

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



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Thursday, April 16, 2020

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Distance learning the new normal for students

Students in the Light of Christ Catholic School Division (LOCCSD) were able to hit the books again starting March 30.

Following the indefinite suspension of all pre-kindergarten through Grade 12 classes on March 20, the provincial government's Education Response Planning Team (RPT) has been meeting daily to provide support for the school divisions in the province and help initiate supplemental learning opportunities.

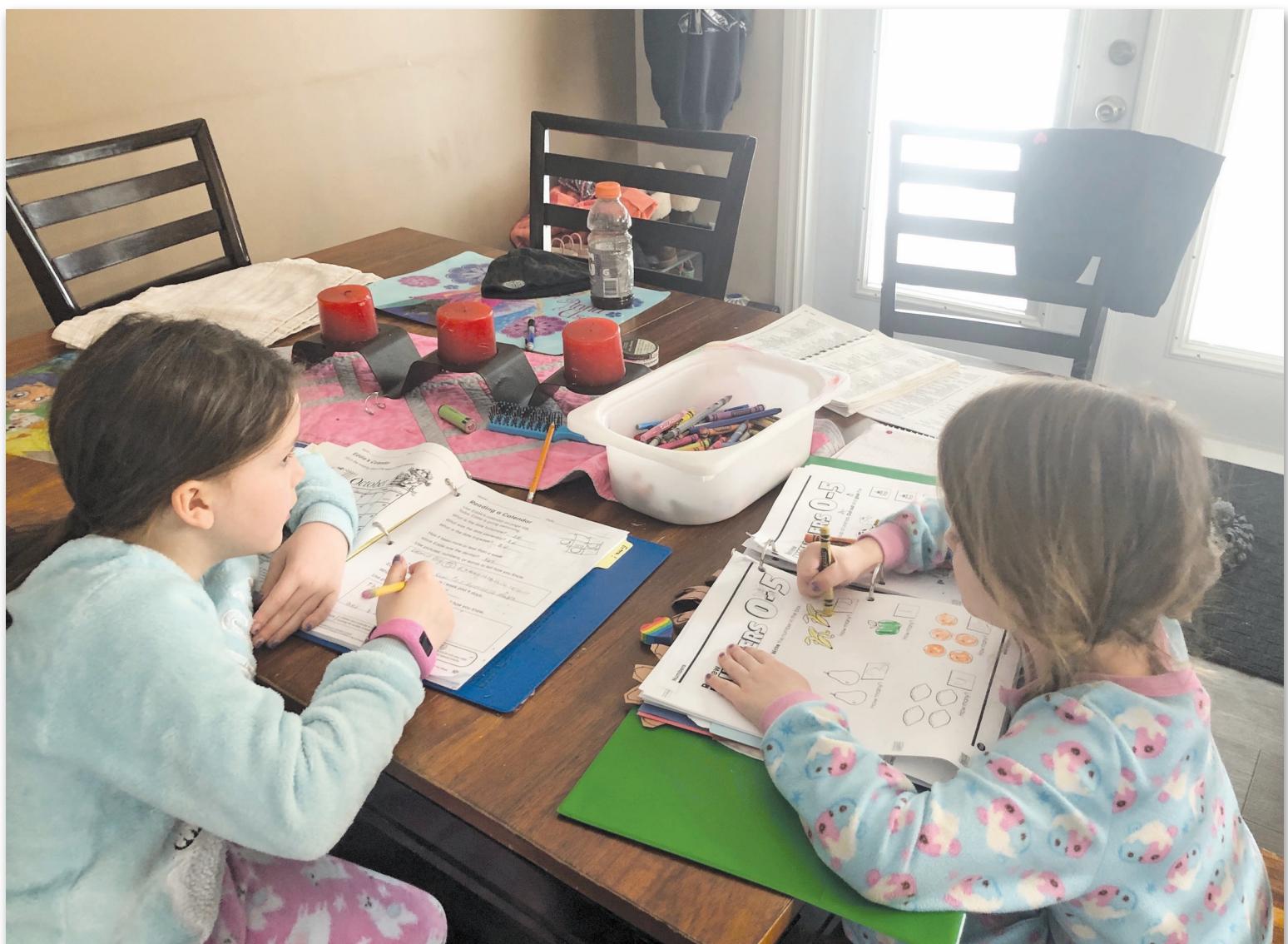
The RPT has been sending out updates and information to the school divisions for dispersal to staff, parents, and students as well as working on an instructional framework to help school divisions develop and deliver supplemental learning opportunities.

The framework acts as a guide for school divisions who are each preparing their own course of action.

An education continuity plan was developed by LOCCSD following the RPT's guidelines. The plan aims to encourage "strong teacher/student/family relationships through consistent and effective daily communication," says Ginelle Olson, principal of Rivier Elementary School.

Learning can come in a variety of forms and teachers and staff at Rivier Elementary have been working to provide opportunities to students through a variety of media.

Olson said Google Classroom, e-mail, text, Bloomz, Zoom, video, private Facebook pages, Facetime, See-Saw, private teacher websites, and pencil and paper packages are all ways in which the teachers from Rivier are communicating with their students. Pencil and paper learning packages were sent



Mackenzie (Grade 2) and Phoenix (Kindergarten) hard at work on supplemental learning.

home with students for the first couple of weeks to be returned after the Easter Break and replaced with new ones.

LOCCSD is working to help provide for families without all the resources necessary for online learning opportunities so the students can fully participate.

Participation is not required by students and no academic penalties will come from work done and submitted by students during this time.

However, the opportunities provided are aimed at helping students continue to learn

and advance and are highly recommended by LOCCSD. Teachers are determining the best ways to track their student's individual progress and provide assessment and feedback.

Virtual interaction between teachers and students is a component to Rivier's distance education with Zoom meetings and Facetime sessions being used to hold classes and provide support. Students also like to see their friends on video chat.

"The connection that happens during virtual interac-

tion is very valuable to our students who miss their classmates, teachers, and daily routines," says Olson.

Pre-Kindergarten students are being offered a holistic learning approach with the focus being on language, literacy, motor skills, and social and emotional skills.

For kindergarten through Grade 9, language, literacy, mathematics, and numeracy are the main focuses as outlined by the RPT with other subjects being offered when possible and practical. The RPT outlined that Grades 10

through 12 will have supplementary learning opportunities in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health and physical education, and practical and applied arts.

Other subjects may be offered when possible and practical.

Olson says that staff looks forward to "re-engaging our students in their supplemental learning opportunities when we return to school after the Easter Break on April 20."

More photos on page 6

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Big River FN meeting COVID-19 head-on

As COVID-19 continues its gradual spread across Saskatchewan, few communities are as prepared as the Big River First Nation is to face the threats it poses.

Where governments of all sizes were caught flat-footed and left reacting to the pandemic, Jack Rayne, Chief of the Big River First Nation, says his community began introducing preparedness measures "right away" when it first heard about COVID-19.

Starting about a month-and-a-half ago, before any cases of the virus had even been reported in Saskatchewan, the band leadership approached the elders from the community for guidance, and began stockpiling necessities.

"We had our elders gather up our traditional medicines in the community. They made so much that we had enough for our whole community," Chief Rayne said, noting that this was just the first of many phases.

"We also sent out our local hunters [and fishermen] to get our traditional foods ready and to put them in place. We gathered up all our traditional foods and stockpiled them at our band hall," he added.

Apart from stockpiling traditional medicines and food, the community has ensured that all of its essential services remain uninterrupted, including 24/7 water delivery and septic services, the local store, and a newly established laundromat so that community members don't have to travel to Big River or Debden.

It also ordered Sea-Cans to store extra food, cleaning supplies, and other necessities, and is making



Big River First Nation Chief Jack Rayne is doing his part to support the community during the pandemic. Here, he and others prepare meat gathered by the community's hunters.

sure each of the 390 households in the community is outfitted with a cleaning kit and given rations once every three weeks.

Aside from supplies to get through the pandemic, the band leadership is also providing the community with the information it needs to combat the virus by keeping the channels of communication as open as possible.

"One of the biggest things was to educate our community members as well, and make sure that they're all educated about this coronavirus. We made education packages for all our households, and delivered packages to every household,"

Chief Rayne said, adding that the local radio station has also been among the communication tools used to share updates and information.

In a time when employment is precarious for many, the community is also creating jobs. About 38 community members have been hired to work security at the four entrances to the community on a 24-hour basis.

Protecting the community's borders, and limiting access to the community, has been one of the most challenging aspects of fighting back against COVID-19 because it's meant turning away visitors.

On the healthcare front, Whitefish says the staff at the local health

tors from outside the community who just want to see their families.

But Lyle Whitefish, principal of Mistahi Sipi Elementary School, says the community's security personnel have been doing an excellent job carrying out their duty.

"Over the past 10 years, we've been training people to work security in Fort McMurray, so we're a step ahead in terms of having certified people working our gates," he said.

That said, Whitefish notes that the community isn't being funded to create these jobs and that it could benefit from some targeted federal funding to make sure these positions are sustainable.

And, while the community's leadership is doing its best to direct those who have lost their jobs to resources like the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and EI, he adds that more could be done for the most vulnerable people in the community.

"We've opened up our schools to people who are without food on a daily basis, and we've been supplying nutrition supplies to people — hot lunches, soups, sandwiches — and supplying food to our border security people on a daily basis," he said.

As an educator, Whitefish says one of his main priorities during the pandemic has been to ensure that home schooling and online education can continue for students. To this end, educational packages have been created and can be delivered to homes, or picked up by parents along with other education supplies.

On the healthcare front, Whitefish says the staff at the local health

clinic is working hard to care for and protect the community in spite of the challenges it faces.

Chief among those is the challenge of monitoring community members who still need to leave the community to pick up groceries and other essentials — particularly those who return to the community and show signs of being sick. To help meet this challenge, security personnel have been provided with a health questionnaire to give to anyone returning to the community, and anyone showing signs of illness upon return is closely monitored.

Aside from this, the community also has concerns about its existing supply of medical equipment.

"Some of the things we need more of are face masks, rubber gloves, and those things. We don't know whether all of that is enough to spread out within our community," Whitefish said. "If people are leaving, we could be providing that for them."

With COVID-19 measures expected to remain in place in the coming weeks and months, both Chief Rayne and Whitefish are urging community members to stay home, and to follow guidelines around physical distancing and hygiene.

Whitefish adds that the community's leaders and healthcare workers are doing everything in their power to protect the community.

"We want to make sure that everyone's comfortable, everybody's supported, and we want to make sure that our people are informed of the situation," he said.

"With all services, it's all hands on deck."

Notice of Intention to Repeal Designation as Municipal Heritage Property

Notice is hereby given that not less than thirty days from the date of service of this notice, the Council of the Town of Shellbrook intends to pass a bylaw pursuant to the provisions of the Heritage Property Act, to repeal the Municipal Heritage Property designation of the following property known as: the Shellbrook CN Railway Station, being located on the CNR Right of Way in the Town of Shellbrook being (Pt. NW9-49-3-W3rd Meridian) as set out in a Plan of Record registered in the Land Titles Office at Prince Albert as No. AQ 1529.

The property was originally designated as Municipal Heritage Property by Bylaw No. 1988-06 read a third time and passed on August 15, 1988.

The reasons for the proposed repeal are as follows: Due to the age of the building, the cost to upgrade and bring it up to code to make it a safe and usable building, removal of the structure is recommended.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed repeal must serve council with a written objection stating the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts not less than three days prior to consideration of the repealing bylaw.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2020.

Kelly Hoare – Chief Administrative Officer

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Village of Canwood is now taking resumes for one full-time General Labourer summer student position.

The successful applicant will be required to work 37.5 hours per week in the maintenance department with duties that may include:

Maintenance of municipal property in the village and cemetery, street repairs, operating and maintenance of municipal equipment, garbage collection, public relations, water and sewer operations, and various other tasks as assigned. Additionally, this position may be funded by Canada Summer Jobs; and as such, the successful applicant must comply with the terms and conditions of Government of Canada Summer Jobs Agreement and the Village of Canwood contract and policies.

For more information on this position, please contact:

Erin Robertson, Administrator
(306) 468-2016

Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please send applications to:

Village of Canwood
Box 172
Canwood, SK S0J 0K0
Fax: (306) 468-2805

e-mail: canwood.town@sasktel.net

Closing date for Applications is May 1, 2020

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST TOWN OF BIG RIVER Province of Saskatchewan

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before the 16th day of June, 2020, the treasurer will proceed to register an interest based on a tax lien in the Land Titles Registry in accordance with Section 10 of the *Tax Enforcement Act*.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount of \$10.00 is included in the amount shown against each parcel (Section 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act*).

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY				
Lot	Block	Plan	Title	Total Arrears
11	4	1020749525	151478297	\$1,541.66
15	5	AA4863	143206264	\$981.00
16	5	AA4863	146124693	\$1,957.81
7	8	BD1388	149723589	\$1,230.34
9	8	64B05407	151478499	\$1,653.21
21	9	BS4857	146710841	\$3,306.55
F	17	65B05419	115225499	\$4,719.91
3	18	BD1388	141668387	\$1,400.88
4	19	BD1388	151273829	\$1,150.24
9	20	76B10394	130394572	\$1,491.63
9	26	CA4537	139417847	\$1,646.25
6	21	BL3374	126611344	\$1,951.02
12	26	CA4537	119289572	\$1,268.87
4	33	BR1935	137778238	\$499.56
8	38	BQ6929	119155574	\$940.09
13	40	82B12418	142964512	\$517.07
14	40	82B12418	142964523	\$3,267.44
18	28	00B10895	146122073	\$4,024.67
25	22	BL3374	145845546	\$455.66

Dated this 16th day of April, 2020
Noreen Olsen, Administrator

COVID-19 brings changes for Shellbrook Bigway

The COVID-19 pandemic has left Saskatchewan's small business community in uncharted waters.

Many businesses have been ordered by the provincial government to close their doors to prevent the spread of the virus, while other businesses have been forced to adapt the way they do business to protect the health of their employees and the general public.

As a small-town grocery store, Jody Lanovaz says the Shellbrook Bigway hasn't been immune to the changes brought on by the pandemic.

"It's been mostly supply chain issues and shortages; that's been the biggest thing," he said. "Then, because of what's been going on all over, it seems everything's been running late."

Aside from the supply chain issues, which are at times leaving grocery stores with only half the stock they ordered, the COVID-19 pandemic is also prompting people to try to stay closer to home by shopping at their small-town stores.

While in normal circumstances this would be greeted as only a positive thing for a small-town grocery store



COVID-19 may have forced the closure of many small-town businesses, but, as essential services, grocery stores like the Shellbrook Bigway remain open. During a pandemic, that comes with its own unique set of challenges.

like the Shellbrook Bigway, Lanovaz says that the influx of customers from the wider area does pose some challenges in the age of COVID-19

and physical distancing.

Lanovaz says all he and his staff can do is try to keep up with the regulations and guidelines that are being introduced.

"We've been in contact with Public Health and we've implemented everything that they've recommended, and we'll try to keep the social distancing and the screens up in front of the cashiers," he said.

"We're going to have to continue doing things like that. And, as it evolves and they implement new things, we'll be on top of it."

In another big change for the Shellbrook Bigway, Lanovaz says the store has seen a big uptick in calls for home deliveries and curbside pick-ups.

Lanovaz says that Bigway will continue to offer these services for as

long as the pandemic continues, so that shoppers can stay at home or at least outside of the store.

He adds that he and the team at the Shellbrook Bigway are grateful for the support they've seen from the community during these difficult times.

"We appreciate that people have been really supportive," he said.

"It's a little bit stressful for the employees who have to be here. They're standing here eight or nine hours a day in the face of this, but most people have been really good."

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Lanovaz promises that he and his staff will continue to do their very best to serve the community, and protect the health and safety of customers.

COVID-19 support for businesses and workers

For the most recent and accurate information, visit: saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses

As well, the Business Response Team is available to help. Call: 1-844-800-8688 or email: supportforbusiness@gov.sk.ca

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MLS#SK790918



\$125,000
Lot 6 Whittaker Crescent, Meeting Lake
Cozy 3 season cabin, wood heat, 2BD, 1BA, upper screened deck, mature trees and landscaping, lots of storage.
MLS#SK788382



\$79,000
606 Memorial Dr., Spiritwood
1184 sq. ft. mobile home, 3BD, 1BA, upgraded oak kitchen cabinets, fenced yard, firepit area, deck with pergola, immediate possession.
MLS#SK786777



\$119,900
202 - 2nd Ave., Medstead
4BD, 2BA home on a double lot in Medstead, many upgrades, detached and attached garage, garden area, partially fenced.
MLS#SK786376



\$64,900
208 - 1st Street, Spiritwood
First time home buyers, investment property, 2BD, 1BA, large fenced yard, new metal roof, immediate possession.
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OPINION

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April 16, 2020

COVID-19's legacy depends on our choices

In an ideal world, the COVID-19 pandemic would pose few challenges and very little risk to the global community.

In an ideal world, everybody would just buy a few weeks worth of supplies, hunker down at home, and wait for the virus to die off due to a lack of viable hosts.

It would, in essence, be like hitting pause on our lives. Then, once the threat had past, we could all emerge from our self-isolation and hit the play button, essentially picking up where we left off as if nothing had happened.

In this scenario, there would be no fear that small businesses would be forced to close their doors and potentially never open them again. Similarly, people wouldn't have to fear being left without jobs to return to, or be afraid of being crushed under mountains of debt.



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

Life as we know it would simply freeze for awhile, then return to normal. (Well, almost completely back to normal. For those who got sick, died, or lost a loved one to COVID-19, there would be no sense of normalcy.)

Sadly, even if this hypothetical scenario could have stopped COVID-19 in its tracks, it just isn't feasible.

For starters, there are certain services, such as healthcare, that can't be shut down, regardless of the circumstances we find ourselves in.

Aside from that, the simple truth is that certain people just wouldn't go for it.

For evidence of this we need only look to U.S. President Donald Trump and Financial Post columnist Terence Corcoran, both of whom are among those champing at the bit to get back to business as

usual and keep the economy chugging along.

While he has since been dissuaded by his advisors, Mr. Trump had once mused about easing COVID-19 restrictions because he believed that the virus shouldn't be allowed to destroy the American economy.

Since then, the United States has become the global leader in COVID-19 cases by a margin of more than 400,000 cases and recorded the most deaths of any country.

Mr. Corcoran, meanwhile, seems to be of the opinion that this whole COVID-19 pandemic is much ado about nothing, and that real data about the virus will prove that we've all made utter fools of ourselves.

In an April 1 column, Mr. Corcoran went so far as to call the relatively mild restrictions by Canadian leaders a "draconian lockdown."

At that time, Canada had reported just under 8,500 COVID-19 cases. But, over the course of the past two weeks, the country's confirmed cases have tripled, and, given that Canada is still near the beginning of the so-called curve, who knows where that number will be two weeks from now.

Currently, COVID-19's mortality rate is hovering around the 6 per cent mark — a number that is no doubt artificially inflated, because



there's no way of knowing how many people have been carriers of the virus without ever showing symptoms.

Now, you may look at that and think Mr. Corcoran is right to believe we're making a mountain out of a molehill when it comes to COVID-19.

But ask yourself this: should we accept even a 2 per cent mortality rate when we can implement simple — if not somewhat inconvenient — measures to achieve a 1 per cent mortality rate?

Assuming an infection rate of 5 per cent (as per one of the federal government's scenarios from

the modelling data it released last week), or 1,879,000 Canadians, the difference between these two mortality rates is 18,790 lives.

That's a potential 18,790 lives (or more) saved just by staying home as much as possible, and following guidelines around physical distancing, hand washing, and wearing face masks.

Does this pandemic suck? It sure as heck does.

But at the end of the day, COVID-19's legacy will only be as terrible as we allow it to be.

We're all in this together. And if we do the right thing, we'll all get through this together.

YOUR TWO CENTS

We are blessed, indeed

Dear Editor,

We are blessed, indeed by Charles Partridge If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75 per cent of this world.

If you have money in the bank and your wallet and spare change in a dish someplace, then you are among the top eight per cent of the world's wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than three million people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still married, you are rare.

If you can hold up your head with a smile on your face and be truly thankful, you are blessed, because the majority can, but most

do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer a healing touch.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed the more than two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Have a good day, count your blessings and pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

P.S. I don't know the year this homily was written, but in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic, it seems more relevant than ever.

Those of us living in Saskatchewan, on a farm or in a small town like Rabbit Lake, are even more blessed.

I too would like to thank every health-care worker and others who go to work every day to keep us healthy and supplied with daily needs.

Abraham Lincoln is to have said, "There are times when the only place to go is on our knees in prayer." I believe that time is now since I think only God can help us through this crisis.

Cornie Martens, Rabbit Lake, Sask.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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Member of



Sask. Health Authority releases COVID-19 models

As many as 408,000 Saskatchewan residents could contract COVID-19 during the course of the pandemic, according to the first round of modelling data released by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA).

That figure, which is based on early Canadian data and assumes that a carrier of COVID-19 would infect an average of four people, represents the current “worst case scenario” for the province.

In this scenario the virus could carry a death toll as high as 8,370, and quickly overwhelm Saskatchewan hospitals with 710 hospital admissions and 215 ICU admissions per day.

While this scenario may seem frightening upon first glance, Dr. Saqib Shahab, Saskatchewan’s Chief Medical Officer, says there aren’t yet any signs that the province is on track to follow this modelling scenario.

“The modelling obviously gives us three projections,” Dr. Shahab said following the release of the modelling data. “Scenario one is quite a significant scenario, two is a mid-range scenario and three, which is quite positive. Right now we want to be better than even scenario three, and at this point we seem to be better than scenario three.”

In that third scenario, which is based on data from Wuhan, China and assumes that a carrier of COVID-19 would infect an average of two people, Saskatchewan could see 153,000 confirmed cases and 3,075 virus-related deaths.

Dr. Jenny Basran, a senior medical information officer with the SHA, cautions that the numbers in each of the outlined scenarios aren’t predictions, but instead serve as information that will help the province tailor its response to COVID-19.

Adding that it’s still early days for Saskatchewan, she also warns that the virus’ impact will depend upon how well Saskatchewan residents adhere to the guidelines around physical distancing and personal hygiene.

“The reality is hitting home. We are not immune. In the weeks and months to come, we can expect more cases and more deaths,” she said. “The most important variable to save lives and protect health care workers

is public compliance with isolation measures, physical distancing and washing your hands.”

With Saskatchewan still “in the beginning” of confronting COVID-19, the SHA says it still doesn’t have enough data to know when the virus will peak or when public health measures can be lifted.

However, Dr. Julie Kryzanowski, a senior medical health officer with the SHA, advises that the pandemic can be expected to “continue in the weeks and months to come,” and that the province’s strategy for flattening the curve will be to increase testing, identify cases earlier on, and expand contact tracing capacity.

Adding that the full impact of the virus may not be understood until after the pandemic, she urged the province to work together to prevent its spread.

“We are all playing for the same team, and we win and lose together. No health system in the world can withstand this pressure without sustained help from the public,” she said.

From a healthcare resources perspective, Derek Miller, the SHA’s Emergency Operations Centre lead, says the province has freed up more than 1,000 beds across the province through a slowdown of non-urgent and non-essential services.

That said, the province still finds itself with just 41 available ICU beds and 1,037 acute care beds in the province. And, with a surge of

COVID-19 cases anticipated in the coming weeks, Miller says the SHA is looking to expand its acute care capacity by 57 per cent and increase ICU beds to 963 from 98, as needed.

Currently, Miller says the SHA is planning based on two possible scenarios: a planned capacity scenario, which is based on data from the high-range and mid-range models, and a contingency capacity, which is based on higher than estimated patient demand.

Under even the planned capacity scenario, the Integrated North and Integrated Rural Health regions have the capacity to deal with an influx of acute care patients, but come up far short on ICU capacity — the north has a capacity of -68, while rural regions have a capacity of -158.

Recognizing this, Miller says critical care patients from these areas would be admitted to urban sites once local ICU capacity has been reached. And, to help meet the increased demand on healthcare facilities, field hospitals will be set up in Saskatoon and Regina.

The Regina site will have a capacity of 400 acute care beds, while the Saskatoon field hospital will increase the healthcare system’s capacity by 250 beds.

Miller says field hospitals would only be deployed in the north as a contingency response, and that no rural field hospitals are being contemplated in rural areas because acute care capacity

ANALYSIS

Slide 12

COVID-19 patients only Peak values, except where cumulative	Upper Range Scenario 1 ($R_0 = 4.0$)	Mid Range Scenario 2 ($R_0 = 2.76$)	Low Range Scenario 3 ($R_0 = 2.4$)
Cumulative total cases	408,000	262,000	153,000
Hospital admissions / day	710	205	60
Hospital census	4265	1265	390
ICU admissions / day	215	60	20
ICU census	1280	380	120
Patients requiring ventilation	1230	370	120
Cumulative total deaths	8370	5260	3075

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

already exists.

Elsewhere, the next phase of the SHA’s pandemic response could see it create dedicated spaces in facilities for COVID-19 patients, and designate certain hospitals as COVID-19 facilities.

The SHA says as many as 20 out of the province’s 65 hospitals could be dedicated to the pandemic response, if needed.

Currently, Parkland Integrated Health Centre in Shellbrook would remain a

non-COVID facility.

From a supply side, Miller says the data from other jurisdictions suggests that ventilator capacity is of the utmost importance.

The province currently has just 450 ventilators available, a shortfall of 410 units for its planned capacity scenario of 860 ventilators.

Miller says that the province has already placed an order to fill this shortfall. So far, 200 of the 410 orders have been confirmed and

100 of those are expected to arrive in the next two to three weeks.

While ventilators will be key in caring for those who contract COVID-19, Miller echoes his colleagues’ sentiments about the importance of following public health orders.

“The public response has the biggest impact on the outcome,” he said. “We’re all in this together and we need the help of the public in meeting this challenge.”

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MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

(The following is a continuation of the minutes that appeared in the April 9 Chronicle & Herald. Where necessary, the following minutes may have been edited for clarity or brevity.)

Dennis Laventure: That Matthew Tetreault be appointed as the Weed Inspector for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 for 2020. Carried.

Terry Wingerter: That Don Heide be appointed as Pest Control Officer for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 for 2020. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That the following persons be appointed as Plant Health Officers for the RM of Spiritwood: Katey Makohoniu, Joanne Kwasnicki, Betty Johnson, Lynne Roszell, Chelsea Baraniecki, and Colleen Fennig. Carried.

Dennis Laventure: That Colette Bussiere be appointed as Administrator for the Stray Animals Act for 2020. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That Yvonne Prusak be appointed as the Planning Consultant for the RM of Spiritwood for 2020. Carried.

Al Steinhilber: That Yvonne Prusak (Municipal Planner), Colette Bussiere (Administrator) and Jerome Tetreault (Councillor) be appointed as the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 representatives to the RM of Spiritwood and Village of Leo-

ville District Plan Authority. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That we appoint Luc Morin, BEO as the Bylaw Enforcement Officer for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 for the 2020 calendar year. Carried.

Al Steinhilber: That Kay Wilson be appointed to the Wapiti Regional Library Board as the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 representative for 2020. Carried.

Terry Wingerter: That Kay Wilson be appointed to the Spiritwood Library Board as the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 representative for 2020. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That Councillor, Jerome Tetreault be appointed as the Farm & Food Care Delegate for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That Mike Hamoline be appointed to the Meeting Lake Regional Park Board for a two (2) year term, expiring December 31, 2021. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That Councillor, Bevra Fee be appointed to the SARCS board as the RM elected official. Carried.

Dennis Laventure: That Reeve, Shirley Dauvin be appointed to the District #33 Rat Eradication Board for 2020 as a representative for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That Colleen Reed be appointed as the Health Complex Foundation Committee Rep for 2020. Carried.

Al Steinhilber: That Reeve, Shirley Dauvin be ap-

pointed to the Health Advisory Committee for the RM of Spiritwood for the 2020 calendar year. Carried.

Terry Wingerter: That Councillor, Al Steinhilber be appointed as a municipal representative to the Thickwood Hills Watershed Association for 2020. Carried.

Al Steinhilber: That Councillor, Doug Johnson be appointed as the North Central Transportation Planning Committee Rep for 2020. Carried.

Dennis Laventure: That Councillor, Jerome Tetreault be appointed as the Farm & Food Care Delegate for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496. Carried.

Shirley Dauvin: That the following persons be appointed to the Spiritwood Fire Dept.: Travis Penner (Fire Chief), Ron Radke (Deputy Fire Chief), Rick Adam (Captain), Thomas (TJ) Tipton (Captain), Elliot Kajner, Aaron Dauvin, Alain Caffet, Deny Allchurch, Jeff Hujber, Ricki Wasden, Ryan Steinhilber, Ashley Iverson, Bailie Hummel, Jason Walter, Shane Colley, Cayle Werstroh, Jacelyn Wingerter, Janessa Hummel, Rachelle Beauchesne, Tyron Bill, Jayden Wingerter, Derrik Franson, Aiden Nielsen-Clark, Shirley Dauvin (Municipal Rep). Carried.

Terry Wingerter: That Councillor, Doug Johnson be appointed as Deputy Reeve. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That Councillors, Bevra Fee and Terry Wingerter be appointed to the RM/Town MOU Committee for 2020. Carried.

Al Steinhilber: That Councillors, Jerome Tetreault and Doug Johnson be appointed as the Inter-municipal representatives to other municipal authorities for the RM

of Spiritwood No. 496 for 2020. Carried.

Al Steinhilber: That Reeve, Shirley Dauvin and Councillors, Dennis Laventure, Bevra Fee & Jerome Tetreault be appointed to the HR Committee for 2020. Carried.

Dennis Laventure: That Shirley Dauvin (Reeve), Doug Johnson (Councillor) & Colette Bussiere (Administrator) be appointed as the Policy Committee for 2020. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That Councillors, Jerome Tetreault, Al Steinhilber, Terry Wingerter & Foreman, Darcy Laventure be appointed as the Machinery Committee for 2020. Carried.

Al Steinhilber: That Reeve, Shirley Dauvin, Councillor, Bevra Fee, Erin Wingerter, Edna Koetse and Mavis Bellisle be appointed as the Rural Cemetery Committee for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 for 2020. Carried.

Shirley Dauvin: That the following persons be appointed as Cemetery Care-takers for 2020: Scandia - Donna Strate, Norbury Free Methodist - Trona Huchkowsky, Norbury - Vacant, Bapaume - Kevin Latus, Mildred North - Perry Robinson, Mildred South - Diane Wingerter, Timberland - Cliff Christopherson, Ranger - Norman Magnus, Laventure - Leon Gagne &

Louis Marion, Penn - Mark McDaid, Junor - Liz & Mark Metrunec & Marlene Swityk, Idylwyld - Edna Koetse, Rothmere - Ethel & Albert Walter, Capasin - Northwood Church c/o Ron Toews & Ardel Boese, St. Steven's - Vacant, Spiritwood - Town of Spiritwood, Shell Lake - Village of Shell Lake. Carried.

Al Steinhilber: That the regular meeting of Council be adjourned at 2:54 PM to move into an in-camera session to discuss HR concerns. Carried.

Administrator, Colette Bussiere, left the council meeting at 2:54 PM.

Administrator, Colette Bussiere, returned to the council meeting at 3:06 PM. The regular meeting of council was reconvened at 3:06 PM.

Al Steinhilber: That the following correspondence having been read now be filed: SARM - Updates/Emails, SARM - Weekly Policy Bulletins, PARCS Updates - November 2019, Farm & Food - Champion Award Recipient, Wapiti Regional Library - November 2019 Newsletter, Ombudsman - Municipal Myth-Busters, Winter Weight Orders, Wapiti Library Report & Proposed Budget. Carried.

Al Steinhilber: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:15 PM. Carried.

Distance learning the new normal for students



The Caffet family decorating a window for Easter.



Caleb Turgeon exploring a simple machine carnival attraction for science class.



Sayge Lehouillier built a volcano for a Kindergarten project.

AGRICULTURE

April 16, 2020

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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

COVID-19 baking surge offers ray of hope

They say there is a silver lining to most things.

That may be true, although finding them in the time of COVID-19 is not an easy thing.

But, just maybe there is a little positive news for farmers, and maybe for all of us in terms of how we go about putting food on the table each day.

Much has been made of the run made on toilet paper, as the COVID-19 situation became recognized as a serious risk which would have people stuck indoors for a considerable period of time, the situation also led

to something of a run on flour.

It was interesting to read at www.producer.com that flour mills are running full out in response to surging demand from consumers suddenly forced to rely on home baking.

The story had Jim McCarthy, president of the North American Millers' Association stating; "the demand for flour is extremely high as it always is in a crisis."

There is however some hope that post COVID-19 that the flour demand might hold, at least at



CALVIN
DANIELS

higher levels than pre-crisis, as people return to doing more home baking.

From personal experience, my better half has made more buns and bread in the last two weeks than

likely the last 10-years. If that continues into the future remains to be seen. Certainly the smell of fresh bread is one of the great pleasures of home baking and cooking, but homemade bread doesn't fit quite as neatly in modern toasters, or as easily make a sandwich, and our world is all about convenience these days.

Still, there is an added feeling of security in terms of food for the table with a bag of flour in the cupboard, and the ability to make bread.

Not surprisingly The

Western Producer also reported dry, edible beans are also one of the commodities people have been stockpiling in case they are quarantined during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Some reports stateside have the demand up by 40 or 50 per cent.

This probably should not surprise anyone since dry beans and their counterparts; peas, chickpeas, and lentils have a considerable shelf life, one not tied to need electricity to run deepfreezes and refrigerators.

While no one in a position

of authority is suggesting COVID-19 is going to lead to extensive food shortages, or parallel problems, many people are being cautious, which is wise as long as that preparation does not short others through hoarding.

But, we might be seeing a shift in our eating habits.

It is possible a good home-cooked meal will be recognized as a better option to ultra-processed food items from the store. That does not seem like a bad thing to come out of the current crisis, and could build better domestic markets for some core farm products.

Include pets in your COVID-19 preparedness plans

With the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases on the rise globally, it is important for Saskatchewanians to include pets in their preparedness plans. The Saskatchewan SPCA is encouraging people to follow some simple steps to help prepare for a lifestyle disruption that may result from the virus.

"Our pets are members of the family. As such, taking the necessary precautions to ensure their wellbeing is a vital part of any emergency preparedness plan," said Josh Hourie, Community Relations Coordinator with the Sas-

katchewan SPCA. "The COVID-19 pandemic has created a lot of uncertainty in all areas of life. One thing we can still control is making sure the animals in our lives are looked after in the event that we are unable to care for them," continued Hourie.

The Saskatchewan SPCA offers the following tips to ensure preparedness:

- Have an emergency kit: keep a two-week supply (or more) of pet food and water, as well as any medications they may need and a travel crate, properly labeled with

your pet's name and your contact information.

- Identify trusted family or friends who can care for your pets: have at least three options lined up in case they become sick or hospitalized. Ensure you have spoken with these individuals before you consider them an option.

- Create a written emergency



plan for each pet: include your name and contact information, your pet's feeding schedule, any medical conditions, and treatment instructions. Document your pet's vaccination status, and list the contact information for your veterinarian.

Unless you are hospitalized and live alone, keep your pets with you,

even during self-quarantine – the best place for them is at home. Take necessary precautions with all loved ones, including pets, and practice social distancing on walks, keeping two metres of distance from other people and pets.

The Saskatchewan SPCA recommends staying diligent in preparations, but not overreacting to COVID-19 concerns. By being prepared, you're helping to ensure essential shelter resources do not become overwhelmed. Moreover, your pets will be spared from unnecessary stress.

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OBITUARIES

Jeff Boyle

Jeff Boyle
1972 – 2020

Jefferey Stephen Boyle passed away on April 3rd, 2020 at his home in Calgary.

He was born February 15th, 1972 in Prince Albert. He was the youngest child, and only son, of Walter and Maxine (Harvold) Boyle.

Jeff spent his early years in the Canwood area, living on the family

farm, attending school at Canwood, and playing fastball, volleyball, hockey, curling and archery. He completed a Computer Aided Drafting diploma at SIAST in Moose Jaw, followed by studying engineering at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

He continued playing volleyball at SIAST and in Calgary. He enjoyed experimenting with cooking. In recent years, he took up axe throwing. He made lasting friends wherever he went.

Jeff's occupation was industrial design. He began his career in Prince Albert with Proteus, but soon settled in Calgary, where he worked for Strongco, ELRUS and his own business, JSB Consulting.

Jeff was a talented sculptor, working in wood and stone. His pieces were featured at the Calgary Stampede Art Show and were sold online and in shops in Calgary and Canmore under the label of Bunny Rabid Custom Carving.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, and his father, Walter Boyle of Prince Albert. He is survived and dearly missed by his mother, Maxine Boyle of Regina; his five sisters and brothers-in-law: Laura and Deryl Coates of Regina, Barbara Boyle of Regina, Diana and Harvey Nelson of Canwood, Donna Boyle of Regina, and Darla Boyle of Regina; and his nieces and nephews: Amanda and Darren Carter and their children Roan, Rhys and Fynlea Carter; Brandon and

Dina Coates and their children Jacob Nathaniel; Jessica Nathaniel and Alex Anderson and their daughter Violette, Athena, Petra and YB Coates; Alannah Boyle; Logan Nelson, and Jessie and Tyler Hall and their children Dallas and Sadie Hall. He is also survived by his aunt, Marj Moline of Shellbrook and her children, Greg, Cindy and Graham, and numerous cousins and very good friends.

A funeral service will be held at a date to be announced in Canwood, followed by interment in the North Canwood Cemetery. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Tammy Smart, Director in Shellbrook (306-747-2828).

Phyllis Petersen

PETERSEN – Phyllis

Phyllis (nee Moline) Petersen passed away in her sleep on March 9, 2020 in her home in Nipawin at the age of 87.

Phyllis was born in Canwood. She taught school for several years before joining her husband in their garage business.

Phyllis is survived by her three sons, David, Richard and Rodney, their wives and ten grandchildren; her sisters Lilleth (Elias) Shantz and Eleanor (Malcolm) Sinclair; her brothers Leo (Norma) Moline, Willie Moline and Melvin (Mary Ellen) Moline; her sisters-in-law Marj Moline and Donna Moline.

Phyllis was predeceased by her husband of 43 years Darrel in 2006; her parents Billie and Emma Moline; sisters Vangie Moncrieff and Audrey Carlson; brothers Bennie Moline and Fred Moline.

Phyllis was laid to rest in the Nipawin cemetery along with her husband Darrel.

John Rekve

John Rekve

Jan. 1962 – Oct. 2019

With great deal of sadness we regret to announce the passing of our loving brother, uncle, Father.

Having spent most of his life suffering from, as what our mother called it, Depression, that limited his ability to deal with life stresses. Even though he had these challenges John was a great inspiration in designing, as well as fabricating various wood products that are still sold today online. Our father instilled in him as well as the rest of the family a pride to carry the name Rekve.

John always looked for ways to get his large family to adopt a more harmonious relationship both with family and residents of Big River.

Predeceased by his mother, father, as well

as older brother, Grant Rekve, and nephew Thomas Rekve.

John will be greatly missed by his daughter, family, Brothers Ivar (Florence) Rekve Big River, Knut (Donna) British Columbia, Tony Calgary, Oile (Orlando) Rekve Big River, Gerald (Eileen) Rekve Miami.

Sisters, Marie Sawatzky Big River, Karen Vandel Big River, Sonja Collier Saskatoon, Joanne Pacquett Barnaby, Donna Cambell (Bert) Shellbrook, Jackie Rekve Seattle, plus many nieces and nephews in Big River and elsewhere. Additionally many uncles, aunts, and cousins in Norway.

Our family thank all those who wanted to attend his funeral, however we all knew John would want a small gathering of family only, but thanks everyone who reached out to us with support and kindness.

We all know John would want anyone wishing to show support, please rather just be kind to those who live with challenges and help make their day a better one.

John, everyday that goes by, I want you to know I will never forget you. Love, your best friend and brother, Gerald.

Local pipers provide Easter music

Submitted by Marj Bradley

It has been said by some that the great highland bagpipes were the original (and very effective) social distancing tool.

On Friday, April 10, David Monette, Pipe Major of Prince Albert Pipes and Drums Band circulated a message from Donald Macdonald, Sons of Scotland Pipe Band in Ottawa to band

members: "All pipers know the tune Amazing Grace and its story of courage and transcendence under adversity. The sound of this hymn played by hundreds of individual bagpipers in my city, in Canada and hopefully around the world would be a great gesture in our collective global struggle against the Coronavirus. The meaning of this event will only be heightened by the hopeful symbolism of Easter.

Through the PPBSO I have invited Pipers in the Ottawa area and Ontario to strike up their bagpipes to play "Amazing Grace" at Noon (local time) on Easter Sunday April 12, 2020 from or near their own location. In this way we can give encouragement to our fellow citizens at this very trying time in our fight against the Coronavirus pandemic.

If you see the value in this idea, would you please spread the word through your network in Saskatchewan or to contacts across Canada in the other provinces?

This gesture would be an awesome sign of solidarity and hope when we need it. Please let me know if you can spread the word."

P.S.: I have asked Bruno Peak of the VE75 Commemoration to promote this through his contacts in many countries."

Local pipers took up the chal-

lenge, despite Easter Sunday's chill wind. If you heard the strains of Amazing Grace at noon that day, it was probably local pipers David Hjertaas and Kim Bradley as they stood on the sidewalk in front of their homes. If you live in their neighbourhood, you will know for certain!

It would be interesting to know how far the challenge spread.



Kim Bradley.
Photo by Marj Bradley



David Hjertaas.
Photo by Judy Hjertaas

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COVID-19 recoveries outpace active cases

Just over a month after the first COVID-19 cases were reported in Saskatchewan, the province appears to be experiencing a slowdown in new cases of the virus.

Though the Easter long weekend saw the province record its fourth virus-related death and add 20 more confirmed cases to its tally (seven on Good Friday, four on Saturday, and nine on Easter Sunday), the provincial government reported on Monday afternoon that there were only two new confirmed cases.

Those two new cases bring the province's total to 300.

In other encouraging news, the number of recoveries has officially outstripped the number of active cases for the first time since COVID-19 arrived in Saskatchewan.

As of Monday's daily report, there were 178 recoveries and 118 cases still considered active. Of those active cases, only eight people are in hospital receiving inpatient care and no one is in intensive care.

The seemingly good news comes just days after the Saskatchewan

Health Authority released modelling data outlining three potential pandemic scenarios for the province.

According to those scenarios, which are based on early data from Canada, Italy and Wuhan, China, anywhere from 153,000 to 408,000 Saskatchewan residents could contract COVID-19. The virus' death toll, meanwhile, could be between 3,075 and 8,370.

While the past few days may make it seem like Saskatchewan is on track to fall below even the lower end of the modelling scenarios, SHA officials are still advising that the pandemic will continue for the "weeks and months to come."

Adhering to the guidance of health experts, Premier Scott Moe said Saskatchewan is still several weeks away from beginning the process to lift restrictions on businesses, public gatherings, and events. He also said that the province wouldn't immediately go back to business as usual.

"It will occur incrementally and

it will occur thoughtfully," he said.

Though Moe added that he's encouraged by case numbers over the past week, he also noted the SHA is preparing for a potential surge from the virus in the coming weeks.

"They're using these projections to ramp up healthcare in this province," he said.

As the province awaits this potential surge, Moe's government hasn't introduced any further public health measures or restrictions on businesses and public gatherings.

As has been the case since March 26, only businesses and services on the provincial government's list of "allowable businesses" should be operating.

That list includes: health care and public health workers; law enforcement, public safety and first responders; production, processing and manufacturing and the supporting supply chains; transportation and logistics; government and community services; media and telecommunications; construction,

including maintenance and repair; select retail services; and banking and financial services.

On the business front, the provincial government has introduced the Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP) program to help Saskatchewan's small businesses weather the economic storm created by the pandemic.

The \$50 million program will provide financial support, in the form of a one-time grant, to small and medium-sized businesses that have had to temporarily close or significantly curtail operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grants will be paid based on 15 per cent of a business' monthly sales revenue, up to a maximum of \$5,000.

"We have heard from our business community and understand the unprecedented challenges that they are facing," Premier Moe said in a statement.

"Our government is providing critical support for businesses that have had to fully or partially close

their doors to protect public health and reduce the spread of COVID-19. This is a significant first step in our economic recovery efforts and we are committed to continuing to work with businesses through this uncertain time."

To give maximum flexibility to businesses, the grant is not dedicated to specific cost pressures.

But to be eligible for the program, a business must:

- have been fully operational on Feb. 29, 2020;
- have ceased or curtailed operations as a result of the COVID-19 public health order;
- have less than 500 employees;

• commit to reopen business operations following the cancellation of the COVID-19 public health order.

For more information, businesses can visit www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses.

And for all the latest on COVID-19, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19.

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Communities need their newspapers, and newspapers need their communities



*Adapted by
Steve Nixon
from an
article by
Judy Patrick,
NTPA*

From afar, the COVID-19 pandemic is generating news of such terrifying magnitude that it is nearly too overwhelming to comprehend. Millions are suffering and thousands are dying. Economies are collapsing. The world seems out of control.

That's the big picture, which you can learn about from innumerable print, web and broadcast news outlets. But it's in the pages of local newspapers that this terrible news hits home.

Through stories of sickness and of death, of brave healthcare workers and struggling small business owners, local journalists are documenting their communities. In communities all over Saskatchewan, dozens of local newspapers are chronicling the challenges town by town, city by city. As the virus spreads beyond our province, the chronicling extends, paper by paper.

In each, above all are the stories of the lives that have been lost, touch-

ing tributes to much loved grandfathers and grandmothers, principals and store clerks, police officers and nurses.

Next come the stories of isolation and loss as the life of a community is put on hold: Funerals, weddings, minor sports, high school events, senior citizen trips. The list goes on and on.

Finally are the tales of generosity and hope, of food drives for the afflicted, of music and art and of the million small kindnesses of one person to another.

Years from now, these stories will be part of the historical record of this pandemic. Right now, however, they serve a far greater purpose: They are helping communities come together to mourn, to support and to hope. To eventually go forward and heal, we first need to understand what is happening to the people we know and the businesses we rely on.

These are the stories that set local newspapers apart from anything you'll see and read via bigger outlets. Each paper is telling its community's unique set of stories about death and heroism and struggle. And for communities in crisis, this personalization is key to grappling with this pandemic. There are practical benefits as well. In times of crisis, local newspapers have

long been a clearinghouse of essential information such as phone numbers, emergency food distribution plans, road closures and boil water orders. Nowadays, with much of this information scattered online, newspapers are adapting and collating. Take the Grasslands Group that publish the Melville Advance, Fort Qu'Appelle Times and the Whitewood/Grenfell Herald Sun, for example. They provided continual updates on the COVID-19 situation both in their printed publications and on their website. They also did stories on how local businesses were being affected by the pandemic, how people were coping and stepping up, and how groups or organizations were doing things to help people through self isolation. Through their press plant, they also provided an insert filled with information about COVID-19 to help readers know how to prevent and limit transmission.

All of this is how local newspapers bring communities together. It's just one reason they're so important. While their watchdog role in sustaining our democracy will always be paramount, and one that's become a crucial part of the ongoing story, this shared commitment to community is shining right now.

Local newspapers care – they always have and always will. It's what

sets them apart from all other media, even Facebook. They will be at the zoning board meeting you care about, at your Canada Day parade and your high school graduation. They will write about the kindergarten class as well as the school graduation, food banks for the hungry as well as the local fundraiser.

They've been around so long it's easy to take them for granted. But they are in danger, especially now that local businesses that provide crucial advertising revenue have closed.

There's a lot of news you can access for free. Many local newspapers have even temporarily dropped their paywalls on their virus-related content. The gesture reflects their mission to go above and beyond to serve their communities in a time of crisis.

But news really isn't free. It's costly to produce. Reporters, photographers, editors, printers, advertising representatives and support staff deserve and need a paycheck for the work they do. To do that, newspapers need the people in those Canada Day parades, those local meetings and the advertiser. Now, more than ever, they need their communities.



NOTICE

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The Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald will be temporarily combined into one publication due to the COVID-19 economic impact.

Thank-you for your understanding during this difficult time that we are all experiencing. Take care.

**Clark Pepper
Publisher**



Philps bring Easter to Shellbrook

With the COVID-19 pandemic preventing families from gathering for Easter, the Philp family decided to bring the spirit of the holiday to Shellbrook by hiding Easter treats all along the Shellriver Road.

Nicole Philp let the public know about the egg hunt via a Facebook poem:

Peter Cottontail hopped down the Shellriver Road

He took the Flames stuff but left a different load

Of Easter treats for you to find,
Please take only one each, to others be kind.

Blessed Easter to you from the Philp crew,

If you have time, we hope to see you,

Walk, run, bike or drive down our street,

Enjoying the sun and a small Easter treat!

As of Sunday evening Nicole said the plan was to leave the goodies out there for a few days, meaning there may still be some treats for lucky travellers to discover.

This isn't the first activity that

the Philps have come up with to make the pandemic a little more bearable for the community. Up until Easter, they'd turned Shellriver Road into a giant game of eye spy after finding inspiration in similar community initiatives undertaken by the Archers and the



Caleb and Marcial Philp helped bring some Easter spirit to the community in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic by stashing egg-shaped treats along the Shellriver Road.

Bandas.

Nicole said the activities are a means to find positives and reasons to celebrate amidst the pandemic.

She also hopes they'll make good addition to her kids' bank of COVID-19 memories.