



New C-Store, Gas Bar coming to Spiritwood in 2021



Representatives from Lake Country Co-op stand at the site of a planned C-Store and Gas Bar location in Spiritwood. Construction is slated to begin in 2021.

On Dec. 11, Lake Country Co-op announced their plan to build a new C-Store and Gas Bar on Highway 3 just east of the existing Agro-Center, Tire Shop, and Gas Bar in Spiritwood.

The Spiritwood and District Co-op, which was established in 1940, amalgamated with the newly re-named Lake Country Co-op in 2017.

Lake Country Co-op was incorporated back in 1840 (at the time named Price Albert Co-op) and began amalgamating with smaller centres as early as 1959. The group, which now includes Paddockwood, Wakaw, Domremy, Smeaton, LaRonge, Shellbrook, Big River, Kinistino, Canwood,

Marcelin, Birth Hills, and Spiritwood employs around 800 staff, and has an active membership of over 36,000.

The aim behind the amalgamations was to strengthen all location operations and expand member services. The recent announcement seems to be a fulfillment of the later goal.

The new C-Store and Gas Bar are due to start construction in the spring of 2021. Currently, no completion date has been announced.

The Gas Bar will be a state-of-the-art six lane, three pump set up all equipped with optional Pay at the Pump. The pumps will have dispense options of Top Tier regular, mid-

grade, and premium gasoline and premium diesel. Auto and bottle propane will be available at the site as well.

The C-Store (convenience store) will follow the most current and modern interior and exterior designs. A full line of confectionery and a gourmet beverage counter will be included alongside lottery and tobacco sale. Clean and accessible washrooms will be included in the store as well.

Lake Country Co-op also announced that a national food franchise, which will be announced at a later date, will be attached to the C-Store.

The announcement has been the topic of many conversations around

Spiritwood for the past couple of weeks. Many who frequent the Co-op for gas were excited about the announcement foreseeing fewer traffic issues around the gas bar which is a common occurrence during busy times due to the current layout. Others were excited about having a new food franchise in town, and are eagerly anticipating the announcement of the franchise who will be taking over the space.

As a strong community builder, Lake Country Co-op is excited to start this new project in 2021 to offer more services to the Spiritwood community.



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Shellbrook Kinsmen get outdoor rink running

The COVID-19 pandemic may have essentially shutdown rinks across the province, including Shellbrook's Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre, but that doesn't mean folks in the community won't have a place to skate over the winter.

Thanks to the hard work of the Shellbrook Kinsmen, and more than a little perseverance, the local outdoor rink was expected to be up and running before Christmas day (though, the Skate Shack will remain closed, as it's too small to allow for physical distancing).

"That rink gets a lot of use, and it's a great partnership," said Kinsmen Paul Beaulieu. "The Town gives us water, the school gives us the land to put this rink on, and we put in the

time. It works out well."

Of course, like all things in 2020, it wasn't exactly a cake walk to get the rink ready for use.

After the early winter blast in November, the Kinsmen had to spend 30 hours blowing snow off of the ice surface.

They managed to finish this task just in time for a prolonged stretch of unseasonably warm weather, which prevented them from flooding the rink. Finally, thanks to the arrival of colder temperatures last week, they were able to put the ice on — a task that takes about 40 hours.

It's a lot of work, to be certain. But Beaulieu says it's worth it, considering how much use the rink sees year round.

"We do it for people to use it. That's our



The Shellbrook Kinsmen were busy at the outdoor rink last week, as they worked to get the ice surface in. They were hoping to have the rink ready by Christmas.

thanks. Nothing is better than when we drive by in the evening, or when we come out to flood, and the kids are

there using it," he said, expressing appreciation for the community members and kids who also help take care of the rink.

The rink, Beaulieu adds, will be especially important as the COVID-19 pandemic, and winter, wear on.

"With Christmas holidays, and no place else to go, and families being cooped up, it will give them something to do outside, which is pretty healthy anyway."

For a bit of history on the outdoor rink, paving work began in 2001, but didn't quite go as planned the first time around. As such, the Kinsmen's outdoor rink opened for year-round use in 2002.

"Keep in mind hours and hours (weeks really) of volunteer labour kept

the cost of construction down," said Shellbrook Kinsmen member Robert Chuback in 2018.

All told, the paving at the outdoor rink came with a cost of over \$3,000, while the materials for the construction of the rink cost in the neighbourhood of \$8,000.

But those are just the start-up costs for the outdoor facility. Chuback notes that annual operating cost for the rink is between \$600 and \$1,000.

"The proceeds of the donation bottle bins you see around town is what is used to fund the outdoor rink annual operating expenses. We appreciate the donations to the bottle bins it would be difficult to fund the outdoor rink maintenance and up-

keep without those funds," Chuback said.

The money that the Kinsmen have put into the rink doesn't stop there, either. Spearheaded by member Adam Kulrich, the Kinsmen Skate Shack was added to the rink in 2015, giving users a place to escape from the cold and the wind while they change in and out of their skates.

With Kulrich as the designer and lead volunteer, the shack was completed, for a cost of \$6,100, after a few months of hard work in the evenings and on weekends. Much of this was made possible by a \$5,000 grant from Affinity Credit Union.

Then, though harder to put a value on, there's also the volunteer hours that have been put into the maintenance of the rink over the past 16 years.

"The actual taking care of the ice is usually two to three times a week where we have members scraping and flooding," explained Shellbrook Kinsmen Julien Cyr, adding that the Kinsmen also use their own ATVs and snow blowers to clear any heavy snowfalls.

"If you leave it for a couple weeks, the ice gets chewed up, it melts, and makes a big mess. We have to be really diligent on it, or its not usable."

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Two wanted in Sturgeon Lake FN assault, theft

A man and a woman are wanted by the Prince Albert RCMP, in connection with a stabbing and vehicle theft on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

According to a release, officers received a report of a man, 37, being stabbed at a residence on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation, and responded to the call with the help of the Prince Albert Crime Reduction Team and RCMP Police Dog Services.

Following their initial investigation, officers learned a 39-year-old male and a 31-year-old female had arrived at the residence in a white Chevrolet Monte Carlo. Police say the male entered the residence and assaulted the victim while the female waited in the care.

After the assault, the male stole the victim's vehicle, a white Chevrolet Impala with Saskatchewan license plate 568 LNW, and fled the scene. The female reportedly followed after him in the Monte Carlo.

The victim was transported by STARS air ambulance to a hospital in Saskatoon for what were reported to be serious, but non-life threatening injuries. The victim was released from the hospital the next day.

The 39-year-old male suspect has been identified by police as being

Wesley Naytowhow. He is described as being approximately 5'8" tall, weighing 140 lbs with brown hair and brown eyes.

Wesley Naytowhow is facing the following charges in relation to this investigation: Theft of motor vehicle contrary to Section 333.1(1) of the Criminal Code (CC); Break and enter into residence and commit an indictable offence therein contrary to Section 348(1)(a) of the CC; Robbery contrary to Section 344 of the CC; Aggravated Assault contrary to Section 268(2) of the CC; and Uttering Death Threats contrary to Section 264.1(1)(a) of the CC.

The 31-year-old female suspect has been identified by police as being Ashley Badger. She is described as being approximately 5'5" tall and weighs 165 lbs with brown hair and brown eyes.

Ashley Badger is facing the following charges in relation to this investigation: Theft of motor vehicle contrary to Section 333.1(1) CC; Break and enter into residence and commit an indictable offence therein contrary to Section 348(1)(a) CC; Robbery contrary to Section 344 CC; and Failure to comply to release order contrary to Section 145(5)(a) CC.

According to police, officers have been working to locate both Naytowhow and Badger, conducting several neighbourhood checks and rural road patrols on both the Sturgeon Lake First Nation and Little Red River First Nation, where the two are known to frequent.

Anyone who may have information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Prince Albert RCMP Detachment, by calling 306-765-5501, or their local police service.

Information can also be submitted anonymously to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS

(8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

The investigation is ongoing.



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**Shellbrook Chronicle
Spiritwood Herald**

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Important information from the Government of Saskatchewan:

There are new public health measures in place across the province to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Effective Thursday, December 17:

- **Private, indoor gatherings** are limited to immediate household members only.
- An individual who lives alone may meet with one, consistent household of fewer than five individuals.
- Custodial/access arrangements between co-parents are permitted to continue.
- Caregivers and support services in the home are permitted to continue.
- **Outdoor gatherings** of up to 10 people are permitted, provided physical distancing between households can be maintained.

Effective Saturday, December 19:

- **Casinos and bingo halls** must close.
- **Personal services** (e.g. hairdressers, esthetics) may operate at 50 per cent capacity, including staff and clients. For a complete list of personal services, see saskatchewan.ca/re-open
- Event/conference/banquet facilities, arenas, arts venues, museums and movie/live theatres are still limited to up to 30 individuals, who must be seated. Food and drink are not permitted unless explicitly stated in the order.

Note: wedding ceremonies, funerals and places of worship are limited to only 30 individuals.

Effective Friday, December 25:

- Retail services must reduce capacity to 50 per cent.
- Large retail locations (over 20,000 sq ft) must reduce to 25 per cent capacity. For details see Public Health Orders at saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

Masks continue to be mandatory in all indoor public spaces.
See saskatchewan.ca/self-isolation for more information.

These public health measures are in addition to those in effect as of November 27, 2020, and all are in effect until January 15, 2021.

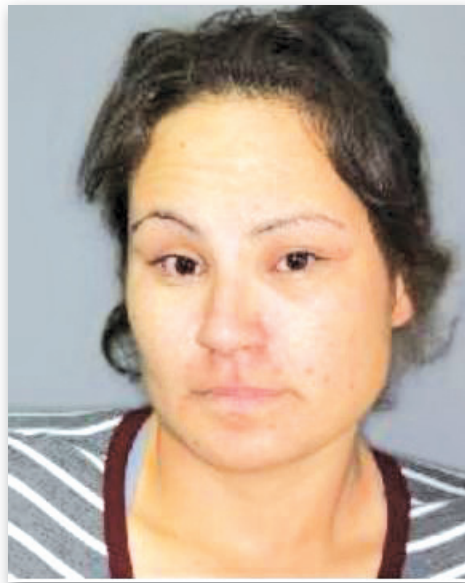
Thank you Saskatchewan for doing your part to keep your family, friends and community safe!

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

Saskatchewan



Wesley Naytowhow, wanted for a stabbing and vehicle theft on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation, is described as being approximately 5'8" tall, weighing 140 lbs with brown hair and brown eyes.



Ashley Badger, wanted in connection with an assault and vehicle theft on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation, is described as being approximately 5'5" tall and weighs 165 lbs with brown hair and brown eyes.

Do you have questions about COVID-19?

Call:

HealthLine 811 if you are experiencing symptoms and require medical advice
1-855-559-5502 for general, non health-specific, inquiries related to COVID-19

Visit:

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19 for the latest information on the pandemic

Email:

COVID19@health.gov.sk.ca for public inquiries

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After a year to forget, let's hope for one to remember

"Perhaps 2020 will finally be the kinder, gentler year that was wished for in 2018. Perhaps it will finally be the year in which we turn away from our darkest demons, and, instead, turn towards each other and work together to make our country (and the world) a better, more inclusive place."

If those words sound familiar, it's because they appeared in the Shellbrook Chronicle and Spiritwood Herald nearly a year ago.

They bear repeating here, in yet another end-of-year column, for just how wrong they were.

Truly, if I were in a field of employ that required the ability to predict the future, I would have long ago found myself out of a job. But here I am again, at the close of another year, still hopeful for what 2021 has in store for us.

How we've reached the end of 2020 already is anyone's guess. After spending nine months in varying stages of lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, time no longer seems to have any meaning.



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

Yet, regardless of how we got here, we are, mercifully, in the dying days of 2020. And, oh boy, did we have to endure a lot to make it this far.

Around the globe, nearly 75 million people have been directly impacted by COVID-19. Close to 1.7 million people have lost their lives to the virus, leaving millions of loved ones behind to grieve their passing.

Most of us in Saskatchewan have been fortunate enough

to be spared the pain of such losses. But Saskatchewan did lose one of its Indigenous heroes, NHLer Fred Sakamoose, to the pandemic.

Beyond our losses to COVID-19, 2020 seems to have been a generally bad year for heroes.

Feminists lost U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The black community lost Chadwick Boseman, who, in a win for representation, brought Marvel's Black Panther to life on the silver screen in the first black-led superhero movie.

And locally, we lost Jim Neilson, an-



other Indigenous pioneer in the NHL.

In the broader world of celebrities, we bid farewell to quizmasters Alex Trebek and Regis Philbin, along with the original James Bond, Sean Connery, and master spy novelist John le Carré.

Normally, in times of profound grief

and loss, we come together and find strength in each other.

However, if we were a people divided by many unbridgeable chasms in 2019, this past year, and the COVID-19 pandemic, only deepened those divides by giving us yet another thing to disagree on.

We disagreed on the science guiding the government's response to the pandemic.

We disagreed on the measures introduced by governments to flatten the curve and prevent the virus' spread.

And, as the page turns to 2021, and the COVID-19 vaccines begin to be distributed, we will no doubt have renewed disagreements about the safety of vaccines.

To all appearances, COVID-19 has set the stage for 2021 to be just as bad, if not worse, than 2020.

Some of the bad will be beyond our ability to control, but some of it won't be. If we want 2021 to be a better year, we'll need to learn to work together for the collective good.

Twinkle Tour brings Christmas joy to elders

Dear Editor,

On the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 8 I had the privilege of going on the home's six Twinkle Tours planned for 2020! My son and daughter in law, Rod and Cathy Atkinson, led the tour. To prepare for that they not only decorated their truck but the Woodland bus as well!

Our driver Trina, the Recreation Coordinator, followed along behind, missing

most of the bumps! It would have been nice to have our family on the bus with us but because we have to do things differently we talked to them on the speaker phone. We were still able to share some stories, have some laughs and comment on all the amazing lights.

I want to thank the people of Shellbrook and the Kinettes for arranging the Twinkle Tour and Hamper

Haul.

It was simply fantastic to see how many homes paid attention to the details and added so many lights and Christmas scenes to see. Everyone lit up the town very nicely and I think it went over very well. It was wonderful to see people waving at us, honking horns and people outside. It was so good to hear some of the people on the bus who

do not talk that much say, "Ohhhh and Aweeee," expressing their appreciation of the lights and scenery. I hope this becomes tradition!

I have lived in Shellbrook since the early 1950s, and there's no town like this!

Shellbrook, you make me proud!

On behalf of all of us from Parkland Integrated Health Centre,

Mae Atkinson

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Member of



Report from the Legislature

This has been a year of uncertainties, and now the new year is in sight. Under the direction of Dr. Shahab, our Chief Medical Officer, we have been able to pull together by staying apart. We are not quite out of the woods yet, but we know that there are better days ahead.

The Pfizer vaccine has arrived in our province and health care workers are currently being immunized. This pilot test will see the vaccines administered to 1,950 of our ICU, Emergency Department and COVID Units workers who are on the front-line against the virus working hard to keep our loved ones healthy and safe.

While this is good news, we remind everyone to continue to stay disciplined throughout the vaccine delivery process. The roll-out will take time so for please continue to wear your mask, wash your hands, and practice social distancing.

The global pandemic brought many obstacles to our legislative processes that many of us could not

have imagined. However, our government was able to introduce important legislation that will improve safety in our province.

The Protection From Human Trafficking Act was introduced this fall to provide additional support to victims and survivors of human trafficking. This legislation creates a streamlined process for victims to seek protection against their traffickers and increase penalties if the protection is compromised. Our government consulted with partners in community-based organiza-

tions and law enforcement and will continue to develop tools to better assist victims.

Our government also introduced legislation to better assist survivors of sexual violence. The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2020 will now allow for those who have experienced sexual violence to end a long-term lease without penalty by providing 28-days' notice to their landlord.

While these two pieces of legislation are not the end of our work on these issues, they are a step in the right direction. Our government is committed to continuing to work with partners across the province to ensure survivors of interpersonal violence or trafficking remain a priority and are protected.

During the fall session, our government announced an allocation of \$200 million for phase two of our Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP). This program prioritizes Saskatchewan-based oil and gas service companies and will support more than 2,000 full-time equivalent jobs

while reclaiming 8,000 inactive wells and facilities over two years. The ASCP has engaged 52 licenses and 253 Saskatchewan-based service companies, including Indigenous-owned companies.

As of this fall, Saskatchewan is on track to open new international trade offices in India, Japan, and Singapore in 2021. Building relationships and ensuring Saskatchewan is represented on the international stage is paramount to our COVID-19 economic recovery. Our province has what

the world needs, and we will continue to build these relationships safely and effectively.

This program is one piece of our government's plan to strengthen our economy and get Saskatchewan people back to work. The legislation and programs that were announced during the fall session of the legislature have set us on the right path to an economic recovery. Your government will continue to act to protect Saskatchewan's interests and support our economy.

This holiday season we will reflect on the year past. Normally, we would celebrate together, with family, friends and with our community. Though Christmas plans will be different this year, the meaning of Christmas has not changed. It is a time to connect with our loved ones, reflect on the past year, and to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour. This is all still possible to do; we can pick up the phone and call a loved one who needs our support, we can shovel the sidewalk

for our neighbour, or safely support our local businesses.

Our government has already begun the work to begin the new year with a strong budget that will help our economy recover. The distribution of the vaccines will take time, but if we respect the public health orders and the advice of our medical professionals, we will be well on our way to returning to normalcy in 2021.

From my family to yours, have a safe and Merry Christmas.



**HON. SCOTT MOE,
PREMIER**

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YOUR TWO CENTS

New COVID restrictions come at the wrong time

Dear editor,

I am writing in order to voice my objections and concerns about the imminent restrictions being imposed on our province for COVID-19. As far as I can see, there has been no alarming spikes in COVID-19 cases in Saskatchewan - in fact, we seem to be holding our own if the reported numbers are accurate. So, what are the government's reasons for forcing tighter restrictions on our province? All this is doing is causing a culture of fear, mistrust, and suspicion in many citizens. Neighbours are willing to betray and report their neighbours if they see someone doing something that they do not agree with even though that person is just carrying on with normal life activities.

Government and health care officials have a responsibility to report accurate, unbiased, and current facts in order to avoid misleading, confusing, and downright false information so that everyone can make informed decisions about how they want to deal with the pandemic. When will people be given their rights

back in order to decide for themselves how much risk they are willing to take?

The vulnerable and compromised citizens should, by necessity, be protected as much as possible because they are most at risk. But the general population must have the right, with the proper information, to decide for themselves whether they feel the necessity to isolate or not. Nobody should have to fear reprisals or guilt simply because they are living their lives. And visiting family and friends is simply living our lives. Humans are social beings and this isolation will have lasting and long-term repercussions and health issues long after COVID is over.

It is also, in my opinion, the responsibility of government and health care officials to offer solutions and advice in order to aid the general population in stopping the spread of the virus. It is not possible to completely stop the spread of the virus as is becoming increasingly clear by following other provinces' attempts which haven't worked. But I feel that it is possible to slow it down. So, masks, sanitizing, temperature checks,

social distancing and such are all good practices. But after that, no one should be forced to lockdown and our economy must definitely not be locked down.

I realize that there is going to be sickness and tragedies caused by the virus but this has been an unfortunate reality caused by every virus or illness that has swept the world. What is so different, then, about this virus? It is catastrophic for people when deaths occur, but shutting down the world isn't the answer. There must be a balance when dealing with these issues and, I feel, the balance is tipping alarmingly toward panic and fear. If everyone doesn't start rethinking some of these restrictions, I fear that our country will not rebound from the oppression and hardship these are causing for many years to come.

We can't just wait and hope the vaccine will be effective because what about the next virus that comes along? Are we going to lose a year every time a new virus starts spreading? Or are we going to learn from this and figure out what must be done to avoid such a catastrophe in

the future? In theory, we live in a democratic country but it doesn't feel like that to me right now. I feel like I am being held hostage because of all the restrictions and threats of what will happen if I should be the cause of spreading the virus however inadvertently.

So, just to be clear, I do feel that people should follow the established protocol such as masking, sanitizing, etc. because I do not feel that anyone has the right to put the general population at increased risk of becoming infected. Anything further than that though, I feel is infringing on my basic rights.

Also, I am not saying this now because Christmas is ruined. However, the government couldn't have picked a worse time to enforce more restrictions on people who are already stretched to the limit of their tolerance. I have been concerned about all the repercussions of lockdown for months now and this is, for me, the straw that broke the camel's back.

Donna Giberson,
Shellbrook, Sask.

Vidal speaks on pandemic's effect on parliament, constituency

By: Alison Sullivan

It has been a little over a year since the last federal election and “an interesting year to say the least,” said Gary Vidal, MP for Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River. After spending the first few months of his new appointment finding his footing and learning what it meant to be a Member of Par-

liament, Vidal said that everything suddenly changed when the pandemic hit.

Parliament has had to adjust substantially the way in which they operate throughout the year, the biggest change being the amount of in person interaction that happens. Vidal says that for him, less time has been spent in Ottawa than was

originally planned as MPs are on a rotation to limit the number of people present at a time.

If the original plan had been to spend around 3 weeks in Ottawa to 1 week in the constituency during the month, the time has essentially reversed with approximately 3 weeks being spent in the constituency and 1 week being spent in Ottawa.

As much as possible, the government has moved to virtual forms of communication, whether it be sitting in the house of commons, stakeholder meetings, or engagement with citizens, Vidal says most meetings are done via Zoom these days.

Vidal expressed that his focus when sitting in the House of Commons is to raise concerns and represent opinions from across his entire constituency, which can be a challenge given its size. He is currently sitting on the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Committee.

In regards to the effect the pandemic has had on Vidal's riding, which comprises 52% of the province of Saskatchewan's land mass, he says the impact has been huge. The first wave hit and he commended Northern leaders for their tremendous job at implementing measures to help protect their communities. The second wave, however, has not

been as easy going.

“People have gotten a little bit of pandemic fatigue,” Vidal said. Easing up on restrictive measures and a reluctance to follow guidelines has allowed the virus to enter the northern communities and people are starting to see the effect.

Northern remote and rural communities are faced with additional risks and challenges not seen in larger urban centers according to Vidal. The first being the ability to isolate or segregate oneself if necessary. The second is the inaccessibility to many of the health care services that are available in larger urban centers.

Vidal says that the Opposition's focus throughout the pandemic has been to work with the government to help Canadians throughout the pandemic. Early on, they advocated for border closures to ‘hotspot’ countries and rapid testing, both measures were eventually adopted by the government. Currently, they are focusing on recommendations for vaccine rollout and changes to programs that are currently operating.

Vaccine rollout will play a crucial role in helping protect those who are at greater risk in northern remote and rural communities, according to Vidal. While Vidal acknowledged the challenge to de-

veloping a targeted approach when trying to rollout programs quickly, he believes that more targeted approaches to certain government programs would see a greater benefit that the current blanket programs that exist. Vaccine supply will initially be limited and ensuring that it is being used strategically to protect the most vulnerable will be crucial going forward.

Apart from the vaccine rollout, Vidal says that his other focus going forward will be on the latest carbon tax announcement. Recently the federal government has announced a plan to have carbon tax increase by 240% over the next 10 years which Vidal says will have a significantly greater impact on a constituency like his when compared to urban centers. He estimated that the costs to remote and agriculturally based rural communities would be about double what it would be to urban areas. “I will be standing up and fighting on this one,” said Vidal.

“I am hoping and praying that everyone has a much more positive 2021 than the experience we had in 2020,” said Vidal. “I know this has been a challenging year for so many people. I would just wish everybody an absolutely Merry Christmas in spite of some of the challenges.”

Spiritwood Library draws Christmas baking winner



Rosanna Franson was the lucky winner of the Spiritwood Public Library's final Dessert of the Month Draw. Each December the Library's board members each contribute some goodies for the coveted Christmas baking. Rosanna (right) is pictured here with her daughter.

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How to deal with the challenges of agriculture – weeds, disease, insects – without immediately turning to crop protection products is always a question to explore.

It's not that I see crop protection products as a bad thing, for the farm, the environment or the consumer as long as they are used properly and their impact monitored to catch any issues should a problem arise.

But, crop protection products do come with a price tag, a hefty one depending on the prod-

uct, so alternatives that improve the bottom line on the farm are a good thing.

In general terms I also suspect crop protection products are much like medicines, overuse can lead to weeds and bugs becoming immune to their effects, much like bugs can when it comes to treating human maladies.

So when you can break the chain of usage of such products it is going to have the potential of positive effects beyond the immediate control of the problem at-hand.

On smaller holdings you can often imple-



CALVIN DANIELS

Of course the issue is what alternative methods are effective, and more importantly are effective on today's large scale farms?

On smaller holdings you can often imple-

ment systems that are more labour, or time, intensive where you can't afford either if you are dealing with thousands of acres.

One example is the use of insects to control weeds.

This is not a new idea. Leafy spurge, for example, is the preferred banquet for five species of Aphthona flea beetles, and a decade or so ago the little bugs were released on some spurge spots in the Saltcoats area to see how they deal with the weed.

Of course anytime you

turn to bugs for help it can limit what you spray if another problem arises since it might well kill off the bug population.

Goats and sheep will also graze leafy spurge and they too have been used in trials to deal with the weed.

And, years ago I did a story on a swine producer north of Yorkton who had Muscovy ducks running around his barn as a natural fly control.

The ducks are fine in a small operation, but imagine the sheer number needed in a facility housing a few thousand

hogs.

Of course the secret in any of the examples noted here is to use controls that are more natural. Nature has a way of putting checks and balances into things, and while those checks and balances get out of whack when humans start mucking about in the system they can be kick-started by producers as a solution at times too.

The trick for farmers is re-established natural controls in a way that work within large scale agriculture.

Christmas message from Premier Scott Moe

Hello folks. Well, Christmas is almost here and I want to take a moment to wish everyone a happy and joyful holiday season.

This year, the celebration will be a little different. We're asking you to gather with only those in your household because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have to do this to control the spread of the virus to protect one another. I know it's disappointing. We all want to get together with family and friends during the holidays. But we're doing this for one Christmas only.

Very soon, we will begin a vaccination program in Saskatchewan. It will be rolled out across the province in the months to come. It's going to take a while to get everyone vaccinated. So we need to continue to take precautions – wear your mask, wash your hands frequently and practice social distancing.

But believe me when I say this: better days are ahead in Saskatchewan. Life will return to normal and in a year's time, we will come together again, to enjoy the holidays the way we should the way we always have.

The meaning of Christmas hasn't changed. This is a time of reflection, of reverence, a time to reconnect with the ones we love. For many of us, this is the season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour. Jesus calls on us to love another, to carry one another's burdens. Those of us who have been blessed in our lives have a sacred obligation, a duty, to reach out to, to provide comfort, love and support where we can.

That's the spirit of Christmas.

And this year, one of the most difficult years we have ever experienced, we have seen the spirit of Christmas at work in every corner of this province.

In Melfort, a Licensed Practical Nurse named Laura Alexander wanted to shine

a ray of hope for patients, families and her co-workers. And last month, she did just that - literally.

Laura went out and bought some beautiful, blue Christmas lights, and put them on a balcony above the entrance of Melfort Hospital.

Those lights spell the word Hope.

Laura says she works with amazing people - a work family that has become closer in the last few months. All of our health care workers in Saskatchewan are amazing and we owe them so much.

In Regina, Lindsay Patton a server at Boston Pizza decided to donate all her tips for October to Souls Harbour Rescue Mission.

Lindsay is grateful her customers responded so generously.

She raised \$2,750 for Souls Harbour and Boston Pizza matched the donation.

In Warman, fire chief Russ Austin was worried about the youngsters who couldn't have birthday parties during the pandemic.

So Russ said this: "these poor kiddos don't even understand why their birthday is being cancelled or why people can't come over."

So Chief Austin decided to broaden the mandate of Warman Fire Rescue. The department made gift bags for the kids and dropped them off at their homes. The firefighters sang Happy Birthday. Chief Austin reports that the kiddos were pretty happy.

And in Swift Current, Kathy Jennings wanted to ensure every senior in the area had a good Christmas.

Kathy started a program called Adopt a Senior for the Christmas Holidays. 566 seniors signed up. In less than three weeks, all of them were spoken for. The seniors will get gifts, Christmas cards, and many will get photos of children and pets from their new friends and I would imagine more than one of them will get a phone call

on Christmas Day.

Folks, that's the spirit of Christmas. That's the spirit that has come to define Saskatchewan. And it's alive and well across our province.

You know, we've been through a lot this year. It's been difficult and there are some tough days ahead. But we're going to get through this together, like we always do.

So however you celebrate the holiday, I wish you the very best.

From my wife Krista and our children, and on behalf of my colleagues in the Government of Saskatchewan, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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Shellbrook Elementary decks halls for Christmas

No one can accuse Shellbrook Elementary School of lacking in the holiday spirit.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic may have prevented the school's students from delighting their parents, teachers, and the broader school community, with their annual Christmas production, the school still did plenty to make it look a lot like Christmas.

Sitting directly inside the school's foyer is the school's Christmas tree, which is colourfully decorated with ornaments designed by every classroom. And resting nearby the tree is a pile of wrapped presents stacked nearly to the ceiling.

Elsewhere, a board is decorated with sayings taken from, and inspired by, Dr. Seuss' classic *How*

the Grinch Stole Christmas, all aimed at encouraging students to demonstrate the kindness that is a hallmark of the holiday season.

Aside from decking the halls for Christmas, the school also had plans for the final week before the Christmas holidays, including a green day, a Christmas pyjamas day, a Santa hat day, and a red day.

For the final day of classes, families were encouraged to make ugly Christmas sweaters and submit photos of them

to the school.

Unfortunately, all of these Christmas plans were nipped in the bud, when the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division abruptly announced that all schools within the division would be moving to

remote learning effective Dec. 14.

The remote learning protocol will be in place until at least Jan. 18, 2021, at which time it will be reviewed and reconsidered depending on community transmission rates.



Taking inspiration from Dr. Seuss, this board aims to encourage students to demonstrate the kindness of the holiday season.



Shellbrook Elementary School's halls are decked with presents and a tree, complete with ornaments designed by each classroom.

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**Shellbrook Chronicle
& Spiritwood Herald**

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

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Spiritwood
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

Worship Services
Glaslyn
Time is on the sign
Rev. Kun Kim
Rev. Don Skinner

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Chitek Lake - Closed for
the Season
Everyone Welcome
SATURDAY
Shell Lake - 8:00 p.m.
Medstead - 6 p.m.
Father Ramel Macapeia

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Shell Lake
Worship - Sunday 9 a.m.
306-841-7333
Pastor Sarah Urano

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Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship

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Pastor Liviu Tilihoi
306-747-3398

MENNONITE BRETHREN

Glenbush
10:00 am - Sunday School
Worship 10:50 am

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush
Worship - 11:00 am

BETHEL

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

Gideons International of Canada

Battlefords Camp
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EVANGELICAL FREE

Mont Nebo
Wed., 7:30 pm -
Bible Study & Prayer
Sun., 10:30 am - Worship
Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service
1st Sun., 7:30 pm
- Hymn Sing
Pastor Floyd Berg

COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood
Every Wednesday Night
7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

Making spirits bright for PIHC elders

By Trina Chamberlain

The Shellbrook Kinetite Club recently gifted us arts and activity supplies including markers, crayons, paint brushes, water paint, paint pallets adult coloring books and word search books and Staples donated the bins! Residents couldn't believe they received their own supplies and wanted to express their thanks! In pre-COVID times we would enjoy getting together a few times a year with the Kinetites and their kids for inter-generational paint nights. Seeing as this is just not possible they

received approval from the Town of Shellbrook to use the Saskatchewan Lotteries grant to support arts in a different way. As a precaution residents are required to use only their own supplies so this was a perfect way for residents to continue creating. We hope to see you in the coming months to enjoy an in person paint night! We are grateful to Amber Larson and the Kinetites for making spirits bright!

The Kinetites also "Wowed" us with their first ever Twinkle Tour and Hamper Haul, which we were pleased to be part of! Santa and

his elves picked up Health Center donations of non-perishable food items as they did a supportive drive by for elders and Health Care Workers. Elders/residents were also treated to a window visit and a Santa wave!

As a show of appreciation the parade was welcomed up the driveway by candle light and a sign of hope, gratitude and memories. The elders then joined in the terrific Twinkle Tour! They said, "It's the best the town has ever been lit up, we hope this happens again next year!"

In other years, residents and their family members celebrated Christmas with a banquet, silent auction and Santa visit. This year we switched things up by hosting smaller, more intimate House wine & cheese gatherings.

Appreciation goes to our Health Care Auxiliary for gifting elders with beverages, special plates, napkins and chocolates! Support for the first ever Secret Santa project, made possible by Woodland Pharmacy has been outstanding.

The Winter Wonderland mini tree display outside ground level of residents' rooms has given a twinkle to the eye. Appreciation to Joanne and Kevin Burant for planning ahead by potting the evergreens in the fall for family, friends and community to help decorate. JRT Contracting added a snowman family for both upper and main level to enjoy!

We are most appreciative to the many people who have helped to create joy this Christmas Season!



JRT Contracting surprised us with a Winter Wonderland Snowman family scene!



Mini evergreens placed outside elders' windows to enjoy!

#1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Minutes of an RM of Shellbrook meeting

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

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 held on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020 in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at Shellbrook, Saskatchewan.

Present: Reeve - Doug Oleksyn, Division 1 - Cliff Skauge, Division 2 - Phil Hamel - Conference call, Division 3 - Sean Helm, Division 4 - Jay Ferster, Division 5 - Derwin Joelson, Division 6 - Ron Herzog - Excused at 2:20 p.m., Administrator - Duane Storey.

Reeve Oleksyn called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m.

Ferster: That the following items be added to the Agenda: Lakeland Snowmobile Club, Jon Jonasson, Election Officials, Cyber Insurance, Asset Management, Council Inquiries. Carried

Skauge: That the Agenda be approved as amended. Carried

Hamel: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of Oct. 7, 2020 be approved as amended. Carried

Joelson: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of October 2020 be received and filed. Carried

Helm: That the accounts payable dated Nov. 2, 2020, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 11712 to 11759 in the amount of \$170,288.46 and payroll cheque numbers 13773 to 13803 in the amount of \$59,956.14 be approved. Carried

Ferster: Council agrees to the proposed tax payment plan for arrears and fire calls on Roll 2241 pending \$10,000 payment being received before Nov. 20, 2020. Carried

Ferster: That the speed limit be raised

to 60km/hr and a sign be posted on the grid road west of NW-15-49-03-W3. Carried

Foreman Bill Aug entered the Council Chambers at 11 a.m. to update Council of Municipal Operations.

Council oral reports received 11:20 a.m.

Skauge: That the Zoning Bylaw be amended to allow for care homes at the discretion of Council and to incorporate health related clauses to accommodate and ensure appropriate operation of these types of facilities. Carried

Ferster: That the representatives from RM Council that are appointed to the Regional Park board request Park Administration provide a detailed statement for the year ended Dec. 31, 2020 before a decision on the Parks Board request be considered for financial assistance. Carried

Skauge: That correspondence from the Chairperson of the Holbein Hamlet Board be received and that the Administrator issue an order to clear all back alleys in the Hamlet of Holbein of objects that may be obstructing the right of way. Carried

Councillor Skauge declared a pecuniary interest and left the Council Chambers at 1:50 p.m.

That the request for reimbursement from Lake Country Coop/ Dairy Queen of the cost of applying Calcium Chloride on the service road north of Highway 3 be denied. Carried

Councillor Skauge re-entered Council Chambers at 1:58 p.m.

Councillor Hamel declared a pecuniary interest and left the Council Chambers at 2 p.m.

Skauge: That the offer to purchase Blasting Supplies from R&B Custom Works Inc. be rejected, and that blasting supplies be purchased as needed

from other sources. Carried

Skauge: That the offer to purchase an Argo from R&B Custom Works Inc., for the amount of \$17,500 be rejected. Carried

Councillor Hamel re-entered Council Chambers at 2:11 p.m.

Joelson: That the cost of insulating the old shop and replacing furnace be applied for under Gas Tax funding rather than Municipal Economic Enhancement Plan if it qualifies. Carried

Councillor Herzog left Council Chambers at 2:20 p.m.

Ferster: That the purchase of 2020 John Deere 544L be approved at the cost of \$230,228.00 plus applicable taxes, less trade in allowance of 2013 John Deere 544K Wheel Loader for \$115,500 plus applicable taxes. Payment to be made in January 2021. Carried

Skauge: That the proposal dated October 19, 2020 from P. Machibroda Engineering Ltd. in regards to the Holbein Lagoon be referred back to the Hamlet Board for consideration and recommendation. Carried

Skauge: That a Special Meetings of Council be scheduled for Nov. 23, 2020 commencing at 8:30 a.m.: Oath of Office, Election Results, Administrator review and contract, GPS, and Dec. 21, 2020 commencing at 8:30 a.m.: Year-end business. Carried

Ferster: That the request from administration to proceed with title request from the Provincial Mediation Board on Lot 6-Blk/Par 6-Plan 76PA00132 Ext. 0, NW-10-49-01-W3 be approved. Carried

Ferster: That the request from administration to proceed with title request from the Provincial Mediation Board on LSD 12-31-49-01-W3 Ext. 5 be approved. Carried

Ferster: That the Water service agreement with the Town of Shellbrook for the supply of water to the bulk water system at the Old RM Shop be approved and signed by the Reeve and Administrator and be attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes. Carried

Joelson: That the Rural Municipality Land Use Permission form with the Lakeland Snowmobile Club be renewed until April 15, 2025. Carried

Skauge: That the Council go into an in-camera session at 4:30 p.m. and further that Administrator Duane Storey be asked to remain in the room. Carried

Councillor Helm declared a pecuniary interest and left the Council Chambers at 4:30 p.m.

Joelson: That the Council of the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 come out of in-camera session at 4:35 a.m. and reconvene the Nov. 4, 2020 Regular Meeting. Carried

Councillor Helm re-entered Council Chambers at 4:35 p.m.

Joelson: That in recognition for the years of service of Councillor Helm that Council approves the purchase of a gift. Carried

Skauge: That the following Inquiries be forwarded to the Administrator for completion: "Road not Maintained" sign at the north end of Wiederspick road, Schedule Strategic Planning Session, Recycling, GPS discussion, Old service station at Holbein Nuisance order. Carried

Joelson: That the following Correspondence be received and filed: NCTCP Minutes, Speed Reduction, Vic Loth, Jim's Letter, 2nd Quarter Police Report, SAMA 2021 Revaluation, and Federation of Police Officers. Carried

Hamel: That the meeting be adjourned at 5 p.m. Carried

Christmas message from NDP Leader Ryan Meili

My wife Mahli and I watched a Christmas movie the other night. I'm a sucker for a good Christmas movie. And there was this scene at the end where the family was just sitting around the living room, telling stories, enjoying each other's company.

And I got a little lump in my throat, thinking of my family, and how much we'll miss the simple act of gathering together this year. Because this year we'll be staying home, we won't see my folks or my wife's folks, our kids won't see their grandparents – and that's hard.

We want them to stay safe, we want to stay safe. And we know it's the right thing to do. But it's hard. We also know that other families are struggling with much harder challenges right now.

The grandmother who can't hold her new grandchild. The family with a loved one in long-term care they can't visit. So many people out of work, with bills piling up. The small business owner just trying to keep the doors open on a labour of love. The frontline workers putting themselves at risk to keep all of us safe.

This has been a hard year in many ways. And

we've reason to believe that next year will be better.

But please, if you have the ability, give some thought to how you might reach out to someone who is struggling. You could shovel a neighbour's walk, or drop off some cookies. Volunteer to safely serve a meal. Zoom or Facetime with someone you know who could use a call.

This is the kind of thing Saskatchewan people excel at. Particularly at Christmas, Saskatchewan people care and we show it.

And if you're struggling, please, ask for help. Call the Healthline at 811, or the Kids Help Phone, or call your MLA – that's what we're here for.

Finally, in this time of generosity and reflection – the strangest holiday season I hope any of us will ever experience in this strangest of years – let's share our appreciation for those who are working hard to keep us safe. To our children's teachers, to our grandparents' care aides, to our first responders and small business owners – thank you for everything you do, day in and day out. May you all have a healthy and happy holiday season, and look forward to more time together and a brighter 2021.

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The best quips and quotes from 2020: part 1

Some of the best quips, quotes and anecdotes from the first six months of a year to forget, 2020:

- Blogger Eric Stangel, after the Yankees signed pitcher Gerrit Cole for \$324 million over nine seasons: "The Yankees also announced that beer at the stadium will now cost \$734."

- Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "This is the Year of the Pig, according to the Chinese calendar, though one could argue that Russian doping and the can-banging Astros make it seem like the Year of the Cheetah."

- Comedy writer Jim Barach, after a Patriots video crew violated league policy while taping at the Browns-Bengals game: "They say they weren't spying, they were just putting together a blooper reel for the NFL Christmas party."

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

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

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

- Tottenham coach Jose Mourinho, to reporters, after getting booked by referee Mike Dean during a 1-0 loss to Southampton: "I clearly deserved the yellow card, as I was rude. But I was rude to an idiot."

- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Iran launched 20 long-range missiles at two U.S. bases but did not hit any key targets. We're calling it Operation New York Knicks."

- Janice Hough, from leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Possible 2020 slogan for Baltimore Orioles —

'We've been so bad, you KNOW we're not cheating.'"

- Headline in the Houston Chronicle: "Caught stealing."

- Jim Barach again, after Tusk IV, the Arkansas Razorbacks' former live mascot, died at age 10: "The autopsy report came back as 'delicious.'"

- Another one from Barach: "The identity of the Hall of Fame voter who snubbed Derek Jeter may never be known. Although it can be narrowed down by finding out who had the ballots that were cast in Boston."

- Vancouver's Torben Rolfsen (Twitter: @vanguy), on the NFL draft planned (pre-COVID-19) for Vegas, with the stage set in the middle of the Bellagio fountain and the players being ferried to the stage by boat: "The Detroit Lions war room can be decorated in a Titanic theme."

- Jim Barach again, on why 70-year-old manager Dusty Baker appealed to the Astros: "At his age he is too old to know how to work any electronic equipment newer than a VCR."

- Comedy writer Brad Dickson, on Twitter, as the Super Bowl game ended: "Now comes the hard part — carrying Andy Reid off the field."

- Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel, on speculation Tom Brady could sign with Tampa Bay: "Not to be mean, but putting Tom Brady on the Bucs would be like putting the Mona Lisa in Room 217 of the Red Roof Inn."

- Michael Rosenberg in Sports Illustrated, reviewing sports over the past decade: "The 2010s were a wild decade in sports — nobody knew what was coming, except the Astros."

- Brad Dickson again: "This is Week Two of the XFL. Who could have even imagined that the league would last this long?"

- Greg Cote again, on NASCAR's Dixie Vodka 400 at Homestead: "Hmm. Should a bunch of



BRUCE
PENTON

guys driving 180 mph in heavy traffic be sponsored by vodka?"

- Kent Somers of the Arizona Republic, on Cardinals' coach Kliff Kingsbury spending \$4.5 million on a home in Phoenix after moving from Lubbock, Texas, where he coached Texas Tech: "For \$4.5 million in Lubbock, you can buy Lubbock."

- NOT SportsCentre, on Twitter: "BREAKING: The NFL has announced it is cancelling the Detroit Lions. Roger Goodell: 'It's nothing virus related, we just felt it was a good opportunity to put them out of their misery.'"

- Jim Barach again: "The NBA has suspended its season because of coronavirus. This would really be a bad time to bring back the old slogan 'NBA fever...catch it!'"

- Golfer Shane Lowry, on the 2020 Open Championship (from golf.com): "I guess if they do call off the Open, I will get to be Open champion for two

years and I will have to go celebrating again."

- From various Twitter sources: "Day 2 without sports. Found a young lady sitting on my couch yesterday. Apparently she's my wife. She seems nice."

- From @GaBoy_Shockley on Twitter: "Day 6 no sports. Watching birds fight over worms. Cardinals lead the Blue Jays 3-1."

- Dickson again: "Right now my thoughts are with the elderly. But enough about Tom Brady leaving New England."

- George Fox assistant professor John Spencer, via Twitter, advocating for 10-foot social distancing: "If you're wondering how far that is, picture a Bears wide receiver and then imagine where (Mitchell) Trubisky actually threw the pass."

- Headline at TheOnion.com: "Quarantined umpire cleans his entire home with tiny brush."

- Texas pro Mancil Davis, who has 51 career holes-in-one but has gaps in other parts of his game, especially off the tee: "I hit my irons like Doug Sanders, and my driver like Colonel Sanders."

- Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle, on NFL commissioner Roger Goodell conducting the draft from his basement: "This might be the first draft at which the commissioner's podium will

feature drying laundry."

- From fark.com: "The 2020 Western Hockey League draft reveals positives and negatives. The positive: The virus of Brayden has passed its peak. The negative: It has mutated into variations of Hayden, Aiden, Kaden, Jayden, Grayden and (deep breath) Teydon."

- Dwight Perry again: "The Miami Dolphins just paired a new jersey number with their touted rookie QB, and let's just say Lawrence Welk fans couldn't be happier. It's a 1 and a Tua."

- Another one from RJ Currie: "A Chinese man reportedly invented a car that can run on wind. A tentative name was Feng Chezi, which roughly translates to Don Cherry."

- Alex Kaseberg again, on Twitter: "Red Sox star Mookie Betts is related to the Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle. Please, please tell me that makes him Duke Mookie."

- Shannon Szabados on Twitter: "Happy the NHL will be back, but without fans how do we expect players to know when to shoot the puck? How will opposing goalies know they suck?"

- Great line from Dwight Perry: "This year's John Deere Classic, scheduled for July 9-12, has been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. In lieu of a news release, the PGA Tour announced the

breakup in a John Deere letter."

- RJ Currie again: "The PGA cancelled the July, 2020, John Deere Classic due to the coronavirus pandemic. Yes, Dear — No Deere."

- Greg Cote again: "A bat used by Lou Gehrig sold for \$1 million. There is only one baseball bat in the world worth \$1 million. It's the one with a cheque for \$999,000 taped to the barrel."

- Dave Spect, via Facebook, after the girlfriend of Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge asked officers 'Do you know who my boyfriend is?' when she was arrested for DUI: "Soon she'll know two judges."

- Former Leaguer C.J. Nitkowski, on Twitter: "My wife had an odd way of comforting my son after a rough pitching outing yesterday. 'Well, at least you still get to live in our house. When Dad pitched bad, we usually had to move.'"

- Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): "Social distancing will not interrupt the glutony and star-spangled grossness of Nathan's July 4th Hot Dog Eating Contest. Contestants will be at least six foot-longs apart as they set out to determine who will be this year's wiener."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca



Missing: Mekayla Bali

Date of Birth: July 2, 1999	MISSING SINCE: Apr 12, 2016
FROM: Yorkton, SK	Height: 5' 2"
Weight: 114 Lbs.	Hair: Blonde
Eyes: Blue	File: 3251 U

PARTICULARS: Wearing a red gemstone ring, a teal infinity scarf, and carrying a blue plaid backpack. It is out of character for Mekayla to not be in contact with her family. Last seen in the area of Highway 16 & Broadway Street W. in Yorkton at approximately 10:30 am on Tuesday, April 12th.

Anyone with information, please contact Local Police or Child Find at 1.800.513.3463 or 306.955.0070
All calls are confidential - you do not have to leave your name

Child Find
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OBITUARIES

James "Jim" Rings



James "Jim" Rings
April 5th, 1951 –
December 11th, 2020

James "Jim" Dale was born on April 5th, 1951 in Tisdale, SK and grew

up on the family farm in the Star City District. When he first went to school in the Oreal Country School and attended until the end of grade 3, from grades 4 to 12 he was in the Star City graduating in 1969. Sports and 4H were important to him; six-man football, softball, curling and then in later years; slow pitch, golfing, downhill and cross-country skiing, skidooing and ice-fishing. He managed Co-op grocery stores from his first job at Weldon in 1970, working in Melfort, La

Ronge, Wollaston Lake, Cumberland House, and Mika Creek. During this time, he was married and had two sons, Justin and Kevin. Settling back in La Ronge to start a new job with SMDC which is now Cameco in 1978. His main title was in human resources for 27+ years at Star Lake, Jasper and Contact gold mines as well as Rabbit Lake and MacArthur. In November 1993 he married his second wife and in January 1994 started the process of purchasing the Chitek Lake Golf

Course. Jim stayed on at the mines for the first 17 years before quitting Cameco and working HR for Fast Genetics part time for two years before joining his wife full-time. Jim belonged to the Witchekan Wildlife and Chitek Lake Seniors. Jim always tried to live with the motto that an old friend told him, once every day do some thing you have to do and every day something you want to do.

James is survived by: his wife Sandra, his children; Justin (Lynette Ewanus) and children,

Mikayla and Jayden, Kevin (Shannon) Rings and children, Lala and Thomas, his sister, Linda Belak, his mother-in-law, Marilyn Morley, his siblings-in-law; Ken (Patty) Morley and family; Robin (Jared) Rau and children: Hennise, Remington and Adelaide, Dawn (Dan) Farrington and children: Tucker and Mason, Gina (Terry) Zaparaniuk and children: Cody and Laine, Charles (Michelle) Morley and their daughter Anna. James is predeceased by his parents; Dale and Florence

Rings and his brother-in-law Ronald Belak.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Memorial Donations in Jim's name may be directed to the RUH Foundation designated gift for 6200 floor, or Sask Wildlife Federation Habitat Trust.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Mark Muir, Spiritwood, 306-883-3500

Glorianne Mary Schulkowsky



Glorianne Mary Schulkowsky
November 30, 1948 –
December 5, 2020

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Glorianne Mary Schulkowsky, our loving and devoted wife, mother and friend to all whose lives she touched, on December 5, 2020. She left us while sleeping peacefully surrounded by loved ones in Battleford's Union Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer. Born November 30, 1948 in Humboldt, Saskatch-

ewan at the St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Glorianne was baptized and confirmed at Marysburg Assumption Church.

She was the beloved mother of Corinne (Chad), Gerard (Marla), Shelley (Peter), Michael (Shelan), Lori (Rodney) and Kelly (Kristin). Grandmother of Brandon, Jaylyn, Kayla, Hugo, Elizabeth, Jase, Blake and Madison. Devoted wife of 52 years, John, and lived in the homestead in Medstead, SK. Loving sister to Jerome (Vivian), Michael, MaryLou, Matthew and a kind soul to many cousins, nieces and nephews, neighbors and friends. She was predeceased by her parents John and Bertha Weiland, parents-in-law John and Elizabeth Schulkowsky.

Glorianne lived a full life as a wonderful mother, wife and devoted Catholic. She enjoyed church, cooking and gardening. She

will be dearly missed and forever in our hearts.

Due to the current COVID-19 Restrictions a Private Family Funeral Mass with Fr. Ramel Macapala as Celebrant, was held Friday December 11, 2020 with interment following in the Medstead Municipal RM Cemetery.

Special thanks to Fr. Ramel Macapala, Fr. Peter Nnanga MSP, Phil and Aline Marion, Dr. Prystupa and his team, and COPP'S at BUH, Palliative Care Unit also all of Glorianne's friends and neighbors.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to BUH Foundation.

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

Pheabe Schutte



Pheabe Schutte
March 31, 1924 ~
December 14, 2020

With the greatest of sadness and hearts full of gratitude we announce the passing of our sweet mom, Pheabe Mary Schutte (nee Fisher) on December 14, 2020, she was 96. She was born March 31, 1924 the daughter of George and Jessie Fisher.

Pheabe married Cyril Schutte, a hard-working man, on April 5, 1945 and

hand in hand and side by side they worked the land and raised a family. Their three sons Lorrie, Eddy, Ken and their daughter Teresa and families were the focus of her life.

Mom was always a farm girl at heart and remained on the farm for 96 years. She was an entrepreneur before it was fashionable and a self-taught mechanic, electrician, and master carpenter as she was a problem solver. Her whole life she followed the reuse, renew, recycle, and could make anything out of nothing. She loved her garden, blueberry picking, garage sales, Christmas and having her family and friends stop by.

She was born a caregiver, taking care of seniors in her home for over 20 years, only at 82 did she stop.

She had a quiet, soft spoken strength that

was the glue that kept us together. Nothing is as strong as gentleness and nothing is as gentle as strength.

She is survived by her son Lorrie (Sharon), daughter Teresa Collins, (Randy), daughter in laws June and Marlene Schutte and her sister Louise Gale. She was predeceased by her husband Cyril and sons Eddy and Ken Schutte. She was also predeceased by her parents George & Jessie Fisher; sisters Vera Mason, Evelyn Bruce, brothers Leo, Albert, Joseph, Henry, Delmer, Louis, George, Ronald, Robert and Ray.

Due to COVID, a Private interment will be held at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.grays.ca. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Gray's Funeral Chapel, (306) 922-4729.

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Frank Bulyaki
December 22

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Sad are the hearts that love you

Silent are the tears that fall

Living without you is the hardest part of all

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And when we needed someone

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The special years will not return

When we are all together

But with the love in our hearts

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Police seek Sturgeon Lake First Nation man

Prince Albert RCMP is looking to the public for assistance in locating 21-year-old Ethan James Felix-Beatty from the Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

Ethan is wanted by police and has several charges for his arrest for a series of break and enters, armed robberies, possession of prohibited and dangerous weapons dating back from October 2020, and most recently on Dec. 3 and 5, 2020. These offences were reported to have occurred across Saskatchewan on the Muskoday First Nation, Weldon, Sturgeon Lake First Nation, Hafford and Little River First Nation.

Efforts to locate Ethan been unsuccessful so far, as he uses residences belonging to his acquaintances to evade police.

Ethan is described as being approximately 5'2" tall and weighs about 105 lbs with brown hair and brown eyes. Ethan was last seen on Dec. 9, 2020, at the Sturgeon Lake First Nation. He is known to frequent the Sturgeon Lake First Nation and Prince Albert areas.

Based on the history of his alleged and recurrent involvement in these incidents, officers consider Ethan to be danger-

ous and a high risk to reoffend. Ethan is known to often carry weapons and members of the public are advised against approaching him if he is seen and to call their local police agency immediately.

Anyone who may have seen Ethan Felix-Beatty or has information regarding his whereabouts is asked to contact the RCMP by calling 306-310-7267 (RCMP) or their local police service. Information can also be submitted anonymously to Saskatchewan CrimeStoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.



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Canwood Royal purple hosts on-line auction

Submitted by Donna Lovberg

Like so many small town communities we are trying to keep our halls and businesses operating through this pandemic. A plan was hatched to try an on-line auction with a Christmas theme to raise money to support our Canwood Elks Community Hall.

We had heard how much money the Canwood Legion made on their online auction to help with their operating costs so we thought we would try a smaller one. We decided to have it related to traditional dishes served especially at Christmas like lefsa, rosettes, flat bread, Christmas cakes and Puddings, Danish cookies, perogies, preserves, Christmas decorations, and the list goes on.

The hope was to make some money, and

get people in the Christmas mood! Many finebakers, crafters and artists were approached to share their talents thinking we may get maybe thirty people to donate their specialties and raise enough money to pay at least one of the power bills for the hall. The response was truly overwhelming and we ended up with 97 items to bid on.

The bidding was on the Canwood Royal Purple Facebook page and started on Friday, Dec. 4 and closed at 6 p.m. on Dec. 12. During the week the bidding was coming in slow and steady, but on Saturday the bidding frenzy was amazing from all over Saskatchewan, like Lloydminster, North Battleford, White-wood, Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert which were mainly from former Canwood

residents as well as our neighbors from Shellbrook, Debden, and Big River areas. They all joined together for fun and expectations of some of the various items. We even had some bids from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico coming in.

We had 4 doz. Cinnamon Twists go for \$240, two loaves of Heavy Rye Bread go for \$150. It was so much fun to watch one "Friend" out bid another. At the end of Saturday evening we realized a total of approximately \$8,200.

We can't express enough gratitude for the response we received, from the people who donated to the purchasers who bid on the items. We truly appreciate all the support

given to this project.

As one person commented at the end of the evening, "So good to see all the support given to one amazing small Saskatchewan town."



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