

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Construction under way on town square's band stand



DL Construction busy at work putting up the Fast Genetics Silver Buckle Bandshell in Spiritwood.

One local project which has not seen any setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic is the Town Square. The Northern Lakes Economic Development Corporation (NLEDC) say they are still on track for completion by July 1.

The Town Square was an idea born during Spiritwood's involvement with the Main Street program. The visioning document that was developed as part of the program contained ideas to maintain a vibrant downtown. One thing residents wished to see was more green space.

The Town Square, located on the north east corner of 1st Ave and Main, will feature a band shell, an arbour and walkway, a children's sand box, a foun-

tain, and benches with sod, perennials, and shrubs. The land is owned by the Von Holwede family who originally intended the land to be used for their new pharmacy. When it was found that extensive reclamation would be necessary to rebuild on the property, the family decided to purchase the building across the street and renovate it instead. NLEDC suggested the site could be used to increase green space on Main Street by creating a Town Square.

The idea was approved by the Von Holwedens in the winter of 2019 and construction began that spring.

The project has been entirely funded by donations from local businesses,

residents, and people wanting to commemorate a family, an ancestor with local roots, or a local historical figure. Major contributors are Fast Genetics and the Von Holwede family. All labour and supplies, except for benches and the fountain, will be locally sourced. This includes aggregate, wood chips, trees, shrubs, perennials, the arbour, construction supplies, sod, and all labour.

"The support and encouragement for this project from local residents has been fantastic and much appreciated. Working with Town of Spiritwood to ensure the project complies with local bylaws and zoning details has been seamless and co-operative, and the

Von Holwedens have been gracious in granting permission for the project and working out details that arise," says Bevra Fee.

Construction of the Fast Genetics Silver Buckle Bandshell began this past week. The bandshell was named after Spiritwood's well-renowned CCA Rodeo, which has become a part of the town's history as it no longer runs.

The Town Square will act as a free, public space for community gatherings, events, and a relaxing space in town to be enjoyed by all. The bandshell can be booked, free of charge, through NLEDC to ensure no scheduling conflicts arise.

More photos on page 2

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Shellbrook teachers hold parade for students

School may be out until at least the fall (the Saskatchewan government officially announced this on May 7), but staff from Shellbrook Elementary School and W.P. Sandin High School are still finding unique ways to connect with their students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week, the *Chronicle* caught up with Lindsay Kyliuk, who has been teaching science and math to handful of students on the high school grounds via a white board welded to the back of his truck — while maintaining physical distancing, of course.

This week, however, local teachers were more focused on lifting the spirits of their students.

On Monday morning, staff from both Shellbrook schools held a parade to say hello to their stu-



The parade procession makes its way south from W.P. Sandin High School.

dents, and let them know just how much they miss them.

The parade was announced by Shellbrook Elementary School secretary Chezanne Shewchuk, via the School Community Council's Facebook page.

"Good morning Shellbrook Elementary fami-

lies!! We miss the kids so much that we decided we needed to see them, at a distance," she wrote.

"We are sooooo excited to see everyone!"

Starting at 10 a.m. at Shellbrook Elementary School, the procession of school buses, cars, trucks,

and one bike (ridden by W.P. Sandin teacher James Meyers) wound its way through the town of Shellbrook with horns honking.

For their part, local students were just as happy for the opportunity to say hello to their favou-

rite teachers. Throughout town, kids and parents were lined up to wave as the vehicles drove by.

But the procession didn't stop within the town's limits.

After completing a roughly 30-minute circuit of Shellbrook, the parade headed north to Cookson so that staff could say hello to students who live up that way.

From there, they headed south and east to say hello to the kids who live in Holbein, before swinging back through Shellbrook en route to the students who live in Parkside and the Kilwinning area.

All told, the parade was expected to take four and a half hours.

Of course, in-class learning isn't the only thing that's been impacted by COVID-19. With

June fast approaching, and Grade 12 students still poised to graduate, many have been wondering how graduates will be recognized.

Last week, Robert Bratvold, director of education for the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, cleared up some of that uncertainty by saying it would be up to individual schools to decide how they handle graduation ceremonies.

"Our belief is that schools and communities know what best serves their needs and so as long as they are compliant with the Medical Officer of Health and other regulations connected to that then they were in the best position to make the best decisions for what meets the needs to celebrate their graduates," he said.



While most students were happy to watch and wave from their front steps as their teachers drove by, two students chose to join the tail end of the parade.

Construction under way on town square's band stand



Jenn Summers from Overhaul Construction planting perennials in the planters she and Josh built.



Colin Allard busy at work last fall constructing the arbour that acts as an entryway into the Town Square.



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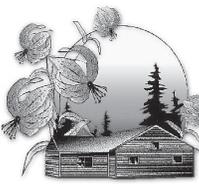
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Rivier School keeps promoting kindness

On the first Tuesday of each month, Rivier School in Spiritwood focuses on demonstrating a little more kindness. This has not ceased during remote learning as a result of COVID-19. Staff and students alike are encouraged to share a smile, good humor, forgiveness, and lend assistance to their families, friends and community.

The “Together/Be Kind Tuesdays” project was born during a School Community Council meeting and kicked-off this past fall with a school wide “Be Kind” t-shirt sale. Students, staff and family members are encouraged to wear their “Be Kind” shirts on the first Tuesday of each month

to develop a sense of unity and remind everyone to put forward extra effort on those days.

It was already evident that acts of kindness were happening but the idea of focusing more specifically on spreading kindness, learning about kindness, and showing acts of kindness within our school and in our local and surrounding communities was appealing to everyone.

Rivier School received a \$1000 grant from Sasktel Be Kind Online in the fall of 2019 to help fund some of their activities. This grant made it much easier to implement motivational activities. A portion of the grant

was also used to purchase a large number of books about kindness to add to the school library.

Over the past couple of months, the school has continued to promote “Be Kind” Tuesday through social media and email. Given the isolation that some are feeling during this extraordinary time some students have lent their digital communication skills to grandparents by setting up Skype accounts and other video conferencing opportunities.

The Grade 4/5 students, under the direction of their teacher, made Easter cards that were delivered electronically to the residents of the Spiritwood Idylwild Lodge and

were encouraged to visit grandparents at the lodge through the window.

Others have assisted their parents to drop off groceries for those that are not able to go out.

Of course, now that spring has truly arrived, many students are assisting with yard work and chores on the farm. In June, a “Community Clean-up” was planned but many students are already doing this with their families.

For their part, the Rivier School staff continues to reach out to students with messages of hope, supplemental learning lessons and activities while continuing to encourage an extra dose of kindness on a regular basis.



Cleanup of Cameron-Bourdages Memorial Park.



Helping with the garden.



Rivier staff.



Rivier staff.

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COVID-19 shows food supply flaws

As Canadians, it's sometimes too easy for us to take for granted the fact that we can swing by the local grocery store and grab pretty much everything we could possibly want.

While it's too early to know what legacy the COVID-19 pandemic will leave behind, we can be certain that its impact will be far-reaching and long-lasting.

Most of all, though, we can be sure that we will remember COVID-19 for the way it exposed the vulnerability of our food supply chain.

Over the past month, Canada's meat supply chain, in particular, has shown a frightening vulnerability to the disruption that the coronavirus has caused in so many aspects of our everyday lives. Nowhere is this truer than in Alberta, where outbreaks of the virus have shutdown three meat-processing plants and crippled 70 per cent of Canada's beef supply.

The trouble started with



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News Editor

an outbreak at Cargill's High River, Alta., meat packing plant. That outbreak, which is the largest in the province, has infected 949 people to date, and resulted in a single death.

A second outbreak followed at the JBS plant in Brooks. Though smaller, that outbreak is still the second largest in the province, with 487 employees and contractors having contracted the virus thus far.

Finally, and most recently,

the Harmony Beef meat processing plant in Balzac had 36 of its 440 employees test positive for COVID-19, after a single employee contracted the virus back in March.

That first case saw the plant temporarily suspend some of its operations. But, as of last week, the plant was back up and running with enhanced safety protocols in place for workers.

Meanwhile, the Cargill facility re-opened last Monday after completely shutting down for two weeks, and the JBS plant never closed its doors.

Recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on the meat plants, and on the producers who supply the meat, the federal government has promised \$252 million dollars in assistance for Canadian farmers and others in the agri-food sector.

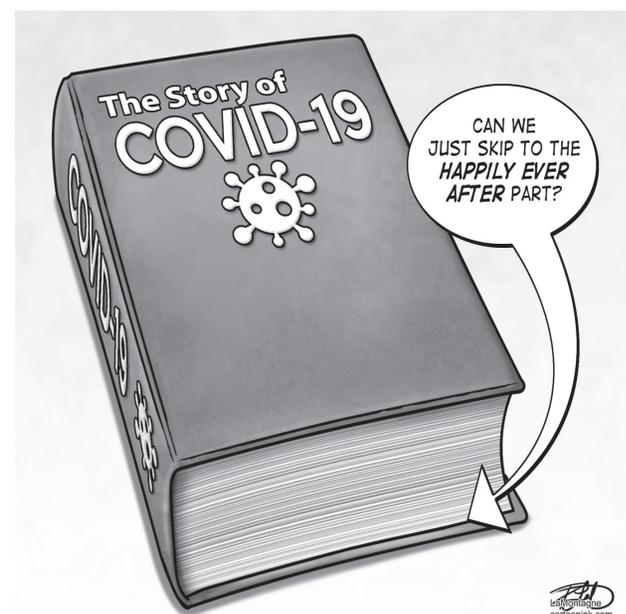
Of that money, about half (\$125 million) will go to cattle and hog producers who are seeing their costs increase be-

cause they've been forced to keep more animals as a result of the reduction in processing capacity.

The next largest portion, \$77.5 million, will help food processors purchase protective equipment for employees, adapt to COVID-related health protocols, and expand domestic processing capacity to ensure more food is made in Canada.

The remaining \$50 million will be spent on a food surplus program, which will see the government buy large quantities of surplus products and redistribute them to areas where food insecurity is an issue. This measure is designed to reduce food waste, and allow the producers to still be compensated.

This \$252 million joins other money that has been specifically targeted at certain sectors of the agri-food industry, including a \$200 million increase to the Canadian Dairy Commission's borrowing limit to cover costs related to



storing more milk and cheese, \$50 million to cover the costs of self-isolation housing for temporary foreign works, and \$62.5 million for the seafood and fish processing sector.

However, all this money is just a band-aid solution that covers up the real and dangerous flaw of Canada's food supply system: it's simply become too dependent on massive national and global supply chains that could leave

Canadians without access to safe and affordable food in a disaster situation.

Perhaps it's too late to turn back the clock to a time when food was produced on a more regional and local scale.

But it would have been nice to see the provincial government direct some of the \$7.5 billion it plans to spend on infrastructure towards shoring up the province's food supply chain.

Trudeau government misses mark on gun control

Cathay Wagantall
MP, Yorkton-Melville

This Liberal government is not serious about reducing gun violence. If they were, they would be going after dangerous criminals instead of targeting law-abiding firearms owners. But instead, Justin Trudeau is using the current pandemic and the immediate emotion of the horrific attack in Nova Scotia to push the Liberals' ideological agenda and make a major firearms policy change while Parliament is not sitting.

Taking firearms away from law-abiding citizens does nothing to stop dangerous criminals who obtain their guns illegally. In fact, an engagement paper by this government found that, "the vast majority of owners of handguns and of other firearms in Canada lawfully abide

by requirements, and most gun crimes are not committed with legally-owned firearms." Moreover, "any ban of handguns or assault weapons would primarily affect legal firearms owners"

The reality is, the vast majority of gun crimes are committed with illegally obtained firearms. Nothing the Trudeau Liberals announced addresses this problem.

Any serious measures to make Canadians safer should not focus on punishing legal firearms owners. It should be on funding and supporting initiatives that would directly impact smuggling and illegal sales of firearms in Canada.

I side with all Canadians on the importance of supporting common-sense firearms policies

that keep guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals.

Why is the Prime Minister choosing to potentially spend billions of taxpayer dollars to buy back guns from honest, law-abiding citizens who continue to follow all the rules? Would a wiser decision not be to make funding police anti-gang and gun units and a CBSA Firearms Smuggling Task Force their first priority?

How about investing more in youth prevention programs, getting serious about rural crime, creating tougher sentences for violent offenders and supporting courts and prosecutors?

How about getting serious about increasing access to mental health and addictions treatments?

Twenty-two innocent people lost their lives in Nova Scotia at the hands of a deranged killer. Canadians are rightly upset by this horrific attack and want answers. The RCMP has made it clear the shooter did not have a firearms license, so all of his guns were illegal. As the RCMP's investigation unfolds we will have greater clarity on the source of his firearms.

The Prime Minister and his Minister of Public Safety need to explain why they are targeting law-abiding firearms owners when their government's own research shows that "the data does not conclusively demonstrate that ... handgun or assault weapon bans have led to reductions in gun violence."

A serious plan to reduce gun violence after all, is what all Canadians want.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Member of



Sask. announces plan for health services

In tandem with its phased plan to re-open Saskatchewan's economy for business, the provincial government has unveiled a staged plan for the Saskatchewan Health Authority to resume regular healthcare services.

The plan is expected to begin phase one on Tuesday, May 19, giving it the same start date as phase two of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan.

Like the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, the implementation of the health care plan will depend on how the COVID-19 pandemic continues to play out in the province in the coming weeks.

"Recent data does indicate that the province is in a better position now to move forward on reintroducing services in a gradual and thoughtful way because of the interventions that have been taken to slow the spread of COVID-19," SHA CEO Scott Livingstone said in a statement.

"As we do so, it is critical to remember that we will be constantly evaluating this

process to ensure the safety of our patients, residents and our health care workers, remaining flexible in our approach to adapt to new developments and localized outbreaks."

Phase one will see surgical services expanded from emergency surgeries and three-week urgent cases, to include those booked as six-week urgent cases. This, the SHA says, will increase surgical services by 10 to 25 per cent.

Meanwhile, MRI and CT scans will increase to 75 per cent of normal capacity, and primary care clinics will be able to expand their availability (though, they're urged to use virtual care where possible and prioritize patients with chronic diseases for in-person appointments).

Additionally, all routine immunizations will be allowed to proceed, public health inspections of long-term care homes, personal care homes, and group homes will be ramped up, and services in other key areas, like home

care, kidney health, and rehabilitation and therapy programs, will be gradually re-introduced.

On the mental health and addictions side, the SHA will re-open mental health short stay units, allow the option of in-person appointments as needed, allow more therapeutic and day programming for groups under 10 people, and resume regular hours for harm reduction programs

In phase two, which has no set date, the SHA will move to re-open specialty clinics in a wide range of areas, including respiratory, fetal testing, eye testing, dermatology, electrophysiology, cath lab, cardiac stress testing, and outpatient heart monitoring,

Moving to phase three, the SHA will look at a further expansion of everyday healthcare services, including chronic disease management, wellness programs, stroke prevention, opioid agonist therapy, specialized services for patients with developmental disabilities, autism and

brain injuries.

Mental health and addictions services, meanwhile, will be expanded to allow for the opening of social detox and addictions inpatient treatment.

In the last phase, the SHA will look at resuming all services. This phase will include the addition of long-waiting elective surgeries and previously postponed surgeries, and allow hip and knee outpatient clinics to re-open.

"Our service resumption plans are very much dependent on the health system's ability to respond, in partnership with the public," SHA Chief Medical Officer Dr. Susan Shaw said in statement.

"I recognize the feeling of wanting to get back to normal; however it's essential that we proceed thoughtfully, and continue to maintain those everyday practices that have been so successful to date, including physical distancing, handwashing and staying home wherever possible."

All patients immediately impacted will receive phone calls with updates specific to their situation, including new surgical or procedure dates,

as appropriate.

Along with introducing its plan for health services, the plan has also revised its Re-Open Saskatchewan plan.

The update eases mask requirements for healthcare workers, requiring them to wear masks only in clinical care areas. This means they can go without masks in hallways and waiting areas.

It also gives drive-in theatres across the province guidelines for re-opening.

While they're allowed to operate, drive-in theatres must ensure that vehicles are separated by at least five metres, ensure that physical distance is maintained in food and washroom line-ups, and provide contactless pick-up or delivery services for food.

For movie-goers, meanwhile, only people from the same household can be in the same vehicle.

Under the revised Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, farmer's markets will be permitted to re-open starting May 19. However, the number of people in attendance must allow for physical distancing to be observed, facilities for hand-washing and sanitizing must

be provided, and only take-away food and pre-packaged liquor can be sold.

Elsewhere, thrift stores will be allowed to re-open on May 19, but must wash any donated clothing items and dry them on the highest possible setting. Items that can't be put in a washing machine must be disinfected or isolated in a separate bin for at least 72 hours.

The province is also easing some of the restrictions on golf courses, which are allowed to open as of May 15. Under the revised guidelines, the time between tee-offs has dropped to 12 minutes from 20, and driving ranges, and practice putting and chipping greens can open so long as physical distancing is maintained and balls are disinfected between customers.

Finally, the revised Re-Open Saskatchewan plan loosens restrictions for boaters.

Provincial parks opened to boat traffic on May 4, but now passengers in boats no longer need to be from the same household (though, they are still urged to maintain as much separation as possible).



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Honeywood set to open for spring

By Judy Harley

Finally!!! Spring is here.... a little late in showing up but it is wonderful to be outside without all that winter gear!

Great News!! We are allowed to open the nursery on Saturday May 16th provided we adhere to the COVID-19 rules & guidelines set out by the Provincial Health Authority. Social distancing must be practiced at all times while at the nursery.

More Great News!! We will have a greenhouse full of annuals thanks to our friend Malcolm Jenkins and his Prince Albert Canadian Tire store. So, if you are looking for annuals for your gardens please check us out first! Due to COVID-19 rules the greenhouse will be sanitized regularly, hand sanitizer will be available before en-

tering and only one person or couple will be allowed in the greenhouse at a time. Social Distancing must be observed!

As usual, you can find a great selection of Lilies of all colors and heights as well as a great variety of perennials. Thanks to our volunteers we potted a good number of lilies and perennials for our visitors and customers to choose from. The plants we had in storage will take a little longer to wake up and get growing but as the weather warms up, they will emerge from their slumber and put on a show!

As many of you may know, Lorna left us last fall to take another position. We were very fortunate to hire a new person to take on the planning and care of the nursery, Dale Kuhn has joined us to take on

this position. We are looking forward to new ideas and good things happening as a result of the combined efforts of Mark, our groundskeeper/maintenance man and Dale our new nursery supervisor. Welcome to Honeywood, Dale!

We at Honeywood are going to be facing quite a different season. COVID-19 has not been good for anyone's business and we are no exception. Due to the social distancing and maximum numbers allowed to gather we will not be having our Artists in Bloom in June or our Lilies in Bloom in July. A Touch of Autumn also appears to be very doubtful. The events are held to invite people to enjoy the nursery, but also to raise the much-needed funds to maintain the Heritage site.



We greatly appreciate all of the tremendous support we have received throughout the years! The cost of maintaining the beautiful grounds, orchards, buildings & fields is always an ongoing concern. The funds to do this are normally acquired through fundraising events, sale of plant material & donations. Without the support of you, our friends & supporters we will not be able to continue to keep this heritage site in the great

shape so many have come to love.

This year we are really going to need your assistance. If you can help us out with any kind of a donation, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact us at: honeywoodn8@gmail.com Phone: 303-747-3307 or mail: Box 117, Parkside, SK, S0J 2A0.

All donations over \$20 are eligible for income tax receipt, if you would like to donate and want one please contact us to make

arrangements.

Once again, we applied to the Canada Summer Jobs program to assist in the hiring of a student for the summer. Due to the government upgrade for this program, getting the results is taking longer than usual. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be successful in our application.

Young people have been employed at Honeywood every summer since the 1940's when Bert Porter hired them to help in the fields & pick fruit. They are an important part of the work done at Honeywood & we have continued with the practice since we started the restoration in 2001.

We are looking forward to a great year at Honeywood & invite you to join us whenever you have the chance!

Don't forget to check our Facebook page @ Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc for updates!

SGEU

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Environmental
Service Worker

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to keep our communities safe

When times are tough, SGEU workers are there for you. Be there for them. **#thankaworker**

Fraud case against Blaine Lake woman adjourned due to COVID-19

By Lisa Joy, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A court case against a Blaine Lake woman scheduled to appear in court May 7 was adjourned due to COVID-19.

All court appearances set for that day in Blaine Lake Circuit Court were set

aside. Court cases for non-custody accused and docket proceedings at circuit court locations have been adjourned since March 22 until after May 31. Bail hearings and sentencing for in-custody accused are continuing by telephone and video-conferencing at the 13 permanent court locations that remain open.

Laticia Juba-Arcand, 27, was arrested in November 2019 after Blaine RCMP executed a search warrant at her home. Police seized 144 personal identification cards – most of them Saskatchewan driver's licenses and health cards - 200 stolen cheques, stolen tools and a small amount of crystal meth.

Juba-Arcand is charged with identity theft, assault causing bodily harm, fraud, forgery, possession of stolen property obtained by crime and possession of a controlled substance.

She was released on bail after a show cause hearing on March 5.

Juba-Arcand is now scheduled to appear in Blaine Lake Circuit Court on July 2 to enter a plea.

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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

COVID-19 creates uncertainty for food supply

To say we are living in unusual times is an understatement.

That is particularly true for the food sector.

On one hand we are being warned we could face a shortage, at least in certain foods, meats heading the list, while on the other hand producers are finding markets drying up.

A case in point is the Canadian pork sector where industry official's government support is necessary to carry the sector through the current crisis that has caused producers to eu-

thanize healthy hogs because there is no market for them.

The pork and poultry sectors are particularly fragile in terms of market closures because barn space is finite. If market ready animals don't go out regularly, there is no space for the next animals arriving to be grown to market.

Cattle are of course also susceptible, but there may be some grassland options for some finished stock to be held at least a short time in hopes markets open.

The situation is a diffi-



CALVIN DANIELS

cult one because without animals going to market producers have no cash flow to pay feed bills and staff wages.

And, no producer wants to kill off animals without them going on

to the consumers for the table.

The situation of course relates to COVID-19, and flare ups in various facilities crucial to meat processing. The flare-ups result in closures and that disrupts the market at the farm production end.

It's not that people don't need or want the product.

In fact people, even in our country, will go to bed many nights hungry.

The situation is an increasingly large scale processing chain where one plant closure can

break the entire chain and impact a huge part of the market in Canada and beyond.

Over the decades we have seen localized capacity to process meat all but disappear as the system has centralized and expanded. Efficiencies are gained in that way, but the chain becomes more vulnerable to situations like the one we face right now too.

And, it's not just a meat situation being impacted at present.

The potato sector has a glut of product, millions of kilograms, because a

major market is the restaurant trade, and that sector is either closed, or operating in limited ways which reduces their need for spuds.

Again the situation with potatoes seems at odds with worries about food supplies, but the issue is getting the product from the farm to the kitchen table in a way that provides affordable food for the consumer and pays farm costs at the same time.

That will be the difficult balance we need to achieve in the days ahead.

Boil Water Advisory in Spiritwood, Glaslyn, Shell Lake & more

A broken transmission line caused the power to shut off around 8:30 p.m. on April 30 in many Northern Saskatchewan communities. SaskPower reported that the outage affected Patchunak, Turtle Lake, Glaslyn, Goodsoil, Pierceland, Buffalo Narrows, Beauval, Ile-A-La-Crosse, Turnor Lake, Turtleford, Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Moosomin FN, Jackfish

Lake, Cochin, Meota, and Paradise Hill. Power restoration came as early as 10:30 p.m. for some, while others were out until nearly 5:30 a.m.

The prolonged outage resulted in a precautionary drinking water advisory (PDWA) being issued by the Water Security Agency and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health. PDWAs are issued when the water

system is depressurized for more than two hours resulting in the possibility of water supply system problems. Water quality cannot be verified while the system is depressurized, so in cases where service, maintenance, or unplanned shutdowns such as the power outage cause the system to be down, a PDWA is issued. The advisory remains in effect until the system

work is completed and the quality of the water is verified by two lab tested samples taken 24 hours apart.

PDWAs notify residents to boil water for at least one minute prior to use if it will be ingested. This includes uses such as drinking, brushing teeth, soaking false teeth, washing fruits or vegetables, and making ice cubes. Public drink-

ing fountains supplied by the system are not to be used for drinking. Dish water should have bleach added (10mL bleach per 1 L water), but water used for other household purposes such as laundry or bathing does not need to be boiled.

For more information, visit https://www.saskwater.com/services/customer_service/water_advisories.php.

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Bengals hope Burrow is no ordinary Joe

We've seen our share of clear No. 1s. Like, would anyone dispute the assertion that Coke is No. 1 and Pepsi No. 2?

Music's No. 1? The Beatles. No. 2? The Rolling Stones.

In hockey, it's the Great One, Wayne Gretzky at No. 1, with, take your choice, Orr or Howe at No. 2.

Same thing in the recent National Football League draft of college stars. No. 1 was a quarterback from Louisiana State University, Joe Burrow. The other stars were clumped in a group of No. 2 through 100 or so.

So it was with absolutely no surprise that Cincinnati Bengals, who wrapped up the No. 1 selection with a 2-14 record in 2019, 'earned' the right to pick first. And since quarterback has always been a trouble spot for the Bengals,

there was no doubt that the Burrow-Bengals coupling would be a marriage made in football heaven.

The Burrow story is one over which Hollywood script writers might drool. He was a star QB in high school in Athens, Ohio, and longed for the chance to suit up for Nebraska Cornhuskers, where his father and two older brothers had played. But the Nebraska brain-trust wasn't interested, so Burrow went to his second choice, and where he was wanted, Ohio State.

Alas, he got hurt in his first year, and then lost a competition to Dwayne Haskins for the starting quarterback job in his second year. When it was clear Haskins would be the starter again the following year, Burrow transferred to LSU,



BRUCE
PENTON

where he became Coke, the Beatles and Gretzky wrapped up in purple and gold.

Burrow's list of accomplishments is long. After a 2018 season at LSU (10-3 record) where he firmly established himself as the team's No. 1 QB, he went all Joe Montana in his senior year, leading LSU to the national championship, winning the Heisman Trophy as the best college player in the U.S., and leading LSU to an

unbeaten 15-0 season. Oh, by the way, he also threw 60 touchdown passes and had a mere six interceptions.

College football in the U.S. is hardly of NFL quality, though, and some rookies find the learning curve to be steep, especially when the comparative supporting cast — blockers, offensive weapons — might be weaker than what he was used to in college. And goodness knows the Bengals — 21 wins and 42 losses, with one tie, in the past four seasons — have a lot of weaknesses.

If a winning record is in the cards for the Bengals this year, Burrow will have confirmed to the world that he's no ordinary Joe.

- SI.com's Joel Beall, recalling golfer K.J. Choi's cameo in a film called 'Seven Days in Utopia' where he plays unflappable golfer 'T.K. Oh'. Of the film, the late critic Roger Ebert wrote, 'I would rather eat a golf ball than see this movie again.'

- Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Overzealous college boosters, embracing the spirit of social distancing, are now including a tiny bottle of sanitizer with every \$100 handshake."

- Norman Chad of the Washington Post, on Twitter, after learning that sports guy Bill Simmons of ESPN owns five L.A.-area homes: "On the downside, you cannot believe the amount of candy The Sports Guy has to purchase every Halloween."

- RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "A recent study in Psych Central found students may perform better if, instead of being pressured to succeed, they're told failure is part of learning. Finally, an explanation for the Cincinnati Bengals."

- Norman Chad again on the logistical nightmare of rescheduling into fall and winter the 2020 Major League Baseball season: "Too many games to fit into too tight of a calendar — pitchers and fans won't like the weather and, of course, Houston Astros video equipment might freeze over."

- Omaha funny guy Brad Dickson: "Question: if college football is cancelled in 2020 and Nebraska's official record is 0-0 will the State Legislature issue a proclamation honouring (coach) Scott Frost for his most successful season to date?"

- Scott Ostler of the

San Francisco Chronicle: "I saw the L.A. Lakers' small-biz loan application: 'We qualify as a neighbourhood bakery because we make a lot of turnovers.'"

- Brad Dickson again: "An ESPN guy called a player who was drafted 'An academic star at Ohio State.' Translation: that means he attended two classes during a semester."

- Jack Finarelli, aka the Sports Curmudgeon, on the Chiefs' picks in the NFL draft: "They probably wanted to have a rhyming theme to this year's draft because two of their draftees have first names of L'Jarius and Thakarius."

- @AndyHermanNFL, on Twitter, after Green Bay drafted Jordan Love to back up Aaron Rodgers: "Just realizing that the Packers' current QBs are A-Rod & J-Lo."

- Brad Dickson again, via Twitter, on reports the NBA is in talks to resume its season at Disney World: "This is gonna be so embarrassing when Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs defeat the Golden State Warriors."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

OBITUARY

Kevin Miners



MINERS — Kevin
1962 - 2020

Kevin Miners was born in Prince Albert on May 19, 1962, the youngest child of Reg and Margaret Miners. Just before his sixth birthday the family moved from town to the farm. Kevin soon developed a fondness for farm animals and enjoyed life on the farm. He rode the bus to school in Shellbrook,

graduating in 1981. After graduation he worked on a public works program in Shellbrook painting public buildings. He also worked on a grain bin erection crew.

Kevin enrolled in Olds College in Alberta in 1981. He got his diploma in 1983 and began farming with Reg and Margaret. Kevin worked at Explosives Ltd. in Calgary from 1993 until early 1996 when he returned to the family farm. Kevin had a passion for golf and travelled to many golf tournaments. He also followed team sports and was knowledgeable about events in the sporting world.

Kevin faced several health challenges in recent years and passed away suddenly at home on March 29, 2020. Kevin is survived by his

father Reg and brother Ken (Miriam) Miners of Shellbrook; his sisters Karen (Neil) Lukan of Middle Lake, Arlene (Cam) Scott of Prince Albert and several nieces, nephews and their families. He was predeceased by his mother Margaret and his nephew Matthew LeComte.

A private family service was held at Prince Albert Memorial Gardens on May 7, 2020. A public gathering will be held at a later date when restrictions permit.

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, Tammy Smart, Director, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.

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COVID emergency funds for agriculture can build more robust food system

On May 5, Prime Minister Trudeau announced initial emergency relief measures for the agriculture sector totaling \$252 million. While full details are not yet available, the National Farmers Union (NFU) appreciates help for farmers affected by the disruption created by COVID 19.

The pandemic shines a spotlight on vulnerabilities in our food system, providing the opportunity to use emergency supports to create the foundation for a more robust and resilient food system.

This funding recognizes the impact of large packing plant closures on beef, hog and other livestock farmers. With dramatic reductions in processing capacity, the market has collapsed. More animals must be kept on the farm, fed and cared for much longer than expected. Selling prices have dropped like a stone, leaving farmers with higher costs and severely reduced incomes.

The NFU supports worker health and safety, and is also pleased to see aid that will help protect food processing workers and adapt processes to ensure workplace safety while renewing processing capacity focused our domestic market. Supporting and rebuilding smaller abattoirs and meat processing capacity in all provinces will

make our food system more resilient.

Currently, less than 5% of Canada's meat is processed by small and medium sized enterprises; expanding them will create regional processing that would reduce dependence on the international industrial giants.

Emergency funding criteria must exclude Cargill and JBS, as both have recklessly endangered workers' lives and members of the larger community by their failure to implement proper safety measures at the High River and Brooks operations. These corporations are two of the wealthiest and most powerful companies in the world. Their inadequate safety measures to date are not due to a lack of money.

The NFU is pleased that emergency funds for beef, hog and other livestock farmers will be administered through the AgriRecovery Business Risk Management program without requiring enrollment in AgriStability.

The NFU has emphasized to the Minister that changes to AgriStability in 2012 made the program unworkable for most family farmers, especially mixed farmers, and has urged that it not be the primary delivery vehicle for COVID 19 emergency payments.

The total amount announced today to support livestock producers, \$125 million, will not be adequate to compensate farmers for the losses experienced. The NFU strongly urges that a floor price be enforced to ensure farmers receive at least the cost of production when selling livestock to federally inspected packers, feedlots and backgrounders. This floor price is needed to prevent meat packing companies from reaping windfall profits from this crisis at the expense of farmers and consumers.

The risk to our food system from undue consolidation of livestock processing has been a long-standing NFU concern. In addition to today's emergency funds, the NFU urges the federal government to help provinces develop appropriate meat inspection regulations that will position small and medium sized abattoirs for long-term success.

Creating a framework for the long-term success of regionalized food systems would be a positive legacy of Canada's pandemic response, making Canada's livestock sector more resilient and Canada's food supply more secure.

Both the \$200 million in increased credit for the Canadian Dairy Commission to increase its storage capacity and the \$50

million for a surplus food purchase program are welcomed, to help those in need and to avoid wasting the food that farmers have worked hard to produce.

We note that our dairy and poultry farmers have been managing the pandemic's disruptions using the Supply Management system's tools to share the burdens and develop solutions together. Increasing storage capacity will spare dairy farmers the financial and emotional stress that goes with dumping milk.

We look forward to future announcements that will support farmers who are owner-operators, and those who produce ornamentals, fruit and vegetables, and mushrooms, all also struggling due to COVID 19, as well as Canadian grain farmers facing pandemic-related price discounts and market disruptions in the international trade arena.

The NFU has a history of promoting a more robust food system that works for farmers, workers and consumers. In 2017 we presented our vision and policy recommendations to the Food Policy for Canada consultation process.

Now, the pandemic provides a strong incentive to align emergency responses with a longer-term vision for stability, resilience and food security.

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Local group urges Shellbrook council to reconsider railway station demolition

It may soon be the end of the line for one of Shellbrook's oldest original buildings.

At its upcoming meeting on Tuesday, May 19, Shellbrook's town council will be voting on a bylaw to repeal the heritage status of the CN Railway Station, which currently serves as the Shellbrook and District Heritage Museum.

Barring an outpouring of objections from the public, the bylaw is almost certain to be enacted by council, paving the way for the railway station to be demolished.

As of Monday afternoon, Town of Shellbrook CAO Kelly Hoare said she'd received just two letters in response to the town's notice of intention.

The deadline for the public to offer feedback, both positive and negative, is this Friday (May 15).

While the prospect of demolishing Shellbrook's railway station may have caught some by surprise, Shellbrook Mayor George Tomporowski says the future of the building has been going around the council table for "quite awhile."

"We started looking at it for a possible place for our library," he said.

"We looked at improving it to make the alterations so that it was up to code for a public building. We had a contractor look at it, and tell us it would be \$300,000 or \$400,000 to do that."

Adding that the building isn't currently being utilized, and that there's no traffic going

through it, Tomporowski says council agreed that the town couldn't afford to make the building safe for public use.

In the end, council decided demolishing the building would be the most viable option.

"If we could find a way to preserve the building we would, but nobody wants their taxes to go up. It's one of those situations where, if you retain it, it's going to cost money," he said, noting that this would mean the town would be subsidizing the building.

"We have so many things we need to do, and one of the most urgent ones is the water treatment plant. So where do you want the money to go? From our perspective, there was no question."

Though the end may be near for the railway station, Tomporowski says council wants to ensure that significant community artefacts are kept and displayed somewhere. One idea, he adds, is to convert the Tourist Booth building into a museum of sorts.

This is one possibility, and Tomporowski says that more are being considered now that a couple of groups have expressed interest in the railway station.

All he would say on that front, however, is that discussions with the interested parties are ongoing.

But while the town has arrived at demolishing the railway station as its only choice, those involved with the Shellbrook Museum are urging council to consider options that would



allow the building to remain standing where it is.

Hoping to bolster its case, the museum brought in Cal Sexsmith, chair of the Saskatchewan Railway Museum, to look at the building and share his thoughts and insights.

Conceding that the building could use some TLC, Sexsmith says the railway station is in "not bad" condition for a building of its age because it's been kept water tight and painted.

Though this may not sound like a ringing endorsement for a building that's now more than a century old, Sexsmith insists that there are alternatives to demolishing the building that don't need to cost the town a fortune.

"When there is an active community group, like there is here, support their efforts, even if it is a matter of turning it over to them to operate," he said, noting that volunteer and non-profit organizations have access to resources that municipalities don't.

"The minute you get charitable non-profit status, you can write tax receipts for donations, and you can put up a big sign in front saying, 'Donate now to save the Shellbrook Station.'"

For Sexsmith, the ideal solution would see the town lease the building to the museum for as little as \$1 per year, and give the group running a small operating grant each year. Additional funds, meanwhile, could come from operating and other grants offered by SaskCulture, and charitable and in-kind donations.

If council isn't swayed by this option, Sexsmith says another option is to move the building rather than demolish it. However, he notes that this isn't without its drawbacks and challenges.

"It is possible to move these buildings, and one positive might be that you'd be putting it onto a modern foundation," he explained.

"But, of course, it does cost money. And these things are quite high, so a lot of the routes you might try to move them on might not work, because there'd be overhanging powerlines, or overhead signage, or road bans."

That said, Sexsmith adds that the problem with demolishing or moving the railway station is that the town could come to regret the decision as other Saskatchewan communities have. And with historic buildings like the Shellbrook railway station becoming more and more scarce, it could prove costly and difficult to replace the building once it's gone.

The southern Saskatchewan town of Ogeema, for instance, had to have a railway station building moved 250 kms from Imperial to replace the original building it had removed.

"There are other towns who would kill to have this," Sexsmith said.

Arguing that towns like Shellbrook only exist because the railway companies decided where they needed towns, Sexsmith adds that losing the railway station would be like losing a piece of local identity.

That, he says, is why buildings like the Shellbrook railway station must be preserved.

"Traditionally, this would have been the heart of the community."

For Fred Tatler, who has put a lot of hours into the railway station restoring sections of track and the train signal arms, Shellbrook's railway station is an important historical artefact because it's one of the few of its kind that's still sitting on its original foundation.

For this reason, he says it would be "a real shame" to lose the building, and he adds that he wish that council had approached the museum group earlier than it did.

"This just came out of left field. We had no idea they were thinking along these lines," he said.

"I'm just hoping we have some time. That's what we need, some time to get our ducks in a row and follow through with some of these ideas."

A friendly note for all

By Norma Dahl

A friendly note to say hello to all my coffee friends and others too, especially frontline workers. Time is long on our hands but when we all work together, we will succeed.

I was reading one of my favourite books and came across something very near and dear to our hearts. It comes from "Chicken Soup - Think Possible." The key to a life worth living is to change perspective.

From inward to outward.

From giving up to giving back.

From self-consciousness to global awareness.

From "no thanks" to "yes, let's."

From judgement to acceptance.

From self-importance to humility.

From things to people.

From indifference to love.

This is one simple bit of wisdom, but it can at least brighten someone's day. Possibilities exist with a smile! Take care!

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& Spiritwood Herald**