold. Need not be in attendance to win. Lottery License: #RR19-0450. Tickets Available: Affinity Credit Union - Canwood, Grant Person 306-893-8085. Annual Billy Spiel - Canwood Skating Rink, Jan 31 & Feb 1, 2020. Entry Fee \$120.00/team. Call or Text Grant 306-893-8085.

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With caregiver burnout on the rise, who helps the caregivers?

(NC) Caring for a family member or friend with a health issue can be a challenging and often overwhelming responsibility. But if you're one of the 8.1 million Canadians who are untrained and unpaid, yet responsible for care, you know exactly what this involves.

With the new Caregiver Friendly Pharmacy Program now available, caregivers can confidently connect with local pharmacists

who have been specially trained to support them and address the many questions and issues they may have.

Through education tools, an online caregiver support network and a collection of other resources, the program can help caregivers navigate the terrain of care, support their own well-being, and advocate for their loved ones with increased knowledge, confidence and assistance from their

pharmacy team.

"The program takes a unique approach by recognizing the burden of caregivers – many of whom must give up their jobs to assume responsibilities they just don't have the training to do," says Iris Krawchenko, a pharmacist consultant and caregiver to her own elderly parent. "We see caregivers in pharmacies every day, in every region, and this program provides a tremendous opportunity

for pharmacists to start a dialogue, offer education, provide guidance and build trusted relationships over time."

The 2018 Canadian Carers Pulse Survey revealed that seven in 10 Canadians feel that caregivers are overlooked or under-supported by the current healthcare system. Given that more than 80 per cent of caregivers pick up medications for loved ones, pharmacists were identified as a

critical healthcare provider whom caregivers and their loved ones see more often than physicians, specialists and other members of the healthcare team.

"Our healthcare system is stretched for time and resources and pharmacists are no different," says Krawchenko. "But when you have professionals that are accessible seven days a week and often 24 hours a day, ready with the tools and informa-

tion, they now become a critical pillar of support."

The online tools are designed to optimize the in-pharmacy experience, helping caregivers recognize their own needs, assist pharmacists' engagement and enhance their important shared role in supporting patients.

Find a pharmacy in your local community that has been trained to support caregivers at tevacaregivers.com.

How to bring your finances back on track after the holidays

(NC) Since the festivities are over, it's time to take back control of your personal finances, especially if you spent more than you intended.

Everybody knows that the holidays can quickly become expensive in terms of gifts, trips and dinners. If you have exceeded your budget and are in debt, immediately restore order in your finances before the situation becomes a source of stress.

Establish a budget

Creating a budget may seem complicated when you don't know where to start. However, some tools will make your task easier. The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada has just launched a new practical and innovative tool that will help you estab-

lish a budget tailored to your needs.

Simple and easy to use, their budget calculator provides instant feedback and personalized suggestions that will help you develop a budget that suits you. You can update it anywhere and anytime to adjust your spending plans as they change.

Practice active saving

This means adopting the habit of saving on a regular basis. People who practice active saving have higher levels of financial resilience as well as higher levels of overall financial wellness. In other words, regardless of the amount of money someone makes, regular efforts to save for unexpected expenses and other future priorities appear to be

the key to feeling and being in control of personal finances.

Plan to pay off debt

This enables you to significantly reduce the interest you are paying. Start by making a list to identify all your debts. Don't omit any, even if some of them are small. Review your budget and identify all your sourc-

es of income and expenses. Then, choose a repayment strategy. Start with the debts with the highest interest rates, or those with the smallest balances. Eliminating the number of debts you have can increase your motivation to repay your debts more quickly.

Learn more at canada.ca/money.

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OBITUARIES

~
Noreen Kasner

KASNER – Noreen
1953 – 2020

It is with heavy hearts, the family of Noreen Kasner announce her peaceful passing on Jan 7, 2020 at the age 66, after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born in Prince

Albert, SK, on Feb. 25, 1953, to Tom & Adeline Herriott, the youngest of 3.

Noreen attended and graduated high school in 1971 in Prince Albert. She was very involved in all high school sports.

Noreen and Robert were married October 7, 1972 and lived in Prince Albert where they purchased their first home and resided until they moved to the family farm in 1980.

Noreen worked at Abrametz & Eggum Law Office for the 7 years they lived in Prince Albert.

In 1979, they decided they would move to the family farm and take it

over. Their daughter Lisa was born August 1979 and they moved into the farm house December of 1980. Their son Tyson was born 1 year later, in October 1981. They resided on the farm for 39 years, just moving into Shellbrook one year ago. Their son Tyson & wife Marliese, and their 3 boys are now living on the 112-year-old Kasner family farm.

Noreen started working at Bradley & Lane Law Office in Shellbrook in 1985, and worked there for just about 30 years

Noreen loved country music concerts and attending any Broadway show that she could!

Noreen kept busy with many hobbies & interests. From stained glass projects, being a part of the rural craft tour, to painting projections and classes, and casual projects with friends

To learning how to clog at age 50, gathering and organizing clogging events locally, and developing great fellowship over those years.

Noreen loved golfing, rarely missing a lady's night, and enjoying the times spent golfing with her family.

Noreen was a golfing partner to many, shopping assistant, craft partner and most of all a loving wife, mother and grandmother who will

be deeply missed by everyone that knew her.

Noreen is lovingly survived by her husband of 47 years, Robert Kasner; her children, Lisa (Chad) Tuttoen and children, Brooke, Julia and Jordan; Tyson (Marliese) Kasner and children, Will, Dallan and Travis; her siblings, Virginia Kasner (Gord Marud); Jim Herriott; her sister-in-law, Diane Benson.

Noreen was predeceased by her parents, Adeline and Thompson Herriott; her mother and father-in-law, Mary and William Kasner; and her brother-in-law, Allan Kasner.

There was a Memorial

Service held for Noreen on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 2:00 pm from the Shellbrook Community Hall with Rev. Emmanuel Aristide officiating. In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Noreen to either the Shellbrook Hidden Hills Golf Club or to the Shellbrook Skating and Curling Rink c/o Town of Shellbrook. Those wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements were entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Phyllis Vaughan

VAUGHAN – Phyllis

Phyllis Vaughan, late of Canwood, SK, passed away in Prince Albert on January 9, 2020 at the age of 86 years. Phyllis grew up in Emma Lake area and attended school in Tweedsmuir until grade 10, completing her education in Prince Albert. Her first employment began at McIntosh Point working for the store/hotel and dance hall. In the early 1950's, Phyllis moved to the Shellbrook area to work for the Lauder family. She was later employed in Shellbrook at the bakery lunch counter and it was during this time that she met Jackie at a ball game, they married in 1953. Phyllis was a long-time member of the Royal Purple. Phyllis will be lovingly remembered by her sisters: Gertie

Lennox of Tweedsmuir, SK, and Dorothy Hook of Prince Albert, SK; her brother: Ken (Grace) Hill of Tweedsmuir, SK, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Phyllis was predeceased by her husband: Jack in 1997; her parents: James and Christina Hill; her seven siblings: Donald, George, Bob, Harold, Bill, Gerald, and Marj; her sister-in-law: Eva (Harry) Watson and her brothers-in-law: Ronald Hook, Stanley Lennox and Charles (Eva) Vaughan. Funeral Service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the Canwood Elks Community Center in Canwood, SK with Susan Sorensen officiating. Interment at Prince Albert Memorial Gardens followed the lunch. In lieu of other tributes, donations in memory of Phyllis may be made to Kinsmen Telemiracle, 2217C, Hanselman Crt, Saskatoon, SK, S7L 6A8. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Tracy-Lynn Lenchuk -Funeral Director, Prince Albert, SK 306-763-3322.



VERBONAC – Bernard

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Bernard Verbonac on December 24, 2019.

Bernard was born on February 22, 1946. The second of seven children born to Peter and Hilda Verbonac. Bernard grew up on a farm two miles west of Leask, where he became acquainted with the aspects of farm life and established a life of frugality and hard work. Bernard attended elementary school in Leask, making the long trek to school by horse and buggy in summer and horse and caboose in winter along with his brother and sisters.

After a brief period in high school, Bernard decided school was not for him. He was able to attain various jobs

in the construction industry in Saskatoon and surrounding area. In 1965, Bernard moved to Surrey, B.C., and was employed in a plywood factory where he worked the graveyard shift for six years. On his holidays he liked to return home to help on the farm. In 1971 he returned home to Leask to form a partnership with his brother Melvin on the farm. They worked side by side for 48 years. In 1976 they purchased their uncle's land east of Leask. On this land was the original quarter section that had been homesteaded by their grandparents on the maternal side in 1906. The house where Bernard's mother grew up became his home where he resided until his passing. Bernard was most content when he was farming. He especially enjoyed harvesting. He was an accomplished mechanic and could repair any piece of machinery no matter how much time it took as he had the patience to stick to it until it was done. Bernard liked family gatherings. The family remembers that he never missed spending Christmas

and birthdays celebrating with them. He loved music and taught himself to play the guitar by ear. He also enjoyed a bonfire and a good roasted hot dog.

Bernard will be remembered by his daughters, Kathleen Verbonac of Prince Albert and Carrie Verbonac (Shale Galloway) of Regina and children, Selena Anderson, Seanna Galloway, Santana Galloway and Noah Galloway; his siblings, Melvin Verbonac (Jean) of Leask, Bernice LaFramboise (Shelton) of Saskatoon, Mary Jean Steffler of Edmonton, Alberta, Margaret Ritter (Dan Bartley) of St. Laurent, Manitoba, Joe Verbonac of Edmonton, Alberta, Celine Glueck (Howard) of Port McNeil, B.C.; as well as

numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Bernard was predeceased by his parents, Peter and Hilda Verbonac; and his brother-in-law, Richard Steffler. A Celebration of Bernard's Life was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at St. Henry's Roman Catholic Church, Leask, SK. In remembrance of Bernard, memorial donations can be made to S.T.A.R.S Foundation or to Kinsmen Telemiracle. Friends and family wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Tammy Smart, Director, Shellbrook (306-747-2828).

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Sask. Public Safety Agency sends three more wildland firefighters to support Australia wildfire response

This weekend the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) sent three more wildland fire management staff to New South Wales, Australia, for a deployment of 38 days.

These specialists join eight other SPSA staff already in Australia helping crews battle bushfires. They will relieve those that deployed at the beginning of Decem-

ber as part of a Canadian contingent co-ordinated by the Canadian Inter-agency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).

"Australia is in dire need of help and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency is more than willing to answer that call," SPSA President Marlo Pritchard said. "As a province well versed in evacuations and fighting wildfires, the province of

Saskatchewan sends not only its assistance but also its heartfelt condolences to those affected by this tragedy."

This is the third Saskatchewan deployment of Canadian firefighters to Australia under the Exchange of Wildland Fire Management Resources Agreement. Canada has called on Australian firefighters four times since 2015.

The original group has been helping to manage wildland fire incidents in the areas around Glen Innes, Grafton, Casino and Kempsey in the northeastern part of the state.

The National Resource Sharing Centre in Melbourne requested assistance from Canadian wildfire agencies to fight bushfires along the east coast of Australia. Ca-

nadian fire management staff are filling operational, planning and aviation roles.

A severe and early fire season in eastern Australia has led to fatalities, property loss and the destruction of large areas of New South Wales and Queensland.

Saskatchewan is a member of the CIFFC. When appropriate, Canadian provincial wild-

fire agencies export fire-fighting resources at the request of other jurisdictions through mutual aid resource sharing agreements.

To learn more about the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/crown-corporations/saskatchewan-public-safety-agency>.

Saskatchewan government investment saves students money

The Government of Saskatchewan is providing a quarter of a million dollars to save students money on their textbook purchases.

The innovative approach supports professors and instructors at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina to develop open textbooks and other open educational resources for students. The initiative is expected to save current and future students at least \$6.4 million with the resources developed so far.

"The Government of Saskatchewan supports innovation in the delivery of public programs and services," Advanced Education Minister Tina Beaudry-Mellor said. "We continue to invest in supports and affordability efforts that make a difference for post-secondary students. Our province's \$1.25 million investment in the development of open text books over the past five years is helping reduce costs for approximately 70,000 students.

"This year marks the fifth consecu-

tive year open textbook funding has been allocated to Saskatchewan's three largest institutions. Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina each received a \$83,000 grant for 2018-19."

Open textbooks benefit students by lowering costs, increasing access and enriching the quality of learning. Faculty members benefit from the flexibility to tailor resources to their teaching styles, add local context and meet unique cultural needs.



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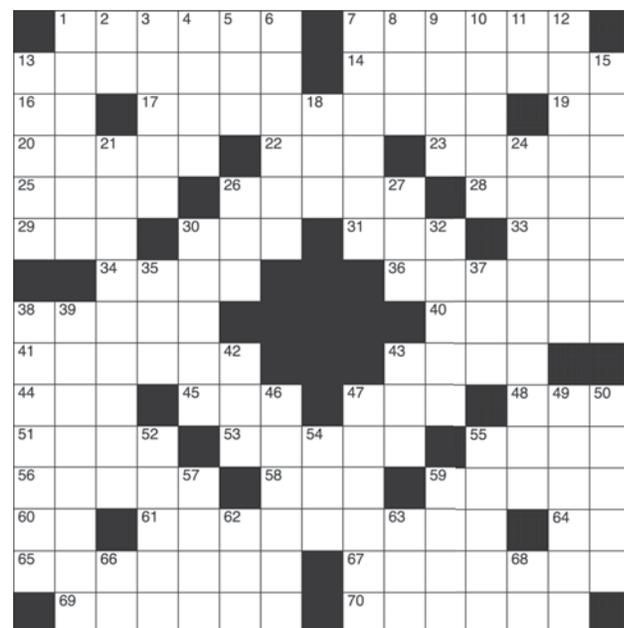
CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Recurring TV show
7. Throws out
13. Iberian Peninsula microstate
14. Gossip
16. Atomic #20
17. Ivy League institution
19. Of I
20. "He Is ___!": Scripture excerpt
22. Musical genre
23. Heavy cavalry sword
25. Ancient Olympic Site
26. Satisfies
28. Popular flower
29. Shared services center
30. Drain
31. A way to attack
33. Urban Transit Authority
34. Spiritual leader
36. Postponed
38. N. American plant with edible purple-black berries
40. Gazes unpleasantly
41. Gets up
43. Capital of Ukraine
44. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
45. Golf score
47. Superhigh frequency
48. Swiss river

CLUES DOWN

1. Mollusks
2. ___, denotes past
3. Anchor ropes
4. Large Middle Eastern country
5. To make a mistake
6. Ancient governor
7. Extents
8. Chinese surname
9. NYC subway "residents"
10. Essential oil used as perfume
11. A way to treat injuries (abbr.)
12. Session
13. Units of land areas
15. Goes over once more



51. Felons
53. Succulent plants
55. Soluble ribonucleic acid
56. Deliberately setting fire to
58. Infamous singer Zadora
59. Anwar ___, Egyptian statesman
60. Influential sports mag
61. Aromatic Mediterranean plant
64. Sixth note of a major scale
65. Unit of explosive power
67. Large watertight chamber
69. Popular street
70. A way of watering

18. Where wrestlers work
21. Italian islanders
24. Avenue
26. ___ Adams, U.S. President
27. Rest with legs bent
30. Type of flour
32. The Golden State (abbr.)
35. More (Spanish)
37. Stinging, winged insect
38. The use of irony to mock
39. Arsenals
42. Pouch
43. 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
46. Violent seizure of property
47. Restrict
49. Something comparable to another
50. Punishment device made from stems
52. Soul and calypso songs
54. Formerly OSS
55. Athabaskan language
57. ___ bene: observe carefully
59. Six (Spanish)
62. Read-only memory
63. Chinese philosophical principle
66. American conglomerate
68. Tin

Answers on page 18

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you to the Beau Lac Funeral Home for their warmth and compassion. Thank you to Rev. Rita Cattell for her comforting service, to Grace Buhler and the Community Choir for the special music, to the pallbearers, to the Royal Purple for their service, honour guard and the lovely lunch they served after the service. Thank

you to the Canwood community for the kindness, support and assistance to Mom over the years. Special thank you to Art and Linda Young, and Donna Lovberg for all you have done to help Mom and our family. The kindness shown us will never be forgotten. With gratitude: Roy, Glen, Gail and families.

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Hosta of the Year (2020): 'Dancing Queen'

By Erl Svendsen

There are hundreds if not thousands of registered hosta cultivars. From 10-centimetre (4-inch) miniatures to 2-metre (6-foot) giants, hostas come in a range of leaf colours including green, yellow, blue and variegated (usually in a few shades of green with/without white or yellow) and with pink to lavender flowers and some with noticeable fragrance. They are great perennials for the

shade, but some cultivars have amazingly good sun tolerance. In my previous south-facing yard, 'Patriot', a green and white variegated medium-sized cultivar, excelled in full sun without bleaching or wilting. Hostas are long-lived, well-behaved (will not spread beyond their allotted space or self-seed to any extent) and are easy to propagate by division. Depending on size, they can be mass planted, used as a groundcov-

er, placed in the front or mid-section of a border, or featured as specimens in the garden or containers. One thing to note is that not all cultivars are equally hardy, at least in my experience.

With all this variety, how do you choose? Since 1996, the American Hosta Growers Association (<http://www.hostagrowers.org/>) has tried to make this easier by featuring a 'Hosta of the Year', a cultivar that

is a dependable performer and with guaranteed availability at a reasonable price in garden centres across North America.

This year's winner is 'Dancing Queen'. It is definitely a showstopper with its sunny golden foliage, it is sure to brighten any shady nook. The bright yellow leaves emerge in mid- to late spring and stay yellow throughout the summer unlike other yellow cul-

tivars which mature to chartreuse as they age. The leaves have distinct veins and a rippled edge (some describe it as a 'pie-crust' edge), adding an additional textural element to your garden.

The foliage forms a mound up to 45 centimetres (18 inches) high and 75 centimetres (30 inches) wide at maturity. The pale lavender, funnel-shaped flowers, appearing in mid- to late summer, overtop the leaves on 70-centimetre (28-inch) stems. Bees love them and they may attract the occasional hummingbird. They also make a perfect addition to bouquets. 'Dancing Queen' tolerates some sun, up to 4-6 hours, but unlike 'mad dogs and Englishmen' it should be placed in a location that avoids the mid-day sun. Given its moderate size, 'Dancing Queen' can be planted in the front to mid-border, used as edging, a ground cover or specimen. It can even be used as a feature plant in a larger patio container.

er, sandier soils should be amended with lots of compost, well-rotted manure or peatmoss. Remove flowering stems close to the base after the flowers have faded. Also remove any damaged leaves to keep the plants looking tidy. Slugs can be a problem. To my shame and consternation, I have been battling little grey garden slugs for several years, but they seem to ignore my hostas until the very end of the season. For fall cleanup, remove the leaves once they've been killed by frost or, in spring before new growth appears. The best time to divide hostas is in the spring just as new growth starts (when the purple 'eyes' or growing tips have just emerged). Dig up the entire clump and cut the root mass in sizeable sections. Replant the sections immediately at the same soil level as before and water well until they're established. You can also pot up some sections to share with your gardening friends.

Erl gardens in Saskatoon and tweets about it on occasion @ErlSv. (yet), it is rated for USDA hardiness zones 3-9 (Saskatoon is in zone 3A).

In general, the key to growing hostas is to ensure that the soil stays evenly moist but not wet – a thick layer of organic mulch will be much appreciated. They do best in rich, well-drained soils (e.g. clay to loam). Light-

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com). Check our website (www.saskperennial.ca) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/saskperennial) for a list of upcoming gardening events.



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Dancing Queen. Photo credit: Bob Solberg, Green Hill Farm